

## Holy Thursday

'Twas on a Holy Thursday, their innocent faces clean,

The children walking two & two, in red & blue & green,

Grey-headed beadles walk'd before, with wands as white as snow,

Till into the high dome of Paul's they like Thames' waters flow.

O what a multitude they seem'd these flowers of London town!

Seated in companies they sit with radiance all their own.

The hum of multitudes was there, but multitudes of lambs,

Thousands of little boys and girls, raising their innocent hands.

Now like a mighty wind they raise to heaven a voice of song,

Or like harmonious thunderings the seats of heaven among.

Beneath them sit the aged men, wise guardians of the poor;

Then cherish pity, lest you drive an angel from your door.

**Comment [K1]:** Holy – when the poor thank their benefactors.

**Comment [K2]:** Innocence, cleanliness, purity

**Comment [K3]:** Biblical image – also suggests a powerful multitude

**Comment [K4]:** Colourful, lively, joyful – compare to the 'blackening Church' in 'London' – blue and green are also natural colours

**Comment [K5]:** Contrast between young and old – grey-headed / infants and wands (objects of control) vs. free flowing Thames – to perhaps suggest that all is not as it seems. White as snow then becomes ironic.

**Comment [K6]:** High vowel sounds throughout suggest lightness, brightness and the large 'o' suggests freedom and space

**Comment [K7]:** Natural image here suggesting freedom

**Comment [K8]:** Notice here London town already makes it seem less cold and bare than just London – community / society feel

**Comment [K9]:** Reference to large numbers suggest this is a spectacular events although again note the contrast between 'companies' which is an army term and lambs.

**Comment [K10]:** An odd one – the buzz of a large crowd and liveliness, the buzz of the countryside, or the buzz of machinery/

**Comment [K11]:** References to raising / height conjure images of heaven and the contrast to a poem like 'London' which is mostly concerned with the streets.

**Comment [K12]:** Natural image – but this time one of power and force of these people

**Comment [K13]:** Song representing happiness and freedom – not also the comparison between voice of song and the voice in 'London' where the poet could hear the mind' forg'd manacles

**Comment [K14]:** These are figures of authority and perhaps repression or control / power

**Comment [K15]:** Simple – a, a, b, b rhyme scheme denoting nursery rhyme like innocence

**Comment [K16]:** Angel here with heavenly connotations – but also referring to these children as angels – although remembering that angel is an ambiguous term