

SYMBOLISM IN "THE TYGER"

* 'Symbolism in poetry' refers to the use of symbols like words, objects, images, or actions which represent deeper meanings beyond their literal senses. It is an important tool to evoke emotions, create layers of meaning, and communicate complex ideas in a more profound and imaginative way.

* William Blake's poetry is characterized by an intricate use of symbols that reflect his philosophical and mystical outlook. Blake witnessed the world in terms of contraries- innocence and experience, good and evil, creation and destruction believing that both are essential for a complete understanding of existence.

* In 'The Tyger', Blake represents the tiger as a complex and ambiguous symbol. The poem consists of a series of rhetorical questions addressing the mystery of the tiger's creation and its divine origin. Here, the tiger signifies both beauty and terror. It is a magnificent, awe inspiring creature, yet it is also fierce and deadly. The poet contrasts the tiger with the lamb from Songs of Innocence which symbolises gentleness and divine benevolence. The tiger, on the other hand, embodies the darker, more powerful forces of creation.

* In the poem, the creator has been used as a symbol of Divine mystery. The poet repeatedly questions what kind of creator could have formed such a ferocious animal: -'What immortal hand or eye,

* Could frame thy fearful symmetry?'__Here the poet is contemplating the nature of divine power itself. The 'immortal hand' suggests a supernatural force possibly God, but also hints at a more terrifying divine presence.

* Blake frequently invoked the imagery of fire:

" In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?"__Here 'fire' represents energy, passion, and divine inspiration; but it also suggests destruction. The burning eyes of the tiger symbolises the intensity of its existence forged by a creator who possesses an overwhelming almost Promethean power.

In the poem, we have a metaphor of a Blacksmith used to describe the creation of the tiger. The Blacksmith is a figure of immense strength and craftsmanship who symbolises a God, not merely a loving father, but a force of immense, possibly terrifying and a creative power. The imagery suggests that the tiger was forged in a cosmic workshop whose creation is both a work of art and an act of immense and violent energy.

This, Blake's use of symbolism elevates the poem beyond a mere description of a tiger. The tiger here becomes an exploration of the nature of creation, divinity, and co existence of beauty and terror. Blake's symbolism makes the tiger not just a poem about an animal, but a profound philosophical and theological meditation on the forces that shape the world.