

The Divine Image

BY : WILLIAM BLAKE

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

Introduction Of The Poem :-

This poem is primarily centered on Blake's concept of God. According to Blake, God is the essence of divine virtues like Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love. A human being who possesses these divine virtues is no less than God. Through this poem, Blake has tried to remind the human beings that they are capable of reaching the zenith (the highest point or peak) of divinity (Godliness). Also, Blake has tried to assert that God dwells within the hearts of human beings. This means that when human beings begin to exercise their divine virtues, then the human beings tend to become equivalent to God.

Explanation Of The Poem :-

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

Meaning Of difficult Words :-

Distress : Discomfort or Misery

Virtues : Admirable qualities

Mercy : Forgiveness Or Compassion

Pity : A feeling of sympathy at the misfortune or suffering of someone or something.

The poet begins the verse by stating the four divine virtues , that is , “ Mercy, Pity , Peace and Love ”. These virtues are representative of God. The poet states that human beings pray to these virtues in times of distress (or discomfort). Human beings also pray to these virtues in order to express their thankfulness for the blessings that are bestowed upon them by God.

The rhyme scheme of this quatrain is ABCB.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is Man, his child and care.

The poet then continues to say that the four divine virtues, that is, Mercy , Pity , Peace and Love are possessed by God who is the father of the entire human race. These divine virtues are also inherited by the human beings as they are the children of God. The rhyme scheme of this quatrain is ABAC.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Further, the poet tried to showcase the way in which the four divine virtues are possessed by human beings. Mercy is found in the human

heart, pity can be witnessed in the human face , love can be seen in the ‘form’ of a human being and peace can be seen in the garments or dress of human beings. Precisely, human beings are facsimiles (that is, reproduction or copies) of God. The rhyme scheme of this quatrain is ABCB.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

Meaning Of Difficult words :-

Clime : Place

Through these lines of the verse, the poet is trying to establish the fact that since the four divine virtues of God are possessed by the human beings as well, therefore, human beings are basically equivalent to God. This means that all prayers to Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love are directed not

only to God but also to the “human form divine”, that is, to human beings.

The rhyme scheme of this quatrain is ABAC.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

Finally, the poet says that everyone must love the human form irrespective of their culture or religion. Whether an individual is a Heathen (the person who does not believe in

Christianity and rather believes in Paganism, that is, the religion that promotes nature - worshipping) , a Turk (A person from Turkey, that is, a country in Middle East) or a Jew (The one who follows Judaism) , he/she must love the human form as God dwells within the human race. Hence, Blake is basically trying to assert that all the human beings must love one another irrespective of their nation , culture or religion.

The rhyme scheme of this quatrain is ABCB.

Thematic Concerns Of The Poem :-

- 1. Protest Against Blind Idolatry :-*** Blind idolatry refers to the blind worship of idols. In this poem , Blake has clearly expressed his protest against the blind worship of idols done by human beings. He rather asserts that every human being is basically an embodiment of God and therefore, human beings do not need to worship the idols of God blindly.
- 2. Didacticism :-*** Didacticism refers to giving moral teachings, especially through a speech or a piece of writing. In this poem, Blake has tried to give moral teachings to his readers, by asserting that every human being is capable of cultivating the divine virtues like Mercy , Peace , Love and Pity and therefore, every human being possess the potential of spreading happiness around him/her .

3. *Universal Fraternity* :- Fraternity refers to togetherness of the entire humankind. Blake has very beautifully tried to assert that the entire human race must exist in a state of togetherness irrespective of religious , cultural or national differences. Universal Fraternity will ultimately lead to the propagation of peace, harmony and bliss. Hence, we can conclude that through this simple poem , Blake has tried to convey profound (deep) meanings which makes Blake command appreciation.
