Who is Emma Lazarus:

Emma Lazarus, an American poet, is best known as a spokesperson for the Jewish people. Her faith in America as a safe place for all the suffering people of the world is expressed in her poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty in New York, New York. Early life and writings Emma Lazarus was born in New York City on July 22, 1849.

Born: July 22, 1849 (wealthy New York family) Sephardic Jewish Americans

Died: November 19, 1887

Gender: female

Nationality: American author

General:

* poem "The New Colossus"
  + chosen to be displayed on the base of the Statue of Liberty
  + famous lines
    - "Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Early life:

* early talent for poetry
* attracted the notice of Ralph Waldo Emerson with her first book
* fourth of seven children
* mother name: Esther
* father name: Moses
* family status: wealthy
* fortune: the sugar refining business
* education: classical
* House: Mansion
  + Where: Newport (Rhode Island)

Job: Poet & Translator

* parents supported her interest in poetry
* 1866: father published a book of her poetry
  + Name: Poems and Translations
  + Age of the Author at the time: Between Fourteen and Seventeen.
  + Lazarus sent her writing to Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was sufficiently impressed to become her mentor.

Lifetime:

* published more than 50 poems in popular magazines
  + including Lippincott’s and The Century
* published a book of poetry
  + alias: Admetus and Other Poems
* a novel: An Episode in Goethe’s Life
* received critical acclaim for translating the work of the Heinrich Heine, a German Jewish poet.

Litterature of her era:

* commentary about the literature of her era
* believed that a unique American aesthetic was developing, apart from the European
* She hailed writers
* she believed represented this new aesthetic, including Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Harriet Beecher Stowe

“The New Colossus”

Lazarus wrote “The New Colossus,” the poem for which she is best-known today, in 1883. It was created to sell at an auction to raise money to build the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty would stand in New York harbor. (Although the statue was a gift from the people of France, American contributors paid for the platform.)

In the poem, Lazarus referred to the Statue of Liberty as “Mother of Exiles,” and wrote, “Give me your tired, your poor,/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,/The wretched refuse of your teeming shore./Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,/I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” “The New Colossus” became famous only after Lazarus’s death. In 1901, her friend Georgina Schuyler found the poem. In 1903, it was inscribed on a plaque that remains on display in the museum on Liberty Island.

Emma Lazarus “The New Colossus” poem transcript - LOC

(Photo: Manuscript of the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, dated 1883. Library of Congress [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons)

Advocate

In addition to writing, by the early 1880s, Lazarus was speaking out against anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, and working with the Jewish refugees who immigrated to the United States at that time. She helped found the Hebrew Technical Institute in New York, in order to provide vocational training for new Jewish immigrants. She also spoke out in favor of creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Untimely Demise

On November 19, 1887, when she was 38 years old, Lazarus died in New York, most likely from Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

https://profreehost.com/