

THE
FIRST BOOK

of

URIEL



LAMPETH. Printed by W. M. Blake 1794.

PRELUDIUM

TO



THE

BOOK OF

WRITINGS

*Of the primal Priests assum'd power,
When Eternals spurn'd back his religion;
And gave him a place in the north,
Obscure, shadowy, void, solitary.*

*Eternals I hear your call gladly,
Dictate swift winged words, & fear not
To unfold your dark visions of torment.*







Chap: I

1. Lo, a shadow of horror is risen
In Eternity! unknown, unprolific?
Self-clos'd, all-repelling: what Demon
Hath form'd this abominable soul?
This soul-shudd'ring vacuum? Same
It is Urizen, But unknown, abstracted
Brooding secret, the dark power hid.

2. Times on times he divid'd & measur'd
Space by space in his ninefold darkness
Unseen, unknown: changes appear'd
Like desolate mountains rivid furious,
By the black winds of perturbation.

3. For he strove in battles dire
In unseen confusions with shapes
Pier'd from his forsaken wilderness:
Of beast, bird, fish, serpent & element
Combustion, blast, vapour and cloud.

4. Dark revolving in silent activity:
Unseen in tormenting passions;
An activity unknown and horrible;
A self-contemplating shadow,
In enormous labours occupied.

5. But Internals beheld his vast secret
Ape on eyes he lay, clos'd, unknown,
Brooding shut in the deep; all avoid
The petrific abominable chaos.

6. His cold, horrors silent, dark Urizen
Prepar'd; his ten thousands of thunders
Rang'd in gloam'd array stretch out across
The dread world, & the rolling of wheels:
As of smelling seas, sound in his clouds,
In his hills of ster'd snow, in his mountains
Of hail & ice; voices of terrac,
Are heard, like thunders of autumn,
When the cloud blazes o'er the harvests.

Chap: II

1. Earth was not; nor globes of attrac-
The will of the Immortal expanded
Or contracted his all flexible senses,
Death was not, but eternal life sprung

2. The sound of a trumpet the heavens
Awoke & vast clouds of blood roll'd
Round the dim rocks of Urizen, so nam'd
That solitary one in Immensity.

3. Shall the trumpet & myriads of Her-

Muster around the bleak deserts
Now fill'd with clouds dark'd with mist
That roll'd perplex'd labring & utter'd
Words articulate, bursting in thunders
That roll'd on the tops of his mountains

4. From the depths of dark solitude

From
The eternal abode in my holiness
Hidden, set apart in my stern counsels
Reserv'd for the days of fury.

I have sought for a joy without pain
For a solid without fluctuation
Why will you die O Eternals?
Why live in unquenchable burnings?

5. First I fought with the fire around

Inwards, into a deep world within
A void unmeasur'd, wild dark & deep
Where nothing was, Nature's wide womb
Had self balanc'd stretch'd o'er the void
I alone, eren I! the winds merciless
Bound; but condensing, in torrents
They fall & fill, strong, I repell'd
The vast waves, & arose on the waters
A wide world of solid obstruction

6. Here alone I in books found of me

Have written the secrets of wisdom

The secrets of dark contemplation
By lightning and conflicts dy'd,
With terrible monsters Sin-bred:
Which the bosoms of all inhabit:
Seven deadly Sins of the soul.

7. Lo! I unfold my darkness; and see

This rock, place not strong here the Book
Of eternal truth, written in my solitude

8. Laws of peace, of love, of unity:

Of pity, compassion, forgiveness,
Let each choose one habitation:
His ancient infinite mansion:
One command, one joy, one desire,
One curse, one weight, one measure
One King, one God, one Law.

Chap. III.

1. The voice ended, they saw his pale

visage
Emerge from the darkness; his hand
On the rock of eternity unclasping
The Book of truth, Page seiz'd the strong

2. Page, fury, intense indignation

In cataracts of fire blood & gall
In whirlwinds of sulphurous smoke:
And enormous forms of energy:







In living, irragionable agonies
In the flames of eternal fury.

3. Suddring, darkning, thundersing;
Rent away with a terrible crash
Eternity roll'd wide apart
Wide asunder rolling
Mountainous all around
Departing; departing; departing;
Leaving ruinous fragments of life
Humming brownning duffs & all between
An ocean of ruinels unfathomable.

4. The roaring fires ran o'er the heavens
In whirlwinds & cataracts of blood
And o'er the dark deserts of Urizen
Fires pour thro' the void on all sides

5. But no light from the fires, all was
darkness
In the flames of Eternal fury

6. In fierce anguish & quenchless
flames;

To the deserts and rocks He ran ra-
To hide, but He could not; combining
He dug mountains & hills in vast strength
He piled them in incessant labour,
In honnings & panings & fierce mudnels
Long periods in burning fires labouring
Till hoary, and age-brave, and aged,
In despair and the shadows of death.

7. And a vast vast petrific ground,
On all sides He frigid; like a womb;
Where thousands of rivers in rains
Of blood pour down the mountains to cool
The eternal fires beating without
From Eternals; & like a black globe
Vind by sons of Eternity, standing
On the shore of the infinite ocean
Like a human heart struggling & beating
The vast world of Urizen appear'd.

8. And Loas raved the dark globe of
Urizen
Kept watch for Eternals to confound,
The obscure separation alone;
For Eternity stood wide apart,

Urizen C: III.

As the stars are apart from the earth (10. But Urizen laid in a stony sleep
Unorganiz'd, rent from Eternity

9. Loos vept howling around the dark

Dragan:

And cursing his lot for in anguish.

Urizen was rent from his side;

And a fathomless void for his feet;

And intense fires for his dwelling

11. The Eternal's said: What is this? Dead

Urizen is a clod of clay.



12: Las howld in a dismal stayer, } Pitted with direful charges
Groaring! gnashing! groaning! } He lay in a dreamless night
Till the wrenching apart was healed

13: But the wrenching of Uryen
heald not
Cold, featureless, flesh or clay

14: Till Las rous'd his Jus live
abrighted
At the formless unmeasurable
death.





Chap: IV: -ment

1: Los smitten with astonish-
Frightend at the hurling bones

2: And at the surging sulphure
-ous
Perturbed Immortal mad raising

3: In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre
Round the furious limbs of Los

4: And Los formed nets & gins
And threw the nets round about

5: He watch'd in shuddring fear
The dark changes & bound every
change so
With rivets of iron & brass;

6: And these were the changes
of Urizen.





Chap: IV.

1 Ages on ages roll'd over him!
 In stony sleep ages roll'd over him:
 Like a dark waste stretching changeable
 By earthquakes ruin, belching sullen
 fires

On ages roll'd ages in phantasy
 Sick torment, around him in whirlwinds
 Of darknels the eternal Prophet hold
 Beating still on his rivets of iron
 Pouring sodor of iron; dividing
 The horrible night into watches.

2 And Uryen (so his eternal name)
 His prole's delight obscur'd was & not
 In dark steres; hiding in surging
 Sulphureous fluid his phantasies
 The Eternal Prophet heard the dark
 bellows.

And turn'd restles the tongs; and the
 hammer
 Incubus beat; forging chains new & new
 Monstrous with links, hows days & years

3 The eternal mind bounded began to roll
 Edges of wrath ceaseless round & round
 And the sulphureous town snapping thick

Setled, a lake, bright & shining clear
 White as the snow on the mountains cold

4 Forgetfulness, dumbness, necessity!
 In chains of the mind locked up,
 Like fetters of ice striking together
 Disappear'd, sent from Eternity.
 Lay beat on his fetters of iron;
 And heated his furnaces & pour'd
 Iron sodor and sodor of brass

5 Restles turn'd the immortal inchaid
 Heaving dolorous, anguish'd, unbearable
 Till a roof shaggy wild inclos'd
 In an orb, his fountain of thought.

6. In a horrible dreadful slumber;
 Like the linked infernal chain:
 A rust, Spine, writh'd in torment
 Upon the winds; shooting pain'd
 Ribs, like a bending cavern
 And bones of solidate, & yea,
 Over all his nerves of joy
 And a first Age pass'd over,
 And a state of doctmal woe.

7. From the caverns of his jointed Spine,
Down sunk with fright a red
Round globe hot burning deep
Deep down was the Abyss:
Panting, Conglobing, Trembling
Shooting out ten thousand branches
Around his solid bones,
And a second Age pass'd over,
And a state of dismal woe.

8. In harrowing fear rolling round:
His nervous brain shot branches
Round the branches of his heart,
On high into two little orbs
And fixed in two little caves

Hiding carefully from the wind,
His Eyes beheld the deep,
And a third Age pass'd over:
And a state of dismal woe.

9. The pangs of hope began,
In heavy pain striving, struggling,
Two Ears in close volutions,
From beneath his orbs of vision,
Shot spiring out, and petrified
As they grew, And a fourth Age pass'd
And a state of dismal woe.

10. In phastly torment sick;
Hanging upon the wind;





Two Vosticks bent down to the deep,
And a fifth Age pass'd over;
And a state of dismal woe.

11. In ghastly torment sick;
Within his ribs bloated round,
A craving Hungry Cavern;
Thence arose his channel'd Throat,
And like a red flame a Tongue
Of thirst & of hunger appoat'd
And a sixth Age pass'd over;
And a state of dismal woe.

12. Enraged & stilled with torment
He threw his right Arm to the north
His left Arm to the south
Shooting out in anguish deep,
And his Feet stamp'd the nether Abyss

In trembling & howling & dismay,
And a seventh Age pass'd over;
And a state of dismal woe.

Chap.V.

1. In terrors Los shrunk from his
task;
His great hammer fell from his hand,
His fires beheld, and sickening,
Hid their straggling limbs in smokes,
For with noises ruinous loud;
With hurtings & dushings & groans
The Immortal undurd his chains,
Tho' bound in a deadly sleep.

2. All the myriads of Eternity;
All the wisdom & joy of life;
Roll like a sea around him.

Except what his little orbs
Of sight, by degrees unfold.

3. And now his eternal life
Like a dream was obliterated.

4. Shuddering, the Eternal Prophet smote
With a stroke, from his north to south
The region

Tho' bellows & hammer are silent now
A pervelet's silence, his prophetic voice
Siz'd; a cold solitude & dark void,
The Eternal Prophet & Urizen clos'd

5. Ages on eyes roll'd over them,
Cut off from life & light frozen
Into horrible forms of deformity
Los suffer'd his fires to decay

Then he look'd back with anxious desir
But the space undivided by existence
Struck horror into his soul.

6. Los wept obscur'd with mourning;
His bosom earthquak'd with sighs,
He saw Urizen deadly black,
In his chains bound, & Pity began.

7. In anguish dividing & dividing
For pity divides the soul
In puns eternity an eternity
Life in contracts pour'd down his
cliffs

The void shrunk the lymph into nerves
Wandering wide on the bosom of night
And left a round globe of blood
Trembling upon the Void

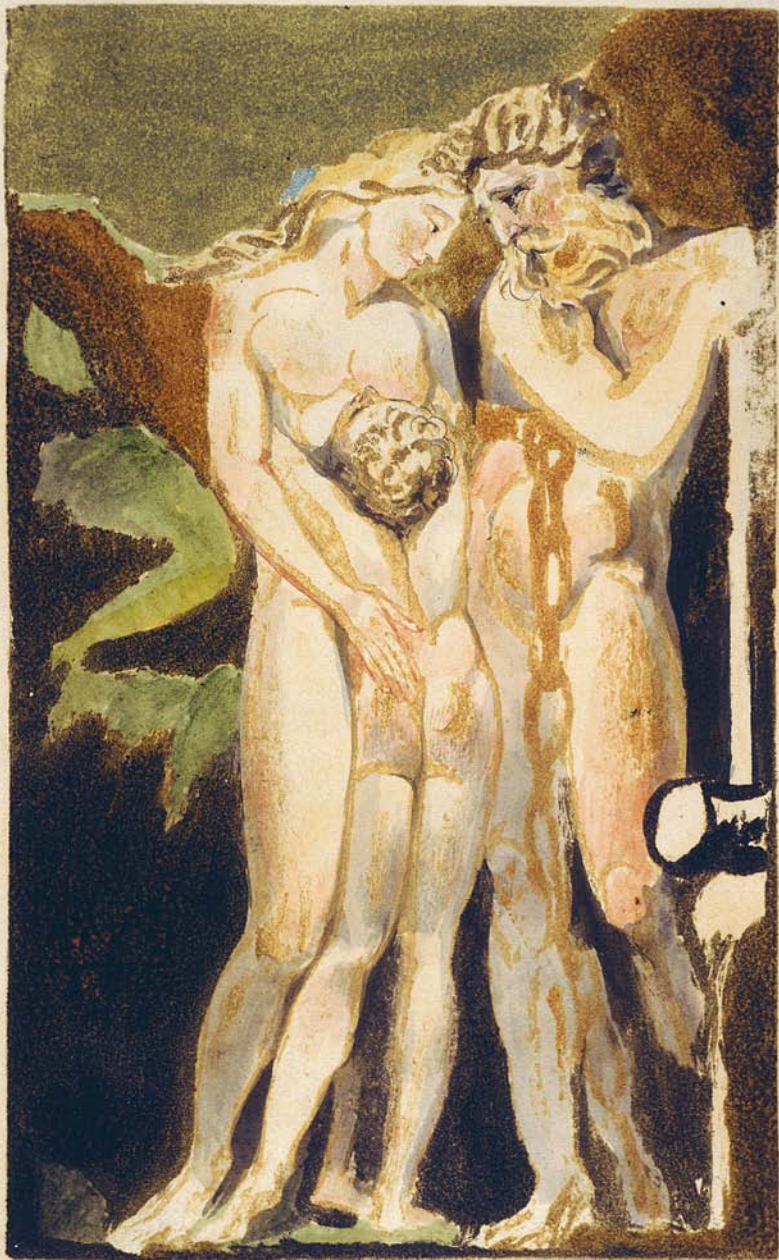


8. The globe of life blood trembled
Branching out into roots:
Fibrous, writhing upon the winds;
Fibres of blood, milk and tears:
In pangs, eternity an eternity
As length in tears & cries embodied
A female form trembling and pale
Waves before his deathly face

9. All Eternity, shuddered at sight:
Of the first female now separate
Pale as a cloud of snow
Waving before the face of Los

10. Wonder, awe, fear, astonishment,
Petrify the eternal myriads,
At the first Female form now separate







They call'd her Pity, and fled

11. Spread a Tent with strong curtains around them
Let cords & stakes bind in the Void
That Eternals may no more behold them

12. They began to weave curtains of darkness
They erected large pillars round the Void
With golden hooks suspend in the pillars
With infinite labour the Eternals
A world wove and call'd it Science

Chap. VI.

1. But Loos saw the Female & pitiful
He embrac'd her, she wept, she refus'd
In perverse and cruel delight
She fled from his arms, yet he follow'd

2. Eternity shudder'd when they saw
Man begg'ring his likeness,
On his own divided image

3. A pain pass'd o'er the Eternals
Began to wreat the tent;
When Eutharmon sick,
Felt a Worm within her womb.

4. Yet helpless it lay like a Worm
In the trembling womb
To be moulded into existence

5. All day the worm lay on her bosom,
All night within her womb
The worm lay till it grew to a serpent
With dolorous hissing & poisons
Round Eutharmon's loins folding.

6. Coild within Eutharmon's womb
The serpent grew casting its scales
With sharp pains the hissing began
To change to a grating cry
Many Sorrows and dismal throes
Many forms of fish, bird & beast
Brought forth an Infant form
Where was a worm before.

7. The Eternals their tent finished
Alarm'd with these gloomy visions
When Eutharmon groaning
Produced a man Child to the light.

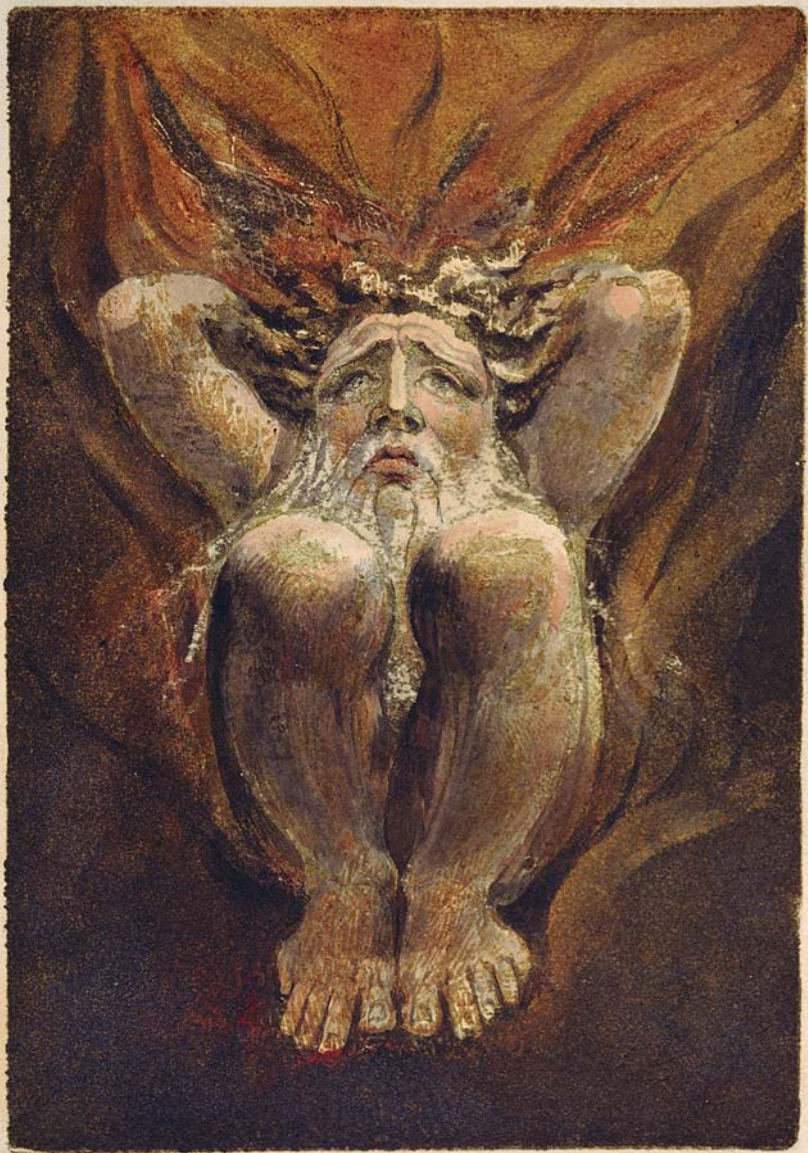
8. A shriek ran thro' Eternity:
And a paralytic stroke;
At the birth of the Human Shadow.

9. Daring earth in his resistless
Howling, the Child with force flames
Issu'd from Eutharmon.

10. The Eternals, closed the tent:
They beat down the stakes the cords

Thus the Eternal Prophet was divided
 Before the death image of Urizen
 For in changeable clouds and darkness
 In a wintry night beneath yess
 The Abyss of Los stretch'd immense
 And now seen now obscured to the eyes
 Of Eternals, the visions retire
 Of the dark separation appear'd.
 As glazes discover Worlds
 In the endless Abyss of space
 So the expanding eyes of Immortals
 Beheld the dark visions of Los
 And the globe of life blood trembl'd





Stretch'd for a work of eternity:
No more Los beheld Eternity.

11. In his hands he seiz'd the infant
He bathed him in springs of sorrow
He gave him to Enitharmon.

Chap. VII.

1. They nam'd the child Orc, he grew
Fed with milk at Enitharmon

2. Los awoke her; O sorrow & pain,
A tightening girdle grew.

Around his bosom, in sobbings
He burst the girdle in twain.

But still another girdle
Circled his bosom, in sobbings

Again he burst it, Again
Another girdle succeeds

The girdle was form'd by day:
By night was burst in twain.

3. These falling down on the rock
Into an iron Chain,
In each other link by link lock'd

4. They took Orc to the top of a
mountain.

O how Enitharmon wept!
They chaund his young limbs to the
rock

With the Chain of Jealousy
Beneath Urizens deathful Shadow

5. The dead heard the voice of the
child

And began to awake from sleep

All things heard the voice of the child

And began to awake to life

6. And Urizen craving with hunger
Stung with the odours of Nature
Explor'd his dens around

7. He form'd a line & a plummet
To divide the Abyss beneath,
He form'd a dividing rule:

8. He form'd scales to weigh,

He form'd many weights:

He form'd a brazen quadrant:

He form'd golden compasses

And began to explore the Abyss

And he plant'd a garden of fruits

9. But Los encircled Enitharmon
With fires of Prophecy
From the sight of Urizen & Orc.

10. And she bore an enormous race

Chap. VIII.

1. Urizen explor'd his dens

Mountain, moor, & wilderness,

With a globe of fire lighting his

journey

A fearful journey, annoy'd

By cruel enormities; forms





Of life on his forsaken mountains / Grodna rent the deep earth howling
 2. And his world teem'd vast enormities / Amaz'd! his heavens' immense cracks
 Frightning, Faithless, fawning / Like the ground parch'd with heat; then
 Portions of life; similitudes / Fuzon
 Of a foot, or a hand, or a head / Flam'd out! first begotten, last born.
 Or a heart, or an eye, they swam mis- / All his eternal sons in like manner
 -cherous / His daughters' from green herbs & cattle
 Dread terrors, delighting in blood / From monsters, & worms of the pit

3. Most Urizen sickend to see / 4. He in darkness clos'd, view'd all his
 His eternal creations appear / race
 Sons & daughters of sorrow on mountains / And his soul sickend, he curs'd
 Weeping! wailing! first Thurel appear'd / Both sons & daughters; for he saw
 Astonish'd at his own existence / That no flesh nor spirit could keep
 Like a man from a cloud born, & Uthar / His iron laws one moment.
 From the waters emerging, laments; / 5. For he saw that life liv'd upon
 death







The Ox in the slaughter house moans
 The Dog at the wuntry door
 And he wept, & he called it Pity
 And his tears flowed down on the winds

6. Cold he wander'd on high, over
 their cities
 In weeping & pain & woe!
 And where ever he wander'd in sorrows
 Upon the aged heavens

A cold shadow follow'd behind him,
 Like a spiders web, moist, cold, & dim
 Drawing out from his sorrowing soul
 The dungeon-like heaven dividing
 Where ever the footsteps of Urizen
 Walk'd over the cities in sorrow.

7. Till a Web dark & cold, throughout all
 The tormented element stretch'd
 From the sorrows of Urizens soul

None could break the Web, no wings
 of fire

8. So twisted the cords & so knotted
 The meshes; twisted like to the
 human brain

9. And all call'd it, the Net of Hell

Chap: IX

1. Then the Inhabitants of those Cities;
 Felt their Nerves change into Marrow
 And hardening Bones began
 In swift diseases and torments,
 In throbbings & shootings & grindings
 Thro' all the coasts: till weaken'd
 The Senses inward rush'd, shrinking
 Beneath the dark net of infection.

2. Till the shrunken eyes clouded over
 Discern'd not the woven hypocrisy
 But the streaky slime in their heavens
 Brought together by narrowing perceptions
 Appeard transparent air, for their eyes
 Grew small like the eyes of a man,
 And in reptile forms shrinking together
 Of seven feet stature they remain'd

3. Six days they shrunk up from existence
 And on the seventh day they rested
 And they blest the seventh day, in such
 hope:
 And forgot their eternal life

4. And their thirty cities divided
 In form of a human heart
 No more could they rise at will
 In the infinite void, but bound down
 To earth by their narrowing perceptions

Urizen. C:IX

They lived a period of years
Then left a noisom body
To the jaws of devouring daemons

5 And their children wept, & built
Tombs in the desolate places.
And found laws of prudence, and
call'd them
The eternal laws of God.

6 And the thirty cities remaind
Surrounded by salt floods, now call'd
Africa: its name was then Egypt.

7 The remaining sons of Urizen
Beheld their brethren shrink together
Beneath the Net of Urizen;
Persuasion was in vain:

For the ears of the inhabitants
Were witherd, & deafend, & cold.
And their eyes could not discern
Their brethren of other cities

8 So Fuzon call'd all together
The remaining children of Urizen:
And they left the pendulous earth:
They call'd it Egypt, & left it.

9 And the salt ocean rolled englob'd

The End of the
book of Urizen

