ABSTRACT

William Blake (1757-1827), English poet, painter, and engraver who created a unique form of illustrated verse, his poetry inspired by mystical vision, is among the most original, lyrical, and prophetic in the language.

Many critics called Blake, a man of genius. Blake believed that a poet is a mystic visionary whose inspiration arises from within. As a great Romantic poet, he extolled a particular kind of imagination which he called divine vision.

In his poetry and prose, he attempts to awaken man to his spiritual potentialities. He believes that man can comprehend the divine presence of God, not by his limited senses of perception, but only by vision which he called the eternal light in this vegetative world of nature.

In his mystical views, he seeks a union with God in the apex of his mystical experience by the help of fourfold vision. Actually, he abhorred the single vision which is restricted to the physical world. He encourages the attainment of fourfold vision.

Although, he was ignored in his own time, but he believed that humanity will benefit from his artistic works. He is a mystic visionary who experienced ecstatic visions of God several times in his life. He believed in a direct relationship with God, without any mediator such as priest, or church. He abhorred established religion, but he was a deeply god-intoxicated person who was inspired by divine muses all his life. He had a direct pipeline to the heaven and believed that his poetry was dictated to him by divine visions.
In his works, the presence of poet-prophet is felt. He believed himself to be a prophet and tried hard to save humanity in a materialistic world. He believed that spirituality is a must for man not only in his time but also in every period. Blake is preoccupied with the heroic function of the artist as the only possible savior of the world. He read The Bible several times in his life and made an equation between poet and prophet and also between art and religion. He says that Christianity is an art. He believed that art is religion, religion is art.

He used religious symbolism and Biblical mythology to express his original views on man. His most famous lyrical poem, *The Tyger* is typical of symbolical religious art. The only real symbol for him is the art symbol, and the artist is a prophet. He knew that the spiritual body of society has been asleep like his Albion. He attempts to awaken him by the spirit of art and religion, namely, Los.

The researcher finds the co-existence of oppositions very amazing in Blake’s poetry. This significant subject forms Blake’s dialectical vision in which he tries to comprehend and transcend the present oppositions and reaching a balance or marriage.

This thesis consists of six chapters. First a general introduction to religious poetry, second, tries to define mysticism,

third, Blake’s mystical poetry is discussed. Chapter four concerns Blake’s use of symbolism and Biblical mythology and chapter five is an attempt to explain Blake’s dialectical vision. In conclusions, the researcher reveals Blake’s relevance to the modern world.