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The Tyger and The Lamb

William Blake, a famous poet and author, wrote two poems entitled *The Tyger* and *The Lamb*. The first refers to a creature of evil whom Blake asks who was capable of creating such corruption; the latter talks about a lamb of innocence. Blake asks who the creator was in both of these poems, and this sets the ground work for an apparent comparison. In William Blake’s *The Tyger* and *The Lamb*, juxtaposition is used to suggest that both good and evil were created by the same being, God, and by extent, he too may possess these characteristics.

To begin, the characters in both poems were created, and by inference created by the same being. In *The Lamb*, it is asked who created the Lamb, and throughout the development of the poem, it becomes apparent that God was the being that had created the Lamb when Blake said, “Little Lamb God bless thee.” So, the lamb was created by God; in *The Tyger*, Blake explains how evil the Tyger is and questions who was capable of creation such an abomination. Later on in the poem, Blake asks the question, “did he who made the Lamb make thee?” This makes it quite obvious that Blake is suspicious that the creator of the Tyger is the same creator of the Lamb, thus it follows that God is the creator of the Tyger. Now that God has been made the creator of the good Lamb and the evil Tyger in these poems, the nature of God can be questioned.

Next, the creation of the Tyger in the poem suggests that God himself is evil. Blake explains that there are two ways that the Tyger could have become so evil. The first is that the creator made him evil to begin with, the second is that the Tyger could have been made innocent, but later became evil. The first way implies that the creator of the Tyger would include its evil nature by design, thus making the creator evil, because no good thing would design an evil thing. The second implies that the creator did not design the Tyger to be evil by design, but Blake continues on by asking what could have made the Tyger so evil, and what being would allow him to become so evil, particularly his own creator, thus God becomes evil once again. Either way, Blake has made the creator of the Tyger possess a characteristic of evil, and if God is the creator, he himself must have these conflicting traits.

In conclusion, Blake uses juxtaposition in his works, *The Tyger* and *The Lamb,* to suggest that both good and evil come from the same creator, and by implication, that the creator must possess both of these traits, which would have been necessary to possess in order to have created the conflicting characters in the first place.