

Key Quotes:

“chartered Thames”

- natural features under human control and is also affected.

“Marks of weakness, marks of woe”

- Repetition emphasises bleakness and despair affecting everyone.

“mind-forged manacles”

- People are trapped by thoughts and attitudes

“infant’s cry of fear”

- Distressing noises – vivid hellish experience.

“chimney-sweepers”

- Emotive language of child labour.

“Black’ning church”

- Corrupt institutions in power, grim visual image of the ugliness caused by the industrial revolution.

“runs in blood down palace walls”

- reference to French revolution, people suffer while rich safe in palace walls.

“youthful harlots curse”

- Prostitutes cursing London, contrast between innocence of youth and prostitution.

“blights with plague”

- emotive language of illness and disease, destructive and uncontrollable.

“marriage hearse”

- oxymoron of marriage a death, marriage death for women due to spread of STDs between men and harlots.

Structure/Language –

Dramatic monologue – first person speaker speaking passionately.

ABAB unbroken rhyme scheme – echo’s the relentless misery and walking sound.

Imagery – deprived people in sounds, in the people and the people in power.

Emotive language – reinforce horror of the situation.

Repetition – emphasises number of people affected.

Sounds – of depression.

Contrast – nothing pure of innocent remains.

Feelings –

Anger – “every black’ning church” and “palace walls” – emotive language and repetition – shows narrators anger at people in power.

Hopelessness – “mind-forged manacles” – people trapped by their own attitudes.

LONDON

WILLIAM BLAKE

Summary of Poem –

Narrator walks around London, everywhere he goes he sees people in **misery and despair**. The misery seems **unescapable and relentless** for young or old. **People in power are behind the problems** and do nothing to help.

William Blake was a poet and an artist with **radical social and political views** for the times – he believed in **social and racial equality**, **questioned the church’s teachings** and **marriage was a form of slavery**.