

Audio file

[2024-11-12 KST Kafka 03 At Night v1.mp3](#)

Transcript

At night. Completely absorbed by the night. Just as one sometimes lowers one's head to reflect, thus to be utterly lost in the night. All around people are asleep. It's just play acting, an innocent self-deception that they sleep in houses in safe beds, under safe roofs, stretched out or curled up on mattresses in sheets under blankets; in reality they have flocked together as they had once upon a time and again later in the deserted region, a camp in the open, a countless number of men, an army of people under a cold sky on cold earth, collapsed where once they had stood, forehead pressed on the arm, face to the ground, breathing quietly. And you are watching, are one of the watchmen, you find the next one by brandishing a burning stick by the brushwood pile beside you. Why are you watching? Someone must watch, it is said. Someone must be there.