

The Divine Image

-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.

About the Poet

William Blake (1757-1827) was a great poet, artist, mystic and philosophical anarchist. He is regarded as a precursor to the Romantic poetry. His writings have influenced countless writers and artists through the ages, and he has been deemed both as a major poet and an original thinker. His most widely read poems are contained in "Songs of Innocence" and "Songs of Experience".

About the Poem

Blake's 'The Divine Image' celebrates the traditional virtues of Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love. Man possesses these virtues, but fails to realize them. In fact, he is oblivious to the qualities which are inside us. In this regard, this poem adopts a didactic tone.

Glossary

distress: unhappy state

divine: pertaining to God

heathen: atheist

1. Choose the correct alternative:

1. What is not God- gifted virtue?

(i) Love

(ii) Hatred

(iii) Peace

(iv) Humanity

2. Answer the following questions in 15-20 words each:

(a) What do we do when in distress?

(b) What are mercy, pity, peace and love?

(c) How is God our father?

(d) Why should all love the human form?

(e) "And Peace, the human dress." How has peace been compared to human dress?

3. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

(a) "For Mercy has a human heart,

Pity a human face,

And Love, the human form divine,

And Peace, the human dress."

Explain the above cited lines.

(b) Where does God dwell?

4. Answer the following questions in 150 words each:-

(a) How do mercy, pity, peace and love get distorted in the human brain?

(b) Critically appreciate the poem.
