

### *1. All Religions are One*

London: The Trianon Press for the William Blake Trust, 1970

*All Religions are One* and *There is No Natural Religion* were Blake's first "illuminated" books, and were probably designed and printed by him in 1788. Every copy of each illuminated book was individually produced by the author/artist, so every copy that exists is unique. After writing out his words and drawing his illustrations on the surface of a copper plate, Blake etched the plate to host the ink. The relationship between text and illustration was controlled completely by him. The ten plates of this first experiment are very small, measuring between 4.6 x 3 and 5.9 x 4.1 cm. The only existing copy is printed simply, sometimes poorly, in green or brown, and details in some plates are accentuated with black ink. The plates also include four or five framing lines.

In *All Religions are One* Blake calls attention to the universality of religion and art, and passes on his vision of their combined significance to the world. The tract states that the religious and artistic imaginations are one and that "the true Man is the source he being the Poetic Genius." Blake's statements are often religious in nature, but also contain fuller meaning, which leads to a deeper understanding of the ties between religion and art, and of their place in society. The work promotes acceptance of difference and urges the reader to think actively. Blake offers this philosophy in hopes of bringing about change in the spiritual life of people.

--- Sara Kaplan '03