

B is for Beauty in simplicity

One of William Blake's lesser known poems perhaps is the following:

Eternity

William Blake, 1757 – 1827

He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy
He who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity's sunrise

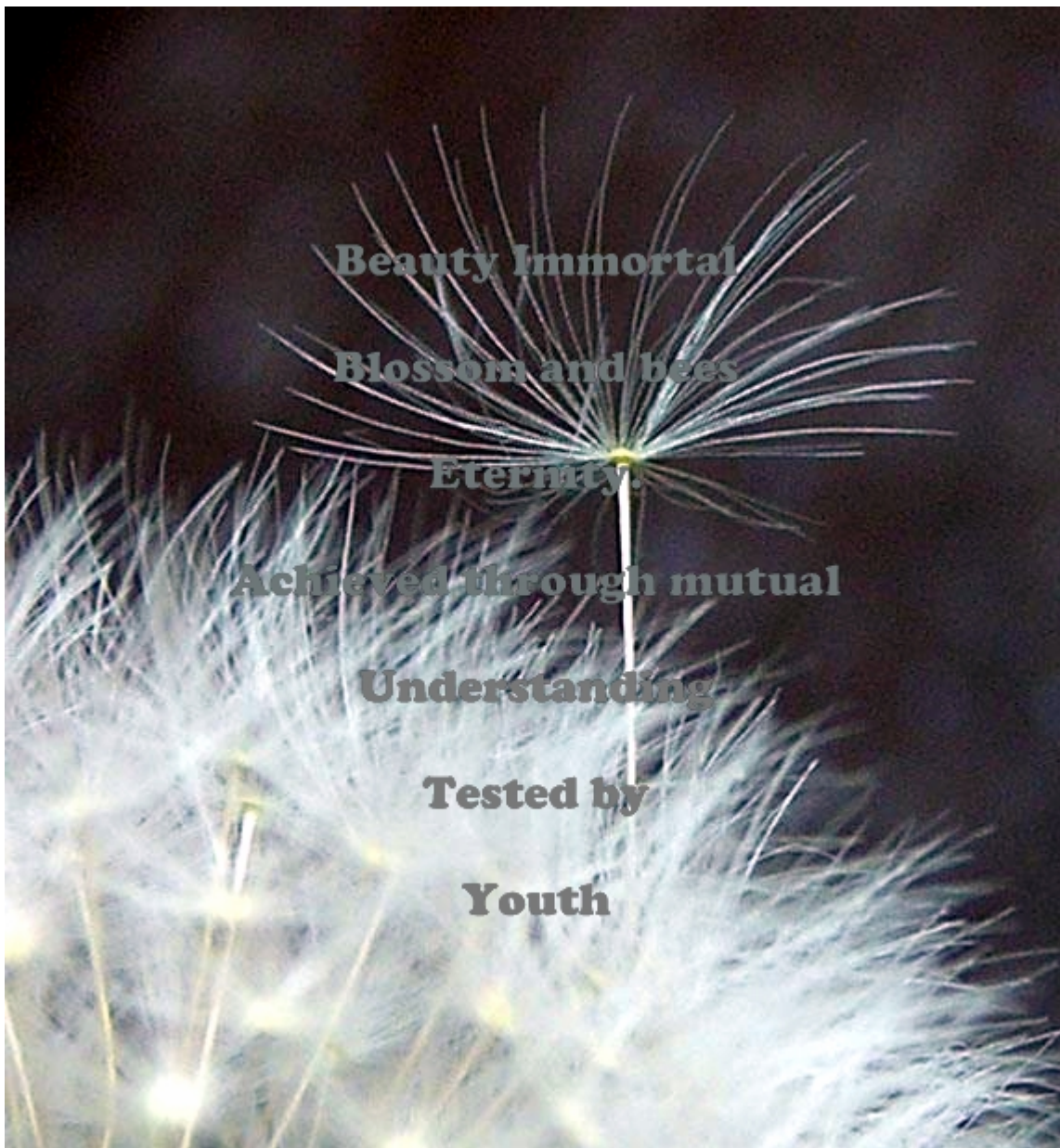
A few short lines. How does the imagery convey the truths Blake wants to suggest?

Joy creeps up on us and surprises us within one moment: the sight of a hidden flower amongst ruins, the sound of a bird singing or a rippling brook, the smile of a friend or lover across a crowded room, laughter after tears, sunshine after storm, reunion after being apart, forgiveness after wrong, faith after doubt.

Blake reminds us that we are human. Humans feel, re-act; we are selfish and giving, kindhearted and greedy, angry and meek and yet strong and faithful. It is the divine in us that promises the joy in the unexpected. Seek those moments, treasure them and enjoy them and share our delight with others.

I will always sing Jerusalem with enthusiasm. I will read Tyger, Tyger with energy delighting in the description and recognising the creator who made gentle lamb and bold tiger to display meekness and strength of character.

However I will return to Eternity when my heart is weak to savour the unexpected.



For further discussions I enjoyed this post:

<http://adrianbarlowsblog.blogspot.com/2012/04/short-measures-i-william-blake-and.html>

Thanks you for reading and don't forget to offer your suggestions on poems, or better still write your own.

Topic for this post

Beauty and the Beast.

