

**THROUGH THE EYES OF RACHEL MARKER**  
by Moira Roth

**PART 2:**

**RACHEL MARKER, LETTERS TO  
FRANZ KAFKA, PRAGUE  
JUNE 1924**



*Franz Kafka, Old Town Square, c. 1922*

**#1. Franz Kafka****June 12, 1924, Prague**

Dear Franz,

I sit here in the café in Prague's Old Town, which you know so well, mourning your death.

A hundred or so people came to your funeral yesterday—your family and your friends, including Max Brod and Dora Diamant—and the Kaddish, the Hebrew Prayer for the Dead, was read.

I was told that Dora cried out as they lowered your wooden coffin into the open grave.

I was told that people ceremoniously threw earth upon the coffin—"light, loamy earth mixed with crumbling pieces of stone and pebbles" that created a loud rumbling.

I was told that after the mourners dispersed silently, rain began to fall.

As I sit in this outdoor café opposite the Astronomical Clock, I keep imagining your funeral as I do the last few weeks of your life when you were in that sanitarium outside Vienna, where the tuberculosis had spread to your larynx so that you lost your voice.

You could only communicate silently by writing notes to Dora and your friend Robert Klopstock, who were nursing you.

You once said that "writing is a form of prayer. Even if no redemption comes, I still want to be worthy of it every moment."

Redemption?

Salvation?

Atonement?

I, too, brood on such things, and I know this is why I am so drawn to you, and why I have made the resolution to write to you every day until I die.

I feel compelled to do so as the notion of a daily letter to you seems my only solace at the moment.

Rachel



*Franz Kafka's grave*

**June 13, 1924, Prague**

Dear Franz,

By strange coincidence, it turns out that the waiter at this cafe has a trunk at his house that once belonged to you.

He tells me that his father, a poet, knew you and that you gave it to him a year or two ago.

We have agreed that each day I will give him the letter I write to you, sealed in envelope, and he will place it in this trunk for safekeeping.

Rachel