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From Sketch to Text in Blake: The Case of The
Book of Thel

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From Sketch to Text in Blake: The Case of *The Book of Thel*

BY G.E. BENTLEY, JR.

There is a long and honorable prophetic tradition of spiritual dictation, from the Bible through Boehme, Milton, and Swedenborg, in which William Blake clearly participates. According to this tradition, the Lord or Muse "govern[s] . . . my song," as Milton wrote in *Paradise Lost* Book VII, and Blake wrote, probably of *Jerusalem*:

I have written this Poem from immediate Dictation twelve or sometimes twenty or thirty lines at a time without Premeditation & even against my Will.

(Letter of 25 April 1803)

Blake was also proud of his graphic consistency:

Reengraved Time after Time[.]
Ever in their Youthful prime
My Designs unchanged remain. . . .

He insisted upon the importance, the inviolability of the firm, bounding outline, and his disciple Samuel Palmer wrote on one of Blake's sketches that they were the "first inventive lines—from which he was always most careful not to depart."¹ However, impressive though this testimony is from Blake's disciple and from Blake himself, the evidence of the drawings belies it. He did often alter his "first inventive lines" when he came to etch his designs. I wish to cite some of these developments in his designs for his works in *Illuminated Printing*, especially for *The Book of Thel*.

Sometimes the relationship of Blake's preliminary sketch to the etched and printed version is simple and straightforward, as in the sketch for *Jerusalem* pl. 26 (illus. 1). The chief graphic differences between this and the printed version are the shading behind the woman to the right and the look of anguish on the face of the man, which is revised in the etching to a baleful look. The most significant alteration in the printed form is the lettering added to identify the woman as Jerusalem and the man as Hand, and the vertical quotation:

Such visions have appeared to me
As I my ordered race have run[.];
Jerusalem is named liberty
Among the sons of Albion[.]

The verse is plainly an afterthought, perhaps inspired

by the design itself. Notice that the sketch and the etching face the same way round; unless there was an intermediary reversed sketch, Blake must have copied the design backwards on the copper so that it would print the right way round. The normal engravers' practice was to make a true size squared version on paper which could be transferred directly to the copper, perhaps by some form of tracing. Blake certainly followed this method with his commercial engravings after the designs of other men, but he seems to have transferred his own designs much more freely to copper, and parts of the *Job* engravings, at least, were first composed directly on the copper rather than on paper.

The second example, from *Jerusalem* pl. 51, is a good deal more complex. In the final version as printed, there are three figures who form a kind of Satanic trinity; on one pull they are labeled Vala, Hyle, and Skofield (Vala with the crown and Skofield with the chains). So far as these figures are concerned, the chief differences from the sketch are the flames billowing across the page and the reversal of the whole design. The dramatic difference in the sketch (illus. 2) is in the extraordinarily bestial crawling man with shaggy pelt and electrified hair who appears beside the figure in chains—at our left here, though he would have been at the right in *Jerusalem*. What are we to make of a Satanic quaternity? Notice also that the design is now the wrong shape for the *Jerusalem* page—too broad for its height. Clearly one of these almost equally-spaced figures would have to be eliminated, and you can see from the vertical lines to left and right of the figure in chains that the leaf has been folded to try out various possibilities, obscuring first one figure at the left and then two. Perhaps at one point Blake thought of Skofield as a Nebuchadnezzar figure reduced to eating grass like the beasts of the field. Or perhaps the shaggy beast is another giant figure entirely.² Whatever his significance, he adds a fascinating dimension to the problem of interpreting Blake's original intention for *Jerusalem* pl. 51.

A much more perplexing design is the one which appears in various forms in *Tiriel*, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, and *Europe*, and which begins as a design by

someone else entirely. The design originates in a sketch known as "The Approach of Doom" (illus. 3) by Blake's favorite brother, Robert, who died in his arms in February 1787. It is an undistinguished design, chiefly remarkable for the horror expressed by the figures at left as they gaze at the empty darkness on the right hand side of the page. William Blake's very rough reversed etching after it (illus. 4) is chiefly remarkable for the variety of techniques used to represent shading. The etching is technically fascinating but visually dull.

The visual idea is much more interesting when it is adapted in Blake's eighth design for his manuscript poem *Tiriels* (illus. 5). The huddled group of six or more figures looking left in horror has been reduced to four, the most prominent of whom are a crowned king in a mantle and a black-bearded man at his shoulder. But now we see the cause of their horror; their father Tiriels, surrounded by a garland of five weeping, gesticulating

daughters, is cursing his rebellious sons. According to the text,

At the fathers curse

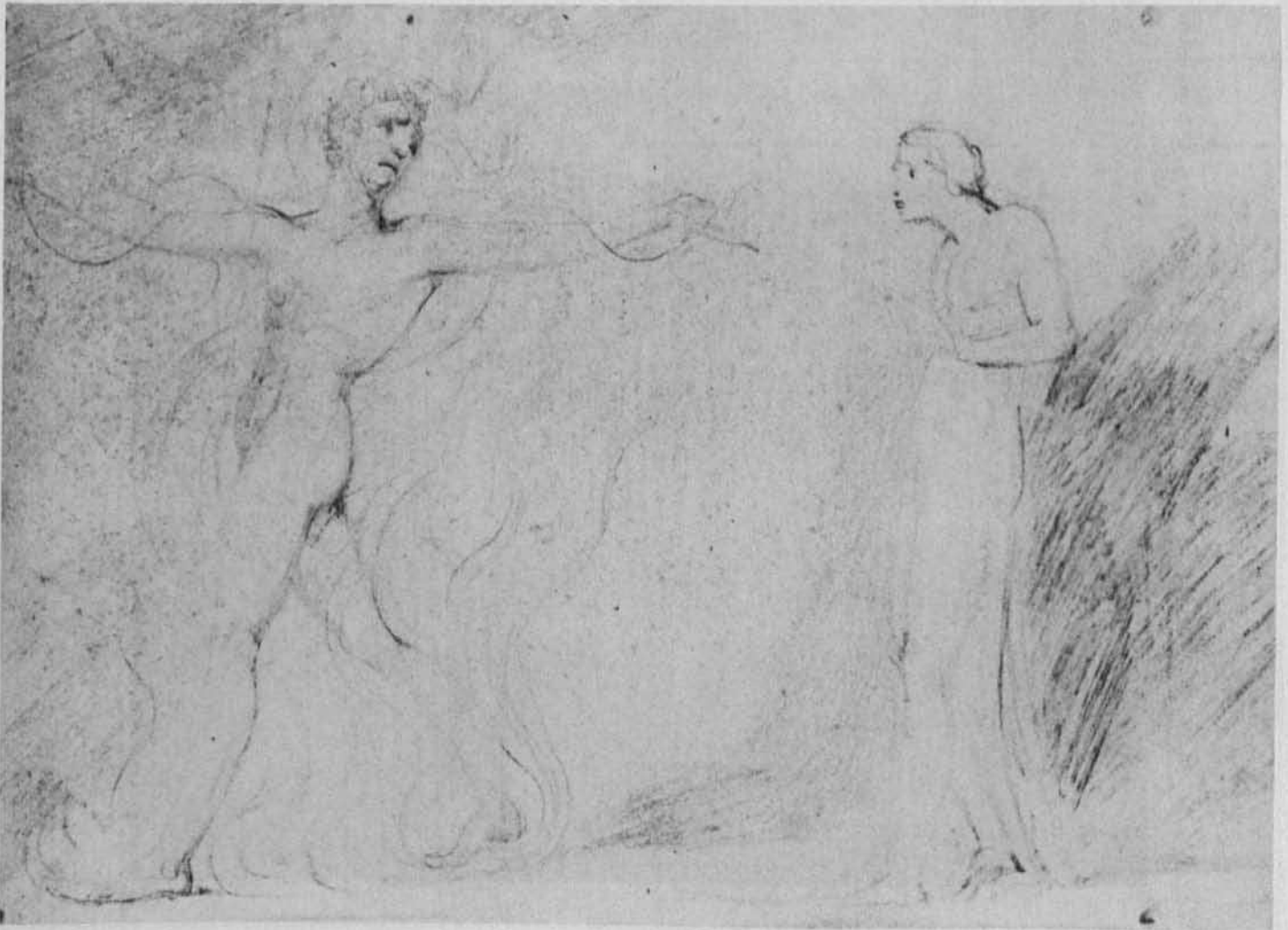
The earth trembled[,] fires belched from yawning clefts
And when the shaking ceast a fog possesst the accursed
clime[.]

The cry was great in Tiriels palace[,] his five daughters
ran
And caught him by the garments weeping with cries of
bitter woe[.]

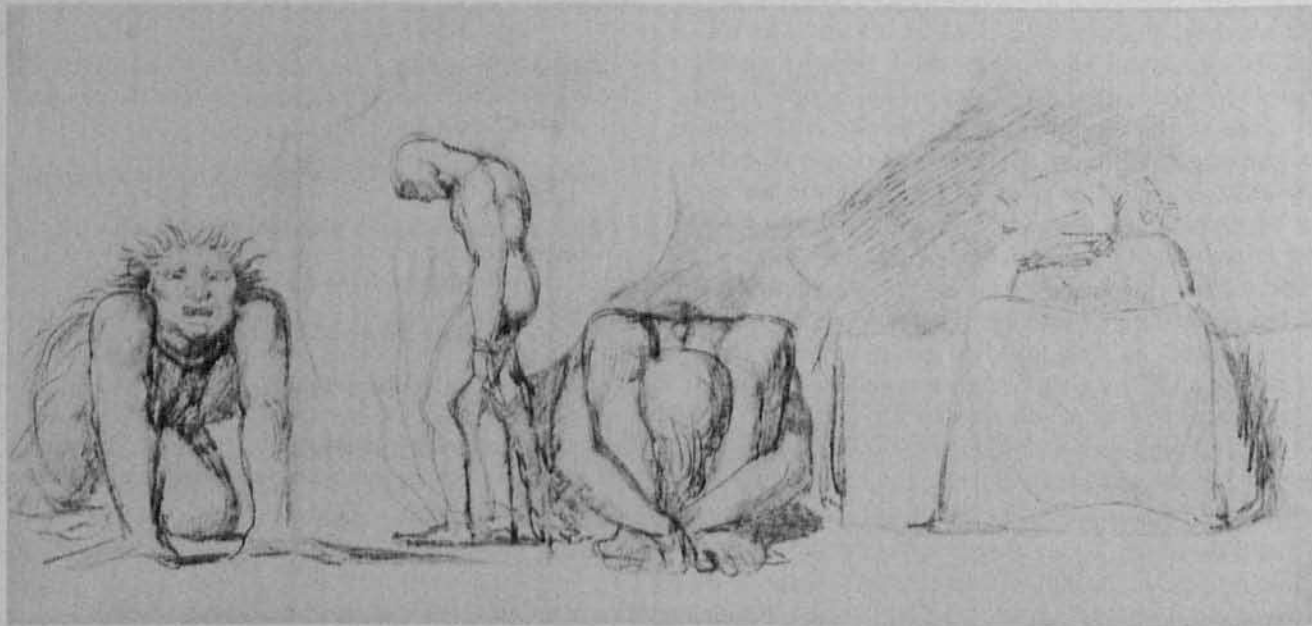
. . . in the morning Lo an hundred men in ghastly
death[.]

The four daughters stretchd on the marble pavement
silent all
falln by the pestilence. . . .

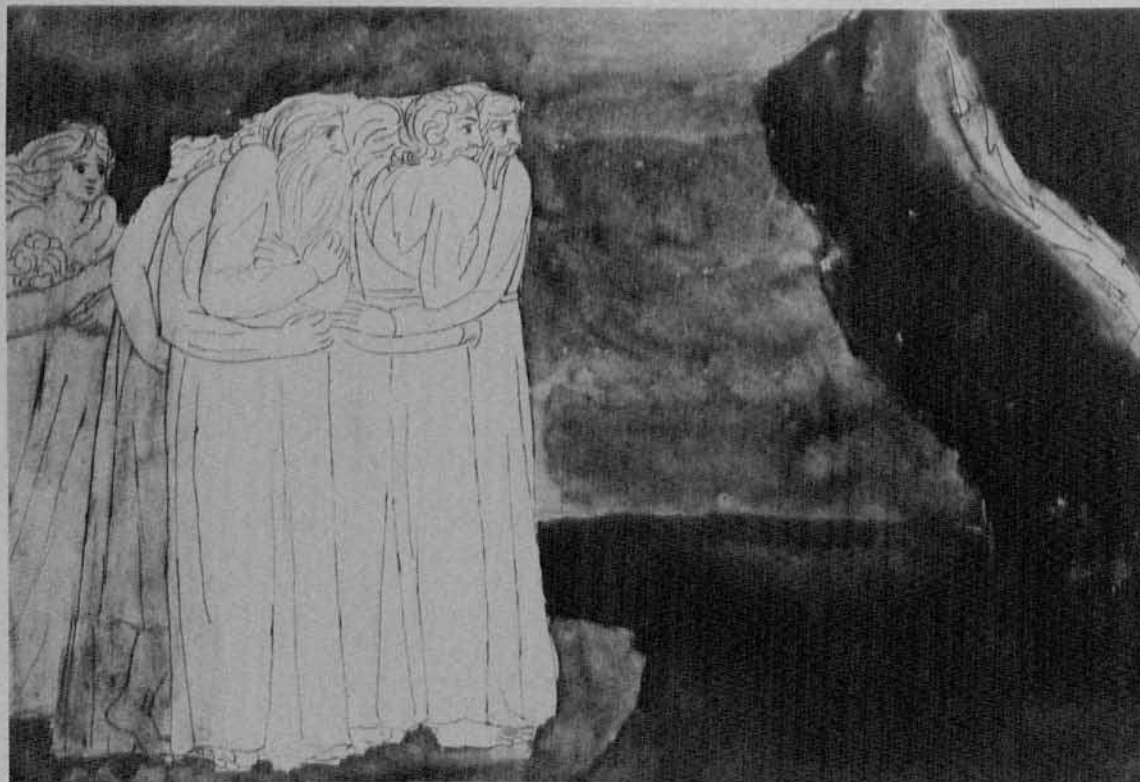
The design clearly echoes the text quite faithfully, and the words make it plain that the threatened horror is the pestilence.



1. William Blake. Sketch for *Jerusalem*, pl. 26. Courtesy of the British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings.



2. William Blake. Sketch for *Jerusalem*, pl. 51. Courtesy of the Tate Gallery, David J. Black Collection.



3. Robert Blake. "The Approach of Doom." Courtesy of the British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings.



4. William Blake. "The Approach of Doom." Courtesy of the British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings.

The horrified onlookers appear once more in a design of 1793 labeled "Our end is come" or, in a later version, "Satans holy Trinity[:] The Accuser The Judge & The Executioner" (illus. 6). One copy of it is used as an integral frontispiece to *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. Clearly these flaming bureaucrats see themselves accused and their punishment near. They seem unmistakably the heirs of Tiriël's sons in the drawing of four years earlier.

There is one final transmogrification of this protean design. Tiriël cursing with his hands outstretched and his daughters at his knees is closely echoed, reversed, in *Europe* pl. 8 of 1794 (illus. 7). The design seems to represent what the text on pl. 12 calls "Albion's Angel, smitten with his own plagues" and about to be "buried beneath the ruins of that hall." The previous design of *Europe* makes it plain that what Albion's Angel fears is the same curse pronounced upon Tiriël's sons: The Plague (illus. 8). On *Europe* pl. 7 the bellman tolls his mournful round crying "Bring out your dead," while beside him

men and women drop with the pestilence in the open street.

This progression of a design from a sketch by Robert Blake of about 1786 to Blake's *Tiriël* design of 1789, "Our End is come" of 1793, and *Europe* of 1794 seems to me quite plain. The progression illuminates each design, and responsible criticism of *Tiriël*, the *Marriage*, and *Europe* must take them into account.

One of the most interesting of Blake's surviving drawings for his works in Illuminated Printing has appeared only very recently. Though it has no known provenance before it was acquired by Ann Caro, its integrity is plain in the nervous, Blake-like lines, and it is attested at the bottom right by his disciple and executor Frederick Tatham. It represents two pages of *The Book of Thel* of 1789 (illus. 9). One is for *Thel* pl. 6 (illus. 10), which shows the virgin Thel standing with open arms looking upward at the personified "Bright Cloud" as he floats left, while at the foot is the personified worm to whom the cloud has just introduced her. Though



5. William Blake. "Tiriël Cursing His Children," drawing no. 8 of *Tiriël*. Courtesy of the late Sir Geoffrey Keynes.



6. William Blake. "The Accusers." Courtesy of the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester.

Arise O Rintrah eldest born; second to none but Ore;
 O lion Rintrah raise thy fury from thy forests black;
 Bring Palamabron harned priest, stepping upon the mountains;
 And silent Elynatiria the silver bowed queen;
 Rintrah where hast thou hid thy bride?
 Weeps she in desert shades?
 Alas my Rintrah! bring the lovely jealous Ocalythron.

Arise my son! bring all thy brethren O thou king of fire.
 Prince of the sun I see thee with thy innumerable race:
 Thick as the summer stars;
 But each ramping has golden mane shakes
 And thine eyes rejoice because of strength O Rintrah furious king.





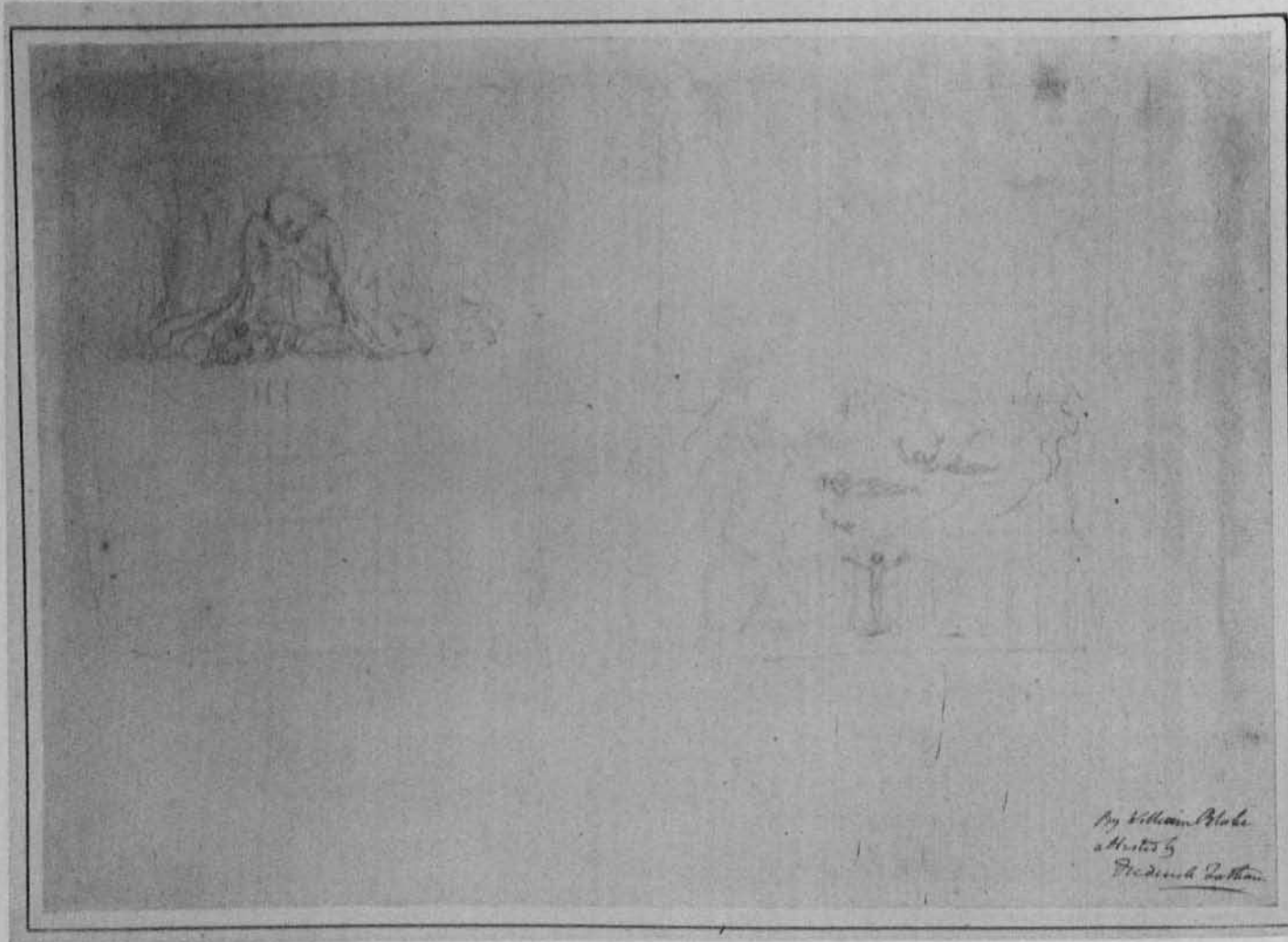
8. William Blake. *Europe*, copy a, pl. 7. Courtesy of the British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings.

the etched design appears at the top of Part III, it clearly illustrates the words at the end of Part II on the preceding plate. In the sketch (illus. 9), at the right Thel seems to be at the door of a Greek Temple with outspread arms as she looks up at a baby floating down to her; above the baby is a larger vague figure, perhaps a woman, and above and to the right of the woman is a floating horizontal man with his arms raised. I take the man to be the Cloud, the babe to be the Worm, and the woman to be the Lilly.

On the same sketch at the top left is a clear though dim sketch of Thel as she broods above the baby. The vague lines behind her may represent the giant flowers which are plain in the etched text, and below her is the roman numeral III, indicating that this is the headpiece for Part III. The shape of the design is very similar to the printed version (illus. 11), where it is plain that

before Thel there is also a nude child playing with the baby.

The really striking thing about this design, or set of designs, however, is what it tells us about the text. Note first that Blake has indicated with lines across the page where the text is to go, below the lefthand design and above that on the right. So far as I know, this is the only Blake sketch for his work in Illuminated Printing which indicates exactly where the text is to appear. One is tempted to remark that there are about eight lines of text in the new drawing and twelve lines of text in the corresponding first plate of Part III in the etched version; perhaps when he made the sketch Blake intended the text to appear in larger characters, with fewer lines to the page. Note also that the brooding Thel serves as the headpiece to Part III in the sketch, whereas this design is the tailpiece to Part III in the etched text. The



9. William Blake. Sketch for *The Book of Thel*. Courtesy of the Tate Gallery, from the collection of Ann Caro.



III

Then Thel astonish'd view'd the Worm upon its dewy bed.

Art thou a Worm? image of weakness, art thou but a Worm?
 I see thee like an infant wrapped in the Lilys' leaf:
 Ah weep not little voice, thou canst not speak, but thou canst weep:
 Is this a Worm? I see thee lay helpless & naked: weeping,
 And none to answer, none to cherish thee with mothers smiles.

The Clod of Clay heard the Worms voice, & rais'd her pining head:
 She bow'd over the weeping infant, and her life exhal'd
 In muddy fondness, then on Thel she fix'd her humble eyes.

O beauty of the vales of Rar, we live not for ourselves,
 Thou seest me the meekest thing, and so I am indeed;
 My bosom of itself is cold, and of itself is dark,

5

But he that loves the lowly, pours his oil upon my head,
 And kisses me, and binds his nuptial bands around my breast.
 And says; Thou mother of my children, I have lov'd thee.
 And I have given thee a crown that none can take away.
 But how this is sweet maid, I know not, and I cannot know,
 I ponder, and I cannot ponder; yet I live and love.

The daughter of beauty wip'd her pitying tears with her white veil,
 And said, Alas, I knew not this, and therefore did I weep;
 That God would love a Worm I knew, and punish the evil foot
 That waf'd, bruist its helpless form; but that he cherish'd it
 With milk and oil I never knew, and therefore did I weep.
 And I complain'd in the mild air, because I fade away,
 And lay me down in thy cold bed, and leave my shining let.

Queen of the vales, the matron Clay answer'd; I heard thy sighs,
 And all thy moans flew o'er my roof, but I have call'd them down:
 Wilt thou O Queen enter my house, its given thee to enter,
 And to return; fear nothing, enter with thy virgin feet.



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relationship of the design to the text on the page is a good deal clearer in this sketch (illus. 9) than in the etching (illus. 10). The alteration of position appears to me to have come about because there was no room at the bottom of *Thel* pl. 5 for the design which should have concluded Part II in that place, and therefore it had to go on pl. 6 above the beginning of Part III, where it seems to refer to Part III rather than to Part II.

Yet more interestingly, note that the sketch has set out the two pages as a double-page spread, with one design facing the other. Several of Blake's early works are printed thus on facing pages—for example, *Songs of Innocence*, *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, *America*, and *Europe*—but all copies of *The Book of Thel* are printed on only one side of the leaf; in no printed copy do the first and second pages of Part III face each other, as they do in the sketch. Perhaps Blake decided later that the work, now only eight plates long, would be too short if printed on only four leaves. But in this early sketch he clearly planned for the designs to face one another.

Perhaps most interesting of all is the fact that these two designs are in the reverse order in the printed version of *The Book of Thel*. Or at any rate, the brooding Thel is printed just after the only design in which Thel stands with outspread arms. We must decide whether the sketch for this standing Thel is another version of the tailpiece to Part II—in which case the text of the poem must then have been quite different than it is now—or whether this is an entirely different design, one which does not survive in *The Book of Thel* as printed or anywhere else. I rather incline to the latter view; I take the righthand drawing to be a kind of synopsis of the work at its crisis. At this point, Thel has conversed with the Lilly of the valley down by the River Adona, who describes herself as "a watry weed"; with the cloud of air reclining upon his airy throne; and with the baby earthworm, for whom the clod of clay speaks. They clearly represent the elements of water, air, and earth; and the Lilly-woman, Cloud-man, and Worm-baby seem to be represented in this design. In the final words of Part III,

'Queen of the vales,' the matron Clay answerd; 'I heard thy sighs,
And all thy moans flew o'er my roof, but I have call'd them down:
Wilt thou O Queen enter my house? 'Tis given thee to enter
And to return; fear nothing; enter with thy virgin feet.'

Thel appears to be on the threshold of the Temple of the Earth, about to enter without fear. She seems to be bidding farewell to her sponsors³ before she turns her back on water, air, and earth, to enter the fire of experience, to participate in the burning element of life. But if so, this design and idea were abandoned when the spaces left in the etched text required Blake to put the tailpiece of Part II in place of the headpiece of Part

III (illus. 10) and alter the headpiece of Part III to its tailpiece (illus. 11).

Why was the design not used? Martin Butlin says the design on the left replaced that on the right, and a new design was substituted on the left "presumably to improve the balance; his new headpiece . . . [for pl. 6] is a lighter, more delicate composition." David Bindman suggests that "the image of Thel's house was presumably rejected because its bulk would have broken the delicate rhythm established by the continuity of the appearance of Thel, and the image of the departing cloud in the headpiece of chapter III [*Thel* pl. 6] gives a central place to the idea of transience."

Still another motive for abandoning the design of Thel on the threshold of the house is that it is difficult to reconcile with the poetic images which follow, with "eternal gates" closed with a "bar," with a "dewy grave" and "the hollow pit." Except for clothes, for Thel's shepherdess's crook (pl. 2), for a sword and shield (pl. 3), and for reins (pl. 8), the house in this sketch is the only manmade object in the designs to *Thel*, and it alters the context of the poem in a disconcerting way. Like the classical building introduced without textual justification in the designs for *Tiriel*,⁴ it introduces a new motif which, in *Thel*, is distracting and unfortunate.

It has repeatedly been suggested that the last plate of *Thel* (pl. 8) is a late substitution for an earlier one, because its imagery and tone differ strikingly from those in pls. 1–7.⁵ I think that the differences on the last plate are deliberately contrived by Blake and are carefully prepared for on the title page and elsewhere. It is at least possible that this penultimate sketch of *Thel* on the threshold was abandoned because the specific textual images which it illustrated had been abandoned.

The clearly sexual metaphors of *The Book of Thel* are insufficiently remarked. The "gentle maid," the "virgin" Thel (ll. 22, 49) encounters an adult "virgin" Lilly (l. 28), an adult male Cloud who is the "partner" of the Lilly of the valley (l. 73), and an "infant" worm (l. 76) who is at least metaphorically their offspring. The "golden" Cloud (l. 47) "scatters its bright beauty" (l. 40) in the same way as the golden Spring "scatter[s] his" . . . pearls Upon our love-sick land" ("Spring" in *Poetical Sketches*, p. 1), both images deliberately evocative of Zeus's golden shower descending on Danae. This is expressed by the Cloud in a sexual metaphor which Thel does not understand:

O maid I tell thee when I pass away,
It is to tenfold life, to love, to peace and raptures
holy. . . .
The weeping virgin trembling kneels before the risen sun
Till we arise link'd in a golden band.
(ll. 52–53, 56–57)

And when the Cloud leaves Thel, he leaves with her a baby, as in the scene depicted in pl. 6. On the titlepage

Thel observed sexual courtship, and on the last plate the only humans depicted are babies, the product of such courtship. Thel has been shown the mysteries of sexual life, and in this unused design for the end of Part III we see Thel looking up in wonder at the father Cloud, the mother Lilly, and their offspring the infant Worm. All this is shown to Thel on the threshold of the house of Clay.⁶

On the last plate, the "dewy grave" picks up images previously used: Thel's "lamentation falls like morning dew" (l. 5); the cloud "court[s] the fair eyed dew" and unseen descends "upon balmy flowers" (ll. 55, 54) with what the "watry" Lilly calls "morning manna" (ll. 16, 23) (or dew); the worm lies upon a "dewy bed" (l. 74). Thel has asked to be permitted to "sleep the sleep of death" (l. 13) without being "only . . . at death the food of worms" (l. 65), to "lay me down in thy cold bed" of clay without leaving "my shining lot" (l. 98). The classical building in the sketch, even if it be a mausoleum, sorts ill with these images of the "dewy grave."

What in fact happens in the last Part of *Thel*? Who is Thel, and where does she go? I think some of the answers may help to explain why this last design was not used.

The Mysteries of *The Book of Thel*: Thel as Moon Myth; Thel as Moon Mistress

Thel is repeatedly associated with the moon and contrasted with the sun; she lives in reflected light, having no light of her own. As the poem opens, she is distinguished from her sisters who are among their "sunny flocks" (l. 1). Thel is the "virgin of the skies" (l. 67), the "daughter of beauty" with a "white veil" (l. 92) who lives "in paleness" (l. 2) and who "fade[s] away like morning beauty from her mortal day" (l. 3) as the moon does when the sun arises. She continually asks why all things "fade" as "I fade away . . . and leave my shining lot" (ll. 97, 98), and she believes that "all shall say, 'Without a use this shining woman liv'd'" (l. 64), for

Thel is like a faint cloud kindled at the rising sun;
I vanish from my pearly throne, and who shall find my place?
(ll. 36-37)

Thel is presumably like the Clod of Clay who stresses that "My bosom of itself is cold and of itself is dark" (l. 85). These images are consistent with those of Thel as a moon-goddess; or at least she is clothed with the imagery of the moon.

She is different in kind from the benevolent, omnipresent god who manifests himself in the sun. The creatures she encounters say they are "visited from heaven" (l. 19) "each morn" (l. 20) by "he that smiles on all" (l. 19), who promises that they shall "be clothed in light"

(l. 23). It is possible that this god is an Apollo-figure who drives the chariot of the sun, for we hear of the "golden springs Where Luvah doth renew his horses" (ll. 49-50).

Thel is permitted "to enter [*the house of darkness*] And to return" (ll. 101-02). What kind of house is it? It is in a "land unknown" (l. 104), but we are told enough of it to draw some interesting conclusions.

The World Beneath the Flat Earth

Thel has, I believe, descended through the earth and emerged on the other side into a world of darkness. To explain what happens requires a short excursion through Blake's geography. The crucial concept is that the earth is flat.

After about 1783, Blake seems to have distinguished fairly consistently between "the world of imagination" ("the real & eternal World," *Jerusalem*, pl. 77, ¶ 1), which is flat, and "the world of generation," which is round.⁷ As he told Crabb Robinson in 1825, "I do not believe that the world is round. I believe it is quite flat."⁸

In *Vala* (?1796-?1807), "The Earth spread forth her table wide" (p. 12, l. 35), and in *Milton* "the earth [is] one infinite plane" (pl. 14, l. 33). In "The Mental Traveller" is an explanation of how the contrary impression arose:

the Eye altering alters all[;]
The Senses roll themselves in fear
And the flat Earth becomes a Ball
(ll. 62-64)

A more elaborate explanation appears in *Milton*:

every Space that a Man views around his dwelling-place,
Standing on his own roof, or in his garden on a mount
Of twentyfive cubits in height, such space is his Universe:
And on its verges the Sun rises & sets, the Clouds bow
To meet the flat Earth & the sea . . .
And if he move his dwelling-place, his heavens also move,
Wh'er'er he goes. . . .
Such are the Spaces called Earth & such its dimension:
As to that false appearance which appears to the reasoner
As of a globe rolling thro Voidness, it is a delusion. . . .
(pl. 28, ll. 5-9, 12-16)

If the earth is flat like a pancake (not like a cube), it is possible to penetrate the earth with comparative ease and come out on the other side. This is the explanation of what happens in *The French Revolution* (1791), in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (?1790-?93)—and in *The Book of Thel* (1789). In *The French Revolution*, "the bottoms of the worlds were open'd, and the graves of the arch-angels unseal'd" (l. 301), presumably on the other side of the earth. In *The Marriage*,

An Angel . . . took me . . . down the winding
cavern . . . till a void boundless as a nether sky

appeared beneath us, & we held by the roots of trees
and hung over this immensity . . . [in] darkness. . . .
Beneath us at an immense distance was the sun,
black but shining. . . . [When the Angel fled,]
this appearance was no more, but I found myself
sitting on a pleasant bank beside a river by moon
light. . . .

(¶ 61, 63, 65, 67)

This other side of the earth is the land of night
and darkness. It is the land, I think, which Thel dis-
covers when she enters the house of clay:

Thel enter'd in & saw the secrets of the land unknown:
She saw the couches of the dead, & where the fibrous
roots
Of every heart on earth infixes deep its restless
twists. . . .

(ll. 104–106)

She enters a land of darkness with "valleys dark" (l. 108)
where she hears of "destruction," "poison," "ambush,"
"terror," and "the bed of our desire" (ll. 113–22). Ter-
rified at the terrible vision, she "Fled back unhindered
till she came into the vales of Har" (l. 124), where she
had begun (ll. 4, 26). Like the moon, Thel reflects
brightness which fades, and she enters shadows and
night. The land she finds is, as it were, in the dark of
the moon. Like the moon, Thel returns to light and to
reflect light. She ceases to appear, as the moon does
when it is completely covered by the shadow of the
earth, but she continues to exist though obscured. The
images of Thel as a moon goddess are consistent through-
out the poem. But the verbal images of Thel entering
the earth, entering the house of Clay, and discovering
"the fibrous roots" on the other side of the earth are not
consistent with the classical building on whose threshold
Thel stands in the newly discovered drawing.

It may be that the classical building was consistent
with images in a draft of Part IV of *The Book of Thel*
which does not survive; or it may be that Blake made
this sketch of a classical building and then recognized
its incongruity with the present Part IV. In any case,
that massive artifact is distracting in Thel's pastoral
world, and Blake abandoned it in the etched version of
the poem. The chance survival of this sketch tells us a
great deal about the way in which Blake conceived of
and laid out his poem, about the way he carefully planned
the relationships of text with design and of page with
page. Perhaps most important, it shows us Blake ex-
perimenting with the placing of his designs, devising
new motifs for his poem and abandoning false starts.
We are coming to know Blake as a craftsman of en-
graving, of painting, and of poetry. This unique design
demonstrates graphically the craftsmanship with which
he merged these arts in his works in *Illuminated Print-*
ing.

¹ *Blake Records* (1969), p. 494 fn. 5. All quotations are from
William Blake's Writings (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978). The *Thel*
sketch was made public so recently that no edition of Blake in
print refers to it; the only printed references known to me are in
David Bindman, *Blake as an artist* (1977), pp. 63–64 and pl. 52,
and Martin Butlin, *William Blake: [Catalogue of an exhibition at
the] Tate Gallery [9 March–21 May 1978]*, p. 4 (including a
reproduction). A version of this paper entitled "Editing Blake: From
Sketch to Text" was delivered orally at the Modern Language As-
sociation meeting on Editing the Romantics in December 1978 in
New York.

² He is identified as Hand by Morton Paley, *William Blake*
(1978), p. 68, and as Albion by Detlef W. Dörrecker, "That Man
Be Separate from Man: Überlegungen zu einer Zeichnung William
Blakes," *Jahrbuch Hamburger Kunstsammlungen*, 22 (1977), 101–26.

³ Bindman and Butlin call the human figures floating above
Thel her "moans" and "sighs", but they seem to be clearly
articulated as previously identified figures: the floating figure with
raised arms at the upper right looks strikingly like the man who
represents "the bright Cloud" on pl. 6, the adult floating above
Thel seems to be a woman, presumably the Lilly, and the tiny
figure descending towards Thel (in a position related to those of
the babes in *Urizen* pls. 2, 20) must be the infant Worm, the only
child previously mentioned.

⁴ *Tiriel* (1967), pl. 1.

⁵ See D.V. Erdman, "Dating Blake's Script: the 'g' hypoth-
esis," *Blake Newsletter*, 3 (1969), 8–13; *The Book of Thel*, ed. Nancy
Bogen (1971), p. 3.

⁶ Bindman speaks of "Thel's house," but I think it is clear
that the house is that of Clay. Bindman also calls it "a bulky
primitive-classical hut," but I see no implications of a "hut" in this
fairly large, airy building.

⁷ Once, in *Poetical Sketches* (1783), the word Globe is used
merely as a neutral synonym for the Earth ("The Couch of Death"),
but thereafter "Globe" is used only of the fallen view of the earth.
The tyrant Tiriel uses "this globe" as a synonym for "this earth"
(*Tiriel* [?1789], ll. 107, 108). Before Urizen fell, there were no
"globes of attraction" (*Urizen* [1794], pl. 3, l. 36), but because of
Urizen "Earth conglob'd" (*America* [1793] pl. b, l. 7), and Orc says
that in Urizen's universe "Fires inwrap the earthly globe" (*America*
pl. 10, l. 13). In *Vala*, the fallen world is described as "globes of
earth" (p. 123, l. 15); in *Milton* (1804–[?1808]), Los mistakenly
says that "The whole extent of the Globe is explored" (pl. 25, l.
18), and in *Jerusalem* (1804–[?20]), the fallen Moon "became an
Opake Globe far distant clad with moony beams" (pl. 49, l. 20).
In a picture for *The Divine Comedy* of the Goddess Fortune are two
circles labeled "Celestial Globe Terrestrial Globe" (p. 1341).

⁸ *Blake Records* (1969), p. 313. Robinson goes on: "I objected
the circumnavig"—We were called to dinner at the moment and
I lost the reply."