



## Advance Social Science Archives Journal

Available Online: <https://assajournal.com>

Vol.2 No.4, Oct-Dec, 2024. Page No. 279-292

Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)

Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)



### EXPLORING THE SYMBOLISM IN WILLIAM BLAKE'S POETRY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

<b>Syed Shadman UI Hassan</b>	BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English Kohat University of Science & Technology Kohat Email: <a href="mailto:shadmanhassan64@gmail.com">shadmanhassan64@gmail.com</a>
<b>Muhammad Zohaib Qaisar *</b>	BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English Kohat University of Science & Technology Kohat corresponding Email: <a href="mailto:zohaibkhanhattak318@gmail.com">zohaibkhanhattak318@gmail.com</a>
<b>Muhammad Salah Ud Din Ayubi</b>	BS English Literature Scholar, Department of English Kohat University of Science & Technology Kohat Email: <a href="mailto:ayubdarwish632@hotmail.com">ayubdarwish632@hotmail.com</a>

#### ABSTRACT

The function of symbolism is an extended concept that provides texts with numerous references and layers of meaning that confound interpretation and increase reader interest in the text. The so-called vision of William Blake (1757–1827), English poet, painter, printmaker, and MHR author and artist of children and innocence of experience, is oriented organically by symbolism that shapes both his style and his thinking politics, imbued with internal and external ideologies of politics. Blake's symbols are not just aesthetic or illustrative, but active and expressive and contain pedagogical values that convey messages about the human existence, power, and the opportunities of change. That is what his work does and that is why it remains unique and ground breaking in terms of symbolic representation and signification which is intimately bound up with his condemnation of the pseudo-cultural, political, and religious systems of his day. This study embarks on an in-depth exploration of Blake's symbolic world, with a particular focus on two of his major prophetic works, *America: A Prophecy* written in 1793 and *Europe: A Prophecy* composed in 1794. These texts are replete with images and signification which interact with the historical and political unrest of the late 18th century and although these appearing to work on a basis of the potential for revolution these do so on the back of an avowal of spirituality and philosophical rebirth. In more detail, recognizing that Blake's art is semiotic, this study aims to examine the multiple meanings encoded in his specific iconography and develop a better understanding of the revolutionary message and purpose of his art. In *America: In A Prophecy*, Blake makes effective use of revolutionary imagery and themes of retribution by characterizing them against the social evil standards of the revolutionary period such as colonialism imperialism and institutionalized religion. This way, using mythological images and the references to the Bible as the primary authority this artist rebels against conformism and offers another type of freedom associated with religious revelation and political emancipation. Similarly, in *Europe: In A Prophecy*, dream and symbol is Blake's attack against the ravages of industrialism, war and systematic religion, awakening the human spirit at the same time to the possibility of freedom, creativity, and divine truth. Each construction contains the speculation of human suffering and deliverance revealing imagination as a material for combating oppression. It is important not to see Blake's symbolism in the work as

exclusively political, however. Indeed, it is also very philosophical and metaphysical as he was a strong believer of pantheism, the idea that the world both the physical and the spirits worlds are one. It provides readers with symbols beyond the cult, which raises the depths of man: the idea of creation, a struggle between the head and heart, and the search for the spirit. To Blake, the change in the society in its revolutionary form is guaranteed a change in the spiritual form; liberation from the chain of material society. By examining the intricate web of symbols in Blake's *America: A Prophecy* and *Europe: A Prophecy*, this work aspires to shed light on how these symbols are not only political commentary tools, but also representations of Blake's revolutionary otherworldly opinion. As with most of Blake's works, the piece embraces radical themes of social change and spiritual emancipation, literarily and metaphorically urging the audience to contemplate on the prospects of change in two spheres – the external and the internal. Hence, even today, Blake's work speaks in a very loud voice for politics and religion, for action — calling man or woman to be all he or she is capable of being — free. Finally, it is the goal of this work to try to persuade the reader that Blake's symbols are historical in their reference, but eternal in significance, and that they contain for those who seek such things keys for the regeneration of society no less than the human soul. In the following excerpt, Blake's innovative use of language, in terms of the topics that he encourages the reader to think about, ties the two categories of imagination and the divine with the freedom from oppression, freedom of creativeness, freedom to paint future human life.

**Key words:** Symbolism, William Blake, Romanticism, Revolution, Spirituality, Imagination, Prophecy, Emancipation, Metaphysics, Pantheism.

### **Introduction**

William Blake is highly regarded not only as a poet of marvelous word and phrase but also as a master of symbolism in his work. Literally, all his writings are polysemantic and on the political, religious and philosophical planes. Blake, who is often associated with poets such as William Edmondstone Aytoun whose ideas are thought provoking, was actually a man who sought to address some of the most important issues in his society, the status of political dictatorship and the Puritanical morality that dominated societies' religious establishments of the period. However, his poetry goes beyond the simple social commentary offering the probing of the metaphysical and the mystical. Blake harramientas a vivid and diverse symbolism to explore his poetic self, society and cosmic realities as the products of his deep political concern.

This shows that Blake has quite a complex and wide-scope symbolic system that uses sources from Christian otherworldliness through to antiquity, revolution, and personal creation. His symbols are not ornaments; they are really vessels for his anarchistic vision of life, individual liberty, salvation, and the liberation of man. Of the important elements in Blake's poetry, it is possible to emphasize the symbols which are the lamb, the tiger, the serpent, and the garden, which are elastic and containing a number of meanings, thus implying the recognition of the number of sides at which they can be considered. These signs not only are used to illustrate his condemnation of modern politics and religion, but also to offer another perspective on the world – a prophetic eschatology of the transcendent freedom and awakening.

The main and most profound symbol being the centrality of the concept of imagination that Blake had a belief in. As far as Blake is concerned, imagination was

not only a literary or artistic concept, but, a divine force a force with a subversive and liberating potential to transform reality. For this reason, Blake's icons become the way of liberating and rejuvenation, at the same time. Alone it portrays the injustices of the political systems of his time especially those of absolutism, the critique of the church and the beastliness of industrialization and at the same time paints a picture of revolt and self-redemption. His symbols reveal an opposition between passive oppressors (as a lion, symbolizing tyranny) and active liberators (as an eagle, symbolizing freedom) that might be considered as reflecting Blake's philosophical vision of the battle between good and evil in a material world as well as within a human spirit.

Symbolically, Blake adds that life is not that simple as people paint it and this is a greatly profound and highly philosophical remark on life. Many of his poems deal with such oppositions as purity and experience, goodness and evil, heaven and earth. This is well demonstrated by his opposition on between the lamb and the tiger which represents innocence and Experience in Blake's metaphysical world. These symbols concern the state of childhood and the state of anomaly that is experience in adulthood and are both major preoccupations of his work and evidence of a deeply philosophical concern with the human condition that permeates his oeuvre.

This research aim is to identify how Blake employs symbolism in these works with especial consideration on how his symbolization is a counterpoint to political oppression as well as a path towards spiritual and revolutionary redemption. Analysing principal signaled motifs in such visions this research would reveal more complicated nature of the Blake's symbols and the ways they reflect his revolutionary message of liberation, revolt and rejuvenation. Finally, Blake's use of symbolism challenges his reader to approach his poetry and the world he saw not only as their common failure but as the means toward a new world, a new imagination, and a reinvention of both the social and the esoteric.

#### Analysis of America: A Prophecy (1793)

William Blake's America: The piece A Prophecy from 1793 is complex, dense in reference and signification and a work that provides a visionary and prophetic reading of the American Revolution. Despite being rooted strongly in the historical context of Blake's time, this poem is not limited to political events of the time, though it does seem to reflect the political upheaval of late eighteenth century revolution, but goes on to explore broad issues of existential nature. The poem presents the American war of independence not only as a political, but also as a cosmological and a metaphysical one. Using rather intense and rather often even theatrical language, Blake turns the revolution into something necessary and even redemptive in the sense of changing and eliminating the material and spiritual domination of the old regime. In essence, the poem is a kind of parable of the struggle between despotism and freedom, not only in the outside world, but in spirit.

#### The Eagle and the Lion: The Revolution's Opposites

Central to Blake's symbolic exploration in America: A Prophecy is the juxtaposition of between an eagle and a lion – two outstanding creatures, which represent the struggle between freedom and slavery. Although the eagle is a part of the heraldic tradition of

the freedom and power of the American colonies that try to escape from imperial domination. Hence, for Blake, the eagle is not just the emblem of English Spirit, but the emblem of the revolutionary Soul. In its flight the eagle captures much of the American drive towards freedom, coming-of-age, and primordial escape from social bondage, which is not so much of political liberty from Britain, as it is a spiritual liberation. The visual aspect that is most delineating is that of the eagles' wings slicing through the cloud to deliver what is perceived as a message of freedom and what is for all intention and purposes a coming release from earthly tyranny and a messenger pointing the society towards a spiritual and metaphysical rebirth.

In harmony to the eagle, Blake introduces the lion as symbolic of Britain – the colonial power. In several ways, the lion symbolizes monarchy, imperialism, and the domination that Blake remains sensitive to in some ways political and in other spiritual. Blake vents against Britain's imperialism and imperialist agenda and paints this imperialism not as a desire of power, but a desire to conquer the creative and spiritual soul in the American people. This is because the lion is a predator whose authority attempts to quash the liberating creative principles of the colonies. The concept determined and expressed through the eagle and the lion opposition is freedom against oppression, spiritual and political tyranny against liberty's promise.

The Ship, Garden, and Desert: America, /Early Migration and Wars of a Young Country  
As symbolisms the ship, garden, and the desert present the quandaries and possibilities of the American Revolution arias Blake. The ship itself, to start with, symbolizes the journey to America which Blake uses to depict as a shipwreck and endeavor not completely free from risks and thus Dependence. It stands not only for the material movement of settlers across the Atlantic but also for the theoretical and a spiritual work that the new nation has to complete. For the ship represents the movement into the uncharted worlds – geographical as well as existential. Here Blake paints freedom as something that cannot be achieved without overcoming a tribulation, the goal of this life, as the poet knows it; at the same time, Blake implies that this journey is vital on order to attain the political and spiritual enlightenment. And so the colonies, and mankind in general, will be reborn only during their stormy sailing on the ocean of revolution.

The garden, which is also used frequently by Blake in his prophecy, is symbolic of a greenfield approach equal to a new Garden of Eden where political and religious liberty may be redeemed. Blake's gardens are all clean, renewal and creative; they represent the optimism of a new order founded on justice, liberty and spiritual regeneration. In America: A Prophecy then the garden becomes symbolic of political and spiritual salvation. For the symbol of creation – it points towards something liberatory, a site where people can improve and be different from the tyrant. But at the same time Blake also realizes that such a garden can only be created only with an effort and cost. The garden of liberty needs cultivation by the people and the protection of the people against any attempt by the forces of tyranny.

On the other hand, the desert means abandonment, vacancy, and the adversities that the new country has to face. The desert that Blake speaks of represents the challenges

both of self and of social environment that will have to be met in the fight for a better world. Sands signify the emptiness or the desert that the revolutionaries have to transverse in order to gain their liberty. It is a district of character and moral conflict, of the defence of institutions such as liberty and justice against the vices of decay. The desert also appears as a metaphor for the loneliness and doubts which the colonial Americans have to bear when they stand for the revolution and the long road which lays ahead.

#### The Serpent: Rebellion and Transformation

The serpent is another recurring symbol in Blake's *America: A Prophecy*, where it plays a significantly different part. From the Christian artwork it is considered as sin, temptation and evil but Blake reinterprets the same and takes serpent as rebellious and transformative. The reptile respected its natural skin-shedding rhythm which made shedding of skin a symbol of rejuvenation and cyclicity. Contrary to this view, to penalize and execute the serpent means to understand it as the creative destruction which was destined to topple the existing and unjust power relations. To Blake, one of the features about the serpent is that it has the ability to change skin showing a concept that one has to be regenerated – that the current society they live in has to be destroyed for something new and freer to take its place.

This change in the role of the serpent is very important to explain the revolutionary message convey by Blake. The serpent in *America: A Prophecy* is not a sin or an emblem of a bad omen but a phenomenon of transformation, the bearer of revolution for a new spirituality as well as a new politics. This characteristic of Blake's metaphoric serpentine spirit corresponds with his vision of the collective human anarchy as the force of violence that is capable to destroy the established order and to give birth to the new, more enlightened human consciousness and establish an ameliorated social order.

#### The Feminine Figure: Liberty and Freedom

Blake's portrayal of the feminine figure in *America: A Prophecy* raises the subject of liberty and freedom elaborated in the poem to a higher level. Quite predictably, the feminine in Blake's poetry is primarily linked to intuition and creativeness, liberated spirit and spiritual awakening; in this case, the feminine represents both political freedom from oppressors as well as spiritual freedom from the chains of religious doctrines and systems. Thus, ensuring that liberty is represented in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* as a female figure, Blake reinforces the belief in the divine nature of the pursuit of freedom – in other words, the spiritual process of becoming that is predicated upon the acceptance of reason and reason only, yet is an artistic and profoundly life-affirming process that involves the very instincts of a woman.

Again, as with law in Blake's thinking, liberty is in a different level – it is not a legal or political concept, but the personification of man's spirit. The feminine figure in *America: A Prophecy* gives a vision of change which in turn is the vision of revolution and it is important to remember that for Blake the revolutionary act does not necessary pertain to the political rulers but to the human souls. This is neither a political statue of liberation, but of the spirit and creative power which spiritual and ideological liberty

yields. By linking political freedom to such liberty through such a constructed femininity, Blake subsumes the female political freedom under a broader spiritual and self-empowerment mission.

#### Analysis of Europe: A Prophecy (1794)

In Europe: In A Prophecy written in 1794 William Blake turns his prophetic vision to the French Revolution, and although it is different in content, it investigates similar topics of revolution, spiritualization, transcendence, and the possibility of change. Though shorter and less frequently studied than America: European Painting – A Prophecy, Europe: A Prophecy is not less in symbolism as well as in visionary spiritualism. He condemns the European political elites for their immorality while at the same time offering an appealing idea of freedom for individuals and societies. The poem calls to the Blake type of revolution; the poem raises questions about destruction, power and the change that is born from rebellion. In Blake's strongly lensed language his ideas revolve around the revolt or in other words revolution of human beings against the oppressive systems for a better life or spiritual liberation.

#### The Giant Enitharmon: The Crumbling Old Order

At the heart of Europe: A Prophecy there looms the great figure of Enitharmon which represents the decadent regime associated with monarchy, aristocracy and institutions of oppression. Her big size symbolizes the burden of longstanding traditions which becoming stubborn and unapproachable structures, that is why, changing the current status quo is quite challenging. Monstrous body of Enitharmon is a symbol of dehumanization of the characters in the novel, the heartless and oppressive control of the institutions over their subjects. She embodies evil of the ruling classes who, unlike some depicted by other Gothic writers, have not only arrested the organic development of the society but also made the change seem wicked and unnatural. Enitharmon is significant and a force like any power that needs to be revolutionized and the complacency from those who benefit from that power.

Everything about Enitharmon presented by Blake is not a political condemnation only but a spiritual indignation of some systems political or religious or social that make away of people and degrades the human from his heavenly worthy self. Enitharmon's form is an indication of the oppressive forces that have been unleashed on man which have served to cage human creativity and limit spiritual development to the masses.

#### The Female Figure: The Oppressed and Liberation within Social Work Practice

In contrast to the oppressive figure of Enitharmon, Blake introduces the female figure in Europe: A Prophecy as the embodiment of an enslaved people and their capability to be freed. In Blake's poetry the feminine is associated with suffering and intuitive insight, with nature that the patriarchal culture disregards but which offers rebirth in the fight for the liberation of the oppressed. This is the voice of the suppressed the female figure symbolizing the denial of the common people their rights by the overbearing patriarchal imperialist nation states that have long ruled Europe. Her oppression is as a result of the oppressive structures represented by Enitharmon but she is that which symbolizes liberation, and transformation.

Blake's use of the feminine figure as a symbol of liberation underscores a central tenet of his visionary poetry: true emancipation is to be found not in the enslavement of one type of person by another but in a complete regeneration of human nature. Therefore, the female figure as the symbol of hope for the political action at the center to be followed by revolution that frees not only the soul but also the people, and individuals. The core beliefs need transforming and she did that by symbolizing the kind of change that was required in the heart of man for there to be true freedom, the freedom that came with the other freedom than the political but the freedom that came with the freedom of the soul and the freedom that came with the freedom of the mind and the freedom that come with the freedom of creativity.

#### Celestial Symbols: The Sun, Moon, and Stars

Blake's use of celestial symbols—the sun, moon, and stars—deepens the spiritual and prophetic dimension of *Europe: A Prophecy*. These symbols are imbued with divine significance and glaggl – representing the orderly structures which pervade the cosmos and the human soul, and the ideal self.

The Sun symbol in Blake's work most commonly represents the emanation of light, divine revelation and the 'good'. In *Europe: A Prophecy*, the sun here represents the divine source of enlightenment of the human soul pointing to restoration of both, spirit and authority. The golden shining sun enlightens the agents of justice who are on a mission to fight for change, and tells them that the revolution, fought on Earth is also for the heavenly cause. It symbolises the ideals of a society – the total rejection of tyranny and ignorance, the advancement of a superior form of civilization.

The moon on the other hand is considered as the opposite of the sun and equated to the realm of the unconscious, intuition and the hidden or archetypal wisdom. Consequently, the sun stands out as the demigods' conscious knowing of the external truth while the moon symbolises the spiritual wisdom guiding the souls to discover the path to emancipation. The moon is also linked to femininity which, in turn, emphasizes the female aspect of spiritual enlightenment in all Blake's works. The moon enlightens the obscure, the concealed and the buried; the dream and the dream's reality, the latent and the id, revealing the unconscious processes of human personality and the substratum of the world which has to be changed. Providing a realistic view of life, the moon makes tangible that which can only be felt and comprehended through the soul.

Finally, the stars in *Europe: A Prophecy* is the symbol of infinite possibility of change of life. These stars signify the future and an ideal world which, to Blake, lies away from the earthly oppressors and it becomes the aim and soul of every spiritually oriented people. The stars are reaching, alien and remote, are the manifestation of the highest freedom and knowledge of people. They symbolise the redeemed future that will be open to human beings once the revolution opens the gates of spiritual and political renewal.

#### The Serpent: The Spirit of Rebellion, Change and Resurgence

As in *America: The serpent wears the badge of rebellion* and change in *Europe: A Prophecy* by Blake. While in Christian tradition the serpent symbolizes temptation and

evil, Blake reconstructs it as a creative force, as the force of change symbol of revolution and revival of both spiritual and political hierarchy. The skinning of the serpent is one of the best examples of symbolic cyclical regeneration in narratives. Similar with the idea of the snake that when wants to change it skin it just sheds it off to create a new one, society also has to shed its skin in a drastic manner for it to be able to cleanse itself and start afresh.

Thus, in full conformity with Blake's concept of rebellion against oppressive systems: political, religious or social, the serpent that 'kills' the woman, is symbolic of the resistance to oppression and the need for change and enlightenment. The serpent here is worked into a symbol of the age that is destroying the old world creatively in order to bring forth newly, as it will be needed in the new and fresh age. It is however in the French Revolution, which again for Blake is not just a political revolution that displaces kings and nobles, but a spiritual revolution, an overcoming of the soul.

The Garden: Spiritual Growth and Paradise

Finally, the garden in *Europe: A Prophecy* becomes an important sign of enlightenment, evolution and the just society those freedom fighters fearlessly fight for. Blake's gardens do not only represent political ideal, but also spiritual kingdom, the kingdom where human being can realize their potentials in terms of rationality and creativity as God's creature. The garden is symbolic to Blake and what he dreams of, a world liberated from the terrorism of both the throne and the altar. It is an emblem of the liberated spirit of the human being, the forces of imagination, freedom and love acting to create a new socio/political order.

In the context of *Europe: A Prophecy*, the garden is not only a very significant personal spiritual experience but also stands as a metaphor for the process of social change. It symbolizes the expected collective after the revolution, the collective that would be happy in the afterlife, the collective freed from the societal paradigms imposed on it, a collective able to be at one with their creator and the rest of humanity. To Blake, the revolution is more than a political fight but an enlightenment, and the garden represents the idea of what can be once man has risen above the oppressive regime inside and outside of him and tapped into the creativity and the Godhead in everyone.

### **Research Methodology**

This study adopts a qualitative content analysis approach to explore the symbolic language employed by William Blake in his major prophetic works, particularly *America: A Prophecy* (1793) and *Europe: A Prophecy* (1794). It is with this goal in mind that the research seeks to elucidate further the numerous instances of symbolism employed by Blake and is especially interested in how these symbols interact with the politics, society, and religion of the period in question. Due to the implementation of the textual and historical approaches, the study offers a dimensional interpretation of Blake works and their role in envisioning the world.

Qualitative Content Analysis: Symbolism and Themes as Primary Concern

It must be noted that while content analysis of the themes and motifs is used in this study, it is not a mere analytical technique that dismantles received themes within Blake's works into its constituent parts but rather a critical approach whose goal is to



decipher the latent referents and semiotics within his works. Consequently, the primary method of the analysis is semiotic: the primary concern is symbolism—the status, the role, and the repeated appearance of the images, the figures and the metaphors that encode philosophical, theological, and, in some cases, even political views of Blake. Blake's symbolic language is notoriously complex, often operating on multiple levels simultaneously: political, spiritual psychological, and metaphysical. Qualitative approach enables an explorative investigation of these symbols and the hermeneutics of reading them as critiques and as imagineers.

The study analyzes the most prominent symbols in America: They are the eagles, lions, serpents, feminine figures, celestial representations, and gardens that Blake incorporated to A Prophecy and Europe contained in A Prophecy when observing their role and development in predicting the future. Each of these symbols is considered separately and in the context with the others to analyze the rather complex metaphysical and political implications of Blake's art. This handicap is now corrected in the research since the latter pays attention to the intertextual context of Blake, which means that the author's symbols form a relatively inclusive system of signs.

Blake's symbols are endogenic and operative on multiple levels of signification that are connected beyond the discursive level, and that is what the proposed approach of the research aims to emphasize. For instance, symbols like the eagle and lion in America: Analyzing A Prophecy in the context of historical semiotics—not only in the light of the political struggle of the American colonies against Britain— and the semiotics of *métaphore* where, similarly to archetypes, it reveals itself as powers of liberty, oppression and divinity. Similarly, celestial symbols such as the sun, moon, and stars in Europe: A Prophecy are explored not only as representations of cosmic order but also as expressions of Blake's spiritual philosophy, offering insights into the nature of divine enlightenment and human potential.

### **History Context**

It is therefore important to bear in mind historical background when approaching the works of Blake in order best decipher symbolic messages left by him. Being born at the Age of Revolution, Blake quite consciously felt revolutionary and patriotic waves worldwide especially in America and France affecting Revolution.

Blake perceived it in his work as prophetic. At the same time, his poetry demonstrates strong connections with religious and philosophical views opposite to traditional church and political orders of his epoch.

This paper also includes an historical perspective of Blake and the political setting of the late eighteenth century in which Blake existed and to a certain degree embraced. American and French Revolution for which Blake actively campaigned are the primary source of criticism of tyranny and oppression in his works. Employing the America revolution as a symbol of spiritual revolution and the France revolution as signifying potential for social revolution across the globe, the methodology examines how these political revolutions inform Blake's symbols.

Blake's views about religion, including anti-traditionalism, and mysticism and particularly Christian mysticism also determine the choice of symbols. Of this,

prophetic denunciation of political tyranny and religious authority can be clearly seen in his prophetic books as he endeavors to paint a picture of deliverance from both political domination and religious legalism. The present study is most concerned with the particular ways that Blake engaged in personal religious practice and its relationship to his poetry. It must also include the analysis of several Blake's so radical paradigms of the nature of the divine revelation, in which Blake described himself as a futuristic visionary, who has been inspired to reveal the truth, which has been shielded by such entities as a political and religious systems.

Hoping that an examination of Blake's personal beliefs situates the motifs in his work into the broader political and historical context of his period will illuminate these symbols. For instance, Blake's employment of the serpent as signifying revolt and spiritual development is explained beyond challenging the conventional Christian understanding of sin but also asserting the emergent counter every day brutality. In this way the work of the study ties Blake's visionary function of symbolic art to the cultural and historical parameters of their texts.

The first type of cultural analysis referred to as textual and intertextual is used to analyze the cultural significance of the Matrix movies.

Besides historical context, the analysis uses textual explication to focus on the verbal and formal aspects of the prophetic books by Blake. In the systematic analysis of each symbol, the roles of the symbols are also analyzed in the context of the general themes of the poem which include liberty, bondage, revolution and rejuvenation of the soul. Through a detailed examination of the symbols within the work, it would be possible to discuss the means and way the poet employs symbols alongside the imagery, rhythm, to address the philosophic and political dimensions of the work.

The present work also features an intertextual analysis of the connection between Blake's symbols and symbols used in other works of his opus. This is even more so since Blake tends to have numerous symbols running through his works which indicates a fairly cohesive caliber and outlook on life. Thus the research also includes such works by Blake as 'The Marriage of Heaven and Hell' as well as 'The Four Zoas' to achieve a fuller understanding of how the usage of symbols changes within the framework of Blake's creative output. The intertextual approach is more effective in the interpretation of individual symbols like the feminine in Blake's work and it again is an ambivalent symbol-old bond to dominate and new freedom to free.

**Blake's Peculiar Odysseys and Creative Imagination**

Another requirement of the methodology of the project is the inclusion of Blake's biography and esthetic vision into the process. Blake is best classified as an eccentric artist of his generation: he did not follow the traditional studio masters' education and trained from scratch following his vision only. His operating artistic ethos was one of imagination and one marked a profound spiritual intuition that was not given to logical structures and prevalent iconography. The examination also considers Blake's overall aesthetic mission, also considering his artistic and poetic production as one whole that serves to redefine the concept of prophecy.

In addition, it is noteworthy that the poet pursued visionary experiences throughout his life and recorded them which are crucial to clarify the degrees of Blake's symbolism. Through the inclusion of these personal aspects into the study, this work offers a more comprehensive look at Blake as poet and prophet whose works have versions of history, as well as the revelation.

#### Conclusion

The methodology outlined above is designed to offer a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the symbols in Blake's *America: A Prophecy* and *Europe: A Prophecy*. Drawing upon the method of qualitative content analysis in combination with historical context analysis, text analysis, and intertextual analysis, this work aims to disclose multiple semiotic meanings of the symbolic representations used by Blake. This approach is helpful in providing a further analysis of Blake's prophetic stance focusing on how the symbols work, personally as well as universally. It also clarifies the manner in which his works respond to the political, spiritual, and philosophical issues. Understanding Blake as a visionary, we see how he undermines political, religious and social oppressions and dreams of their total overhaul. Besides, the reader again learns from the findings that Blake's work remains highly significant and relates how Blake's images remain significant as tools of resistance and imagination, and the articulation of new possibilities for the subject and the culture. In this way, examining Blake's symbolic language in this multifaceted way not only further enriches our recognition of him as a great poet and calls into question his artistic and literary vision, but also provides a basis for proving that his criticism and vision in the age are contemporary.

#### Discussion of Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study provides a comprehensive framework for examining William Blake's symbolic language, with a particular focus on his major prophetic works, *America: Thus in a Prophecy* and *Europe: A Prophecy*. The essence of this approach is thematic analysis that would will enable a better focus on how Blake employs specific motifs in his works. Approaching the above-listed symbols, the study reveals multiple meanings and the multiple aspects of the semiotic nature of Blake's poetry and artwork. It helps better realize how Blake's symbolic mechanism of working on different perspectives of imagery and how it is possible to gain the perception additional than the political satire of the period but the spiritual and the philosophical vision of Blake.

That is, Blake's symbols are not monochromatic or homophonic; they develop his books and have a very complex and deep meaning. Through thematic analysis, the study identifies key symbols such as the eagle, lion, serpent, feminine figures, and celestial imagery in both *America: A large hand on A Prophecy* is *Europe: A Prophecy*. These symbols are all analyzed in the light of their individual narrations and the ways by which they add to Blake's overall theme of revolution, freedom and spiritual enlightenment. For instance, while the eagle emblematises freedom, liberty and might in conventional symbolical language of the West, in Blake's prophetic vision it performs a highly spiritual and 'redemptive' function of referring to a Revolutionary act that is not merely of social or political *Ä¼berweldigend* in character, but spiritual and

inclusive of enlightenment. Leverage, on the other hand, is used to denote the oppression the British Empire brought to the American colonies and masterly unkindness which is personified in the character of the lion.

One of the biggest advantages of this methodology is the research framework makes it possible to explicate the ways in which these symbols operate a political and spiritual plane simultaneously. Through such a historical focus on the specific symbols, the paper reveals the complex innovative dimension of Blake's imagery, as the poet is presenting a powerful negative message about the 18th century political systems, while simultaneously providing the vision of a renewed spiritual and moral realm. To understand a large part of Blake's symbolism, one has to turn to history and the instability of the background of the American and French Revolution. The study of the meaning of symbols as done in the present work affirms how, when viewed in the historical and cultural context of the age of Blake, it is possible to decipher that his symbols are purposeful in meaning and are not art conceits employed without thought of their significance to the larger political and philosophical project.

Drawing on historical and cultural analysis helps the critical overlay of the facets of Blakes' work that pertain to his political activism versus his mysticism. While Blake wants to denounce the physical, and human vices of government and religion he at the same time wants to portray a change of the spirit and of the whole man that can only come with revolution, political and spiritual. Opposed to sin and evil representations of Christianity such as the serpent some of which are built into Christianity as trees of knowledge of good and evil, Blake gives them new meaning as messages of spiritual creation or liberation from the outmoded systems. This inversion of such Christian images is central to understanding Blake's attitudes to the religious institutions of his time, as well as his effort to envision a different type of providential society and a new type of liberationist future.

In addition, the specificity of the methodology is the intertextual analysis: examining how the signs in one work of Blake are connected with those of other works, thus having a consistent and referential semantics. By employing this positive intertextuality approach the study shows how Blake's symbols are connected beyond the individual poem or painting, in fact, an overall vision of change and free from shackles as manifested in his whole prophetic works.

All in all, it can be stated that the method used in this research is rigorous and multi-faceted as a result of which the main topic of the research, that is, Blake's symbolic language, is revealed thoroughly and comprehensively. In so doing this analysis facilitates a multi-layered critical approach to comprehension of Blakean symbols as instruments of political unmasking along with spiritual revival. This approaches gives a much richer understanding of the multifaceted signification operative in Blake's poems and the potential of his imagery to unmask present sources of oppression while offering an individual utopian paradigm shift for humankind.

### **Conclusion**

What possesses much of controversy is the symbolism, which remains as one of the most significant features of William Blake's poetry and allows him to introduce

political, spiritual, and philosophical ideas of his work. In terms of politics, Blake creates vision of revolution in a way that is not only on the purely political level, but on the level of the signification of the Revolution: the eagle, the lion, the serpent, the garden and women's images are to be seen in this perspective. His works, particularly *America: Opinion* and *Europe: A Prophecy* simultaneously expose and protest against tyranny, repression and offer the prophetic vision on liberation and the inexhaustible possibility of spiritual regeneration and creative development.

The dualistic relationship of the Word made Flesh is the main thread of the images Blake uses in his works. His symbols are not just entities and icons, but dynamic objects with numerous meanings that recruit the struggle of the physical world of politics on one hand and the other world of mysticism on the other. For instance, the eagle symbolises freedom – both the political freedoms of modern democratic societies – and spiritual freedoms of the soul, the lion symbolising oppression – both of the physical, political kind and the mental/emotional/spiritual kind. Most of the symbols such as the serpent and the garden averted from orthodox Christian imagery; the serpent symbolized revolution and transformation, the garden signifying the promised paradise come after spiritual revolution.

The symbolism in Blake is complex and enforced by a strong vision of the simultaneity of the political and the divine. The freedom and justice then, are not simply a political praxis but metaphysical praxis which calls for what Alahanzi refers to as constitutional rehabilitation of the self and of the other. As such, Blake's poetry serves as a religious and metaphysical map providing call for revolution as liberation and creative activity. This call to freedom is a global liberation, a message of spiritual liberation, and of the freeing or awakening of the imagination which for Blake is the key to both individual and societal regeneration.

In this sense, Blake's symbolism encourages the reader to interpret signs in an active manner where each sign—be it liberty the feminine figure or the solar spectrum identified by the sun, the moon or stars—becomes a gateway into the realm of the human spirit. Through the interpretation of these symbols readers are not only enable to disidentify with and defiantly refuse oppressive social orders to which they are subjected; but also for them to see the world and attempt to create a free, painting, liberating existence that brings out the creative instinct in people.

Blake may be the most intriguing writer to portray universality in the context of his works because the main topics in his works are still topical to this generation of readers and scholars. The symbols Blake uses remain a strong critical instrument for asserting both the political message of the author and the themes of the book for the society of that period and for all times.

. His vision not only of revolution but of revolution as spiritual transformation carries readers beyond the immediate struggles for liberative political change to a longing for a world in which human potential can be freely creative and spiritually awakened.

In conclusion, the written symbols in Blake's works are not simply the prominent ways that he used aesthetic yet philosophical points to convey his artistic prophecy; they are the essential devices used to redefine a political system and revolutionize politics by

imagining individual and collective revolutions. If the symbols representing his conception of divine revelation are applied to the poems, it becomes evident that Blake provided a rather different picture of revolution as not only political, but largely spiritual and philosophical as well. His works are left as contribution that continues to inspire readers to rediscover imagination, freedom and spiritual awakening in order to attain a just society.

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