

**My dear students these are hints that can support the explanation of your lecture, but it is not a substitution of it . The lecture is presented by Dr. Asmaa Khalaf Madloul**

### **William Blake`s London**

*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*

*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*

### **Theme**

The principal **theme** of Blake`s " London" is alienation that is clear in the depiction of the states of various personas in the poem who are alienated in spite of living in the middle of society. They are estranged from the city. The poet shoulders the established institution: the organized religion, the military and marriage the responsibility of the depression of urban people.

## **Romantic and Formal features**

Romantic features in the poem are clear, the first is the caring for the suffering of common people. The poet shows the pain of soldiers, prostitute, chimney sweepers, new born baby and everyman. He shows an interest in writing about the depression of childhood. He grants the little new born infant a voice in the poem. the second romantic aspect is the radical views that encourage people to gain freedom and rights. The third aspect is the effective emotion and passion through using words like (woe, cry of fear, sigh, appalls, Plague, curse, blight).

## **The Formal Element**

It is clear in the use of regular rhyme scheme; abab and regular stanzas of four lines. Using the archaic diction such as abbreviation of 'thro" and the use of apostrophe of omission in " chart`d"

## **Structure and Poetic Devices**

Concerning the form , the poem consists of sixteen line distributed on four quatrains of alternatively rhyming lines

### **Poetic devices**

-repetition :

- "in every...." Is a form of anaphora.

Synecdoche: the substitution of part of something for its whole

" church' stands for religion and " palace" stands for monarchy and government

- " marks"" mark" " charter`d" ' cry"

-alliteration

"chimney-sweepers" who appears in Blake`s other poem

-oxymoron: is a joining of two contrast in the same line like " marriage  
hearse"

-metaphor:

" mind forged manacles"

" blacking church"