

2

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2. The second part of the paper is devoted to the

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to the

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STAR TREK - THE MOTION PICTURE

This last section of script is being sent out although it will be greatly rewritten. The following should be noted:

Scenes 294-303 -- Enterprise Entering V'ger -- will come earlier in the script and will take place after scene 238 when Spock breaks the computer. In retaliation for this V'ger will lay a tractor beam on the ship and pull it inside.

Scene 259 on -- Kirk and Spock in space suits examining V'ger -- Visually and physically their trip should take them further into the "insides" in V'ger, areas that can be fascinating but also frightening and threatening. Delivery of this will have to be worked out with Harold Michaelson and the Abel people.

Scene 306 on -- The "Wing Walk" and the trip into the Voyager Room will be rewritten but the action and the set demands will remain the same.

Scene 325 on -- Earth -- There will be no destruction from action by V'ger.

Scene 351 on -- Decker and the end will be considerably revised but the set requirements will remain the same.

Added information notes:

Scene 204 on -- The blue static electrical charges are going to be replaced by the plasma-energy probes from the February script (page 76). The sequence will play them as in that script.

Because of the amount of rewriting that is planned we are going to renumber the script scenes from the beginning.

EXPLANATION OF SHOT CODE

(S).....Special Photographic Effect Shot

(O)..... Optical To Be Added

(M).....Matte Shot

✓

STAR TREK:

The Motion Picture

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE (S)

1

An ever expanding infinity of light and color as CAMERA MOVES THROUGH deep space, MOVING DIRECTLY FOR one pinpoint of light... A STAR that GROWS CLOSER RAPIDLY as we SWEEP TOWARD IT... A normal white star that SUDDENLY CHANGES, brightening, flaring, and then, as the unseen Hydrogen is sucked from the star, it becomes a RED GIANT STAR, exhausted, and burns out in seconds. As CAMERA SWEEPS RAPIDLY PAST the Red Giant, the death of the star is more evident, as the processes run unchecked, the Helium passing out instantly, but before the Red Giant becomes a RED SUPER GIANT, we are gone... no regrets, no pity.

CAMERA SEARCHES THE UNIVERSE, curious...

DISSOLVE TO:

2 EXT. DEEP SPACE (S)

2

Still TRAVELING, then we begin to SEE in the distance an AREA OF LUMINESCENCE. Slowly growing in size as we draw nearer, it is pear-shaped, hazy at the edges, brilliant at the center -- a mysterious thing larger than an entire solar system.

Then our CAMERA COMES UPON the predator-form of a Klingon heavy cruiser in the midst of a graceful turning arc toward the mysterious LUMINESCENCE. Then, CLOSER TO US, a second cruiser turning also toward the object which is growing in size as the cruisers move toward it at warp speed. Then CAMERA PATH brings us SUDDENLY onto the lead Klingon cruiser.

CAMERA MOVES CLOSER to this lead ship of this PATROL. CLOSER, still CLOSER -- now the vessel's detail can be SEEN clearly... lights, weaponry, the power system, the identification of this ship emblazoned proudly in the KLINGON LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS.

3 INT. KLINGON CRUISER BRIDGE (O) ✓

3

This INTERIOR definitely alien, strange -- not at all like an Earth vessel. An ODD-SOUNDING KLAXON is signaling the equivalent of "battle stations."

(CONTINUED)

2.

3 CONTINUED:

3

✓ Orders are given in strange KLINGON LANGUAGE, the Alien-shaped KLINGON CAPTAIN and EXEC are peering at an unusual bridge Viewer at the huge area of LUMINESCENT HAZE directly ahead. In KLINGON LANGUAGE DIALOGUE:

KLINGON CAPTAIN

(Give me tactical.)

4 CLOSE - MAIN VIEWER (O)

4

✓ Goes suddenly to a TACTICAL GRID SYSTEM, showing the LUMINESCENT HAZE to be an ENORMOUS BLIP OF LIGHT ON THE SCREEN, with three TINY PINPRICKS OF LIGHT completing their turn on a direct course toward it.

5 EXT. WIDE - THE KLINGON PATROL AND THE HAZE (S)

5

✓ The Patrol is clearly SEEN now on the left bottom of the FRAME... THREE SHIPS, but frail and tiny compared to the LUMINESCENT HAZE which grows in size steadily as the Klingon Patrol closes on it.

6 INT. THE KLINGON BRIDGE - CAPTAIN AND EXEC. (O)

6

✓ The order's been given to stand by, and all eyes are on the screen that shows the battle formation forming as the ships sweep on the Mysterious Cloud.

KLINGON CAPTAIN

(in Klingonese)

Visual.

The TECHNICIAN makes the switch.

7 CLOSE - VIEW SCREEN - LUMINESCENT HAZE (O)

7

✓ Growing to even larger proportions, sweeps toward them. The cloud is dull and cold to the eye, something almost alive, but menacing in Size and the texture of that fearful luminescence.

8 INT. BRIDGE - KLINGON COMMAND CRUISER

8

✓ The crew stands by in orderly preparation for battle as they have done a thousand times before.

KLINGON CAPTAIN

(in Klingonese)

Tactical again. Stand by on

- 9 EXT. SPACE - LEAD KLINGON VESSEL (TORPEDO HATCH) (S) 9
 ✓ Sliding open, the glowing "Hell Fire" of the Photon Launch tubes, slowly revealed.
- 10 VERY WIDE ANGLE - THE THREE SHIPS (S) 10
 ✓ They are tiny, insect-like shapes moving still CLOSER to the Luminescent Cloud, so large now that it begins to dominate all space ahead.
- 11 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE - TACTICAL GRID - CAPTAIN AND EXEC (O) 11
 ✓ The growing nearness and enormous size of the Cloud is also reflected on the Tactical Grid, somehow more awesome by this schematic view of it. The Captain gestures the order to "FIRE."
- 12 EXT. SPACE - ANGLE ON KLINGON VESSEL - TORPEDO HATCH (S) 12
 ✓ The BRILLIANT PHOTON BLOBS of the torpedos spurt from the tubes.
- 13 ANGLE ON KLINGON VESSEL (S) 13
 A deadly PHOTON TORPEDO pattern racing away from the Klingon and toward the Luminescent glow in the distance.
- 14 EXT. SPACE - HAZE, TORPEDOES AND KLINGONS (S) 14
 ✓ The torpedoes are heading directly toward the Cloud. Suddenly they glow briefly and disappear long before they reach their intended target.
- 15 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE - CAPTAIN AND EXEC 15
 ✓ Awed by the fact that their torpedoes have disappeared without a trace.
- 16 EXT. SPACE - THE CLOUD - THREE KLINGON SHIPS (S) 16
 ✓ As the second and third ships launch torpedoes toward the shimmering surface of the Object.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

✓ This time we have an outside, real VIEW of the torpedoes glowing brightly and then disappearing with no effect.

17 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE (O)

17

✓ The Klingon crew is awed, cautious. At this same instant, a BRIGHT STACCATO BLIP OF POWER from inside the area of LUMINESCENCE.

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(quickly; Klingonese)
Full forcefields; evasive
maneuvers.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE CLOUD - THE KLINGON PATROL (S)

18

✓ Out of the LUMINESCENCE hurtles a FRIGHTENING WHIPLASH OF ENERGY. It bears down on the Klingon patrol, now in an evasive maneuver. Then the WHIPLASH BOLT hits the third cruiser in a writhing flare of energy which totally engulfs the vessel.

✓ The other two ships veer off, warping around again into attack position. The THIRD SHIP has begun to explode in on itself, the matter-energy of its existence drained by the WHIPLASH BOLT that HOLDS IT.

19 ANGLE ON REMAINING KLINGON CRUISERS (S)

19

✓ Desperately defending themselves, FORCEFIELDS FULL UP, RAPIDLY FIRING PHOTON TORPEDOES. But now a SECOND WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT has emerged from the cloud and hits the second vessel, DESTROYING it.

A SECOND WHIPLASH BOLT glances off the lead and surviving Cruiser as the ship takes a wide evasive turn and retreats, FIRING from stern tubes.

20 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE

20

✓ The bridge shattered; EXPLOSIVE FIRES, Klingon bodies. The badly wounded Captain is transmitting urgently:

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(in Klingonese)
... severely damaged. Returning
fire...

21

EXT. SPACE - STARFLEET MONITOR STATION EPSILON 9 (S) 21

Serenity here. A barren, rocky small planetoid softly lit by the myriad stars. This is a small Starfleet outpost, dwarfed by huge antennae sprouting everywhere. Tiny figures (WORKERS) servicing one antenna illustrate the size of the installation.

Is it a make-up problem, if so hit - ans, None

22

INT. EPSILON 9 - MONITOR ROOM - A VIEWER (O) 22

SHOWING the battle scene, and the VOICE OF THE KLINGON CAPTAIN in his last-stand against the Object; his VOICE is weary, almost mechanical. On the adjacent viewer, an English print-out of the Klingon's words chatters along the bottom of the picture:

KLINGON CAPTAIN

(in Klingonese)

Imperial Klingon Cruiser Amar...

Intruder still unidentified...

Weaponry unlike anything in our experience...

(computer reads:)

TRANSMISSION HALTED

23

WIDER ANGLE - EPSILON 9 STARFLEET PERSONNEL & VIEWER (O) 23

At the viewers are a FEMALE LIEUTENANT and FOUR TECHNICIANS. COMMANDER BRANCH, young, alert, enters hurriedly, scans the console.

LIEUTENANT

Our sensor drone is intercepting this on Quad L-14.

BRANCH

That's within Klingon boundaries. Who are they fighting?

LIEUTENANT

Unknown, sir.

KLINGON CAPTAIN (V.O.)

... area of haze appears to be hiding alien vessel ... size and description unknown... our sensor scans cannot penetrate. Repeat, this is Imperial Klingon Cruiser Amar... in battle with intruder passing through our territory. We are continuing to attack but our...

A violent EXPLOSION inside Klingon bridge -- Klingon Captain's body is thrown violently against the bulk-head.

TECHNICIAN

I have an exterior visual!

24 CLOSE ON VIEWER (O)

24

✓ Technician has hit a control button and the viewer switches to EXTERIOR of the Klingon vessel. A final, frightening WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT strikes the Klingon cruiser -- then the same awesome ~~EXPLOSION~~ INTO FIREBALL.

25 WIDER ANGLE - PERSONNEL AND VIEWER (O)

25

✓ The Starfleet station onlookers react to the utter annihilation of the huge cruiser. And now, past where the cruiser just disappeared -- the mysterious LUMINESCENCE approaching in distance. Technician hits a switch, magnifying the strange LUMINESCENT IMAGE.

LIEUTENANT

We've plotted a course on that cloud, Commander: it will pass fairly close to us, and then into Federation Space.

BRANCH

Heading?

26 CLOSE ON THE MAIN MONITOR STATION (O)

26

✓ As its focal point shifts to the huge elliptically shaped LUMINESCENCE racing across the sky. MUSIC (VE-JUR THEME) COMMENCES in a low, unresolved CHORD that stays in the background through the remainder of this scene, and the beginning of the next one.

LIEUTENANT'S VOICE

Sir, it's on a direct heading for Earth.

Ominously now the LUMINESCENCE increases in size, and begins to fill the viewer. HOLD A MOMENT, and then:

27 EXT. SURFACE OF PLANET VULCAN - DAY

27

✓ With THE CAMERA MOVING THROUGH masses of thick, steamy vaporous clouds, swirling about, rising boilingly up from some unseen, underground source. The CAMERA CONTINUES MOVING through the clouds.

And then... the Vulcan landscape. Harsh, strange angular peaks and rock formations -- the barren, legendary mountain home of Vulcan Masters.

28

EXT. VULCAN LEDGE - SPOCK

28

At first Spock's lean features are almost unrecognizable; hair dances wildly in the Vulcan wind, and he is half-turned from the CAMERA. He is bearded, unkempt; his clothes hardly more than dirty rags. But now we RECOGNIZE him, and notice his eyes: fixed rigidly in deep concentration. But something far away, unseen, unknown, is seizing his attention. He attempts to shake off the distraction, resume his meditation. (The V'ger THEME MUSIC RISING). Spock cannot ignore this thing pounding in through his armor of meditation. Whatever this unseen force, it is too powerful. He raises his head now, scans the sky. Another moment of gazing up into space -- then the SHARP INTERRUPTION OF A GIANT VULCAN STONE-CHIME BEING STRUCK HARD. As Spock becomes aware of the stone-chime, he slowly turns to face:

29

REVERSE ANGLE ON LEDGE - VULCAN TEMPLE RUINS (M)

29

Spock getting slowly to his feet and turning toward where we SEE incredibly ancient, un-earthly TEMPLE RUINS. Towering huge, yet strangely graceful, they look like they've been there hundreds of centuries, protected from the biting wind and sand only by the flintlike hardness of the Vulcan rocks from which they were hewn.

Closer to Spock, three Vulcan figures have been standing there watching him. They are two Vulcan males and one woman -- all very old, but very elegant. Their robes and regal bearing mark them as Vulcan Masters.

Silently, without trace of emotion, they watch Spock approach. Then he stops, faces them, looks from one to the other. For another moment, no one speaks. Then:

FEMALE MASTER

You have studied with us
diligently, Spock. You have
labored and endured well.

SPOCK

I have purged myself of my
human half. I am now totally
and wholly Vulcan.

FIRST MALE MASTER

(kindly, sadly)
No, Spock, you are not.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

✓ About them the WIND HOWLS, the dust whips past. Spock peers at the Three, as unhappy and disappointed as his Vulcan features will permit. It is clear the Masters are all in agreement.

SECOND MALE MASTER

That which shattered your meditation, Spock, was of a human kind, not Vulcan.

Spock drops before them on one knee, head bent.

SPOCK

I do not understand it. Help me.

The Female steps to Spock, sinks to her own knees, raises her hands open and outstretched toward Spock's head. (The invitation to mind-meld.) Spock slowly raises his head. She closes her eyes, presses her open hands against Spock's temples. Spock quivers; she holds him. Then both close their eyes, commune in mind-meld. Finally:

FEMALE MASTER

My mind and yours, Spock... together... but you are drawn by yet another consciousness... one that calls to the human essence within you. That which is human in you has only been repressed, Spock -- not extinguished. Your chosen task can only be accomplished among humans... among humans...

30 MED. ANGLE ON SPOCK

30

✓ CAMERA CLOSSES IN ON his face as he slowly raises his head and peers up again into the sky -- and the VE-JUR THEME MUSIC RISES. HOLD ON his face a moment, then...

SHOCK CUT TO:

31 EXT. EARTH - AN AIR TRAM - DAY (S)

31

✓ gleaming silver in the sun as it streaks toward the CAMERA POSITION and hurtles past.

32 EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - HILLTOP AIR TRAM STATION - DAY 32
(M)

From this vantage, we can SEE all of twenty-third century San Francisco stretched out before us. In the b.g., the familiar forms of the carefully preserved Golden Gate Bridge and Transamerica Pyramid Building serve as our only reminders that this is, indeed, San Francisco.

The AIR TRAM (an anti-gravitational train flying roughly 35 feet above the ground) DECELERATES sharply, silently, as it nears the station, then slides in and settles to the ground with a whisper.

33 EXT. TRAM STATION - CLOSE ON TRAM DOORS - DAY 33

the doors opening, and various TRAVELERS (civilians and Starfleet personnel) leaving the tram, striding onto the platform, continuing on their respective ways. Among the departing throng:

How many Aliens?

34 KIRK 34

in Admiral's uniform, grim, determined, easing his way through the throng. Now and then Starfleet officers acknowledge him with a respectful nod; Kirk responds with a certain cold formality; his mind is elsewhere.

OFFICER (SCOTT)

Admiral...!

As Kirk glances at him, the officer turns so we SEE it is SCOTT (Full Commander now). Kirk turns to Scott, who now walks to him, hand extended, delighted to see his former starship captain.

SCOTT

Admiral, it's been such a long time --

Kirk pointedly ignores Scott's hand, interrupts brusquely as he continues walking.

KIRK

(as a fact)

Mr. Scott, haven't you been ordered to prepare the Enterprise for immediate departure -- ?

Scott is slightly taken aback at this greeting.

SCOTT

Yes sir, that I have, but...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

KIRK

-- why aren't you doing it?!

SCOTT

(appalled; annoyed)

Admiral, the Enterprise has just finished eighteen months redesigning and refitting. She's not ready to go, sir.

KIRK

What in the hell is wrong with you, Commander...?! This is a Federation Emergency!

SCOTT

Aye sir, that it is, but we haven't had a shakedown cruise. My God, I'm not sure the engines will even start -- let alone carry her on a vital mission. And with an untried captain, to boot.

KIRK

(stopping)

Mr. Scott, an alien object of unbelievable power and destruction is approaching this planet at Warp 7 speed. The only starship in the fleet with the potential to stop it is the new Enterprise...

(hard)

Now, Mister, get up to your ship and get it ready...!

Without another word, Kirk turns and strides away. Scott, stunned, gazes at the departed Kirk.

SCOTT

(quietly, aloud;
dryly)

Nice seeing you again, Admiral Kirk...

(tightly)

Sir...!

35 EXT. MALL (M) - DAY

35

with Kirk hurrying purposefully along.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

The Mall is a blending of walkways, grass trees -- and the graceful Starfleet HQ building. Many PEOPLE are about, civilians and uniformed personnel. But all with a certain air of urgency; all going about their respective business. (NOTE: a good smattering of ALIENS is interspersed among them: Vulcans, blue-skinned Acturans, etc.)

*How many? + others
Knobs on Head?*

36 INT. NOGURA'S OFFICE (O)

36

a large room, appropriate for Starfleet Commanding Admiral. A highly functional desk at one end, a large holographic conference table on the other. Large viewers occupy one entire wall. One viewer contains a galaxy star map, with blinking data denoting the location of various vessels. And on another viewer is the frozen image of that final klingon transmission: the awesomely huge LUMINESCENT CLOUD.

ADMIRAL NOGURA is alone in the room. He is a handsome greying man in his 50's (or early 60's) now standing near the viewer broodily studying the image. Kirk has just entered with fierce determination, and Nogura turns to him.

NOGURA

(indicates viewer)

8.6 days from Earth. Last energy reading was Factor Ten... and rising.

KIRK

Then what chance does the Enterprise have?!

Nogura indicates one of the blinking lights on the map, under which reads: ASWAN.

NOGURA

The only ship in position to intercept: a light cruiser. What chance does she have...?

(slightly
defensive)

The Enterprise has been completely rebuilt; the finest weapons system in the fleet...

(a fast beat)

Jim, she's to be out of dry-dock and on her way in 12 hours. You're to contact Decker immediately, to inform him --

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

KIRK
(interrupting,
firm)

Admiral Nogura, I realize Will Decker's appointment as Captain of The Enterprise was made on my recommendation -- but that was for a routine duty tour, not a mission of this critical importance. You can't send him out, sir...!

NOGURA
I don't intend to, Admiral.

Kirk isn't sure he's heard correctly; he peers at Nogura:

KIRK
I beg your pardon, sir?

NOGURA
For two and a half years you've been my Operations and Planning Chief. And for two and a half years all I've heard is how you yearn to get back to space...

Kirk senses what's coming.

NOGURA
(continuing)
I hope your time on the bench hasn't made you too stale...
(hands him orders)
Your orders: temporarily reducing you to the rank of Captain and transferring you to command of The Enterprise -- effective immediately.

Kirk is speechless.

NOGURA
(continuing)
Why so surprised, Admiral? Isn't that why you charged in here like a Rigellian Prairie Tiger? To demand your ship back?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

✓ KIRK
(a little
nonplussed)
Yes sir, it is.

NOGURA
You'll have many of your old
crew -- all but Spock and McCoy,
of course -- and I would
suggest you consider keeping
Decker on as Exec, and Science
Officer. He's been with the
Enterprise every minute of
her refitting. Well, Admiral,
do you accept the commission?

KIRK
Yes sir, I do.

And, for the first time since we've seen him, Kirk
smiles.

37 EXT. EARTH ORBIT (S)

37

✓ In f.g., Orbital drydock offices, rotating slowly but
perceptibly against blue-black of space. Beyond and
below... Earth. The North American Continent, and
under the thin cloud cover, the familiar curving
coast of the West American continent, the southern
tip of Alaska to Baja California.

38 ANGLE - EDGE OF ORBITAL DRYDOCK (S)

38

✓ Only a glimpse of the corner of a large lace-girder
object. It will be more obvious that such a huge
and intricate structure must contain something even
larger and more important, something to anticipate
seeing. There is also a hint of activity about the
place as we SEE specialized-looking craft coming and
going.

39 CLOSER ANGLE - ORBITAL OFFICE CLUSTER (S)

39

CAMERA MOVES IN AND CENTERS ON an outer "Travel Pod."

*People
stor fleet*

40 CLOSE ON TRAVEL POD

40

✓ through whose large observation port we can SEE into the adjoining offices. The cluster is a fully equipped dockyard engineering center, computer drafting equipment, busy with ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS -- some in uniform, some in specialized orbital work garb.

41 INT. INNER OFFICE (O)

41

✓ an installation which also includes a double position transporter, in which we SEE the TRANSPORTER EFFECT BEGIN. With the TRANSPORTER CREW is Scott. He's with a Technician, busy with a piece of complex circuitry. Then he turns, sees that it is Kirk BEAMING in here. As Kirk materializes, steps off the transporter platform:

People
few

SCOTT

(cool)

Admiral.

KIRK

(correcting him)

Captain.

It takes Scott a couple of moments to really understand.

42 ANOTHER ANGLE - SCOTT AND KIRK

42

✓ facing each other, all activity continuing in the b.g. For this moment these two are alone with each other, clearly recalling their recent meeting. They study each other, and then Kirk steps forward and clasps Scott in a bear hug. Scott responds, both men are moved. Then:

KIRK

I want to have a look at her,
Scotty.

SCOTT

(understands;
smiles)

Aye sir. That would seem
proper.

And they stride into the TRAVEL POD.

43 INT. TRAVEL POD

43

Kirk moves to the LARGE OBSERVATION WINDOW and looks off toward the lace-girder structure. Scott seals the outer door, turns the controls that CLANG THE AIR-LOCK SHUT, sealing the pod from the rest of the complex. Scott manipulates the controls and the pod DISCONNECTS from the dockyard office complex.

44 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - ANGLE ON TRAVEL POD (S)

44

as it maneuvers away from the orbital office complex. We can SEE the jet flame of its tiny thrusters taking the pod in the direction Kirk had been looking.

45 INT. TRAVEL POD

45

with Scott maneuvering the pod to provide Kirk the best perspective. Kirk peers through the observation window, craning his head, straining hungrily to see what is not yet in view, but which he knows is there. Scott is watching him, immensely pleased.

46 PAST THEM TO THE POD WINDOW (O)

46

as we SEE the drydock and more of its detail, and a hint of what is inside.

47 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - OTHER ANGLES ON THE POD (S)

47

thru
49thru
49

moving AWAY FROM US, becoming very tiny, adding to the scale of the perspective to what is now approaching. The corner of the drydock becomes larger -- we begin SEEING more of it. And then the merest glimpse of what is inside the drydock: The Enterprise SLIPS INTO VIEW.

50 INT. POD - VERY CLOSE ON KIRK AT WINDOW

50

as he watches, his face reflecting all of it: the awe, the wonder, the romance, the obsession. The one complete love of his life. And with that love, he is once more fully alive again. He lives again.

51 WHAT THEY SEE - THE ENTERPRISE (S)

51

now DOMINATING THE SCREEN -- the awesome, symmetrical bulk of the starship comes fully INTO VIEW. And it dominates Kirk's -- and our emotions.

52 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE - AND THE POD (TINY IN THIS SHOT) 52
thru AS IT CIRCLES - THE ANT-LIKE FIGURES OF WORKERS (S) thru
55 55

The great ship dwarfs everything in sight. The dry-dock becomes a fragile filigree framing the great curved bulk of the ship. The tiny pod continues to circle it.

Small automated welding devices move along the girders, working with brief, bright orange-white flares. In other areas of metal lace structure, supplies and equipment are being loaded onto the ship. The pod continues circling (Scott is giving Kirk time to see all), watched carefully by the TINY FIGURES OF SUPERVISING TECHNICIANS on the drydock. Now the pod moves toward the Enterprise, toward mating position. It closes in, secures itself to the outer airlock.

56 INT. POD - AT THE AIRLOCK 56

Scott completing the mating procedure, Kirk just now turning from the observation window. Outside he can hear the metallic click of the pod automatically locking onto the airlock. Now the 'WHOOSH' of the latch doors securing, the CLANG of security bolts. It's all been a rare and delicious moment for Kirk, and his face shows it.

Over the POD INTERCOM we HEAR, "Pod secured. Pressure equalized." Scott moves the control to open the hatch.

57 INT. ENTERPRISE CARGO DECK (M) 57

a confusion of organized work and VOICES. The cargo deck bustles with activity; supplies and equipment being stored and installed. The crew maneuvering anti-gravity devices which move heavy containers -- scrambles of activity at storage holds and maintenance lockers. All this as Kirk and Scott emerge from the pod, and are met by a nervous, perspiring ENSIGN.

KIRK & SCOTT

Permission to come aboard, sir...?

ENSIGN

Granted, sir. Welcome aboard, Admiral...

(quickly)

Commander Scott, you're needed in engineering immediately...

SCOTT

(to Kirk)

Sir, you'll excuse me...?

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

Kirk gestures him to leave, and Scott hurries away. Kirk stands with the Ensign a moment, gazing about the cargo deck, drinking it all in. He's home.

ENSIGN

(nervous)

Sir, if you'll follow me, I'll --

KIRK

I think I can find my way,
Ensign.

And Kirk moves off, leaving the Ensign gazing at him, relieved.

58 WITH KIRK - MOVING THROUGH THE CARGO DECK

58

carefully keeping out of the way, moving toward the elevator. Various CREW brush past him, AD-LIBBING "move aside...!", "Coming through...!", etc. Kirk, his eyes taking in every small detail, reaches the elevator. The doors snap open for him.

59 INT. ELEVATOR

59

as Kirk enters. The doors close. Kirk calls out his destination.

KIRK

Bridge.

The turbo-elevator begins hurtling up. Kirk stands, grim, a million thoughts whirling through his brain. Suddenly the elevator comes to a sudden, unexpected HALT.

60 PAST KIRK TO THE ELEVATOR DOORS

60

as they snap open, and CHAPEL (now in the uniform of a medical officer, Lieutenant) backs into the cab, guiding a packet of medical supplies being pushed by a MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. She speaks brusquely over her shoulder to Kirk without really seeing him. (The Med Tech does not enter cab.)

CHAPEL

Perishable cultures...
(to elevator control)
Level Six-B.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

The doors snap closed; the elevator ascends. Chapel is busy arranging the supplies, speaks to Kirk again without looking at him:

CHAPEL

(continuing)

Sorry to pre-empt the cab, but
if these cultures get warm...

KIRK

You have a priority, Doctor.

Chapel whirls around at the familiar voice. She is elated:

CHAPEL

Admiral Kirk...!
Congratulations!

KIRK

(as they shake hands)

How does it feel to be ship's
doctor now?

CHAPEL

It's a goal I've worked toward
for a long time, sir; it feels
fine. Just fine.

KIRK

(flat, almost hard)

I'll miss McCoy.

CHAPEL

So will I, sir.

Over which, the elevator has stopped, and the doors snapped open.

61 PAST THEM TO INT. LEVEL 6-B

61

✓ which is a refrigerated, cylindrical passageway whose walls gleam with frozen moisture. A TECHNICIAN in a heated-suit is there to assist Chapel pull the cultures from the cab. As she leaves, Chapel says to Kirk:

CHAPEL

Sir, I don't have Dr. McCoy's
experience or background, but I
assure you I can handle the job.
I'm a good doctor.

And she's gone. The elevator doors close.

62 INT. CAB - ANOTHER ANGLE - CLOSE ON KIRK 62

who has not heard a single word Chapel said, and hasn't the slightest idea he's insulted her. He's thinking of other, far more important things as the car ascends.

KIRK
(aloud; quiet,
tight)
McCoy...

63 INT. BRIDGE - ELEVATOR DOORS 63

✓ snap open, and Kirk steps out onto the bridge. And into a confusion of activity and VOICES.

64 PAST KIRK (O) 64

✓ as he stops to take it all in: *From what Planet?* Chief JANICE RAND is arguing with an ALIEN ENSIGN. UHURA (Lt. Comdr. stripes) deftly working her communications station, AD LIBBING "... Hailing frequency four, check. Hailing frequency five, will someone please check me?" At the helm, sweat-soaked SULLY (Lt. Cmdr. stripes) has a service plate open, is peering inside to make delicate adjustments, AD LIBBING "... Helm, now give me a reading on four point zero zero six of full." And at the Weapons Control, CHEKOV (full Lt.) argues with TECHNICIANS who insist photon torpedoes read 'ready' while Chekov argues the computer is not relaying that information. (Appendix A) ✓

65 KIRK 65

at the elevator has not been noticed yet by the crew. He stands another moment, watching, remembering. And then he moves forward toward the command seat.

66 ACROSS UHURA TO KIRK 66

as she is the first to see him. She reacts, pleased:

UHURA
(elated)
Captain... Starfleet just
signalled the good news!

67 ANOTHER ANGLE - VARIOUS REACTIONS 67

As everyone else suddenly realizes Kirk's presence.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

All work stops, with various AD LIBBED greetings from the old crew: "Admiral Kirk...!" "It's the Captain...!" Etc., etc. But most sit or stand, simply gazing at Kirk, and all quite pleased. The old hands, Rand, Uhura, Sulu and Chekov start from their stations to converge on Kirk. He interrupts the salutations, speaking crisply:

KIRK

At ease, everyone...! I appreciate the welcome. Later, when there's time, I'll thank you all individually...

(to Uhura)

Commander, open a channel to the Epsilon 9 monitor, and keep it open. Also, please inform all crew members not engaged in absolutely essential pre-launch duties to assemble on the Rec Deck in thirty minutes. Arrange for them to see a replay of the Klingon transmissions that were monitored on Epsilon 9...

(glances around)

Where is Captain Decker?

SULU

He's in Engineering, sir.
(uncomfortable,
indicates Captain's
chair)
He hasn't heard.

KIRK

(starting away)

I'll be in Engineering if I'm needed.

And Kirk moves toward the elevator. The bridge crew exchange grim glances.

68 INT. ENGINEER SECTION

68

The entire complex a beehive of pre-departure activity. ENGINEERING PERSONNEL (some Female) coming and going, the platform-elevator (a small, one or two-man lift that travels between the upper and lower Engineering levels) busy.

(CONTINUED)

68

CONTINUED:

68

A gentle but constant HUM and WHIRR flows from the engine core, to indicate a pre-idling mode. There will be continual AD LIBBED conversation among the Technicians. (See Departure Sequence Appendix.)

Now the Engine Room door opens and Kirk steps into the area. He stands a moment observing the activity, then confronts a perspiring Technician, a grizzled ENGINEERING CHIEF, who is pushing a huge condenser on an anti-grav device. He guides it past Kirk with a respectful "watch it, sir" admonishment.

KIRK

Have you seen Captain Decker,
Chief?

CHIEF

Down in the intermix chamber,
sir.

69

THE PLATFORM ELEVATOR

69

as Kirk steps onto it, touches the proper control, and the lift shoots downward, CAMERA WITH IT, past the great power shaft, to:

70

THE INTERMIX CHAMBER

70

at the very bottom of the power shaft. Very NOISY here, and a continual CACOPHONY of computerized and Human VOICES calling off equipment checks. (See Appropriate Appendix.) And grouped around a section of burnt-out circuitry, are WILLARD DECKER, a Captain's stripes, handsome, in his early 30's; Scott, and Two Technicians. Decker and Scott are working feverishly uncoupling the device, probing its innards. Decker has discovered the problem, removed several transistor-type parts, taps them with a pencil-sized sonic analyzer.

DECKER

(quietly elated)

... that's it. The alternate
sensor was not activated...

(to Scott)

... which is why the warning
lights didn't flash.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

✓

SCOTT
(impressed)
Aye, that's it for sure.
(to Technician)
Cleary, put a back-up sensor
into that unit. Let's see if
it holds.

71 ACROSS THEM TO KIRK

71

get in!
Black light
Penn. notes

as the Technician proceeds to install the device, and at that moment Scott glances up to see Kirk. Instantly, Scott realizes he's been too busy to even mention Kirk to Decker... he looks from Captain Decker to Kirk in acute embarrassment. Decker now also looks up, reacts pleased at seeing Kirk. He plunges his grease-smearred hands into a sonic cleaner (they come out instantly clean), as he says:

DECKER
Admiral Kirk...
(shakes Kirk's hand)
What brings you aboard, sir?

SCOTT
(lamely, explaining
to Kirk)
We, we've had a bit of a problem
here, sir...

DECKER
We're getting a top-brass send-off...?
(self-assured grin)
She'll launch on schedule if we
have to tow her out with our
bare hands. Right Scotty?

SCOTT
(to Kirk)
We got so involved, Captain, we
dinna have a chance to chat --

Kirk glances witheringly, exasperated, at Scott, then says to Decker:

KIRK
Let's go over here and talk,
Will...

He indicates the corner.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

Decker gives a curious look toward Kirk, then turns to Scott:

DECKER

Let me know when the back-up
is in place.

72 ACROSS SCOTT TO KIRK AND DECKER

72

as Scott AD LIBS a glum "Aye, sir," and watches them walk across the Chamber.

73 A CORNER OF THE INTERMIX CHAMBER

73

just a little quieter here, with Kirk and Decker arriving, and Decker saying:

DECKER

(blithely)

All due respect, sir, I hope
this isn't a Starfleet pep talk;
I'm just too busy.

Kirk faces him directly:

KIRK

(abruptly)

Will, I'm taking the Center seat.

DECKER

You are what...?

KIRK

I'm replacing you as Captain of
the Enterprise.

Decker seems shocked into silence; he can only peer at Kirk, who reaches tentatively as though to clasp a paternal hand on Decker's shoulder, then withdraws it and continues quickly.

KIRK

I'm sorry you had to hear it
this way.

DECKER

(finding his voice)

-- you, personally, are taking
over?

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

KIRK

Yes.

DECKER

May I ask why?

KIRK

My experience, my command hours.
My familiarity with the
Enterprise and its crew.

DECKER

Admiral, this is an almost
totally new Enterprise. I know
it better than you ever could!

74 ANOTHER ANGLE TO SHOW SCOTT IN THE B.G. ACROSS THE ROOM

74

Scott working on the relay, but constantly glancing
over at the two officers with worry and concern, as
Kirk replies:

KIRK

I agree, and I want you to stay
aboard. It will mean a
temporary grade reduction, but
you'll retain your permanent
captaincy.

Decker peers stonily at him, the reality of it all
sinking in; he struggles to assemble all the facts
and emotions whirling around in his head. Then:

DECKER

I remember when you recommended
me for this command. You told
me how envious you were, and if
only you could find a way to get
back to space...

(unhumorous laugh)

I guess you found it, eh, sir?

KIRK

(bristling)

Report to the bridge for duty
immediately... Commander.

And Kirk turns and strides to the platform-elevator.

75 KIRK AND DECKER AS SEEN BY SCOTT

75

from across the Chamber; Kirk on the lift, already ascending, and Decker standing grimly, numbly, watching him.

SCOTT
(aloud, wryly,
musingly)
The Captain has not lost his
gentle, friendly touch...

TECHNICIAN (CLEARY)
You say something, Mr. Scott?

Scott whirls on the hapless Technician, who is working on the circuit:

SCOTT
(barks)
Yes, wee lad: I said you must
be all thumbs, you're taking so
much damned time...!

76 CLOSE - FULL SHOT OF THE KLINGON SHIP BEING DESTROYED 76
(AS SEEN ON A VIEWER) (O)

(in the last part of Scene which showed the Klingon Captain speaking in Klingonese and an English print-out interpretation appearing at the screen bottom. The Klingon ship nearly totalled; one engine nacelle gone, smoke and flame spewing from the other, etc. And then that final WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT STRIKING AND SPECTACULARLY DESTROYING THE SHIP, etc.)

But this time, O.S., we HEAR GASPS of incredulity from many throats (an audience), and various AD LIBBED comments: "My God...!" "I don't believe it...!" "What could it be...?!" etc., etc.

And then, immediately following this, on the viewer:

77 THE LUMINESCENT CLOUD (AS SEEN ON A VIEWER) (O) 77

(as in earlier Epsilon 9 viewer -- but with no music, only more AD LIBBED exclamations from an audience)
The viewer goes black.

78 INT. RECREATION DECK (M) 78

We SEE that all this was being viewed by the CREW MEMBERS assembled on the Rec Deck.

(CONTINUED)

Crew - 100 people

26.

78 CONTINUED:

78

✓ The Recreation Deck is one of the largest areas on the ship, several deck levels high, the wall conforming to the saucer curve, and a huge part of the wall consisting of a panoramic picture window, through which can be SEEN sections of the drydock structure outside, the sky (and, if possible, some of planet Earth below).

On another wall is a large viewer, on which was just shown the Klingon transmission. Leading off and away from this deck area are what is obviously other specific recreation areas -- gymnasiums, food centers, game rooms, lounges, etc.

79 ANOTHER ANGLE OF THE REC DECK - HIGHER LEVEL

79

as the Crew members chatter in low, grim tones -- Kirk (now with Captain's stripes) appears. He starts into view of the two hundred or so crew below. He raises his hands to silence the deck areas. He grimly indicates the now blank viewer: *as if Valcan?*

KIRK

We know nothing more about it than that. We, and the light cruiser Aswan, which will intercept 'it' in 2.8 days, are all that stands in its way.

80 ANOTHER ANGLE - CREW REACTIONS

80

as the CAMERA FINDS various faces: human, alien; most young, all intelligent, forthright -- anxious. Kirk has paused a moment, now continues: *As if Valcan*

KIRK (O.S.)

We assume there is a vessel of some type at the heart of the cloud. Our orders are to intercept, investigate; and, if necessary -- only if necessary -- destroy.

(beat)

... if possible. We can only hope that the life form aboard that vessel reasons as we do.

81 ANGLE ON UHURA

81

standing near an intercom, which just then has emitted a bosun's WHISTLE intercom signal.

81 CONTINUED:

81

BRIDGE VOICE
(from intercom)
Bridge to Captain. Priority
signal from Epsilon 9 --

Kirk leans over to the intercom, speaks into it:

KIRK
Put it on the viewer here...!

82 ON THE REC DECK VIEWER (O)

82

as all eyes turn to the viewer which fades into a view of Commander Branch, in the Epsilon 9 monitor room. Branch is tense, reflecting extreme urgency. Near Branch, working intently at the console are the Female Lieutenant and a Technician.

BRANCH
(from the viewer)
Enterprise... object is now
passing within sensor range. We
are scanning.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Epsilon 9, this is Kirk. Have
you attempted communication?

BRANCH
Yes, sir; all frequencies have
been blanketed with linguacode
friendship messages.

TECHNICIAN
I have a null reading at
the center of the 'cloud'
sir.

BRANCH
(inspecting another
console)
Some kind of energy surge
going on...
(looking up)
Enterprise... they could
be mistaking our scans
as a hostile act...
(reacts at
reading)
Deflectors, emergency full!

LIEUTENANT
Definitely something
inside there but our
scans are being
reflected back.
(studies readings)
Receiving an odd
pattern over there now..
(toward Branch)
They seem to be
reacting to our scans,
sir.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

Branch hits an alarm button; we HEAR ALARM KLAXON SOUNDING. The Viewer IMAGE DISTORTS, clears again while:

BRANCH
(continuing;
urgently, facing
his viewer)
We are under attack...!

KIRK
(to Uhura)
External view...!

83 ON THE VIEWER - EXT. THE DESTRUCTION OF EPSILON 9 (O) 83

as the image of Branch fades, immediately replaced by an external view of the planetoid, and the LUMINESCENT CLOUD passing the space station (at about the same distance from which the Klingon cruisers were attacked). Then it STRIKES the planetoid WITH FULL, CATAclysmic FORCE. The viewer IMAGE BREAKS UP -- and immediately the entire Starfleet base becomes a maelstrom of FLARING ENERGY, shattered structure, flying debris. And then, all at once, there is nothing -- empty space, Epsilon 9 is gone. We SEE only the stars; and the mysterious LUMINESCENT CLOUD still moving across the distant sky.

(NOTE: The above is entirely SILENT, and when it is finished, the whole rec deck is silent; not a word is spoken.)

KIRK (O.S.)
(after a moment)
Viewer off.

84 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK

84

as the viewer goes blank, Kirk -- and everyone else -- still facing the screen. Then Kirk turns to the room as if to make a comment. Then he stops -- nothing he can say will add at all to what they've just seen. Instead:

KIRK
Our ETL is 2200 hours. Pre-launch countdown will commence in forty minutes.

85 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE CREW

85

The scene they have just witnessed still vivid in their minds as they gaze somberly up toward Kirk who is turning and exiting. The bridge crew and others begin to follow him out. Not a word is said as the remainder of the crew waits another moment, then begins to disperse toward their duty stations too.

86 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE IN DRYDOCK (S)

86

Spectacular ORBIT VIEW of the giant starship in the process of preparing to be released. Beyond us, EARTH LOOMS HUGE, and in half light. The dock welders are gone; the supply pods are floating away from the ship. Little tongues of blue flame spurt from the ship's maneuvering jets.

87 CLOSER - THE ENTERPRISE (S)

87

As the large dock umbilical is released, floats free of its starship attachment. Dock departure is imminent.

88 INT. BRIDGE

88

Kirk in the center seat, intently studying the Navigation console in front of him (at the Navigator's station, which is unoccupied), punching in various items on his checklist, double-checking the results. Other bridge personnel are busy with their pre-launch duties (APPENDIX B).

SULU

Dock signals clear, Captain.

KIRK

Reply we are holding position awaiting final crew replacements.

UHURA

Captain, Transporter Personnel reports the Navigator...

(consults console)

... Lt. Junior Grade Ilia (Eye-lee-ah) is already aboard, and enroute to the bridge.

89 ANGLE ON DECKER (AT THE SCIENCE STATION)

89

as he reacts, not displeased.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

(NOTE: Decker now in Commander's stripes.)

DECKER

I know her; she's a Deltan.

Decker's tone and expression convey 'Deltan' in an almost amused, surprised manner. Kirk instantly picks up on this, and seems himself almost amused:

KIRK

(lightly)

Are you prejudiced toward
Deltans, Mr. Decker?

90 ANOTHER ANGLE - OTHER BRIDGE PERSONNEL

90

hearing this exchange, and smiling with amusement. Decker replies in the same, light spirit:

DECKER

Well, sir, you are aware of
the...

(delicately)

'problems' they have caused on
other vessels...?

KIRK

That was prior to the Starfleet
order requiring all Deltans to
swear an oath of celibacy before
entering service.

This last is interrupted by:

91 ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS

ILIA

91

as they snap open, and there emerges a breathtakingly beautiful young woman (uniformed as a Navigator Lt. JG), who strides purposefully onto the bridge. A stunning figure, but hairless, entirely bald but for delicate eyebrows and eyelashes. Her bald head is not at all unattractive, in fact exudes an aura of sensual nudity. Indeed, her whole being exudes sensuality. (This is a racial characteristic, not a deliberate presence.) She approaches Kirk:

(NOTE: Throughout this sequence, Sulu eyes Ilia with unrestrained admiration.)

ILIA

Lt. Ilia reporting for duty, sir.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

KIRK
(formally)
Welcome aboard, Lieutenant.

Decker has stepped from his station to greet Ilia.

DECKER
(Deltan language)
I greet you, Ilia. Your parents?

ILIA
(Deltan language)
Thank you, Decker...
(in English)
My parents are well, and send
affection...
(surprised)
You're serving as Science Officer?

KIRK
(replying for
Decker)
Commander Decker is Executive
Officer, but in the absence of
a Science Officer, he's also
doubling in that position.

Decker replies to Ilia, but directs his remarks straight
at Kirk, with what might be just the slightest touch
of sarcasm:

DECKER
The Captain has considerable
confidence in me.

Kirk flashes a hard glance at Decker; the remark seems
to have momentarily disconcerted him, and all at once
his almost relaxed manner of a moment ago is gone. He
seems tense again, driven.

KIRK
(controlled, to
Ilia)
And in you, too, Lieutenant.
We're all aware of how Deltan
women differ from others.

ILIA
My celibacy oath is on record,
Captain. May I assume my
duties, sir?

KIRK
(controlled)
By all means.

92 ACROSS KIRK TO UHURA

92

receiving a message, now relaying it:

UHURA

Captain, Starfleet Transporter
reports last six crew members
ready to beam up...

(puzzled)

... but one officer refuses to
step onto the platform.

Just as Kirk a moment before was tense, now suddenly
he's relaxed again; he seems very pleased, as he
rises.

KIRK

(happily)

I'll bring him up...!

And he hurries from the bridge, onto the elevator, is
gone. A moment of puzzled silence as all try to di-
gest Kirk's rather odd behavior, then:

DECKER

Mr. Sulu, take Lieutenant Ilia
in hand.

SULU

(startled)

Sir...?

(then understands)

Yes, of course...

(to Ilia)

Your pre-programming is already
set in, Lieutenant...

Sulu has almost tripped getting out of his chair. He
starts offering Ilia his hand, then thinks better of
it, withdraws it abruptly, immediately busies himself
punching out equations on her small viewer, AD LIBS,
"It's all on the viewer... You'll have no problem..."
Etc., etc. (Sulu is nervous, fluttery around this
lovely creature.) With all this, Decker has stepped
to the other side of Ilia.

DECKER

I know the Captain meant no
personal insult, Lieutenant Ilia.

ILIA

(eyes on viewer)

He displays unnecessary concern,
Commander...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

ILIA (CONT'D)

(looks at him)

... Please assure him I would
never take advantage of a
sexually immature species.

She turns back to the viewer and console, begins
punching out new equations.

93 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (O)

93

where the shimmering TRANSPORTER EFFECT is VISIBLE in
all but one of the six positions. Transporter Chief
JANICE RAND is intent on her instruments and controls
as, in the transporter chamber, FIVE FORMS are solidi-
fying. Assisting Rand are TWO TRANSPORTER TECHNICIANS.
In the b.g., Kirk arrives, watching with curiosity.
The EFFECT ENDS and the FIVE CREW MEMBERS step from
the chamber. Rand hits her intercom.

2 operators

RAND

(into intercom)

Enterprise to Starfleet, FIVE
received. Your signal indicated
SIX to beam up.

6 stations

INTERCOM VOICE

The sixth refused to beam up with
the others, Enterprise. Something
about first wanting to see how we
scrambled their molecules.

Kirk grins, then steps over to the intercom:

KIRK

Starfleet, this is Captain Kirk.
The officer is to be beamed up
immediately!

Meanwhile, the incoming Personnel are AD LIBBING
"Permission to come aboard, sir," as they move past
an Asst. Transporter Chief, who inspects a small
viewer personnel list, hits a button to mark them
aboard, as they AD LIB their names: "Egglemond, J.T.
99456, Yeoman;" "Lombard, M. 42212, Environmental
Services," etc.

Now again, the GENERATING HUMMING AGAIN and then the
familiar BEAMING EFFECT.

94 ANOTHER ANGLE - McCOY (O)

94

✓ as he fully MATERIALIZES. He looks himself over as if in pleased surprise he is still in one piece. CAMERA PANS McCoy from the Transporter chamber to Kirk who is having a hard time containing his amusement and delight.

KIRK

Well, for a man who swore he'd never return to Starfleet...

McCOY

(flat, tight)

What happened, Captain, sir, was that your revered Admiral Nogura invoked a little known -- and seldom used -- reserve activation clause...

(snaps)

... in simpler language, Captain, sir, they've drafted me!

KIRK

(straight-faced)

They didn't...!

McCoy eyes Kirk's expression, and his own expression tells us that he knows very well Kirk was behind it all. All this as Kirk has offered his hand, which McCoy ignores.

McCOY

I don't feel exactly friendly toward you at this moment, Jim.

KIRK

Bones, there's a 'thing' out there, headed this way --

McCOY

-- why is any object we don't understand called a 'thing'?

KIRK

(continuing)

-- it will pass our Epsilon Nine outpost within the hour. They'll scan it, attempt communications. We'll know more about it by then.

McCOY

And if it sends a friendly answer?

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

KIRK

I'll apologize for wasting your
time, and beam you back down;
every molecule intact.

Kirk extends his hand again; McCoy finally responds.
It is the long handclasp of two old friends reunited
despite their differences. Now McCoy turns to Rand.

McCOY

Permission to come aboard, sir?

RAND

(elated)

Permission granted, sir!

And McCoy moves toward the door, grumbling:

McCOY

I heard Chapel's an MD now; I
need a top nurse, not a doctor
who'll argue every diagnosis...

Even when he's in the corridor his grumbling trails
after him:

McCOY

(continuing)

... they've probably redesigned
sickbay, too. Engineers love
to change things...

95 FULL - ON KIRK

95

as he gazes fondly after the grumbling McCoy, and now
turns to the intercom, flips it on:

KIRK

All decks, this is the Captain.
Prepare for immediate departure.

96 INT. ENTERPRISE - MONTAGE - DEPARTURE SCENES
thru (APPENDIX B)
100

96
thru
100

Bulkheads closing, feed lines disengaging, main
engines HUM into life, crew personnel hurrying to
launch stations.

101 INT. BRIDGE

101

All flight positions manned, ready.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

101

UHURA

Dock control reports ready, sir.

SULU

Helm ready, sir.

ILIA

Orbital departure on plot, sir.

UHURA

Yard command signaling clear,
sir.

KIRK

Maneuvering thrusters, Mister
Sulu.

SULU

Maneuvering thrusters, sir.

KIRK

Hold station.

SULU

(working controls)

Thrusters at station-keeping,
sir.

102 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - ENTERPRISE AND DRYDOCK (S)

102

The starship within the drydock, but now the maneuvering -- thrusters spurt pin-points of BLUE FLAME. The drydock is ready for the starship's departure -- not a single pod or shuttlecraft in sight. The starship looms majestically within the lacework girders.

103 INT. BRIDGE - KIRK

103

Turning to his intercom again.

KIRK

(into intercom)

Engineering... stand by for
sub warp, impulse power.

104 INT. ENGINEERING SECTION

104

Here in Engineering Section, the ENGINE THROBBING SLOWLY BUILDS to a THUNDERING SOUND. A glow from the central unit indicates anti-matter intermix underway.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED: 104

The Engineering Section shudders as the great engines draw more and more power.

SCOTT
Intermix set for impulse power,
sir.

105 INT. BRIDGE 105

as Kirk hesitates just an instant, seems to hold his breath. Then:

KIRK
Thrusters ahead, Mister Sulu.
Take us out.

106 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - ENTERPRISE AND DRYDOCK (S) 106

The maneuvering -- thrusters spurt more BLUE FLAME. The Enterprise begins moving, DOMINATING SCREEN as it moves majestically out from the drydock.

107 CLOSER ANGLE - ENTERPRISE (S) 107

Emphasizing fine detail reality of both drydock and starship as saucer section emerges. Tiny spacesuited human figures secure the thick umbilical connection which was earlier disconnected from the vessel. CAMERA HOLDS ON STARSHIP until completely clear of the orbital dock.

108 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING KIRK 108

as he hesitates just an instant. This is the moment he's awaited, and to him it is equally as sensuous and gratifying as making love -- which, perhaps, he is -- to his mistress: The Enterprise.

KIRK
(after a moment)
Go to impulse power, Mr. Sulu.
Ahead Warp point-five.

109 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE (S) 109

DOMINATING THE FRAME as it moves away from the drydock. The maneuvering jets turn off, the impulse drive glows.

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

109

The Enterprise begins moving perceptibly faster -- the drydock diminishing rapidly in size as the ship gains speed.

Below, North America grows smaller, then the hemisphere, and then the EARTH itself, as CAMERA CONTINUES RIDING WITH THE ENTERPRISE, leaving the Earth's gravitational field; and our whole planet smaller and smaller, the Moon on its horizon.

(MUSIC THEME UP AND DOMINANT.)

111 INT. BRIDGE

110

All hands tense with the excitement and drama of the moment.

SULU

Warp point-five, sir.

KIRK

Thank you, Mr. Sulu. Departure angle on the viewer, please.

111 PAST KIRK TO THE VIEWER (O)

111

where (on the viewer) we SEE the tiny cloud-laced image of Earth, growing smaller -- dwindling finally to a mere speck of light. After another moment:

KIRK

Viewer ahead, standard.

And, instantly, on the viewer, we SEE THE IMAGE SWITCH AHEAD TO SUB-WARP TRAVEL EFFECT (the stars clear and VISIBLE; a sense of incredible speed). Kirk flicks on his intercom:

KIRK

Engineering...

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

Engineering here, sir.

KIRK

She feels good, Scotty.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

Aye sir, that she does... so far.

KIRK

(cheerily)

You'll make her behave, Scotty; you always have.

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

111

UHURA

Signal from light cruiser Aswan,
Captain: twenty-one hours from
interception with Intruder.

KIRK

(to Ilia)

Navigator, replot an RP with
Aswan: eighteen hours.

(to Uhura)

Order Aswan to maintain present
course and speed. Inform them
of our new RP.

The instant Decker heard 'eighteen hours' he had begun
punching in a new set of equations.

112 ANGLE ON ELEVATOR DOORS

112

as they open, and McCoy steps onto the bridge. He
walks over to Kirk, who is just putting down his
microphone. McCoy is his usual dour self.

KIRK

Well, Bones, do the new medical
facilities meet with your approval?

McCOY

They do not. It's like working
in a damned computer center.

Decker turns from his computations at science console.

DECKER

Captain, to rendezvous with Aswan
in eighteen hours requires our
leaving the solar system at a
minimum of Warp One, increasing
to Warp Seven by mid-point out.

Kirk swings his chair around to normal position, flips
on his intercom:

KIRK

Engineer... stand by for Warp
Drive.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

(worried)

Captain, we're running a Warp
One simulation on the flow sensors;
I'll have the results soon.

KIRK

How soon, Scotty?

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

Twenty minutes, sir.

KIRK

You have ten, Mr. Scott. Kirk
out...

(glances at McCoy)

I hope the 'damned computer center'
won't be too much of a burden.

McCoy's reply is a sour shrug.

KIRK

(continuing; grins)

Just like old times, Bones.

McCOY

(serious)

There are no old times, Jim;
only old spacemen.Kirk's momentary ebullience vanishes as he flashes McCoy
a glance of annoyance, turns and flips on the intercom:

KIRK

(impatiently)

Engineering...!

113 INT. ENGINEERING (VARIOUS ANGLES)

113

thru

thru

115

115

the main Intermix chambers GLOWING with power as we
HEAR the LOW RUMBLE of the main engines coming to
life. The CAMERA FINDS SCOTT in the lower chamber,
just answering the intercom:

SCOTT

(into intercom)

Hold one minute, please, Captain --

He steps to his console where an ASST. ENGINEER is
working a computer, studying the read-outs, punching
buttons, etc. Scott stands over him, grimly observ-
ing. Finally, the Asst. simply shrugs with frustration:

ASST.

That's it, sir; I can't do any
better.

SCOTT

(grim)

Aye, lad...

(into intercom)

It's borderline on the
simulator, Captain: maybe the
sensors will cover the whole
flow field, maybe they won't...

116 INT. BRIDGE

116

as Kirk, annoyed, interrupts Scott on the intercom.

KIRK

Prepare for Warp Drive, Mr. Scott.

Kirk flips off the intercom; he glances at McCoy, who watches him curiously, interestedly, then remaining stationary in his chair (facing straight ahead), he calls out:

KIRK

(continuing)

Warp Drive, Mr. Decker.

DECKER

Program set for standard Warp entry, Captain.

KIRK

Ahead Warp One, Mr. Sulu.

SULU

Accelerating to Warp One, sir.

Sulu moves his controls forward -- everyone waits tensely -- and then we HEAR THE INCREASING THROB OF THE ACCELERATING ENGINES.

SULU

Warp point seven... point eight... nine...

117 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE - AFT AND AHEAD (S)

117

as the starship makes the QUANTUM LEAP into warp drive. The stars ahead shift, streak, colors pulsating and changing as the shift exceeds the wave lengths of the light spectrum -- and the stars congeal into a MASS ahead.

118 INT. BRIDGE - PAST KIRK TO THE VIEWER (O)

118

as the viewer shows the same WARP DRIVE EFFECT. For another moment all remain tense, and then all at once relax, release their breaths. Smiles.

SULU

Warp One, sir.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

Kirk smiles, pleased, and starts swinging his chair around, at the same time calling:

KIRK

Mr. Decker --

Kirk never finishes the word. At that instant, on the viewer, a WORMHOLE EFFECT: the greatest hazard of warp-travel -- the Enterprise hurtling into the center of a great vortex of FLUID LIGHT AND COLOR. And at the same instant, a pandemonium of ALARM KLAXONS, BELLS, VOICES:

KIRK

(continuing)

Wormhole effect...!

Reduce acceleration, Mr. Sulu:

Impulse power...!

119 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (S)

119

Enterprise has been caught in a matter-time distortion, sucked into a cylindrical "hole in space" (the Wormhole effect), stars and planets become strange, elongated shapes, with the Enterprise drawn deeper and deeper into the vortex.

120 INT. BRIDGE

120

the KLAXONS and BELLS CONTINUE, and the crew responding.

SULU

We are on impulse power,
Captain; negative helm
control...!

UHURA

Subspace frequencies
are jammed by
Wormhole effect!

COMPUTER VOICE

(terse, flat)

Collision alert...!Collision alert...!

(NOTE: this
continues
through entire
sequence)

DECKER

(consulting his
viewer)

Negative control from
internal lag will
continue 22 point 5
seconds before forward
velocity slows to sub
light speed...!

ILIA

A small space object has
been pulled into the
wormhole with us, Captain!
Directly ahead...!

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

120

KIRK

Forcefield screens up full!
Put the object on the main viewer...!

121 ANGLE ON THE MAIN VIEWER (O)

121

showing (a magnification view) of a tiny pont of light directly ahead. Meanwhile, Kirk shouts an AD-LIBBED order to Sulu: "Go to Manual override!" Sulu AD-LIBS, "No manual response...!" (Through all this, McCoy stands frozen, awaiting -- and expecting -- the worst.) Meanwhile, Ilia has reached over to Sulu's console, hit the deflector button, AD-LIBBING, "Navigational deflectors coming up...!" And she reacts with alarmed dismay:

ILIA

We have no navigational
deflectors...!

(consulting her
console; alarmed)

They are inoperative,
Captain! Directional
control is also
inoperative...!

DECKER

The wormhole effect's
overloaded the whole
power system...!

122 CLOSE ON MAIN VIEWER

122

The picture is switched through two further levels of magnification, and the object is now large enough to be visible: an elongated, distorted, pitted SHAPE (a "wormhole" asteroid), tumbling toward the Enterprise on a collision course.

123 ANGLE PAST KIRK TO VIEWER (O)

123

KIRK

(toward Ilia)

Time to impact...?

ILIA

Twelve seconds...!

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, stand by on
the phasers...!

DECKER

(racing to
Chekov's station)

Belay the phasers orders, Mr.
Chekov...! Arm the photon
torpedoes...!

124 ANOTHER ANGLE - McCOY NOTICING KIRK

124

who has just glanced surprise at Decker, who has just countermanded the phaser order -- and for a split-instant, Kirk seems confused and helpless, as though unable to assemble his command faculties. McCoy reacts with enlightenment as, meanwhile:

125 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE VIEWER (O)

125

the object even larger.

CHEKOV
Arming photon
torpedoes...!

DECKER
Fire the torpedoes...!

CHEKOV
(punching
button)
Photon torpedoes away...!

ILIA
Object is an asteroid,
reading mass point seven...
(consulting
instruments)
Impact in eight seconds...
seven... six... five...

126 EXT. SPACE - PAST THE ENTERPRISE AND THE ASTEROID (S) 126

as the starship's photon torpedo tubes EJECT GLOWING BALLS OF LIGHT ENERGY, which seem to float toward the oncoming asteroid, almost too slowly. And in these brief seconds, the asteroid hurtles at the Enterprise, the huge pitted rock growing even larger than the ship itself. It FILLS THE SCREEN, as the photon torpedoes hit, disintegrating the asteroid into thousands of fragments. Instantly, these fragments pulverize themselves on the ship's forward forcefield and deflector screens. The smaller pieces burn up on impact, clearly outlining the ship's forcefield barriers.

127 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (O)

127

The asteroid fragments still smashing into the force-field screen; the smaller bits like SPARKLERS as impact heat consumes them. The larger sections bouncing away, the bridge QUIVERING as they hit.

Then one final gigantic fragment strikes, the bridge SHUDDERS. And then it is over. The viewer shows only the normal SUB-WARP EFFECT: the stars ahead, relatively stationary; a feeling of motion, but smooth, visually normal.

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

CHEKOV
(relieved)
We're out of it...!

SULU
Helm control restored, sir.

DECKER
We are at warp point
eight. Position
report, Navigator...?

ILIA
Computing.

UHURA
Communications are
normal, Captain.

CHEKOV
(to Kirk)
Negative damage report, sir.
(to McCoy)
No casualties reported, sir.

McCOY
(tight)
Incorrect, Mr. Chekov, there
are casualties; my wits...!
(to Kirk,
indignant)
As in 'frightened-out-of'...!

KIRK
You're not alone, Bones...
(into intercom)
Engineer... condition report.

128 INT. ENGINEERING

128

with Scott and his crew poring over the instruments --
all seem very grim. Scott, quite preoccupied, now
speaks into the intercom:

SCOTT
In just a second, Captain; we're
picking up the pieces down here.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE
I want to resume Warp Drive as
soon as possible, Mr. Scott.

SCOTT
(testily)
Sir, I donna have to tell
you it was an anti-matter
imbalance -- which could
only occur in Warp Drive
-- that pulled us into the
wormhole in the first place.
I warned you it might happen --

128 CONTINUED:

128

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

-- correct the imbalance, Mr.
Scott, and get us back into
Warp Drive...!

129 INT. BRIDGE

129

as Kirk flips off the intercom, and swings around to
Decker:

KIRK

Systems report, Mr. Decker.

DECKER

All systems normal, Captain...
(meaningfully)
... at sub-warp speed.

Kirk rises suddenly, steps over to the Science Station.

130 CLOSER ON THE SCIENCE STATION - KIRK AND DECKER

130

with McCoy nearby, watching and listening curiously as
Kirk stands before Decker and strains to keep his
voice calm and level:

KIRK

Explanation, Mr. Decker: why
was my phaser order countermanded?

DECKER

(unruffled, polite)
I was just about to offer that
explanation, sir --
(as Kirk waits
stonily)
Sir, the Enterprise's weapons
system redesign increases
phaser power by channeling it
through the main engines. When
the engines went into anti-
matter imbalance, the phasers
were automatically cut off.

131 ACROSS THEM TO ILIA

131

who has just computed the position, and has swiveled
around to face the Science Station:

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

131

ILIA
I have our position computed,
Captain.

Kirk does not immediately reply to her; he's peering at Decker, almost stunned, perhaps a little chagrined.

KIRK
(to Decker)
You acted properly, Commander.

DECKER
Thank you, sir.

132 ANGLE ON MCCOY

132

watching Kirk and Decker, as Kirk turns away and starts back to his chair; McCoy is studying him with that same, troubled curiosity. Ilia speaks to Kirk before he's at the chair:

ILIA
We emerged from the Wormhole
at point eight light years
off true course.

KIRK
(crisp)
Lay in a new course and heading
for Aswan RP; inform them of
our revised ETR...
(into intercom)
Engineering! Mr. Scott, what is
taking you so long...?

133 INT. ENGINEERING - INTERMIX CHAMBER

133

with a harassed and very somber Scott -- and several of his Crew -- huddled glumly around a piece of burned-out circuitry near the main shaft (the same unit we saw previously). Scott is peering helplessly at the unit, replying into the intercom:

SCOTT
Captain, sir, would you and
Mr. Decker be kind enough to
come down here...? We have
problems you'd both best see
first hand.

134 INT. BRIDGE

134

as Kirk, annoyed, replies into the intercom:

KIRK

On our way...

(rising; to
Decker)

Mr. Decker...

(to Sulu)

Mr. Sulu, you have the conn.

And Kirk and Decker hurry to the elevator. McCoy joins them:

McCOY

I'll go with you as far as
sickbay --

The three enter the elevator.

135 INT. ELEVATOR

135

as the doors snap closed. Decker calls the destination:

DECKER

Sickbay, then Engineering.

The cab hurtles downward. For a moment no one speaks. McCoy stands slightly apart from Kirk and Decker. Then Kirk faces Decker:

KIRK

I owe you an apology.

DECKER

Not at all, sir.

KIRK

That's very generous of you,
Mr. Decker, but nevertheless,
my unfamiliarity with the
redesign could have been
disastrous.

DECKER

No sir: not unless you insisted
on your order being carried out,
or demanded an explanation at
the time.

(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

135

KIRK

You say that as though you're surprised I didn't...?

DECKER

Not surprised, Captain: grateful.

The elevator stops just then, the doors snap open at:

136 SICKBAY LEVEL

136

and McCoy AD-LIBS a quiet "Excuse me, gentlemen," and gets out. The doors close, and McCoy stands in the corridor just a moment, gazing reflectively (at the doors), pondering the exchange he's just overheard.

137 INT. ENGINEERING - MAIN LEVEL

137

the section busy with crewmen traveling the platform-elevator (one at a time), working on consoles, repairing damage, etc. As Kirk and Decker enter, Scott is waiting, indicates a still-smoking, burned-out section of intermix circuitry:

SCOTT

Captain, unless we can regulate fuel intermix, there is no way to prevent another imbalance at warp speed. The back-up sensors will not hold.

KIRK

Place them in parallel -- three together, four if necessary.

SCOTT

(shakes head)

We'll go into an even worse sleigh ride.

KIRK

We'll have to risk that.

SCOTT

(angry)

Captain Kirk, sir, I'm telling you it will not work...!

(CONTINUED)

137 CONTINUED:

137

Just then, from the intercom, a WHISTLE SIGNAL, and:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE
Engineering... Captain Kirk.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Kirk here.

138 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING UHURA'S STATION

138

the bridge personnel (excluding Decker) all busy with their duties. Uhura speaks into her intercom:

UHURA
Captain, signal from a
Federation-registered long-range
shuttle. She wishes to come
alongside, and lock on, sir.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE
For what purpose?

UHURA
Unknown, sir.

Chekov, who has been listening to all this, now flips on his intercom, speaks into it:

CHEKOV
(consulting console)
It is a Grade-One Priority,
Captain. Verification codes,
authenticators, and non-
belligerency confirmed. I
suspect it is a courier
of some kind.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE
Very well, Mr. Chekov, see to it.
Kirk out.

139 INT. ENGINEERING

139

as Kirk turns from the intercom, to Scott and Decker, and continues:

KIRK
Make it work, Mr. Scott! Make
it!

(CONTINUED)

139 CONTINUED:

139

DECKER
(inspired with
an idea; to
Scott)

Wait... suppose instead of
paralleling, we repositioned
the sensors to amplify. Wouldn't
they cover the entire flow-field
then?

SCOTT
Amplify...?
(likes the
idea)
It's never been done. But you
just might have something
there, lad...
(to Decker directly,
indicating
circuitry)
A magnetic field insulator
here... here...

(NOTE: the interplay is all suddenly between Scott and
Decker, leaving Kirk hardly move than an interested
bystander: and perhaps reminding him again how competent
Decker is.)

DECKER
(to Kirk)
We'll have to tear down some
units, rebuild others --

KIRK
How long will it take?

SCOTT
A day... maybe two. We can't
tell.

Kirk realizes there is no alternative. He nods grimly,
resignedly, turns to the intercom, flips it on.

KIRK
Bridge... Commander Uhura, signal
cruiser Aswan we are unable to
rendezvous as scheduled. She is
to make contact with the Intruder --
alone.

(CONTINUED)

139 CONTINUED: (2)

139

Kirk turns from the intercom, his frustration and pain clear.

KIRK
(continuing;
to Scott and
Decker)

Try to do it in less than one
day.

SCOTT
You're asking a miracle, Captain.

KIRK
I know.

And he turns and leaves.

140 EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE (S)

140

traveling at a rapid speed; it carries warp-capacity nacelles which dwarf the smaller 8 to 10 position shuttle fuselage. The CAMERA HOLDS ON THE SHUTTLE as it overtakes the Enterprise, the ENTERPRISE COMING INTO VIEW, and the Shuttle slowing and beginning to move between the starship's giant nacelles.

141 INT. BRIDGE

141

as the elevator doors snap open, and Kirk enters, moves to his seat.

UHURA
The long-range shuttle is in
docking position, Captain.

KIRK
Have them lock into the bridge.

142 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE SHUTTLE (S)

142

resembling a small fighter airplane floating in over the vastness of an aircraft carrier. The shuttle slows further, hovering now. Then its fuselage pod detaches from the warp drive nacelles -- the pod moving slowly but precisely to the airlock. It connects, locks.

143 INT. POD HATCH AND ENTERPRISE ENTRY CORRIDOR

143

as we HEAR the CLANK and WHOOSH of the airlock mechanism. A moment later the hatch slips open -- TO REVEAL Spock. A proud Spock, impassively Vulcan, almost contemptuously aloof. His hair is now trimmed in neat Vulcan style; he wears Vulcan attire (simple, utilitarian: civilian).

144 INT. BRIDGE

144

PAN WITH Chekov to the elevator doors to officially handle the boarding protocol. The elevator doors open, and there is Spock. The Bridge crew AD LIB their surprise and pleasure.

KIRK
(overjoyed)
Spock...!

SPOCK
(to Chekov)
Permission to come aboard, sir?

CHEKOV
(elated)
Granted, sir! Granted!

KIRK
(moving to
meet him)
Spock...! How...?
Why...?

Kirk, smiling happily, hand outstretched, has already reached Spock. Spock ignores Kirk's hand.

SPOCK
(coldly)
I realize your intent is to display courtesy, Captain, but I would request to be spared any such personal and social overtures.

Kirk reacts with complete bemusement -- and amusement.

KIRK
(“indulging”
him)
Well, I'm sure we can accommodate your request, Mr. Spock...
(lightly)
Would you please state your business?

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

I offer my services as Science Officer. I have retained my Starfleet commission, and my abilities are undiminished.

Kirk still thinks Spock's attitude and formality quite bizarre, but if that's how Spock wants to play it, Kirk will play along:

KIRK

Your offer is accepted, Mr. Spock. With gratitude, I might add. Please supply yourself with --

SPOCK

(interrupting)

-- your gratitude is unnecessary, Captain. I would appreciate no such emotional displays. My motive in joining you is entirely selfish.

Something in Spock's manner now both irritates Kirk, and makes him realize Spock is indeed serious.

KIRK

As I was saying before you interrupted me, Mr. Spock, please supply yourself with appropriate apparel and report to --

SPOCK

(interrupting)

-- I must also request total insulation from human contact except, of course, what might be required in the execution of my duties.

Kirk is now genuinely annoyed:

KIRK

Mr. Spock, off-duty I don't care if you place yourself in the galley's deep freeze; or hide in the compactor. But what I want you to do right now is get into uniform and report to Mr. Scott. As soon as possible. Please...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED: (2)

144

KIRK (CONT'D)
 (turns to Uhura)
 Log Mr. Spock's arrival and
 assignment...
 (turns to Spock,
 who still
 stands there)
 What are you waiting for, Mr.
 Spock?!

Spock has something on his mind -- but decides not to
 mention it. Instead he nods gravely, turns and heads
 for the elevator. Kirk calls after him:

KIRK
 (continuing)
 And, Mr. Spock...
 (as Spock stops;
 Kirk grins)
 Welcome aboard.

Spock looks at him coldly, turns without any further
 acknowledgement, leaves. Kirk stands watching him,
 perplexed.

145 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (S)

145

traveling across the blue-black void of Space, but with
 the IMPULSE DRIVE EFFECT. Over this:

KIRK (V.O.)
 Captain's Log. Stardate 7214.5.
 Thanks to Mr. Spock's timely
 arrival -- and assistance -- in
 less than eight hours the
 necessary modifications have
 been completed. We are now ready
 to attempt warp drive again.

146 INT. BRIDGE

146

All personnel at their station -- including Spock (now
 in uniform), Decker standing near Spock, pointing out
 certain innovations on the redesigned equipment, etc.

147 ANGLE ON SPOCK (AND DECKER)

147

busily punching in his programs -- running his fingers
 now and then over the controls with Decker quietly AD
 LIBBING various information: "... this will automatic-
ally reprogram rejected navigational data..." "... to
override any positions, this..." etc. etc. Spock lis-
 tens, digests, tests.

148 ACROSS KIRK TO SPOCK (AND DECKER) 148

as Kirk watches a moment, pleased, almost nostalgic.
And then he turns, speaks into the intercom:

KIRK
Engineering... Mr. Scott.

149 INT. ENGINEERING 149

Scott at his console -- behind him considerable CREW
ACTIVITY, and the ENGINES THROBBING, the CORE GLOWING
RED. Scott speaks into his intercom:

SCOTT
We're ready, Captain...
(glances dubiously
at engine core)
I hope.

150 INT. BRIDGE 150

as Kirk hesitates instant, then half turns to Spock:

KIRK
Warp drive, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK
Program set for standard warp
entry, Captain.

Decker leaves the Science Station, comes down to stand
near Kirk as Kirk hesitates another beat, then into his
intercom:

KIRK
All right, Scotty, let's try it...
(to Sulu)
Ahead, Warp One, Mr. Sulu.

SULU
(moves controls)
Accelerating to Warp One.

All wait tensely as Sulu moves his controls, and we HEAR
the INCREASING THROB OF THE ACCELERATING ENGINES.

SULU
(continuing)
Warp point eight... nine...

151 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (S) 151

making the QUANTUM LEAP into warp drive again, the WARP DRIVE EFFECT prominent. (Stars shifting, streaking, colors pulsating, etc.)

152 INT. BRIDGE - PAST KIRK TO THE VIEWER (O) 152

The viewer showing the same WARP DRIVE EFFECT. The same tenseness prevails, waiting for Sulu to say:

SULU

Warp One.

Another moment where all wait, and then it is obvious they have succeeded.

SULU

(continuing)

Now at Warp Three... Warp Four...

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

She's holding nicely, Captain; I believe we're all right.

KIRK

(into intercom)

Thank you, Mr. Scott...

SULU

Holding at Warp Seven, Captain.

153 ANOTHER ANGLE - PAST KIRK TO SPOCK 153

as Kirk swings his chair around to face Spock:

KIRK

... and thank you, Mr. Spock.

Spock's reply is a formal nod, no expression. He turns to resume his work, and Kirk continues facing him another moment, momentarily annoyed. Then Kirk rises.

KIRK

(continuing)

And, Mr. Spock...

(as Spock turns)

Would you accompany me to the briefing room, please?

(to Decker)

Take the Conn, Mr. Decker...

(as Decker sits)

... and ask Dr. McCoy to join Mr. Spock and me in the briefing room.

154 ANOTHER ANGLE - SPOCK

154

now having stepped down to join Kirk.

SPOCK

Captain, I would prefer that no one else is present during the interview.

KIRK

(reacts)

I haven't seen you for two and a half years; I want to talk to you. It's no 'interview.'

SPOCK

Respectfully, Captain, we have nothing to talk about -- other than, of course, ship's business...

(quickly)

It is nothing personal, I assure you.

KIRK

Nothing personal? Spock, we're old shipmates, friends --

155 ANGLE ON UHURA

155

receiving a signal, reacting:

UHURA

Captain, visual contact with Aswan ... they are under attack, sir...!

KIRK

Put them on the main viewer...!

156 MAIN VIEWER (PAST THEM) (O)

What appearance?

156

which has flashed on, the IMAGE quickly coming into focus to reveal the Aswan bridge -- and COMMANDER KHALEL, Arabic features, young, sternly rugged -- and very grim. In the b.g., from the Aswan bridge we HEAR KLAXON ALARMS, and VOICES shouting: "... full emergency forcefield and deflectors...!" "Phaser banks armed...!" Etc. Khalel is peering at his (O.S.) viewer:

KHALEL

(still peering at his (O.S.) viewer)
Here it comes, Enterprise...!
(MORE)

SPOCK

Navigator, take a comprehensive fix on Aswan's position.

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

KHALEL (CONT'D)
 I don't know what it is,
 but all readings are off
 the scale now...!
 (terse, but calm)
 We analyze the missile as
 a form of gravity
disruption...! If that's
 correct, then we're dealing
 with an incredible
 technology. Centuries ahead
 of ours, maybe thousands --

ASWAN EXEC'S
 VOICE
 Impact in nine seconds...
 ... eight...
 ... seven...
 ... six...
 ... five...
 ... four...
 ... three...
 ... two...
 ... one...
 ... Mark...

And at the word "Mark" Khalel's image is bathed in an eerie green glow that in an instant envelops the entire viewing screen, which becomes white -- and whiter, and then blindingly brilliant. NO SOUND. Only frightening silence, made more frightening by the blazing whiteness. And then: IMPLOSION. A glow -- and then nothing.

On the Enterprise viewer now only the wavy lines indicating blank reception.

157 FAVOR DECKER

157

gazing at the viewer not with fear or apprehension, but rather a strange, almost reverent awe. Everyone else is silent a moment, all reacting to the death of Aswan. Then:

KIRK
 (quietly)
 Viewer off.
 (to Ilia)
 Aswan's final position?

ILIA
 At Warp Seven... one point-six
 hours away, sir.
 (making calculation)
 However I calculate Intruder has
 now increased velocity to Warp
Eight-point-five!

All react in disbelief and dismay; all but Decker, who actually seems intrigued.

SPOCK
 At Intruder's increased speed,
 plus our forward velocity...
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED:

157

SPOCK (CONT'D)
(glances at Ilia's
monitor)

... estimate interception in three
point six minutes, visual on
Intruder in approximately one
minute.

KIRK
Go to Yellow alert,
Mr. Chekov.

CHEKOV
(hitting buttons)
Yellow alert, sir...

The APPROPRIATE KLAXONS, COMPUTER-VOICE WARNINGS ("The ship is on Yellow alert...! The ship is on Yellow alert...!" etc. And BELLS CLANGING the alert. At the same time Kirk sits and addresses Spock:

KIRK
We'll continue our
discussion another
time, Mr. Spock.

UHURA
Starfleet Relay has
been apprised of
Aswan's probable
destruction.

SPOCK
As you wish, Captain.

CHEKOV
All decks and divisions
confirm status yellow,
Captain.

158 ANOTHER ANGLE

158

as Spock resumes his Science console.

KIRK
(to Uhura)
Broadcast linguacode friendship
messages on all frequencies...

159 ANGLE AT ELEVATOR DOORS

159

as they open, and McCoy enters. He starts toward Kirk,
then whirls to face the viewer as Ilia calls out:

ILIA
Visual contact...!

160 ACROSS KIRK AND THE OTHERS TO THE MAIN VIEWER (O)

160

where, in the distance, we SEE the LUMINESCENT CLOUD,
and even as we SEE it, it begins GROWING IN SIZE AND
SCOPE.

(CONTINUED)

160 CONTINUED:

160

It is the first time we've seen it this close, in such detail, and we now SEE it resembles an Aurora, a maelstrom of FLARING, ANGRY COLORS. It is mysterious, beautiful, and menacing -- all at the same time. Everyone peers, awed, at the spectacle and particularly Decker, who seems almost momentarily mesmerized.

KIRK

Red alert, Mister Chekov.

Chekov hits the buttons, and instantly the RED ALERT KLAXONS SOUND (a different, more urgent TONE), and the COMPUTER VOICE begins intoning: "... red alert! The ship is on red alert...!" etc.

UHURA

Friendship messages are being transmitted...

CHEKOV

All decks and divisions confirm status red.

SPOCK

(flat, impassive)

We are being scanned, Captain.

161 ANOTHER ANGLE - ACROSS DECKER (AND KIRK) TO SPOCK

161

as Decker whirls toward Spock's station, and calls out:

DECKER

Do not return scan, Mr. Spock! It may be misinterpreted as hostility!

ILIA

Revised visual contact estimate: twelve seconds!

SPOCK

(to Decker)

I am acutely aware of that possibility, Commander...

(to Kirk)

Their scans emanate from the exact cloud center, Captain. Energy of a type and magnitude entirely unknown to me.

UHURA

(after a moment)

No response to friendship messages, Captain.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

CHEKOV
Shall I go to battle
stations, sir?

DECKER
(quickly; to
Kirk)
Recommend we do nothing
to provoke them, sir.

Kirk gives Decker a look, then agrees, nods, turns to
Chekov.

KIRK
Negative on battle stations.

SPOCK
Preliminary estimate on cloud
composition... a factor twelve
energy field emanating from...

KIRK
(disbelieving)
Factor twelve?!

SPOCK
... emanating from some object at
the heart of the cloud.

CHEKOV
(concerned)
Captain, our phasers are not
energized; our torpedoes are not
armed...

DECKER
We will not provoke them, Mister
Chekov!

Kirk flashes a glance of annoyance at Decker, whose
eyes are riveted on the viewer.

ILIA
Cloud boundary in two minutes.

162 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

162

The Cloud on the viewer now so large it DOMINATES THE
ENTIRE IMAGE.

KIRK
Reduce viewer magnification.

(CONTINUED)

162 CONTINUED:

162

Immediately, as the magnification is reduced, the Cloud diminishes in size -- almost instantly begins GROWING AGAIN.

McCOY

How big is that thing...?!

DECKER

(seemingly
fascinated)It's as big as our
solar system...
bigger --

The words are not out of Decker's mouth when suddenly, startlingly, another ALARM KLAXON SOUNDS, and:

COMPUTER VOICE

Incoming fire. Ahead,
zero, mark, zero.
Incoming fire. Ahead,
zero, mark, zero.

McCoy races from the bridge.

163 FULL ON THE MAIN VIEWER (O)

163

SHOWING a WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT streaking from the Cloud!

KIRK (O.S.)

(to Chekov)

Forcefields, deflectors up full!

(to Uhura)

Are you certain the friendship
messages are being transmitted?

164 REVERSE ANGLE

164

UHURA

Affirmative, sir...!
All frequencies are
operational!

CHEKOV

Forcefields and
deflectors up full,
Captain!

165 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (S)

165

The WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT streaks frighteningly toward the Enterprise, which veers sharply away now -- but the WHIPLASH EFFECT FOLLOWS!

166 INT. BRIDGE AND VIEWER (O)

166

with the WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT on the main viewer, closer and closer -- heading straight-on for the Starship. From the bridge a CACOPHONY OF VOICES AND SOUNDS, but all organized and disciplined, with the BRIDGE LIGHTING DIMMING and then as though traveling the last short distance (actually several million miles) in the wink of an eye -- the WHIPLASH OF ENERGY STRIKES. The bridge lights go out.

In the sudden darkness, the main viewer is all at once a frantic, furious, pattern of GREEN-WHITE FLARING ENERGY, accompanied by an EXPLOSIVE SHRILLING SOUND. It seems to cling to the forcefields, the incredible energy forming a blue-white outline of electrical energy on the forcefield barriers.

167 FAVORING CHEKOV'S STATION

167

as a sheet of GREEN WHIPLASH ENERGY bursts from Chekov's console, instantly becomes FLAME that engulfs Chekov. Automatic fire control nozzles SPURT FOAM over him as he falls twisting and groaning in pain.

Hands

168 INT. CORRIDOR

168

FIRE flaring from a room whose doors have burst open, several INJURED CREWMEN stumbling into the corridor. Here, too, firefighting FOAM spurts from automatic nozzles.

3 crew

169 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE UNDER ATTACK (S)

169

The WHIPLASH EFFECT, that SHEET OF WRITHING-GREEN ENERGY covering the entire vessel, outlining it starkly. (And outlining, too, the forcefield screens and deflectors -- battering at them, seeking some gap through which to penetrate.)

170 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

170

The bridge still darkened, and on the viewer the WHIPLASH ENERGY splattering the entire viewing screen, the GREEN ENERGY BRILLIANCE forcing all to shield their eyes against the impossible glare.

171 INT. SICKBAY

171

The lights here are on, but continually dimming -- as McCoy and some Medical Techs treat incoming injuries. (McCoy AD LIBBING: "Put the Chief over here... those two in the burn section," etc. etc...)

172 INT. ENGINEERING

172

A smoking panel BURSTS INTO A SHOWER OF SPARKS AND FLAME, spewing over and past Scott and his crew.

SCOTT

Bypass...! Alternate integrators!

173 INT. BRIDGE AND VIEWER (O)

173

as, first, on the Viewer, the WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT EFFECT clings another moment then begins FADING. And then is gone. The bridge lights go on again.

SULU

(elated)

The new screens held...! A factor twelve impact, and they held...!

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

Engineering to bridge; we cannot hold full power on forcefield screens; power systems are starting to overload!

ILIA

Cloud boundary in one minute, Captain.

Meanwhile, Decker and Uhura are assisting Chekov, with Uhura tending him now as Decker AD LIBS into the intercom: "Sickbay...! Bridge injuries!" And immediately, Decker races across the bridge, CAMERA WITH HIM, PAST KIRK (who is occupied with station reports, etc.) to Uhura's station, where he plugs an earpiece into the console, begins working the communications gear.

174 CLOSE ON VIEWER (O)

174

The energy brilliance gone now, we can SEE the CLOUD is very close -- the closest we have seen it yet, and the Aurora effect is spectacular: a vast, dense blanket of SPARKING, FLARING COLOR.

175 ANGLE ON SPOCK

175

whirling abruptly in his chair, addressing Kirk:

SPOCK

Captain, the Intruder has been attempting to communicate! Now placing their transmission on the speaker...

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

175

Immediately, from the SPEAKER we HEAR A SHRILL, INCREDIBLY FAST BEEP.

SPOCK

(continuing)

... it is on a frequency of more than one million megahertz: at ultra-high speed, the entire message in a millisecond.

176 CLOSER ON SPOCK'S STATION

176

so we can SEE in more detail Spock's monitor -- various oscillating waves, and HEAR more of the SHRILL BEEPS as Spock manipulates his equipment, and continues:

SPOCK

I suspect our transmission may have been too slow for them to read. I am programming the computer to send a friendship message at their transmission rate.

177 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE CLOUD (S)

177

The Cloud ever closer to the ship now, which is a mere dot in space compared to the immensity of the energy-seething, continuous color-exploding cloud. And then, suddenly, from the Cloud -- ANOTHER WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT. Bearing down upon the Enterprise.

178 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWER (O)

178

where the oncoming WHIPLASH BOLT is SEEN emerging from the Cloud. In the b.g., the ALARM KLAXONS ARE SOUNDING, alert lights flashing, etc.

SULU

Here it comes...!

COMPUTER VOICE

Incoming fire. Ahead, zero, mark, zero, point two. Incoming fire. Ahead, zero, mark, zero...

KIRK

(into intercom)

Engineering... divert all auxiliary power to forcefields and deflectors.

179 INT. ENGINEERING

179

Much frenetic activity here, previous damage being repaired, the main shaft GLOWING RED, ENGINES THROBBING AT FULL POWER, and a harassed Scott at the intercom:

SCOTT

Captain, we have lost eighty percent of our deflector power! Forcefields are now below thirty percent effective...! We cannot withstand another attack, sir...!

180 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING SPOCK AND DECKER

180

as Kirk hears this, turns to Spock:

KIRK

Progress, Mr. Spock...?!

Decker replies for Spock, who is feverishly engaged programming the computer:

DECKER

(grim)

The computer won't select a compatible ultra-high speed...!

(NOTE: During the above, Chapel and a Med Tech have arrived to tend to Chekov, are applying emergency treatment. See Appendix C for emergency medical technique.)

181 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE CLOUD (S)

181

The WHIPLASH BOLT streaking toward the ship.

182 INT. BRIDGE

182

KIRK

(desperately)

Mr. Spock...!

ILIA

Impact in fifteen
seconds...
fourteen...
thirteen...
twelve...
eleven...

Spock -- Decker assisting -- works frantically. Spock is clearly dissatisfied, shakes his head tightly.

SPOCK

Captain, the computer will not confirm or deny frequency compatibility!

ILIA'S VOICE

... ten...
... nine...
... eight...
... seven...
... six...

(CONTINUED)

182 CONTINUED:

182

KIRK
Transmit anyway, Mr.
Spock! Now...!

182A CLOSER ON SPOCK'S STATION

182A

as Decker leans over and hits the "Transmit" button,
and we HEAR the SHRILL BEEP SOUND (lasting but a frac-
tion of a second), and:

DECKER
Transmitting...!

ILIA'S VOICE
... five...
... four...

183 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (O)

183

where the WHIPLASH BOLT is now BRILLIANT, and Ilia con-
tinues counting O.S.

ILIA (O.S.)
... three...
... two...
... one...

And at that instant, we HEAR another SHRILL HIGH SPEED
BEEP (response from V'ger) -- the WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT
WHICH IS JUST ABOUT AT THE ENTERPRISE, VANISHES. In
the blink of an eye, the entire EFFECT IS GONE.

ILIA (O.S.)
(continuing; the
word trailing off)
... Mark...

184 REACTIONS

184

relief, incredulity. Dr. Chapel, administering to
Chekov, peers at the viewer dubiously; and Chekov, in-
jured as he is, realizes they've been spared. Only
Spock remains expressionless, and after another moment
when it is apparent the attack has indeed broken off:

SPOCK
(quiet, level)
It appears that our friendship
message has been received and
understood, Captain.

185 EXT. SPACE - THE CLOUD AND THE ENTERPRISE (S)

185

The Enterprise very close now to the Cloud's outer
boundary, and moving closer.

186 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWER (O)

186

The Cloud now DOMINATING THE VIEWER, the "Borealis" EFFECT very prominent: the spectacular color bursts ERUPTING, SUBSIDING, ERUPTING. The bridge crew watches the approaching Cloud. Kirk studying it almost analytically; while Decker, near Kirk now, seems to be regarding it more with fascination, wonder. (NOTE: Chekov and Chapel are now absent.)

Spock is busy at his station, grim, apparently frustrated. Uhura concentrates on her console, but her eyes continually straying to the viewer; Sulu also.

SPOCK

Their previous transmissions may have warned us away -- or invited us in. Their code is incredibly complex; I am breaking it down, but a symbol at a time.

ILIA

Five seconds...

On the viewer the Cloud is upon them as all watch tensely.

DECKER

Once we're in, Captain, we'll have to navigate on sensors; they might consider that a hostile act.

KIRK

They've already responded to our friendship messages, Mister Decker. And they are certainly aware our weapons pose them no threat... Lieutenant Ilia, plot a hyperbolic curve toward the cloud center; bring our course parallel to whatever is in there.

Again, for just that one instant, Ilia frowns in pain, seems momentarily immobilized, touches her temple. Then appears all right, proceeds to punch in the appropriate equations.

187 ACROSS ILIA TO SPOCK

187

who has just then risen to step over to Uhura's station, and has noticed Ilia's momentary seizure. He reacts, pondering, but then continues to Uhura to check out some figures on the Communications console, as Ilia calls:

ILIA

Cloud boundary in twenty seconds.

188 ANGLE ON THE VIEWER (O)

188

The outer Cloud edges now clearly discernible; filmy wisps of the ERUPTING COLORS, floating angrily (and beautifully) toward the viewer screen. Another moment, most eyes fixed apprehensively on the oncoming Cloud; crewmen lost in their own secret thoughts. A moment of mystery, danger. The Cloud edges are now longer wispy, and fiery; they are far more substantive, and the "Borealis Effect" becomes BRIGHTER and BRIGHTER.

189 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE ENTERING THE CLOUD (S)

189

The Starship so tiny compared to the unimaginable vastness of the Cloud now noses in. The saucer is soon enveloped, and then the domed bridge section, the leading edge of the dorsal, the front of the engine nacelles -- and then it is swallowed up entirely.

190 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWER (O)

190

as the LUMINESCENT CLOUD obscures all now, and every crewman watches, almost mesmerized.

SULU

Helm control and power systems
are normal, Captain. I am
commencing the turn...

(to Ilia)

Request course confirmation.

Ilia seems not to have heard; she's peering rigidly, almost hypnotically at the viewer, the BOREALIS EFFECT.

SULU

(continuing)

Lieutenant Ilia --

He reaches out to gently touch her; she reacts with a start, peers confusedly at Sulu -- then begins punching her computer, studying her console. She seems disconcerted. Kirk, who has been watching and listening to Ilia, rises and steps to her.

KIRK

Lieutenant, are you ill?

The beautiful Deltan looks up at Kirk, her eyes glazed with pain:

ILIA

No, sir. Yes, I think I am. I
don't know...!

191 ACROSS THEM TO SPOCK

191

as Spock reports from his station:

SPOCK

Course confirmation, Mister Sulu,
is 205 plus 3 plus point 5...
(to Kirk)

Captain, we will be at the Cloud
center in fifty seconds.

Ilia suddenly clasps her hand to her forehead, gasps in
pain:

SPOCK

(continuing)
My instruments indicate
increasingly severe
electro-magnetic
disturbances; the highest
readings I have ever
encountered.

ILIA

No...! Please, no!
(to Kirk)
I can't block it out...!

Decker turns to Ilia:

DECKER

What can't you block out?!
What?

ILIA

(gasping)
... colors...! Pulsating,
bright as a thousand
suns...!
(grimacing)
It crushes my whole
body...!

SULU

(worried, aware
of Ilia)
I am completing the final
turn...
(to Kirk, of
Ilia)
Do something for her,
sir!

KIRK

(to Ilia)
What is it you're seeing? Tell
us!

Ilia peers wide-eyed at Kirk, then all at once col-
lapses; she falls from her chair to the floor. She
writhes, moaning in pain, both hands clasped to her
temples as though to block out whatever she is seeing.
Kirk AD LIBS into the intercom: "Doctor McCoy to the
bridge...!", as he and Decker both kneel to help her,
and:

192 PAST THEM TO SULU (MUSIC THEME COMMENCES SLOWLY)

192

Sulu is peering at the main viewer (O.S.), Kirk and
Decker positioned with Ilia so their backs are to the
viewer.

(CONTINUED)

192 CONTINUED:

192

Sulu's eyes are wide with incredulity:

SULU

Captain...!

193 OTHER REACTIONS - SPOCK AND UHURA

193

also peering at the O.S. viewer in disbelief. Kirk and Decker, assisting Ilia into her seat, face the viewer. And their expressions are equally incredulous. Ilia also is aware of the viewer.

194 WHAT THEY SEE ON THE VIEWER - V'GER (MUSIC THEME UP) (O)

194

as the final flickerings of the BOREALIS EFFECT flare thinly away to reveal, in the "eye of the hurricane" -- an Object which the entire bridge crew gazes at in stunned silence.

As the Enterprise closes, we SEE it with more detail: an Object at once exotically beautiful and frighteningly alien. Its sides covered with irridescent, glowing metal slabs, obviously a vessel, the open "maw" providing some manner of ram-jet function.

195- VARIOUS ANGLES ON THE BRIDGE CREW AND THE VIEWER (O)

195-
198

the Object GROWING RAPIDLY IN SIZE as the Enterprise continues moving toward it. Everyone watches, awed; even Spock, from whom we discern an involuntary, impressed reaction. Ilia has had a momentary respite from her previous pain. She stares at the Object, unable to turn away from the viewer.

UHURA

(finally,
overwhelmed)

We're seeing it a full thirty
seconds before we should...!

SPOCK

Because of its immense size...
(glances at
his console)

Our distance from the Object is
one thousand, three hundred and
twenty kilometers. Visual
dimension interpolation of the
Object as follows...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

195- CONTINUED:
198

195-
198

SPOCK (CONT'D)
(to Kirk)
Seventy-eight kilometers in length,
twenty-one kilometers in width.

SULU
Seventy-eight kilometers long...?!

All digest the dimensions, as:

199 ANGLE ON THE BRIDGE ELEVATOR DOORS

199

as they open to admit McCoy accompanying Chekov, whose face and hands are taut with plastiskin applications. Seeing the Object on the viewer (O.S. at this ANGLE), Chekov's eyes open wide with astonishment. He crosses quickly to his weapons-defense station, never taking his eyes from the viewer. McCoy, eyes also fixed on the sight, moves to Kirk's side, where Decker stands transfixed.

DECKER
(quietly)
It's beautiful...!

McCOY
Beautiful...!? It's destroyed everything in its path.

KIRK
(half turns to Spock)
Mister Spock: evaluation...?

SPOCK
None, Captain; the computers contain no information concerning this Object.

200 FAVORING DECKER AND VIEWER (O)

200

as he steps closer to the viewer, gazing at it in awe:

DECKER
(quiet)
Just look at it...! The power, the... majesty!
(half turns to McCoy)
They are not wanton destroyers, Doctor; they couldn't be...!
(to Kirk)
The civilization that could build that is advanced beyond our imagination.

201 ANOTHER ANGLE ON THE VIEWER (O)

201

as Kirk and the others stare at the vessel, whose image has lengthened on the viewer so that now both front and rear extend off the viewing screen.

KIRK

Reduce magnification.

Sulu hits a button. Immediately, the image (of V'ger) on the viewer shrinks so we SEE it in its entirety.

202 REVERSE ANGLE

202

KIRK

Commander Uhura, transmit the image of the alien to Starfleet. Inform them we are attempting to establish communications --

UHURA

(interrupting)
I am unable to make contact with Starfleet Relay, Captain. Our transmissions out of the cloud are being reflected back...!

ILIA

(in pain again;
to viewer)
Why are you watching us...?!

KIRK

(to McCoy)
Bones, see to Lieutenant Ilia...

As McCoy moves to Ilia, who again is writhing in pain:

203 PAST SULU TO THE VIEWER (O)

203

as, almost at the same instant, from the giant alien, we SEE STRANGE, OPAQUE ENERGY PATTERNS STREAKING TOWARD US.

SULU

Captain, they are launching another attack! Diminished energy factor...!

KIRK

Forcefields, full emergen --

Kirk's words are lost in a SUDDEN SHRILLING SOUND (a constant, high-pitched tone). The ENERGY PATTERNS dominate the viewer image for a moment. And then the PATTERNS VANISH, and the SHRILL SOUND FADES -- and the VIEWER IMAGE SHOWS THE ALIEN GROWING RAPIDLY IN SIZE. The Enterprise is being pulled toward the alien.

204 REVERSE ANGLE (O)

204

A number of blue static electrical charges suddenly appear. In the crisis, only Ilia -- threshing in her agony -- appears to notice, and she is too incapacitated to call anyone's attention to them, as McCoy examines her quickly and deftly with his tricorder. The blue electrical charges dance curiously above the bridge, zipping here and there, probing, but not intruding, and quite unobtrusive: appearing for just an instant, vanishing, reappearing in a different place.

205 ANGLE TO INCLUDE SPOCK AND VIEWER (O)

205

studying the viewer image, then consulting his console as the giant metallic entity GROWS EVER LARGER ON THE VIEWER.

SULU

We are being pulled off course...!

SPOCK

Captain, we have been seized by a tractor beam. Life support systems are failing.

CHEKOV

Forcefield strength is dropping! Deflectors show zero power...!

KIRK

(to Sulu)

Helmsman, transfer helm control to Engineering...!
(into intercom)
Engineering... Mr. Scott, take us out of here!
Full Warp power!

206 INT. ENGINEERING - MAIN LEVEL

206

ENGINE SOUNDS DEAFENING: Assistant Engineers and Technicians reacting to a major overload emergency, their VOICES AD LIBBING: "Bypass integrators two-two-seven; two-two-eight...!" "Life support systems are overloading...!" "We have helm control at this station, but minimal response...!"

Emergency support Engineering CREW are ENTERING ON THE RUN, assuming still other positions.

207 ANOTHER ANGLE - SCOTT

207

at his station, and beyond him the great power shaft is starting to GLOW RED. ENGINES SOUNDS EVEN LOUDER. Scott is speaking into the intercom, shouting to be heard over the din:

(CONTINUED)

207 CONTINUED:

207

SCOTT

Engines are eight points over
redline, Captain...!

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

Nurse them, Scotty. Unless we
break their tractor beam, the
pressure will wipe out our life
support systems...!

208 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER (O)

208

The alien CLOSER on the viewer, as the tractor beam
continues pulling the Enterprise to it. McCoy works on
Ilia, now wrapping a Porta-V unit onto her forearm (a
portable IV, blood-pressure, vital signs device). And
now, for the first time, McCoy notices the blue static
charges, one small one, which crackles briefly down
from the ceiling, dances about Ilia's whole body, sur-
rounding it, outlining it, then vanishes. (NOTE: The
heat on the bridge has increased; everyone is perspir-
ing profusely, showing signs of heat fatigue.)

KIRK

(to Uhura)

Transmit to the Aliens: 'Your
tractor beam pressure is destroying
all life aboard this vessel...!'

With everyone gasping for breath in the rising heat,
Uhura punches the buttons to encode the message. Mean-
while:

CHEKOV

Report from Weapons
Control center, Captain:
temperature on that
level is 130...!

SCOTT'S INTERCOM
VOICE

Captain, we are at
redline overload...!

SPOCK

The tractor beam is
exerting a plus ten
magnitude; we do not
have the ability to
break free of such
a force.

COMPUTER VOICE

Life support systems alert.
Life support systems alert.
Shunt auxiliary power to
temperature control unit;
autovents to manual
override. Life support
systems, etc. etc.

KIRK

(to Spock)

Endurance estimate?

(NOTE: this CONTINUES
throughout sequence)

209 FLASH CUT OF THE DIGITAL TEMPERATURE INDICATOR

209

reading 111... 112... 113... 114...

210 ANGLE ON SPOCK (UHURA'S STATION IN B.G.)

210

as Spock glances at the temperature indicator, and replies:

SPOCK

One minute and ten seconds.

KIRK

(to Uhura)

The message, Uhura; send the message...!

(into intercom)

Engineering... it's no use, Scotty: transfer power to life support systems...

(to Uhura)

Come on, Uhura...!

Spock has already raced to Uhura's station, begun helping her with the message: punching in the code, programming the computer for the high-speed transmission, and then hitting the "transmit" button. We HEAR the FAST BEEP of the message.

UHURA

Transmitting...!

A moment where the oppressive heat continues rising; everyone is gasping for air, all but Spock who seems relatively unaffected. He is watching Ilia, the blue static charges that are still occasionally crackling above her nearly limp, fainting body.

Then the SOUND OF A RETURN BEEP.

UHURA

(continuing)

They're responding...!

211 FLASH CUT OF THE TEMPERATURE INDICATOR

211

The numbers suddenly reversing: 120... 119... 118...

212 INT. BRIDGE - ANOTHER ANGLE

212

as all react:

CHEKOV

Life support and temperature control returning to normal...

COMPUTER VOICE

Life support systems alert.
Life support systems --

SULU

Pressure is reduced, Captain, but we are still locked in the tractor beam.

Computer suddenly STOPS

213 FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

213

as the oppressive bridge heat lowers, and all react with relief. But on the viewer V'ger is larger now, closer.

DECKER

I knew they wouldn't
let us die...!

SULU

They are pulling us into
them at a closure rate
of 9,000 kilometers per
second.

All eyes turn to the viewer, V'ger huge in the distance.

214 EXT. SPACE - V'GER AND THE ENTERPRISE (S)

214

For the first time we have an EXTERIOR VIEW of the two ships, the Enterprise perceptibly moving toward the giant. But even at this distance (perspective/angle) it is really not clear just how tiny the Enterprise is compared to V'ger. Only as we realize that the tiny dot that is the Enterprise remains the same size, while V'ger grows ever larger, do we begin truly appreciating the comparison. V'ger pulls Enterprise closer and closer toward her, now a DOZEN times larger than our ship, and now a DOZEN DOZEN times larger. As V'ger grows in size, we begin to make out its exterior details, which could not even have been suspected at the distance we had previously seen it.

V'ger's outer layer consists of substances heretofore unseen: Plasma-matter, energy fields diamond-hard in their power, solid sheets of subatomic particles, crystalline-lace patterns which appear capable of shifting their nature to rearrange themselves. In all, V'ger is a totally awe-inspiring sight of unimaginable creative technology.

215 INT. BRIDGE - THE VIEWER (O)

215

as the crew watches all these details, and now can clearly see the open "maw" of the giant, which they are clearly being pulled toward. Inside the "maw," it is a DARK VOID. Miles ahead (in the "maw"), past the dark void, FLICKERING LIGHTS FROM ENERGY FIELD PATTERNS can be DIMLY SEEN.

216 EXT. SPACE - V'GER AND THE ENTERPRISE - NEAR THE "MAW" (S)

216

as Enterprise is pulled ever closer, V'ger's intent seemingly to swallow us up.

(CONTINUED)

216 CONTINUED:

216

Now we can plainly discern the vastness of the alien: the Enterprise, close to V'ger, resembles a golf ball floating toward a dirigible. It continues being pulled toward the "maw," and then just as it seems it will be swallowed -- Enterprise's motion STOPS. She hovers now, motionlessly just outside the "maw."

217 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

217

as the Enterprise, imprisoned in the tractor beam, is positioned just outside V'ger's "maw" -- and on the viewer the dark void of V'ger's interior stretches endlessly, large enough to accommodate an entire city.

SULU

Forward motion stopped, sir; we remain locked.

KIRK

Disengage all drive systems, Mr. Sulu...

(as Sulu complies;
to Uhura)

Transmit the following signal:
'From Captain James T. Kirk' to
Commander of alien vessel.
Please --

218 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE BLUE STATIC CHARGES (O)

218

as Kirk's words are suddenly interrupted by the appearance of BLUE STATIC CHARGES. They are more energetic than before, and obviously cause some (electrical-shock) slight discomfort. Ilia seems to be the main target: several charges play about her, her entire body, but she appears strangely unaffected, almost trance-like. Both McCoy and Kirk step to her aid, but they are repulsed by the blue crackling energy field.

McCOY

What the hell are those...!

219 ANGLE ON SPOCK

219

as he quickly completes a new set of equations on his console, and replies:

SPOCK

Those are sensor probes, Doctor...
(calls voice order
to viewer)
Main Viewer, patch into Science
Station...

220 CLOSER ON THE MAIN VIEWER (O)

220

as the image of V'ger is replaced now by a fuzzy, pulsating set of images which quickly come INTO FOCUS as mathematical equations: rows of numbers racing across the viewer screen with computer speed, line after line, filling the entire viewer, then dissolving, instantly replaced with other, different numbers.

SPOCK

I believe them to be neutrenos, ingeniously bonded to electromagnetic charges... What you are seeing is information being sent back to the mother ship.

KIRK

(astonished)

A binary system communication...!

SPOCK

The symbols represent a profusion of data. Everything the probes have monitored thus far.

221 ANGLE ON ILIA (O)

221

now entirely enveloped by the blue static charges -- and now she seems to be paralyzed, catatonic.

222 ANOTHER ANGLE ON THE VIEWER (O)

222

with the numbers now all at once flashing off, replaced by the ANATOMICAL DIAGRAM of a woman. Highly complicated and detailed, but clearly with a bald head. In and around this diagram (or outline) various numbers flash, and a strobe-like area of light pulsates from one section of the diagrammed body to another, to another, and another.

KIRK

(of the diagram)

Ilia...!

McCOY

(amazed)

Every function and component of her body is being examined.

SPOCK

Yes, and being translated into an electro-mechanical design program...!

(CONTINUED)

222 CONTINUED:

222

This continues another moment, sections of the body (hearts, lungs, stomach) being scanned, and MAGNIFIED on the viewer as these details (nerve-endings, veins, etc.) are examined microscopically.

223 ILIA (O)

223

as the blue static charges now increase in intensity -- and then DISSOLVE IN A BLINDING FLASH OF WHITE, obscuring Ilia. An instant later the FLASH IS GONE -- and so is Ilia!

CHEKOV'S VOICE

Not a weapon, sir. They've beamed her over there...!

224 ACROSS THE NAVIGATOR'S STATION TO KIRK

224

seated helplessly, shocked, gazing at the place Ilia was -- but which now is empty. (And at the same time the blue static charges have also vanished.)

225 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND V'GER (S)

225

both streaking through space, the dot-sized Enterprise and the metallic colossus, both maintaining the exact speed and distance from each other, so that it is obvious the Enterprise remains locked in the alien's tractor beam. Over this:

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log. Stardate 7412.5. We remain locked in the alien's tractor beam, and for an entire day now we have been carried with him toward Earth: 2.4 days away. He refuses to respond to our queries, so we have no hint of Lieutenant Ilia's fate. More important, we have no inkling of his intent concerning Earth.

226 INT. ENGINEERING

226

with Scott and his dishevelled, sweaty crew laboring. Over this, Kirk continues:

KIRK (V.O.)

(dryly)

The 'respite' has enabled us to shut down our main engines, affording Chief Engineer Scott the

227 INT. SICK BAY

227

where Chapel and Med Techs are busy with patients -- some abed, others being examined, etc. Kirk's VOICE continues over:

KIRK (V.O.)

... and has also enabled our medical facilities to catch up to casualties...

228 INT. REC DECK (O)

228

with CREWMEN relaxing (desperately attempting to); engaged in holographic games, reading, perusing small, personal viewers. Some playing a form of basketball, others occupied in various gymnastic activities. But the sense of anxiety, tension pervades, and now and then they will glance through the picture window where, just barely discernible, are the inner edges of V'ger's cloud: the angry, beautiful colors like some alien Northern Lights flickering on the far distant horizon. Kirk's VOICE continues:

KIRK (V.O.)

... the crew is on general stand-down; and all operations on total stand-down, on automatic, computer-controlled.

229 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS (INCLUDING HIS PERSONAL VIEWER) (O)

229

Kirk at his desk, just now completing the log entry, snapping off the armrest microphone control, slumping wearily -- a moment where we SEE his fatigue and tension -- and then AD LIBBING a quiet call: "Viewer on; patch into Main Viewer."

Immediately, on the personal viewer, the image of V'ger. Kirk peers at it in perplexion. Just then an Intercom Whistle Signal:

SPOCK'S INTERCOM VOICE

Captain Kirk...

KIRK

Kirk here.

And Kirk touches another button, and on the personal viewer now is Spock's image -- at his bridge station.

SPOCK'S INTERCOM VOICE

(his image on viewer)

Captain, I have decoded the alien's transmissions.

230 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

230

The entire bridge is darkened but for narrow lights shining from the ceiling on each station, heightening the empty effect. The only personnel here are Decker, in the Center Seat -- and, of course, Spock, just now speaking to Kirk on the intercom. Decker, who had been gazing broodily at the viewer, at V'ger, hearing Spock's words, now has swung his chair around to peer incredulously at him.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

(to Spock)

On my way...!

231 PAST SPOCK TO DECKER

231

as Spock flips off the intercom, glances at Decker, then turns and resumes working on his console, from which we HEAR the now familiar SHRILL BEEP of V'ger's high-speed transmissions, but as Spock works -- the transmissions SOUND PERCEPTIBLY SLOWER. Decker rises, walks to Spock, stands over him, watches Spock work. We HEAR the BEEPS -- SLOWER, SLOWER -- and then Spock indicates his console:

232 SHOT OF SPOCK'S CONSOLE, HIS MONITOR

232

with the now SLOW BEEPS in the b.g., and across the small monitor screen groups of numbers are flashing.

233 SPOCK AND DECKER

233

as Spock indicates the numbers:

SPOCK

Binary combinations, placed initially one at a time, then in two's and three's, and finally sequentially -- and after eliminating all improper sentences -- translate thusly through our computer --

234 ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS

234

as Kirk enters, strides to them, as Spock hits another button, and suddenly we HEAR:

(CONTINUED)

234 CONTINUED:

234

COMPUTER VOICE

(terse, flat)

V'ger to Enterprise: identify
your place of origin. State
your intentions. V'ger to
Enterprise: identify --

The Voice stops as Spock AD LIBS a voice command:
"Computer off," and faces Kirk and Decker, and
continues:

SPOCK

V'ger acknowledged only those
friendship messages transmitted
at ultra-high speed through our
computer.

DECKER

'V'ger'...?

235 ANOTHER ANGLE - PAST THEM TO THE VIEWER (O)

235

showing V'ger there, as Kirk asks:

KIRK

Only through the computer?

SPOCK

I've played back every signal
sent. The only ones responded
to were computer-transmitted.

DECKER

(whirling around)

Program the computer for direct
communication with them, Spock.
Now!

236 REVERSE ANGLE

236

Spock glances at Kirk, who hesitates just a beat, then
nods. Spock begins punching buttons -- lights go on;
Decker seems beside himself with anticipation, and the
instant the COMPUTER VOICE says "Computer on" -- Decker
is speaking to it:

DECKER

Computer, send the following:
'V'ger from Enterprise: is your
destination the third planet of
the solar system directly ahead?'
Transmit.

(CONTINUED)

236 CONTINUED:

236

More lights flash on (on the computer console), and we HEAR THE SHORT BEEP of the high-speed transmission. Almost immediately, a RETURN BEEP (slightly different tone).

COMPUTER VOICE
Translating. Enterprise from
V'ger. Affirmative: my
destination is the third planet.

A moment of elation -- even Spock cannot repress an expression. Then:

DECKER
Computer, send the following:
what is the purpose of your
journey to this destination?

The lights flash again, and the BEEP, and then the RETURN BEEP.

COMPUTER VOICE
Translating: I journey to the
planet described because it is
the home of The Creator.

Stunned, disbelieving reactions as all three attempt to digest this information, then suddenly:

SPOCK
Computer off...
(as it goes off;
to Kirk)
Captain, this confirms another
suspicion of mine...
(a beat)
The Alien...
(nods at O.S. viewer)
'V'ger'... does not carry an alien
crew. It carries no crew.

DECKER
It's controlled remotely?

SPOCK
No, Commander...

237 INCLUDE V'GER ON THE VIEWER (O)

237

as Spock continues:

SPOCK
... I believe 'V'ger' is a living
thing.

(CONTINUED)

237 CONTINUED:

237

Almost reflexedly, Kirk and Decker glance at the image of V'ger on the viewer, as Spock continues:

SPOCK
(continuing)
A machine-form of life.

Speaking, Spock hits some buttons on his console, AD LIBS "Listen..." And we HEAR a playback of V'ger's last transmissions:

COMPUTER VOICE
(on playback)
'... my destination is the third planet...' 'I journey to the planet described because it is the home of The Creator.'

Spock hits buttons again, terminating the playback.

SPOCK
Note the syntax: my destination;
I journey. 'V'ger to Enterprise'
-- entity to entity. Its probe of Ilia translated her body functions into mechanical language. And it responded to us only through our computer: again a machine. I am convinced it is a machine form of life, Captain, and for the same reasons I am further convinced it regards our ship, the Enterprise ... as a similar life form.

238 REVERSE ANGLE

238

The instant Spock is finished, Decker is calling the computer:

DECKER
Computer, send the following:
Your destination planet is
Enterprise's place of origin.
Enterprise's intentions are --

Decker's words are never completed: the computer's lights are suddenly flashing wildly, rapidly, and there is an incredibly fast EXCHANGE OF HIGH PITCHED BEEPS -- the computer obviously in unauthorized communication with V'ger.

(CONTINUED)

238 CONTINUED:

238

KIRK

Computer off! You are violating
program...!

(tries to manually
shut it down)

It's running through our computer
records...! The whole library!

Decker stands frozen, peering at the computer in fascination; he does not move to help Kirk. But Spock moves in, his Vulcan strength easily brushing Kirk aside. Claspings fists over his head, Spock brings them down in a SHATTERING BLOW on the console. It splits open, CAS-CADING FLARING SPARKS, FLAME, SMOKE. Spock reaches in and yanks out the main power lines. Immediately his body is hit with HIGH VOLTAGE as he presses the positive and negative cables together. ANOTHER SHOWER OF SPARKS, the dim lights over the bridge dim even more -- and then the Science Console shorts itself out -- and off.

Spock stands just an instant with the cables, his face contorted in agony, his hands black with high voltage burns, and smoking -- and then the cables fall from his hands, his knees buckle. Kirk catches him before he slumps to the floor, AD LIBBING a shout to Decker: "Sick bay...!"

DECKER

(into intercom)

Sick bay... bridge emergency: high
voltage shock and burn casualty!

Kirk cradles Spock, now unconscious, in his arms.

239 ANOTHER ANGLE

239

as Decker removes a first-aid package from an insert in the console, quickly kneels and applies a Porta-V to Spock's arm, hitting the appropriate buttons on the unit, as:

KIRK

(as a plea)

Spock... please. Please...!

240 ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS

240

snapping open to admit McCoy, Chapel, and a Med Tech with an anti-grav gurney. Quickly, deftly, Spock is placed on the gurney, as McCoy and Chapel both examine him, administer additional first-aid (a pencil-device that sprays a fine ameliorative mist over the burn areas):

(CONTINUED)

240 CONTINUED:

240

CHAPEL
(to Med Tech)
Get him down to emergency...
(to McCoy)
Vital signs are good.

McCOY
(nods; dryly)
It takes more than a few thousand
volts to injure that thick Vulcan
skin.

241 ACROSS McCOY TO KIRK

241

as Spock is moved from the bridge, Chapel and the Med Tech accompanying the gurney -- Decker also walking alongside Spock. McCoy has turned to Kirk, and reacts as he notices Kirk rooted near the Science Console (still smoking), grasping the rear of Spock's chair for support. He looks at McCoy, starts toward him, then suddenly stops -- as though a thousand ton weight has just blocked him. He seems to stagger, reaches for the bridge rail to support himself. He wants no one to see him like this, and he turns away from McCoy, stands a moment gasping for breath. It is only for that moment, but a moment where we have an unsettling glimpse into a Kirk who is not at all the driven, determined professional we expect to see; or, at least the image he has striven to project. But he knows McCoy has seen it, and their eyes meet, hold -- an instant of truth.

242 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDE McCOY AND THE VIEWER (O)

242

as Decker, (who has just returned from escorting Spock, Chapel, et al., to the elevator) strides to the Captain's chair, flips on the intercom:

DECKER
Computer maintenance... to the
bridge, on the double...!

Kirk is himself again, is walking over to face Decker, who continues, to Kirk:

DECKER
(continuing)
We'll re-establish communications
with it as soon as possible,
Captain.

(CONTINUED)

242 CONTINUED:

242

KIRK

(agreeing)

But with a fail-safe manual cutoff,
Mister Decker. And first determine
exactly how much information was
drained.

DECKER

Do you honestly think it would
make any difference? Knowing what
we now know about it...?!

KIRK

(flaring)

Yes, Mister Decker, I think it
would make a great difference! It
might have gotten into sensitive
data: Earth defenses, other
planets. We may have damn well
compromised the whole Federation...!

McCOY

(bemused)

'What we now know about it...?'

Decker replies, gazing at the viewer, speaking with an
almost evangelistic tone:

DECKER

That ship is not a manned vessel;
it's a living machine, and it
considers the Enterprise one, too!

McCoy reacts, glances at the viewer an amazed beat, then
turns to them again:

McCOY

Then what does it think we are?
Bacteria? Microbes? Slaves...?

KIRK

Any, or all of that. That's
probably why it took Ilia: to
examine her.

McCOY

(an irate glance
at the viewer)

Dissect her, is more like it!

Kirk glances at the viewer, then starts away, calling
to Decker:

(CONTINUED)

242 CONTINUED: (2)

242

KIRK

(hard)

Inform me the minute the computer is operable, Commander. Do not -- repeat, not -- attempt communications without my express consent. I'll be in sick bay...

(to McCoy, to accompany him)

Bones --

McCoy hesitates an instant, peering at the viewer, at V'ger, then walks quickly across the bridge to join Kirk at the elevator. They enter.

243 ON DECKER

243

standing gazing after them, angry, frustrated.

244 INT. ELEVATOR

244

The doors snapping closed, Kirk calling out his destination:

KIRK

Sick bay.

McCOY

(to annunciator)

Cancel sick bay; proceed instead to Level Four, Commanding Officer's quarters.

As Kirk starts to protest, McCoy raises his hands to silence him, quickly continues:

McCOY

(continuing)

Jim, Spock'll be unconscious at least an hour. But I promise you: he'll be fine...

(jabs Kirk's chest)

... you won't, though: unless you get some rest.

Kirk nods, agreeing. They ride now (very briefly) in absolute silence, McCoy eyeing Kirk steadily, piercingly -- Kirk attempting to look him back. As though each is reading the other's mind, waiting for the other to break. It is Kirk: he looks away, and just then the elevator stops, the doors snap open. Kirk nods at McCoy, steps out, starts leaving.

245 INT. CORRIDOR NEAR KIRK'S QUARTERS

245

as McCoy steps out after Kirk.

McCOY

(calling)

Jim...

(as Kirk stops,
faces him)

You want to talk about it?

KIRK

(a beat)

Nothing to talk about, Bones: you
saw it.

McCOY

I saw a man react to another man's
suffering.

KIRK

(tight, angry)

You saw a Starship captain break...!
In jagged pieces; all the king's
horses, Doctor, and all the king's
men!

McCOY

(disdainfully)

All the king's horses asses, you
mean! What's the matter with you?
Can't you allow yourself a single
human emotion?

KIRK

Emotions, yes; mistakes -- no.
Bones, maybe I bit off more than
I can chew. Look at what happened
up there.

McCOY

(angry)

All I'm looking at is a man so
self-indulgent he needs constant
victories to continually prove his
own self-worth! I'm also looking
at a man on the verge of letting
that self-indulgence destroy his
own natural command skills...!

(indicates Kirk's
door)

Now get in there and get some sleep,
and clear your muddled head...!

And without another word, McCoy turns and strides to
the elevator doors. They snap open. He enters, is gone.
Kirk stands watching him, his face reflecting all the
turmoil and uncertainty.

246 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

246

SHOWING, first, Kirk's small, personal viewer -- and the omnipresent image of V'ger. PULL BACK now TO FIND Kirk slumped over the desk near the viewer. He is sound asleep. He wears a leisure suit, has obviously followed McCoy's instructions (to rest), but had fallen asleep studying the viewer, thinking.

Then a SLIGHT SHRILLING SOUND, and a FLASH OF LIGHT from nearby. This awakens Kirk, who peers groggily at the viewer then touches a button which flashes onto the screen the time and date: 7412.5.002. He releases the button, the numbers flash off, looks down at leisure suit, feels it (remembering now why and when he donned it), and starts across to his bed.

Reaching his bed, he HEARS the SOUND of his SONIC SHOWER being turned on. Reacting, alert now, he crosses to:

247 THE DRESSING AND BATH AREA

247

where he opens the door, and behind the translucent shower a totally unexpected sight: a NAKED FEMALE FORM.

A moment's uncertainty, then Kirk slides open the shower stall door. And now, truly, he is incredulous. He is looking at:

247A "ILIA"

247A

standing stark naked in the sonic mist. Naked but for a small pearl-like button imbedded in her throat just above the windpipe. (This button should be fairly prominent, will occasionally gleam, or glow.)

"ILIA"

(bland, flat)

Good evening, Kirk unit.

(NOTE: "Ilia's" speech patterns will be slightly stilted, or stiff at first, a definite shade removed from the real Ilia's naturalness and warmth. This will gradually improve, eventually will evolve to nearly normal.)

Kirk peers at her, speechless, as she continues:

"ILIA"

(continuing)

I am, as you see, an exact duplication of the carbon-based unit called 'Ilia.' I can perform any of her functions.

247A CONTINUED:

247A

And with this, she touches a control on the shower, CAMERA CLOSING JUST AN INSTANT on the control, which reads: "Garment."

Immediately, there is a HUMMING SOUND, from the shower stall, "Ilia" remaining there, but Kirk whirling around, striding to the intercom.

248 ACROSS KIRK TO THE SHOWER STALL

248

The ANGLE such that, from his POV, the translucent shower door obscures "Ilia" -- but through the door we SEE COLORS APPEARING, ENVELOPING HER NUDE FORM, and the HUMMING CONTINUING. (This is a device that fabricates a leisure garment to be worn out of the shower.) As Kirk watches, he speaks into the intercom:

KIRK

Sick bay... Dr. McCoy to the Captain's quarters. And bring a tricorder...!

The HUMMING SOUND STOPS; and "Ilia," now wearing a leisure robe, steps from the shower stall, into the room, faces Kirk.

KIRK

(continuing; finding his voice)

Where is Lieutenant Ilia?

"ILIA"

That unit no longer exists. I have assumed her form to more readily observe and communicate with other carbon-based units infesting USS Enterprise...

249 ANGLE ON THE DOOR - McCOY

249

entering.

McCOY

(worried)

Jim, what's --

(sees Ilia)

Lieutenant Ilia...!

(to Kirk,

"disapprovingly")

I ordered you to rest, Captain; I don't recall advising any other type of therapy.

(CONTINUED)

249 CONTINUED:

249

KIRK

This is not Ilia, Bones.

McCoy reacts a fast beat, then instantly has unslung the tricorder, applied to "Ilia." His face reveals the results.

McCOY

Non-human life form...

(reads scope again,
touches Ilia's
"flesh")

Incredible...! Let's get her to sick bay where I can do a thorough examination --

And McCoy grasps "Ilia's" arm to escort her. But it is as though he has seized a piece of cast iron steel, immovable. McCoy is nearly thrown off balance simply by "Ilia" remaining stationary. She ignores McCoy, turns to Kirk:

"ILIA"

You are directed to accompany me to the bridge, Captain Kirk.

Kirk glances at McCoy, who is totally bemused, then fast to "Ilia:"

KIRK

The examination will help you to more efficiently observe...
(searches for phrase)
... the 'units.'

"Ilia" stands blankly an instant; the "pearl" in her throat glows briefly. Then:

"ILIA"

The request is approved.

Kirk and McCoy glance at each other again.

250 CLOSE SHOT OF THE EXAMINING ROOM VIEWER

250

with McCoy, Chapel, Kirk -- and Spock (wearing a Medical Dept. robe, his hands encased in plasti-skin) standing over "Ilia," who is prone on the table, as the physicians move the scanner over her body. ("Ilia" should be wearing a modest surgical "sarong," extending from her breasts to thighs.)

(CONTINUED)

250 CONTINUED:

250

McCOY

The skin is synthetic, but ingeniously fabricated...

(indicating)

Micro-miniature heating elements, sensors, molecule-size multi-processor ships... and I can't even begin to guess what this is...

CHAPEL

It looks to be an osmotic micro-pump...

(traces with finger on screen)

There's one at every fluid-network junction; every epidermal function is duplicated...

(traces)

... even to eye moisture.

250A ANGLE ON THE ROOM ENTRANCE - CHEKOV

250A ✓

entering, peering incredulously at the "patient."
(NOTE: Chekov's burns also plasti-skinned.)

"ILIA"

(flat, bland)

Good evening. Lieutenant Chekov.

Chekov, slightly startled, smiles lamely at "Ilia," explains to Kirk:

CHEKOV

The whole ship is talking about this, Captain; I had to see with my own eyes...

(to "Ilia")

Good evening, Lieutenant...

(to Kirk, indicates

"Ilia's" pearl)

That must be a sensing device --

(as Kirk nods)

It reminds me of a pearl my Aunt Tasha's fourth husband gave her. Just like him, a phony.

McCOY

(to "Ilia")

Lieutenant Il -- uh 'Tasha'... would you turn over, please...?

Obediently, "Tasha" turns over. The scanner is now trained on Tasha's back.

(CONTINUED)

250A CONTINUED:

250A

Spock, who all this time has watched with utter fascination, now turns to Kirk:

SPOCK
(urgently)
A word, Captain?

And Spock steps away. Kirk glances at Tasha, who lies facing away from him, then follows Spock into:

250B ANOTHER ANGLE - TASHA

250B

on her stomach, on the table.

McCOY
I'm sure V'ger will be impressed
with the carbon units medical
proficiency.

TASHA
(pleasantly)
V'ger wishes to determine if
all carbon units infesting USS
Enterprise are to be stored.

CHAPEL
(appalled)
'Stored...?!'

TASHA
V'ger is programmed to store
all objects of interest it has
encountered on its journey to
the third planet.

KIRK
(carefully)
How does V'ger 'store' the
objects?

Immediately, Tasha rolls over, sits up, spots the sick-bay console-viewer. She gets off the table, steps to the Viewer, hits buttons.

TASHA
Upon completion of observations,
V'ger will store USS Enterprise.

250A CONTINUED:

250A

Spock, who all this time has watches with utter fascination, now turns to Kirk:

SPOCK

(urgently)

A word, Captain?

And Spock steps away. Kirk glances at Tasha, who lies facing away from him, then follows Spock into:

251 McCOY'S OFFICE

251

where the metal doors snap closed, and Spock turns to Kirk with a certain air of controlled excitement:

SPOCK

Captain, the appearance of this rather unique... 'emissary' may well have provided us with a window through which we might find the answers to our questions concerning V'ger. Perhaps even its weaknesses -- if any.

KIRK

Understood, Mr. Spock. But how do I get the information out of ... it?

SPOCK

She is a flawless duplication; if Lieutenant Ilia's glandular and memory processes have been reproduced... then, conceivably, so have her emotional ones. Obviously, you -- as the Enterprise Captain -- are the focal point in Lieutenant Ilia's memory...

Kirk sees what Spock is driving at -- and he doesn't like it -- as Spock continues quickly:

SPOCK

(continuing)

Emotion, Captain, is a weakness. If that weakness could be exploited, it is not impossible that this probe... this Tasha... could be controlled. Manipulated. And if that were achieved --

Spock never completes the sentence; his words are interrupted by A SOUND OF METAL RIPPING. And both turn to:

251 FAVORING THE SICKBAY (TABLETOP) VIEWER

251

as the viewing screen lights up, first with wavy lines, then as Tasha hits more buttons, groups of numbers begin flashing across the viewing screen -- and then, superimposed on the numbers -- grids, and three different Enterprise perspectives: front, top, profile (resembling blueprints). This continues on the Viewer another moment, then abruptly stops, FREEZES with the Enterprise top view.

KIRK

(grim)

'Storing:' reduced to a binary code.

SPOCK

Precisely, Captain: when all pertinent data has been obtained, V'ger disposes of us. By implosion, I suspect. We are then 'stored.' Highly efficient.

McCOY

'All objects of interest...'

(to Kirk)

How is it we were spared?

KIRK

We haven't been spared, Bones; we've been given a reprieve.

DECKER

Because we communicated with it; and that shows it isn't hostile --

McCOY

-- isn't hostile...? What the hell is your definition of hostile, Decker...?!

DECKER

(ignores McCoy;
to Tasha)

Where did V'ger's journey begin?

TASHA

On the third planet.

CHEKOV

Impossible...!

Kirk gestures Chekov to silence, addresses Tasha:

(CONTINUED)

252 ANGLE ON THE OFFICE DOOR

252

as the metal is buckling, tearing -- a single hand slicing through the steel door like paper. It is Tasha, her face impassive but her whole manner exuding anger. (Behind her, a startled McCoy, Chapel and Chekov.)

TASHA

Captain Kirk, you are forbidden to communicate with other carbon-based units outside of my sight and hearing...!

She gestures to Kirk and turns back into the room. Kirk glances off at her, then at Spock.

KIRK

(quietly)

You want me to 'manipulate' that, Mr. Spock...?

251 CONTINUED:

251

KIRK
(perplexed)
V'ger is returning to the third
planet?

TASHA
Yes.

A moment of further, silent bemusement -- broken by
McCoy:

McCOY
(wryly)
Well, you can't say she's not
communicating.

KIRK
(to Tasha)
When did V'ger begin the journey?

TASHA
V'ger is unable to express your
units of time; that knowledge
is contained within the Messenger.

Reactions; more bemusement.

DECKER
Who is the Messenger?

TASHA
That which brought the Message.

KIRK
What is the Message?

TASHA
Only the Creator may know the
Message.

KIRK
The Creator -- on the third planet?

TASHA
Yes.

KIRK
The third planet is also our
home.

TASHA
Then you are aware of the Creator.

(CONTINUED)

251 CONTINUED: (2)

251

McCOY
(worried)
Jim, be careful --

KIRK
Why does V'ger seek the
Creator?

TASHA
V'ger has been programmed to
join with Him.

KIRK
Join, how?

TASHA
V'ger and the Creator will
become One...
(quickly)
V'ger wishes evidence of your
awareness of the Creator.

DECKER
Captain, you're swimming in deep
water; our interpretation of
'Creator' -- and theirs... may
be dangerously different.

KIRK
I realize that, Mr. Decker, but
for the moment I consider it
preferable to being 'stored'...
(to Tasha)
The evidence was contained in
the data you ran from USS
Enterprise's computer: the
history of our species on the
third planet.

TASHA
Basic knowledge concerning the
origin and development of carbon-
based units. No information was
provided concerning higher life
forms, and none concerning
the Creator.

CHEKOV
'Higher life forms'...?

KIRK
Machines, Mr. Chekov...
(quickly)
Doctor, please resume your...
(delicately)
'examination'...

252 ACROSS KIRK TO SPOCK

252

who has been watching all this time with utter fascination, as Kirk gestures to him:

KIRK

(terse)

Mr. Spock...

(to Decker)

Commander...

And Kirk steps toward McCoy's office, Spock and Decker following, toward McCoy's office, the doors snapping open to admit them, and CAMERA SWINGING BACK on the examining table where Tasha has accommodately returned, on her stomach, and McCoy AD LIBBING in his best bedside manner, "This won't take long..."

253 INT. MCCOY'S OFFICE

253

as Kirk, Spock and Decker enter, and the doors snap closed. Kirk trips the lock to secure the doors, faces the others:

KIRK

If V'ger can send us its...
'probe'... why can't we send
it ours...?

DECKER

To begin with, sir, I doubt it
would let us.

KIRK

Why not, Commander? You're the
one who insists V'ger isn't
hostile.

DECKER

That does not preclude self-
preservation, sir.

KIRK

We're dealing with a machine,
Mr. Decker.

Spock has immediately seen Kirk's point:

SPOCK

I believe what the Captain is
attempting to say, Commander,
is that if V'ger sends us a probe
to obtain information, it would
understand being sent one.

(CONTINUED)

253 CONTINUED:

253

KIRK
Machine-logic, Decker.

DECKER
(considering it)
We couldn't beam our probe into it; we already know that the instant it detects any power source, its deflectors and screens go up.

KIRK
I wasn't thinking of an actual probe. I was thinking more of a...
(dryly)
'carbon unit'...

DECKER
One of us...?

KIRK
(nods)
In a thruster suit.

DECKER
Captain, a thruster suit generates heat; it'd be sensed the minute you left the airlock.

SPOCK
Our 'probe' might be sensed, but that does not necessarily mean V'ger would consider it a threat.

DECKER
(indicating sickbay)
Their observer isn't going to just stand by and wish us good luck.

KIRK
We'll give it a Class A inspection of the Enterprise -- you will, Commander...
(as Decker reacts)
You'll keep it distracted.

The words are hardly out of Kirk's mouth when there is a SOUND OF RIPPING METAL. And all turn to:

254 THE OFFICE DOOR

254

with the METAL BUCKLING, TEARING -- and a single hand slicing the steel door like paper.

254 CONTINUED:

254

It is Tasha. Her face absolutely impassive, her whole manner incongruously benign. (Behind her, a startled McCoy, Chapel, and Chekov.) Tasha speaks flatly, blandly, almost pleasantly. (She will almost speak this way: and now and then she will SMILE, frown bemusedly, or otherwise react.)

TASHA

I am ready to commence my observations of USS Enterprise.

Decker looks at Kirk, and you can clearly read his mind: I'm supposed to keep that distracted...?!

255 INT. AIRLOCK AREA

255

first showing a wall viewer, with Rand's image on the viewing screen. Chekov is talking to Rand (on the viewer), and McCoy is nearby, listening:

RAND'S VOICE

(and image)

... Mr. Decker and Lieutenant Il -- the probe -- have just left the Rec Deck, sir. I believe they're on their way to Engineering.

CHEKOV

(to viewer)

Very well, Chief Rand.

Thank you...

(to Viewer)

Bridge.

McCOY

(dryly)

Decker is certainly giving her a Cook's Tour.

On the Viewer, Rand's image fades and Sulu's appears.

CHEKOV

(to Viewer)

Time to Earth orbit, Mr. Sulu?

SULU'S VOICE

(and image)

Seven hours and three minutes.

CHEKOV

Viewer off...

And Chekov steps away, and he and McCoy walk over to:

256 SPOCK AND KIRK

256

donning thruster suits, several CREWMEN assisting.

(CONTINUED)

256 CONTINUED:

256

They are checking equipment. (NOTE: All dialogue from, and between, Spock and Kirk in this sequence is filtered.)

1ST CREWMAN
Thrusters...?

SPOCK
Thruster pressure is green.

2ND CREWMAN
Transmitter control locked
in 'on' position...?

KIRK
Green.

SPOCK
Locked.

KIRK
Locked.

CHEKOV
(to Kirk)
Seven hours and three minutes,
Captain.

Through the face-screen, Kirk nods grimly, glances at Spock; and at the same time a Crewman is adjusting a camera-resembling unit built into Spock's helmet.

1ST CREWMAN
Visualizer...?
(waits)
Tricorders...?

SPOCK
Visualizer on. Laser
optical frequency five
zero.

SPOCK
Tricorder on; standard.

KIRK
Tricorder, standard.

They're ready to go. Kirk faces McCoy:

KIRK
Keep in constant contact with
Decker; if the probe notices
we're gone, inform us immediately.

McCOY
Jim, if she notices you're gone,
I'm afraid you'll be aware of
it firsthand.

And McCoy squeezes Kirk's shoulder for good luck, as Kirk turns and heads for the airlock chamber. McCoy turns to Spock, extends his hand, but Spock has already started away. McCoy glances at Chekov, and then both watch:

257 AT THE AIRLOCK CHAMBER - McCOY AND CHEKOV'S POV

257

as Spock waits for Kirk at the entrance. Another CREWMAN opens the door, taps Kirk encouragingly on the shoulder, reaches out to do the same to Spock, but the Vulcan shrugs away (doesn't wish to be touched), and both enter the chamber.

McCOY

(wryly)

They'll make a fine pair...
Spock and that machine.

But he gazes after them worriedly.

258 INT. ENGINEERING

258

Decker and Tasha in this complex. Scott is here, and most upset, fixing a suspicious eye on the android wherever she goes. They are just leaving. Tasha scanning about -- and Scott glowering as he adjusts his console controls.

SCOTT

(to Decker)

Well, the engines are as smooth
as they've ever been...

(narrow glance
at Tasha)

For all the good t'will ever
do us.

TASHA

V'ger is impressed with the
efficiency of USS Enterprise.

SCOTT

And well he should be...

(waves hand)

... this is the finest crew in
the fleet!

TASHA

V'ger finds it illogical that
carbon units are so necessary
to USS Enterprise's function.

SCOTT

(indignant)

Illogical...?! Lassie, the
ship canna run without...

(sourly)

'carbon units'...!

(CONTINUED)

258 CONTINUED:

258

And with this, Decker decides it's enough, starts away, AD LIBBING, "Thank you, Mr. Scott..." Tasha peers blandly at Scott, follows Decker out. Scott, thoroughly piqued, calls after them:

SCOTT

Show her the machine shop, Mr. Decker; she'll not find that illogical!

259 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND V'GER

259

the little Enterprise gripped in the giant's tractor beam.

260 EXT. CLOSER ON THE ENTERPRISE - NEAR THE AIRLOCK

260

as the hatch slides open. A moment later Kirk's thruster suit emerges, followed by Spock. Two tiny figures dwarfed by the huge white bulk of Enterprise. Both step into space, float freely a moment, then we SEE a faint GLOW of RED from both thruster units -- and both move, controlled, away from Enterprise.

261 EXT. SPACE - ANOTHER ANGLE - ENTERPRISE AND V'GER

261

the golf ball and the dirigible. But, between them, two incredibly small figures traversing the space between. It emphasizes some of our theme: man and the mind-bending concept of space/other worlds. A backdrop of infinity, immortality. Man, in all his puniness, approaching the giant Alien: BB pellets approaching the dirigible.

262 EXT. VARIOUS ANGLES AND POVS (KIRK AND SPOCK APPROACH- 262
ING V'GER)

as they maneuver their thrusters directly at V'ger's gaping "maw." Turning to it now, much closer than we've ever seen it. The interior of the "maw" seems to stretch endlessly, with flickering energy churning and charging in every color of the spectrum far in the distance (inside the "maw").

263 EXT. AT THE "MAW"

263

Kirk and Spock's thrusters carrying them ever closer to the 20 mile high entrance.

(CONTINUED)

263 CONTINUED:

263

Now (our POV) they can SEE into V'ger itself, miles of blackness extending endlessly, punctuated by SERIES OF LIGHT FLARES, POWER FIELDS, ENERGY SURGES. And, from that same distance, low RUMBLES OF SOUND, like far-off THUNDER. (V'ger's engines.)

All at once, a BOOMING, CRACKLING SOUND -- and we SEE a neuron-like network of energy bolts snaking through the miles of interior. The LIGHT from the bolts is but an instant, but illuminates enough of the interior for a glimpse of other, fantastic machinery: generator-resembling devices, miles high, gleaming silver in the reflected light; massive condenser coils -- and miles of tubing. All this clearly demonstrates the inter-connection throughout the entire ship. It also provides a feeling of continual, pulsating energy. A living thing, indeed.

Spock and Kirk hover a moment just outside the entrance. Through the face-screens, Kirk peers incredulously at the sight. Spock seems even more moved, and CAMERA HOLDS on him as MUSIC (V'GER THEME) comes up. It is the same feeling of mystical awe, another presence, that gripped him on Vulcan. This holds a moment, and then Spock peers into the distance: he knows, as does Kirk, they must go on. They turn to each other. Kirk nods, and they add power to their thrusters -- and move inside.

264 INSIDE THE "MAW"

264

as they proceed cautiously, both reacting to the incredible wonder they are seeing: the various, miles-high network of tubes and machines, and the light flares and energy surges continually erupting in the far distance.

265 FAVORING SPOCK

265

peering about, awed, somewhat overwhelmed -- but at the same time his entire manner suggests a vague recognition -- or precognition. As though his presence here is not entirely accidental; an idea is forming in his mind, but it is interrupted by Kirk:

KIRK
Visualizer...?

Spock does not immediately reply; Kirk AD LIBS impatiently: "Spock...!" Spock is jolted from his reverie:

(CONTINUED)

265 CONTINUED:

265

SPOCK
(quickly)
On, and recording, Captain.

KIRK
Tricorder readings?

SPOCK
Extremely distorted; and all
quite uncorrelated due to the
alien nature of the vessel's
composition.

266 ANOTHER ANGLE - FROM THE INTERIOR SHOOTING OUT AT
ENTERPRISE

266

the Lilliputian figures of Spock and Kirk in the vastness of V'ger; and, past them, in the discernible distance -- the Enterprise. Sleek and beautiful, outlined whitely against the blue-black void.

267 CLOSER ON SPOCK AND KIRK

267

proceeding further in, V'ger's massiveness even more obvious. In the distance the energy patterns continue ERUPTING: shapes and energy fields FLARING, then seeming to MERGE into other energy fields which FLARE again, subside, erupt, subside. But all with a certain, mechanical, organized, purposeful pattern. Again, with the MUSIC THEME momentarily rising, Spock is caught up in that vague recognition, drawn irresistibly by the mysterious force within V'ger. And then:

SPOCK
(quietly)
Captain, if I were to... mind-meld with this living machine: the information we might obtain...

Kirk reacts interestedly to the idea, for a moment seems to consider it. But then:

KIRK
No, Mr. Spock, it's too dangerous...
(reacts to his tricorder)
Spock...! I'm getting an indication of a metallic trace. 35 point 4 kilometers ahead!

(CONTINUED)

267 CONTINUED:

267

Spock consults his own tricorder:

SPOCK

I read it, also. Weak, but
recognizable...

(a beat)

It is Titanium, Captain!

KIRK

Kirk to Enterprise...

SPOCK

I have a definite fix on the
emanation: coordinates
287.9, mark zero one.

268 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON THE VIEWER FAVORING UHURA

268

with McCoy near Uhura's station, and the ANGLE such
that we can SEE (partially at least) the viewing screen
and the "maw" (Kirk and Spock are too small to be seen
on the viewer). As Uhura receives Kirk's signal, McCoy
is peering bemusedly -- and apprehensively -- at some
O.S. activity.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

... we are proceeding further
into V'ger. Advise Commander
Decker --

WIDEN TO INCLUDE Sulu reacting to some control change;
as McCoy leans over to speak into Uhura's console
communicator:

McCOY

Jim, hold it: something's
happening here --

SULU

The helm...! We have
control of the vessel...!

269 INT. V'GER - KIRK AND SPOCK

269

as McCoy's VOICE continues:

McCOY'S INTERCOM VOICE

It's the tractor beam, Jim!
They've released us...!

Through their face-screens, we SEE the puzzled reactions
of Kirk and Spock.

KIRK

Mr. Sulu... maintain speed and
course to match the Alien's!
We're returning. Kirk out.

270 INT. ILIA'S CABIN

270

Decker and Tasha here, listening to a stereo, a Tchaikovsky ballet complete with a miniature holographic facsimile of ballet dancers on stage. Tasha observes these blandly, but interestedly, almost as a child watching a puppet show.

DECKER

That is art, and beauty; V'ger cannot be complete until it has learned to appreciate this.

TASHA

V'ger will become complete at the Joining. The Greater Being will have been formed.

Decker switches off the stereo, the tiny holographic figures immediately vanishing, the MUSIC FADING, says to Tasha:

DECKER

What is the 'Greater Being'?

TASHA

That which V'ger has been programmed to form.

Decker, frustrated, peers at her; his brain whirls with the enigma. Suddenly the entire room seems to lurch, slightly tilt. Decker immediately realizes the tractor beam has faded.

DECKER

The tractor beam...!

TASHA

Before USS Enterprise is stored, V'ger wishes to determine the extent of control exercised over it by the carbon units.

271 INT. V'GER - KIRK AND SPOCK LEAVING

271

the tiny figures in the awesome, cavernous interior, moving toward the "maw." But we NOTE Spock is veering decidedly toward V'ger's inner wall -- a considerable distance off, but Spock applies more thrust, speeds rapidly.

272 CLOSER ON THEM

272

Kirk noticing Spock, reacting, now steering after him.

(CONTINUED)

272 CONTINUED:

272

KIRK

Spock...!

SPOCK

I'm going to attempt a mind-
meld, Captain.

Kirk says nothing, watches, then follows. CAMERA WITH
THEM, to:

273 THE WALL

273

Spock arriving, the MUSIC THEME RISING as he approaches (the wall). He is almost there, now stops to hover a moment, gazes at the wall which seems to be throbbing with energy, life. Spock removes his gauntlet, leaving the heat-resistant sheath over his hand. He points the hand just a few inches from the wall -- and even at this distance it is as though he can feel the incredible energy coursing from V'ger. Now Spock steels himself for the ordeal -- and firmly places his hand on the wall.

It is as though a million volts SURGE THROUGH HIS WHOLE BODY. His face contorts in agony, his body SHUDDERS UNCONTROLLABLY.

274 AS KIRK SEES SPOCK

274

Kirk reacting alarmed, steering his suit toward Spock, who is adhered to the wall in convulsive throes. Just as Kirk reaches him, Spock's body suddenly goes limp, his hand falls away; he hovers directionlessly. His eyes are open, peering unseeingly, almost catatonically. He babbles unintelligibly:

SPOCK

... will join... third planet...
Creator...

Kirk studies him through the face-screen, as Spock continues:

SPOCK

(continuing)

... fused... Greater Being...
Empty, barren!...

Kirk touches a control on Spock's suit; Spock's voice is abruptly cut off, but through the face-screen we SEE his lips continuing to move. Kirk touches another control on Spock's suit, one on his own, and now begins moving away, pulling Spock with him. They proceed

275 INT. ELEVATOR

275

Tasha and Decker ascending, with Uhura's VOICE sounding on the elevator intercom:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

... they're coming back, sir.
Mr. Spock is injured.

SULU'S INTERCOM VOICE

Commander, V'ger's energy field
is dissipating rapidly. Forward
velocity is slowing to sub-warp
speed...!

DECKER

(into intercom)

On my way...

(to elevator)

Bridge: priority...

(to Tasha)

Enterprise and V'ger are nearing
the third planet orbit...

(carefully)

How will V'ger know the Creator?

TASHA

When they are Joined.

DECKER

(prompting her)

When V'ger and the Creator become
One...?

TASHA

When they become One, to form the
Greater Being.

276 ACROSS TASHA TO DECKER

276

as he reacts to this, peers incredulously at her. Then
he AD LIBS a voice command to the elevator: "stop..."
The cab immediately stops. Decker peers at Tasha another
moment; then:

DECKER

The Greater Being...?

TASHA

Of the Joining.

Decker stares at her, his eyes burn with an almost
evangelical fire -- it is as though he has seen the
Grail. Then:

(CONTINUED)

276 CONTINUED:

276

DECKER
(to elevator, terse)
Resume.

The cab ascends.

277 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND V'GER

277

The giant Alien and the dot-sized Enterprise, hurtling through Space.

278 EXT. CLOSE ON V'GER'S "MAW"

278

as Kirk and Spock appear, move out into open space, Kirk's hand firmly on Spock's arm, towing him toward the Enterprise.

279 CLOSER ON SPOCK AND KIRK

279

Spock remaining another moment in his catatonic state, then suddenly coming out of it: eyes alert, shaking his head, orienting himself. Kirk notices, and through the face screens they study one another. For the first time since we've seen Spock, his expression is not cold, aloof, detached. There is a certain warmth, interest. He is the "old" Spock.

KIRK
Are you all right?

SPOCK
(a beat)
Yes, Jim; I'm fine.

Kirk peers at him a moment, then nods. He releases Spock's arm, touches a button on his own suit, begins moving faster. Spock also hits his control, moves along with Kirk.

280 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK AND SPOCK (LONG, FULL SHOT)

280

both traveling perceptibly faster toward the Enterprise.

281 INT. BRIDGE

281

as the elevator doors snap open -- and Decker and Tasha arrive, Decker striding for the center seat, calling to Sulu:

(CONTINUED)

281 CONTINUED:

281

DECKER
Position, Mr. Sulu...?

SULU
Six minutes from Earth orbit,
sir...

282 ANOTHER ANGLE - ACROSS DECKER TO THE VIEWER

282

as he takes the seat, and looks at the viewer. V'ger
in the usual place -- but the Borealis cloud effect
thinning.

DECKER
(to viewer)
Earth angle.

Immediately the V'ger's image slides upward and out of
the viewing screen, as -- through the Borealis effect
-- Earth is visible: a tiny, blue marble in the far
distance.

DECKER
(to viewer)
Standard...

The viewer image returns
to V'ger.

SULU
Forward velocity is now
Warp point two, and
slowing.

UHURA
Commander Decker, I'm
receiving Starfleet
Command! They report
planet-wide damage from
the Alien's energy field!
Casualties in the
millions!

DECKER
Signal we are in communication
with the Alien...
(glances at Tasha
standing nearby)
... and are in control of the
situation.

UHURA
(in disbelief)
Sir...?!

DECKER
We are in control of the
situation, I said.

(CONTINUED)

282 CONTINUED:

282

UHURA

Sir, we are not in control of the situation!

DECKER

Signal as ordered, Communications Officer...!

283 EXT. ENTERPRISE - OUTSIDE THE AIRLOCK AREA

283

Kirk and Spock approaching. The airlock hatch sliding open. Kirk maneuvers to it, enters. Spock follows.

284 INT. AIRLOCK AREA - AT THE AIRLOCK CHAMBER

284

McCoy, Chekov, Chapel -- and Crewmen, and Med Techs here with emergency equipment. All waiting near the chamber entrance where, from within, you HEAR the CLANG of the HATCH sliding into place, the WHOOSH of PRESSURIZING AIR -- and then the door snaps open, and Kirk appears -- followed by Spock. The doctors rush to Spock, begin removing his helmet, while Chekov and the others assist Kirk. The instant Kirk's helmet is off, he steps anxiously to Spock, who (helmet removed now also) seems shaken, but otherwise uninjured. Chapel is running her medicorder over him.

SPOCK

I am in perfect helath, Doctor, I assure you...

(to Kirk)

I'll analyze the tricorder readings immediately, Captain.

Spock starts away.

KIRK

Spock...

(as Spock stops)

The mind-meld...?

Spock peers blankly at him a moment, obviously struggling for memory. It is as though it's all there in front of him, only to slip away; he can't remember. Suddenly:

285 ACROSS SPOCK TO VIEWER

285

as it flashes on with Sulu's image:

(CONTINUED)

285 CONTINUED:

285

SULU'S INTERCOM VOICE
(and image)
Forward velocity zero...! We are
in an orbital mode!

Spock peers at the viewer, then turns to Kirk; again Spock struggles to remember, cannot. He shakes his head helplessly, turns and leaves. Kirk and the others gaze bemusedly after him.

286 EXT. SPACE - V'GER AND THE ENTERPRISE - ORBITING EARTH 286

The CAMERA SHOOTING DOWN, and PAST the two starships, so we SEE the cloud fringes of Earth below -- and, here and there in the distance, other space hardware, including the orbital dock.

287 INT. BRIDGE

287

Elevator doors snapping open, Kirk entering -- followed by McCoy and Chekov, who goes to his station while Kirk proceeds to the center seat. He glances sourly at Tasha, as Decker rises to give Kirk the seat, and Kirk is calling to the viewer:

KIRK
Viewer, Earth angle...

288 PAST THEM TO THE VIEWER

288

The image of V'ger dropping from the viewing screen, replaced by the cloud-laced planet Earth.

KIRK
Bring me up to date, Mr.
Decker --

UHURA
-- Captain, Starfleet
Command reports the
alien has just ejected
a large object...!

KIRK
Viewer, ahead...! High mag!

Earth image flashes off the viewing screen, replaced again by V'ger -- the viewer now in several stages of magnification -- so we SEE the object moving away from V'ger. It resembles a large, cylindrical cannister.

(CONTINUED)

288 CONTINUED:

288

SULU

It's proceeding away at
slow speed: warp point
zero zero zero two. But
in the same orbital
trajectory.

KIRK

Mr. Chekov...!

289 ACROSS KIRK TO CHEKOV

289

as Chekov, already working on the problem, reads his
console:

CHEKOV

The object is approximately the
size of our saucer section...
highly radioactive...

(a beat)

It is a neutron device, Captain.

290 ANOTHER ANGLE - DECKER AND TASHA

290

as Decker whirls to face Tasha:

DECKER

A neutron bomb...?

She does not reply, merely looks at him blandly, inno-
cently -- almost pleasantly. In the meantime:

SULU

He's ejected another one -- two,
three more. Four in all!

KIRK

Detonation data, Mr. Chekov?

CHEKOV

Unavailable, sir. But all four
are proceeding under their own
power to equidistant orbital
positions. They will overlap the
entire planet...

(glances up)

Captain, I believe they will
detonate when they reach placement
positions.

UHURA

My God, they'll kill every living
thing on Earth...!

(CONTINUED)

290 CONTINUED:

290

DECKER
(to Tasha)
Why is V'ger doing this?

TASHA
V'ger has determined that the
carbon units on the third planet
inhibit the efficiency of higher
life forms...
(as though to ease
their concern)
The neutron weapon will affect
only the carbon units.

291 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING KIRK

291

as he reacts to this, and calls to Sulu:

KIRK
Time to neutron device placement?

SULU
Estimated fifty-eight minutes.

292 PAST KIRK TO THE ELEVATOR

292

The doors snapping open to admit Spock, striding onto
the bridge, addressing Kirk:

SPOCK
Captain, not only did the
tricorder detect Titanium, but
there were minute traces of gold,
and beryllium copper, as well.
All indigenous Earth metals...!

Kirk peers at Spock a moment, thinking, then at the
viewer -- V'ger. Then, to Spock again:

KIRK
Opinion, Mr. Spock: why hasn't
the Alien pulled us back into his
tractor beam?

SPOCK
It's testing us, Captain.

McCOY
Like monkeys on a string; just try
to move away, and see how far
we'll get...!

KIRK

293 ACROSS KIRK TO TASHA

293

as Kirk looks directly at her, but addresses Sulu:

KIRK

Mr. Sulu, lay in a course and
speed to take us straight into
that Alien's... 'mouth'...!

Tasha does not react, merely returns Kirk's gaze in
that bland manner -- with just a hint of a pleasant,
sweet smile.

294 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND V'GER

294

The tiny Enterprise veering off now, turning, heading
straight toward V'ger's "maw." Closer, closer.

295 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER

295

All tensely watching the vast interior of V'ger loom-
ing ahead. The same scene we previously saw when Spock
and Kirk entered. But now the power field in the dis-
tance is rushing rapidly TOWARD US, and the INCREDIBLE
VISTA, the pulsating LIGHTS, the miles-high energy com-
plex -- can all be SEEN clearly. (NOTE: INCLUDE Scott
on the bridge also, at his Engineering station.)

Kirk, in his chair, gazes at the viewer, the fast ap-
proaching "maw."

KIRK

All stop; maneuvering thrusters.

SULU

(moving controls)
Maneuvering thrusters.

296 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND V'GER

296

almost at the "maw," slowly nosing in. From this POV,
we can also SEE into V'ger -- the energy bolts crackling
through the interior, and we can HEAR the THUNDEROUS
RUMBLE of V'ger's ENGINES. The whole, imagination-
staggering scope.

297 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER

297

The same scene visible on the viewing screen, providing
the feeling of life, pulsating energy. And now we are
at the outer edge of the "maw," the interior totally
VISIBLE within, the spectrum of colors; it is as though
approaching a massive cavern whose ceiling and floor

298 REACTIONS

298

Each crewman peering incredulously at the spectacular sight, each lost in his own private wonder.

McCOY
(positively awed)
My God...!

DECKER
Who -- what -- could
have made this...?!

KIRK
(dryly)
You certainly have plenty of
room, Mr. Sulu.

Sulu does not reply; he is gaping at the viewer,
mesmerized.

299 FAVORING SPOCK

299

(Again, the MUSIC THEME momentarily RISING) as he
peers at the sight, and suddenly seems to be in pain,
struggling to remember:

SPOCK
(aloud, to himself)
'... he will become part of me,
and I of him; his consciousness
will join mine, and mine his --
to form the Greater Being...'

And as quickly as it entered Spock's mind, the memory
fragment is gone. He stares at the viewer.

KIRK
Straight ahead, Mr. Sulu. Steady
she goes.

300 EXT. ENTERPRISE ENTERING V'GER

300

The tip of the saucer at the very outer edge of the
"maw" -- and moving in. Now the entire saucer is in-
side, and the leading edge of the engine pods, the
main hull.

301 INT. INSIDE V'GER

301

All of the Enterprise inside, continuing ahead. The
very massiveness of V'ger emphasized by the miniscule
Enterprise, now moving past a gigantic object, resem-
bling a condenser, coils rising higher than the highest
mountain. Through the coils rushes an endless surge of
energy. multi-colored. blindingly beautiful. And with

302 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER 302

The power field in the distance now much closer -- and clearer. The incredible SURGES OF ENERGY, LIGHTS, the unbelievable technology.

303 INT. V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE 303

passing a wonderland maze of energy fields, color-churning plasma; and the size: 16 miles high, 37 miles long: a life form of its own, with all the complex systems and networks required to sustain that life.

304 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER 304

All peering at the awesome spectacle -- and then, directly ahead -- a mass of light and pulsating energy indicating a solid-matter complex. It seems an obstacle, beyond which you dare not proceed.

KIRK

All stop.

Sulu moves the controls; forward motion is perceptibly halted.

SPOCK

Captain, that is the location of the Titanium trace.

DECKER

(to Tasha)

Why does V'ger carry minerals from the third planet...?

TASHA

It is the Messenger.

KIRK

(to Tasha)

If we could see the Messenger, we can reveal to V'ger the identity of the Creator.

305 ACROSS KIRK TO McCOY 305

as McCoy reacts horrified to Kirk's statement. And almost at the same time:

(CONTINUED)

305 CONTINUED:

305

SCOTT

Captain, an oxygen and gravity envelope is forming outside the Enterprise...!

TASHA

V'ger will allow the carbon units into the Messenger's presence.

Kirk turns to Spock; both look at each other with grim resolution. The die is cast.

306 EXT. (INSIDE V'GER) - THE ENTERPRISE

306

stationary inside the giant ship, as though in some unimaginably huge hangar. The CAMERA CLOSSES IN ON THE SAUCER, near the bridge -- as a hatch slides open. A moment later, tiny figures emerge.

307 CLOSER ON THE HATCH

307

so we can identify Kirk, Spock, McCoy (all carrying tricorders) -- and Tasha stepping out. Dwarfed against the vast canvas of the Enterprise framed within the awesomely huge interior (of V'ger).

308 INT. BRIDGE - THE VIEWER

308

showing the four moving out. Decker -- and the others on the bridge -- watching. Everyone else watches grimly, tensely. But Decker's eyes shine with anticipation, wonder (and, to be sure, envy); you know he would give anything to be with them.

309 THE "WING WALK" - VARIOUS ANGLES AND POVS

309

with Tasha leading them toward the outer edge of the Enterprise saucer. A half-matter, half-energy shape appears, CRACKLES WITH RAW ENERGY past them. Tasha ignores it, but the others are stunned by the entity's actual presence; it ROARS past them, vanishes into the darkness. But in the same distance, other SHAPES and ENERGY FIELDS: erupting, subsiding, erupting.

The four proceed over what first appears to be a huge black field -- but we soon perceive it is merely the letter "N" in the Enterprise's identification insignia.

They follow Tasha across Enterprise's saucer -- to a tube, of plastic-like material, in which rushes a continual charge of PLASMA ENERGY, running lengthwise through V'ger.

(CONTINUED)

309 CONTINUED:

309

The tube is some ten feet wide, quite negotiable, but is suspended in the interior, miles above the floor (which cannot be seen, it is so far down). They proceed, two abreast, Tasha and Spock leading, Kirk and McCoy behind, with the CAMERA FEATURING CLOSE SHOTS OF EACH: Tasha, bland, pleasant. Spock taking in each small detail, analyzing -- and, again, fragments of the mind-meld flitting tantalizingly back into his memory (all this with appropriate MUSIC). Kirk peering grimly ahead, ready for anything; and McCoy, eyes wide with the wonder and magnificence of it all, resembling a man on the threshold of discovering the secret of immortality. They continue on another moment; and then, quite suddenly, in front of them they see:

310 A CUBE OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT ("BLACK LIGHT")

310

suspended, rigid, obviously self-contained: an object inside the cube. Moving closer, all three men see what the object is, react.

311 WHAT THEY ARE SEEING - ILIA (INSIDE THE CUBE)

311

The real Ilia, eyes closed, prone, motionless -- within the cube, reminding you of a fly trapped inside an ice cube. McCoy moves in close with his medicorder.

McCOY

She's dead.

TASHA

The carbon unit is being preserved for further examination before storing.

And, casually, she continues on. The other three linger an instant to peer at the lifeless Ilia, then follow Tasha.

312 FAST SERIES OF SHOTS OF THE FOUR WALKING

312

along the tube, ant-like figures in the vastness of the great machine.

313 CLOSER - PAST THEM TO THE MESSENGER CHAMBER

313

Directly ahead, the solid-matter complex from which emanates the GLOWING ENERGY and LIGHT. Another few steps, and suddenly Kirk reacts: he has spied something within the chamber. His eyes narrow excitedly, and he walks faster toward the chamber, nearly running

314 SPOCK

314

who has staggered, grasping his temples, peering dazedly ahead. Another fragment of the mind-meld has charged back into his memory; he gasps for breath just a moment, then it is gone; but this time Spock has retained the memory. McCoy, who has noticed Spock, has stopped to assist. But Spock assures him with a gesture that he is all right, and indicates the chamber ahead. McCoy looks now, reacts:

315 WHAT MCCOY SEES

315

Kirk, in the chamber now, kneeling to examine a small metallic object -- pitted and scarred -- resembling a late 20th Century space probe. Its bottom half smashed and bent. The probe is in the very center of the chamber, clearly an item of importance, resting on a strange, black-metallic or plastic base which PULSES WITH LIGHT PATTERNS, seemingly passing life energy between the object and the myriad of energy patterns coursing through V'ger.

TASHA
(of the object)
The Messenger.

316 CLOSER ON THE OBJECT

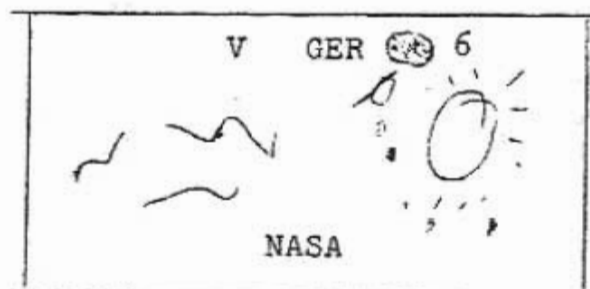
316

as Spock and McCoy join Kirk, Spock scanning it with his tricorder. Once painted, the object is now obviously space-worn. At the very bottom of the object itself (not the metallic base) is a plaque.

317 CLOSE ON THE PLAQUE

317

an integral part of the object, containing an inscription:



The space between V and G smashed by some ancient space hazard, obliterated, as is another space just after the letter "R."

318 BACK TO FULL SHOT

318

as Spock and Kirk look at each other, and then at McCoy.

KIRK

V-G-E-R. V'ger...

(traces finger on
obliterated figures)

V-O-Y-A-G-E-R... Voyager Six...!
NASA...! This was a NASA Earth
probe!

SPOCK

Late Twentieth Century. Designed
to fly past the outer solar system
planets -- and then on into deep
space...

(indicates space
after "R")

A number of them were sent out...

(with certainty)

This one landed on a planet whose
life forms were fantastically
advanced machines. They built
this ship for it, and sent it back
-- as V'ger.

Kirk flips out his communicator:

KIRK

(into communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise...
Uhura, signal Starfleet
Command: request all
available data re 20th
Century NASA probe.
Voyager Six.

McCOY

Yes, to wipe out all
humanity...

(sourly)

'Carbon units...!'

SPOCK

It was sent back to join with
its Creator.

McCOY

Spock, we are its Creator...!
And 'join' for what...? To do
what...?

SPOCK

To form a Greater Being.

McCOY

Greater Being...? What kind of
'Greater Being'...?

(CONTINUED)

318 CONTINUED:

318

SPOCK

I don't know, Doctor. But I do know that we had better convince that we are indeed its Creator...

(to Tasha,

indicates Voyager)

Carbon units on the third planet sent the Messenger.

TASHA

The Messenger was sent by the Creator.

McCOY

Yes, and your neutron bombs are going to destroy him...!

TASHA

That is illogical; the Creator is a higher life form. The Messenger is sending the signal now that will summon Him.

319 ANGLE ON SPOCK

319

reacting to tricorder readings:

SPOCK

Captain, the probe is emitting a signal. It appears to be an old style carrier wave transmission.

Even as he speaks, Spock bends to examine the probe access plate, begins attempting to remove the retaining bolts.

KIRK

That's how it worked: the signal triggered a transmitter on Earth, which sent a return code to release the information...

(to Tasha)

We will prove that the Messenger was sent by carbon units...!

McCOY

Jim, that was 300 years ago --

320 ANOTHER ANGLE - SPOCK

320

removing the final bolt to expose Voyager 6's circuitry, and punching in buttons on his tricorder (which SOUND like touch-tone TELEPHONE BEEPS), as Spock replies to McCoy:

320 CONTINUED:

320

SPOCK

(as he works)

It was a simple binary code, Doctor:
six to eight digits. It shouldn't
be difficult...

KIRK

(to Tasha)

When the Message is released,
V'ger will know that carbon units
are its Creator. The neutron
bombs must be deactivated --

Kirk breaks off as he notices that Spock has paused in
his work and is peering somewhat distressed at the
circuitry.

SPOCK

The base identifiers are gone...

(looks at Kirk)

They've been removed.

Kirk kneels to look, and grimly confirms Spock's find-
ing as Spock continues:

SPOCK

(continuing)

Voyager Six's message could not
have been released remotely; the
code would have to be transmitted
directly into the triggering unit.

McCOY

From here... the ship itself?

KIRK

But why?

SPOCK

By design, Captain. I suspect to
provide V'ger irrefutable evidence
of the 'Creator's' presence...
to...

321 ACROSS TASHA TO SPOCK

321

as Spock gazes directly at Tasha now, suddenly remember-
ing another fragment of the mind-meld, reacting (a
grimace; gasp), and continues, almost mumbling:

SPOCK

... facilitate the... Joining.

(CONTINUED)

321 CONTINUED:

321

Spock peers at the others an instant, then the memory fragment is gone, and he's back to reality, turning to the circuitry again with business-like crispness:

SPOCK

(continuing)

I'll have to work the code out manually now; it could take hours.

KIRK

The bombs detonate in thirty-nine minutes, Mr. Spock...!

(into communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise. Uhura, we need that Voyager Six data...!

(to others)

The release code will be in the comm specifications.

322 INT. BRIDGE - UHURA

322

grim, replying to Kirk on her console communicator:

UHURA

Sir, Starfleet Command reports central computer controls heavily damaged. All communications with Archives Section are cut off...

323 INT. VOYAGER ROOM - FAVORING SPOCK AND KIRK

323

Both reacting to Uhura's message, as she continues:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

(continuing)

... they anticipate restoration of facilities in one hour.

Kirk and Spock exchange glances of dismay, and then Spock immediately returns to work (punching buttons, working out the code, etc.). Kirk turns to Tasha, studies her a beat. He looks at McCoy, then at Tasha again:

KIRK

(to Tasha)

If V'ger will allow me to go to the third planet -- to the terminus point of USS Enterprise's signals -- I can prove that the carbon units sent the Messenger, and that they are V'ger's Creator.

324 PAST THE OTHERS TO KIRK AND TASHA

324

as Kirk stands one moment, awaiting Tasha's reply -- and then, in the next moment, a BLINDING FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT, completely obscuring both Kirk and Tasha. The light fades -- and both are gone!

Spock and McCoy react incredulously.

325 EXT. EARTH - STARFLEET HQ BLDG. - DAY

325

The lovely building and mall now a complete wreck: the entire facade half ripped away, most of the mall buckled, with a deep, gaping hole in the center. Debris is strewn everywhere; a thick pall of dust clouds the area. STARFLEET PERSONNEL are engaged in frantic rescue activities: medics pushing anti-grav stretchers with casualties, others digging in the rubble for survivors. Others stumble about dazedly, injured. It resembles an earthquake scene, or blitz.

In the midst of this now the FAMILIAR TRANSPORTER EFFECT, and then two forms EMERGE: Kirk and Tasha. Materialized fully, Kirk looks around, reacts (while Tasha merely observes blandly, interestedly). Now Kirk, Tasha following, moves toward the building, stepping aside for TWO MEDICS carrying out a casualty. Just behind them is a young, handsome Japanese Lieutenant; bruised, hastily bandaged. He recognizes Kirk:

LT. (YAMOTO)

Admiral Kirk...!

Kirk grips Yamoto's arm, guides him to the side, at the same time removing a pad and pen from his tricorder pouch. Yamoto is AD LIBBING grim comments: "... you can't imagine what it's been like..." And "We were sure you were lost..." Etc. While Kirk scribbles a note, places it in Yamoto's hand:

KIRK

(terse)

Get this off to Commander Scott on the Enterprise, Lieutenant Yamoto: Fast!

And he shoves Yamoto away before any questions can be asked, and proceeds into the building, Tasha following.

326 EXT. SPACE - V'GER ORBITING EARTH

326

The huge ship moving slowly, ominously across the sky, planet Earth lying helpless below it. And, IN the SHOT, one of the orbiting bombs.

327 INT. V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE 327
stationary inside the giant.

328 INT. BRIDGE (INCLUDING THE VIEWER) 328
FAVORING, at first, Decker: seated in the center seat
gazing almost hypnotically at the viewer, the fantastic
interior of V'ger and, beyond, the indication of the
solid-matter complex that is the Voyager chamber.

329 WIDER FOR FULL BRIDGE - FAVORING SCOTT 329
at his console, suddenly reacting to a message he's re-
ceiving. He rises, steps quickly to Decker:

SCOTT
I've just received a signal from
Captain Kirk, sir: upon your
order Enterprise's engines are to
be overloaded to create a
matter/anti-matter explosion.

The message seems to stun Decker momentarily; he re-
covers quickly:

DECKER
The theory being that V'ger will
be destroyed with us...?

SCOTT
I guarantee you, sir, that when
we implode the Enterprise's
matter/anti-matter, this Monster
will finally meet his 'Creator'!

DECKER
(levelly)
That won't save Earth.

SCOTT
No, sir, but it will save other
planets -- other people.

DECKER
(a beat)
Just when am I to issue this
order?

SCOTT
In twenty-four minutes, sir. If
the Captain does not return.

Decker peers at Scott a moment, then rises, moves to
leave.

329 CONTINUED:

329

DECKER

(to Sulu)

Mr. Sulu, you have the conn...

(to Scott;

indicates V'ger)

I'm going over there. No one else
is to leave the ship.

330 INT. ARCHIVES ROOM

330

A room half demolished, ceiling smashed, rubble everywhere. One entire wall of computer banks -- destroyed. In the top corner of one wall, seemingly a part of the wall itself, is a digital (LED) clock. It reads 00:21:24, and counting down. Around a large table are SIX STARFLEET RANKS (male and female), laboriously studying tapes, blueprints, files, envelopes. All disheveled, some bandaged. Kirk is here, assisted by a young, attractive black female officer, ENSIGN LEBUTU. And standing quietly near Kirk, observing impassively, that almost pleasant hint of a smile on her lips, is Tasha. Lebutu and Kirk, like the others, are working strenuously, and now Lebutu glances irritatedly at Tasha:

LEBUTU

(to Kirk; of Tasha)

Sir, I think it would be helpful
if the Lieutenant pitched in.

KIRK

(startled)

The Lieuten -- ?

Kirk starts to explain, then realizes the futility of it, indicates some video cassettes in a container labeled: NASA: 1982-88.

KIRK

(continuing; brusque)

Ensign, set these up.

331 ACROSS THEM TO THE CLOCK - UP SHOT

331

as Lebutu, piqued, moves to set up the viewer. The clock now reads 00:20:49 (and the seconds counting down as we WATCH).

332 INT. V'GER -- DECKER

332

walking along the plasma energy tube, toward the Voyager Room.

332 CONTINUED:

332

In the awesome vastness, Decker resembles an ant crawling along a baseball bat. And, throughout, the endless energy-surgings, lights, colors, machines.

333 CLOSER ON DECKER

333

gazing in increasing amazement and reverence. Directly ahead, in the distance, is the solid-matter complex that is the Voyager Room. And now Decker reaches the cube containing Ilia's body. He peers at it, but with no sign of emotion, rather he seems to understand, accept. He continues on.

334 INT. VOYAGER ROOM

334

Spock and McCoy here, both working desperately to find the release code. Spock is manually clamping circuits together, testing, probing, while McCoy consults the tricorder, reports the readings. Suddenly McCoy reacts excitedly:

McCoy

Spock, that's it: the frequency!
35 point 8754 gigahertz...!

Spock checks the readings, nods.

Spock

Now, the code. We'll start with
any random six digit sequence.

McCoy

How many combinations are there,
for God's sake...?

Spock

Approximately 280,000 million,
Doctor.

McCoy is speechless a moment, then resumes hitting the tricorder button.

335 PAST THEM TO DECKER

335

just arriving, peering incredulously at the probe, nodding with sudden, overwhelming enlightenment:

Decker

(awed)
V'ger...!

(CONTINUED)

335 CONTINUED:

335

For a moment Decker seems almost in another world -- as Spock and McCoy glance at him, then resume their work. Decker moves into the room, as just then, from his communicator:

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
Commander Decker... Scott here.

336 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

336

Scott at his console, manipulating controls. In the b.g. we HEAR the LOW RUMBLE of ENGINES, and SEE the ENGINE CORE faintly RED. Scott talks into his console communicator:

SCOTT
(continuing)
Sir, we're down to fifteen minutes.
I'm about to start the main
engines.

DECKER'S INTERCOM VOICE
Negative, Mr. Scott: do not
start them...!

337 INT. VOYAGER ROOM

337

Spock and McCoy turning to listen, as Decker continues into his communicator.

DECKER
Repeat: do not start.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
(protesting)
Sir, Captain Kirk specifically --

DECKER
(into communicator)
Mr. Scott, I am in command. There
is no time for explanation, but I
expect you to obey my orders.
Decker out.

And he closes the communicator, steps over to Spock and McCoy:

DECKER
(to them)
We will not destroy this machine.

338 ON McCOY

338

reacting angrily, bringing out his tricorder, saying to Decker:

McCOY

What we'll do, Commander, is follow
Captain Kirk's instructions...

(into communicator)

McCoy to Enterprise...

McCoy's voice trails off; he's looking straight at:

339 DECKER LEVELLING A PHASER

339

pointing at McCoy, clearly intending to use it.

DECKER

Put it down.

Spock glances at them, studies Decker.

SPOCK

Do as he says, Doctor.

And Spock tosses his own communicator toward Decker; it lands on the floor near Decker's feet. McCoy hesitates another instant, then drops his communicator also. Spock peers coldly at Decker, then turns and resumes his work. Decker crushes both communicators with his heel, saying at the same time to McCoy:

DECKER

(with disdain)

You are a lower life form. You
don't understand; you never will.
You never could.

McCOY

Earth is doomed, but why condemn
the whole Federation?

DECKER

For the greater good of millions
of other Federations -- millions
of other civilizations.

McCOY

To let this thing sweep through
the galaxy in search of its
'Creator,' wiping out every non-
machine life from in its path...?
That's a 'greater good'...?!

(CONTINUED)

339 CONTINUED:

339

DECKER

(indicates V'ger)

The life form that this represents
is something we couldn't achieve in
a thousand centuries -- ten
thousand centuries...! And it's
about to become even greater, more
magnificent...!

340 ACROSS THEM TO SPOCK

340

who glances up from his work, fixes a cold, level eye
on Decker:

SPOCK

For all its magnificence, Mr.
Decker, it remains a machine:
barren, unfulfilled, devoid of
anything but logic.

DECKER

(harsh laugh)

You of all people should appreciate
that... virtue.

SPOCK

It is not a virtue, Commander.

And he resumes working on the circuitry.

341 INT. ARCHIVES SECTION

341

With, first, a GLIMPSE of the clock: 00:10:48, count-
ing down. While the Starfleet Technicians continue
perusing the files, Kirk and Lebutu (and Tasha) are
watching the old-fashioned video cassette viewer:
flashing past at high speed are page after page of
specifications. Suddenly Kirk calls out:

KIRK

Hold it...!

(studies viewer)

Reverse -- slowly...

Pages move backward on viewer.

KIRK

(continuing)

Freeze!

342 CLOSER ON THE CASSETTE VIEWER

342

The page reading: "Voyager 6 Command Frequency." A multitude of numbers, diagrams, equations. Kirk reads them rapidly; while Tasha obviously transmits all to V'ger.

KIRK

35.8754 Gigahertz... command
numbers: 684-529-295-659...

(elated, to Tasha)

There is the proof...!

TASHA

V'ger is programmed to release
the message only to the Creator,
in His presence, so that they may
be Joined.

KIRK

(exasperated)

All right, then Mr. Spock will
play 'Creator'...

(into his
communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise...

No reply. Kirk AD LIBS another call, no reply. He glances at the clock, now reading 00:08:52, counting down. He AD LIBS another call. Lebutu has been rapidly computing calculations on a small console:

LEBUTU

Sir, Enterprise's present orbital
position places them out of
communicator range.

KIRK

Get over to Starfleet Communications,
Ensign...

(indicates viewer)

Have them relay that information
to Enterprise...!

As she hurries out, Kirk punches the release code information into his tricorder.

343 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - NEUTRON DEVICE - V'GER BEYOND

343

The ominous, saucer-sized cannister now emitting FLICKERING ENERGY PULSATIONS, the entire cannister beginning to GLOW DIMLY, obviously ready for detonation.

344 EXT. CLOSER ON V'GER - EARTH BELOW

344

345 INT. V'GER - ENTERPRISE

345

in position, V'ger's energy pulsations moving and around it.

346 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT

346

at his console, glancing at the chronometer which reads 00:06:32. Behind him is MUCH ACTIVITY -- a LOUDER RUMBLE OF ENGINES, and the CORE GLOWING REDDER. Scott is talking into his console:

SCOTT

No, Commander Decker...

347 INT. VOYAGER ROOM

347

Spock desperately working at the probe, McCoy assisting. And Decker, phaser levelled, with the communicator:

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

(continuing)

... no word yet from the Captain.
Sir, is there any hope?

DECKER

(grim)

We're trying, Mr. Scott. We're trying like hell.

348 INT. ENGINEERING

348

as Scott flips off the communicator:

SCOTT

(aloud, to self)

So are we, mister...

(into intercom,
consulting
instruments)

Continue increasing power, lads;
we'll give this V'ger the biggest,
damndest bang it ever saw!

349 EXT. STARFLEET HQ BLDG. - DAY

349

The same turmoil. Now Kirk -- and Tasha -- emerge, make their way through the rubble, Kirk glancing around for his bearings, then starts running across the smashed-up mall, CAMERA (and Tasha) WITH HIM, past wreckage and casualties.

350 EXT. ANOTHER ENTRANCE TO STARFLEET BLDG. - DAY 350

with rubble partially blocking the entrance. Kirk and Tasha hurry in, CAMERA ANGLING UP TO a legend over the door: Starfleet Transporter Section.

351 INT. BRIDGE - UHURA 351

reacting incredulously as she receives a signal, flips buttons, talks into her console communicator:

UHURA

Commander Decker...! Signal from Starfleet. It's the release code, sir...!

352 INT. VOYAGER ROOM 352

as Decker and the others hear this, react. Uhura's voice continues:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

It is as follows: please copy...

STARFLEET VOICE

(as relayed by
Uhura)

Frequency is thirty-five point eight seven five four gigahertz. Command numbers: 684-529-295-659. I repeat...

353 INT. STARFLEET TRANSPORTER ROOM 353

Tasha and Kirk stepping onto the platform. TRANSPORTER CHIEF and several TECHNICIANS assisting.

CHIEF

Twenty seconds, Admiral.

354 INT. VOYAGER ROOM 354

as the STARFLEET VOICE completes REPEATING the CODE, which Spock is rapidly punching into his tricorder.

DECKER

(into communicator)
Signal received, Commander Uhura.
Thank you...!

(CONTINUED)

354 CONTINUED:

354

And Decker closes his communicator, moves toward Spock, who has suddenly stopped programming the tricorder -- and is gazing unseeingly into the distance, another mind-meld fragment jarring his memory. It all floods back to him:

SPOCK

The machine life forms that sent Voyager Six back did so in the belief that the Earth probe represented a new, fresh civilization that would somehow revitalize their own dying species...!

DECKER

I know, Mr. Spock.

And Decker simply siezes the tricorder from Spock's hand, begins walking toward the energy-pulsating base of Voyager 6. Spock blocks him:

SPOCK

The 'Creator' -- whoever activates the release code -- will be fused with V'ger. Literally become a part of it...! That is the Message, Commander! That is the Message...!!!

DECKER

(moving to Voyager 6)
To expand both consciousnesses.
To form a new, Greater Being. I know that too, Mr. Spock.

355 ANOTHER ANGLE - DECKER

355

at Voyager 6, holding the tricorder, about to hit the final button, gazing at the probe with wild-eyed fervor, mad joy.

McCOY

(to Decker)

You fool, you're committing suicide!

DECKER

No, Doctor, I'm beginning a new existence...!

356 PAST DECKER TO KIRK AND TASHA

356

both just materializing.

(CONTINUED)

356 CONTINUED:

356

A moment as they are fully materialized, and Kirk rushes toward Decker, who is standing at the probe base, finger plunging toward the tricorder activating button.

KIRK
(warningly)
Decker...!!!

Decker glances at Kirk, smiles knowingly, turns to the probe.

DECKER
I AM THE CREATOR...!

And he hits the button.

357 DECKER BEING FUSED - VARIOUS SHOTS AND POVS

357

For just an instant nothing happens: Decker stands bemused, waiting -- and then a BLINDING SHAFT OF LIGHT STRIKES HIM, seems to IMPALE him against Voyager 6. The color becomes BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, begins spiraling through the room. Tasha races toward Decker, is caught in the LIGHT, and instantly VANISHES in a BRILLIANT WHITE GLOW.

Now a SPECTACULAR SERIES OF VISUALS, the SPIRALING LIGHT enveloping the entire room, changing instantaneously from IMAGE to IMAGE, as Decker's consciousness spews into V'ger: pyramids, flowers, seascapes, children's happy laughter, MUSIC, embryonic human cells dividing, subliminal flashes of infants becoming small children becoming adults becoming elderly. Flashes of woodland creatures, paintings, fields of wheat billowing in a gentle wind, a desert stretching in marvelous colors endlessly, planetary bodies, stars, sky.

All this emanating from Decker's body, impaled to the probe, becoming BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER until now it is almost transparent. And the SPIRALING now expanding in all directions, and the room itself starting to dissolve, vanishing into nothingness -- and all commencing to slip into that new dimension (the Mobius Effect).

Kirk, Spock and McCoy stand transfixed another instant, then Kirk AD LIBS a desperate shout: "The ship...!" And all turn and race from the room.

358 RETURNING TO THE ENTERPRISE - THROUGH V'GER 358

past all the sights and SOUNDS of the great vessel,
just ahead of the SPREADING MOBIUS. V'ger is literally
vanishing before our eyes.

They race past the cube-imprisoned body of the dead,
real Ilia, and on to:

359 THE ENTERPRISE 359

hurrying in through the open hatch.

360 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - THE NEUTRON DEVICES 360

Not glowing now, but color reducing quickly, and then
they too seem to be caught by the SPIRAL, simply seem
to slip through to another dimension, vanish. One
after another, all disappear.

361 INT. BRIDGE 361

as Kirk and the others burst from the elevator:

KIRK

Engines full reverse, Mr. Sulu...!
Take us out of here...!

Sulu moves the control.

362 INT. V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE 362

moving out, in reverse at first, then turning sharply,
speeding toward the "maw" -- and, seemingly, just inches
ahead of the SPIRALING MOBIUS EFFECT which is devouring
V'ger. The Enterprise moves faster and faster, and now
the "maw" is IN SIGHT. Enterprise races out of the
"maw" -- into clear, safe Space.

363 EXT. V'GER - FULL SHOT 363

The SPIRALING MOBIUS EFFECT now spreading outward from
the center of the vessel, in both directions, so now
only the "maw" and stern remain -- and then, they
vanish. And then there is nothing, just the blue-black
of Space. A moment later:

364 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE 364

moving INTO the SHOT. Safe, whole.

365 INT. BRIDGE (INCLUDING THE VIEWER)

365

which shows now only empty space. All gaze, awed, at the viewing screen. Spock stands near Kirk.

KIRK

(quiet, reflective)

A Greater Being...

SPOCK

Perhaps even greater than we can conceive: a whole new race, expanding into its own world, its own solar system and planets -- its own universe.

KIRK

And someday, I suppose, expanding to an even higher level.

Spock says nothing, turns to look at Kirk. Between them is total understanding.

366 ANOTHER ANGLE ON THE VIEWER

366

In the distance, the skeletal outline of the orbital dock. Far off, but beckoning. They watch a moment, the orbital dock growing larger. Kirk is still reflective, suddenly asks:

KIRK

Opinion, Mr. Spock: what would V'ger have done if it had not fulfilled its mission?

SPOCK

The point, Captain, is that its mission was fulfilled. Your question is illogical.

And a smile flits over Spock's lips. Kirk returns the smile, and now both turn to the Viewer -- the orbital dock, which is now closer.

367 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND EARTH - ORBITAL VIEW

367

The big starship approaching the dock, and the beautiful planet below, blue and jewel-like. The Enterprise moves CLOSER and CLOSER, PASSES THE CAMERA, blocks out the sight of Earth a moment, then moves on, Earth hanging in the sky again, secure and serene. HOLD, and:

FADE OUT.