

THE LAMB (Short Q.)

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Q-1 Significance of the Title:

Answer:

“The Lamb” by William Blake describes a speaker who identifies himself as a child and questions a lamb about its maker, source of food, delightful clothing and a pleasant voice. The poem is taken from the collection “Songs of Innocence” and it accurately represents one side of the theory of contrariness by Blake. The simple questions, the simple answers and the simple presentation of the theme truly adhere to the image of a lamb which is also the image of Jesus and his meek nature. The traditional image of Jesus as a lamb underscores the Christian values of gentleness, meekness and peace. Hence, the title is appropriate.

Q-2 How does the poet interrogate the lamb? / Comment on the questions asked by the child.

Answer:

In the poem “The Lamb”, the child speaker asks the lamb some naïve and yet profound questions like about its maker, source of food, delightful clothing and a pleasant voice. Though the questions are simply asked, they inquire about very grave knowledges like the origin and nature of creation. The child itself answers the questions and the answers seem easy which also contribute to an underlying sense of ironic knowingness in the poem. The questions and the answers obviously reveal simple Christian faith and the acceptance of its teachings.

Q-3 “I a child & thou a lamb, /We are called by his name.”- Locate and Explain.

Answer: While answering his own question, the speaker tells the Lamb that the creator is called by its name as he “calls himself a Lamb”. He also became a little child and he is meek and mild just like the lamb. The lamb of course symbolizes Jesus and this underscores the Christian values of gentleness and meekness and peace. The image of the child, in the same way, is also associated with Jesus as he shows himself as guileless and vulnerable. The statement connects the images of Lamb, the child and Christ based on the simple principle of innocence.

THE TYGER (Short Q.)

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Q-1 Significance of the Title:

Answer: "The Tyger" by William Blake describes the speaker's wonder at the sight of the beautiful yet fierce figure of the tiger. The speaker tries to explore the mysteries of tiger's creation, the place where it was created, and the craftsman who has built it with his bare hand. "The Tyger" is included in the volume "Songs of Experience" and is a typical poem representing the poet's idea of contrariness. This description of the tiger raises a vital urge in the mind of the poet and he wonders whether the creator of the lamb and the tiger is the same person. As opposed to the idea of 'innocence', the poem celebrates the idea of experience and ultimately uses both to unearth the glory of the God.

Q-2 Explain the black smith imagery in the poem "The Tyger".

Answer: While explaining the process of creation of the tiger, in the poem "The Tyger", the poet uses the blacksmith imagery. He compares the making of the tiger with making of iron objects in the furnace using chain, anvil and hammer. All the terms here are connected to a smithy of a black smith. This imagery is used to showcase the amount of energy, technique and artistry might have been needed for creating the body of the tiger. It also glorifies the might of God as it is created by his mighty hand which can also create the simplicity in the lamb with ease. The tiger with its well made and beautiful body becomes fearful when he is infused with life.

Q-3 "What immortal hand or eye, / Could frame thy fearful symmetry?" - Locate and Explain.

Answer: "The Tyger" by William Blake describes the speaker's wonder at the sight of the beautiful yet fierce figure of the tiger. The symmetrical structure of the tiger creates a sense of and beauty in the mind of the speaker and he urges to know about its mighty creator. He explains that the 'hand' or 'eye' that created the tiger is immortal. The expression is of bewilderment as he realizes that the same creator has created both the lamb and the tiger. The well knit body of the tiger is representation of perfection and extraordinariness. The fearful symmetry can also be of the lamb and the tiger, innocence and experience.

Q-4

“Did he who made the Lamb make thee?” - Locate and explain.

Answer: The expression, in the quoted line, is of wonder and bewilderment as he realizes that the same creator has created both the lamb and the tiger. On the one hand there is the lamb which is the embodiment of simplicity and on the other is the mighty figure of the tiger. The symmetrical structure of the tiger creates a sense of and beauty in the mind of the speaker. The well knit body of the tiger is representation of perfection and extraordinariness. Both the images are expressive of the idea of contrariness of the poet as he succeeds in glorifying God who can create both, simple and the destructive, innocence and experience.