

Night

The sun descending in the west,
The evening star does shine;
The birds are silent in their nest,
And I must seek for mine.
The moon, like a flower,
In heaven's high bower,
With silent delight
Sits and smiles on the night.

Farewell, green fields and happy groves,
Where flocks have took delight.
Where lambs have nibbled, silent moves
The feet of angels bright;
Unseen they pour blessing,
And joy without ceasing,
On each bud and blossom,
And each sleeping bosom.

They look in every thoughtless nest,
Where birds are covered warm;
They visit caves of every beast,
To keep them all from harm.
If they see any weeping
That should have been sleeping,
They pour sleep on their head,
And sit down by their bed.

When wolves and tigers howl for prey,
They pitying stand and weep;
Seeking to drive their thirst away,
And keep them from the sheep.
But if they rush dreadful,
The angels, most heedful,
Receive each mild spirit,
New worlds to inherit.

And there the lion's ruddy eyes
Shall flow with tears of gold,
And pitying the tender cries,
And walking round the fold,
Saying, "Wrath, by His meekness,
And, by His health, sickness
Is driven away
From our immortal day."

"And now beside thee, bleating lamb,
I can lie down and sleep;
Or think on Him who bore thy name,
Graze after thee and weep.
For, washed in life's river,
My bright mane for ever
Shall shine like the gold
As I guard o'er the fold."

Comment [N1]: The word 'shine' signifies that even in the darkness of the 'Night' there is some radiance. This implies that nature's darkness isn't deceptive and radiance and brightness is everywhere.

Comment [N2]: The word 'silent' suggests that the 'Night' has had a calming effect on the birds. This implies that the serenity and peacefulness of nature without man.

Comment [N3]: This sentence suggests that humans are still looking for their niche in nature, where they feel the most comfortable and soothed.

Comment [N4]: This is an ambiguous word. 'Bower' can mean either a branch or a leafy recess. If it is taken to be a leafy recess, then heaven can be symbolized as a protective and soothing place where evil is shaded. However, if the word is taken to mean a branch, then heaven can seem as just another level in person's life. This brings in the idea of orthodox religion, where heaven is considered to be the next step/level after death.

Comment [N5]: The repetition of silent further reinforces the aforementioned idea.

Comment [N6]: This personification of the trees brings a sense of vitality and life to nature and signifies the 'happy' innocence that it has.

Comment [N7]: The enjambment in these two lines reflects the natural side of this poem. It suggests the idea of a free-flowing spirit, bubbling with innocence and purity.

Comment [N8]: This is a reference to the poem 'The Chimney Sweeper' where the children will 'never want Joy'. However, this line is more convincing as it contains the present continuous verb 'ceasing' which implies that the incident is happening at the moment and hence, can't be untrue.

Comment [N9]: The word 'beast' implies the equality of the Angels. This is because the Angels bless all animals (evil and pure together). This increases the perception of them as protective and peaceful beings.

Comment [N10]: The word 'every' further reinforces the equality and fairness of the Angels as it refers to all animals.

Comment [N11]: The 2-3 lines of violence in the poem are outnumbered by the lines about nature and the protectiveness of God and His Angels. This suggests a sense of security, as the innocent Angels are dominating over evil.

Comment [N12]: The word 'weep' suggests that the Angels are opposed to violence against violence. Instead, they combat violence with meekness. This refers to Jesus' method of driving away 'Wrath' by 'His meekness'.

Comment [N13]: This contradicts with the equality of the Angels as mentioned before at 'every beast'. This is because, they choose to stand by the sheep and protect them, instead of helping the wolves and tigers catch their prey. It can be argued therefore, that the Angels only bless those whose evil acts are dormant.

Comment [N14]: The violence isn't always totally abolished by the aforementioned method. This shows the inevitability of violence and evil deeds, which can't even be broken by the same angels.

Comment [N15]: This is a very optimistic view on death, or murder. It represents heaven in a fresh and new way, which makes it look appealing and exciting.

Comment [N16]: Contradicts to the distant perception of God in orthodox Christian religion. This is because, in that Orthodox religion, people pray to God via priests. Hence, they don't have any real 'live' connection with Him. However, the word 'ruddy' means speaks of liveliness and vitality. This implies that in an Unorthodox religion, God and people have a more 'alive' and real connection.

Comment [N17]: The word 'gold' suggests that God's tears are valuable, and that he is shedding them as he is exceedingly sorrowful. This implies that he is a soothing and passionate being, with a very close connection with his 'fold'.

Comment [N18]: The word 'day' suggests brightness and radiance. This word in conjunction with 'immortal' implies that innocence and purity (brightness and radiance) of the soul is never ending. This contrasts with the destruction of creativity and innocence by the Industrial Revolution. Hence, the IR said to be against the will of God, as it disobeys his words, 'immortal day'.

Comment [N19]: This relates to the 'immortal day' and suggests that vitality and brightness of the soul shall live on. This in turn contrasts with the standardisation of the IR.