

William Blake (1757-1827)

## THE CRYSTAL CABINET.

The maiden caught me in the wild,  
Where I was dancing merrily;  
She put me into her cabinet,  
And lock'd me up with a golden key.

5 This cabinet is form'd of gold  
And pearl and crystal shining bright,  
And within it opens into a world,  
And a little lovely moony night.

Another England there I saw,

10 Another London with its Tower,  
Another Thames and other hills,  
And another pleasant Surrey bower.

Another maiden like herself,  
Translucent, lovely, shining clear,

15 Threefold each in the other closed;  
O what a pleasant trembling fear!

O what a smile, a threefold smile,  
Fill'd me that like a flame I burn'd;  
I bent to kiss the lovely maid,

20 And found a threefold kiss return'd.

I strove to seize the inmost form  
With ardor fierce and hands of flame,  
But burst the crystal cabinet,  
And like a weeping babe became --

25 A weeping babe upon the wild  
And weeping woman pale reclined;  
And in the outward air again  
I fill'd with woes the passing wind.  
(168 words)

Quelle: <http://archive.org/stream/poemswilliambla01blakgoog#page/n163/mode/2up>