

MIGNINI I would like it if you could remember what happened – do you remember the crime against Meredith?

CURATOLO Yes. I've read about it in the magazines.

MIGNINI When you...were you in Piazza Grimana when the police arrived?

CURATOLO In that period, yes. I was in Piazza Grimana.

MIGNINI Do you remember what you did? What you had seen the previous night?

CURATOLO First of all I mean to be precise about something, something that I confirm as a conscientious thing. I don't like to take advantage of other people's lives or ruin them. Anyway, that evening, in that period I was in Piazza Grimana on the bench reading the magazine *L'Espresso*.

MIGNINI What time was it?

CURATOLO Around 9:30, 10:00.

MIGNINI And then?

CURATOLO I was on the bench reading an article that interested me in *L'Espresso*. Every once in a while I smoked a cigarette and watched the people in Piazza Grimana and around, above. At the other end of the basketball court there were two kids. They seemed like a couple. They were animatedly discussing something to themselves.

MIGNINI Where were these kids precisely?

CURATOLO On the other end of the basketball court, under a lamp, where you shoot the basketball.

MIGNINI What were they doing other than discussing?

CURATOLO They were arguing like a couple. Every once in a while one of them got up and went to where there's the railing to look down. There were other people, anyway, who were loudly messing around. It was a holiday.

MIGNINI Do you remember what time it was that you saw them?

CURATOLO I told you. I was sitting on the bench around 9:30, 10:00, and I was there until around midnight.

MIGNINI And when did you see these two kids?

CURATOLO Until before midnight when I got tired of reading, I lit a cigarette, I watched the people that went by, the movement that was in Piazza Grimana, and then I didn't see them anymore.

MIGNINI So you saw them until shortly before midnight and...

CURATOLO The last time, yes.

MIGNINI Then you didn't see them anymore?

CURATOLO No.

MIGNINI For how long did you observe them?

CURATOLO Let's say, every time I looked up from reading the newspaper, I must have smoked three or four cigarettes. About that.

MIGNINI How were these kids dressed?

CURATOLO In a dark color.

MIGNINI Can you describe them physically?

CURATOLO They were very tall, a little short. They seemed nice, besides.

MIGNINI Dark hair? Light hair? Excuse me, Mr. Curatolo, but do you see these kids in the courtroom?

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI Who are they?

MASSEI Can you indicate them?

CURATOLO It's her and him. But I knew them from before. It wasn't like I had only seen them just that night. Already before...

MIGNINI So you saw them a little before midnight. Then what did you do? Did you fall asleep?

CURATOLO No. After I smoked a cigarette and I left.

MIGNINI At what time did you leave the area?

CURATOLO A little before midnight.

MIGNINI And so when you left you didn't see them anymore?

CURATOLO No.

MIGNINI So you said you saw them a little before midnight?

CURATOLO Yes.

...

MIGNINI What time did you wake up?

CURATOLO Around 9:00. 8:30, 9:00. Something like that.

MIGNINI Then what did you do?

CURATOLO I went to the piazza again.

MIGNINI To Piazza Grimana?

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI What did you do there that morning?

CURATOLO I went to get a cappuccino at the café. Then I sat down at the bench, smoked a cigarette. Every so often came some kid I knew, a friend, and we chatted. But there was something strange because there was a lot of movement by the police, coming and going. We were in the Piazza until around 1:30, 2:00. Or rather, I was there for even longer, only that the Carabinieri came to ask us if we had heard something or seen something. I said I hadn't heard anything. Apart from the kids who were out having fun that night I didn't see anything grave. We were there for a little while, and there was this coming and going of the police. We went to look down and we saw people wearing white suits – the police, Carabinieri. There was a mess of people down there.

MIGNINI Down where? In what area?

CURATOLO Near a house. They were near the entrance to a house.

MIGNINI Via Della Pergola?

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI The house that you saw in the newspapers, in the photos?

CURATOLO Yes, yes.

MIGNINI The house where the crime occurred?

CURATOLO Yes. At least, that's what the newspapers say.

...

MIGNINI So you confirm precisely these details, that the morning after seeing the kids, the morning immediately after you were in the Piazza, there was at a certain point a coming and going of the police, the Carabinieri came, and then you looked down, around 1:30 to 2:00, and you saw all of the police, the Carabinieri, people in white suits, etc...?

CURATOLO Yes.

...

BONGIORNO The two were there the entire time without interruption?

CURATOLO Yes, until before midnight, when I left, I think they were there.

BONGIORNO So they didn't leave and come back, they were always there?

CURATOLO No. They didn't go and come back. They were sitting there talking to each other.

...

MIGNINI Yes. Then I will read the summary as it is easier to understand.  
"This will have happened between 11:30 and after midnight."  
"Between 11:00 and after midnight, then?"  
"Yes."  
"Much after midnight?"  
"No...I think...I went down, I left after the buses left."

MASSEI Prosecutor, excuse me, could you reread that because we haven't understood. Around 11:00 until after midnight?

MIGNINI Yes. "Between 11 and after midnight, then?"  
"Yes."  
"Much after midnight?"  
"No. I think...I went down, I left after the buses left."  
"10 minutes after they left?"

“Yes. 10, 15 minutes.”

“And the buses leave at midnight?”

“More or less that’s the time.”

“What did you notice? Did they go towards the house?”

“No. They were sitting at the other end of the basketball court, talking.”

“You were near the newspaper kiosk?”

“Yes. I must have been 50 meters, more or less, distant and they were talking and every once in a while they watched. One of them got up...”

“The boy or the girl?”

“The boy got up and they went to look down there.”

Now I’m looking for the time you indicated. You said, “I was in Piazza Grimana, usually I stay in Piazza Grimana, Piazza Grimana which is under a hundred meters from the house on Via della Pergola.” Then you said, “I noted there was a bit of a ruckus of students that went, that took the buses to go to a disco to have fun and I noted a couple at the end of the basketball court.”

CURATOLO

Yes.

MIGNINI

And then you said, “Yes. It must have happened between 11:30 and after midnight.” That is, you refer to between 11:30 and midnight.

CURATOLO

No. From around 9:30, that I went to Piazza Grimana, until around 10:00, like that, I was reading the *L’Espresso* and I was smoking a cigarette and I hadn’t noticed them. Then around 9:30 to 10:00 I noticed these two kids, until around midnight.

MASSEI

You said, “I was there from 9:30 to 10:00, I read *L’Espresso*, I hadn’t noticed the kids.”

CURATOLO

Certainly.

MASSEI

“I noticed them later”, but you continue to repeat 9:30-10:00, so it doesn’t work.

CURATOLO

That is, between 9:30 and 10:00.

MASSEI

So you arrived between 9:30 and 10:00...

CURATOLO

It must have been 5, 10 minutes. 9:30 is 9:30, 10:00 is 10:00, a half hour’s time, so if I smoke a cigarette I need 5 minutes, in consequence...

MASSEI You said, “9:30 to 10:00”. Then you added, “later I noticed them” and therefore the “later” presupposes some passing of time. Vice versa you repeat 9:30 to 10:00, so...

CURATOLO No, no. Between 9:30 and 10:00 I already noticed them because it takes 5 minutes to smoke a cigarette.

...

MIGNINI So, when you were there, did you always watch these kids?

CURATOLO No.

MIGNINI Were there moments...

CURATOLO Yes. There were moments that I looked up from reading the articles that interested me, I smoked a cigarette and I watched the piazza and I saw who was in the piazza.

MIGNINI How many times did you observe them?

CURATOLO 4 or 5 times. I must have smoked 4 or 5 cigarettes, no more.

...

MIGNINI The part in contestation: “Often more than one couple sat down there before they took the bus and every once in a while one of them went down to the street below and then returned to sit there.”

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI “After a little, though, they were gone. Let’s say, after the buses that bring kids to discos were gone, yes. And this is what happened” – you said – “between 11:30, after midnight.”

CURATOLO Yes.

...

MASSEI You’re saying, “I saw them around 9:30-10:00”?

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI So now you are saying, in this moment you’re saying, “I started to see them around 9:30 to 10:00, little else.”

CURATOLO Yes.

MIGNINI Then, "I didn't always watch them," you said.

CURATOLO No, because I was reading.

MIGNINI Exactly. So you glanced four or five times, you said, in a period of about an hour, an hour and a half.

CURATOLO Almost two hours.

MIGNINI Then you said, "When I left..."

CURATOLO No, before I left.

MIGNINI "Before leaving I looked, before midnight, I looked and they weren't there anymore."

CURATOLO Yes. There weren't people around anymore. Then I was smoking a cigarette and they weren't there anymore either.

MIGNINI Do you remember when you saw them the last time? At what time?

CURATOLO Before 11:00, 11:30, was the last time I saw them.

MIGNINI That is...

CURATOLO That is, the last time I noticed them.

MIGNINI So you looked, you saw them around 11:00-11:30, then when you left, towards midnight, you didn't see them anymore.

...

MARESCA Do you remember seeing where the two defendants came from in respect to Piazza Grimana?

CURATOLO No, and neither where they went. When I noticed them they were already sitting on the wall.

MARESCA Where were you sitting?

CURATOLO I was sitting on the bench, but when I looked toward the other end of the basketball court they were already sitting on the wall and I don't know where they came from.

MARESCA So you didn't see them arrive?

CURATOLO No.

...

MASSEI At what time did you arrive at this bench alone?

CURATOLO Around 9:30.

MASSEI Where did you come from?

CURATOLO From Corso Garibaldi.

MASSEI So you came down from Corso Garibaldi. Can you say where this bench is?

CURATOLO It's near the news kiosk.

MASSEI In respect to the basketball court where is the bench? Behind the court?

CURATOLO No, no, it's to the left.

MASSEI So you were sitting on the bench. Other than looking through *L'Espresso* that you read, what did you see?

CURATOLO When I stopped reading I smoked a cigarette and saw everything.

MASSEI So you arrived at the bench at 9:30, 10:00?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI And what did you begin to do?

CURATOLO I sat down, I smoked a cigarette, and I started reading.

MASSEI You read some articles in *L'Espresso*?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI How long did you read *L'Espresso*? How many articles did you read?

CURATOLO I couldn't have read the whole thing!

MASSEI How long did this reading last?

CURATOLO 20 minutes.



MASSEI And while you read you also looked around?

CURATOLO No, no, when I read I read, then after...

MASSEI When you read you read, you don't look around.

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI And when did you start to look around?

CURATOLO When I was tired of reading, I put down the reading and I smoked a cigarette and I watched the people.

MASSEI And when you looked around what did you see?

CURATOLO Everything there was.

MASSEI And in particular the two kids, who you recognized today, when did you see them?

CURATOLO After the first reading that I did, so it would be between 9:30 and 10:00.

MASSEI How?

CURATOLO After the first reading that I did it would have been between 9:30 and 10:00.

MASSEI Can you describe where these kids were, that we can now call by name seeing as you recognized them, where were they?

CURATOLO At the other end of the basketball court, near where you shoot the basketball. There's a pole and there's a pole with a light...

MASSEI So in respect to the bench, where were they?

CURATOLO On the left.

MASSEI On the left a little behind, in front of you, on the same line as the bench?

CURATOLO More or less on the same line on the left.

...

CURATOLO I smoked a cigarette, looked around at who was above the street, I looked at the street, looked at the piazza, and I happened to look at

the other end of the basketball court, all I have to do is this [he turns his head], it's not like I have to turn like [he turns bodily]. It's enough that I go like this and look over there at the end.

MASSEI Was it illuminated? Was there light?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI And so you saw them.

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI What did they do?

CURATOLO They were doing as all couples do. They were sitting there discussing a little animatedly between themselves. Sometimes it seemed like they were joking, sometimes it seemed like they were arguing.

MASSEI But did you hear their voices, seeing as they were discussing?

CURATOLO Yes, but not loudly.

MASSEI But you heard their voices?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI Did you catch any words?

CURATOLO No, because there was too much ruckus also from the cars.

MASSEI So you don't know if they were speaking in Italian or not.

CURATOLO No.

MASSEI For how long did you see them? Did you see them for a second?

CURATOLO A second, it must have been a minute, half a minute. I saw them over there. I watched them and then I turned away to look at the piazza again.

...

MASSEI Did you continue to watch them or did you look for a few minutes and then...

CURATOLO No, I watched them like this. It was a couple and I then continued to look at the piazza.

MASSEI The you lost sight of them?

CURATOLO Yes. I looked at the piazza and then I started reading.

MASSEI Yes. You continued to read. For how long did you read?

CURATOLO Another 20 minutes, half hour.

MASSEI And when you stopped reading what did you do then?

CURATOLO I lighted the cigarette again, I relaxed for a second and I looked around the piazza again, who was there, who wasn't there. I looked again over at the end because there were kids who were making a ruckus, they were having fun, and I saw them again. They were sitting there and it seemed normal.

MASSEI Did you see them again?

CURATOLO Yes, yes.

MASSEI And where were they?

CURATOLO Always in the same spot.

MASSEI Always in the same position?

CURATOLO Yes. Every once in a while, in the period that I saw them, the boy stood up and went to look down. There's a railing at the end of the basketball court. He got up and went down and returned again.

MASSEI Who got up?

CURATOLO The boy.

MASSEI Raffaele Sollecito, then, got up?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI Alone?

CURATOLO Yes. He went to look down there. Then I started smoking again, for another half hour, the time to read other things until around 11:30. Then I lighted another cigarette, I started looking around at the

people above. Then I turned and they weren't there anymore. There were other kids who were making a ruckus for fun.

MASSEI So you turned and they weren't there anymore?

CURATOLO Yes. This was around 11:30, around midnight. After the buses left I got up.

...

MASSEI And that day. Do you remember if this was the day before the morning that you saw...

CURATOLO I don't know if it was Friday or Thursday.

MASSEI Regardless of whether it was Friday or Thursday, was it November 1st, October 31st, or do you not remember?

CURATOLO I don't remember well now.

...

MASSEI Did you know him [Rudy]?

CURATOLO No.

MASSEI Did you see him that evening?

CURATOLO No, I didn't see colored, North American people.

MASSEI What do you mean? You said North American people.

CURATOLO No, North African. Being black he must be North African. At least I think so.

MASSEI And you didn't see him that night?

CURATOLO No. I didn't see him.

MASSEI Did you hear running? Are there are stairs near where you were in Piazza Grimana, where there's the basketball court, are there stairs?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI Did you hear the sounds of people who were running up those stairs?

CURATOLO No. There was some ruckus from the students. It being a holiday there was a ruckus.

MASSEI What were those students doing? Can you better characterize what you're describing?

CURATOLO They were joyful.

MASSEI What did they do? Sing?

CURATOLO They chatted, squealed, laughed.

MASSEI And you heard from these stairs...

CURATOLO No.

MASSEI You didn't hear anyone?

CURATOLO No. I didn't see anyone either.

MASSEI And you stayed seating on the bench until the buses brought the kids to...

CURATOLO To the disco.

MASSEI How do you know that they were bringing kids to the disco? For the hour?

CURATOLO A part from the time, almost every day, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday they bring kids to the disco to avoid that they come with their cars, then get drunk and some mess happens.

MASSEI And you were still on the bench?

CURATOLO Yes.

MASSEI The buses left. There are a bunch of people. You say that they went to the disco and you remained there.

CURATOLO Yes.