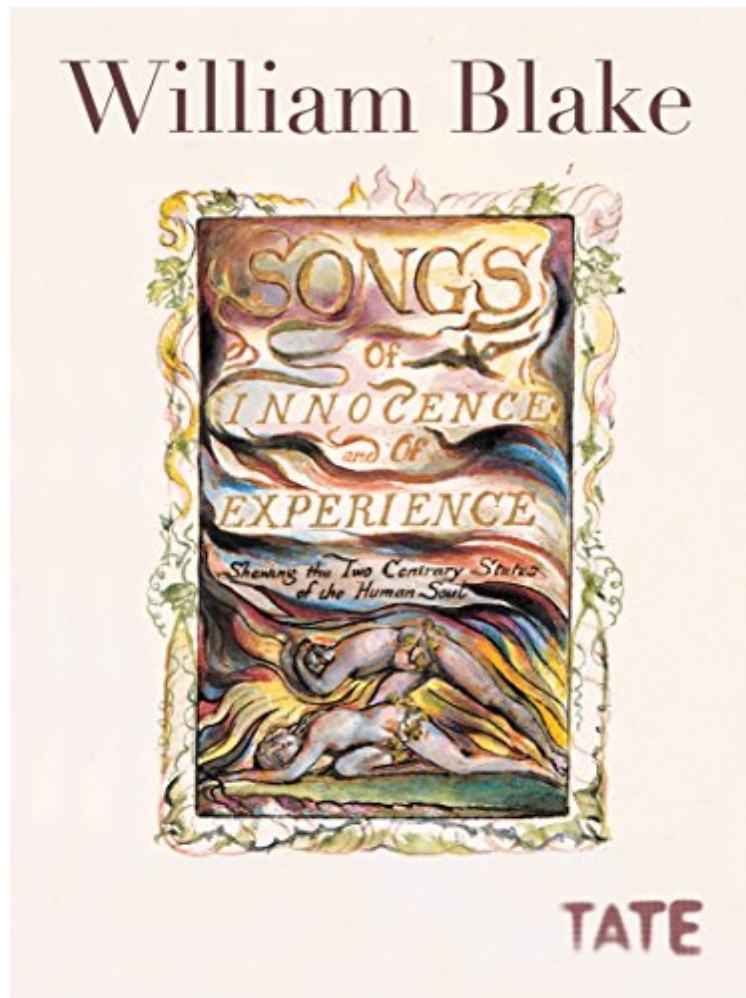


William Blake: Song of Innocence and of Experience

William Blake

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William Blake : William Blake: Song of Innocence and of Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised William Blake: Song of Innocence and of Experience:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Exquisite, but warning: it is small
By Katy Butler
I'm reiterating previous reviewers: be prepared for a small book. You cannot (or at least my aging eyes cannot) read the poems as printed in Blake's engravings, though I can read them in the text on the facing page. If only this book were about two inches bigger in both dimensions! I have a similar book, issued by the Tate, containing The Proverbs of Heaven Hell, and I was hoping this was a companion edition, but no such luck. Nevertheless, I'm keeping mine and ordering another for a poet-friend's birthday. Blake is extraordinary -- a genius of his own kind, his visions sprung apparently from nowhere, his hearthuge, his awe religious and delicate, his compassion naked. He is the finest inveigher against the repressive, life-and-sex-denying aspects of some religion (aspects he considers the work of the devil, not god) -- and the finest prophet against the "man forged manacles" of heartless industrialism -- that I have ever read. But there's

much more to the "Songs" than this -- religious awe is embedded in the smallest detail of the human and natural world. Odd, strange, speaking to us from some other world. The poems alone are doorways to the infinite; and in tandem with his delicate, powerful illuminated engravings, a delight.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent! Great gift! By Timothy R. O'Hanlon Mystic, visionary, artist, genius, craftsman, poet, social reformer, humanitarian -- all of these words and more have been used but do not adequately describe William Blake. "Songs of Innocence and Experience: Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul" is widely acknowledged as Blake's masterpiece and, for those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, the insights expressed in it are as moving and valuable now as they were when Blake first expressed them in 1789-94. Blake was as accomplished a craftsman as he was an artist and a poet. He was perhaps the first artist to express himself in the form of "multimedia". The media, in this case, being "Illuminated books". Blake invented a process where he could etch both poetry (text) and design on copper-plates and also formulated his own colors. What makes this particular edition special is that it contains Blake's original color etchings. Since I own the basic Kindle and wanted to view the colored illustrations, I downloaded this book to my PC, all 952 pages of it! I suggest that you do the same. The poetry is magnificent! The illustrations are amazing! Great gift, especially to accompany a Kindle Fire. (No, I do not work for !) You can't go wrong at \$2.99!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Purchased as a gift (She loved it) By Felonius Bought this as a present. The recipient loved it. I was really hoping for one which had all of the original illustrations (well, reproductions of), and this one lived up to that hope. In addition to the illustrations, which had the poems, the poems were also transcribed in a highly readable font. There was also a small bit of discussion with each poem (I think all of them, but I didn't look that closely) giving some background and interpretation (again, I think). The book itself was in very good condition, and the slipcase was very nice, even having a section on the top and bottom to follow the curve of the spine of the book. All told, this was a good copy of this collection, and both I and the recipient were quite satisfied.

'Every page is a window open in Heaven hellip; interwoven designs companion the poems, and gold and yellow tints diffuse themselves over the page like summer clouds. The poems [of Song of Innocence] are the morning song of Blake's genius.' - W.B. Yeats 'Blake sang of the ideal world, of the truth of the intellect, and of the divinity of imagination hellip; The only writer to have written songs for children with the soul of a child hellip; he holds, in my view, a unique position because he unites intellectual sharpness with mystic sentiment.' - James Joyce

Song of Innocence and of Experience is a rare and wonderful book, its seeming simplicity belying its visionary wisdom. Internationally recognised as a masterpiece of English literature, it also occupies a key position in the history of western art. This unique edition of the work allows Blake to communicate with his readers as he intended, reproducing Blake's own illumination and lettering from the finest existing example of the original work. In this way readers can experience the mystery and beauty of Blake's poems as he first created them, discovering for themselves the intricate webs of symbol and meaning that connects word and image. Each poem is accompanied by a literal transcription, and the volume is introduced by the renowned historian and critic, Richard Holmes. The poems are narrated by novelist and critic, Adam Mars-Jones. This beautiful edition of Song of Innocence and of Experience will be essential for those familiar with Blake's work, but also offers an ideal way into his visionary world for those encountering Blake for the first time.

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Reference: The World's Biggest Mobile Encyclopedia; CIA World Factbook, Illustrated Encyclopedias of Birds, Mammals

About the Author William Blake (1757ndash;1827) was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognized during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of both the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. His prophetic poetry has been said to form "what is in proportion to its merits the least read body of poetry in the English language". His visual artistry has led one British art journalist

to proclaim him "far and away the greatest artist Britain has ever produced". Although he lived in London his entire life except for three years spent in Felpham he produced a diverse and symbolically rich corpus, which embraced the imagination as "the body of God", or "Human existence itself". Considered mad by contemporaries for his idiosyncratic views, Blake is held in high regard by later critics for his expressiveness and creativity, and for the philosophical and mystical undercurrents within his work. His paintings and poetry have been characterized as part of both the Romantic movement and "Pre-Romantic", for its large appearance in the 18th century. Reverent of the Bible but hostile to the Church of England, Blake was influenced by the ideals and ambitions of the French and American revolutions, as well as by such thinkers as Jakob Bouml;hme and Emanuel Swedenborg. Despite these known influences, the singularity of Blake's work makes him difficult to classify. The 19th century scholar William Rossetti characterised Blake as a "glorious luminary," and as "a man not forestalled by predecessors, nor to be classed with contemporaries, nor to be replaced by known or readily surmisable successors." Historian Peter Marshall has classified Blake as one of the forerunners of modern anarchism, along with Blake's contemporary William Godwin.

From AudioFileBoth the student and connoisseur of the classics will enjoy this series of inexpensive audiobooks, each of which includes a Dover-Thrift edition of the text. The newcomer to classic poetry and prose, in particular, may experience in their spoken form an awakening to the beauty and power of these literary masters. It's hard to imagine a better introduction to William Blake's poetry than stage actors Brian Murray's and Suzanne Toren's audio rendition of SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE. Their alternating readings of Songs of Innocence vibrate with the reverence of Blake's vision of childhood as paradise lost; in Songs of Experience one fully senses Blake's later disillusion. The two books provide counterpoint to each other, an effect enhanced by the use of male and female readers. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine