

Let us watch this scene from the movie, *Papillon*.  
You see darkness. Then there is light.  
You watch the scene before you.

The prisoner stands in the desert.  
The judges are there in a circle.  
This is like a Salvador Dali painting.  
The prisoner stands before the judges. Or the judges stand before the  
prisoner.

There is silence.

The circle pronounces its verdict:  
*Guilty.*  
*You are Guilty.*  
*Guilty of a wasted life.*

The prisoner is before you.  
You stare into his cold eyes.

*Guilty. You are Guilty. Guilty of a wasted life.*

- a scene from *Papillon* (1973), as I remember it  
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- extract from *The Phoenix* by Raj Arumugam