

Hmmmmmm?

(Refreshed reprint of a September 2021 post)

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Kansas City, Missouri

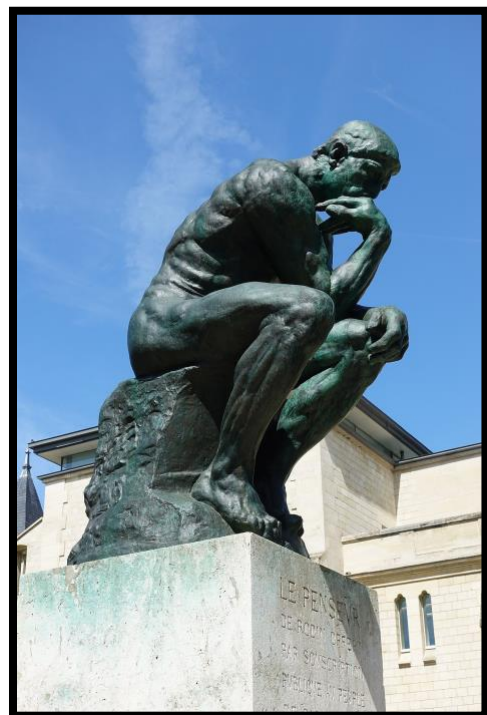
The Thinker is a fixture outside the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. He is perched on an elevated stone pedestal turning green in his birthday suit, deep in thought.

A caption on the museum website asserts that the bronze sculpture; “depicts the poet Dante, reflecting on heaven, hell, and the fate of all humankind.”

Dante has been pondering these topics since 1902. I wonder what he has come up with.

I was a little disappointed to learn that *The Thinker* in Missouri is just one of 28 replicas of Rodin’s original, which is permanently located in Paris. The Kansas City sculpture is not really “*The Thinker*”, so much as he is just “*A Thinker*”.

If *The Thinker* is a replica maybe his thoughts aren’t as profound as the museum website claims. Here are a few alternate interpretations of what this version of Dante might be contemplating:



- *I wonder, does Rodin even know how cold it gets in Kansas City in winter?*
- *Is that Amana dryer ever going to stop tumbling so I can get my clothes back?*
- *Do you know what I am not thinking about? Pigeons! I hate pigeons.*

... Hmmmmmm?