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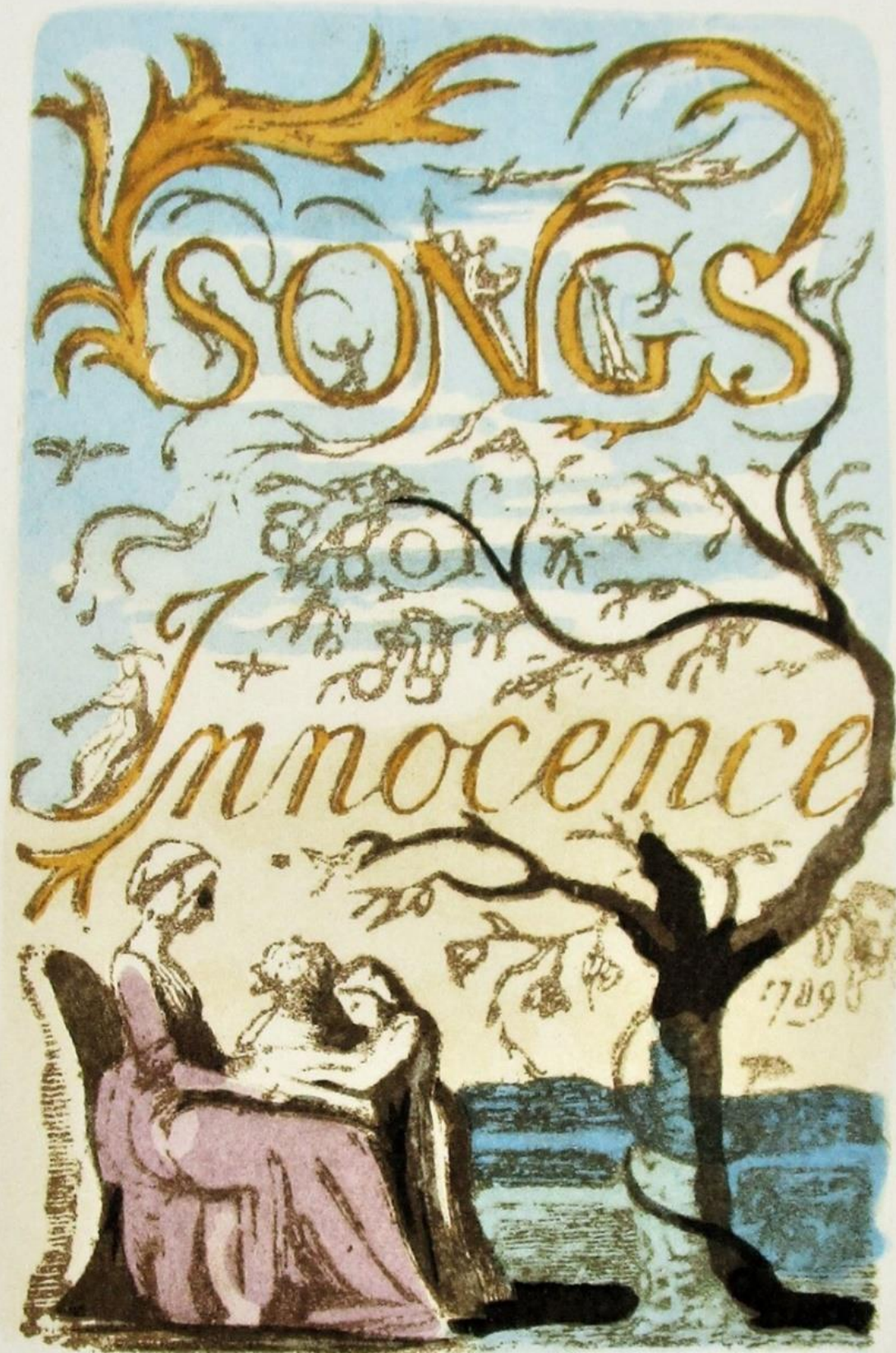
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SONGS OF INNOCENCE



✓ The Author & Printer W Blake

Introduction

Piping down the valleys wild
Piping songs of pleasant glee
On a cloud I saw a child.
And he laughing said to me:

Pipe a song about a Lamb:
So I piped with merry chear,
Piper pipe that song again
So I piped, he wept to hear.

Drop thy pipe thy happy pipe
Sing thy songs of happy chear,
So I sung the same again,
While he wept with joy to hear.

Piper sit thee down and write
In a book that all may read
So he vanished from my sight
And I pluck'd a hollow reed.

And I made a rural pen,
And I stain'd the water clear,
And I wrote my happy songs
Every child may joy to hear.

The Shepherd

How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot,
From the morn to the evening he strays:
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs innocent call,
And he hears the ewes tender reply,
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.





The Ecchoing Green

The Sun does arise
And make happy the skies
The merry bells ring
To welcome the Spring
The sky-lark and thrush
The birds of the bush
Sing louder around,
To the bells chearful sound
While our sports shall be seen
On the Ecchoing Green.

Old John with white hair
Does laugh away care
Sitting under the oak
Among the old folk.



7
They laugh at our play.
And soon they all say
Such such were the joys.
When we all girls & boys.
In our youth-time were seen,
On the Echoing Green.

Till the little ones weary
No more can be merry
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end;
Round the laps of their mothers.
Many sisters and brothers
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest:
And sport no more seen,
On the darkening Green.



The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed
By the stream & give the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight
Softest clothing woolly bright
Gave thee such a tender voice
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee
He is called by his name
For he calls himself a Lamb
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
A child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee
Little Lamb God bless thee





The Little Black Boy

My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but O! my soul is white.
White as an angel is the English child:
But I am black as if bereav'd of light.

My mother taught me underneath a tree
And sitting down before the heat of day,
She took me on her lap and kiss'd me,
And pointing to the east began to say.

Look on the rising sun: there God does live,
And gives his light, and gives his heat away,
And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive
Comfort in morning joy in the noon day.

And we are put on earth a little space,
That we may learn to bear the beams of love,
And these black bodies and this sun-burnt face
Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove.

For

For when our souls have leard the heat to bear
 The cloud will vanish we shall hear his voice.
 Saying: come out from the grove my love & care
 And round my golden tent like lambs rejoice.
 Thus did my mother say and kissed me,
 And thus I say to little English boy.
 When I from black and he from white cloud free,
 And round the tent of God like lambs we joy:
 I'll shade him from the heat till he can bear,
 To lean in joy upon our fathers knee.
 And then I'll stand and stroke his silver hair,
 And be like him and he will then love me.





The Blossom.

Merry Merry Sparrow
Under leaves so green
A happy Blossom
Sees you swift as arrow
Seek your cradle narrow
Near my Bosom.

Pretty Pretty Robin
Under leaves so green
A happy Blossom
Hears you sobbing sobbing
Pretty Pretty Robin
Near my Bosom.

The Chimney Sweeper,

When my mother died I was very young
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry weep weep weep weep
So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.

Theres little Tom Dacre who cried when his head
That curl'd like a lambs back, was shav'd, so I said:
Hush Tom never mind it, for when your heads bare
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair

And so he was quiet, & that very night
As Tom was a sleeping he had such a sight,
That thousands of sweepers Dick, Joe Ned & Jack
Were all of them lock'd up in coffins of black,

And by came an Angel who had a bright key
And he open'd the coffins & set them all free.
Then down a green plain leaping laughing they run
And wash in a river and shine in the Sun.

Then naked & white, all their bags left behind,
They rise upon clouds, and sport in the wind.
And the Angel told Tom, if he'd be a good boy,
He'd have God for his father & never want joy.

And so Tom awoke and we rose in the dark
And got with our bags & our brushes to work.
Tho' the morning was cold, Tom was happy & warm.
So if all do their duty, they need not fear harm.

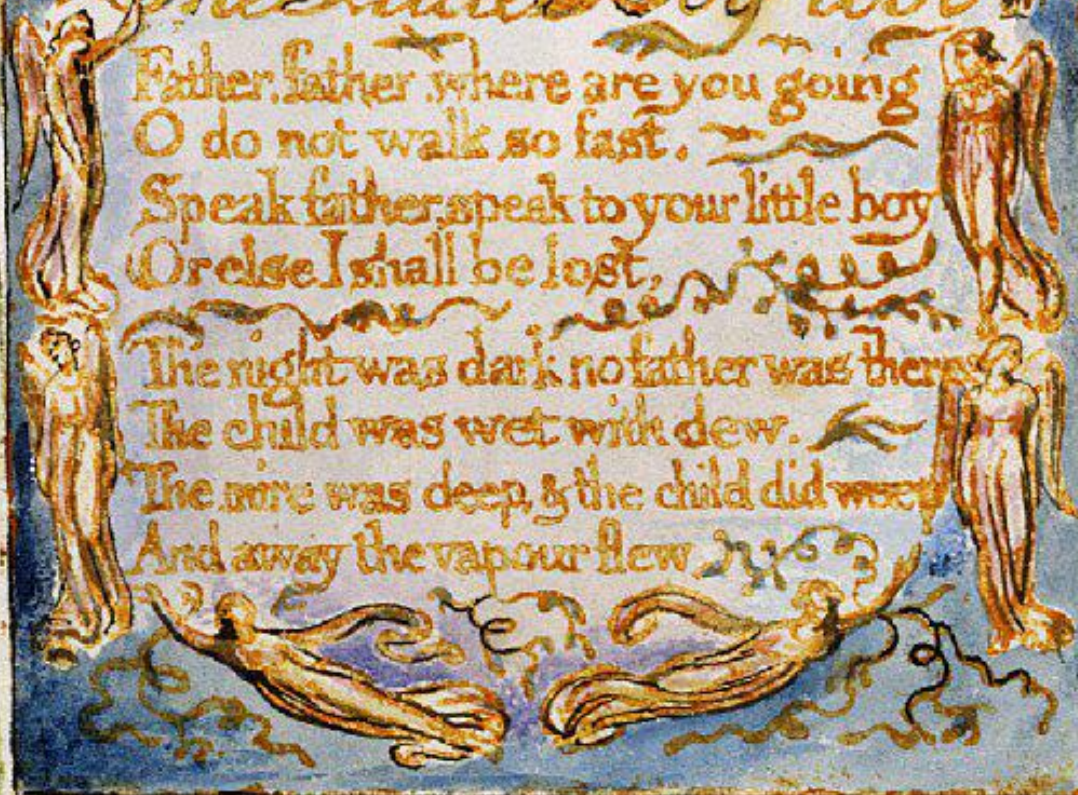




The Little Boy Lost

Father, father where are you going
O do not walk so fast.
Speak father, speak to your little boy
Or else I shall be lost.

The night was dark no father was there
The child was wet with dew.
The mire was deep, & the child did weep
And away the vapour flew





The Little Boy Found

The little boy lost in the lonely fen,
 Led by the wandering light,
 Began to cry, but God ever nigh,
 Appeared like his father in white.
 He kissed the child & by the hand led
 And to his mother brought,
 Who in sorrow pale thro' the lonely dale
 Her little boy weeping sought.





Laughing Song

When the green woods laugh with the voice of joy,
And the dimpling stream runs laughing by,
When the air does laugh with our merry wit,
And the green hill laughs with the noise of it.

When the meadows laugh with lively green,
And the grasshopper laughs in the merry scene,
When Mary and Susan and Emily,
With their sweet round mouths sing Ha Ha He,

When the painted birds laugh in the shade
Where our table with cherries and nuts is spread,
Come live & be merry and join with me,
To sing the sweet chorus of Ha Ha He.



A CRADLE SONG

Sweet dreams form a shade,
O'er my lovely infants head,
Sweet dreams of pleasant streams,
By happy silent moony beams

Sweet sleep with soft down,
Weave thy brows an infant crown,
Sweet sleep Angel mild,
Hover o'er my happy child.

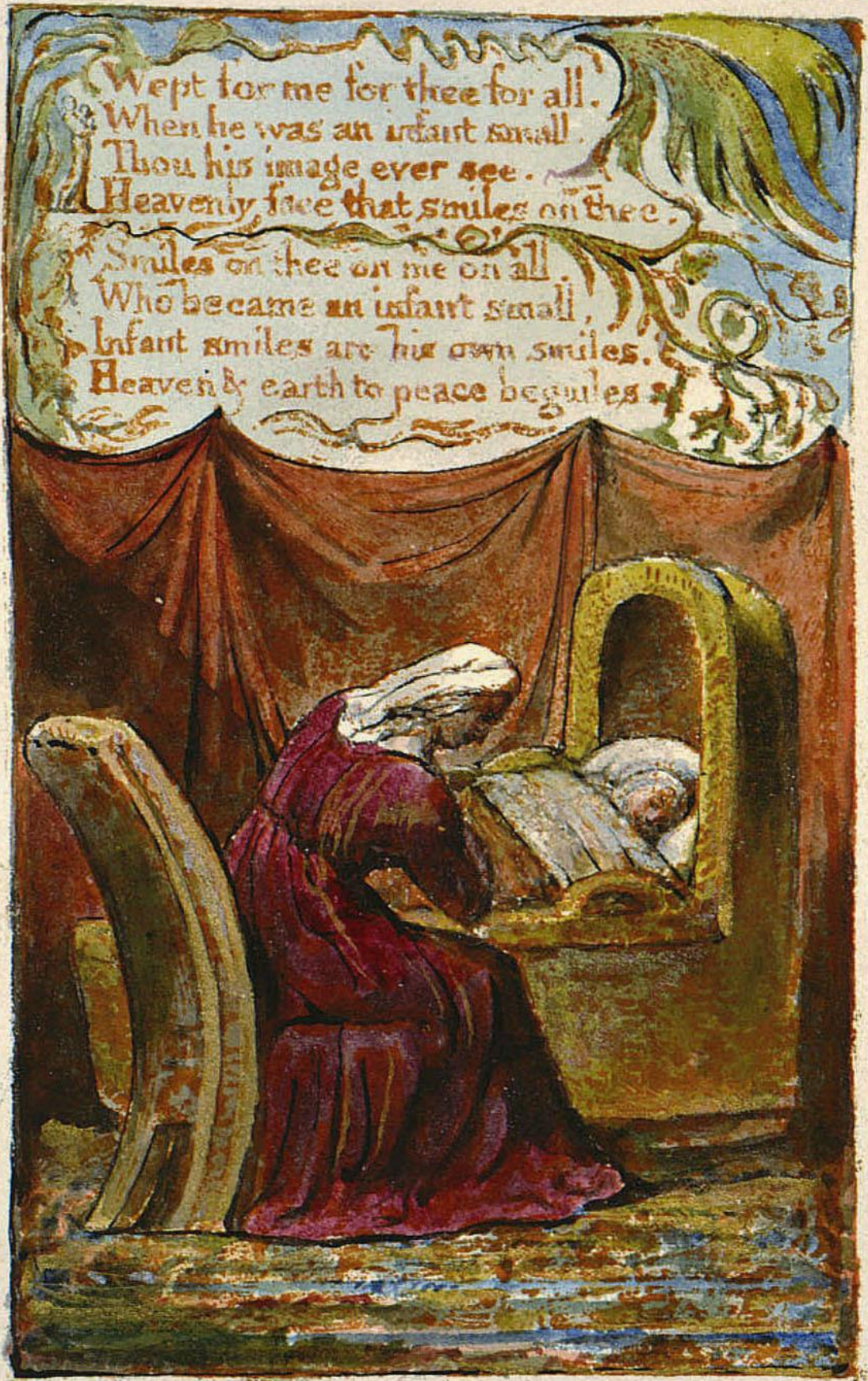
Sweet smiles in the night,
Hover over my delight,
Sweet smiles mothers smiles
All the livelong night beguiles.

Sweet moans, dovelike sighs
Chase not slumber from thy eyes,
Sweet moans, sweeter smiles,
All the dovelike moans beguiles.

Sleep sleep happy child,
All creation slept and smiles
Sleep sleep, happy sleep,
While o'er thee thy mother weep

Sweet babe in thy face,
Holy image I can trace,
Sweet babe once like thee,
Thy maker lay and wept for me

Went





The Divine Image.

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 & Pity dwell,
 There God is dwelling too.



HOLY THURSDAY

I was on a Holy Thursday their innocent faces clean
 The children walking two & two in red & blue & green
 Grey headed beards walked before with wands as white ^{as} snow
 Till into the high dome of Pauls they like Thames waters flow

O what a multitude they seem'd these flowers of London town
 Seated in companies they sit with radiance all their own
 The hum of ancient times was there but multitudes of lambs
 Thousands of little boys & girls raising their innocent hands

Now like a mighty wind they raise to heaven the voice of song
 Or like harmonious thunderings the seats of heaven among
 Beneath them sit the aged men wise guardians of the poor
 Then cherish pity lest you drive an angel from your door





Night

The sun descending in the west.
 The evening star does shine.
 The birds are silent in their nest,
 And I must seek for mine.
 The moon like a flower,
 In heavens high bower,
 With silent delight,
 Sits and smiles on the night.

Farewell green fields and happy groves,
 Where flocks have took delight;
 Where lambs have nibbled, silent mores
 The feet of angels bright;
 Unseen they pour blessing,
 And joy without ceasing,
 On each bud and blossom,
 And each sleeping bosom.

They look in every thoughtless nest,
 Where birds are covered warm;
 They visit caves of every beast,
 To keep them all from harm;
 If they see any weeping,
 That should have been sleeping,
 They pour sleep on their head
 And sit down by their bed.

When wolves and tygers howl for prey
 They pitying stand and weep;
 Seeking to drive their thirst away
 And keep them from the sheep
 But if they rush dreadful
 The angels most headful
 Recieve each mild spirite
 New worlds to inherit.

And there the lions ruddy eyes
 Shall flow with tears of gold:
 And pitying the tender cries
 And walking round the fold:
 Saying: wrath by his meekness
 And by his health sickness
 Is driven away.
 From our immortal day.

And now beside thee bleating lamb
 I can lie down and sleep;
 Or think on him who bore thy name
 Graze after thee and weep
 For wash'd in lifes river.
 My bright mane for ever
 Shall shine like the gold
 As I guard oer the fold.





Spring

Sound the Flute!

Now it's mute.

Birds delight

Day and Night.

Nightingale

In the dale

Lark in Sky

Merrily

Merrily Merrily to welcome in the

Little Boy

Full of joy.

(Year

Little

Little Girl
 Sweet and small
 Cock does crow
 So do you.
 Merry voice
 Infant noise
 Merrily Merrily to welcome in the Year.

Little Lamb
 Here I am
 Come and lick
 My white neck.
 Let me pull
 Your soft Wool.
 Let me kiss
 Your soft face.
 Merrily Merrily we welcome in the Year.





Infant Joy



I have no name
 I am but two days old.
 What shall I call thee?
 I happy am
 Joy is my name.
 Sweet joy befall thee!
 Pretty joy!
 Sweet joy but two days old.
 Sweet joy I call thee:
 Thou dost smile.
 I sing the while
 Sweet joy befall thee.



A Dream

Once a dream did weave a shade.
O'er my Angel-guarded bed.
That an Emmet lost its way
Where on grass methought I lay.

Troubled wilder'd and solorn
Dark benighted travel-worn.
Over many a tangled spray
All heart-broke I heard her say.

O my children! do they cry?
Do they hear their father sigh.
Now they look abroad to see,
Now return and weep for me.

Pitying I drop'd a tear:
But I saw a glow-worm near:
Who replied. What wailing wight
Calls the watchman of the night.

I am set to light the ground,
While the beetle goes his round:
Follow now the beetles hum,
Little wanderer hie thee home.

On Another's Sorrow

Can I see another's woe.
And not be in sorrow too.
Can I see another's grief.
And not seek for kind relief.

Can I see a falling tear.
And not feel my sorrows share,
Can a father see his child
Weep, nor be with sorrow ill'd.

Can a mother sit and hear
An infant groan an infant fear.
No no never can it be.
Never never can it be.

And can he who smiles on all
Hear the wren with sorrows small.
Hear the small birds grief & care
Hear the woes that infants bear.

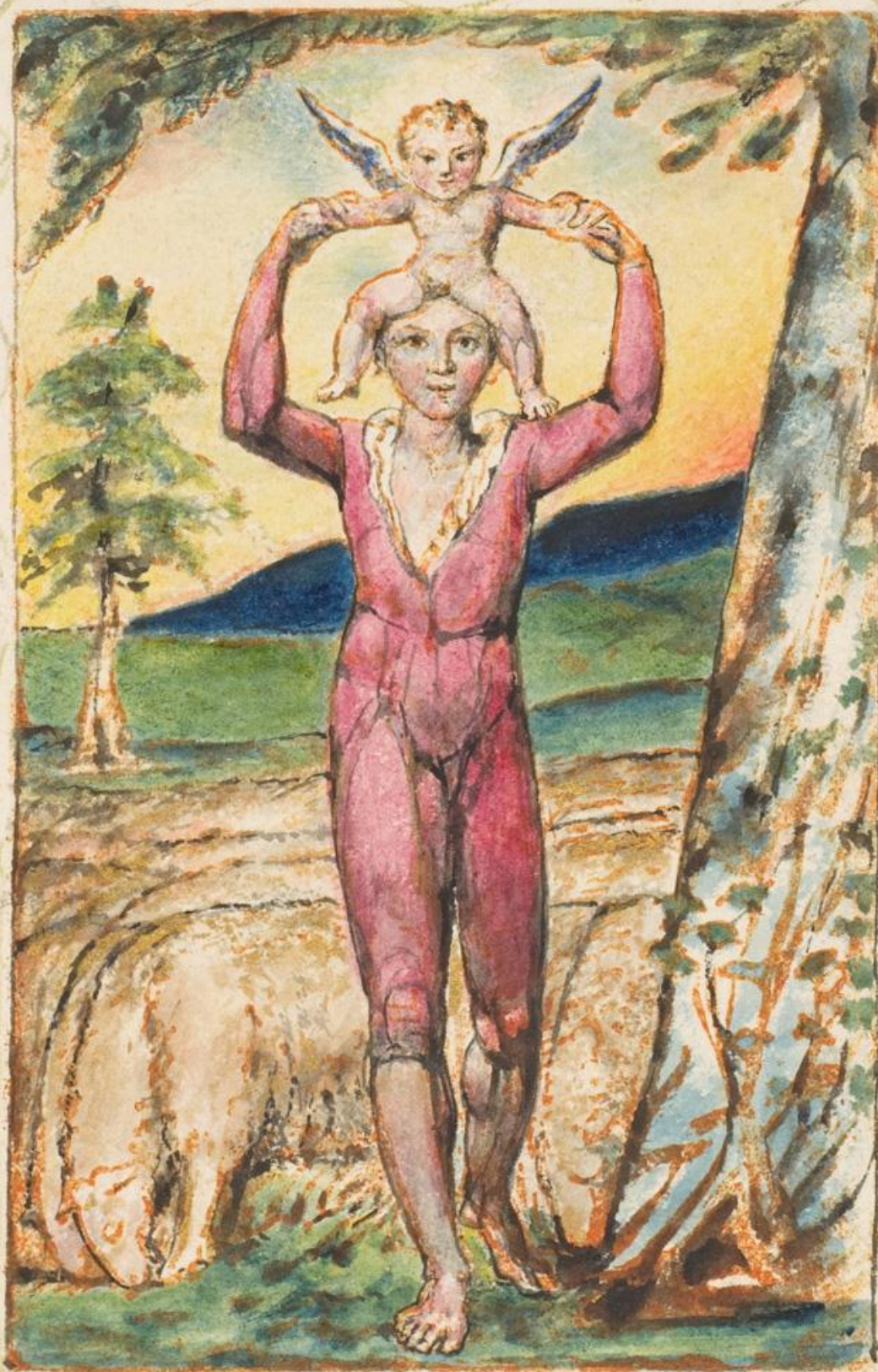
And not sit beside the nest
Pouring pity in their breast.
And not sit the cradle near
Weeping tear on infants fear.

And not sit both night & day.
Wiping all our tears away.
O no never can it be.
Never never can it be.

He doth give his joy to all.
He becomes an infant small.
He becomes a man of woe
He doth feel the sorrow too.

Think not thou canst sigh a sigh.
And thy maker is not by.
Think not thou canst weep a tear.
And thy maker is not near.

O he gives to us his joy.
But our grief he may destroy
Till our grief is fled & gone
He doth sit by us and moan.



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