What it will be Questioned when the Sun rises do
you not see a round Disk of fire somewhat like a
Guinea O no no I see an Innumerable company of
the Heavenly host crying Holy, Holy, Holy is the
Lord God Almighty.

He who binds to himself a joy
Doth the winged life destroy
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in Eternity's sunrise.

To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.

Albion rising

For Blake, Albion stood both for England and for all mankind. Albion's division into the four warring Zoas was responsible for the Fall, and through his regeneration man became whole again.² Jerusalem is Albion's emanation (or female portion), but also stands for a society where mind and body, imagination and reason, conscience and desire, rich and poor, and humanity and nature are finally reconciled.³

The cover picture shows the apocalyptic moment when Albion rises from his rock and sees the vision of the land as Jerusalem, having subdued and reunited the Four Zoas.¹

Albion calls:

Awake, Awake, Jerusalem! O lovely Emanation of
Albion,
Awake and overspread all Nations as in Ancient Time;
For lo! The Night of Death is past and the Eternal Day
Appears upon our Hills. Awake, Jerusalem, and come
away!⁴

Jerusalem offers humanity the freedom to realise its godlike potential.³ For Blake, the sunrise is the most perfect realisation of this idea of liberty, and it recurs often in his writings and drawings.¹

The risen Albion brings peace to the universe, and probably also to Blake. The book that tells Albion's story, *Jerusalem*, is the last in Blake's long series of prophetic works.

Useful websites

<http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/blake.htm>
<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/blake>
<http://members.aa.net/~urizen/blake.html>

I am grateful to Professor Christopher Frayling, rector of the Royal College of Art, who suggested this image of happiness. The alternative was Hals's "Laughing Cavalier."

- 1 Hamlyn R, Phillips M, eds. *William Blake* [exhibition catalogue]. London: Tate Gallery Publishing, 2000.
- 2 Tate Gallery. *William Blake 9 March–21 May 1978* [exhibition handlist]. London: Tate Gallery Publications Department, 1978.
- 3 Marshall P. *William Blake: visionary anarchist*. London, Freedom Press, 1994.
- 4 Frye N, ed. *Selected poetry and prose of William Blake*. New York: Random House, 1953.

When I use a word

A medical alphabet

In the 1720s Jonathan Swift was challenged to the game of combining all the letters of the Greek alphabet with the word "guinea." He rose to the challenge, using excruciating puns, slang, and hidden words; for example:

α: half a guinea;
κ: I cap a guinea;
σ: I seek my guinea.

Thus was born the first comic phonetic alphabet. However, the idea didn't really catch on until the variety duo Clapham and Dwyer produced an English comic alphabet, which they popularised in the 1930s and later recorded as "The Surrealist Alphabet." It is still quite well known: A for 'orses, B for mutton, C for thighlanders, and so on. In *Comic Alphabets* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1961) Eric Partridge described in detail such alphabets and their development, writing that their "origin lies in the pleasure mankind takes in playing about with words. The manner ... ranges from the naïvely and almost moronically humorous, through the ingenious, to the genuinely witty. ... At its worst, the comic phonetic alphabet descends to the nadir of wit, the merely ingenious, the horribly tortured pun. Yet here, as elsewhere, the pun may be truly witty." In that spirit, I have composed a comic phonetic medical alphabet.

- A for a disiac
- B for blockers; B for variant CJD?
- C for lytic
- D for Kate; D for ENT ducts
- E for anaesthesia; E for ENT arterioles

- F for fescant tablets; F for moterol
- G for surgery (a US title)
- H for scratching
- I for thyroidism; I for mectin
- J Forensic Sci
- K for scoliosis; K for the community
- L for interferon
- M for zema; M for tericin B
- N for a red; N for a mammary
- O for ectomy; O for treatment
- P for urinalysis
- Q for cancer; Q for outpatients
- R for tablet bd
- S for gillus fumigatus
- T for dentures
- U for cough
- V for voce examination
- W for your merit award (a dangerous gamble)
- X for in vitro fertilisation
- Y for job? (the doctor's dilemma)
- Z for de doctor (I've got a code iddy doze)

Any other suggestions?

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