

Dearest Muse,

I do not invoke but address you,

For I wish to thank you for your watch
Over this humble (or not so) university library
Where thousands and I have spent hours in study.
Please accept this work.

O, I cry to passerby - have you seen her? Have you come inside? Have you
Paid a salute for a blessing on your work

From the Muse of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library?

There she sits by the door to the quad, a study

In worn marble on a plain iron bench, she keeps watch

Over all those who enter her domain. (They smile. Do I amuse?)

She wears a watch

And goggles pushed up onto her hair - a practical Muse.

I imagine she has come fresh from diving, some study
Of fantastic ocean creatures or slowgrowing plankton - the steady work
Of science as it takes the world and me and you
Forward, sometimes through this library.

Students, teachers, passerby - there is so much to do in a good library.

Sometimes you can even get done your work.

More often you are caught in the endless flood of work, study,

Essay, friends, study, and the sun rises but not on D-Level and you stare into dead
space and muse

That somewhere out there is the world (you're bad at it) and friends (who all got this
assignment done like competent people) and food (you don't recall the taste of
strawberries, nor the sound of water, the touch of grass...) and you, in the dark,
useless, last, you -

Rest. Restore. A library has comfortable chairs, and the Muse will keep watch.

There is merit, too, perhaps more, in lighter study:

Humanity in its prime, learning and laughing as they amuse

Themselves and each other at their work.

In a words people-watch!

Joining with near-stranger to work a project, emerging from the depths to unforeseen
companionship, you

Will find no purer kinship than in a university library.

And what they build - oh, the works!

Endocrinal Effects of Neural Synapse Protease to Satanism in Dungeons & Dragons: A Study;

Blueprints for a rocket, a solar shade, a perfect clockwork watch;

Essays and stories and poetry, the architecture itself for a whole new library -

For inspiration, above all, is the gift of a Muse.

Thank you.

- Jim Allen!