

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER

ISSN-2321-7065

IJELLH

**International Journal of English Language,
Literature in Humanities**

Indexed, Peer Reviewed (Refereed), UGC Approved Journal



Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2019

www.ijellh.com

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William Blake's life journey as mystical poet and revolutionary

Abstract

William Blake the famous poet of romantic age is considered as visual artist and pioneer figure in the history of English poetry. The visionary poet was highly influenced by the French and American revolutions. He illustrated religious notion by his literary contributions. This paper is trying to analyze Blake's contributions in different fields of romantic era.

Introduction

William Blake the extraordinary figure of English poetry appeared himself like a junior prophet. Blake promoted social economic troubles and maintained a amicable relationship with political activist. In the contemporary society he created social awareness. The root of his poems bears not only visionary but reality too. Blake's poetry created sensitization of famines and war. Through his writings he expressed dissatisfaction against the establishment of church in same manner by young leaders. The American Revolution and French revolution both took place in his era and Blake expressed his support in lucid songs. The patriotic songs are categorized as songs of experience and innocence. These songs were a protesting way reflecting social awareness in contemporary London society.

Blake distrusted the political authority as a radical he profoundly argued on slavery system, art and religion. He protested the institutions established the institutions and never valued it. He had always given value judgment and had a strong sense towards religion. Bible was the most influential literature. He classified different works that had to do with religion. In Blake's writing one can find self consciously literary work. His religious thought reflects supremacy of imagination over rationalism. In one word he was the creator of fusion in Dark Age. He gave judgment in the context of power. The notion of spirit of joy, death and vision for suffering and dispossessed are rationalized by Blake. Readers can understand Blake's knowledge of art by his

Illustrated works on Dante's Divine Comedy, Milton's Paradise Lost. He was very much interested in learning the techniques of Raphael and Michelangelo. By combining picture and poem he tried to establish a connection between visual arts and writing. His writings expressed his imagination and commitment too. The identical works emphasized on human freedom and in support of human equality and rights in socio- economic as well as political and sexual life. According to Blake through feelings and imagination only spiritual truth can be attained. His perception towards the origination of man and spiritual realm is exceptional. According to Terry Eagleton, The poem "London" echoed the meaning in historical context. As an idealist his words continues as one of the greatest revolutionary artist. Alexander Gilcrest, the first biographer of Blake regarded him as a "liberty boy". As a radical thinker Blake highlighted the suffering of children and poor people during the phase of industrial growth. He expressed his thought process on the unhealthy working environment in England. The radical discrimination speaks out in his poems like "The Little Black Boy" and "The Chimney Sweeper". The miserable cries of society and innocent joy in his society in actual sense nothing more than misery and tyranny. Poem like "Holy Thursday" expresses on the lives of poor people living in charity school and the attitude of society towards those

children. In according to Blake this is unjustifiable attitude of society towards poor children. As a individualistic thinker Blake writings touch every knock and corner of society and the issues of people. Not only rights and liberty but Blake rejects the orthodox Christianity and protested against the oppression of common man. As a revolutionary poet he created awareness against the institutions, customs of society which were continuously giving pain and miseries to common man. As a passionate protester he wanted to end the physical and spiritual miseries of suffering people. As a revolutionary Blake's intention was to give justice in social order rather than political. Through his poetry he gave flames of protest and rejection. Through his poetry he focuses on revolutionary sympathies and flames of revolution he went on rising against the hatred of revolutions during his age.

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