

## EMILY DICKINSON

1830-1866

This study material has been prepared for B.A. English Literature Paper-III Modern Literature (A) (Poetry) students of Vth semester for the session 2020-21 of Lucknow University

- A renowned and famous poet of America was born at Amherst, Massachusetts to a lawyer, Congressman.
- Her grandfather was the founder of Amherst college.
- All her education took place at home.
- Except one year she has spent her time at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary.
- She has no exposure or worldly experience throughout her life she was confined to her home garden.
- An introvert and recluse personality never married, never showed her thoughts to others.
- 'Moth of Amherst', 'as she was called due to her dressing always white.
- Though she had lived 56 years, but only 8 poems of her published during her life. She has written 1800 poems and these poems were published after her death.
- Major influences on her were of her father, brother and revered Charles Wadsworth.
- Wadsworth was a married man having his own children, but exact nature of their relationship is not known.
- When Wadsworth decided to move to California, she has fallen in emotional outburst of creativity and in one year's duration she wrote 366 poems alone in that year.
- In her early life she had turned against 'Calvinism'.
- We find in her poems a strain of religious unorthodoxy.
- She may be called a mixture of Puritan and Free thinker.
- Much similarities can be drawn between her and Emerson, an American thinker known for his theory of 'Over soul'.
- Because both Emerson and Emily had a deep reverence for nature.
- She seems to be preoccupied with the idea of death and life after death.
- May be because she used to live near a cemetery and suffered a trauma of death of loved ones.

- She had a penchant for truth and never becomes didactic in her approach.
- Through homely images she tried to convey her innermost experiences.

### Style:

- Contrary to prevalent – forms she uses English hymns for her meter in poetry.
- All most all her poems are written in Octosyllabic quatrains and couplets.
- She takes first person singular individualistic style for her delivery of thoughts.

### Work Consulted and Cited:

- '**Eternal Rhythms**', 2012, Oxford University Press, India.
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- '**A compendious History of English Literature**', 2001, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Iyenger, KRS, '**Indian Writing in English**', 2017, Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi