

Holy Thursday (Song of Experience) Literary Device

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Symbols

Rich and Fruitful Land:

Symbolizes a prosperous society.

Babes Reduced to Misery: Represents suffering children.

Cold and Usurious Hand: Signifies oppressive actions of the powerful.

Trembling Cry: Depicts children's distress.

Eternal Winter: Symbolizes perpetual hardship.

Sun and Rain: Represent blessings and prosperity.

Thorns: Signify obstacles and dangers.

Hunger and Poverty: Emphasize suffering.

Mind Appall: Shows lasting psychological impact.

Figures of Speech

Repetition:

The recurring question, "Is this a holy thing to see," is repeated at the beginning of each stanza, emphasizing the central theme.

Rhetorical Questions: "Is that trembling cry a song?"

Irony: The contrast between the supposed holiness of "Holy Thursday" and the children's suffering serves as irony.

Imagery: Descriptive imagery paints a bleak picture of poverty ("Fed with cold and usurious hand").

Metaphor: "Their ways are filled with thorns" metaphorically describes the hardships people with low incomes face.

Personification: Poverty and hunger are personified as forces that "appall" the mind.

Alliteration: Repetition of consonant sounds adds rhythm ("Fed with cold and usurious hand").

Parallelism: Parallel structures reinforce ideas ("And where-e'er the sun does shine").

Hyperbole: "Eternal Winter" exaggerates the unending nature of suffering.

Oxymoron: "Holy" and "misery" form an oxymoron.

LxNotes