

## Holy Thursday – Experience

Is this a **holy** thing to see  
In a rich and fruitful land, -  
Babes **reduced to misery**,  
Fed with **cold** and **usurous** hand?

Is that **trembling** cry a song?  
Can it be a **song of joy**?  
And so many children poor?  
It is a **land of poverty**!

And **their sun** does **never** shine,  
And their fields are **bleak and bare**,  
And their ways are **filled with thorns**,  
It is **eternal winter** there.

For where'er the sun does shine,  
And where'er the **rain** does fall,  
Babes can never hunger there,  
Nor poverty the **mind appal**.

Structure – 4 lines in every stanza, suggests that organization and uniformity caused by industrialization.

**Persona** – Anonymous Narrator

**Story** – How children are abused in the city and that they should be in nature

**Organizing Principles:**

- Industrialization vs. Nature
- The corruption of children/innocence
- Blake's ideal of what the city/London should be like
- The problems caused by industrialization

**Comment [i1]:** Questioning the concept of 'Holy Thursday' and orthodox religion.

**Comment [i2]:** Suggests that there is nothing wrong with the land and that it is in fact 'rich' and 'fruitful' but yet there still problems.

**Comment [i6]:** Dehumanization, creates the impression that children have become less than human

**Comment [i7]:** Un-emotive word, lack of feeling and compassion

**Comment [i8]:** Creates the impression that people who feed them (adult) are corrupted.

**Comment [i3]:** Children portrayed as pure and innocent.

**Comment [i4]:** Dehumanization of children.

**Comment [i5]:** Creates the impression that the children are at lowest point.

**Comment [i9]:** Creates the impression that the children are weak and vulnerable.

**Comment [i10]:** Triad of question marks. Listing the questions caused by 'poverty'.

**Comment [i11]:** Contrast to the other 'Holy Thursday' poem suggesting that that one is superficial whilst this 'Holy Thursday' is the reality behind it.

**Comment [i12]:** Contrast to the 'Rich' and 'Fruitful' land.

**Comment [i13]:** Triad of 'And's'. Listing and highlighting the many problem. Further compounding the children's innocent victim image.

**Comment [i14]:** Possessive word. Creates the impression that the children are in 'their' own harsh world different from others.

**Comment [i15]:** Connotations of nature.

**Comment [i16]:** A decisive and certain word. Kills all hope for the children.

**Comment [i17]:** Further emphasis on the 'eternal winter'.

**Comment [i20]:** Creates the impression that it is inescapable.

**Comment [i21]:** A harsh, unwelcoming and uninhabitable setting.

**Comment [i22]:** Creates the impression that the lives the children live are cold, harsh and difficult and that they are bound to it 'eternally'.

**Comment [i23]:** Further emphasis on how the children are in a different place

**Comment [i18]:** Overwhelms the children.

**Comment [i19]:** Threatening and dangerous connotations. Another portrayal of how nature has been corrupted and is harming others.

**Comment [i24]:** Connotations of nature portrayed positively.

**Comment [i25]:** An abundance of nature.

**Comment [i26]:** Suggestion that 'poverty' is created by the 'mind' and that it is a figment of imagination.