

# The Voice Of The Ancient Bard

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# What does “bard” mean?

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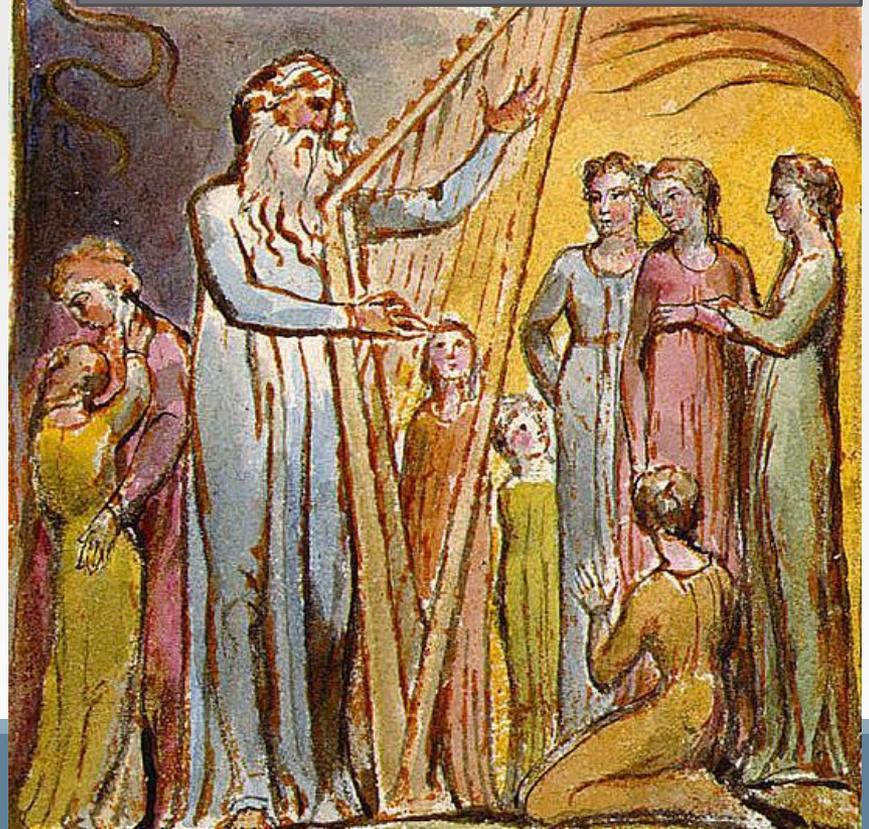
NOUN

noun: **bard** · plural noun: **bards**

a poet, traditionally one reciting epics and associated with a particular oral tradition.

a rasher of fat bacon placed on meat or game before roasting.

*The Voice of the  
Ancient Bard.*





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The young are they that have this but some would sell it to the old.

The old would gladly buy it if indeed it could be sold.

Many old they want and chase it; chase it with a passion.

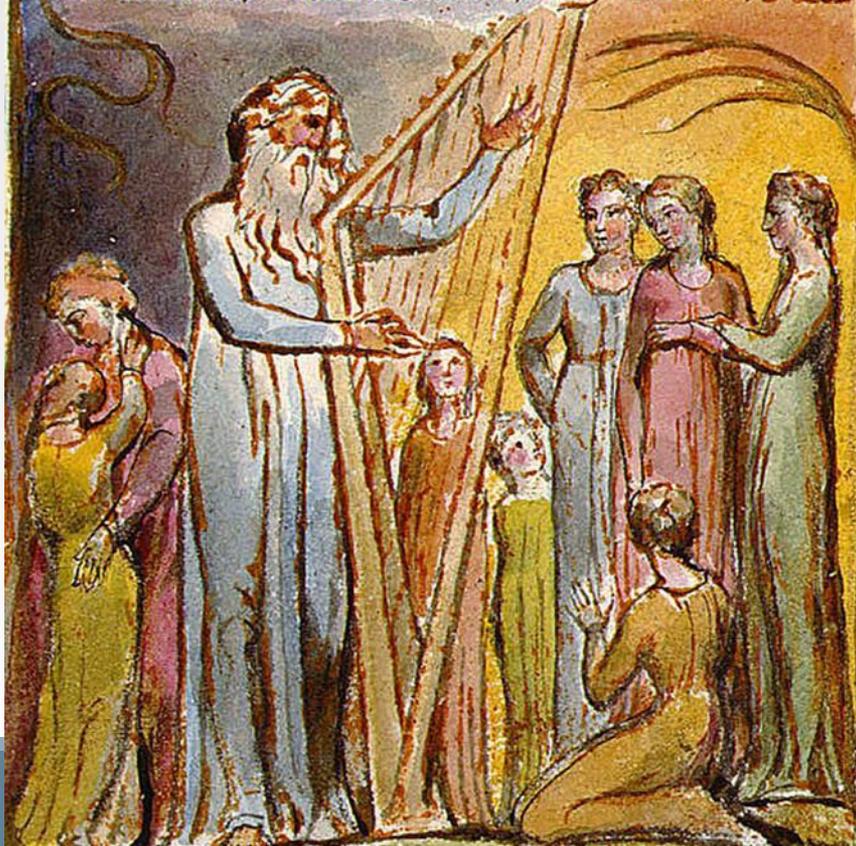
Some claim they can sell it in pill, potion or fashion.

Some claim it's just a state of mind so just believe you see.

Never ahead, ever behind,  
Yet flying swiftly past,  
For a child, I last forever,  
For adults, I'm gone too fast.

# The Voice of the Ancient Bard.

Youth of delight come hither,  
And see the opening morn,  
Image of truth new born,  
Doubt is fled & clouds of reason,  
Dark disputes & artful teasing,  
Folly is an endless maze,  
Tangled roots perplex her ways,  
How many have fallen there!  
They stumble all night over bones of the dead,  
And feel they know not what but care,  
And wish to lead others when they should be led.



Youth of delight! come hither

And see the opening morn,

Image of Truth new-born.

Doubt is fled, and clouds of reason,

Dark disputes and artful teasing.

Folly is an endless maze;

Tangled roots perplex her ways;

How many have fallen there!

They stumble all night over bones of the dead;

And feel – they know not what but care;

And wish to lead others, when they should be led.

# Analyse

Youth of delight! come hither  
And see the opening morn,  
Image of Truth new-born.  
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Dark disputes and artful teasing.  
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And wish to lead others, when they should be led.

1. How does the F.S.L influence the poem?

e.g Alliteration

Run-on line

Punctuation

2. Who are “they”?

3. Do any particular words stand out and why?

# Innocence



# Experience



Positive  
Negative  
Form

Youth of **delight!** come hither

Run on line: as if endless possibilities for the youth

**And see** the **opening morn,**

Their lives are just beginning, symbolising hope/ambition

Image of **Truth new-born.**

**Doubt** is fled, and **clouds** of reason,

Reflects the beginning of the line, no longer living their lives by reason, (positive) however "clouds" is ambiguous

**Dark disputes** and **artful teasing.**

**Folly is an** **endless maze;**

"artful" suggest need skill and experience for adulthood. "teasing" mocking the youth

**Tangled roots perplex** her ways;

How many have **fallen** there!

"endless" the youth can never escape from "folly" and their naivety

They **stumble** all night over **bones of the dead;**

And feel – they know not what but care;

And wish to lead others, when they should be led.

"Doubt is fled" = may appear positive, but "fled" suggests doubt is escaping.

"Folly" meaning foolishness

Similar to "endless", "roots" suggests the youth are already embedded with difficulties during adulthood

"stumble" = confusion/ lack of experience.

"they know not what" in comparison to "and see" "opening morn" able to grasp knowledge for themselves

# Structure comparison

Youth of delight! come hither  
And see the opening morn,

Emotive punctuation  
! = celebration/ excitement for the youth

“And” repetition emphasises structure. Begins with discovery “and see” Ends with disappointment “and wish”

“The remembering self is a storyteller, our memory tells us stories and so what we get to keep from our experiences is really only a story.” Daniel Kahneman.

Pause disturbs iambic pentameter, creates uncertainty/ doubt

“they” the innocent or the experienced?

And feel – they know not what but care;  
And wish to lead others, when they should be led.

Cyclical structure of innocence to experience

Clash between experience and innocence

A madrigal  
By William Shakespeare

*Crabbed Age and Youth  
Cannot live together:  
Youth is full of pleasance,  
Age is full of care;  
Youth like summer morn,  
Age like winter weather;  
Youth like summer brave,  
Age like winter bare:  
Youth is full of sports,  
Age's breath is short,  
Youth is nimble, Age is lame:  
Youth is hot and bold,  
Age is weak and cold,  
Youth is wild, and Age is tame:-  
Age, I do abhor thee;  
Youth, I do adore thee;  
O! my Love, my Love is young!  
Age, I do defy thee-  
O sweet shepherd, hie thee,  
For methinks thou stay'st too long.*

*noun*

noun: **madrigal**; plural noun: **madrigals**  
1. a part-song for several voices, especially one of the Renaissance period, typically unaccompanied and arranged in elaborate counterpoint.

## A Madrigal

Crabbed Age and Youth  
Cannot live together:  
Youth is full of pleasance,  
Age is full of care;  
Youth like summer morn,  
Age like winter weather;  
Youth like summer brave,  
Age like winter bare:  
Youth is full of sports,  
Age's breath is short,  
Youth is nimble, Age is  
lame:  
Youth is hot and bold,  
Age is weak and cold,  
Youth is wild, and Age is  
tame:-  
Age, I do abhor thee;  
Youth, I do adore thee;  
O! my Love, my Love is  
young!  
Age, I do defy thee-  
O sweet shepherd, hie  
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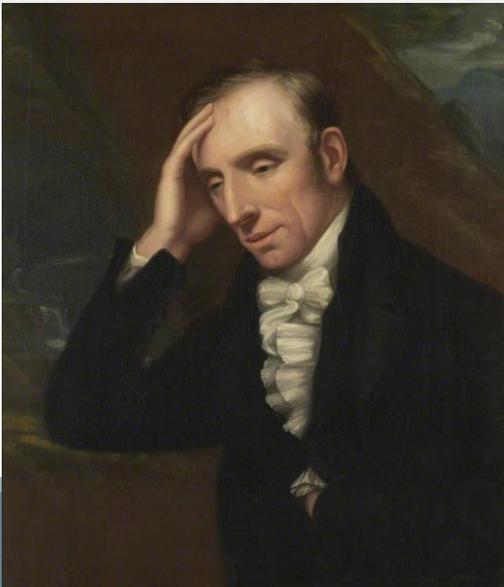
Quote from Blake:  
“unorganised innocence, an  
impossibility”.

# Social/ Historical Context- Blake

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“Youth of delight! come hither  
And see the opening morn,  
Image of Truth new-born.”

“They stumble all night over  
bones of the dead;”



“Transcendental period” – experience leading to knowledge.

At 4 years old Blake claimed to see “God press his head to the window”. Four years later he saw “a tree filled with angels, bright angelic wings decorating every branch like stars”.

During his childhood Blake claimed to experience visits from his dead brother.

William Wordsworth –  
“There was no doubt that this poor man was mad”.

# Social/ Historical context- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Britain

Folly is an endless maze;  
Tangled roots perplex her ways;  
How many have fallen there!



Like “Eve” women were seen to be sinful and “foolish” (folly). They lured men into temptation.



# Contextual comparison with “London”

## The Voice Of The Ancient Bard

“Folly is an endless maze;  
Tangled roots perplex her ways;  
How many have fallen there!”

As many as one in five women were prostitutes in 18<sup>th</sup> century England, “ladies of pleasure” were generally born into poverty and had little education or work skills. Most prostitutes were destined for disease, despair and early death.

## London

“But most thro’ midnight streets I hear  
How the youthful Harlot’s curse  
Blasts the new born Infant’s tear,  
And blights with plagues the Marriage  
hearse”

Women were considered legally dead once they were married under common. Once married, they legally became one with their husbands. Married women had no control of their earnings, inheritance, property, and also could not appear in court as a witness nor vote.