

William Blake (1757-1827)

Blake was an out-and-out rebel against all the social, political and literary conventions of the eighteenth century. It is with considerable inaccuracy that he can be included among the transitional poets or the precursors of the Romantic Revival, as in many ways he is even more romantic than the romantic poets! The most indisciplined and the most lonely of all poets, he lived in his own world peopled by phantoms and spectres whom he treated as more real than the humdrum realities of the physical world. His glorification of childhood and feeling for nature make him akin to the romantic poets. He is best known for his three thin volumes - Poetical Sketches (1783), Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience (1794), which contain some of the most orient gems of English lyricism. A

critic observes:

"His passion for freedom was also akin to that which moved Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey in their earlier years, though in its later form, it came nearer to Shelley's revolt against convention. There is, indeed, an unusual degree of fellowship between these two the imagery and symbolism, as well as the underlying spirit of 'The Revolt of Islam', 'Alastor' and 'Prometheus Unbound' find their nearest parallel in Blake's prophetic books. Both had visions of a world regenerated by a gospel of universal brotherhood, transcending law."

The end.

Munni Bhushan Sinha
Deptt. of English
S.S. College, Jehanabad