

# **DREAM CHILDREN**

## **CRITICAL APPRECIATION**

**M.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> SEM**

Lamb describes his imaginary children Alice and John. He imagines himself to be sitting in his garden. The two children want to hear the stories of his childhood. Lamb gives an account of his grandmother Mrs. Field who lived in a big house in Norfolk. She was the house keeper to this house. It was a beautiful old house with a wooden chimney. The story of the Ballod Babes in the wood was carved on it. A rich man purchased the house and a marble chimney was built on it. The owner of the house took away the ornaments and furniture of the house, and kept them at his residence.

Mrs. Field was a very pious and religious woman. she knew all the psalms by heart. Due to her good nature, she was loved and respected by all. She was a graceful lady and a good dancer. It was believed that g ghosts and witches haunted the old house in Norfolk, but she slept fearlessly alone in the house. Lamb himself frightened in the night when he stayed with her.

In that house there was a garden with many fruit trees. Lamb and John played there together, but could not touch the fruits without the permission of his aunt.

Mrs. Field was very courageous. She loved all her grandsons. Lamb passed his holidays there. When she died there was a huge crowd gathered at her funeral.

Lamb tells the dream children that Mrs. Field loved John a little more than others. John was brave, handsome, kind, considerate and helpful. He used to go on hunting expeditions, when Lamb was a lame footed boy, he carried him on his back. At his death Lamb's heart was filled with grief. He remembered his kindness as well as his coarseness. He wanted to see him a life and quarrel rather than not see him again.

Lamb tells the dream children about their mother. He narrates that he had love affairs with Alice W.N. and courted her for seven years. She was so coy and shy that she could not consent to his proposal of marriage. Little Alice seemed like her mother. He felt that the soul of Alice looked at him through young Alice's eyes. As he gazed them, the dream children seemed to race backwards. Their faces grew faint and dim. Portram was the father of Alice's children.

**Lamb realizes that they were not real children at all. They were unreal.**

**Dr. Rajani Singh**

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