

London

Power and conflict

- a critique of human power, exposing the distance between those in power and those who are suffering
- the suffering is inescapable because the fact it is caused by the misuse of those in control

Structure

- repetitive structure and rhyme reflecting the relentless, overpowering suffering in the city
- repetitive quatrains
- cyclical structure highlights how you can't escape

Violent language

- imagery of suffering
- overwhelming and reflects how overwhelmed those suffering are
- juxtaposition of power of man vs power of nature
- ironic, "charter'd"
- widens gap between poor and wealthy
- "marriage hearse" → happy image of marriage contrasts with image of death. This suggests the future brings death and decay.

Repetition

- "chartered" suggests all of the city is controlled and under ownership. Even powerful natural features are under human control
- "marks" suggests writer recording evidence, during his walk through the streets
- "every" shows extent of suffering. Anaphora persuades listener to recognise the relentless suffering through relentless repetition

Key Quotes

- "runs in blood down palace walls" suggests how people on the inside are safe. However all of the lower class are suffering and the upper class can see that but don't do anything
- "mind-forged manacles" → like handcuffs: Suggests people's minds are restricted and confined. The city has robbed them of their power to think

Poems that link well:

- Remains → emotional pain and violence
- Ozymandias → power of humans
- checking out my history → power of humans
- Émigrée → power of place and humans

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