

Odyssey Oracle

Year 9 #3 September 28, 2011

Embarking on an Odyssey

It will be a journey that will stimulate and unlock my mind, an eye opener that will allow me to see the world inside me and around me. Though strong winds may come in their forceful way, I am determined to keep falling in love with this Odyssey.

(Tatenda Bvindi)

As I begin to chart a new direction in my life, the Odyssey Project is the first step of many in my journey. The skills gained will help me to develop into a new man. In any journey one develops creativity and exploration, and that's Odyssey. As the weeks pass, my new Odyssey classmates will form a bond like family, and that's Odyssey. This promotes loyalty and trust, which frees the spirit and moves the soul, and that's part of my Odyssey, too.

(Abraham Thomas)

Most of us students have been wandering a long time in one valley or desert after another. We are on a journey intellectually and spiritually. I hope to allow Odyssey to transform my life and to shape and mold my mind into a great well-oiled thinking machine.

(Eugene Smalls)

Students including myself will embark on an intellectual journey, opening our minds to new ideas, books, and study habits designed to

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help us take a personal journey of self-discovery through change. No true quest can even begin without first wandering into unknown spaces. For me, the course will be a trip into the unknown, skill building in intellectual pursuit, and an educational stepping stone.

(Brandon McCarey)

It's a chance for a life-changing experience. It's definitely sacred. The journey to embark upon is totally up to me. The minute I walked into the class, I felt brand new inside and out. This class is just what I needed to get back on the right track.

(Terry Hart)

It's a spiritual quest that will never end because it expands our mind by learning, and learning enriches the soul. This class will be my odyssey by taking my mind on a journey very much needed. This also will help me by making me a more intelligent and informed young man.

(Donta Starr)

I believe that the name was well chosen because we, as non-traditional students, have encountered obstacles which have prevented us from pursuing secondary education or continuing with our studies. This program gives us an opportunity to enrich our lives by overcoming these obstacles. I believe it to be a noble cause and greatly appreciate the personal sacrifice, commitment, and effort those involved

with the project freely give to those seeking to better themselves and continue as adult learners.

(Keith Johnson)

Odysseus struggled to return home, and once there he re-established himself as a king. I think the Odyssey Project will be a self-quest, to see where you are and then to move forward and push yourself for more—for the most! I see myself on an adventurous voyage to return home (my core) and to then relearn, recognize, and acknowledge myself. During this trip there will be reading, writing, and much, much more. This will all help to enrich my core and then to establish myself as a queen . . . preparing for other quests to follow.

(Michele Withers)

I already had an Odyssey in my life when I started learning English as a second language. The Odyssey Project will be another journey for me to help me to reflect, renew, and reinforce my ideas and learn more. I will do my best on my quest for knowledge.

(Beatriz Mairena-Kellman)

The Odyssey Project is the beginning of a journey through knowledge and spirituality. I believe that the Odyssey is the beginning of my journey to take back my education that was taken by my own lack of confidence and the filter through which I chose to see life.

(Yetta Harris)





This is a start to a journey of no return. I am starting a journey that only I can control, and the outcome is on me and nobody else. I have to expect obstacles to come my way, so to succeed I have to be ready for whatever is in my path.

(Jesse Hamilton)

From day one the Odyssey Project has opened my eyes and is showing me not to give up. I do believe through Odyssey I will be a brand new me. This is a journey I want to take, and I will achieve what I want by the time I'm done.

(Marilyn Johnson)

It is a process of self-discovery, often times the continuation of our own personal journeys, which most likely have been difficult and full of obstacles and challenges. I hope that it will help to make sense of the trials and tribulations I have experienced and allow me finally to find the words and confidence to tell those tales.

(Hedi Rudd)

Many of my classmates, including myself, have been searching for a way to achieve some sort of higher education. The class gives us skills we may not have and a chance to explore who we are naturally and spiritually.

(Kenya Moses)

Everyone is on a life quest, and we all want more meaning to our lives. I myself am on a quest for wisdom and purpose.

(Arnella Royal)

The class is an Odyssey to me because it's helping me to get closer to my goals and also to help find who I am.

(Shaquida Johnson)

The Odyssey Project helps people bring their voices out, find who they are, and take their disguises off. It might help me be strong to find my voice instead of using others' voices . . . so I can shine without a disguise.

(Nkechi Johnson)

I want to be a teacher. This class is one step closer to that goal, so this journey will be an emotional one.

(Tai'Kiah Phillips)

Odyssey is a chance for me to go for what I hope for and fight for it.

(Elvira Rodriguez)

I feel that this course is a spiritual as well as an intellectual quest for me.

(Marcia Hampton)





was wandering for a long time without direction. Even when I was in school, I was there but it didn't mean anything. It wasn't purposeful then.

(Run Barlow)

The course is aptly named for the personal journeys we are all on. The class is part of my journey towards getting a bachelor's degree.

(Billie Kelsey)

This is a very original once-in-a-lifetime experience and not something I ever thought I would be doing. I hope my quest ends in a positive place, but I know I'll enjoy the ride regardless. **(Katie Pruitt)**

This course is called the Odyssey Project because it makes me feel like it will be a wandering quest.

(Linda Thao)

Yielding, anchoring, rooting, and armoring my spirit to glide with aspirations to a prosperous future is truly a second chance. It would not be a calamity if I start over and fail; it would be a calamity if I fail to start over. I have been chosen to conquer, and I will aim high and triumph. In accepting this new task, I'm going to leap into my odyssey boundless. **(Yolanda Cunningham)**

My brain is like a sponge, ready to soak up as much as possible. After reading the words of past students, I think I will travel far back into the past, absorb all that this class will give me, and let my brain become a part of the abyss that will take me flowing into the future, with the thirst of knowledge.

(Phyllis Anderson)

The Odyssey Project will allow me to have an adventure. I have no knowledge of what we are about to learn. I believe I am going to be an actor in many of the scenes that will be played out in this program.

(Lorraine Garrett)

It will be a journey of the mind, a trip to other times, lands, cultures, and events, to learn about and to unlock the world around us. **(Samantha East)**

At one point in my life for a great amount of time, I was wandering, traveling aimlessly about and in the midst of self-destruction. I realized that I would die with my music still in me if I did not take the responsibility and at least try to be half the man that I know I could be. I am praying that this program will be all that I am hoping for in my own intellectual and spiritual journey to bring out the best in me. I hope I can do my heart's desire and reach out to help others everywhere, especially those that come from my background.

(Juba Moten)

I think it's called the Odyssey Project because it's a course full of wandering people trying to find their spot here on earth in class. I think it's an Odyssey for me because I'm uninformed and on a path to find myself and my future. I want to bring out the unwrapped gifts I have.

(Bradley Barner)

The name Odyssey is great for this course. It was first explained to me as a journey back to college. I feel like I



Call and Response



I enjoyed what everyone said in the first *Odyssey Oracle*. What jumps out at me are points like *I'm about to start a journey of no return, the Odyssey Project is my dream come true, come with an open mind, don't give up, be strong, have patience, and learn new words.*

Everyone gave me something to look forward to, and I can't wait until Wednesday comes.

(Marilyn Johnson)



I truly enjoyed the comments of the previous Odyssey graduates. They were very encouraging and supportive. I especially enjoyed the poem by René Robinson. One particular line that jumped out at me was Helen Montgomery's "Be prepared to embark on a journey of

a lifetime!" **(Marcia Hampton)**



The UW Odyssey Project is amazing! After I read the comments and advice from the alumni, I realized the program not only prepares us for our continuing education but also prepares us to be strong, positive, and confident, with better understanding of

mankind. I am very hungry to feel what the alumni felt after they finished the program. The Odyssey Project is a continuation of my dream of life.

(Beatriz Mairena-Kellman)



This is the most encouraging collection I've ever read, with nothing but lift-me-ups all over the white page. I feel as if these words have never been spoken to me in my entire life. I pray for wisdom to be cast upon me by the end of this program. . . . Growing up in the Robert Taylor Homes, I've never dreamed of ever being given such a wonderful opportunity—someone willing to give me a chance to just be myself through writing, trusting in me not to let them down. Yes, I will and I can succeed from here on out. I can do this, and the power is within me!

(Arnella Royal)



Many of the previous students seemed to love the class, and from our first day I can see why. Their writing was very informative and inspiring and makes me eager to write as well. Their encouraging words will stick with me throughout the course.

(Tai'Kiah Phillips)



I learned that most of them [the alumni] had the same worries and wonder as I did on my first day. I liked the line [in Denise Maddox's essay] about feeling like a butterfly.

(Elvira Rodriguez)



The program was an academic blessing for the alumni. It gave them a voice to be heard. When I heard the word "journey" used a lot, I knew then that there was work to be done on my part as I move forward on my academic quest.

(Kenya Moses)



I learned that the Odyssey Project is helping people change their lives not only from bad situations to better but from good to greater. I read that this is an awesome program that not only will help me read better but also extend my

vocabulary. I have been chosen to take a journey in learning. (**Jesse Hamilton**)



From day one of class, my odyssey started. . . . I met a lot of people from prior years who were very inspirational. The passion from former grads sticks out and touches you. (**Terry Hart**)



I was very impressed with everyone's writing. For students that did two semesters, with some having been out of school for as long as 30 years, they all sounded like professional writers. It was inspiring. (**Run Barlow**)



The lines that jumped out to me were fantastic voyage, journey of a lifetime, wonderful experience, and the start of the rest of our lives. It's not every day that people wake up from a dream that they actually are about to live, like myself. (**Bradley Barner**)



After reading comments from the Oracle, I am pleased to see and hear of the lights of confidence, hope, praise, joy, success, and inspiration that were turned on by the Odyssey program in individuals just like myself, as well as others around me. . . . I would like to thank God for being alive today and a part of such a heart-warming learning environment. (**Juba Moten**)



Words like "journey," "a new beginning," and "do not give up" make clear how the Odyssey Project is only the beginning. It takes dedication, and I should not take the Odyssey lightly. (**Yetta Harris**)

This is the first page of the first chapter in the first book of my Odyssey journey. Lines that jumped



out at me were Catina McAlister's "you will find that inner voice that has been dying to come out" and Marie Hill's "You have been provided the keys to succeed! Know that with God all things are possible." (**Lorraine Garrett**)



I really enjoyed reading how Odyssey drastically changed people's lives for the better. The testimonies are all wonderfully written, and I truly feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in the words of my Odyssey predecessors/alumni. (**Brandon McCarey**)



The lines that jumped out at me were by Catina McAlister: "The Odyssey Project is a journey of self-fulfilling experiences. You will learn things that you have never even dreams of learning, and you will love it." (**Eugene Smalls**)



Kegan Carter's life in many ways reflects my own. What stood out [in her essay about herself] is single parenting, flirting with turning to the streets, homelessness, lack of a good solid education, and one dead-end job after the other. I want and need to continue to pursue an education to guide, train, raise, and show an example to my children that I have that determination to succeed, just as Kegan possesses. I loved her piece. It's a positive and life changing one. I will bring this spirit with me on my odyssey. (**Abraham Thomas**)



Being in the Odyssey Project the first day made me learn a lot of new words and history I've never heard of. Reading the students' stories and poems of their experiences in Odyssey gave me hope of what I might learn and explore. (**Linda Thao**)

Odyssey is a jumpstart if you want to succeed in life. It is like a home where you feel comforted and comfortable. It changes the way you think and deal with issues in life. It is a life changing experience.

Odyssey!

It is time to explore and expand.

Time to open minds, listen, and enjoy this ride. . . .

You apply, and then you find yourself hooked

To a wagon, and you will never let go.

Brighten your tomorrow in this Odyssey,

A life-changing experience.

(Tatenda Bvindi)



As I was arguing with Blake (even though the man is not alive, he was still winning), I decided to take a break, reread the Oracle, and write a poem myself. It's not quite William Blake, but here it goes:

As I sit and read my Oracle in class
I read of magical yet natural journeys;
Things not before I've seen
When it comes to the magic of learning.



I will restrict myself to no boundaries
Nor tie myself to any stake
I will let my wandering mind
Choose its path to take.

I love the magic of knowledge,
This magic is everywhere;
Not only is it under my feet
But it's also in the air.

(Michele Withers)

Give Me _____ or Give Me Death!

Given the nativity of African Americans and the blood, sweat, and tears they suffered for my right to freedom, I'd be prepared to die for my freedom and the freedom of anyone who would be subject to oppression or servitude. One can clearly see the negative, almost irreparable results of oppression and slavery by examining many African American communities today.

(Abraham Thomas)

I would die in order to maintain my freedom and that of thousands of people. If giving my life would save many, I would do so.

(Phyllis Anderson)

I would want to know that if I gave my life for a cause it would not be in vain. Jesus gave his life for our sins, and we tell the story today to say thank you to remember to live a better life and be good people.

(Run Barlow)

If you have no freedom, you have nothing. Everybody deserves their freedom and the ability to speak their mind.

(Bradley Barner)

I would die for the denial of Jesus. There is a God which does exist.

(Yolanda Cunningham)

I would die for my freedom, freedom for all, the free will, free speech, the right to vote . . . the right to be judged by my peers, the right to be safe, the right of basic human rights, the right to be heard and not punished for it.

(Samantha East)

I will most definitely die for my family, especially my son. I believe in my heart that I would die for my spiritual beliefs.

(Marcia Hampton)

I would die to protect myself from sexual attack. I would also die to protect my rights for my religion.

(Yetta Harris)

I would be prepared to die protecting my son, his mother, my brothers, mother, father, and myself from aggressive acts by any and all parties, people, and establishments. I once pledged myself to defend the Constitution and flag of our country as an enlisted sailor/officer training corps acceptee in the U.S. Navy.

(Keith Johnson)

I would be prepared to die for my children's and grandchildren's freedom, like my ancestors did for my generation. That's what we are missing: People to fight for our rights. It seems we are going back instead of forward.

(Nkechi Johnson)

I would die for the right to work and earn a living to provide for my children.

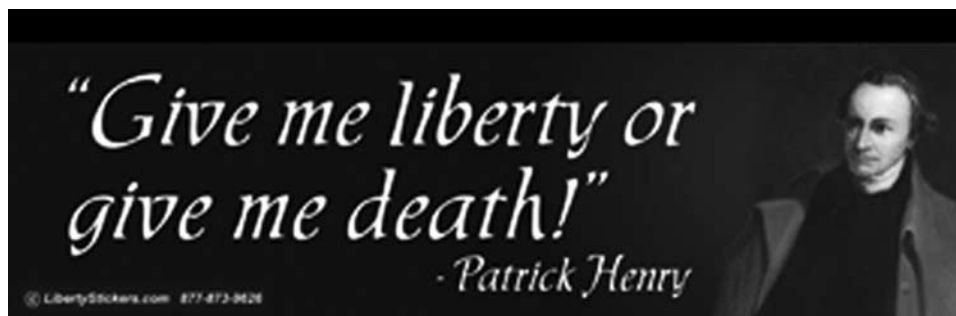
(Kenya Moses)

I would die for my family and the next generation. My family loves each other no matter what, through the good and bad times, wrong or right.

(Donta Starr)

I would die for my children and to make prejudice disappear completely. Too much of it is happening right here in the U.S.A.

(Arnella Royal)



To An Anonymous Odyssey Student Battling Alcoholism

From Marshall Cook

I want to tell you where I'm coming from. We've got more alcoholics in my family than the Kennedys have got politicians. Alcohol destroyed my father's father—and my father's home life. Alcohol ruined my mother's life for 25 years and made things tough in the house for the rest of us.

I can't think of one good thing alcohol has EVER done for ANYbody.

Alcohol is in the process of taking my only brother down with it. And alcohol, with help from other drugs, damn near killed my son. (He's been taking life one day at a time for over eleven years, and I get down on my knees—literally—and thank God for that every day.)

I quit drinking when I realized I was likely headed for trouble my own self, and I'm so glad

... You can drink on Wednesday afternoon, or you can come to Odyssey class Wednesday night, but you can't drink on Wednesday afternoon and come to Odyssey Wednesday night.



I did, I can't tell you.

I hate what alcohol does to people I love. Hate it! I truly wish there were no such thing. I can't think of one good thing alcohol has EVER done for ANYbody (jokes about helping white men dance to the contrary).

I'm praying that you'll whip it. If you do, it'll be one day at a time, too; there's no other way. I think you got a hell of a good start by coming clean about it to Emily.

I know you have to make a choice: you can drink on Wednesday afternoon, or you can come to Odyssey class Wednesday night, but you can't drink on Wednesday afternoon and come to Odyssey Wednesday night. Your call.

If I can help, I'd be very, very happy to. Mostly, you've got to walk this yourself, like Christ in the desert, but that doesn't mean I can't be walking and praying for you.

Love,
Coach

Madison Symphony Review:

André Watts by Kenya Moses

The crowd stood and cheered, hands clapped, smiles filled the room. The pianist stood to take a bow. Mr. André Watts walked the stage as the excited fans praised him for his wonderful performance. My thoughts and expectations were met.

After reading the bio on Mr. Watts, I came in wondering how skilled this man really is. He has been playing the piano for more than 45 years! Mr. Watts has played before royalty in Europe, and in 1988 he was selected to receive the Avery Fisher award. As a young man, Mr. Watts received an Honorary Doctorate from Yale University and many other awards.

Music flowed from the floor to the ceiling, and Mr. Watts's demeanor was clean and sharp, fitting for the occasion. When the other instruments played, his hands and fingers moved with style and rhythm. André Watts attacked the keys as if he was vexed by an angry love for music! His fingers seemed to run a marathon as they raced against each other. The music poured from his heart. I asked myself if he pierced himself yet because the music felt as if he was bleeding from his heart!

I watched the confidence drip from his technique the way he chose to let his fingers dance on the keys, skilled like a martial artist kicking out note

after note. I believe his fingers had a language of their own: every note was communicating with the other. My mood changed from uneasy to peaceful.

I got lost in every note. The orchestra reminded me of my life, especially my children: how delicate and intrinsic each instrument is to the fullness of the music is how children are to my life. Mr. Watts reminded me that it takes every small part to make one large beautiful piece. As each instrument contributed to the harmony of the mosaic melodies, I got lost in the music. My son being there witnessing the symphony brought me great joy!

The pianist taught me how to love again with patience, enthusiasm, and precision. Nothing distracted Mr. Watts; the symphony flowed as one big lovely chrysalis ready to become the obvious butterfly. My last words were and are: A slice of heaven, excellent, brilliantly delightful! Thank you to donor Carroll Heideman for this opportunity.



Meeting William Blake

Nurse's Song

*When the voices of children are heard on the green,
And laughing is heard on the hill,
My heart is at rest within my breast,
And everything else is still.*

*"Then come home, my children, the sun is gone
down,
And the dews of night arise;
Come, come, leave off play, and let us away
Till the morning appears in the skies."*

*"No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,
And we cannot go to sleep;
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly,
And the hills are all cover'd with sheep."*

*"Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,
And then go home to bed."
The little ones leaped & shouted & laugh'd,
And all the hills echoed.*



"Nurse's Song" from *Songs of Innocence* shows how children really are at a young age. I know when I was little, I always wanted to stay out late and play. That poem is the voice of almost every young child. **(Tai'Kiah Phillips)**

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!*

...



"Infant Joy" is a baby happy to be here on earth for its first two days. It's such a joy they named it Joy. It also tells how happy a mother is to give life and start nurturing and loving so fast. **(Donta Starr)**

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 sorrow's share?
Can a father see his child
Weep, nor be with sorrow fill'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 bird's 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 infant's tear...*



Blake writes of empathy in "On Another's Sorrow." When one baby cries in a nursery, so the other babies start. It is in our divine nature to care about and feel the pain of others. **(Billie Kelsey)**

The Lamb

*Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life & bid thee feed,
By the stream & o'er 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?*

...



“The Lamb” intrigued me because Blake . . . is witnessing to a child about Jesus and all the things He has done for the child. I enjoyed it very much.

(Eugene Smalls)

The School Boy

*I love to rise in a summer morn
When the birds sing on every tree;
The distant huntsman winds his horn,
And the sky-lark sings with me.
O! what sweet company.*

*But to go to school in a summer morn,
O! it drives all joy away;
Under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day,
In sighing and dismay.*

...



“The School Boy” caught my eye because it took me to my younger days—waking up early on a summer day with the birds chirping, but everything turning to frowns and dismay when you know you have to go to class on a beautiful day. (Bradley Barner)

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.*



“The Divine Image” is a really positive reminder of the connection we all have to each other as humans. It’s really easy to forget that your fellow passengers on the bus and people waiting in line with you at the store are fundamentally the same as you, even if there are superficial differences. This poem brings to mind a picture of all of us humans as waves in a vast ocean or blades of grass blowing in the wind, no single component better than or more important than the others. . . . I prefer Blake’s God over the judgmental “Father” that is usually spoken of in poetry from this era. It’s almost saying that we, as humans, *are* God and should remember that when choosing how to act. (Katie Pruitt)



The last stanza of “The Divine Image” reflects Blake’s philosophy of equality (“all must love the human form / In heathen, turk, or jew”). All people regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity can invoke these qualities (Mercy, Love & Pity) for the betterment of mankind. (Brandon McCarey)

Infant Sorrow

*My mother groan’d! my father wept.
Into the dangerous world I leapt:
Helpless, naked, piping loud:
Like a fiend hid in a cloud.*

*Struggling in my father’s hands,
Striving against my swadling bands,
Bound and weary, I thought best
To sulk upon my mother’s breast.*



"Infant Sorrow" moved me. It has the sense that a child was born into a cruel world. He seems brave to bear it, though. Reality sends him right back into his mother's arms. (Arnella Royal)

Earth's Answer

*Earth rais'd up her head
From the darkness dread & drear.
Her light fled,
Stony dread!
And her locks cover'd with grey despair.*

*'Prison'd on wat'ry shore,
'Starry Jealousy does keep my den:
'Cold and hoar,
'Weeping o'er,
'I hear the Father of the ancient men.*

*'Selfish father of men!
'Cruel, jealous, selfish fear!
'Can delight,
'Chain'd in night,
'The virgins of youth and morning bear?
...*



I enjoyed "Earth's Answer." I felt empathy for her. I got the feeling of pain she had from not being allowed to grow and experience life and love while in her youth because of cruel, selfish fears of jealous, ancient men. (Phyllis Anderson)



I am moved in "Earth's Answer" by the thought that men have imprisoned earth with their wicked ways. The poem calls for the earth to be set free with an unselfish love. (Kenya Moses)

The Little Girl Lost

...
In the southern clime,

*Where the summer's prime
Never fades away,
Lovely Lyca lay.*

*Seven summers old
Lovely Lyca told;
She had wander'd long
Hearing wild birds' song.*

*"Sweet sleep, come to me
Underneath this tree.
Do father, mother, weep?
Where can Lyca sleep?"*

*"Lost in desert wild
Is your little child.
How can Lyca sleep
If her mother weep?"*

...
*Sleeping Lyca lay
While the beasts of prey,
Come from caverns deep,
View'd the maid asleep.*

*The kingly lion stood,
And the virgin view'd,
Then he gambol'd round
O'er the hallow'd ground.*



The Little Girl Lost" from *Songs of Innocence* reminds me of Daniel in the lions' den and how vicious they were, yet they never laid a hand on him. I believe the parents' perspective on what was lurking out there overtook their thought process. (Lorraine Garrett)

Holy Thursday

*Is this a holy thing to see
In a rich and fruitful land,
Babes reduc'd to misery,
Fed with cold and usurous hand?*

*Is that trembling cry a song?
Can it be a song of joy?
And so many children poor?
It is a land of poverty!*

*And their sun does never shine,
And their fields are bleak & bare,
And their ways are fill'd with thorns:
It is eternal winter there.*

*For where-e'er the sun does shine,
And where-e'er the rain does fall,
Babe can never hunger there,
Nor poverty the mind appall.*



“Holy Thursday” from *Songs of Experience* asks the audience why are there two places in a supposedly fruitful land, one with abject poverty and the other with abundance. This is much like Madison. There are two—one in which people see this as a great

place to raise a family and work, and the other in which people see no hope and the future feels dark. (Yetta Harris)

The Human Abstract

*Pity would be no more
If we did not make somebody Poor;
And Mercy no more could be
If all were as happy as we.*

*And mutual fear brings peace,
Till the selfish loves increase:
Then Cruelty knits a snare,
And spreads his baits with care.*

*He sits down with holy fears,
And waters the ground with tears;
Then Humility takes its root
Underneath his foot.*

*Soon spreads the dismal shade
Of Mystery over his head;
And the Caterpillar and Fly
Feed on the Mystery.*

*And it bears the fruit of Deceit,
Ruddy and sweet to eat;
And the Raven his nest has made
In its thickest shade.*

*The Gods of the earth and sea
Sought thro' Nature to find this Tree;
But their search was all in vain:
There grows one in the Human Brain.*



“The Human Abstract” makes me envision how greedy and powerful entities (governments and religious institutions) undermine the populace and ultimately enslave their minds and spirits. If the world would embrace one another’s differences and cultures rather than

adopting an attitude of intolerance, the entire world would prosper. We have the resources to feed and shelter all peoples if we did not focus on personal gains and possessions. (Keith Johnson)



“The Human Abstract” describes a lot of what we have seen throughout history. It describes the way those in control use our emotions to further control us. Today we can see this playing out with the war on terror, which some think is real and others

such as myself see as a tool to scare the masses into believing that they need the protection of the government in order to be safe and sound.

(Hedi Rudd)

The Tyger

*Tyger! Tyger! burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?*

*In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?*

...



Reading “The Tyger” confused me a little, but the confusion is what made it interesting to me. (Linda Thao)



Artwork by William Blake

Clockwise from left: *Before the Divine Throne*; *Pity*; *Nebuchadnezzar*; *Whirlwind of Lovers*; *Jacob's Ladder*.



Odyssey Takes a Trip to Campus

*Here are a few photos from last week's
journey to UW-Madison's Union South and
The Chazen Museum.*

