

Lady Liberty Makes a Few Requests

I am the Statue of Liberty. I have been silent for almost 100 years but now that restoration is being undertaken, I would like to request certain changes which are more appropriate to the times and would greatly improve my daily existence. I would still eagerly perform my ritual of welcoming immigrants to your shores, but with the tremendous decline in this activity I must confess I experience many periods of boredom and ennui. This could so easily be corrected if you would supply me with a male companion to help me while away the hours. If you feel it essential to conform to current conventions, a marriage ceremony could be performed.

I would also like to suggest that visiting hours be terminated at dusk and that the torch either be extinguished or dimmed at this time so that my companion and I could experience the companionship and comfort enjoyed by most married couples.

This can possibly be attributed to my advancing age, but my arm becomes extremely painful after holding the torch aloft for many hours. Here too my companion could share this ritual, particularly on the days I have a headache.

There is another area which causes me great pain and discomfort. I can't understand why it is necessarily for visitors to climb all through my insides. Why don't they remove their shoes at least, particularly those muddy laborer boots.

Perhaps a giant umbrella could be furnished to us so it can be unfurled during a furious rain storm.

I feel extremely proud to have been chosen to fulfill the important function of welcoming visitors to the shores of this wonderful country, and this I shall continue to perform for many many years to come to the best of my ability, but I doubt if it will decrease my effectiveness if I too enjoy a future with a few more comforts and pleasantries.