

## A Poison Tree: William Blake

### Text

#### A Poison Tree

BY WILLIAM BLAKE

I was angry with my friend;  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I waterd it in fears,  
Night & morning with my tears:  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.  
Till it bore an apple bright.  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,  
When the night had veild the pole;  
In the morning glad I see;  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

**Critical Appreciation:** "A Poison Tree", a poem written by William Blake was published in 1794. The poem is included in Songs of Experience. The poem exploits the themes of indignation, revenge and the fallen state of mankind. The speaker of the poem details two approaches to anger. "A Poison Tree" is a poem that focuses on the emotion of anger and its consequences. The darker side of human psyche is beautifully revealed. The speaker speaks of how he expressed his anger when to his friend and everything was fine after that. But he suppressed his anger when he talked to an enemy. So his anger began to grow. The title is metaphorical. A man with his anger suppressed is a poison tree. It is self-destructive, self-annihilating. The poem makes use of biblical images to highlight the self-damage that can proceed from suppressed anger. He suggests that acting on anger reduces the need for vengeance. Blake believed that anger needs to be expressed. The theme of poisoning recurs in Blake's poems. The poisoner of "A Poison Tree" is similar to Blake's Jehovah, Urizen, Satan, and Newton.

Source:

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Analysis-of-Poem-A-Poison-Tree-by-William-Blake>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Poison\\_Tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Poison_Tree)