

"The Sick Rose" – William Blake



The poem chosen is "The Sick Rose" by William Blake because it encapsulates themes of innocence, corruption, and hidden dangers in a concise yet powerful manner. The poem captures the delicate nature of beauty and purity, symbolized by the rose, which is invaded and destroyed by an unseen, malevolent force—the worm. This interplay of beauty and destruction evokes a strong emotional response and highlights the universal struggle between external appearances and internal decay.

In this artwork, the rose, vivid and full of life, symbolizes purity, passion, and vulnerability, while the snake entwining it represents the worm in Blake's poem. The choice of a snake intensifies the feeling of threat and inevitability, as the serpent often symbolizes betrayal and danger in literature and art. The moonlit background and shadowy clouds create a somber, ominous atmosphere, mirroring the sense of decay and hidden danger described in the poem. The falling petals signify the rose's gradual loss of vitality, a visual metaphor for the corruption of innocence.