

The New Colossus

by Emma Lazarus

The title refers to the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Colossus of Rhodes was a huge statue of the titan Helios, constructed to celebrate Rhodes' victory over Cyprus.

America's Statue of Liberty is "The New Colossus," symbolizing welcome, freedom and hope.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "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!"

Brazen: shameless or bold
Conquering: to be victorious in a war
Limb: leg or arm
Astride: with a leg on each side of
Mighty: showing superior size or strength
Torch: a light to be carried in the hand
Exiles: a person banished from his or her native land
Beacon: a guiding signal/lighthouse
Mild: gentle
Harbor: a place for ships to dock; a place of refuge or safety
Twin cities: Brooklyn and New York City were separate when this was written
Ancient: very old
Storied: celebrated in history
Pomp: stately or splendid display
Huddled: crowded closely together
Masses: a large number of people
Yearning: deep longing
Wretched: miserable
Refuse: something that is discarded as worthless; trash;
Teeming: abounding with something, esp. people; crowded
Tempest-tost: tossed by a storm