

The Statue of Liberty

By Free-Inhabitant Dave

Very few people understand the Statue of Liberty. Examine the picture below and one sees similarities. This sculpture is known as “The Colossus of Rhodes Greece” and around 305BC was sculpted by Charles of Lyndus and placed at a harbor entrance as a tribute to sun God Helios by ancient Greeks.



http://www.harbourlights.com/catalog/2003/hl_colossus.htm

Colossus of Rhodes

I want you to notice that Colossus of Rhodes is standing with feet apart; each foot resting on conquered land. You do not see the torch held straight with pride; his other hand with the weapon suggests he is a conqueror. Now contrast this to the statute that inspired Emma Lazarus to write, “The New Colossus”:



Background: Bartoldi of France used the Colossus of Rhodes as inspiration for the Statue of Liberty. At the time many of those in France recognized that this new land [America] was a source of enlightenment for those European countries still stuck in oppression and tyranny.

Hence we find in the Statue of Liberty:

- Broken shackles at the feet symbolizing liberty--the release from oppression and tyranny.
- Seven Spikes in the crown purported to represent the seas and continents *to be enlightened*.
- A tablet in the hand commemorating the Declaration of Independence as a date of demarcation: Forever forward ALL men are created equal....
- The words from a poem called "The New Colossus." [Get the "New Colossus" connection???

In order to understand the poem we must understand the words. Here are the definitions:

Colossus (Noun)

1. Someone or something that is abnormally large and powerful.
2. A person of exceptional importance and reputation.

Pomp (Noun)

1. Ceremonial elegance and splendor;
2. vain and boastful display.

Storied (Adjective)

1. Having an illustrious past.
2. celebrated in or associated with stories or legends

Now we are prepared to analyze the statute and the poem.

- Colossus of Rhodes stands on conquered lands. As the poem suggests...."conquering limbs astride from land to land". Contrast this to Lady Liberty with a symbol at her feet of the removed shackles of such conquerors.
- Instead of the weapon of conquerors in his hand {like Colossus of Rhodes}, Lady Liberty has no weapon of oppression—just a tablet expressing a date more powerful. [Namely the date when in SELF-EVIDENCE people were declared Independent of government's oppression.]
- The torch is held high on Lady Liberty as a source of inspiration; the torch and the stance of Colossus of Rhodes is--as Lazarus suggests—that of a brazen conqueror. [i.e. the source, cause and reason of tyranny and oppression]
- In the poem Lazarus suggests the Statue commands and inspires [similar to echoes of Jesus' teachings on to whom is to inherit the earth....].

But enough of my analysis; you have enough background to understand one of the finest poems written about those who yearn freedom. Read this and see if you see the hand of God:

**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!"**

Emma Lazarus--The New Colossus

By the Way: The Statue of Liberty plaque of this poem has a mistake as it is missing the important comma between the word "Keep" and the word "ancient". Read without the comma one doesn't get the important aspect that it is the "ancient lands [and respective ancient ideas] of storied pomp" [of repressive governments] that is being left behind in rejection by those yearning to be free.