

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

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Thesis: Disguised as a riddle, Blake's "The Lamb" assumes a pure tone that intertwines rhyme and symbolism to underline God's goodness through the lamb.

Critical Analysis of *The Lamb* by William Blake

In “The Lamb,” Blake speaks to the lamb, which is a pure being whose actions resonate with those of Jesus Christ. Taking a visionary stance, the writer draws readers to a literal manifestation by defining the lamb from what he sees. In the passage, the subject is not only endowed with life but has the potential to feed from the meadow. Moreover, it is adorned in bright and soft wool that act as its clothing. From the poem, the speaker whose voice overshadows the valley is a child. Glued to the company of the lamb, the child manifests the innocence and affection of humanity. Disguised as a riddle, Blake’s work assumes a pure tone that intertwines rhyme and symbolism to underline God’s goodness through the lamb.

Symbolism

As a symbol in the poem, the lamb depicts life through providing food among other items that are required for human survival. In the line where the narrator refers to himself as the lamb, he echoes the sentiments of Jesus Christ who used such words. While a lamb is an extremely meek creature, it portrays God’s giving nature. In fact, in line fifteen, God is depicted as mild and meek. In this way, the lamb’s representation is vengeful, forgiving, and loving. The child symbolizes Christ coupled with the deity’s physical incarnation. The meadows and stream signify the innate instinctive ways of the world (Blake, *The Lamb*). Meanwhile, brightness and softness of the wool describe divinity. The child asks the lamb why it acquired a subtle bleating voice, which underlines innocence that is entrenched in spontaneous correspondence with nature. As explicated in the ten subsequent lines of the second stanza, the child responds to the questions that were raised in the first stanza. Evidently, the child’s soul has not been conventionalized by worldly pretensions of culture, society, religion, and other classified settings. On the whole, the

lamb, child, and Christ all depict a creative being with a sense of splendor, natural spirit, and unquestionable resourcefulness.

Repetition and Rhyme

The text relies on tautology based on the question-answer format to present what was expected of all children in the Church of England prior to their confirmation: the response archetype of catechism. In this way, the masterpiece obeys spiritual instruction. In addition, it conforms to the riddles of innocent children as they ask innocent and ignorant questions. In this way, the poem employs rhetorical questions while avoiding adult art. Notably, the childlike echoes are dependent upon the overall result of repeating the world's gentleness, such as mead, softest, delight, woolly, meek, mild, and tender. The consciousness of M and L sounds emphasizes the smooth and soft adaptations of the narrative (Blake, *Songs of Innocence* 23). In effect, it reinforces the connotation of the child's voice along with the kindness of the lamb. Upon reflecting on these aspects, it emerges that this temperate connotation is attractive but inadequate. When the first stanza is local and descriptive, the second abstracts the divine element and analogizes the explanation. Through this representation, the child appears naïve and profound with an apostrophic construction of the poem. The fact that the child in question is not an animal is convincing to erase the mere fictional contraption. By answering personal questions, the child manages to transform the rhetorical sense of the poem and counters the initial spontaneous depiction (John, Sampson, and Blake 14). Therefore, this pedestrian structure conveys the artifice of the poem that is entrenched in the child's self-reliance on simple knowledge of Christian faith.

Rhyming occurs in couplets, which obey a trochaic meter and remain synonymous with children's verses to foster the perception of plainness. Illustratively, the opening and closing

couplets in every stanza transform through a spondee that introduces emphasis and slows down the reader. The duplication arrangement with variations in the opening and closing couplets outlines the questions and responses.

Shifts

The writer uses shifts as interrogative tools for the reader. Occurring in line 2, the first shift draws readers into pondering the underpinnings of the text. In line 6, it is used to expose what the creator of the lamb provides. Thereafter, it transitions to questions that are raised in the first two lines. Commencing with replication to indicate the poem's significance, the second stanza then proceeds to reveal Jesus' sacrifice and how he became the lamb. The final shift precedes the ending couplet to indicate god's authority.

Overall, Blake's tenacious lyrical allusiveness in the lamb metaphorically discloses God's splendor. The literary devices have been incorporated to convey fascinating aspects regarding the meaning of life while at the same time, bestowing Christ as the savior. With commentary on the meekness and mildness, God's attributes of purity and goodness come to the fore. In the end, the piece underlines that human beings require continual nourishment from the lamb in its true celestial nature.

Works Cited

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