

A Blake A-Z

Albion A common poetical name (and the ancient Roman name) for England, used by Blake to personify the country

Albion's Daughters The women of England, who yearn for liberty

Beulah The realm of the subconscious, the source of inspiration

Emanation The female counterpart of the essentially bisexual male

Enitharmon Spiritual beauty, the emanation of Los

Golgonoozo A city of 'Art & Manufacture' created by Los in Britain

Jerusalem Stands for Liberty. She is the *emanation* of Albion and a spiritual inspiration for all mankind

Los Personifies poetry, the creative imagination; the physical manifestation of Urthona

Luvah The Zoia representing love and sexual energy

Oothoon Represents thwarted love.

The third daughter of Los and Enitharmon, she is also the primitive 'soft soul of America'

Orc The spirit of Revolution, the firstborn of Los and Enitharmon

Spectre Stands for rational doubt and selfishness; hostile to Vision

Tharmas The Zoia representing the bodily senses

Ulro The material world, underneath Beulah

Urizen One of the Zoias, standing for Reason. In Blake's eyes he limits energy and is a vengeful lawmaker

Urthona The Zoia representing the creative imagination of the individual

Vala The goddess of nature

Zoas The Four Zoias represent the four aspects of man: the body, reason, emotion and imagination. The reunion of these elements will lead to the redemption of Albion

William Blake Chronology

1757 Born in London on 28 November to James Blake, a hosier

1769 Begins writing poetry

1772 Apprenticed to the engraver, James Basire

1775 American War of Independence begins

1780 First exhibits at the Royal Academy, while a student there

London is shaken by the Gordon Riots

1782 Marries Catherine Butcher (or Boucher)

1787 Death of Blake's beloved younger brother Robert

1788 First uses his special method of relief-etched illuminated printing

1789 In June the French Revolution begins. Publishes his first major independent works, *Songs of Innocence* and *The Book of Thel*

1790 Moves to 13 Hercules Buildings, Lambeth

1793 The execution of Louis XVI in France leads to a conservative backlash in Britain and war against revolutionary France. Blake's *Prospectus* advertises his work for sale, including *America a Prophecy*

1794 Publishes *Europe a Prophecy* and *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

1800 The Blakes leave Lambeth to live at Felpham, Sussex

1803 Alleged to have cursed the King and charged with sedition

The Blakes settle back in London

1804 Acquitted of sedition charge. Date given on title-pages of the illuminated books *Milton* and *Jerusalem*

1808 Thomas Butts commissions illustrations to Milton's *Paradise Lost*

1809 Opening in May of Blake's exhibition of his own work

1819 First examples of the 'visionary heads', including *The Ghost of a Flea*, drawn for John Varley

1821 Blake's wood-cut illustrations to Virgil published

1824 John Linnell commissions illustrations to Dante's *Divine Comedy*

1827 Dies in London on 12 August