

5:1a Introduction to Romanticism

Fuseli, *The Nightmare*

- Girl: virginal white
- Horse: peeks from behind curtain
- Incubus: brown, cannot be seen by the girl even if her eyes were open, sits on her chest
- She feels the suffocation of the incubus
- Sexual overtones
- Curtain: dark and theatrically red
- Nightmare conveys what is felt, not what is seen, by the dreamer
- Mirror reflects nothing
- Mara: in Norse mythology a spirit who comes in the night and suffocates sleepers, stealing their breath away
- Contemporary scene, not mythological: contemporary furnishings
- Germanic violence and Italian Mannerism

5:1b Introduction to Romanticism

Blake, *Ancient of Days*

- From *Europe, A Prophecy*
- A sun, or a shield covering a sun, rays from behind
- Strong lateral wind
- Black abyss
- Compass: makes order out of chaos
- Influence of Italian Mannerism
- Figure's name is Urizen: play on "Your Reason"

Piranesi, *Prisons #14*

- Many ambiguities: where do the vaults end? The staircases lead? The balconies go to?
- Who are the wretched who wander up and down the stairs?
- By whose authority are they in prison? For what reason?
- Haunting, frightening, mysterious quality
- Monumental compositions
- Zigzag of contrasting diagonals
- Deeply enclosed structures
- Sketchy and mysterious figures
- Darkly inked engraving
- Spikes emerge ominously from lower left corner