

**Mock on, Mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau**  
William Blake (1757-1827)

Mock on, Mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau<sup>1</sup>;  
Mock on, Mock, on, 'tis all in vain.  
You throw the sand against the wind,  
And the wind blows it back again.

And every sand becomes a Gem  
Reflected in the beams divine;  
Blown back, the blind the mocking Eye,  
But still in Israel's<sup>2</sup> paths they shine.

The Atoms of Democritus<sup>3</sup>  
And Newton's Particle's of light  
Are sands upon the Red sea shore,  
Where Israel's tents do shine so bright

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<sup>1</sup> Leaders of the pre-Revolutionary French "Enlightenment"; considered by Blake to be proponents of rationalistic or materialistic philosophies

<sup>2</sup> Not the Israel of history, but rather the nation of God's chosen people

<sup>3</sup> Democritus (Greek Philosopher, fifth century b.c.) and Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), both represented as nonsensically reducing nature to inanimate matter

**The World Is Too Much With Us; Late and Soon**  
William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:  
Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!  
The Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;  
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;  
It moves us not. – Great God! I'd rather be  
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;  
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,  
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
Have sight of Proteus<sup>4</sup> rising from the sea;  
Or hear old Triton<sup>5</sup> blow his wreathed horn.

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<sup>4</sup> In Greek myth Proteus, the “Old Man of the Sea” rises from the sea at midday and can be forced to read the future by anyone who holds him while he takes many frightening shapes. The word *protean*, meaning ever-changing, comes from Proteus.

<sup>5</sup> Triton is the son of the sea-god Neptune; the sound of his conch-shell horn calms the waves.