

Jerusalem

by William Blake (1804)

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

Words:

pasture (n.) – *Weide*

Countenance Divine (n.) – *das Angesicht Gottes*

chariot (n.) – *(Streit-) Wagen*

cease (v.) – *ablassen, aufhören*

Tasks:

- Describe the England as presented in the poem.
- This poem provides the lyrics to one of England's most popular hymns (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKDBGHmH7Hw>). Explain this popularity.
- Explain what 'dark Satanic mills' refers to.
- Assess the value of the poem as a historical source of early 19th-century England.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Blake_watercolor_portrait.jpg