

# Night Noise Group Study



## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

Thanks for being interested in Night Noise. I'll be the first to admit that Night Noise is an unusual book, so I don't take it for granted that you've decided to choose this book and share it with your tribe. Page will feature a paragraph about the chapter, some ideas covered in the material, and questions for any group. Be sure to read the actual book chapter before going into each discussion to minimize spoilers and have more ideas to work with when talking to friends and members of your book club.

### Chapter 1

Kanatan is given specific instructions as we meet him for the first time. This is also the first time we witness Kanatan become afraid.

1. *Why was he afraid? What was the trigger for his fear?*

When he became afraid, he acted like the other animals around him, because he didn't want to be held responsible for something they did.

2. *What would have happened if he obeyed what Atemok (A-te-mock) had said?*
3. *Would this have separated him from the animals around him, and perhaps given him a different fate?*

When we are accused falsely, it is ideal not to then do the very thing of which we have been accused.

Also, when many people, or many animals act in a certain way, it is very wise not to react as they do unthinkingly, but rather consider why they are acting that way. In the case of animals running away from a beach, it may be wise when you consider they may anticipate a tidal wave. Consider also, however, that whales will beach themselves, and that going against the crowd can be your path to safety. Understand why, and don't react.

*Matthew 6:27 (NIV) - Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 2

It is easy to laugh at Kah's predicament as he tries to escape the predicament he played a large role in getting himself into. It is quite scary to run into those whose values are so contrary to our own that communication seems impossible and it seems the only thing that will satisfy them is a lose-win scenario that plays out very poorly for us.

Kah, however, did some things right. He recognized that it was his responsibility to solve the problem. He may have had a savior rowing towards him on a canoe, but Kah still needed to do his part. He may not have accepted responsibility for getting into the situation, but he did take ownership of getting out of it.

He also tried to speak at a level his captors understood. He may have relied on deception, and a pinch of blasphemy, but he tried to use his creativity to ascertain where he was, what he could use to escape, and how to defend himself from his captors.

1. *Have you ever gotten in a dispute with someone who had ill-intent towards you? How did you respond?*
2. *In the threats facing your life, whether it's job difficulties, relationship troubles, or monsters who want to turn your skull into a skullcap, how can you take responsibility for getting yourself out of it instead of relying wholly upon a human (and not divine) savior?*
3. *Can you be better than Kah, and explore what principles you violated, or mistakes you made, or errors in your awareness, that caused you to get into the situation you're currently in?*

*Matthew 15:14-20 (NIV - Emphasis added) - After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

*"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 3

The walk home for Kah required alertness despite his relief at being delivered from the den, and shame at not following Atemok's instructions.

1. What are the expectations Kah, or perhaps Kah's family, have placed upon him, and are those expectations really helping him grow?

Atemok, however, did not shame Kah publicly for his failure. Instead, he reported to ex-Chief Sanukk accurately and without hesitation his son Kah's errors. .

2. *What do you imagine Atemok's relationship is like to Chief Sanukk?*
3. *When bringing up a person's failure, is it to sink the other person into shame and depression, or is it to truly help them improve?*

Atemok mentioned that neglecting the tasks that build the heart will lead to failure. In other words, creativity is no substitute for morality. As you'll soon learn in the story, Atemok is easily in the top 1 or 2% in the village for creative thinking. Creativity is like an animal that one can ride, and if that animal is pointed in the wrong direction, it can cause a lot of pain.

4. *Have you ever met someone who was creative but you could not trust them? If you were their trainer when they were young, what would you say to them?*

*Genesis 4:3-7 – In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

*Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 4

In this chapter we meet Kah's first 'enemy'. This is a woman who is determined to make Kah's life miserable. He has done nothing to her, and you read that at one point she was not treating him this way in the past. Considering his youth and inexperience, he managed to avoid losing his cool in front of her.

1. *Why do you think Kimi hates Kah so much?*
2. *Has someone ever treated you unfairly? Did you keep your cool until you could talk about it with a trusted friend or lose control and say things that made things worse?*
3. *Have you considered that some of the people who treated you terribly when you were a kid might have been reacting to something other than you? In other words, were you a vessel that represented their ill will because for whatever reason, they couldn't lash out at the real thing?*

At the feast, there was a man dreaming dreams of trouble and warning. The people largely ignored him and suggested that he should tell jokes instead. The festival had a tradition of telling jokes between dreams from the seers to break up difficult news into digestible portions, however that tradition had lost its original use and metamorphosed into a standup-comedy open mic.

4. *Why do you think the village ignored the man's serious warnings?*
5. *Is there a practice in your family, church, or work that started out well-intentioned but turned into more of a liability over time?*

*Mark 7:6-9 – He [Jesus] replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:*

*'These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.'*

*You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions"*

*And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"*

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 5

Many native tribes have used sweat huts or sweat lodges. They were not only used in spiritual rituals, but also to heal from illnesses. The largest organ of the body is the skin and sweat is still used to speed up the flow of blood, increase white blood cell production, and eliminate waste through the pores. These practices exist not only among Native Americans, but also through things like hydrotherapy and saunas.

While Kah was in the sweat hut, he experienced a lot of insecurity about himself, and did not know what to do as he heard the screams of someone he knew.

1. *What emotions were Kah feeling as he stood near the entrance to the sweat hut at night?*
2. *Have you ever heard a cry for help from someone who was consistently unkind to you? When do you think it is appropriate to help them and when is it not?*
3. *What do you think Kah will experience in the next chapter when he leaves the sweat hut?*

*Matthew 5:44 (KJV) – But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

4. How well was Kah living out the above quote, on a spiritual level? What, if any, double mindedness did he have?

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 6

At the funeral, Kah witnessed the farewell ceremony of someone who had treated him very well and was greatly respected by the village. As readers, you also received a hint of the real danger that had arrived in Night Forest, in the form of confidential information given to him by his father and Atemok.

1. *If you were Atemok or Sanuuk, would you have told Kah about the monster? Why or why not?*
2. *Why is the Totekhelpa (TOW-teh-KEL-pah) more dangerous when it is older? How does that present a problem for the villagers?*
3. *Where was Kah warned not to go?*
4. *Have you ever had to deal with a crisis while also going through an important exam or test? How did you manage?*

*Ezekiel 33:4-5 (KJV) – Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.*

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 7

Fasting was a common practice among many Native Americans. It was practiced by shamans and non-shamans alike, and many incorporated it into prayer at different times in their lives. They often did so before wars or hunting, as part of their prayers for success at important endeavors. The Cherokee believed that abstaining for food for days at a time spiritualized human nature and quickened the spiritual vision. Kah had just finished his fast and noticed that it improved his focus and perception.

1. *Have you ever gone by choice without food? If so, what benefits have you noticed?*

The professions of Miyiko (Me-YEE-Koh) village and the education system of its inhabitants has been more fully explained in this chapter. Everyone could choose their main occupation, but it usually only took up half a day, or half the week, while the rest of the time could be split along a secondary occupation or rotating among every profession. In this way, each person could become the one-man village, or what people today would call a polymath. The one-man village was very prized in the story, which is one of the reasons Akwahn's death was mourned by so many people in the previous chapter.

2. *How does this education system differ from the education system you grew up with?*
3. *Does society today value people who have achieved mastery or near-mastery in multiple disciplines? What kinds of fields would you like to master?*

In the House of Decision, the villagers switch between multiple thought patterns. The widely varying tactics of each individual Totekhelpa the warriors have faced is passed on as information in the meetings, leading even the elders in the village to second-guess themselves. Enough second-guessing, and they become, in spite of their education and previous successes, paralyzed by indecision.

4. *Who is taking advantage of the crisis? Why might he or she be doing that?*

*2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) – For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*



# ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

## Chapter 8

In this chapter, Kah was so offended at the cynical words of speaker Onsi (OWN-see) that he reacted violently. Those who speak on behalf of rulers have been held in high regard for most of human history, and it was a miracle Onsi had exhausted the patience of the village before Kah had lost his temper.

1. *What was Kah truly afraid of when speaker Onsi was talking to him?*

After the rainfall, and the horde of guests that charged through the village, Kah came to a conclusion that “the nightmare you cannot do anything about is much worse than the fear standing in front of you.”

2. *What do you think of Kah’s quote, and have you experienced something similar in your own life?*

Sanukk, Kah’s father, explained that scared people are not smart people. That is because fear triggers our amygdala to release cortisol and adrenaline. Our heart rate increases as well as our blood pressure. This stimulus also affects the frontal lobe responsible for our judgment processes. This is helpful if an animal is already chasing you, but in Onsi’s case, he panicked and tried to run for home.

3. *What do you do to stay rational when you feel fear in a non-lethal situation?*

*Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) – The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 9

This is a short chapter. Kah and his father discuss how Onsi's decision to run away could affect everyone in the village. They also discuss possible plans for Kah and Ahanu (a-HA-noo) to begin a pilgrimage on their own, assuming the beast attacked the village while they were out.

1. *In your work, whether it's at your school or your job, how many people do you think are affected one, two, or even three degrees of separation out from you? (In other words, do your actions affect other people, leading to their actions affecting other people, whose actions then affect still more people?)*
2. *It is always good to come up with more than one plan for something. With your current plans, have you considered what would happen if your way forward was blocked for whatever reason?*

Let's end this chapter discussion with a bible verse from 1 Samuel, where Jonathan discusses a contingency plan with his friend, the future King David:

**1 Samuel 20:18-22** – *Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty. 19 The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel. 20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target. 21 Then I will send a boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,' then come, because, as surely as the LORD lives, you are safe; there is no danger. 22 But if I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then you must go, because the LORD has sent you away.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 10

Sanuuk and his group recover Onsi, but they are stalked as they return to the village. As they ride in the night, Kah learns more about the dangers of the Totekhelpa, as well as the fearful revelation that there might be more than one in the woods. On this night, Kah witnessed his father display terror on his face, which was a completely new experience for him.

1. *Has anyone you respected when you were a child ever shown you that they were afraid? When did that happen?*

The soldiers relied very much on humor to get through the difficulty of their mission, even when they were braving the dangers in the forest. Humor is a theme that the book returns to several times.

In the book by Laurence Gonzales, *Deep Survival*, he explains that laughter stimulates the part of the brain responsible for well-being and motivation. It also reduces the activity of the amygdala, which lowers feelings of anxiety. He says “A sense of humor is not a ‘luxury item’ but a vital ‘organ’ necessary for salvation. Trench humor is widespread among soldiers, helping them to survive not only in war but also during a solitary voyage in the ocean, a divorce, or the death of a loved one.”

2. *Have you ever relied on humor to help you get through difficult times? How did that help you?*
3. *Did you ever joke about a difficult experience while you were in the middle of it?*

Kah also protects the dignity of Onsi when he had only created problems for the rest of the village. Even as Onsi was still badmouthing the Gifters for choosing to live in the Eye of Inheritance, Kah did not lash out in anger against him. This pleased his father because he knew Kah was getting the type of grace needed to be a leader, who could also present Onsi’s position from a perspective the other warriors could understand.

4. *Have you ever defended someone from your own friends, whether in front of them or behind closed doors?*

*Matthew 14:26-27 (KJV, emphasis added) – And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid.***

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 11

Only hinted at before, we begin to see who Kah's brother was, and why he did not live in the village anymore. Consequently, this also answers why Sanukk is ex-chief of the village rather than its current chief. It also explains why Kimi was once so nice to Kah when he was younger, but during the events of this book, she treated him so harshly.

Many other questions are also answered in this chapter, though I leave it to the readers to wonder about those.

1. *Have any members of your family gone to court before? (Leave out specifics if you want to.) How did that affect you?*
2. *In Miyiko village, three crimes are rewarded with exile. Do you remember which three they were?*
3. *When has 'guilt by association' affected you? (Losing reputation or opportunities because you were friends, family, or in business with someone alleged to have done bad deeds or lived a bad lifestyle)*
4. *Criminals who were especially problematic to the tribe were, as they have been in many tribes throughout history, branded and exiled. Why is exile not used as much as a form of punishment anymore, and would exile ever be a superior form of punishment to what currently exists in the criminal justice system?*

Let us be careful not to judge people for their connection to somebody who made a mistake.

*Ezekiel 18:20 (NIV) – The who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 12

Kah faced a momentous choice in this chapter, while confronting for the first time the terrible truth about his brother. He suspected something bad, but because nobody had explained it in great detail before, he hadn't realized the awfulness of it all. Now he could imagine how his brother lived out there, alone. The grudge he must have nursed over who knows how long. The grudge that the Totekhelpa may have somehow inherited. If at any point Sanuuk had set his biases aside and had a real conversation with Sohkan about this issue with Kimi, it might have convinced him not to commit such a terrible crime.

1. *Sohkan, Kah's brother, was a man of quick wit and brilliant skill. What can a father or mother do to correct a rebellious child who has grown older and can physically overpower his elders?*
2. *At what age is it appropriate to talk to one's own children about violent crimes? When should Sanuuk and Liweah have explained all this to Kah?*

While debating whether to go on the pilgrimage, Kah wanted his friends to go with him. At this point it looks like he would be able to get maybe two to go with him, and even that wasn't set in stone.

3. *How would you process the rejection of a friend like Ahanu did to Kah?*
4. *If you did a tremendous favor for someone that they could never pay back, is it ethical to use that favor for payment over and over? At what point should the friendship transform from a transactional and performance-based relationship back to one of grace and generosity?*

The journey begins in the next chapter. Enjoy it.

*Hebrews 12:7 – Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 13

The chapter closes on a sad point. In the space of two or three minutes, Kah goes from being the most well-protected boy in his village to defenseless and alone. In the middle of the woods, it will take every ounce of his strength and survival skills just to stay alive, let alone make it to the place Atemok told him about. What makes that place so special? You'll just have to go to the next chapter to find out!

Tikoh (TEE-Koe) had no choice but to flee. It was Atemok's command, and Tikoh clearly wasn't accomplishing very much. It still must have filled him with shame.

1. *Have you ever been unable to help someone you truly care about? Were you ever able to help them in the future?*
2. *Have you ever felt abandoned... not because people don't like you, but because they believe there is nothing they can do for you?*

There is a time for strategic retreat, but there is also a time for sacrifice. In addition, there is a time to stay alive no matter what.

I urge you, whenever you're in doubt, to believe that right now is the time to stay alive. You never know which tomorrow could turn things around for the better.

3. *Is there anybody you love so much that you would be willing to sacrifice yourself for them?*
4. *When in your life did you feel it was important to just keep going, even though you didn't know how things could get better? Has your relationship with God played a role in that?*

The story won't be this depressing every chapter. Kah is coming back, and when he does, he'll be better than ever.

*John 15:13 (NIV) – Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 14

For the first time since the prologue, we see the world from the eyes of somebody other than Kah. Occasionally we will return to the village to see how things develop while Kah is on his adventure. Tikoh returned alone, and Kah's mother was distraught as to what this could mean.

1. *Have you ever punished somebody because you were afraid of what they might have to say?*

Some of us have a connection to the people close to us that is so strong that when those people are sick, hurt, or dealt with unfairly, it hurts us even more than it hurts them. Liweah (Lee-WAY-ah) mentions this near the end of the chapter in regards to her husband Sanuuk:

"Punishment is often the strongest medicine and, when Sanuuk took a draft of that, it was I who became sick."

2. *What calamity has hit a person close to you in such a way that you felt it for them?*
3. *Is this kind of empathy helpful or not? Is it better to let the person affected deal with it instead, or does that empathy help the suffering person?*

*Romans 8:26 (KJV) – Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 15

We return to Kah's journey southwest. He makes it past the village, and wolves pursue him through a dangerous part of the forest. In the meantime we could feel the deep wounding in Kah's heart as his mind replays the failure of the previous days obsessively. A great bitterness towards God had awakened in his heart, and it has started to make him cynical and cold in his interactions with even the wildlife of the forest.

1. *Have you ever been so upset by a life circumstance that you decided (at least for a time) to be bitter towards God over it?*
2. *Did bitterness towards God help you to have healthy relationships in the future?*

Personally, a distrust towards God causes me to overwork, making me unable to find rest even on the Lord's day.

There are a number of reasons why things go wrong in the world, and most of them are second-order, third-order, or even seven hundredth-order consequences of living in a sinful fallen world where people make choices affecting everyone around us. All we can do is take responsibility for our role in the situation, learn our lessons, set better boundaries, and continue through life with a more informed, greater predictive ability, which causes us to more accurately recognize and mitigate risk for the best outcome we can foresee. If we can also avoid being so cynical that we detect danger where there is none, so much the better.

3. *Have violations of trust by certain kinds of people ever caused you to become more sensitive about trusting those types of people in the future?*
4. *Has your relationship with God ever come back from the disappointment brought on by tragedy? How? If not, how could you reconnect to God?*

*Job 19:25-27 (NIV) – I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eye – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*



## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 16

A lot of small things happen in this chapter. Tikoh and Liweah reconcile. We learn some of Mohwat Maktah's (MOE-Watt MAK-Tah) motivations. Tikoh and Ahanu develop a plan with a new elder and the chief to reduce the tensions in the village somewhat.

The emotions of the villagers are beginning to spiral as they envision worse case scenarios of every kind, and their imagination is darker than most realities that they are currently facing.

1. *Do you believe that imagining bad things makes them more likely to happen? Why or Why not?*
2. *Have you ever acted as an intermediary between two parties with irreconcilable differences? Was it a productive experience or would you not do it again if given the choice?*

Maktah, like many people who are cunning or worldly wise, take little stock in religion or even their own origin story. This offends Tikoh though Ahanu and his father are better able to understand that perspective.

3. *In your experience, how do skeptics fare in personal effectiveness within their own lives compared to those who believe in the divine or the supernatural?*

*Matthew 5:9 (NIV) – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 17

In this chapter we start to get a sense of just how fantastical this world can be. Kah finds it hard to believe that he has met the founder of his village face to face. The man would have to be very very old – far older than anyone Kah had ever heard of.

Kah has a dream in this chapter about his deceased older brother. It gives him tremendous stress because as he loses his brother (for the second time), his body is broken into pieces. This will become important if the story of this world will continue beyond this book, because it is a prophecy of Kah's role as a leader

1. *Have you ever had a dream where you lost someone close to you? Did the dream happen after you lost them, or did you never lose them in the first place?*
2. *Have you ever had a dream that signaled something to you about the future? If so, what was it?*
3. *Enko was the founder of Miyiko village, and is well over five hundred years old. Are there any bible characters you remember, or people in your culture's myths and legends who lived for hundreds of years?*

*Acts 2:17 (NIV) – In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 18

Kanatan tells his dream to Enko. Enko is very quiet in this chapter, and doesn't tell Kah very much about how to interpret the dream. He demonstrates empathy while allowing Kah to explore his own feelings about the experience. After an amateur and ironic joke, which Enko allows to be told without putting Kah on the spot, Kah proposes that Enko become his new teacher.

Enko gives information that storytellers wouldn't remember and ancestors would be embarrassed to repeat about the last Totekhempa attack on their village. The coming of the monster coincided with division among the people, balkanizing and worsening an already terrible situation.

1. *Has there been a time in your life when emergencies happened in rapid succession? How well were you and the people close to you able to deal with them?*
2. *Why do you think the entire village doesn't know about Enko still being alive? Why did Atemok keep that knowledge secret?*

Enko says "It is not the monster outside you should fear...it is the monster within men."

3. *How would you interpret Enko's quote? Are there examples from your life and in current events where the monster within men was more perilous than a real, tangible danger that you were facing?*

*Romans 8:7 (NIV) – The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 19

In this chapter several key members of the tribal government lost their lives. From Ahanu's perspective, he was witnessing the loss of a lot of his family's legacy - his family's investment of wisdom, coaching, and advising in the leadership of the village. Sohkan's grudge has gotten rid of most of Otehmah's (Oh-TAY-muh) allies among the council of elders, and now Mohwat (MOE-Watt) is one of the few people with the will to run village affairs. As much as Mohwat hated Sanuuk, he wasn't on the council when they were deciding Sohkan's fate, and so he was never a target.

Speaker Onsi recommended a temporary move to his country for the whole of Miyiko village. Moving away from your home after you have committed to staying someplace is never an easy choice.

1. *Have you ever felt compelled to move away from a place you loved? If so, where was it and why?*
2. *Was there ever a time in your life where you felt everything was going wrong? If you've gotten some distance from it, what kind of good can you see that came out of that time?*

This was a short chapter, but the next ones are going to be longer and full of action, so get ready.

*Psalm 139:11-12 – If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 20

Kah has recovered from the bite on his leg enough to start training again. Here we see that Enko's healing skills, or his relationship with Manito did something to improve his vitality in many ways, from long life to combat ability. Why and how Enko was able to live that long is a complicated question, and Enko himself could only guess at part of this answer (and guess correctly). He, however, was not given instruction to pass on the knowledge that would make this possible, so when or if this information will be inherited is a mystery. There is much I would love to reveal about this, and if any future books come out in this world, they will reveal it piece by piece.

1. *Is there any information you would like to know about which God has kept hidden? Why do you think he does that?*

It's possible that this sort of revelation would adversely affect our character and destiny until the timing is right for releasing that information. If you believe in God, you must believe that he has your best interests in mind, or else what's the point? With that in mind, Enko insisted to Kah that he prays, and his reasons have less to do with having a productive relationship with God and more with practically keeping the channels of communication open for Kah's own sake.

2. *Why did Enko say to pray at the last page of the chapter? Is there a better reason to pray than this?*

*Matthew 26:41 (KJV) – Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 21

In one of the most disappointing chapters in the story, the village gives into fear, despair, pride, and revenge. The only silver lining is that one of the two beasts is trapped in a hard-to-escape location.

Lose-lose thinking is the one type of interaction that is best avoided. With win-lose and lose-win, there can be a give and take, a non-ideal but at least functional exchange between people with differing interests. In this chapter Maktah engages in lose-lose thinking by setting fires around the outside of the village. It was similar to the ship-burning story where Cortes was trying to keep his soldiers from mutiny. This time however, it only divided the people rather than uniting them.

1. *Have you or anyone you know ever engaged in lose-lose thinking? What negative consequences came from that?*

Ahanu does his best to warn Maktah about the fires the Totekhempa is starting in the southern side of the forest, before spending all his energy fighting the blaze as it spreads across the village. He mentions something about mourning: that he will give himself a specific time to mourn, when his help is no longer needed or productive.

2. *How do you decide when to mourn a loss? Do you let it happen as you feel it, schedule a time later, or not do any mourning at all?*

The whole village knows that Sohkan sent the best to their village. This enrages Maktah, who most likely believes that if Liweah had married him instead, there wouldn't have been a Sohkan in the first place and this whole curse would have never come into being. Feeling he had lost his son, he believed he had nothing to lose any more and just had his soldiers attack the beast and its hostages.

3. *What would be a more productive thought process for Mohwat Maktah right now?*

*Titus 2:2 (NIV) – Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 22

This chapter is the heaviest the book gets on theology and apologetics, and it wasn't even designed to do that. Kah needed to reconcile with God and move past his disappointment at losing his father and Atemok. After this chapter ended, he still hadn't really gotten over it; it's just too soon. However, he has reconnected with God and learned to start walking with him again.

1. *Was there a point where you reconnected with God even though you hadn't fully healed from a tragic past experience? If not, what would it take to reconnect with God, either for the first time, or once again?*

Enko stressed the idea that miracles don't often happen because if God made too many exceptions to the rules governing his creation, people would become entitled and believe that God didn't do a good enough job making the world.

2. *How do you feel about Enko's statement? What are your beliefs about miracles? What do you think makes God decide to directly step in or let things happen as they do?*

The song lines were something I read about while researching the Australian aboriginal people. I was curious how they were able to travel the vast deserts without getting lost. It was an interesting concept that needed a place in the book. In the *Night Noise* world, the aboriginal people and the Native American-style tribes occupy the same continent, which holds a lot of potential for future stories.

3. *In your life journey, how often do you think about past events in your life, and how those events and decisions led you to where you are now? Which moments are coming to mind now?*

It would be easy to criticize *Night Noise* as an incomplete gospel, one that tries to rely more on stoicism stacked onto a monotheist worldview. It is incomplete, and relies too much on human performance than on grace. What I hope this book does, however, is help people who are at their lowest points to re-connect and hold on to faith, lower their fear a little, and trust God with the next step, even if they can't quite see how things could get better.

*John 11:32-35 (NIV) – When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”*

*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.*

*“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.*

*Jesus wept.*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 23

We return to a ruined village and scattering people. Tikoh, Ahanu, and Raeyen (RAY-yen) each have plans for their immediate future, but all of them hope Kah is still alive.

The chapter mentioned that people huddled around the House of Decision, even though as a structure it was still functional. The villagers had attributed so much tragedy and loss to the structure that they huddled against the outside wall of it instead of entering.

1. *Is there a place you associate with so much negativity that you just don't go there if you can avoid it? What place is it?*
2. *Is there a time that one or more family members had to live separated from you for several months or longer? What happened?*
3. *Are there any friends you've continued to have since childhood?*

Enko's words came true in that the monster inside of men had become a bigger problem than the beast itself. In the next chapter, we will return to Kah.

*Isaiah 51:3 (NIV) – The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.*



## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 24

In this chapter Kah and Enko received a visit from a village elder, who was much more informed than Kah had anticipated. Kah also learned about the destruction of his village, acquired a priceless gift, and Enko decided to revisit the village he had founded – after hundreds of years of hearing about it only through chosen messengers.

Mingan Kulat said that Kah could come back to the village by joining his group of travelers. He wasn't enthused, however, because the situation itself filled him with shame and sadness.

1. *Have you ever been invited to do something by people who didn't seem to care if you came or not? How eager were you to show up?*
2. *Have you ever given a gift to someone that you either made yourself or was so special that it was considered priceless?*
3. *Why do you think Enko lives outside of the village when he likely would have been revered by the Gifters by living amongst them?*

*Titus 2:2 (NIV) — Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 25

Throughout history there have been instances where people of great wisdom are able to speak things that those in power do not always want to hear. This often results in their deaths. John the Baptist, William Tyndale, Socrates, Martin Luther King Jr., Polycarp, Isaiah the prophet, the list goes on.

In this fiction world, Enko died for speaking the truth about the Totekhempa attacks..

1. *How could Enko's death have been prevented, and should the danger have been obvious to him?*

We notice a lot of noble behavior among the characters in the story. Raeyen tried to save Enko until her own life was in danger. Tikoh was willing to take the beatings from Maktah without asking for Kah to bail him out. Kah was unwilling to kill a fellow villager, even when that villager had done immeasurable damage to his family.

2. *Has anyone in your life given you grace or covered for you when you did not deserve it?*

Enko chose a pseudonym while in the village to disguise his real identity, yet the manner of his death revealed his specialness to all who witnessed it. As he lived such a long time in communion with God, he eventually would have been translated like Enoch. In this world, the composition of the living consciousness is body plus spirit. Every regular person has predefined ratios of each, though as Enko lived he became more and more spirit. If he had lived long enough to become 100% spirit, Manito would have just brought him to heaven. Unfortunately, he didn't make it that far, but since his body had become mostly spirit, his death turned from pain to joy and laughter as he was brought to a state of soul sleep, and the breath of his body returned to his Maker. How Enko was able to affect this change is still a mystery, which might not ever be revealed in this story or subsequent ones.

3. *Have you ever assumed a fake name for a good reason? Why?*
4. *What do you believe happens after you die?*

*Proverbs 19:3 (NIV) A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 26

Kanatan's journey with his friends seemed to end almost as fast as it started. However, he did learn where to go next by remembering what he had dreamt about earlier in his journey.

1. *Have dreams ever answered questions that your subconscious mind seemed to be struggling with?*

On the journey through the forest, Kah struggled with the morality of possibly killing a family member. He compared it to his recent encounter with Maktah, and wondered if he had what it took to save his village. At this point he has two ways to obtain victory: defeat the monster itself, which is almost an impossible task, or kill the one controlling it, who may be wily and strong, but is far easier to kill than the legendary Totekhelpa.

2. *What situations have you encountered where people have used your humanity and generosity against you? How do you hold on to your personal moral code and treat people well in a world that can be that cynical and exploitative?*
3. *At what point do criminals deserve the death penalty? If they cross that point and it fell to you to execute the sentence, do you think you could, if failure to do so meant they would continue their crimes?*

The final showdown is about to begin, and it will be very exciting. Kah is about to journey somewhere that even professional warriors try to avoid, and in the next chapter you will see why.

*2 Samuel 20:20-22 (NIV) - "Far be it from me!" Joab replied, "Far be it from me to swallow up or destroy! That is not the case. A man named Sheba son of Bikri, from the hill country of Ephraim, has lifted up his against the king, against David. Hand over this one man, and I'll withdraw from the city."*

*The woman said to Joab, "His head will be thrown to you from the wall."*

*Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice, and they cut off the head of Sheba son of Bikri and threw it to Joab. So he sounded the trumpet, and his men dispersed from the city, each returning to his home. And Joab went back to the king in Jerusalem.*

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 27

The reunion we've been waiting for since two chapters ago has finally happened. It's possible you had anticipated it for longer than that.

Before the summit, Kah had to brave the elements of nature and a new threat to his journey: the royalty of the skies.

1. *What was the 'royalty of the skies'? What do you remember about it?*

The creature is based on a legendary creature spoken of by Pacific Northwest Native Americans. In my native land of Alaska, I would occasionally go hiking at a place called thunderbird falls, and the name always filled me with curiosity about how a real thunderbird would fly and act. I took certain liberties in my description of the thunderbird to serve the story and my own design sensibilities. It should be easy to see why someone would avoid the mountain and spare themselves from being hunted by a bird that can shoot lightning down upon them.

2. *Have you ever done a physical challenge that tested you to the limit, whether it was hiking, camping, swimming, or something else?*

Kah remarked that the person he was hiking to meet was very beautiful physically, despite knowing the evil that he had done.

3. *Do people who have done a lot of evil seem to look beautiful or ugly? Why do you think the way you do?*

*2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV) – And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

# **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

## Chapter 28

Not knowing what to expect, Kah had a spar of words with his brother. Here we see a man who has largely refused to take responsibility for the crime he committed in the past, who has been abused, chased off, attacked, and hectored by nearly every people group who he has encountered for nearly seven years. Starting out with a purpose and the hope of an end to his life by combat, he began to feel increasingly bitter towards humanity and crafted a narrative that allowed him to nurse his resentment towards the people of his village and cultivate an attitude of superiority to those unfortunate enough to meet him.

1. *Why do we take 100% responsibility for our role in bad situations?* This responsibility could be what we did, our motives, or our attitudes while taking the actions we did. They could even include responsibility for our lack of awareness or our inertia at not preventing something that had gone wrong.

His superiority comes from a place of confidence in his admittedly high abilities, but those abilities are only a curse to himself and everyone around him because of how he uses them. Despite that, his feats are legendary, and he knows how to make certain people indebted to him in a way that makes his influence quite vast for one exile, which may become relevant in future stories.

2. *Are there any instances you can think of where people are really good at 'getting the job done', but they lack integrity or character in other areas?* (Choose well-known people to avoid fights.)

Now, he has figured out a way to pay for the monsters' obedience through human sacrifice, and while human sacrifice is not completely foreign to the continent, it is never a blood price to control monsters. Such practices when performed by other tribes are usually to appease evil spirits, or as ransom to keep away malevolent entities, and the sacrifice is often voluntary. In this world, on this continent, that kind of magic had not been seen since Enko killed the last person to do such things, who had begun to elevate his brutality to an industrial level that Sohkan would inevitably reach, had he not gotten bored with his revenge project.

3. *Where have you seen people willing to manipulate others at their expense in order to achieve an agenda?*

*3 John 1:9-10 (NIV) – I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*

Don't be a Sohkan. Don't be a Diotrephes.

## ***Night Noise Group Study Guide***

### Chapter 29

With every ounce of strength, and a little help from up above, Kah does the impossible. The beast is the dead, and a once-in-a-hundred-years threat has been eliminated.

1. *What 3 actions do you notice about Kah's action that suggest a connection with God?*

One of his actions was to leap before he could even see everything. When the beast was stunned, and Kah didn't know when or if it would be able to stop his attack, he ran with his knife, jumped, and hit the carotid artery that rested behind its protective chin. By the time he could see everything, the battle was finished.

2. *Have you ever taken an action without any support or assurances, like moving to a new place without a job, or joining the military, or emigrating to a new country knowing relatively nobody? How did it work out for you?*

After the events of this book, villagers trust that Kanatan had successfully defeated the monster. After all, he will have the beast's head. However, some will have incentive to doubt his success, and tell him his achievement doesn't really count.

3. *If you get divine help to do something, did you earn that success?*

Personally, I do believe it is earned, because we cannot even breathe without God. When it comes to high stakes outcomes, a win is a win. When one considers that the relationship with God is the real prize – the real trophy in the race of life – this may be the only kind of victory that truly matters.

*2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV) – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

## **Night Noise Group Study Guide**

### Chapter 30

With Tikoh and Raeyen still alive, and Sohkan nowhere to be found, Kanatan returned to find a village with nearly no significant fighting force remaining. Their situation had improved marginally due to the returning travelers and nature taking its course on recovering from the fire. Maktah's attempt to use the House of Decision and a forced assembly to sway the returning warriors into accepting his claim as chief was unsuccessful as Kah came into the meeting carrying the beast's head.

1. *Have you ever had to do something unnaturally difficult, brave, or costly in order to establish trust with the people around you? What?*

Humor was in the village at the story's beginning. It lived in Enko's hut as Kah recovered there. Now, it has returned to Miyiko village.

2. *When has a good joke, a funny friend, or humor in general picked you up when you were feeling down? Have you ever used it as a tool to combat fear?*

Kanatan is chosen to be the chief of the village's remnant. He left Miyiko village with his people to join his mother and sister, as well as tell the other villagers that the monster known as Matunga has finally been destroyed. Kah is quite nervous about taking on this responsibility, despite achieving the impossible, which is a far cry from where he was mentally at the beginning of our story.

3. *What value can humility bring to someone who steps into a position of responsibility for others?*

Thanks for going through Night Noise in this group study. Hopefully this book will help you with your own fears, and show you the bigger picture of what your life can become if you trust God, educate and prepare yourself as best you can, and remember to have a laugh.

*1 Peter 5:6 (NIV) – Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

***The End***