

Title:-TENDERNESS, TURMOIL, TYRANNY: A SOCIO-
PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF BLAKE'S SELECTED
POETRY



Thesis Paper

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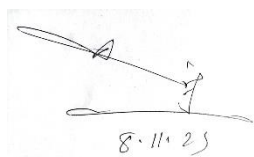
Letter of Approval

I verify that Humayra Ramisa, with student id 201-10-2207, from 49th batch, Department of English at Daffodil International University, has satisfactorily completed the necessary criteria for her thesis paper as a component of ENG 431: Project Paper with Internship.

I offered supervision for the Fall 2023 semester for her work, while mostly focused on academic thesis writing. This work is genuine, and she has autonomously made significant contribution to it while seeking direction from other sources, which she acknowledges in her study. Her success would not have been attainable without her courage, enthusiasm, steadfastness and logical consistency.

I express my gratitude for the exceptional work that Humayra Ramisa has done, which has made a substantial contribution to academic literature. It is noteworthy that she is among the minority of students in her cohort who have successfully completed such a paper, a fact that I really appreciate and I am certain that her abilities and aspirations will pave the way for remarkable achievements in the future.

I wish her the best in her future pursuits.



8.11.23

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I would like to thank God, for letting me through all the difficulties.

Humayra Ramisa

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Dedication of the Student

I, Humayra Ramisa, hereby declare that this paper titled “ TENDERNESS, TURMOIL AND TYRANNY: A SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF BLAKE'S POETRY” is my original work, and has not been published elsewhere for the requirement of a Bachelor degree program. The analysis and the findings are for the academic purpose only and any mentioning literature work done by another cited within this thesis has been listed in the Reference section.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramisa". The signature is written in black ink on a light green rectangular background.

Humayra Ramisa

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Abstract

William Blake was both a political and a radical psychologist. He explores child psychology through his poem. He deals with so many social realities with a strong voice in his collections. Through a comprehensive analysis of Blake's selected poems, the paper will focus on human affliction, child anguish, social disorders etc. The poet's tenderness toward poor young children's evident in his selected poems. Blake narrates socio-psychological issues in his writings that encompass Tenderness, Tyranny and Turmoil in human life and their correlation with today's social context. The re-evaluation of Blake's selected poems will help to integrate the theme of Tenderness, Tyranny and Turmoil in his poetry. Furthermore, it will examine the pathetic living of young children for earning who are forced to do that by their parents as well as superiors and identity crisis of the children due to racial discrimination. This research will investigate the fact that how societal influences continuously shapes human behaviour and perceptions by interpreting Blake's most famous poems on child and adult. Additionally, It will briefly describe Blake's psychological views on human minds and social orders from the perspective of our society.

Keywords – psychology, Innocence, Experience, Turmoil, Oppression, constraint, Tenderness. Impose.

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Chapter 01

Introduction -

“I wander thro’ each charter’d street

Near where the charter’d Thames does flow

And mark in every face I met

Marks of weakness, marks of woe”. (Blake, 1794)

Human psychology is exposed in their behaviour, such as how an individual reacts to external stimuli. From a socio-psychological perspective, an individual's thoughts are broadly influenced by a particular social setting. This perspective proclaims that society and humans are deeply interconnected. William Blake (28 November 1757 – 12 August 1827) a visionary representative poet of the pre-romantic era, explores his poetic journey with the change of both human minds and social orders. He focused on adult's and children's minds, and how these things are affected by external influences of society and superiors. Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience can be viewed from a psychological perspective because of his focus on the mental condition of childhood and adulthood. The Poet's tenderness toward poor young child's and his investigation of human turmoil and tyranny from socio-psychological standpoint are comprehensively manifested in his selected poems. Songs of Innocence and of Experience by Blake portrays socio-psychological perspectives and its huge impact on individuals psychology, Songs Of Innocence illustrates the terrific childhood lives shaped by dominance. While Songs Of Experience describes how human psychology is framed by a deceitful social system. Mainly these works detail the interpersonal relationships of individuals and their surrounding circumstances and their consequences.

Blake's poems are interconnected with socio-psychological context. Human minds, especially, child psychology are affected by the external wickedness society. For instance, Blake introduced a child “A Little Black Thing” in “The Chimney Sweeper “, Songs of Experience. , “A little black thing among the snow,/ Crying ‘weep ‘weep! In notes of woe” (Blake, 1794). From a socio-psychological perspective, the cruel realities of this world turned a human child into a little black thing, just like a product. The poet aims to portray that an age when a child is supposed to have a

good time, he is forced to weep due to the causes of his misery: his parents, society, and religious gurus. These outside forces have influenced him to come into this life. His psychological development has been lost due to the disable social circumstance. Essentially, Blake's focus was on the socio-psychological issues and the sophisticated social set-up of 18th century England. Again Blake's philosophy against human tyranny also flourished in the essay "Blake's Vision Of Slavery" by David V. Erdman. Blake raised his voice against the slavery as an abject horror. Blake supported both American and French revolution as they promised a new era of liberty.

" Blake ,in relating his discussion of freedom to the " Voice of slaves be-neath the sun", was directing the light of the French Revolution upon the most vulnerable flaw in the British Constitution, and in doing so he was contributing to the most widely agitated reform movement of the time" (Frey, 1966).

According to Morton D. Paley (1969, 1p.4), "The harmony of Innocence has been lost". Blake mainly illustrates how society becomes tarnished by false religion and persecution of the soul. This paper explores how Blake masterfully engrafts an account of human turmoil and tyranny , as well as the astute rationality of upper classes in his works such as " The Chimney Sweeper", (both in "Innocence" and "Experience"), "London" ,," The Little Black Boy", and others. The paper will investigate the socio-psychological implications employed by William Blake through his verses. It will particularly focus on human psychology, specially child psychology, and how individuals behaviour, emotions and perceptions are shaped by the constraining ideologies of society. Austrian psychotherapist Alfred Adler claims the theory of Individual Psychology . " The Adlerian-trained psychotherapist believes that all behaviour has a purpose and occurs in a social context, noting that one's cognitive orientation and lifestyle (literally one's style of dealing with life) is created in the first few years of life and molded within the initial social setting, the family constellation, Adlarians understand the individual within their social context. Therefore, the Adlerian is interested in the impact of culture and contextual factors on the individual". (Carlson and Carlson 5-7). Blake's socio-psychological insights similarly addresses the that people's perception and lifestyle strategies are shaped and influenced by specific social context.

Blake's poem "London" vividly portrays the social conditions of a city and their profound impact on its residents. Social inequality and injustice plays a significant role in shaping and generating people's lives. One of the major themes in Blake's writing is Child labour and persecution, particularly highlighted in his writing "Chimney Sweeper". The poem draws the readers attention to psychological distress experienced by the children's due to social obligations and traditions, which stifle their mental development. Racial Discrimination and Identity crisis are also prominent themes in Blake's works, showcasing the profound impact of psychological well-being of individuals, specially children. This paper will explore some of Blake's writing to gain a deeper understanding of his socio-psychological perspective in human life. Today's modern society is a colossal paradigm of Blake's psychological vision. Our social circumstance closely resemble these issues thoroughly. By analyzing Blake's poetry, we also aim to uncover a co-relation between Blake's visionary insights and the realities of the modern era. Blake's exploration of socio-psychological aspects in his writings provides us valuable insights that remain relevant for understanding the socio-psychological implications of this contemporary era.

1.1 Background of the Study

William Blake (November 28, 1757-August 12, 1827) is a prominent figure in English Literature known for his unique and visionary approach to Poetry and art. His Poetry is rich with themes of spirituality, mysticism and social commentary. Within his collection *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* readers can delve into the intricate detail of human life depicted through Blake's poetic verses. According to Morton D Paley (1969), "Clearly Blake regarded the two sets of song as an artistic whole, and we shall increase our appreciation of the poems if we follow him in this". Blake's poems offer a profound insight into the psychological and socio-psychological aspects of individuals life, encompassing the themes of childhood innocence and the experience of the real world. Blake's vision of human life is very intricate. He often highlights the contrasting perspective on human existence and emphasizing the dualities and contradiction of life. The study aims to explore Blake's some of selective poems to investigate the societal influence on human psychology, particularly in children.

Blake's writings provide the connection between individuals and society and a sensible analysis of his verses can shed light on how societal influence impact individuals psychology. In a broad sense, which is known as socio-psychological study. This research will examine Blake's some of significant works to drive insights socio-psychological phenomena.

1.2 Problem Statement –

The research paper will examine and analyse the socio-psychological aspects and implications within William Blake's poetry. It specifically explores the interplay between tenderness, turmoil and tyranny and enduring relevance of poet's writings in contemporary society.

1.3 Research Objectives –

Main objective of this research paper is the study of socio-psychological perspective on Blake's poetry.

- It aims to take a look at Blake's selected poems from a socio-psychological point of view.
- It will delve into the psychological phenomena of the human mind and the impact of social violence in shaping the psychology of both children and adults through Blake's works.
- This paper will briefly discuss similar socio-psychological issues in the present social context.

Chapter 2 Literature Review and Limitations

2.1 Literature Review

This term provides a genuine survey of former research published in books, websites, scholarly articles or other relevant sources concerning a certain issue. This review will delve into the prior sources on Blake's poetry, comprising studies that analyzed poets poetic visions from psychological and socio-psychological aspects. This literary review aims to explore various observation and opinions from numerous scholar's and researcher's regarding the socio-psychological vision of William Blake. The review offers a concise comprehension of the human turmoil and tyranny in Blake's works, influenced by former research in journals and books.

Northrop Frye (1966) includes several essays by different authors in his book, *Blake: A Collection Of Critical Essays*, which focus on various perception and interpretation of Blake. His edition showcases selected poems from Blake's *Introduction to Songs Of Innocence and Of Experience*. It serves as a representative collection of contemporary critical essays, providing commentary, criticism and insights into the philosophy of Blake that have been overlooked by various researchers.

Wang, Yilin.(2022).The Revelation of Social Reality in the Poetry of William Blake. BCP Education and Psychology, Vol 7. This paper aims to explore the social reality, human turmoil and societal tyranny as depicted by William Blake in his verses, highlighting the poets tenderness for persecuted people. The paper engrafts social criticism, addressing issues such as pervasive societal injustice, the hypocrisy of Christian religious beliefs, with a primary focus on the poems "London" and "The Little Boy Lost". By analysing this paper, we can have a depth understanding of the terrible Societal impact on human lives. That gives us the opportunity to delve into a socio-psychological study of Blake's poetry.

Minasian, Serenah. (2019). A psychoanalytic Reading of William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience. Southern Illinois University Carbondale. this research paper extensively focuses on William Blake's psychoanalytic insights. It explores both *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* to uncover the poet's perspective on human psychology, particularly that of children. By creating connection with psychoanalysts Freud, Jung and Lacan, this paper seeks to discern the relevance of William Blake's writing. In a broader sense, it examines the influence of the surrounding

environment, the purity of nature as innocence, established religious beliefs and social norms on individual psychology.

Morton D. Paley (1969) has discussed various interpretations and view points of several authors, incorporating more than ten essays to highlight Blake's concept of Innocence and Experience. The book provides a comprehensive and diverse layout of critical perspectives, offering readers with a multifaceted exploration. It presents a rich tapestry of critical essays, with a focus on the socio-political contexts of Blake's writings. Key themes to be explored in this book also include Blake's use of symbolism, artistic techniques and critical thinking regarding socio-psychological implication on individual's lives.

W.H. Stevenson (1988) has created an essential collection that provides a selection of William Blake's Poetry. The editor has done a praiseworthy work by assembling a diverse range of Blake's poetic works. The book offers reader with the opportunity to grasp Blake's poetic visions, exploring themes of mysticism, spirituality, and social criticism, notably including poets most celebrated works from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*.

2.2. Research Methodology –

This paper is a piece of qualitative research paper. Which involves gathering data through observation, note-taking, reviews, discussion and more. By collecting, analysing and interpreting non-numerical data from different journals or books on William Blake, this paper will give a brief description of socio-psychological phenomena. Furthermore, this paper aims to gather and analyse various descriptive data in order to gain an understanding of individuals' social reality. It typically involves in-depth observation of various literary work as well as the sources with full details and Context.

- The primary text for this research paper will be *Songs of Innocence and Experience (1789)*.
- Secondary sources include William Blake: Selected poetry, Blake's poetry and Designs, Criticism on Blake's writings, notes of Blake's selected poems and views, writings and research paper of various scholars.

2.3 Scope and the Limitation of the study:

This is a research paper on the study of William Blake. This paper is primarily equipped by the works of various journals, authors and critics. Initially it will analyse a selection of Blake's poetry that emphasize the theme of socio-psychology and human mind. It incorporates a significant amount of web-based data as well as the contention of many previous researchers. However, there is a shortage of relevant sources, which includes a scarcity of reference books and journals, is posing challenges. Furthermore, access to some research journal is also restricted. The research will primarily focus on some selective poems by Blake, it will not cover all of Blake's literary works due to its vastness.

Chapter 03 Historical context

3.1 Sophisticated social structure of 18th century England

The social structure of 18th century was thoroughly defined by class distinctions. Upper class, middle class and lower class these three forms were included in the social structure of 18th century. Society was literally divided along some segment including religion, class, language, race, gender and others. The middle and lower classes often grappled with unemployment, child labour, mental and physical Persecution, slavery. Britain got supremacy got by the large victory of The Anglo French War. England started the journey toward upswing. From 1740-1860 England experienced Industrial Revolution. Indeed, it changed the living of general peoples as well. Britain developed its capitalism based on the anguish of its habitants. They accelerated industrial capitalism by forcing the lower classes in various bloody ways. Children's and woman's were hired for less pay. About two third worker's were children. They worked 12 to 14 hours a day under terrible condition. To keep them awake, they were beaten by masters. Children were mostly employed because of their size to pass through the narrow space. Factories were unhealthy, machine often injured workers (Mahajan,2019). The period was marred by imperfect social treatment. The poor and vulnerable populations were seemed victim to the Sophisticated upper classes as well as unjust social norms. Additionally, the comprehensive phenomena of slavery was also a terrific issue of 18th century England. Moreover, The social set-up was transformed by the revolution of both America and France. The American declaration of Independence and French Proclamation of rights, liberty, fraternity exerted considerable influence on the social formation of 18th century Britain. Industrial revolution, colonial expansion, monarchy, capitalism, all these issues had a profound impact on the social formation and gave birth of various challenges for the lower classes. These people endured harsh working condition, Social inequality, poor treatment, child labour. In fact the total live of misery. The religious hypocrisy was a comprehensive phenomenon. It had a big role in alternating people's psychology. Religious places were used as capitalist institutes. As Poet William Blake (18 November 1757-12 August 1827) laments in his poem "London",

published in Songs Of Experience in the year 1794. “ Every blackning church appalls” . (Blake, 1794)

He refers to the church as ‘ black’ning’ signifying that it is entirely black both on the outside and inside, which actually implies hypocrisy and corruption. The entire period of 18th century affluent by social, industrial, racial and political ideologies. The social structure of that period was completely contrast to other centuries. Another significant from of cruelty was chimney sweeping. 17th – 18th century In every house in England, a black narrow tunnel called Chimney was a common feature. Which served as a fireplace in capitalist society. To clean those narrow chimneys , young orphan boys were employed. Even those who have parents sometimes sold for money and forced them into child labour. Working in such a dangerous and unhealthy environment , these children endured physical and emotional harm. sometimes even resulting in their death. This period represents a dark chapter in the history of child abuse.

3.2 Historical Influence on Blake as a Catalyst for Dissent.

William Blake passed his childhood in misery. He experienced poor living during his early age. So, he knew the horrible suffering of poor kids. That provided him enthusiasm to write Poetry against miserable living and psychological circumstances of children and adults. Blake considers life from a multipurpose perspective. Northrop Frye (1966) wrote in his book, *Blake A Collection Of Critical Essays*, "In Blake prophecies there are two perspectives, so to speak, on human life. One is a tragic and ironic vision; the other sees life as part of a redemptive divine comedy". The Poet grew up during the period of social and politic including The French and The American Revolution regarding liberty and freedom. He was an active supporter of those revolution. Additionally, he eulogized both revolution in his prophecy poems. Blakes believe in dream, imagination from childhood illustrates his consciousness in regards to human psychology. From early age the poet tends to write about socio-psychological ideologies through his verses.

Blake's poetic works *Songs Of Innocence (1789)* and *Song's Of Experience (1794)* includes the themes of human psychology, Innocence, Experience, child psychology, socio-psychological issues during 18th century England. Blake's "Chimney Sweeper" included in both *Songs of Innocence* and *Experience* recounts the socio-psychological impact on children. Likewise "London" details the influence of both social and political torment over the common people of city London. Frankly, it not only indicates that one city, but it also indicates the social and political ideologies of the world as a whole. From 18th century onwards, Blake focused on the psychoanalytical phenomena of human mind. He explored how an individual's ideas, behaviours and thoughts could be influenced by the external oppression of a certain society and its norms.

According to Sigmund Freud, personality of an individual develops in their early childhood and that experience shape their personalities as well as their behaviour as adults. Therefore, childhood is a significant period in human life that generates later life experiences. Blake vividly narrates the horrible experiences of children through his poems. Children often endure mental and physical

persecution from other, which profoundly impacts their psychology and gradually shapes their behaviour. Blake's writings reflect his deep concern for human psychology. Blake created all his works based on socio-psychological phenomena, socio-political ideologies, children's psychology, human turmoil and tyranny, and the essence of human existence and more.

Chapter 04

Psychological view: Childhood (Innocence) Vs Adulthood (Experience)

William Blake's perspective regarding childhood and adulthood is deeply rooted in his societal and religious beliefs. According to Blake's works, individuals lose their purity and innocence as they age. Furthermore, the moral, spiritual and societal structure can play a role in a child's transition into adulthood, imparting lots of valuable experience. Blake's two sections, *Songs Of Innocence and Songs Of Experience* reveal two contrasting sides: one is childhood Innocence and the loss of innocence through the transition to adulthood.

According to Blake, societal structure and organized religion have a significant influence on children's Psyche. Blake's poem "The Holy Thursday" serves as a great example of the impact of situational religion in shaping children's lives. Blake highlights the impact of societal structures on the mental well-being of the unprivileged children. It highlights the psychological consequence of social injustice and how it can shape their perceptions and emotions. The poem begins with :

"Twas on a Holy Thursday their innocent faces clean
The children walking two & two in red & blue & green
Grey-headed beards walkd before with wands as white as snow,
Till into the high dome of Pauls they like Thames waters flow". (Blake, 1789)

In the book titled *Blake: A Collection Of Critical Essays*, Robert F. Gleckner describes : When the beadle's wand appears in the first stanza of "Holy Thursday" . Its immediate connotation is authority. A beadle wields religious authority, the organized church, institutionalized religion. It

represents an act of restrained which forces the children to act according to rule rather than impulse. The wand is “white as snow”, the phrase suggests the frigidity of man-made moral purity as opposed to the warmth of young, exuberant Innocence (Frye 1966). This is a clear example of Blake's vision toward authorized religion which shapes children's psychology and dictates their lives according to structured norms. Furthermore, Blake addresses numerous issues in his writings . Morton D. Paley (1969, p. 2) describes , Blake's different poems like , “The School Boy”, “The Little Girl Lost “, “The Little Girl Found” had burst the bounds of the state of Innocence, They presented the themes of institutional restraint, growth of self awareness, The simplicity of “Holy Thursday”, “Nurses Song”, “The Little Boy Lost” , each contrast sharply with the egotism and pretentiousness of the characters. In many of his writings, Blake profoundly explores the psychological phenomena of children's mind due to external influences and dominance.

4.1 Exploring the Depth of Human Psyche

William Blake had profound psychological concern toward human being. He can be viewed as a versatile poet. Samuel Taylor Coleridge described him as “a man of genius”.(13). His works, “Songs Of Innocence and Of Experience” can be examined from psychological perspective. In both works, Blake focuses on the psychological phenomena of children and adults.

To describe Blake's vision in a psychological context, A reference from Freudian analysis, “Freud stressed the importance of early childhood experience, believing that personality was formed in the first 6 years of life; if there were significant problems. Those problems must have began in the early years”. (Ciccarelli and White, 2015). Freud notions are highly relevant to the prospect of William Blake that childhood is an important period when the experience of the real world are built up within children. Similar to Freud, Wordsworth (1770-1850) states in his famous poem “ My Heart Leaps Up” that “ The Child is father of the Man;” implying that behaviours and experiences of a children play a significant role in building it's personality as adult. Blake charts the journey of a child from Innocence to experience. His early writing “*Song's Of Innocence*” portrays children psychology-how they dream, imagine and perceive the forces and threats surrounding them. This shapes personality within them according to their early experience. Later “*Songs Of Experience*” portrays children's thought enriched with life experiences and demonstrating how their early childhood experiences have already molded their minds.

According to Blake, children are inherently innocent from birth. They possess very innocent mind filled with dreams, imagination, and fantasy. In fact they require full of freedom, but when this freedom is taken away, it profoundly affects their psyche. This transformation is what Blake refers to as ‘Experience’. This change reminds us the character ‘Fatik’ from Rabindranath Tagore's short story ‘Chuti’. Once an agile character becomes silent due to the loss of his freedom. City life strips away all his childhood pleasure and at the end it ultimately takes his life. Innocence as Blake

illustrates, equates to freedom. William Blake illustrates this in his poem “ The Nurse’s Song” ,
The nurse who observes the happiness of the children and grants them more freedom to enjoy:

“No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,
And we cannot go to sleep;
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly,
And the hills are all covered with sheep.’
‘Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,
And then go home to bed”, (Blake,1789)

Blake seeks to portray a world that cherishes freedom for children. As this freedom not only brings them joy but also helps to develop their psychology.

According to a recent research journal,

Developmental psychology of children examines and traces the incidents and its impact related to children and in response the changes that occur in its mind ,A children’s mind is pure and totally vacant, which John Locke termed as a tabula rasa. Blake’s” Songs Of Innocence” details that purity while “ Song’s Of Experience” narrates how this pure mind is filled with experience, the change attitude and response. (Khan.Shammi,2023)

Blake’s representation of children in “ *Songs of Innocence*” is entirely different from “ *Songs Of Experience*”. Children’s minds are fully giddy and dreamy according to Blake. If I take a look at the poem “ The Chimney Sweeper” from “ Song’s Of Innocence”. Poet writes:

“And by came an Angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins & set them all free;
Then down a green plain, leaping, laughing they run,

And wash in a river and shine in the Sun". (Blake, 1789)

In the fourth stanza Blake describes how imaginative a child's mind can be! They belong to a pure visionary Psyche. They are always searching for a joyful world filled with entertainment. They imagine about an angel who will set them free from coffin, allowing them to rediscover their childhood. The speaker is dreaming of this change. Blake pushes his readers to desire for unreal things to become reality.

Furthermore, Blake transforms this idea entirely in "*Songs Of Experience*". This book details how the psychology of a children change due to external stimuli. In "The Chimney Sweeper" in "*Songs Of Experience*" Blake writes :

"And because I am happy and dance and sing,
They think they have done me no injury,
And are gone to praise God and his Priest and King,
Who make up a heaven of our misery." (Blake, 1794)

This is in total contrast to the previous psychological phenomena of the child. The third stanza of the poem follows the change in response of the children. They are now becoming experienced in Psyche, becoming familiar with the harshness of the outside world. Their Psyche undergoes a transformation from being vacant and innocent as before. They can now realize that no one has concerns for their misery; instead, they went to praise their God, king and priest. They have already lost their childhood enjoyment.

This is how Blake illustrates children psychology in his works. *In Blake: A psychological study*, author W.P Witcutt writes that, "[Blake's Poetry] provides a kind of outline of the unconscious mind. Blake explored this strange region more thoroughly than any before on since and what is more he knew what he was doing". (Minasian, 2019).

“*Songs Of Innocence*” illustrates Blake’s Vision of the unconscious mind of human being. On the contrary, “*Songs of Experience*” depicts the conscious Psyche of human being. “In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, Witcutt claim’s that Blake explored the realm of consciousness more than any others. (Minasian,2019). Blake depicts both conscious and unconscious mind of human psychology in his works.

Childrens psychology is significantly influenced by their parent’s . William Blake , in many of his poems , vividly depicts exaggerated impact of neglectful parental behaviour on children’s psychological well-being. For instance, “ The Chimney Sweeper”, Blake portrays parents who sell their children and subjective them to a life of misery. Alfred Adler, an Austrian psychotherapist, extensively discussed the parental influence on children’s psychology. He emphasized that both father and mother influence on the personality development of a children. Their nurturing and supportive attitudes help to develop a children’s psychological well-being.

Blake’s vision toward the impact of religion in human psychology –

Human beings are tremendous creations of God and they are constantly influenced by religious ideology. During the eighteenth and nineteenth century, England had an established church. William Blake, a Christian , portrays his religious beliefs by incorporating numerous references in his various literary works. “Religion can show the difference between tainted reality and the innocent pure state of fate that can be seen in Blake’s work. (Minasian, 2019) Human beings share a profound relationship with divinity. This sacredness is a fundamental aspect of human psychology. Additionally, Blake places emphasis on the curious and inquisitive facets of human psyche. Psychology is essentially a study of human mind and behaviour. Blake extensively illustrates the human curiosity surrounding the creation of divine power . As like, The poem “The Lamb” includes :

“ Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and O’er the mead”.(Blake 1789)

This illustrates the endeavour of the human psyche to unravel the wonder of the creator. Once again, the same curious human psyche is revealed in Blake's another poem "The Tyger". Poet writes: "What immortal hand or eye, / Could frame thy fearful symmetry?". (Blake 1794). In "The Tyger", Blake represents the tyger as embodying the duality of human psyche. It can be seen as a fearful element and also as a wonderful creation of god. Blake raises questions about coexistence of evil and good in human psychology, as Peoples psyche are allure to the unknown. The Poets imagination and his questions regarding the creator of the tyger can be seen as metaphor for unconscious mind. Blake created this rich and perplexing writing that continues to cause thought and interpretation in the realm of human psychology. Blake focused on the impact of organized religion on human psychology. In particular, the church of England suppressed human innocence and spirit with its binding norms and rules. This had a profound impact on human psychology, specially on children's minds. Their oppressive circumstances shaped human behaviour and hindered individuals creativity and expression. Blake deeply dislikes the hypocrisy of the church and put its ugly sides to the people. (Yilin. Wang, 2022). The constraints of religious dogma provides a very atrocious experience to children about the world and that harms the psychological development of children's minds. In *Songs Of Experience*, Black portrays disillusionment and bitterness as the results of the psychological exploitation of children in the name of religion. In the poem "The Chimney Sweeper", poet writes:

"A little black thing among the snow,
Crying "weep! 'weep!" in notes of woe!
"Where are thy father and mother? Say?"
"They are both gone up to the church to pray". (Blake, 1794)

The child's parents went to church to pray to god. They seemed unconcern about their child. leaving them to cry in the notes of woe. This condition impact on their mind., shaping the belief that God doesn't care about their suffering and misery and People only turned to God to secure their place in heaven after death. Organized religion has significant role in shaping human psychology but sacred religious beliefs can create a sense of divinity in the human psyche. William Blake tries to represent this idea regarding human psychology in his poetry.

4.2 Individuals Vs Society: A complex relationship

Society can be described as an organisation of relationship, encompassing a wide range of Interpersonal relationship. These relationship form an intricate dynamic that shapes human thoughts and behaviour, constituting a crucial aspect of socio-psychological phenomena. Socio-psychology focuses on the intersection of social and psychological factors. Which significantly influence individuals attitudes, feelings and mental processes within social contexts. This field typically integrates principles from both psychology and sociology to explore how human thoughts, mental processes, emotions are influenced by particular social norms, rules and barriers.

Human beings are the fundamental elements of society and from birth to death, every individual belongs to a particular social context. Maintaining this relationship between the individual and society often leads people to change or adapt their behaviour and thoughts to align societal norms and expectations. However, this adaptation comprehensively impacts on individuals psychology. Social bindings and specific norms exert pressure on individuals minds, whether this are children or adults. Let's examine T.S Eliot's poem, "The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock", here Eliot delves deeply into the complexity of human psychology influenced by social influences. Prufrock, portrayed as a modern man, living with a lot of confusion and dualism due to the societal pressure. A research journal titled "A Modernist Approach to T.S Eliot's The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock" asserts –

"Prufrock asks questions to himself throughout the poem and they are generally every day matters such as ' Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach? These questions prove that he doesn't control himself, that is, he finds himself powerless just like people in the modern societies. He even cannot decide upon trivial questions on his own because the fear of failure thoroughly pervades him. Based upon such rhetorical questions, it can be put forward that Prufrock seems to be affected by the 20th century social pressure." (Güvan 2015,84). Societal pressure and restrictions effectively pinned this modern man in to the wall.

Indeed, to maintain social relationships with society, people often find themselves adapting to the misery they perceive in their surroundings. This is how socio-psychological phenomena shapes an individual's attitudes. William Blake's socio-political views and his personal experience regarding human psychology had a profound impact on his work. He vividly illustrates how the social structure molds the people's mind, particularly affecting the Psyche of children. Their early attitudes are heavily influenced by social forces. Socio-psychology constitutes a fundamental element of Blake's poetry. His work, "Songs Of Innocence and Of Experience" serves as a powerful exploration of people's struggle for the particular social norms and values.

Chapter 05

Socio-psychological dimension: A study of Blake's poetry

In most of Blake's work, he profoundly explores the idea of Socio-psychological phenomena. As human are an integral elements of society, it's evident that human psychological factors are both influenced by and influence social and cultural issues. Adlarians understand the individual within their social context. Therefore, the Adlarian is interested in the impact of culture and contextual factors on individual" (Adlarian Psychotherapy 7).

Established societal factors and some organized religious beliefs can exert pressure on an individual's psyche. Socio-psychological dimension can be either positive or negative. For instance, they may investigate the impact of social support on an individual's mental health or the consequence of social tyranny as well as the problems on individuals psychology. Indeed , Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* provides a compelling example of socio-psychological phenomena in human life . She masterfully illustrates how the norms and dictates of society can profoundly influence people. In this novel, all the characters are affected by social influences. Whether it's the dynamic of marriage, personal bonding, social status or prejudice each theme is a product of the constraining social structure that significantly impacts people's psychology, perception and behaviour. This writing serves as a vulnerable exploration of how societal influences and tradition shapes human psychology. Similar to Austen,

William Blake also delves into socio-psychological implications in human lives, effectively conveying his perspective on this theme through his verses. He predominantly works on the negative aspects of society and their psychological impacts. In the book *Blake's poetry and Designs*, there is a quote from Blake's seminal work *The Marriage Of Heaven And Hell*, which states, " The reason Milton wrote in fetters when he wrote of Angels and God and at liberty when of Devils and Hell, is because he was a true poet and of the Devils party without knowing

it".(Johnson and Grant, 1979). Blake depicts that Milton was at liberty while writing about evil force but felt constrained while writing about religious and divine subject. But he was compelled due to the prevailing Christian beliefs and values of his time. Blake addressing 'fetter' implying that Milton was bound by the societal norms, which in turn influenced his psychological state. This indirect critique sheds light on the darker aspect of society, its chaos and conflicts with unconventional aspects of his psyche and his beautiful artistic expression.

5.1 'The Charter'd Street': Restriction of Freedom in Blake's "London".

Socio psychology entirely is a field that examines how individual's behaviour and emotions are shaped by social forces. These forces can extensively change and mold an individual's mind, beliefs and intentions, ultimately constructing their entire personality within the boundaries of the society. As the famous psychologist from Stanford University, Philip Zimbardo (March 23, 1933), once said, "The line between good and evil is permeable and almost anyone can be induced to cross it when pressured by situational forces". This concept is analysed in the field of socio-psychology. That emphasized the importance of understanding the influence of external circumstances in shaping human mind. Blake's poetry is filled with socio-psychological implications. His renowned work, *Songs Of Innocence and Experience* is a great example where poet discussed about the total sophisticated social structure. "London", One of William Blake's famous poem, serves as a prime example of his critical perspective on the societal influence and the human condition. This poem basically explores a wide range of socio-psychological implications. In this poem, poet writes :

"I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear" . (Blake, 1794)

“In his first draft Blake wrote “dirty street “ and “dirty Thames” as plain statement of fact, reversing the sarcastic “golden London” and “ silver Thames” of his early parody of Thomson’s “Rule Britannia” (Frey 1966). James Thomson proudly claims that Britain will be always the ruler and its people will never be slaves. Blake subtly criticizes this concepts.

In his poem ‘London’, Blake conveys the social criticism and highlights societal problems . Poet refers the street of “London” as ‘ charter’d’ which suggests the city is extensively restricted and controlled, leaving no room for the freedom of its inhabitants. Blake actually explores the emotional and mental state of the cities inhabitants through his verses. ‘Marks of weakness’, is a phrase that suggests the emotional and psychological mental state of individuals, influenced by the Class distinction and hierarchy , “mind-forg’d manacles” alludes to the psychological constraints and tyranny that people experience in a society marked by rigid social norms and expectations,

“How the Chimney-sweepers cry
Every black’ning Church appalls,
And the hapless Soldiers sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls

But most thro’ midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse” (Blake, 1794)

Blake addresses the psychological state of child workers, the dark side of organized religious beliefs, the emotional toll of war on soldiers, they are obliged by their duty. Harlots express curses because the social economic conditions pushed them into this desperate situation, even the institute of marriage is tainted by social decay. All of these characters in Blake’s “London” are victims of social injustice and inequality. Their behaviour, emotions and intentions are constructed within a particular social context.

This structured and controlled societal context of London shapes the emotional and psychological experience of its inhabitants. Poet tries to represent human tyranny and turmoil because of the stark contrast between the higher class and lower class people. The inequality between people leads them to psychological distress. The poem illustrates how the urban environment, industrialization, and capitalism have a profound impact on psychological well-being of its residents. By analysing Blake's "London" from a socio-psychological perspective, it becomes evident that a constraining social structure significantly influences how its people live, think, act and ultimately meet their fate. This brings to mind the Bengali poem "Manush" (Human) by Bengali national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (May 24, 1899 - August 29, 1976), which profoundly addresses socio-political and humanistic themes. Nazrul passionately articulates the idea of equality in diversity and resist against oppression and injustice, much like William Blake.

5.2 Racial Discrimination and Identity Crisis: The Little Black Boy's Journey

Blake demonstrates the profound societal impact on children's mind. Although children are inherently innocent, the circumstances surrounding them compel them to develop their perception of the harsh world. Blake's poem "The Little Black Boy" vividly illustrates racial discrimination and identity crisis within a children's psychology. Its root is from the anti-slavery debates of Blake's time.

"My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but O! My soul is white;
White as an angel is the English child:
But I am black as if bereav'd of light". (Blake, 1789)

The poem illustrates the racial discrimination based on skin colour, as the speaker of the poem, a little boy grapples with an inferiority complex due to societal differentiation from white children's. The little boy of this poem grapples with his self-concept and identity crisis. The boy says, his soul is 'White', this can be analyzed through the lens of socio-psychology revealing how stereotypes can influence an individual's self-concept.

"And we are put on earth a little space,
That we may learn to bear the beams of love,
And these black bodies and this sun-burnt face
Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove". (Blake, 1789)

The voice was so innocent and that innocence suggests one of his first encounters with the evil of racism. His mother tells him about his origin and encourages him to "bear the beams of love" understanding that her son will suffer the same discrimination that has marred her own life (Martin, 2013). Blake portrays how the children think about their skin colour. Their psychology about their skin colour is built up according to the social norms.

“Thus did my mother say and kissed me,
 And thus I say to little English boy.
 When I from black and he from white cloud free,
 And round the tent of God like lambs we joy:” (Blake ,1789)

He hopes that one day he will become free from this burden, that reflecting the themes of dreams and imagination or fantasy in William Blake's works. As he extensively portrays the children psychology is full of imagination and fantasy when they remain Innocence. “When an individual imagines something in their unconscious mind there comes a want for it to become reality”(Minasian, 2019). The structure of the society molds the boys psychology and his desire to break free from this racism in after life .Blake emphasizes the emotional impact on the child's psyche and how societal expectations and ideologies lead to an identity crisis. The boy losses his sense of human identity and perceives himself as separated from the white people around him. Societal attitudes toward racism shape his psychology, making him feel inferior.

The colour of one's skin should never be the basis for discrimination or an identity crisis. All human belong to same universe. External appearance may differ from one another but inner essence always remain equal. As the Bengali poet , Satyendranath Dutta (February 11, 1882 - June 25, 1922) wrote a poem “ মানুষজাতি”(Mankind) , which implies: “ কালো আর ধলো বাহিরে কেবল/ভিতরে সবারই সমান রাঙা”(Black and white outside/but inside, everyone is the same colour). This vision is mirrored in William Blake's work , where he rebels against societal norms in his rhymes and expresses tenderness toward the litter child who is the victim of the sophisticated social structure. The theme of racism is also addressed by Nelson Mandela (July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013), the South African anti-apartheid activist and politician . He reminds us with his words , “I hate race discrimination most intensely and in all its manifestations”. Racial Discrimination is nothing but a destructive force that profoundly affects human lives, stripping individuals of their identity. But social mind-set regarding skin colour forced black people to think them inferior than other.

5.3 Torment Unveiled: The Sweepers Despair

In William Blake's *Songs Of Innocence*, he extensively portrays the vision of innocence through the children in his verses. Martin price says in his essay "The Vison of Innocence" that, "Blake's Songs Of Innocence cultivate a tone of naivety, but we must recognize that what is spontaneously discovered by the child has in fact been earned by the poet's visionary powers" (Paley ,1969). "The Chimney Sweeper" from " *Songs Of Innocence* " and its counterpart from " *Songs of Experience*" provide compelling example of Blake's philosophical vision regarding children. They provide fantastic opportunity to grasp the socio-psychological implication of children's mind .

"The Chimney Sweeper" from *Songs Of Innocence* vividly details the innocent Psyche of children which can be analyzed through Freud's defence mechanisms. Specifically the concept of Repression from defence mechanism highlights the unconscious process of suppressing feelings, thoughts, or memories out of one's awareness. In " The Chimney Sweeper" children are portrayed as too young and innocent to fully perceive that they are destined to be enslaved as chimney sweeps forever, Consequently, they unconsciously accept this fate as their duty and repress their emotions. Actually they are forced to suppress their feelings and experiences.

"When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry " 'weep! 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!"
So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved, so I said,
"Hush, Tom! Never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair."(Blake, 1789)

The Poet refers to a little innocent child named Tom Dacre, who serves as the speaker and unconsciously details his misery. He is aware that his father has sold him. The “weep” sound symbolizes his emotional distress highlighting the profound misery of his childhood. The little child is emotionally and psychologically distressed by the cruelty of his father and masters. Martin K. Nurmi says in his essay “Fact and Symbol in ‘The Chimney Sweeper’”, that “Tom's ritual haircut changes him into different, somehow subhuman creature” (Frye, 1966). As these children transition into their roles as chimney sweeps, they lost their identity as human being. Blake again includes the lines, “And the Angel told Tom, if he'd be a good boy, / He'd have God for his father & never want joy. (Blake, 1789)

Blake extensively criticizes the established Christian beliefs. Despite the earthly pains these children bear, they are told that by remaining a ‘good boy’, they will be rewarded and have ‘God for his father’ implying that they are obliged to fulfil their miserable duties to be a good one. It is actually a force in the name of religion. Society's belief's mold their psychology and behaviour, making them believe the work is mandatory and they will eventually receive a reward. Blake addresses the hypocrisy and constraining social beliefs and structure that significantly impact children's psychology. Because of their innocence, these children are exploited for economical gain by society. They repress their emotions, accept their fate and remain as victims. In Blake's “Infant Sorrow” from *Songs of Experience*, he illustrates the idea of an individual's entrance into a world filled with uncertainty and challenges similar to the new-born baby mentioned in the poem. In fact, from the moment of birth, people are bound to face the constraints of social norms and structure. Innocent children like the one depicted in the poem “Chimney Sweeper” initially accept these conditions and find joy until they gain the experience of the harsh world. The children in the poem “Chimney Sweeper” hope for a better afterlife by doing his duty and this idea is implanted in his mind by society. Blake effectively illustrates the socio-psychological impact on children's mind and its consequences. Blake's *Song Of Experience* represent the transition and subsequent of the themes explored in *Song Of Innocence*. He highlights the darker aspect of joy that were initially portrayed in *Song Of Innocence*.

“Blake’s world of “Experience” as A.E Dyson and Julian Lovelock think is ‘the social world...ruled by priest, law-givers, fathers, and... scientists and marked by cruelty and despair. It is a world where man are victimized by poverty, sexual repression, inequalities and privation of class , colour and other human division and where love is not only exiled by prosecuted when it truly appears” (Prasad ,2020). In the “Chimney Sweeper” of *Song Of Experience* , Blake utters:

“A little black thing among the snow,

Crying “weep! ‘weep!” in notes of woe!

“Where are thy father and mother? Say?”

“They are both gone up to the church to pray”. (Blake ,1794)

The Poet refers to a boy as a “little black thing”. However , the boy is actually a human being who has lost his identity and become e little black product. According to Nurmi in the essay “ Fact and Symbol in “The Chimney Sweeper””, Blake addresses the same word “black” in his poem “The Little Black Boy”. But there is literally a huge difference between blackness of Africans and that of the sweeps .The negro boy is able to look forward to the time when he will be like the English boy-not “white”, to be sure ,but freed of his “black cloud”. But the sweeps who are actually white are now black, will presumably stay that way, unless the angel releases them. Blake’s ironically use of this word hits different directions in each of the poem (Fry ,1966).

Societal influence turned him into an object of sorrow, causing him to weep . He is alone and helpless because his parents went to praise in church. They have no concerns for him and simply push him into a life of being a sweeper, as they conform to social ideologies. His parents believe they are doing a virtuous deed, since the society allows small boys to be sold into the hazardous occupation of chimney sweepers. In really , they are subjecting their child to a life of perpetual misery, covered him with the “clothes of death”. Blake writes,” And are gone to praise God and his Priest and King, / Who make up a heaven of our misery.(Blake, 1794)

The Priest and King, as impish of the society, create their own rules to captivate people's mind and manipulate their psychology for profit. "Blake reveals that the real purpose of the church is to make the people meek and obedient, and consciously follow the Christian doctrine". (Wang, 2022, p.398). This corrupted and hypocritical social context stunts children's development, abducting them of their childhood enjoyment. In *Song of Innocence*, the little boy believes that slavery is their duty, but in *Song of Experience* speaker the little speaker voices the harsh truth: society offers them a miserable life while pretending to provide heaven. These Children's are influenced and molded by Societal norms, their childhood turns into an absolute hell.

Chapter 06

Blake's Legacy: Socio-psychological insights through symbolism

William Blake, a versatile poet, masterfully articulates the symbolism in his poetry that is a defying feature of his poetry. This symbolism often serves to convey some multi-layered meanings. Blake frequently employs his artistic techniques with a deep understanding of his vision. As Serdechnaya notes (2018) "Symbolic, extensive reading of Blake allows to interpret his position in different ways, including One of a fan of Evil. Indeed, apart from the context of Blake's thought, his Hell quite naturally appears to be a symbol of evil". Moreover, Blake used nature to represent as a symbol of innocence and purity. But the difference is "Tyger" which is the symbol of both fierceness and beauty. Blake generally weaves symbols into the themes of nature, religion, mythology and dualism. "Blake's writing is thrilling with symbols. These symbols are very unique as they are created by him on his own not imitating others symbol. He addresses tiger and it become God's power, the lamb become the symbol of suffering innocence" (Umakiran ,2020). Blake frequently enters into the psychology of individuals through his poetic vision. He illuminates socio-psychological issues by using many symbols in his poetry. From socio-psychological perspective, this study will focus how William Blake used different symbol to depict societal issues and their profound impact on shaping human behaviour and thoughts. "A Sick Rose" from *Songs of Experience* by William Blake serves as an excellent piece of his use of Symbolism. A short yet a powerful work illustrates the societal agitation.

"O Rose thou art sick.

The invisible worm,

That flies in the night

In the howling storm:" (Blake, 1794)

Blake often delves into the theme of innocence, symbolized by the "Rose". When the flower falls sick , it actually losses its innocence. "The Invisible Worm", signifies the hidden influence of social influence, also corrupt and hypocrite social structure. Blake frequently exhibits the power

imbalance in personal and societal relationship. The flowers illness, brought about worms attack, symbolizes how people get transformation due to ongoing pressure from a complex and sophisticated social injustice. Similar to the rose, individuals lose their identity and drown into darkness, society shapes their Psychology within this Social context. In poetic language, a rose is sickened and destroyed by a worm. The destruction signifies deceit, hypocrisy, pain and misdeed. Blake's indirect criticism of society using the simple figure of the "Rose", showcases his polished artistic technique. The rose can be compared to individuals in society whose psychology may be molded by Societal forces, as like the worm's assault on the rose.

Both *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* are filled with various symbols and imageries . Blake's song of Innocence is primarily conveys the thoughts of poet regarding children. According to Alicia Ostriker, " In Innocence the following words (or variants of them) all occur over ten times: bird, child, infant, lamb, little, laugh, mother, father, sweet, weep, sleep, and joy occur over twenty times. Blake's portrays the infant's and child's world by suggesting the child's limited, intense, and affective vocabulary" (Frey,1966). Most of these word conveys various symbolic purposes. In " Chimney Sweeper" Blake vividly symbolizes the horrors of child labour, shedding light on the profound social injustice prevalent in 18th century England. The social tradition and particular dictates of the time effectively changed the children into products controlled by higher classes people of the society. The children's lives are shaped and consumed by a implacable society. Societal forces deprive them of their innocence and childhood enjoyment.

William Blake utilizes the symbol of the chimney sweeper as a representation of the social injustice that affects psychology of the children not only in England but all over the world. Additionally, In Blake's " Chimney Sweeper" the word "weep" holds a very deep and complex meaning. This word reflects the emotional and physical hardship endured by child in a society that exploit them. These express their powerlessness and fear through their cries . The societal forces these children face deeply impact on their psychology and their emotional distress become evident through their expression of sorrow . The poem " London" by Blake is a another significant symbolic. In it's opening line, the word " charter'd" symbolizes the physical barrier of the people of London, highlighting how society is restricted and controlled by the upper classes. According

to Minasian (2019), “Blake uses the irony device by adding the word “charter’d” to those that were supposed to be the so-called public facilities, and also by repeating the word to reveal he looks down on and satirizes the society-controlled class indirectly”. Blake illustrates how the constrained impacts people reaction and their emotions. Social perceptions influence their behaviour and reshape their thoughts and feelings .Blake addresses various reactions, such as, “infants cry”, “Chimney Sweepers cry”, “ soldiers sigh” , “harlots curses”, “marriage hearse”, each portraying individual’s physical and emotional suffering. These emotional outbursts are the result of the constrained social structure, these effectively conveys the poems theme and answers questions related to socio-psychological studies, which investigate how peoples emotions, perceptions and behaviours are influenced by social factors. In the second stanza of the poem “ Infant Sorrow” from *Songs of Experience* includes, “Struggling in my fathers hands:/ Striving against my swaddling bands:” (Blake ,1794). Here the term “Swadling bands” serves as a symbol of the restricted social constructions. Swadling bands are tight clothes to keep the babies still. In the poem the word metaphorically symbolizes the restricted nature of the society, which creates boundary for its habitants, curbing their freedom and confining them with predefined limit. These restriction alter their thoughts and behaviour, compelling them to conform to the societal expectations. The infants sense of helplessness reflects the situation of individual’s within society who find themselves powerless and compelled to conform to it’s dictates.. The infant symbolizes those individuals who enter society, encountering various challenges, losing their individual identity and conforming to social expectations.

Blake’s writings are rich with encounters with societal issues. He directly or indirectly alludes to the constraining, wicked social structure. Most of his poems are based on social influences on an individual’s mentality. From Blake’s perspective, children to adult, everyone is obligated to alter their perception because they are elements of the society. They have to fulfil social expectations, even though it brings misery to them.

Chapter 07

Blake's socio-psychological vision : A Mirror to Contemporary Society”

William Blake passionately articulates his writing with beautiful artistic techniques, illustrating his vision of the world through his verses. His lines reveal his inner consciousness, rebellion against oppression and injustice, and tenderness toward oppressed human beings, especially children. In a broad sense, Blake's "London" is not merely a representation of the city London ; it actually present the scenario of whole world. Blake illustrates the constraining social ideologies and their impact on individuals psychology. Across the worlds, people are suffering from this issue . Today's contemporary society is a colossal paradigm of Blake's vision. Blake's illustration regarding child labour and their pathetic living conditions extensively aligns with the social realities of our country. According to the UNICEF report , The number of children in child labour has risen into 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID pandemic, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF. There is a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years in child labour, who now account for just over half of the total global figure. The number of children aged 5 to 17 years in hazardous work – defined as work that is likely to harm their health, safety or morals – has risen by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016. (UNICEF 2021). These serves as proof of social injustice towards the children in our country. Society approves child labour, and the amount is risen day by day. These children are deprived of education, proper wages, medical treatments and sadly, the companionship of their parents. They become accustomed with these jobs , because the constraining social structure alter their thoughts and behaviour, leading them to believe it is their duty . “According to ILO observation the worst form of labour includes trafficking, salver, armed conflicts, debt bondage, sexual exploration and hazardous works” (Uddin 2018,p.108). This issue is commemorative Blake's “ Chimney Sweeper”, a dangerous and deathly job for children.

In Bangladesh, children are also compelled to do such hazardous work, which comes with a lot of health issues. Their lives are shaped and controlled by society, so they don't have any obligations. Just as Blake illustrates the hypocrisy of upper-class people, religious Priests regarding child labour, our society reflects similar issues because of the corrupt and poor law system. "Labour laws have been enacted to combat child labour but cannot be operated due to some reason. Due to corruption and bribery law enforcing agency do not act according to the existing laws" (Uddin 2018, p.109). These hypocritical contexts align with Blake's views on king, priests, and social classes mentioned in his poetry. Blake's "London" can be seen as a representation of our surrounding social context. Everything is constrained, and People are bound within it. There is no freedom; an individual who belongs to a society must follow its rules and conforms to its expectations. Similar to the city of Landon, here, little children cry in the street, people suffer because of unemployment and poverty. Every issue is a consequences of societal influences. Blake's work reveals us the socio-psychological implications, and have a strong reflection in contemporary society. The people's in this society are also influenced in their behaviour, emotions, thoughts, and mental well-being by the constraints of this social structure.

Chapter 08

Conclusion:

Blake's poetry is concerned with social commentary, exploitation, religious and political tyranny, children's psychology and the harsh realities of the whole world. T.S Eliot has paid Blake a high compliment by finding in him "merely a peculiar honesty, which, in a word too frightened to be honest, is peculiarly terrifying. It is an honesty against which the whole world conspires, because it is unpleasant and this honesty never exists without great technical accomplishment" (Paley 1969). Blake's childhood experiences push him to writing about the social criticism with excellent poetic techniques. "Blake lived his love in poverty, so he knew the suffering of poor people, and this provided real-material for his poetry. Such a class background also made him have the creative ideas of exposing the brutality of the rulers and the dark church" (Wang 2022, p.393). A good understanding of Blake's writing takes readers on a way of socio-psychological insights.

This paper examined the interplay between tenderness, turmoil and tyranny within Blake's poetry. William Blake beautifully imparts his idea of both human psychological and socio-psychological aspects, especially children. The 17th and 18th century, during Blake's period, marked a period of Britain supremacy, there was rapid growing of industrialisation and capitalism which significantly altered all the living strategies of the general people. According to this, William Blake raised his voice through his lines. His work *Song's of Innocence and Experience* extensively portrays the issues of societal problems. He illustrates how societal influences profoundly impact individuals psychology. Blake's poem "London" vividly illustrates the tyranny of a constraining society and government in shaping the behaviour and thoughts of human, including man, woman, children and even infant's. Similarly his "The Little Black Boy" highlights the racial discrimination and identity crisis, while "Chimney Sweepers" depicts the loss of innocence because of the hypocritical and wicked social constructs. By viewing the Socio-psychology study of Blake's poems, the reader is able to have valuable insights into the profound impact of socio-psychological perspectives on individual psychology. The reader can find out the fact that, society

continuously molds the psychological thoughts of individuals. People who are living with particular societal structure often conform to social norms, even if it means they have to maintain the miserable life which is imposed by society. Blake clearly conveys these ideas in his poetic vision. After reading the paper, the socio-psychology of Blake's selected poems, a reader can have a thoughts of how society continuously shapes the psychological phenomena of children and adults.

This paper extensively focuses on Blake's poems which are filled with societal issues. Those poem initially serves as a descriptive exploration of Blake's vision about socio-psychological influences on Individuals psychology. Through the inclusion of some of Blake's poems, the study illustrates how people's ideas, perceptions, behaviour altered and influenced according to restrictive social norms, an envisioned by Blake. Throughout this study, I have explored Blake's poems from his work *Songs of Innocence and Experience* to uncover the fact of the profound impact of social influences on human psychology.

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