**TO THE EVENING STAR** BY.WILLIAM BLAKE

**POEM**

THOU fair-hair'd angel of the evening,

Now, whilst the sun rests on the mountains, light

Thy bright torch of love; thy radiant crown

Put on, and smile upon our evening bed!

Smile on our loves, and while thou drawest the

Blue curtains of the sky, scatter thy silver dew

On every flower that shuts its sweet eyes

In timely sleep. Let thy west wind sleep on

The lake; speak silence with thy glimmering eyes,

And wash the dusk with silver. Soon, full soon,

Dost thou withdraw; then the wolf rages wide,

And then the lion glares through the dun forest:

The fleeces of our flocks are cover'd with

Thy sacred dew: protect them with thine influence!

**THE POET**

William Blake

William Blake was born on November 28, 1757, in London, England. He was an artist and poet and received his education at the Royal Academy of Art’s Schools of Design. He died on August 12, 1827, in London, England. William Blake is an influential figure from the Romantic Age. His paintings and writings have inspired uncountable people throughout the ages

William Blake Artwork

**INTRODUCTION**

* It is a sonnet
* To the evening star is an ode to the venus
* IT is a sonnet by a romantic poet Willam Blake .
* It is an address to Venus, the Roman goddess of love, beauty and fertility.
* The poet or the speaker in this poem is calling upon ‘Her’ to protect all of us against the evils of night and more importantly, inspire the oppressed force of day time.
* He addresses ‘Her’ as a ‘fair-haired angel of the evening’ who can light torch of love brightly at night to remove darkness and can put on glowing crown and smile upon the evening bed of humankind.
* He further says that the goddess Venus makes the fine morning and scatters the silver dew on every flower that shuts its silver eyes having timely sleep
* Finally, he maintains that the wolf rages and the lion glares at night in darkness which are the emblems of evils; therefore, he requests to protect all the humankind against them covering by its sacred dew as done by the warm clothes.
* Blake describes, in a very elegant way, how lovely the evening star is. The wolf is his symbol for the night; it has a grey fur, and has an affinity with the dark, the night. The lion, with a golden fur, is a symbol for the glorious morning; the lion glares through the dun forest means as much as the morning breaks through.Secondly, assonance, consonance and alliteration within the poem will be dealt with.

**SUMMARY**

* In “To the Evening Star”, Blake maintains his Sketches theme of the daily cycle as metaphor to innocence and experience.
* Specifically here, the speaker calls upon the “fair-hair’d angel of the evening” to protect him (all of us) against the evils of the night, and more importantly, inspire “whilst the sun rests” all that is oppressed during daytime.
* The star represents the transcendent moments of struggle between oppositions.
* It is a “bright torch” while all else is dark, presenting a juxtaposition thus transcendent symbol. In reality, the star is most likely the planet Venus, the Goddess of love and beauty, and helps build Blake’s motif of eroticism and desires that must remain hidden under the light of the omniscient day (notice the bed is “our” and not “mine” indicating it is a shared domain).
* The speaker is beckoning Venus to bless the bed (some argue a bridal bed, although there is very little evidence elsewhere to support such notion) and to “smile on [their] love.”
* But Venus cries “tears of dew” as she herself is aware of humankind’s fallen state on earth where sexual creativeness operates in a real of dangerous passions symbolized by savage beasts (the wolf and the lion).
* Again we have a struggle of opposites here, this time symbolized through predator and prey that further builds up Blake’s theme of the cyclic and dialectic nature of the universe in which we live.
* The speaker is young (as Blake himself was at the time) and his frustration between these opposing forces is placed on the table to deal with: youth and age, tyrant and slave, day and night, male and female, predatory and prey.

**MEANING OF THE POEM**

Fair haired angel(Venus) of the evening(evening star),While the sun is starting to rest on the mountains , Rekindle the shining torch of love and wear your Radiant Crown , and bless our(other people and himself) resting bed(earth)!Smile on the ones we love may it be relatives or lovers , And while you draw the blue curtain(the blueish sky), scatter your silver dew(blessing in the form of a liquid in this case)on almost every flower that closes its eyes(petals of flower) in order to obtain calm and sleep. Command the west wind\* to calm down and not destroy the floral beauty of the forest. Command silence and order in the forest through your beautiful and glimmering(shining) eyes. Paint the curtain(sky) with silver(stars and moon) so that their light reaches us and protects us. I know you will withdraw(leave) soon and when you do the dangers of the night(dangerous beasts, wild animals, thieves and robbers) will thrive. The wolf will howl in pleasure and the lion will pensively stare at a flock of sheep planning to attack... I pray you(Venus), let the sprinkled dew(blessing) cover the flocks of sheep(fleece is the wool of sheep) and protect them through it.

**ANALYSIS**

In this poem, Blake is expressing the idea that stars bring peace and guidance to people during the normally forbidding night.

Blake uses anastrophes to directly address the star. For example, Blake urges the star to "smile upon our evening beds." This anastrophe brings about a romantic and soothing essence to the poem and shows Blake's belief that the star is able to turn the dark night into a calm and dreamy situation.

Blake uses another anastrophe in the ninth line of the poem, begging the star to "wash the dusk with silver.“

Blake also uses metaphors to compare the star to a "fair-haired angel." This metaphor is used to express the shining star as a beautiful goddess who watches over the people during the dark night.

Blake also calls the star a bright torch of love, which brings about a radiant and heroic quality to the star.

The wolf is his symbol for the night; it has a grey fur, and has an affinity with the dark, the night. The lion, with a golden fur, is a symbol for the glorious morning; the lion glares through the dun forest means as much as the morning breaks through.Secondly, assonance, consonance and alliteration within the poem will be dealt with.

The schemes on the pages attached will help explain why assonance, consonance and alliteration are that important. The first scheme is about alliteration with the vowel ‘t’. Important is that lines 4, 7, 10 and 13 have no alliteration with ‘t’. If you divide the 14 lines in the form of a Shakespearean sonnet; then there can be found that there is always one line in a stanza that has no alliteration, and, odd enough, this is respectively the last line, the penultimate line, the second and the first line.

There are three major considerations to be taken from “The Evening Star

One is the theme of pastoral simplicity It is in the last two lines that the speaker appeals to God for the first time, recognizing his inferiority and potential impotence when it comes to protecting his flock from the fall of grace.

The second is political entrapment. Again, the speaker knows that it is during night, when Venus’s “radiant crown” holds the power to put an end to all of daytime’s rules (change the color of the sky, put the flowers to sleep, calm the wind). Alas, the excitement and bliss of the unencumbered will “soon withdraw,” and just as in man’s law-abiding society, the force of opposition governs all of Blake’s inhibitions

Lastly is sexual desire. The speaker here is simply looking for any excuse, any blessing, to act upon his primitive desire to mate with the opposite sex. Knowing an appeal to reason, religion, and God is out of the question; he turns to nighttime’s nature queen in hopes for approval.

Blake wrote this poem to possibly show the huge effect nature has on one's everyday life. For example, without the star, the night would be dark and forbidding. However, the star make the night beautiful, peaceful and romantic.

He also goes further to show how nature even can protect our fragile lives. He claims that the star protects people from the violent lion and wolf lurking in the forest. Blake also expresses the innocence of nature.

He tells the flowers to "shut its sweet eyes", which also brings about a non-threatening tone to the poem. In *To the Evening Star*, Blake successfully show how all the elements of nature can come together to create a beautiful, perfect situation. For example, the star shines brightly, the lake reflects the light, and the wind gently blows. These three actions come together to produce a beautiful scenery which many humans take advantage of every night.

**POETIC DEVICES USED IN THE POEM**

METAPHOR

Angel of the evening

blue curtains of the sky

Torch of love

PERONIFICATION

The sun rests

Smile upon our evening bed

Let thy west wind sleep on

Speak slience with thy glimmering eyes

REPETITON

Silver soon full soon

ALLITERATION

SKY SCATTER THY SILVER DEW

SYMBOL

Wolf :- night

Lion :- morning time

Dun :- darkness

Flocks :- innocent of people

* DEIFICATION (Means attributing divine quality to something)

Thy sacerd dew

Protect them with thine inflences

* ASSONANCE

Whilst the sun rests on the mountains light.

* INTENAL RHYMIMING

Light thy bright torch of love

smile on our loves and while thou drawest

blue curtains of the sky scatter thy silver dew

THE END