

The Divine Image

William Blake

' The Divine Image' is a poem from **Songs Of Innocence**. It was published in 1789 and portrays four traditional Christian Virtues (**Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love**) which exist in the human heart and connect it with God. It explores the relationship between God and Man.

Stanza 1:

**To Mercy, Pity, Peace,
and Love**

**All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of
delight
Return their
thankfulness.**

In the first line of first stanza, the poet is referring to God by stating his four virtues, Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love. In first half of the stanza, poet says that whenever there is a problem, or a distressful event, the creation of God turns towards Him and ask Him for help. God, who is full of Mercy and Pity, solves their problems and puts ease in their hearts.

In the next half of the stanza, the poet is expressing the fact that people are grateful towards the God with such delightful virtues. The creation of God pays thanks to Him for every blessing that He put on them.

So, if there is a calamity, or when the calamity is resolved, God's creation looks up at Him at all times because of His wonderful qualities.

Stanza 2:

**For Mercy, Pity, Peace,
and Love**

**Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace,
and Love**

**Is Man, his child and
care.**

In the first two lines of second stanza, the poet restates his idea that God is made with Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love. He also uses the word father for God, because as a father takes care of his children,

God takes care of us.

In the rest of stanza, Blake refers to humans as children of God, because we are His creation. He wants to present the idea that, as children take up attributes of their father, just like that, God's attributes have been passed on to His creation. Of course, we are not children of God, but God has created us humans and put His qualities into us as well. The only difference is that God is complete in His attributes and virtues, and we human beings are incomplete.

Stanza 3:

**For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,**

**And Love, the human
form divine,
And Peace, the human
dress.**

In this stanza, Blake explains how humans have qualities of Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love. He says that Mercy is present in every human's heart; a big and kind heart is the one, which can show mercy. People show expressions through their face and Pity is also seen in facial expressions of humans.

In the third line of this stanza, poet says that Love can turn a human being into its Divine form. As God is Love, for everyone, when a person becomes Love for everyone, he gets

connected to God. In the last line, Blake has called Peace the dress of human kind. Peace is the virtue which is keeping the world go round and keeping it safe. If you take Peace off of human race, there will be no existence.

Therefore, in this stanza, the poet has clearly explained how these four virtues of God are also present in His creation and how each of those is expressed through them.

Stanza : 4

**Then every man, of every
clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form
divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.**

In this stanza, poet expresses his idea that when anyone prays in events of distress, they are actually praying for Love, Mercy, Peace, and Pity. These are the four virtues, which turn humans into their highest form, the divine form. So people of every region, climate or place ask and pray for these.

In this stanza, poet is also showing how every human is the same, as they seek the same things. Also, note that Blake has put Love first in this stanza in list of virtues, as Love is the most dominant and most important part of the divine form.

Stanza 5:

**And all must love the
human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and
Pity dwell
There God is dwelling
too.**

In this stanza, Blake is referring towards equality of all human beings. As all the human forms seek the same virtues, everyone is same and equal. It does not matter if one is heathen, Turk or Jew, all that matters is that one is human. Love is present everywhere and is equal for all races and forms of human beings. So the poet encourages us that we should also love everyone as loving each other is same as

loving ourselves.

In the last two lines of the poem, the poet still emphasizes on Love, Mercy, and Pity, and says that where these attributes are present, God is there too. God is with the person who exercises these qualities and has special regard for this type of human. The thing to notice in last stanza is that with Love, Mercy and Pity, poet does not mention Peace this time. It can be for mocking the present human race, as there is very little peace present among us and everyone, every state and race has hatred for each other. It can also mean that if human beings take up the values of Love, Mercy and

Pity in their living, Peace will automatically manifest itself in the human society.

