

Poems of William Blake



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By William Blake (1757-1827)

Songs of Innocence and of Experience: Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul are two books of poetry by the English poet and painter, William Blake. Although *Songs of Innocence* was first published by itself in 1789, it is believed that *Songs of Experience* has always been published in conjunction with *Innocence* since its completion in 1794.

Songs of Innocence mainly consists of poems describing the innocence and joy of the natural world, advocating free love and a closer relationship with God, and most famously including Blake's poem The Lamb. Its poems have a generally light, upbeat and pastoral feel and are typically written from the perspective of children or written about them.

The Book of Thel is a poem by William Blake, dated 1789 and probably worked on in the period 1788 to 1790. It is illustrated by his own plates, and is relatively short and easy to understand, compared to his later prophetic books. The metre is a fourteen-syllable line. It was preceded by *Tiriell*, which Blake left in manuscript. A few lines from *Tiriell* were incorporated into *The Book of Thel*. This book consists of eight plates executed in illuminated printing. 15 copies of original print of 1789-1793 are known. Two copies have watermark of 1815, which are more elaborately colored than the others. (Summary from Wikipedia)

Total Running Time: 00:55:00; read by Sam Stinson.

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