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SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS ("The Lamb")

1. What is the message of the poem?

Answer: This remarkable poem is a sweet hymn of tender infantile sentiment appropriate to that perennial image of meekness, gentleness and innocence. A deep religious tone rings through the poem. Here God is both the Redeemer and the Creator. This poem celebrates an earthly paradise in which animals and human beings live in complete love and harmony under the protection of benevolent and gracious good. The child is well aware of the existence and benedictions of God which have been showered upon the lamb. We here are reminded of the poet's belief that God is Man and exists in us and we in Him...is the Divine Boy in everyman." The divinity raises the low and ignoble to the level of the high and noble. This truth is set forth in this poem and this indicates the poet's mystical wisdom. According to Christian belief and Catholic ritual, life itself comes from the body and blood of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd eternally vigilant in protecting his innocent flock of sheep and lambs. The purpose of the poet is to show the splendour, power and glory of the lord Christ and to praise Him, as a dedicated soul.

2. What things did God give to the lamb?

Answer: The Creator had made the lamb, an innocent, meek and mild creature. God gave the lamb life. The lamb roams here and there in the countryside surrounded by the stream and meadow. In this peaceful place, the lamb is allowed to graze and eat green grass. The lamb's surrounding has some human aspects, though it is natural. God has provided the lamb with the articles of nourishment-bright and softest wool covering its body. He also endowed the lamb with a tender voice. By means to the soft, sweet voice, it makes all the valleys "rejoice". It is allowed to drink the water of the stream. The sweet and tender voice of the lamb make the valleys pulsate with life and because of the voice, the valleys become the realms of joy and rejoice in the voice.



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3. What quality do God, Lamb and the child share?

Answer: The creator of the lamb is none but God Himself. God is called by the name of a lamb. When God came down into the earth, he assumed the form of a child. The child is the incarnation of God who was born as infant Jesus on this earth. The child, the lamb and God are regarded as a single divine entity. They all share the qualities of meekness, mildness and gentleness. In the sacred parables of Christ, we find the imagery of the sheep and shepherd. The three are the noticeable emblems of purity naivety and innocence and constitute the Christian concept of "Trinity" in the world of innocence. The poet visualizes that the purity and innocence of the lamb and the child unifies them with the Almighty. In the Bible we find that Christ is the lamb and hence the lamb has a religious association. This poem discovers kindred purity and innocence in the three.

**4. "Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?"**

Who is the speaker here? What is the actual identity of the addressees? What is the significance of the repetition of the question who made thee?"

Answer: This poem is a reassuring reminder of God's goodness and of the simple innocence which God grants the child. An innocent child is the speaker here and the addressee is the Little Lamb. In this poem, the poet changes his person into that of a child. The child asks the lamb whether it knows who made it. Here, the lamb is a perfect metaphor for a child who would think the lamb might wonder at its own creation and the gentleness of its created world. The innocent and naïve child is awed and overwhelmed at the unique beauty of God's creation. The child being innocent and meek, his question is also innocent. He is anxious to know who has created such meek, mild and innocent creature like the lamb.

The repetition of the question is very significant. It emphasizes the curiosity of the child to know the name of the creator of the lamb. The repetition gives almost a sing-song childish cadence which quickly sets the tone of the poem. Besides,



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the repetition makes the two lines into a refrain and helps to give the poem its song-like quality. The poem's apostrophic form contributes to the effect of naivete.

5. Explain the phrase "clothing of delight".

Answer: William Blake, a mystic poet, was very fond of the construction 'of' plus abstract noun. [In such phrase, the abstract noun should not be regarded as a personification; the meaning intended is equivalent to an adjective]. The phrase means clothing productive of delight to the wearer-delightful clothing. This phrase is a fine metaphor which involves a transfer of meaning from the word that properly possesses it to another word which belongs to some shared category of meaning. "Clothing", is to humans as wool is to lambs. Some of the meanings of 'Clothing' can transfer to the lamb's wool. The Creator has provided the lamb with "Clothing of delight" i.e. the very soft wool which covers the body of the lamb and imparts delight to the animal. The lamb's fleece is referred to here as "Clothing of delight".

6. Explain "He is called by thy name, / For he calls himself a Lamb."

Answer: Here "He" refers to the single, powerful, and inspiring Creator. Here "He" refers to the single, powerful, and inspiring Creator. The child says that the lamb was made by one who "calls himself a Lamb", one who resembles in his meekness, innocence and gentleness both the child and the lamb. By answering his own question, the child converts the question into a rhetorical one, thus counteracting the initial spontaneous sense of the poem. This answer is presented as a riddle though it is an easy one. This contributes to an underlying sense of ironic knowingness or artifice in the poem. The child's answer reveals his unwavering confidence in his simple Christian faith and his innocent acceptance of its teachings.

7. Explain 'We are called by his name'



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Answer: "We" refers to the child and the lamb. It is God who created the child and the lamb. God has invested the child and the lamb with the divine qualities- innocence, purity, meekness and mildness. God created the two in His own image. The lamb symbolizes Jesus. The traditional image of Jesus as a lamb underscores the Christian values of peace, meekness, gentleness and innocence. The image of the child is association with Jesus: in the Gospel, Jesus and displays a special solicitude for children and the Bible's depiction of Jesus in his childhood shows him as guideless. The gentle and innocent lamb enjoys a life of ease and comfort under the meticulous care of an invisible power. The lamb stands for Innocence created by God and this Innocence is identified with Jesus, "the Lamb of God". The lamb symbolizes the innocence, humility and submissiveness of man.

8. Explain, "Little Lamb, God bless thee!/ Little Lamb, God bless thee!"

Answer: The poem ends with the child bestowing a blessing on the lamb. The goodness of God-given innocence leads the speaker to praise the worthiness of creation. The word 'bless' derives historically from the word 'blood'. To bless is to cleanse by a ritual of the poem sprinkling of blood. The word is a figure of speech in which some of the meanings of 'blood' are transferred to the purifying action. This is remarkably apt to the poem, in chief links between the lamb and Christ is that both are the victims of blood sacrifice. The two lines suggest that the simple, good, honest, innocent and virtuous people will be blessed by God. This refrain limits the view point and gives the poem definite idyllic ideas.