

# Songs of Innocence

1. Noun

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A Little History...

      Noun       Blake was born on November 28, 1757 in London.

His family was middle class.

Blake always spoke of having visions:

At the age of four Blake had a vision of God putting his head in the window.

At the age of nine while walking through the countryside he saw a tree filled with angels.

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William's parents thought of him as lying and with big imaginations, in other words they thought he was going "crazy".

William was home schooled, where he learned how to read and write.

His dream to paint began at the age of ten and two years later he began writing poetry.

In 1779, Blake started art school at the Royal Academy of Art's Schools of Design.

Blake once said "I write when commanded by the spirits" & "God is not a mathematical diagram" in response to one of the Enlightenment thinkers, Isaac Newton.

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Blake became frustrated and angry when things "his visions" was not working out.

In 1795 Blake abandoned poetry all together and focused mainly on his painting.

Blake started then an experiment with adding glue to his paintings, to make a deeper color and a more complex texture.

Just before he died his eyes brightened and he burst out in singing of the things he saw in Heaven" (Bentley, Blake Records 346-47).

William Blake died on August 12, 1827.