

Why 'The Lamb' is a Didactic Poem

The poem "The Lamb" by William Blake is considered a didactic poem for several clear reasons related to its nature, structure, and moral and religious message:

1. It presents a moral and religious lesson.

The poem teaches the reader—especially children—that God/Christ is the creator of the lamb, and that the lamb's qualities of innocence and gentleness come from the divine.

2. It is directed toward children.

The poem uses simple language, repetition, and a gentle rhythm to educate children about God's goodness.

3. It links nature to spirituality.

The poem teaches readers to see the presence of God in His creations, using the lamb as a symbol of divine purity.

4. It promotes spiritual and ethical values.

These include innocence, purity, tenderness, and love toward small creatures.

5. It uses a question-and-answer structure.

This educational method guides the reader to understanding by first raising curiosity and then providing the answer.

6. It shapes the reader's moral and spiritual understanding.

The poem encourages the reader to imitate the lamb's innocence and meekness, reinforcing Blake's concept of the "Child of Innocence."

Why 'The Lamb' is a Pastoral Poem

Why is William Blake's poem "The Lamb" considered a pastoral poem?

1. It is set in a natural, rural environment.

The poem takes place in meadows, fields, and by a stream—classic features of pastoral poetry.

2. It focuses on a simple, innocent creature: the lamb.

Pastoral poems often highlight gentle, harmless animals that symbolize purity and peace.

3. It idealizes nature.

Nature is presented as peaceful, joyful, and harmonious, reflecting the spiritual innocence

of the child.

4. It emphasizes harmony between humans and nature.

The child speaks to the lamb as a friend, showing a deep bond between humanity and the natural world.

5. It creates a sense of purity and serenity.

The pastoral tradition values simplicity and calmness, qualities that appear throughout the poem.

6. It uses rural imagery to support spiritual themes.

Blake connects the natural beauty of the countryside with divine creation, blending the pastoral with religious symbolism.