

# *THE [FIRST] BOOK of URIZEN*

LAMBETH. Printed by Will Blake 1794.

[plate 2]

## PRELUDIUM TO THE [*FIRST*] BOOK OF URIZEN

Of the primeval 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.

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Chap: I

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

2. Times on times he divided, & measur'd  
Space by space in his ninefold darkness  
Unseen, unknown! changes appeard  
In his desolate mountains rifted furious  
By the black winds of perturbation

3. For he strove in battles dire  
In unseen conflictions with shapes  
Bred 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 Eternals beheld his vast forests  
Age on ages 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 gloom'd array stretch out across  
The dread world, & the rolling of wheels  
As of swelling seas, sound in his clouds  
In his hills of stor'd snows, in his mountains  
Of hail & ice; voices of terror,  
Are heard, like thunders of autumn,  
When the cloud blazes over the harvests

Chap: II.

1. Earth was not: nor globes of attraction  
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. Shrill the trumpet: & myriads of Eternity,

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Muster around the bleak desarts  
Now fill'd with clouds, darkness & waters  
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 futurity,  
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; consum'd  
Inwards, into a deep world within:  
A void immense, wild dark & deep,  
Where nothing was: Natures wide womb

And self balanc'd stretch'd o'er the void  
I alone, even I! the winds merciless  
Bound; but condensing, in torrents  
They fall & fall; strong I repell'd  
The vast waves, & arose on the waters  
A wide world of solid obstruction

6. Here alone I in books form'd of metals  
Have written the secrets of wisdom  
The secrets of dark contemplation  
By fightings and conflicts dire,  
With terrible monsters Sin-bred:  
Which the bosoms of all inhabit;  
Seven deadly Sins of the soul.

7. Lo! I unfold my darkness: and on  
This rock, place with strong hand the Book  
Of eternal brass, written in my solitude.

8. Laws of peace, of love, of unity:  
Of pity, compassion, forgiveness.  
Let each chuse 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 brass. Rage siez'd the strong

2. Rage, fury, intense indignation  
In cataracts of fire blood & gall  
In whirlwinds of sulphurous smoke:  
And enormous forms of energy;  
All the seven deadly sins of the soul

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In living creations appear'd  
In the flames of eternal fury.

3. Sund'ring, dark'ning, thund'ring!  
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  
Hanging frowning cliffs & all between  
An ocean of voidness unfathomable.

4. The roaring fires ran o'er the heav'ns  
In whirlwinds & cataracts of blood  
And o'er the dark deserts of Urizen  
Fires pour thro' the void on all sides  
On Urizens self-begotten armies.

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 raging  
To hide, but He could not: combining  
He dug mountains & hills in vast strength,  
He piled them in incessant labour,  
In howlings & pangs & fierce madness  
Long periods in burning fires labouring  
Till hoary, and age-broke, and aged,  
In despair and the shadows of death.

7. And a roof, vast petrific around,  
On all sides He fram'd: like a womb;  
Where thousands of rivers in veins  
Of blood pour down the mountains to cool  
The eternal fires beating without  
From Eternals; & like a black globe  
View'd 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 Los round the dark globe of Urizen,  
Kept watch for Eternals to confine,  
The obscure separation alone;  
For Eternity stood wide apart,

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As the stars are apart from the earth

9. Los wept howling around the dark Demon:  
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.

10. But Urizen laid in a stony sleep  
Unorganiz'd, rent from Eternity

11. The Eternals said: What is this? Death  
Urizen is a clod of clay.

[plate 7]

12: Los howld in a dismal stupor,  
Groaning! gnashing! groaning!  
Till the wrenching apart was healed

13: But the wrenching of Urizen heal'd not  
Cold, featureless, flesh or clay,  
Rifted with direful changes  
He lay in a dreamless night

14: Till Los rouz'd his fires, affrighted  
At the formless unmeasurable death.

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Chap: IV:[a]

1: Los smitten with astonishment  
Frightend at the hurtling bones

2: And at the surging sulphureous  
Perturbed Immortal mad raging

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  
With rivets of iron & brass;

6. And these were the changes of Urizen.

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Chap: IV.[b]

1. Ages on ages roll'd over him!  
In stony sleep ages roll'd over him!  
Like a dark waste stretching chang'able  
By earthquakes riv'n, belching sullen fires  
On ages roll'd ages in ghastly

Sick torment; around him in whirlwinds  
Of darkness the eternal Prophet howl'd  
Beating still on his rivets of iron  
Pouring sodor of iron; dividing  
The horrible night into watches.

2. And Urizen (so his eternal name)  
His prolific delight obscurd more & more  
In dark secrecy hiding in surgeing  
Sulphureous fluid his phantasies.  
The Eternal Prophet heavd the dark bellows,  
And turn'd restless the tongs; and the hammer  
Incessant beat; forging chains new & new  
Numb'ring with links. hours, days & years

3. The eternal mind bounded began to roll  
Eddies of wrath ceaseless round & round,  
And the sulphureous foam surgeing thick  
Settled, 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 shrinking together  
Disorganiz'd, rent from Eternity,  
Los beat on his fetters of iron;  
And heated his furnaces & pour'd  
Iron sodor and sodor of brass

5. Restless turnd the immortal inchain'd  
Heaving dolorous! anguish'd! unbearable  
Till a roof shaggy wild inclos'd  
In an orb, his fountain of thought.

6. In a horrible dreamful slumber;  
Like the linked infernal chain;  
A vast Spine writh'd in torment  
Upon the winds; shooting pain'd  
Ribs, like a bending cavern  
And bones of solidness, froze  
Over all his nerves of joy.  
And a first Age passed over,  
And a state of dismal woe.

[plate 11]

7. From the caverns of his jointed Spine,  
Down sunk with fright a red  
Round globe hot burning deep  
Deep down into the Abyss:

Panting: Conglobing, Trembling  
Shooting out ten thousand branches  
Around his solid bones.  
And a second Age passed 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 passed 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 passed  
And a state of dismal woe.

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

[plate 13]

Two Nostrils bent down to the deep.  
And a fifth Age passed over;  
And a state of dismal woe.

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

12. Enraged & stifled with torment  
He threw his right Arm to the north  
His left Arm to the south  
Shooting out in anguish deep,  
And his Feet stampd the nether Abyss  
In trembling & howling & dismay.  
And a seventh Age passed over:  
And a state of dismal woe.

Chap: V.

I. In terrors Los shrunk from his task:  
His great hammer fell from his hand:  
His fires beheld, and sickening,  
Hid their strong limbs in smoke.  
For with noises ruinous loud;  
With hurlings & clashing & groans  
The Immortal endur'd 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. Shudd'ring, the Eternal Prophet smote  
With a stroke, from his north to south region  
The bellows & hammer are silent now  
A nerveless silence, his prophetic voice  
Siez'd; a cold solitude & dark void  
The Eternal Prophet & Urizen clos'd

5. Ages on ages rolld 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 desire  
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 pangs eternity on eternity  
Life in cataracts pour'd down his cliffs  
The void shrunk the lymph into Nerves  
Wand'ring wide on the bosom of night  
And left a round globe of blood  
Trembling upon the Void

[plate 15]

Thus the Eternal Prophet was divided  
Before the death-image of Urizen  
For in changeable clouds and darkness  
In a winterly night beneath,  
The Abyss of Los stretch'd immense:  
And now seen, now obscur'd, to the eyes  
Of Eternals, the visions remote  
Of the dark separation appear'd.  
As glasses 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 trembling.

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8. The globe of life blood trembled  
Branching out into roots;  
Fib'rous, writhing upon the winds;  
Fibres of blood, milk and tears;  
In pangs, eternity on eternity.  
At length in tears & cries imbody'd  
A female form trembling and pale  
Waves before his deathly face

9. All Eternity shudder'd 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

[plate 19]

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 fastend in the pillars  
With infinite labour the Eternals  
A woof wove, and called it Science

Chap: VI.

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

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

3. A time passed over, the Eternals  
Began to erect the tent;  
When Enitharmon 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 hissings & poisons  
Round Enitharmons loins folding,

6. Coild within Enitharmons womb  
The serpent grew casting its scales,  
With sharp pangs the hissings 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 Enitharmon groaning  
Produc'd a man Child to the light.

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

9. Delving earth in his resistless way;  
Howling, the Child with fierce flames  
Issu'd from Enitharmon.

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

[plate 20]

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

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

Chap. VII.

1. They named the child Orc, he grew  
Fed with milk of Enitharmon

2. Los awoke her; O sorrow & pain!  
A tight'ning girdle grew,  
Around his bosom. In sobbings  
He burst the girdle in twain,  
But still another girdle  
Opressd 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 chain'd 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 formed scales to weigh;  
He formed massy weights;  
He formed a brazen quadrant;

He formed golden compasses  
And began to explore the Abyss  
And he planted 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

[plate 23]

Of life on his forsaken mountains

2. And his world teem'd vast enormities  
Frightning; faithless; fawning  
Portions of life; similitudes  
Of a foot, or a hand, or a head  
Or a heart, or an eye, they swam mischevous  
Dread terrors! delighting in blood

3. Most Urizen sicken'd to see  
His eternal creations appear  
Sons & daughters of sorrow on mountains  
Weeping! wailing! first Thiriël appear'd  
Astonish'd at his own existence  
Like a man from a cloud born, & Utha

From the waters emerging, laments!  
Grodna rent the deep earth howling  
Amaz'd! his heavens immense cracks  
Like the ground parch'd with heat; then Fuzon  
Flam'd out! first begotten, last born.  
All his eternal sons in like manner  
His daughters from green herbs & cattle  
From monsters, & worms of the pit.

4. He in darkness clos'd, view'd all his race,  
And his soul sicken'd! he curs'd  
Both sons & daughters; for he saw  
That no flesh nor spirit could keep  
His iron laws one moment.

5. For he saw that life liv'd upon death

[plate 25]

The Ox in the slaughter house moans  
The Dog at the wintry 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 wanderd 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  
And the Web is a Female in embryo  
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 Religion

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  
Appear'd 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 bless'd the seventh day, in sick 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

[plate 28]

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

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

6. And the thirty cities remain'd  
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;  
Perswasion was in vain;  
For the ears of the inhabitants,  
Were wither'd, & deafen'd, & 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 called it Egypt, & left it.

9. And the salt ocean rolled englob'd

The End of the [*first*] book of Urizen

# *THE BOOK of AHANIA*

LAMBETH Printed by W Blake 1795

[plate 2]

AHANIA

Chap: Ist

1: Fuzon, on a chariot iron-wing'd  
On spiked flames rose; his hot visage  
Flam'd furious! sparkles his hair & beard  
Shot down his wide bosom and shoulders.  
On clouds of smoke rages his chariot  
And his right hand burns red in its cloud  
Moulding into a vast globe, his wrath  
As the thunder-stone is moulded.  
Son of Urizens silent burnings

2: Shall we worship this Demon of smoke,  
Said Fuzon, this abstract non-entity  
This cloudy God seated on waters  
Now seen, now obscur'd; King of sorrow?

3: So he spoke, in a fiery flame,  
On Urizen frowning indignant,  
The Globe of wrath shaking on high  
Roaring with fury, he threw  
The howling Globe: burning it flew  
Lengthning into a hungry beam. Swiftly

4: Oppos'd to the exulting flam'd beam  
The broad Disk of Urizen upheav'd  
Across the Void many a mile.

5: It was forg'd in mills where the winter  
Beats incessant; ten winters the disk  
Unremitting endur'd the cold hammer.

6: But the strong arm that sent it, remember'd  
The sounding beam; laughing it tore through  
That beaten mass: keeping its direction  
The cold loins of Urizen dividing.

7: Dire shriek'd his invisible Lust  
Deep groan'd Urizen! stretching his awful hand  
Ahania (so name his parted soul)  
He siez'd on his mountains of jealousy.  
He groand anguishd & called her Sin,

Kissing her and weeping over her;  
Then hid her in darkness in silence;  
Jealous tho' she was invisible.

8: She fell down a faint shadow wandring  
In chaos and circling dark Urizen,  
As the moon anguishd circles the earth;  
Hopeless! abhorrd! a death-shadow,  
Unseen, unbodied, unknown,  
The mother of Pestilence.

9: But the fiery beam of Fuzon  
Was a pillar of fire to Egypt  
Five hundred years wandring on earth  
Till Los siezd it and beat in a mass  
With the body of the sun.

[plate 3]

Chap: II:d

1: But the forehead of Urizen gathering,  
And his eyes pale with anguish, his lips  
Blue & changing; in tears and bitter  
Contrition he prepar'd his Bow,

2: Form'd of Ribs: that in his dark solitude  
When obscur'd in his forests fell monsters,  
Arose. For his dire Contemplations  
Rush'd down like floods from his mountains  
In torrents of mud settling thick  
With Eggs of unnatural production  
Forthwith hatching; some howl'd on his hills  
Some in vales; some aloft flew in air

3: Of these: an enormous dread Serpent  
Scaled and poisonous horned  
Approach'd Urizen even to his knees  
As he sat on his dark rooted Oak.

4: With his horns he push'd furious.  
Great the conflict & great the jealousy  
In cold poisons: but Urizen smote him

5: First he poison'd the rocks with his blood  
Then polish'd his ribs, and his sinews  
Dried; laid them apart till winter;  
Then a Bow black prepar'd; on this Bow,

A poisoned rock plac'd in silence:  
He utter'd these words to the Bow.

6: O Bow of the clouds of secrecy!  
O nerve of that lust form'd monster!  
Send this rock swift, invisible thro'  
The black clouds, on the bosom of Fuzon

7: So saying, In torment of his wounds,  
He bent the enormous ribs slowly;  
A circle of darkness! then fixed  
The sinew in its rest: then the Rock  
Poisonous source! plac'd with art, lifting difficult  
Its weighty bulk: silent the rock lay.

8: While Fuzon his tygers unloosing  
Thought Urizen slain by his wrath.  
I am God. said he, eldest of things!

9: Sudden sings the rock, swift & invisible  
On Fuzon flew, enter'd his bosom;  
His beautiful visage, his tresses,  
That gave light to the mornings of heaven  
Were smitten with darkness, deform'd  
And outstretch'd on the edge of the forest

10: But the rock fell upon the Earth,  
Mount Sinai, in Arabia.

### Chap: III:

1: The Globe shook; and Urizen seated  
On black clouds his sore wound anointed  
The ointment flow'd down on the void  
Mix'd with blood; here the snake gets her poison

2: With difficulty & great pain; Urizen  
Lifted on high the dead corse:  
On his shoulders he bore it to where  
A Tree hung over the Immensity

3: For when Urizen shrunk away  
From Eternals, he sat on a rock  
Barren; a rock which himself  
From redounding fancies had petrified  
Many tears fell on the rock,  
Many sparks of vegetation;  
Soon shot the pained root  
Of Mystery, under his heel:

It grew a thick tree; he wrote  
In silence his book of iron:

Till the horrid plant bending its boughs  
Grew to roots when it felt the earth  
And again sprung to many a tree.

4: Amaz'd started Urizen! when  
He beheld himself compassed round  
And high roofed over with trees  
He arose but the stems stood so thick  
He with difficulty and great pain  
Brought his Books, all but the Book

[plate 4]

Of iron, from the dismal shade

5: The Tree still grows over the Void  
Enrooting itself all around  
An endless labyrinth of woe!

6: The corpse of his first begotten  
On the accursed Tree of MYSTERY:  
On the topmost stem of this Tree  
Urizen nail'd Fuzons corpse.

Chap: IV:

1: Forth flew the arrows of pestilence  
Round the pale living Corse on the tree

2: For in Urizens slumbers of abstraction  
In the infinite ages of Eternity:  
When his Nerves of joy melted & flow'd  
A white Lake on the dark blue air  
In perturb'd pain and dismal torment  
Now stretching out, now swift conglobing.

3: Effluvia vapor'd above  
In noxious clouds; these hover'd thick  
Over the disorganiz'd Immortal,  
Till petrific pain scurfd o'er the Lakes  
As the bones of man, solid & dark

4: The clouds of disease hover'd wide  
Around the Immortal in torment  
Perching around the hurtling bones  
Disease on disease, shape on shape,  
Winged screaming in blood & torment.

5: The Eternal Prophet beat on his anvils  
Enrag'd in the desolate darkness

He forg'd nets of iron around  
And Los threw them around the bones

6: The shapes screaming flutter'd vain  
Some combin'd into muscles & glands  
Some organs for caving and lust  
Most remain'd on the tormented void:  
Urizens army of horrors.

7: Round the pale living Corse on the Tree  
Forty years flew the arrows of pestilence

8: Wailing and terror and woe  
Ran thro' all his dismal world:  
Forty years all his sons & daughters  
Felt their skulls harden; then Asia  
Arose in the pendulous deep.

9: They reptilize upon the Earth.

10: Fuzon groand on the Tree.

#### Chap: V

1: The lamenting voice of Ahania  
Weeping upon the void.  
And round the Tree of Fuzon:  
Distant in solitary night  
Her voice was heard, but no form  
Had she: but her tears from clouds  
Eternal fell round the Tree

2: And the voice cried: Ah Urizen! Love!  
Flower of morning! I weep on the verge  
Of Non-entity; how wide the Abyss  
Between Ahania and thee!

3: I lie on the verge of the deep.  
I see thy dark clouds ascend,  
I see thy black forests and floods,  
A horrible waste to my eyes!

4: Weeping I walk over rocks  
Over dens & thro' valleys of death  
Why didst thou despise Ahania

To cast me from thy bright presence  
Into the World of Loneness

5: I cannot touch his hand:  
Nor weep on his knees, nor hear

His voice & bow, nor see his eyes  
And joy, nor hear his footsteps, and  
My heart leap at the lovely sound!  
I cannot kiss the place  
Whereon his bright feet have trod,

[plate 5]

But I wander on the rocks  
With hard necessity.

6: Where is my golden palace  
Where my ivory bed  
Where the joy of my morning hour  
Where the sons of eternity, singing

7: To awake bright Urizen my king!  
To arise to the mountain sport,  
To the bliss of eternal valleys:

8: To awake my king in the morn!  
To embrace Ahanias joy  
On the breadth of his pen bosom:  
From my soft cloud of dew to fall  
In showers of life on his harvests.

9: When he gave my happy soul  
To the sons of eternal joy:  
When he took the daughters of life.  
Into my chambers of love:

10: When I found babes of bliss on my beds.  
And bosoms of milk in my chambers  
Fill'd with eternal seed  
O! eternal births sung round Ahania  
In interchange sweet of their joys.

11: Swell'd with ripeness & fat with fatness  
Bursting on winds my odors,  
My ripe figs and rich pomegranates  
In infant joy at thy feet  
O Urizen, sported and sang;

12: Then thou with thy lap full of seed

With thy hand full of generous fire  
Walked forth from the clouds of morning  
On the virgins of springing joy,  
On the human soul to cast  
The seed of eternal science.

13: The sweat poured down thy temples  
To Ahania return'd in evening

The moisture awoke to birth  
My mothers-joys, sleeping in bliss.

14: But now alone over rocks, mountains  
Cast out from thy lovely bosom:  
Cruel jealousy! selfish fear!  
Self-destroying: how can delight,  
Renew in these chains of darkness  
Where bones of beasts are strown  
On the bleak and snowy mountains  
Where bones from the birth are buried  
Before they see the light.

FINIS

# *THE BOOK of LOS*

LAMBETH Printed by W Blake 1795

[plate 3]

LOS

Chap. I

1: Eno aged Mother,  
Who the chariot of Leutha guides,  
Since the day of thunders in old time

2: Sitting beneath the eternal Oak  
Trembled and shook the stedfast Earth  
And thus her speech broke forth.

3: O Times remot When Love & joy were adoration:  
And none impure were deem'd.  
Not Eyeless Covet  
Nor Thin-lip'd Envy  
Nor Bristled Wrath  
Nor Curled Wantonness

4: But Covet was poured full:  
Envy fed with fat of lambs:  
Wrath with lions gore:  
Wantonness lulld to sleep  
With the virgins lute,  
Or sated with her love.

5: Till Covet broke his locks & bars,  
And slept with open doors:  
Envy sung at the rich mans feast:  
Wrath was follow'd up and down  
By a little ewe lamb  
And Wantonness on his own true love  
Begot a giant race:

6: Raging furious the flames of desire  
Ran thro' heaven & earth, living flames  
Intelligent, organiz'd: arm'd  
With destruction & plagues. In the midst  
The Eternal Prophet bound in a chain  
Compell'd to watch Urizens shadow

7: Rag'd with curses & sparkles of fury  
Round the flames roll as Los hurls his chains  
Mounting up from his fury, condens'd

Rolling round & round, mounting on high  
Into vacuum: into non-entity.  
Where nothing was! dash'd wide apart  
His feet stamp the eternal fierce-raging  
Rivers of wide flame; they roll round  
And round on all sides making their way  
Into darkness and shadowy obscurity

8: Wide apart stood the fires: Los remain'd  
In the void between fire and fire[.]  
In trembling and horror they beheld him  
They stood wide apart, driv'n by his hands  
And his feet which the nether abyss  
Stamp'd in fury and hot indignation

9: But no light from the fires all was

[plate 4]

Darkness round Los: heat was not; for bound up  
Into fiery spheres from his fur  
The gigantic flames trembled and hid

10: Coldness, darkness, obstruction, a Solid  
Without fluctuation, hard as adamant  
Black as marble of Egypt; impenetrable  
Bound in the fierce raging Immortal,  
And the seperated fires froze in  
A vast solid without fluctuation,  
Bound in his expanding clear senses

Chap: II

1: The Immortal stood frozen amidst  
The vast rock of eternity; times  
And times; a night of vast durance:  
Impatient, stifled, stiffend, hardned.

2: Till impatience no longer could bear  
The hard bondage, rent: rent, the vast solid  
With a crash from immense to immense

3: Crack'd across into numberless fragments  
The Prophetic wrath, strug'ling for vent  
Hurls apart, stamping furious to dust  
And crumbling with bursting sobs; heaves  
The black marble on high into fragments

4: Hurl'd apart on all sides, as a falling  
Rock: the innumerable fragments away

Fell asunder; and horrible vacuum  
Beneath him & on all sides round.

5: Falling, falling! Los fell & fell  
Sunk precipitant heavy down down  
Times on times, night on night, day on day  
Truth has bounds. Error none: falling, falling:  
Years on years, and ages on ages  
Still he fell thro' the void, still a void  
Found for falling day & night without end.  
For tho' day or night was not; their spaces  
Were measurd by his incessant whirls  
In the horrid vacuity bottomless.

6: The Immortal revolving; indignant  
First in wrath threw his limbs, like the babe  
New born into our world: wrath subsided  
And contemplative thoughts first arose  
Then aloft his head rear'd in the Abyss  
And his downward-borne fall. chang'd oblique

7: Many ages of groans: till there grew  
Branchy forms. organizing the Human  
Into finite inflexible organs.

8: Till in process from falling he bore  
Sidelong on the purple air, wafting  
The weak breeze in efforts oerwearied

9: Incessant the falling Mind labour'd  
Organizing itself: till the Vacuum  
Became element, pliant to rise,

Or to fall, or to swim, or to fly:  
With ease searching the dire vacuity

### Chap: III

1: The Lungs heave incessant, dull and heavy  
For as yet were all other parts formless  
Shiv'ring: clinging around like a cloud  
Dim & glutinous as the white Polypus  
Driv'n by waves & englob'd on the tide.

2: And the unformed part crav'd repose  
Sleep began: the Lungs heave on the wave  
Weary overweigh'd, sinking beneath  
In a stifling black fluid he woke

3: He arose on the waters, but soon

Heavy falling his organs like roots  
Shooting out from the seed, shot beneath,  
And a vast world of waters around him  
In furious torrents began.

4: Then he sunk, & around his spent Lungs  
Began intricate pipes that drew in  
The spawn of the waters. Outbranching

[plate 5]

An immense Fibrous form, stretching out  
Thro' the bottoms of immensity raging.

5: He rose on the floods: then he smote  
The wild deep with his terrible wrath,  
Seperating the heavy and thin.

6: Down the heavy sunk; cleaving around  
To the fragments of solid: up rose  
The thin, flowing round the fierce firThat glow'd furious in the expanse.

Chap: IV:

I: Then Light first began; from the fires  
Beams, conducted by fluid so pure .  
Flow'd around the Immense: Los beheld  
Forthwith writhing upon the dark void  
The Back bone of Urizen appear  
Hurling upon the wind  
Like a serpent! like an iron chain  
Whirling about in the Deep.

2: Upfolding his Fibres together  
To a Form of impregnable strength  
Los astonish'd and terrified, built  
Furnaces; he formed an Anvil  
A Hammer of adamant then began  
The binding of Urizen day and night

3: Circling round the dark Demon, with howlings  
Dismay & sharp blightings; the Prophet  
Of Eternity beat on his iron links

4: And first from those infinite fires  
The light that flow'd down on the winds  
He siez'd; beating incessant, condensing  
The subtil particles in an Orb.

5: Roaring indignant the bright sparks

Endur'd the vast Hammer; but unwearied  
Los beat on the Anvil; till glorious  
An immense Orb of fire he fram'd

6: Oft he quench'd it beneath in the Deeps  
Then surveyd the all bright mass. Again  
Siezing fires from the terrific Orbs  
He heated the round Globe, then beat[,]  
While roaring his Furnaces endur'd  
The chaind Orb in their infinite wombs

7: Nine ages completed their circles  
When Los heated the glowing mass, casting  
It down into the Deeps: the Deeps fled  
Away in redounding smoke; the Sun  
Stood self-balanc'd. And Los smild with joy.  
He the vast Spine of Urizen siez'd  
And bound down to the glowing illusion

8: But no light, for the Deep fled away  
On all sides, and left an unform'd  
Dark vacuity: here Urizen lay  
In fierce torments on his glowing bed

9: Till his Brain in a rock, & his Heart  
In a fleshy slough formed four rivers  
Obscuring the immense Orb of fire  
Flowing down into night: till a Form  
Was completed, a Human Illusion  
In darkness and deep clouds involvd.

The End of the  
Book of LOS