

William Blake (1757-1827)

Sibylline Leaves / On Homers' Poetry / On Virgil

On Homers' Poetry

Every Poem must necessarily be a perfect Unity, but why Homers is peculiarly so. I cannot tell: he has told the story of Bellerophon & omitted the Judgment of Paris which is not only a part, but a principal part of Homers subject

But when a Work has Unity it is as much in a Part as in the Whole. the Torso is as much a Unity as the Laocoon

- 5 As Unity is the cloke of folly so Goodness is the cloke of knavery Those who will have Unity exclusively in Homer come out with a Moral like a sting in the tail: Aristotle says Characters are either Good or Bad: now Goodness or Badness has nothing to do with Character. an Apple tree a Pear tree a Horse a Lion. are Characters but a Good Apple tree or a Bad. is an Apple tree still: a Horse is not more a Lion for being a Bad Horse, that is its Character: its Goodness or Badness is another consideration.
- 10 It is the same with the Moral of a whole Poem as with the Moral Goodness of its parts Unity & Morality. are secondary considerations & belong to Philosophy & not to Poetry. to Exception & not to Rule. to Accident & not to Substance. the Ancients calld it eating of the tree of good & evil.

The Classics, it is the Classics!

& not Goths nor Monks, that

- 15 Desolate Europe with Wars.

On Virgil

- Sacred Truth has pronounced that Greece & Rome as Babylon & Egypt: so far from being parents of Arts & Sciences as they pretend: were destroyers of all Art. Homer Virgil & Ovid confirm this opinion & make us reverence The Word of God, the only light of antiquity that remains unperverted by War. Virgil in the Eneid Book VI. line 848 says Let
- 20 others study Art; Rome has somewhat better to do. namely War & Dominion Rome & Greece swept Art into their maw & destroyd it a Warlike State never can produce Art. It will Rob & Plunder & accumulate into one place. & Translate & Copy & Buy & Sell & Criticise. but not Make. Grecian is Mathematic Form. Mathematic Form is Eternal in the Reasoning Memory. Living Form is Eternal Existence. Gothic is Living form.
- (363 Wörter)

Quelle:

<http://www.blakearchive.org/exist/blake/archive/comparison.xq?copies=homer.f&bentleynum=BI©id=homer.b&java=no>