

The Tyger is the symbol for experience. It is the opposite to The Lamb in is collection of poems Innocence and experience.

The Tyger

Shows The Tyger is wild and mysterious and dark- hiding in the depths of the night.

Tyger, Tyger, burning bright.

In the forests of the night:

What immortal hand or eye

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

Immortal means not human. Is it referring to God or something more sinister like the devil?

What type of person could create a monster like this?

5

In what distant deeps or skies

Burnt the fire of thine eyes?

On what wings dare he aspire?

What the hand dare seize the fire?

Allegory- referring to where the tiger came from. Heaven or Hell? (skies or deeps) On wings or in fire?

10

And what shoulder, & what art,

Could twist the sinews of thy heart?

And when thy heart began to beat,

What dread hand? & what dread feet?



The whole stanza is about how The Tyger was created. Twist= the idea of free will and how it can corrupt people. Dread= the fear God might be feeling after creating the tiger.

15

What the hammer? what the chain,

In what furnace was thy brain?

What the anvil? what dread grasp

Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

Allusion to Hephaestus- created ironmongery and armour for God's creations. Imagery used to imagine Hephaestus creating the tiger in his workshop.

20

When the stars threw down their spears

And waterd heaven with their tears:

Did he smile his work to see?

Did he who made the Lamb make thee?*

Alluding to the war of the Angels. When the angels fought with Lucifer for leaving heaven. "waterd heaven with their tears" alludes to them weeping for the loss

Allusion to another of Blake's poems- The Lamb- the opposite to The Tyger as The Lamb represents purity and innocence. Questioning if God can make something as beautiful as The Lamb and as evil as The Tyger.

Tyger, Tyger burning bright,

In the forests of the night:

What immortal hand or eye

Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Repeats the same idea but now ask what type of person dared to create this monsters. It no longer questions if he is powerful enough but if he would even attempt to build it.

William Blake