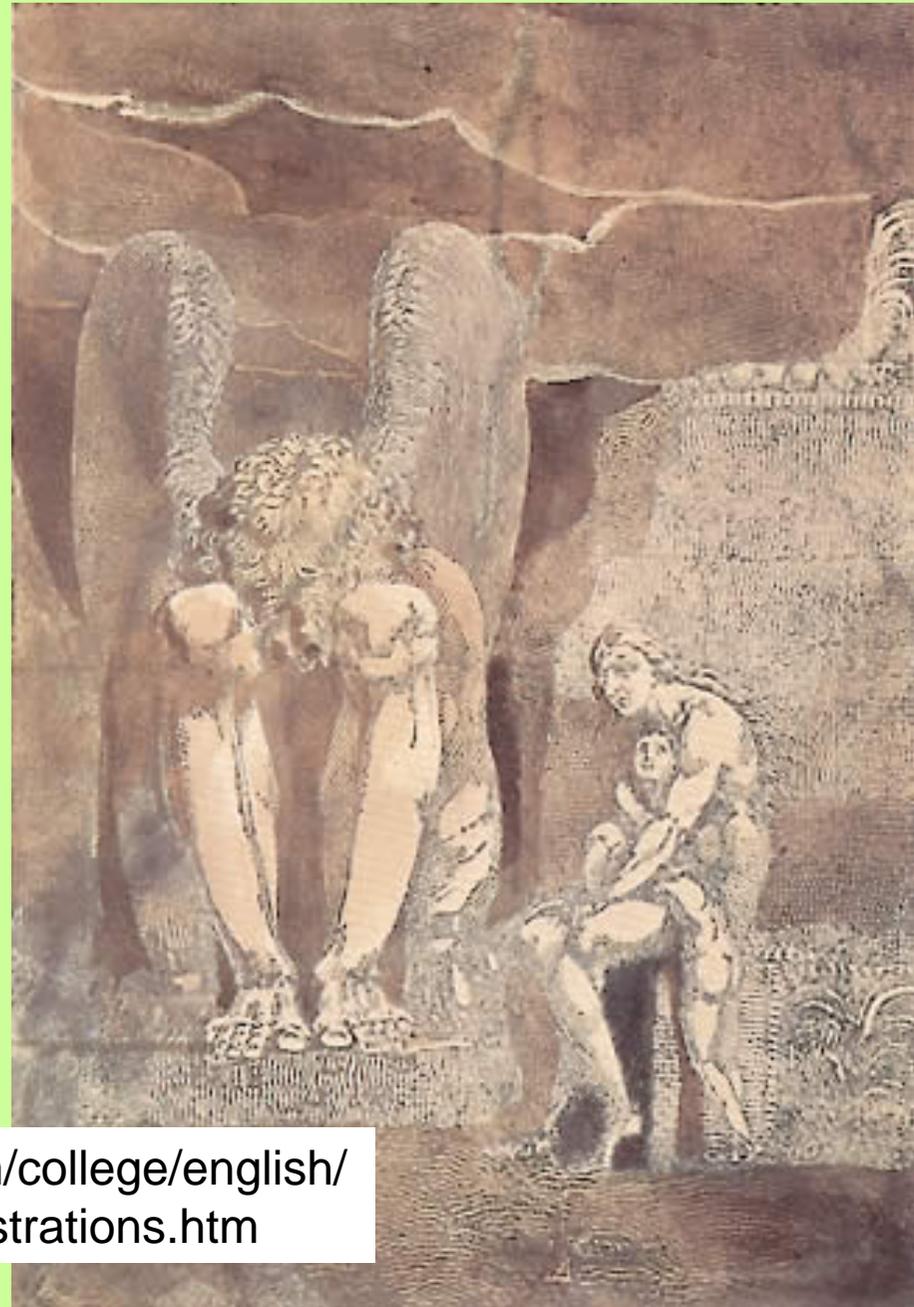


# William Blake

- 1757-1827
- *Songs of Innocence*
- *Songs of Experience*
- Speaks always for the primacy of the individual and the imagination



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic\\_3/illustrations.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_3/illustrations.htm)

# *Songs of Innocence* (1789)

- An Imaginative picture of the state of innocence
- Reflection of the growing Romantic fascination with childhood and a supposed primitive condition of human perfection in innocence



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic\\_1/illustrations/imsweep.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic_1/illustrations/imsweep.htm)

# *Songs of Experience (1794)*

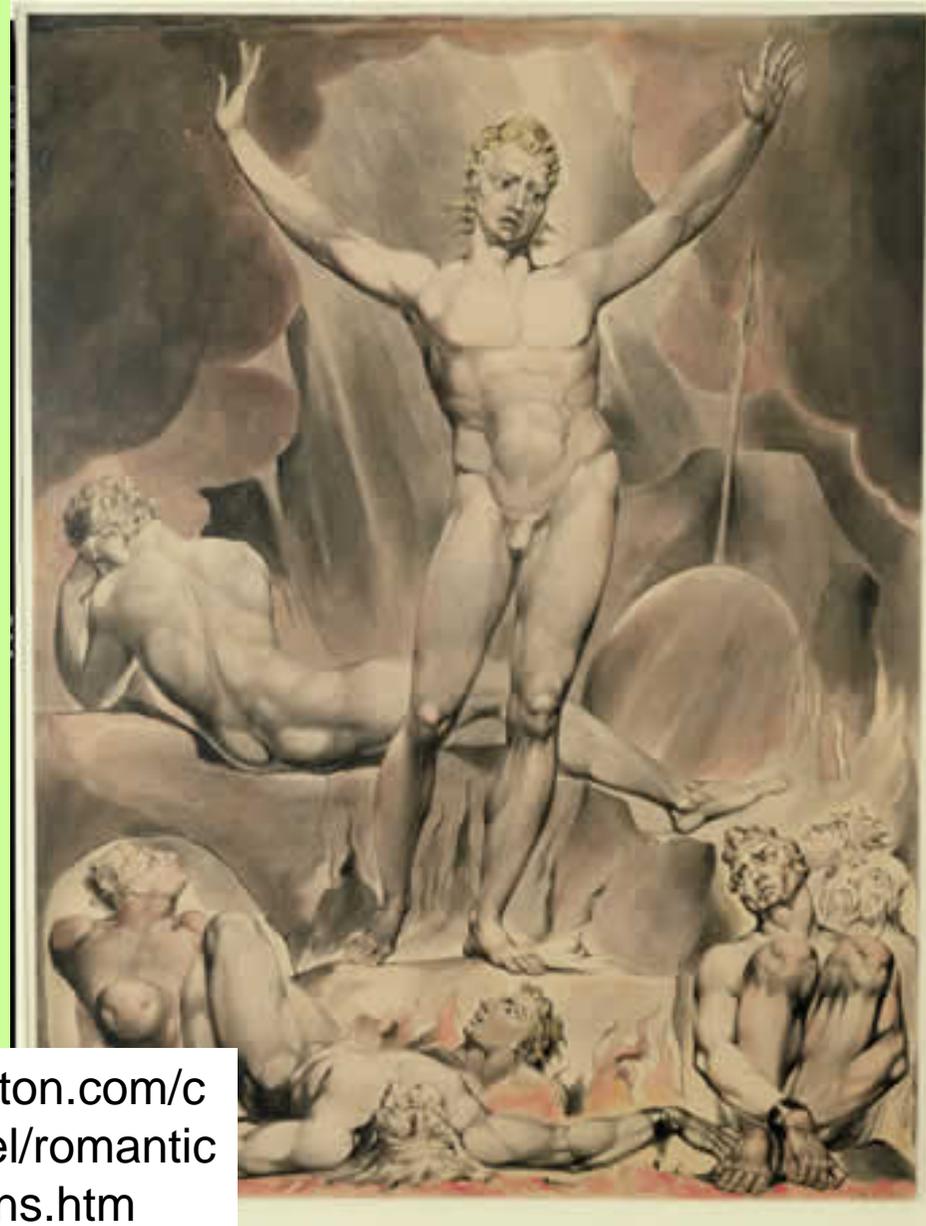
The actual of the suffering mankind. About the inhumanity and injustice attendant upon fallen man. The soul may pass through the apparent horrors into a fuller, more active life in the Creative Imagination.



- “Sensation and Thought have too often led men to a dualism (God versus Satan, right versus wrong, light versus darkness).... Blake intuited a unified universe wherein the apparently warring elements are actually different aspects of a divine fitness. What is frequently termed evil is really power and energy, mistakenly condemned by the unimaginative and the unilluminated.” (Day)

# “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”

- Good  $\neq$  passivity
- Evil  $\neq$  energy
- Warring of Reason and Imagination



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic\\_5/illustrations.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_5/illustrations.htm)

# Robert Burns (1759-96)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Burns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Burns)

# Burns the Ploughman Poet

- Working on the farm at an early age.
- A natural poet.

# Burns's Connection to Romanticism

- Burns's advocacy of the French Revolution is an outgrowth of Scottish nationalistic fervor.
- The Romantics' resemblance to Burns arises from their conscious revolt against neoclassicism, and their harking back to characteristics that were never lost in the stream of Scots vernacular verse.

# Burns a Romantic?

- The Romantics were largely symptomatic of a rising middle class.
- Burns is the authentic proletarian voice.

# Question

- What poetic values does Blake seem to have? What would Pope think of them?