



THE HIGH CALLING OF OUR DAILY WORK

Art and Influence

7.8.10 by Ramblin' Dan

Article:

In my office is a replica of Rodin's *The Thinker*. It takes me back to my childhood. My favorite TV show in my elementary school days was *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, a sitcom based on the tribulations of a late teen and his off-center friends. Dobie would often contemplate his fate, at the city park, while being dwarfed by a larger than life statue in the background, *The Thinker*.

These scenes are my fondest memories of the show. Always looming was the statue of *The Thinker* providing a wonderful backdrop as Dobie contemplated his latest situation. In light of an earlier post, I've retitled my own miniature of Rodin's work [Meta Thinker](#).

Dobie Gillis' show ended its run at about the time that the World's Fair opened in New York. My sister lived in Queens, so my parents took us to the Fair where I saw was another great sculpture for the first time. Michelangelo's *Pieta* was on display in the Vatican pavilion.

I remember vividly standing in front of that masterpiece. I had an overwhelming sense of sadness for Mary as she held her dead son in her arms. I was twelve years old, and that image and feeling are still with me.



Two magnificent sculptures by two masters left an indelible mark on my soul. These two great works continue to speak to me more than forty years later. The irony is that I'm not artistic at all, and I rarely go to art museums or even Laity Lodge art exhibits at the Cody Center. Yet *The Thinker* and *Pieta* have shaped my world. They have become symbols which represent my life's work and devotion.