

Star Trek: The Motion Picture

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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FADE IN :

1 EXT SPACE (S) 1

An ever expanding infinity of light and color as CAMERA

TRAVELS THROUGH deep space, MOVING DIRECTLY for one pinpoint of light: a STAR GROWING RAPIDLY as we SWEEP TOWARD IT, a normal white star SUDDENLY CHANGING, brightening, flaring unbelievable intensity: supernova. The CAMERA HOLDS just a moment, then MOVES on, SEARCHING through space, the jeweled beauty of other star systems, sparkling nebulae, swirling hydrogen clouds. STILL MOVING, then CAMERA FINDS:

2 EXT. AREA OF LUMINESCENCE (S) 2

In the far distance, slowly growing in size as CAMERA APPROACHES: it resembles, vaguely at this distance, an Aurora Borealis: flaring colors from the fringes, beautiful yet ominous. It is so large, this Cloud, it can envelope an entire solar system. CAMERA CONTINUES APPROACHING the Cloud, and then suddenly, crossing our POV, a:

3 KLINGON HEAVY CRUISER (S) 3

In a graceful, turning arc toward the mysterious LUMINESCENCE. CAMERA FOLLOWS this Klingon, then FINDS a second Klingon cruiser, also turning toward the Cloud, which continues to grow in size as the Klingons approach at warp speed, CAMERA CLOSING on the lead ship, until the vessel's detail can be clearly MADE

OUT: lights, weaponry, power systems, identification emblazoned on the nacelles and saucer in Klingon language (and symbols).

4 INT. KLINGON CRUISER BRIDGE (O) 4

Clearly alien, an ODD-SOUNDING KLAXON signaling "battle stations." Orders issued in KLINGON LANGUAGE, the KLINGON CAPTAIN and EXEC peering at an unusual bridge viewer at the huge area of LUMINESCENT HAZE directly ahead. In KLINGON DIALOGUE:

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(Give me tactical.)

5 CLOSE - MAIN VIEWER (O) 5

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

6 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON PATROL AND THE HAZE (S) 6

The Patrol is clearly SEEN now on the right of the bottom of the FRAME... THREE tiny ships closing on the steadily growing LUMINESCENT HAZE.

7 INT. THE KLINGON BRIDGE - CAPTAIN AND EXEC (O) 7

All eyes on the viewer that shows the ships sweeping on the Mysterious cloud.

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(In Klingonese)
Visual.

The TECHNICIAN makes the switch.

8 CLOSE - VIEW SCREEN - LUMINESCENT HAZE (O) 8

growing ever larger, its flaring colors menacing, mysterious, strangely beckoning.

9 INT. BRIDGE - KLINGON COMMAND CRUISER 9

The crew stands by for battle.

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(In Klingonese)
Tactical again. Stand by on

torpedoes.

- 10 EAT SPACE - LEAD KLINGON VESSEL (TORPEDO HATCH) (S) 10
sliding open, the glowing "Hell Fire" of the Photon Launch tubes, slowly revealed.
- 11 VERY WIDE ANGLE - THE THREE SHIPS (S) 11
They are tiny, insect-like shapes moving still CLOSER to the Luminescent Cloud, so large now that it begins to dominate all space behind.
- 12 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE - TACTICAL GRID - CAPTAIN AND EXEC (O) 12
The growing nearness and enormous size of the Cloud also reflected on the Tactical Grid, somehow more awesome by this schematic view. The Captain gestures the order to "FIRE."
- 13 EXT. SPACE - ANGLE ON KLINGON VESSEL - TORPEDO HATCH (S) 13
The BRILLIANT PHOTON BLOBS of the torpedoes spurt from the tubes.
- 14 ANGLE ON KLINGON VESSEL (S) 14
A deadly PHOTON TORPEDO pattern racing away from the Klingon and toward the Luminescent glow in the distance.
- 15 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE - TACTICAL GRID (O) 15
Three torpedoes are heading directly toward the Cloud. Suddenly they glow briefly and disappear long before they reach their intended target.
- 16 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE - CAPTAIN AND EXEC 16
incredulous that their torpedoes have disappeared without a trace.
- 17 EXT SPACE - THE CLOUD - THREE KLINGON SHIPS (S) 17
as the second and third ships launch torpedoes toward the color-flaring surface of the cloud. This time we have an outside, real VIEW of the torpedoes glowing brightly and then disappearing with no effect.
- 18 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE (O) 18
The Klingon crew grim, desperate, watching a BRIGHT STACCATO BLIP OF POWER from within the LUMINESCENCE.

is weary, almost mechanical. On the adjacent viewer, an English printout of the Klingon's words chatters along the bottom of the picture:

KLINGON CAPTAIN

(In Klingonese)

Imperial Klingon Cruiser Amar...
severely damaged by unfamiliar
weaponry... intruder unidentified..

24 WIDER ANGLE - EPSILON 9 STARFLEET PERSONNEL AND VIEWER (O) 24

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

LIEUTENANT

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

KLINGON CAPTAIN (V.O.)

... believe luminescent cloud
to be enormous power field
surrounding alien vessel...
size and description unknown..
our sensor scans unable to
penetrate. Imperial Klingon
Cruiser Amar... continuing
to attack.

BRANCH

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

LIEUTENANT

Unknown, sir.

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

TECHNICIAN

I have an exterior visual!

25 CLOSE ON VIEWER (O) 25

showing EXTERIOR of the Klingon vessel: a final, frightening WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT strikes it -- then the same awesome IMPLOSION INTO FIREBALL.

26 WIDER ANGLE - PERSONNEL AND VIEWER (O) 26

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 CLOUD.

LIEUTENANT

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

BRANCH

Heading?

27 CLOSE ON THE MAIN MONITOR STATION (O)

27

as its focal point shifts to the huge elliptically-shaped LUMINESCENCE racing across the sky. MUSIC (V'GER THEME) COMMENCES in a low, unresolved CHORD that remains in the background through the remainder of this scene, and the beginning of the next one.

LIEUTENANT'S VOICE

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

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

28 EXT. SURFACE OF PLANET VULCAN - DAY (M)

28

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 clouds.

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

29 EXT. VULCAN LEDGE - SPOCK (M & F.P.)

29

Spock's lean features instantly recognizable despite unkempt, longer hair and the fatigue born of a long, harsh discipline he has undergone. His robes, tattered and dust covered, are that of a Vulcan Aspirant in study with the Masters. Under the V'ger THEME MUSIC we HEAR a VOICE in ritual tones:

FEMALE MASTER'S VOICE

Spock, son of Sarek of Vulcan...
and of Amanda of Earth...

diligently you have labored for
purification of mind...

30 REVERSE ANGLE - SPOCK, VULCAN MASTERS AND RUINS

30

In b.g., gigantic ancient Vulcan statues and ruins. In f.g., the stone platform on which Spock stands facing a semi-circle of three similar platforms. On them in regal robes are three VULCAN MASTERS. The Master in the center is a female, the other two Masters are male. The elderly female is holding a cord and ancient pendant as if ready to place it around

Spock's neck at an appropriate moment. Spock is staring up as V'ger THEME MUSIC fades.

MALE MASTER

(chidingly)

Spock . . . !

Spock turns, giving a small contrite nod -- the ritual continues.

FEMALE MASTER

Here are these sands, our fore-
bearers cast out their animal
passions. Here our race was
saved by the first attainment of
Kolinahr.

MALE MASTER

Kolinahr: the final shedding of
all emotion.

FEMALE MASTER

You have labored long, Spock.
Now receive from us this symbol
of total logic.

Spock starts to kneel... the Female Master moves in, intending to put the ancient pendant around his neck. But Spock now hesitates -- he's troubled as though uncertain he deserves this symbol and waves the pendant away. Then, a faint reprise of the V'ger THEME MUSIC now causes the Female Master to look skyward. She turns from this back to Spock as she exchanges a look with the Male Masters.

FEMALE MASTER

(gestures Spock forward)

Come, give me your thoughts.

She kneels with Spock -- lays her hands on his temples in Vulcan mind-meld position.

FEMALE MASTER

(continuing)

Our minds, Spock... One and together....

Their eyes close -- their minds meld -- then her head jerks slightly, her features change as her mind feels Spock's reactions to the V'ger consciousness. A long moment, then she opens her eyes, gets to her feet and looks down on the still kneeling Spock. Then, she casts aside the pendant she carries -- it falls into the dust.

FEMALE MASTER

(continuing; sadly)

This consciousness which calls -- it stirs your human half, Spock? You have not achieved Kolinahr -- Your human emotions are not fully extinguished.

(turns to the other Masters)

He will not achieve his goal with us. His answer lies elsewhere.

The three Masters leave -- Spock watches them go, his disappointment evident even in his stoic features.

31 MED. ANGLE ON SPOCK (M. & F.P.)

31

CAMERA CLOSES IN on his face as we again HEAR a fragment of V'ger THEME MUSIC -- Spock again raises his head and peers up into the heavens. HOLD on his face a moment, then...

SHOCK CUT TO :

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

32

gleaming silver in the sun as it streaks TOWARD THE CAMERA POSITION and hurtles PAST.

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

33

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 several feet above the ground) DECELERATES sharply, settles to the ground with a whisper.

34 EXT. TRAM STATION - CLOSE ON TRAM DOORS - DAY 34

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:

35 KIRK 35

in Admiral's uniform, grim, determined, moving through the throng. Now and then Starfleet officers nod respectfully; KIRK responds with detached formality; his mind is clearly set on something he is resolved to accomplish here in headquarters -- whatever the cost. CAMERA WITH HIM, to:

36 INT. AIR TRAM STATION - DAY 36

as Kirk strides into the graceful Starfleet HQ building. Many PEOPLE are about, civilians and uniformed personnel; most of them with some air of urgency. (NOTE: ALIENS interspersed among them, Vulcans, blue-skinned Andorians, high-domed Vegans, ect.) Kirk continues on when suddenly he reacts, annoyed as he sees:

37 SONAK 37

a Vulcan, Lt Commander; short, white-haired, grizzled, hurrying along. Kirk calls to him:

KIRK

Commander Sonak... !

SONAK turns with Vulcan imperturbability to face Kirk who steps toward him

KIRK

(continuing)

You've received your appointment as Enterprise Science Officer?

SONAK

(nods)

Based, I am told, on your recommendation, Admiral. Thank you.

KIRK

Why aren't you on board?

SONAK

Captain Decker requested I complete final Science briefing here before...

KIRK

(interrupting)

Here at Starfleet...? The Enterprise is in final preparation to leave dock...

SONAK

Which will require twenty more hours at minimum, Admiral...

KIRK

Twelve! I'm on my way to a meeting with Admiral Nogura which will not last more than three minutes. Report to me on the Enterprise in one hour.

SONAK

To you, sir?

KIRK

I intend to be there following that meeting. Report to me. One hour!

And Kirk turns, strides purposefully away. Sonak gazes after him, one eyebrow raised quizzically.

38 EXT. EARTH ORBIT (S)

38

In f.g., Orbital drydock offices, rotating slowly but perceptibly against blue-black of space. Small figures in spacesuits working on construction, with work belts. Beyond and below... Earth. In the far distance we can barely make out an orbital drydock.

39 CLOSER ANGLE - ORBITAL OFFICE CLUSTER (S)

39

The cluster is a fully-equipped dockyard engineering center and computer drafting office.

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

40 INT. INNER OFFICE (O)

40

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, Scott moves quickly to him.

40A KIRK AND SCOTT

40A

The starship Engineering Officer clearly surprised to see Kirk here. Kirk has the same look of grim determination we just saw in the headquarters building.

SCOTT

Admiral, I've been hoping to see you. Maybe you can get through to those thick heads in Starfleet that...

KIRK

Why aren't the Enterprise transporters in operation, Mister Scott?

SCOTT

We're hoping it's only a temporary problem, Admiral...

KIRK

See that it is.
(moving toward pod)
Take me over, please.

Scott is now eying Kirk just a little warily as he follows him into the pod. Kirk's determined expression suggests that some chips are going to fly and Scott does not want to become one of them.

SCOTT

(carefully)

Admiral, the Enterprise has just finished eighteen months redesigning and refitting. She needs testing, a shakedown...

KIRK

Mr. Scott, there's an alien object with unbelievable destructive power less than three days away

from this planet...

Kirk hits a button on the travel pod panel -- the airlock doors SLAM closed behind them. Then, stepping immediately to the front observation window:

KIRK

(continuing)

... the only Starship in interception range is the Enterprise! Ready, or not, she launches in twelve hours!

Scott throws Kirk an appalled look but is now occupied in sealing the Outer Pod door and manipulating drive controls.

CAMERA CONTINUES TO PULL BACK TO REVEAL front of the Pod and arms of the office complex as Pod disconnects and starts to move.

40C EXT. POD

40C

CAMERA CONTINUES TO PULL BACK TO REVEAL front of the pod and arms of the office complex as Pod disconnects and starts moving.

41 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - ANGLES ON TRAVEL POD (S)

41

-

-

43

43

as it moves way from the office complex. We can SEE the jet flames of its tiny thrusters as it circles around, heads off (toward the distant Orbital dry dock).

44 INT. TRAVEL POD - KIRK AND SCOTT

44

Scott nervously eying Kirk, and finally deciding to make one more effort:

SCOTT

The crew hasn't had near enough transition time with all the new equipment. And the engines, Admiral: they've yet to be even tested at warp power. Add to that, an untried Captain...

KIRK

(hint of smile)

Two and a half years as Chief of

Starfleet Operations may have
made me a little stale, Mr. Scott
-- but I wouldn't exactly consider
myself 'untried.'

It takes Scott a moment to comprehend, and Kirk smiles
now, nods:

KIRK

(continuing)

They gave her back to me, Scotty.

Scott peers at him, genuinely surprised -- and pleased.
Then:

SCOTT

"Gave' her back, sir...? I doubt
it was that easy...

(returns smile)

But any man who could manage such
a feat, I wouldna dare disappoint.
She'll launch on time, sir...

(with confidence)

And she'll be ready.

And he clasps Kirk's elbow affectionately, then gestures
Kirk to look out the pod window.

45 EXT. OUTSIDE THE POD WINDOW - KIRK'S POV (O) 45

as he looks out: the blue-black of orbital space.

46 INT. TRAVEL POD 46

Scott is well aware of what the Enterprise means to
Kirk. As Scott maneuvers the pod to provide the best
perspective, Kirk peers through the observation window,
craning his head, hungry for his first glimpse of the
starship. Scott is watching him, immensely pleased.

47 PAST THEM TO THE POD WINDOW (O) 47

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

48 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - OTHER ANGLES FROM THE POD (O) 48

-

-

50 50

PAST Kirk and Scott 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.

51 INT. POD - VERY CLOSE ON KIRK AT WINDOW 51

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 regained, he is becoming more fully alive again.

Kirk looks at Scott; for a moment both hold each other's eye. Scott knows precisely how Kirk feels. Both turn to the window again.

52 WHAT THEY SEE - THE ENTERPRISE (S) 52

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

53 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE - AND THE POD (TINY IN THIS SHOT) 53

- -

56 AS IT CIRCLES - THE ANTI-LIKE FIGURES OF WORKERS (S) 56

The great ship dwarfs everything. The drydock becomes a fragile filigree framing the ship's great curved bulk. The tiny pod continues to move along 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 moving (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 mating position. It closes in, secures itself to the outer airlock.

57 INT. POD - AT THE AIRLOCK 57

Scott completing the mating procedure, Kirk turning from the observation window. Outside, the metallic.. CLICK of the pod 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.

58 INT. ENTERPRISE CARGO DECK (M) 58

A confusion of organized work and VOICES. The cargo deck bustles with activity; supplies and equipment being stored and installed.

59 INT. CARGO DECK - BALCONY AND CATWALK

59

Kirk and Scott are met by a nervous, perspiring ENSIGN.

KIRK AND SCOTT

Permission to come aboard, sir...?

ENSIGN

Granted, sir. Welcome aboard, Admiral... Commander Scott, you're needed in Engineering immediately.

SCOTT

(to Kirk)

Sir, you'll excuse me...?

Kirk gestures him to leave, and Scott hurries away. Kirk stands a moment, gazing down at the cargo deck.

60 ANGLE DOWN PAST KIRK TO FLOOR (M)

60

The crew maneuvering antigravity devices which move heavy containers -- scrambles of activity at storage holds and maintenance lockers.

61 CLOSE ON KIRK AND ENSIGN

61

Kirk is 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.

62 EXT. ELEVATOR AND CATWALK

62

Kirk ENTERS ANGLE and the doors snap open.

63 INT. ELEVATOR

63

as Kirk enters. The doors close. Kirk waits a beat, savoring this moment too. Then, firmly to the control panel:

KIRK

Bridge!

The turbo-elevator HUMS WITH POWER as it begins hurtling up. On the wall back of Kirk we SEE an electronic diagram of the Enterprise tracking the elevator's speedy trip to the Bridge.

64 INT. BRIDGE

64

A confusion of activity and VOICES. Pieces of equipment in a state of disarray: consoles open, fiber optic tubes unconnected, viewing screens dismantled. It's a frantic, desperate scene -- a ship and crew totally unprepared. In the midst of this: ALIEN ensign is assisting 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 SULU (Lt. Comdr 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.

65 ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS

65

snapping open -- and there is Kirk. For the moment no one notices him, and he stands watching, remembering. And then he moves forward toward the command center.

66 ACROSS UHURA TO KIRK

66

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

UHURA

Captain... Starfleet just signaled your transfer-of-command orders!

67 ANOTHER ANGLE - VARIOUS REACTION

67

as everyone else is suddenly aware of Kirk.

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, simple gaping at Kirk, all quite awed. The old hands, Uhura, Sulu, and Chekov start converging on Kirk. But he gestures them back, speaking crisply.

KIRK

I appreciate the welcome; I wish the circumstances were less critical.

(to Uhura)

Epsilon Nine is monitoring the intruder; keep a channel open to them.

(glances around)

Where is Captain Decker?

SULU

He's in Engineering, sir...

(uncomfortable,
indicates Captain's
chair)

He doesn't know.

Kirk reacts with some exasperation, starts away, addresses Chekov:

KIRK

Mr Chekov, assemble the crew on the Rec Deck at 0400 hours. I want to show them what we're facing.

And Kirk moves to the elevator, enters, is gone. The moment the elevator doors snap closed:

SULU

I wouldn't have wanted to have been standing in his way. He wanted her back; he got her!

ALIEN ENSIGN

(perturbed)

And Captain Decker? He's been with the ship every minute of her refitting...

UHURA

(brittle)

Ensign -- our chances of coming back from this mission in one piece may have just doubled...!

The entire complex a beehive of pre-departure activity. ENGINEERING PERSONNEL (at least a third of them female) coming and going, the platform-elevators (small, one-man lifts to various levels) busy. 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.

Now the Engine Room door opens and Kirk steps into the area. He stands a moment observing the activity. a grizzled ENGINEERING CHIEF pushes a huge condenser on an anti-grav device past Kirk with a respectful "watch it, sir" admonishment. Kirk moves on to:

at the middle of the power shaft. Very NOISY here, and a continual CACOPHONY of COMPUTERIZED AND HUMAN VOICES calling off equipment checks. And grouped around a section of burnt-out circuitry are WILLARD DECKER, 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)

I thought so! See... the transporter sensor was not activated...

SCOTT

(impressed)

Aye, you were dead right about that...

(to Technician)

Clearly, put a back-up sensor into the unit.

as the Technician prepares to install the device, Scott glances up to see Kirk.

He looks from Decker to Kirk in acute embarrassment (so that we should realize Scott hasn't mentioned Kirk's taking over to Decker). Decker now notices Kirk, reacts pleased.

DECKER

Admiral Kirk...

(shakes Kirk's hand)

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?

SCOTTY

(lamely)

Aye, sir, that we will...

KIRK

(to Decker)

Will, let's go over here and talk.

He indicates corner. Decker glances bemusedly at Kirk, then turns to Scott:

DECKER

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

73 ACROSS SCOTT TO KIRK AND DECKER

73

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

74 A CORNER OF THE INTERMIX CHAMBER

74

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

DECKER

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

Kirk eyes Decker -- then decides the best way to say it is plainly, directly.

KIRK

I'm taking over the Center seat.

I'm sorry, Will.

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

(continuing)

You'll stay aboard as Executive
Officer... a temporary grade
reduction to Commander.

DECKER

(finding his voice)

-- You, personally, are assuming
command?

KIRK

Yes.

DECKER

May I ask Why?

KIRK

(nods)

My experience -- five years out
there dealing with unknowns like
this -- my familiarity with the
Enterprise, this crew...

DECKER

Admiral, this is an almost totally
new enterprise. You don't know
her a tenth as well as I do.

75 ANOTHER ANGLE - TO SHOW SCOTT IN B.G. (ACROSS THE ROOM)

75

Scott, working on the relay, but continually glancing at Kirk and Decker with worried concern, as Kirk replies:

KIRK

That's why you're staying aboard.

I'm sorry, Will.

DECKER

No, Admiral. I don't think you are; not one damned bit. 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 a starship command again. Well, sir, it looks like you found a way.

Kirk is silent a moment, peering levelly at Decker, who returns the gaze with equal intensity. Then:

KIRK

Report to the bridge, Commander. Immediately.

Decker EXITS. Kirk waits, collecting his composure as he watches him go. Then Kirk turns to glare at Scott. Interrupted by a flare as something shorts out at the mechanism where Scott and Decker had been working. Technician (Clearly) reacts, hits an inter-com button fast:

TECHNICIAN (CLEARLY)

Transporter room, come in!
Urgent!

(to Scott)

Redline on the transporters,
Mister Scott!

Scott whirls to a console fast, speaks urgently!

SCOTT

Transporter room, do not engage!
Do not....

TECHNICIAN (CLEARLY)

(reacting to the reading;
interruption)

Too late; they're beaming now!

Kirk is exiting on a run, followed by Scott.

76 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - INCLUDING TRANSPORTER CHAMBER (O)

76

An unusually defective looking TRANSPORTER EFFECT in progress, alternately flashing and glowing -- even the Transporter SOUND seems wrong, as if struggling to

overcome some problem. At the console, CHIEF RAND and ASSISTANT are reacting in surprised, near-horror as they attempt vainly to save the situation.

RAND
(into intercom)
Starfleet, override us!
OVERRIDE...! Yank them back!

Suddenly, from Rand's console, a VIOLENT GLARE -- a PROTESTING SOUND from the circuitry. And on the console a red-warning light now begins flashing.

STARFLEET VOICE
Unable to retrieve their pattern,
Enterprise....!

Rand reacts in real horror now as human forms begin to FAINTLY MATERIALIZE, then FADE AWAY, then REAPPEAR IN FAINTLY MISSHAPEN FORM as she frantically works controls. Kirk ENTERS fast, steps to the console to assist Rand; Scott has also come in and moves to the console, brushes aside the Asst. Chief, and begins manipulating the additional controls himself.

SCOTT
We're losing the pattern...!

KIRK
(into intercom)
Starfleet, boost your matter gain;
we need more signal!

RAND
Oh, no! They're forming!

77 CLOSER ON THE TRANSPORTER CHAMBER (O)

77

with the human forms FLUTTERING INTO FULLER AND FULLER MATERIALIZATION, FRIGHTENINGLY, HORRIBLY MISSHAPEN. We RECOGNIZE one form as the Vulcan, Sonak -- the other a human WOMAN. They MATERIALIZE; we HEAR A MOAN from the Vulcan -- the Woman's SCREAM OF PAIN. Then, all at once, the half-materialized bodies are gone; the transporter chamber is empty.

KIRK
Oh, my God...!

78 KIRK, SCOTT AND RAND

78

gazing, horrified, at the empty chamber.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Starfleet, do you have them?

A mutter of utter, vacant silence -- and Kirk and Scott look at each other again, their pained faces presaging the answer they already know:

STARFLEET VOICE
(shaken)
Enterprise... what we got back
didn't live long. Fortunately.

Another moment of stunned silence, and then Kirk hits the transmission button -- fighting to control his voice as:

KIRK
Starfleet... Kirk. Please...
express my condolences to their
families. Commander Sonak's
can be reached through the Vulcan
Embassy.
(see Rand's stricken
expression)
There was nothing you could have
done, Rand. It wasn't your fault.

And before Rand can answer, Kirk leaves the room.

79 INT. CORRIDOR - TRAVELING WITH KIRK

79

as Kirk steps out, and the doors snap closed behind him. In the corridor the furor of the hurried departure is, as everywhere, quite evident: CREW MEMBERS move back and forth. But Kirk does not see them; his mind is tormented by the transporter accident -- was there something he should have done, could have done, to prevent it? Should he launch on schedule with the starship this unready? Has he done right in yielding to this terrible needs for starship command again, forcing Starfleet to give her to him? Would Decker's knowledge of the new design have prevented the accident?

Kirk reaches a corridor intersection, looks around, realizes he's lost track of where he is. A passing YEOMAN stops in response to his puzzled expression.

KIRK

Turboshaft eight...?

YEOMAN

Back that way, sir.

She's indicating back the direction from which Kirk came. He nods his thanks, turns and moves back down the corridor.

80 DECKER

80

hurrying down the corridor. The two face each other a silent moment, Decker studying Kirk curiously.

KIRK

We'll have to replace Commander Sonak. I'd still like a Vulcan there, if possible...

DECKER

None available, Captain. There's no one in fact, who's fully rated on this design.

KIRK

You are, Mister Decker. I'm afraid you'll have to double as Science Officer.

And Kirk moves on, Decker stands gazing reflectively after him.

81 OMITTED

81

-

-

84

84

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

85

(in the last part of the scene which showed the Klingon Captain speaking in Klingonese and an English print-out interpretation appearing at the screen bottom. The Klingon ship nearly totaled; 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:

86 THE LUMINESCENT CLOUD (AS SEEN ON A VIEWER) (O) 86

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

87 INT. RECREATION DECK (M) 87

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

The Recreation Deck is one of the largest areas on the ship, several deck levels high, a part of one wall consisting of picture windows, through which can be seen sections of the drydock structure outside.

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 are obviously other specific recreation areas -- gymnasiums, food centers, game rooms, lounges, etc.

88 ANOTHER ANGLE OF THE RED DECK - HIGHER LEVEL 88

as the Crew Members chat in low, grim tones -- Kirk (now with Captain's stripes) appears. As he comes into view, the two hundred or so crew below go silent. Kirk grimly indicates the now blank viewer:

KIRK

That's all we know about it;
except that it's now 2.2 days
from Earth. Enterprise is the
only Federation starship that
stands in its way.

89 ANOTHER ANGLE - CREW REACTIONS 89

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

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 take whatever action
is necessary... and possible.

(beat)

...We can only hope that the

life form aboard that vessel
reasons as we do.

90 ANGLE ON UHURA

90

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

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

Kirk leans over to the intercom, speaks into it:

KIRK
Put it on the viewer here...!

91 ON THE REC DECK VIEWER (O)

91

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;
checking console
readings)
Enterprise... the Cloud is
definitely a powerfield of some
kind... Measures... My God!
Over 82 A.U.'s in diameter...
Must be something incredible
inside there generating it.
(looks up from
console)
We're transmitting linguacode
friendship messages on all
frequencies. No response.

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

LIEUTENANT
Definitely something inside..
there but all scans are being
reflected back.
(studies readings)

Receiving an odd pattern now..
(toward Branch)
They seem to be reacting to
our scans, sir.

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

Branch hits an alarm button; we HEAR ALARM KLAXON
SOUNDING. The viewer IMAGE DISTORTS, clears again
while Branch -- facing his viewer, continues urgently:

BRANCH
(continuing)
We are under attack...!

KIRK
(to Uhura)
External view...!

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

92

as the image of Branch is immediately replaced by an
external view of the plantoid, and the LUMINESCENT
CLOUD (at about the same distance from which the
Klingon cruisers were attacked).

Then it STRIKES the plantoid WITH FULL, CATAclysmic
FORCE. The viewer IMAGE BREAKS UP -- and immediately
the entire Starfleet base becomes a maelstrom of FLAR-
ING 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 moving across the distant
sky.

(NOTE: The above is entirely SILENT, and when it is
finished, not a word is spoken.)

KIRK (O.S.)
Viewer off.

93 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK

93

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

KIRK

Pre-launch countdown will
commence in forty minutes.

94 ANOTHER ANGLE - CREW

94

The scene they have just witnessed still vivid in their minds as they gaze somberly up toward Kirk who is exiting. The bridge crew follows 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.

95 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE IN DRYDOCK (S)

95

Spectacular ORBIT VIEW of the giant starship in the process of release. BEYOND US, in half light, EARTH LOOMS HUGE. The dock welders are gone; the supply pods float away from the ship. Little tongues of blue flame spurt from the ship's maneuvering jets.

96 CLOSER - ON ENTERPRISE (S)

96

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

97 INT. BRIDGE

97

Kirk in the center seat, intently studying the Navigation console in front of him (at the Navigator's station, which is unoccupied.) Other bridge personnel are busy with their pre-launch duties.

UHURA

Transporters Room and Chief
Engineer Scott report trans-
porter system fully repaired
and now functioning normally,
sir.

SULU

Dock signals clear, Captain.

KIRK

Rely we are holding position
awaiting final crew replacements.

UHURA

Captain, Transporter Personnel
reports the Navigator...

(consults console)

... Lieutenant Junior Grade Ilia
(Eye-lee-ah) is already aboard,
and en route to the bridge.

98 ANGLE ON DECKER - AT THE SCIENCE STATION

98

as Decker (now wearing Commander stripes) reacts,
almost startled, and Uhura continues:

UHURA

She's a Deltan.

Uhura's tone and expression convey "Deltan" in a
certain, special manner.

KIRK

(reprovingly)

And there are no finer navigators
in Starfleet, Commander.

The last is interrupted by:

98A ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS

98A

as they snap open, and there emerges a breathtakingly
beautiful young woman (uniformed as a Navigator Lieu-
tenant) who strides purposefully onto the bridge. A
stunning figure, but hairless, entirely bald but or
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

Lieutenant Ilia reporting for
duty, sir.

KIRK

(formally; rising)

Welcome aboard, Lieutenant.

99 ACROSS ILIA TO DECKER

99

as Ilia starts to speak, suddenly stops: she has just

then noticed Decker, who has stepped from his station to face her. For an electronic moment their eyes meet, hold in unquestioned recognition.

DECKER

Hello, Ilia.

ILIA

(surprised)

Decker....!

Kirk has observed this with surprise and some concern (it presages possible complications). Decker turns to Kirk, slightly uncomfortable at this.

DECKER

I was stationed on the Lieutenant's home planet some years ago...

Ilia looks from Kirk back to Decker, puzzled at his sleeve stripes.

ILIA

(eyes his rank stripes)

'Commander' Decker?

KIRK

Our Exec and Science Officer...

DECKER

(bitingly)

Captain Kirk has the utmost confidence in me.

Kirk flashes a hard glance at Decker, then toward Ilia too.

KIRK

(pointedly)

And in you, too, Lieutenant.

ILIA

My oath of celibacy is on record Captain. May I assume my duties?

While respectful, her tone of voice has been just as firm as Kirk's.

KIRK

By all means.

receiving a message, now relaying it.

UHURA

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

(puzzled)

... but one of them is refusing to step into the transporter.

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

KIRK

(pleased)

Oh? I'll see that he beams up...!

And he hurries from the bridge, onto the elevator, is gone. A moment of puzzled silence, 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 console... AD LIBS, "It's all on the computer. You'll have no problem..." Sulu is nervous, fluttery around this lovely creature -- now hits a wrong switch. Produces a BEEPING SOUND which he fumbles to shut off. She smiles; speaks quietly, repeats:

ILIA

I'm sworn to celibacy, Mister Sulu. That makes me as safe as any human female.

Sulu catches her eye but before he can reply, Decker has

moved in beside Ilia.

DECKER

I now the Captain meant no personal insult.

ILIA

(eyes on console)

I would never take advantage of a sexually immature species.

(looks at him)

You can assure him that's true, can't you?

Clearly, the remark carries special, personal significance.

101 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

101

102

102

Kirk entering as Rand and her assistant electronically list the last of the five arrivals who are leaving the Transporter Chamber. Kirk calls through intercom to the last arrival, a young female Yeoman.

KIRK

Yeoman, what was the problem down there?

YEOMAN

(through intercom)

He insisted we go first, sir. Said something about first seeing how it scrambled our molecules.

KIRK

Thank you, Yeoman
(hits transmit control)
Starfleet, this is Captain Kirk.
The officer is to be beamed up immediately!

103 ANGLE ON THE CHAMBER (O)

103

A moment, then again the GENERATING HUMMING, and then the familiar BEAMING EFFECT. And then you SEE McCOY! 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 drafted me!

KIRK

(straight-faced)

They didn't...!

Kirk has offered his hand, but McCoy is already flaring:

McCOY

This was your idea! It was
your idea, wasn't it!

KIRK

Bones, there's a 'thing' out
there --

McCOY

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

KIRK

(continues)

-- headed this way. I need you...

McCOY

Were you behind this?

KIRK

(nods)

Bones, I need you badly.

Kirk extends his hand again; McCoy delays some moments
-- then finally responds. And once done, it is the long
hand clasp 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 hear Chapel's an MD now; I
need a top nurse, not a doctor
who'll argue every diagnosis...
And --

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.

104 FULL ON KIRK

104

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.

105 INT. ENTERPRISE - MONTAGE DEPARTURE SCENES

105

-
108

-
108

Bulkheads closing, feed lines disengaging, main
ENGINES HUM into life, crew personnel hurrying to
launch stations. SHOTS of cargo deck, down to
Engineering Section slamming shut. Drydock area
clearing, work lights go out, warning lights go on.

109 INT. BRIDGE

109

All flight positions manned, ready.

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.

110 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - ENTERPRISE AND DRYDOCK (S) 110

The starship within the drydock, but now the maneuvering -- thrusters spurt pinpoints of BLUE-LAME. 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.

111 OMITTED 111

112 INT. BRIDGE 112

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

KIRK

Thrusters ahead, Mister Sulu.
Take us out.

113 EXT. EARTH ORBIT 113

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

THEME MUSIC IN AND UP.

114 CLOSER ANGLES - ENTERPRISE (S) 114

117 117

emphasizing fine detail reality of both drydock and starship as saucer section emerges. Tiny space-suited human figures watch the departing ship.

CAMERA HOLDS ON STARSHIP until completely clear
of the orbital dock.

117A INT. ENGINEERING SECTION

117A

Here in Engineering Section, the ENGINE THROBBING
SLOWLY BUILDS to a THUNDERING SOUND. A glow from
the central unit indicates anti-matter intermix
underway. The Engineering Section shudders as the
great engines draw more and more power.

SCOTT

Intermix set, Bridge, impulse
power at your discretion.

118 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING KIRK

118

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)

Impulse power, Mr Sulu.
Ahead Warp point-five.

119 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE (S)

119

The maneuvering jets turn off, the impulse drive glows.
The Enterprise begins moving perceptibly faster --
behind her, the drydock diminishing rapidly in size.

KIRK

Departure angle on viewer.

CHEKOV

Departure angle.

We SEE viewer IMAGE SWITCH to a departing view of
lovely bluish, cloud-laced image of Earth as it grows
smaller, smaller, dwindling quickly as the starship
gathers speed.

KIRK

Viewer ahead.

And viewer IMAGE SWITCHED to show the star patterned
space ahead.

120 EXT. SPACE - SATURN

120

with its colorful rings and multiple moons FILLING a major portion of the FRAME.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log, stardate 7412.6.
2.7 hours from launch...

121 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER 121

All hands tense with the excitement of the journey, on the viewer Saturn -- and its rings -- are falling away (BEHIND US). OVER this:

KIRK (V.O.)

(concerned)

... in order to intercept the Intruder at the earliest possible time, we must now risk engaging Warp drive while still within the solar system...

End of log.

122 ANGLE ON DECKER - SCIENCE STATION 122

punching in equations on his console, reaching a reading:

DECKER

Captain, assuming we have full Warp capability, accelerating to Warp Seven on leaving solar system will bring us to IP with the Intruder in twenty point one hours.

122A INCLUDE ILIA 122A

Checking her console.

ILIA

Science Officer's computations confirmed, sir.

And Decker and Ilia glance at each other -- and again, you know there is something more than casual in this.

123 ANGLE ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS 123

as they open, and McCoy appears, walks over to Kirk who swings his chair around to face him. 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.

KIRK

(turning to Decker)

Programming ready?

DECKER

Program set for standard Warp entry, Captain...

Kirk starts to swing his chair to normal position -- Decker calls:

DECKER

(continuing)

... but I still recommend further simulation study.

KIRK

Mister Decker; every minute brings that object nearer Earth!
(using intercom)
Engineering! Stand by for Warp Drive.

McCoy is watching Kirk, a bit surprised at his abruptness to Decker.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

(worried)

Captain, we need further Warp simulation on the flow sensors...

KIRK

Engineer, we need Warp speed now!

McCOY

(very gently)

You're pushing Jim. Your people know their jobs.

Kirk flashes McCoy a glance of annoyance -- then back to using intercom:

The main intermix chambers GLOWING with power; the LOW RUMBLE of the main engines coming to life.

The CAMERA FINDS Scott in the chamber:

SCOTT

(into intercom)

Hold one minute, please, Captain --

He steps to his console where an ASST. ENGINEER is working a computer, studying the readouts, punching buttons, etc. Scott stands over him, grimly observing. 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: I canna guarantee that she'll...

125 INT. BRIDGE

125

as Kirk, annoyed, interrupts Scott on the intercom.

KIRK

Warp Drive, Mr Scott.

McCoy still watches curiously as Kirk turns to the helm:

KIRK

(continuing)

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

(continuing)

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

We SEE the WARP POWER EFFECT build up between the engine "nacelles" -- then 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.

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

127

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

SULU

Warp One, sir.

Kirk smiles, pleased, 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 DISTORTION: a sudden SPIRALING OF STARS AND FLUID LIGHT narrowing into a VORTEX into which the Enterprise hurtles. A space trap, a deadly pandemonium of ALARM KLAXONS, BELLS, VOICES:

KIRK

(continuing)

Wormhole!... Get us back on
impulse power! Full reverse!

128 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (S)

128

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

129 INT. BRIDGE

129

The KLAXONS and BELLS CONTINUE, and the crew responding:

SULU

Negative helm control, Captain!
Going reverse on impulse power...!

UHURA
Subspace frequencies are jammed
by Wormhole effect!

COMPUTER VOICE
(terse, flat)
Collision alert...!
Collision alert...!

(Note: Computer alert continues through entire scene.)

DECKER
(consulting his viewer)
Negative control from inertial
lag will continue 22 point five
seconds before forward velocity
slows to sub-light speed.

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

KIRK
Forcefields up full! Put object
on viewer...!

130 ANGLE ON THE MAIN VIEWER (O)

130

showing (a magnification view) of a tiny point 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, waiting -- and expecting -- the worse.)
Meanwhile, Ilia has reached over to Sulu's console,
hits a button, AD LIBBING, "Navigational deflectors
coming up...!" And then with alarmed dismay:

ILIA
Navigational deflectors
inoperative...!
(consulting her
console, alarmed)
Directional control also
inoperative, Captain...!

DECKER
Wormhole distortion has over-
loaded main power systems...!

The picture is switched through two further levels of magnification, enlarging the object: an elongated, distorted, pitted asteroid, tumbling toward the Enterprise on a collision course.

KIRK
(toward Ilia)
Time to impact...?

ILIA
Twelve seconds...!

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

DECKER
(racing to Chekov's station)
Delay that phaser order! Arm photon torpedoes...!

133 ANOTHER ANGLE - McCOY NOTICING KIRK

133

who has just glanced, surprised at Decker (for countering the phaser order) -- and for a split instant, Kirk seems confused. McCoy reacts with enlightenment as, meanwhile:

134 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE VIEWER (O)

134

The object even larger.

CHEKOV
Photon torpedoes armed...!

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

DECKER
Fire torpedoes...!

CHEKOV
(punching button)
Torpedoes away...!

as the starship's photon torpedo tubes EJECT GLOWING BALLS OF LIGHT ENERGY, which seems 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.

136 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (O)

136

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 the viewer shows only the normal SUB-WARP EFFECT: The stars ahead, relatively stationary; a feeling of motion, but smooth, visually normal.

CHEKOV

(relieved)

We're out of it...!

DECKER

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

SULU

Helm control restored, sir.

ILIA

Computing new interception
course.

UHURA

Communications are normal,
Captain.

CHEKOV

(to Kirk)

Negative damage report, sir.

(to McCoy)

No casualties reported, sir.

McCOY

(tight)
Wrong, Mr. Chekov, there are
casualties. My wits!
(to Kirk, indignant)
As in 'frightened-out-of'...!

DECKER
(into intercom)
Engineer... report status there.

137 INT. ENGINEERING

137

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

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

138 INT. BRIDGE

138

Kirk seeming to collect his thoughts now -- he gives
Decker a look, uses the intercom himself:

KIRK
Warp Drive as soon as possible,
Mr. Scott.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
(protesting)
Captain, it was our anti-matter
imbalance that created the
wormhole in the first place. It
will happen again if we don't
correct it.

KIRK
That object out there is less
than two days from Earth, Mister
Scott. We've got to intercept
while it still is out there!

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
(near annoyed)
Aye, we understand that sir!
We're doing our best.

as Kirk flips off the intercom, rises determinedly,
faces Decker:

KIRK

Mr. Decker, I'd like to see you
in my quarters.

(toward helm)

You have the conn, Mr. Sulu.

McCOY

(to Kirk)

Mind if I tag along?

Kirk gives McCoy an annoyed look, then strides to the elevator. Decker, grim, follows -- McCoy brings up the rear as they EXIT.

139 ANGLE FAVORING ILIA

139

gazing worriedly at the just-closed elevator doors, as Sulu is punching figures into his console.

SULU

Maintaining warp point
eight; I show our new heading
as 287 point three Mark 105.

Ilia's attention is directed toward Decker.

SULU

(continuing; gently
reminding)

Lieutenant Ilia...?

ILIA

(a beat; then
quickly)

Confirmed, Mr. Sulu. Confirmed.

And she punches in some equations, then again peers up at the doors where she last saw Decker. She is very concerned.

140 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

140

The doors opening, Kirk entering, McCoy moves to b.g. while Decker stands attentively, waiting as Kirk turns to him.

KIRK

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

DECKER

(cool, polite)

Sir, the Enterprise redesign

increases phaser power by channeling it through the main engines. When they went into anti-matter imbalance, the phasers were automatically cut off.

Kirk is surprised by this information, perhaps slightly chagrined. After a beat:

KIRK

Then you acted properly, of course.

DECKER

Thank you, sir. I'm sorry I embarrassed you.

KIRK

You saved the ship.

DECKER

(coolly)

I'm aware of that, sir.

KIRK

(flaring)

Stop competing with me, Decker!

DECKER

Permission to speak freely, sir?

KIRK

(tight)

Granted.

DECKER

Sir, you haven't logged a single star hour in two and a half years. That, plus your unfamiliarity with the ship's design -- in my opinion, sir, seriously jeopardizes our mission.

Kirk reacts with anger. Struggles for and regains control.

KIRK

I trust you will... nursemaid me through these difficulties, Mister?

DECKER

Yes, sir, I'll do that.

Kirk peers at Decker, who stands facing him determinedly.

KIRK

Then I won't keep you from your duties any longer, Commander.

(whirling at McCoy)

Yes, Doctor?

Kirk's last line has drowned out Decker's "Aye, sir." McCoy says nothing, waits until Decker is gone and the door closes behind him. Then:

McCOY

He may not be wrong, Jim.

141 OMITTED

141

-
142

-
142

143 INT. CORRIDOR

143

Decker moving toward an elevator -- the elevator doors open, and there is Ilia. She steps out, faces him.

ILIA

Was he difficult?

DECKER

No more than I expected

(hesitates)

Not as difficult as this. I'm sorry...

ILIA

That you left? or that you didn't say 'goodbye'?

DECKER

If I'd seen you again, would you have been able to say it?

ILIA

(long hesitation;
then shakes head)

No.

Ilia whirls, moves toward her stateroom door, which

snaps open, then closes behind her. Decker stands gazing at the door, remembering, regretful.

144 OMITTED

144

144A INT. KIRK'S CABIN - KIRK AND McCOY

144A

KIRK

Get out of here, Bones.

McCOY

(shakes head)

As ship's doctor, I am now discussing the subject of command fitness.

Kirk's expression hardens.

KIRK

Make your point, Doctor.

McCOY

The point, Captain, is that it's you who's competing...

(a beat, as Kirk reacts)

You pulled every string in the book short of blackmail to get the Enterprise -- maybe even that. And when this mission is over, you have no intention of giving her back.

KIRK

(tight)

I intend to keep her, is that what you're saying, Doctor?

McCOY

It's an obsession -- that can blind you so far more immediate -- and critical responsibilities. Your reaction to Decker is an example.

Kirk studies him a beat; has McCoy touched a nerve? Something Kirk himself might have been unaware of? Kirk starts speaking, but is interrupted by:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

Bridge to Captain.

144B ANGLE TO INCLUDE CABIN VIEWER

144B

as Kirk turns to it.

KIRK

Viewer on.

At his VOICE COMMAND, the viewer comes on with AN IMAGE of Uhura at her console.

UHURA FROM VIEWER

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

KIRK

For what purpose?

On the viewer, Chekov's IMAGE replaces Uhura.

CHEKOV

It is a courier, Captain. Grade One priority. Non-belligerency confirmed.

KIRK

Very well, Mr. Chekov, see to it. Viewer off.

Viewer IMAGE FADES. Kirk turns back to McCoy whose question of Kirk's fitness still hangs there between them. Eye to eye - then, finally:

KIRK

(continuing)

Your... opinion has been noted, Doctor.

(beat)

Is there anything further?

McCOY

I hope not.

Kirk nods, exits. McCoy watches him go, hoping his point has gotten through.

145 OMITTED

145

146 EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE (S)

146

traveling at a rapid speed; it carries warp-capacity nacelles which dwarf the smaller to 10 position

shuttle fuselage. The CAMERA HOLD 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.

147 EXT. SPACE - THROUGH WINDOW IN OFFICERS' LOUNGE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE SHUTTLE (S) 147

About the size of a 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 toward the starship's command airlock.

148 INT. POD HATCH ENTRY AREA 148

as we HEAR the CLANK and WHOOSH of the AIRLOCK MECHANISM. Chekov is standing by with a security man.

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, civilian, utilitarian.)

SPOCK

Permission to come aboard, sir?

CHEKOV

Granted, sir! Granted!

Spock is already moving out of the pod entry area, impassive, no greeting on his lips; no friendship in his expression.

149 EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE LEAVING 149

pulling away from Enterprise.

150 INT. BRIDGE 150

The elevator doors open, and there is Spock. It takes everyone a moment to believe their eyes. Then, the Bridge crew AD LIB their surprise and pleasure.

KIRK

Spock...! Spock, where...how...?

Kirk, smiling, is moving toward Spock with hand outstretched. But Spock has already turned and moved toward the science console where Decker sits.

SPOCK
Commander, if I may...?

150A AT SCIENCE CONSOLE

150A

It takes Decker a moment to realize that Spock wants to take over the console. He begins getting to his feet, throwing Kirk a look. But Kirk's attention is totally on SPOCK. And Spock is already intent on computations he is beginning to punch into the science console computer.

SPOCK
I have been monitoring your
Starfleet transmissions, Captain,
your engine design difficulties.

Spock continues to punch information into the science computer -- a monitor screen IMAGE begins to show complex equations which Spock inspects -- he makes a further computer punch out and inspects a second monitor IMAGE of other equations. Only then does Spock seem to become aware of Kirk and Decker standing there with questioning expressions.

SPOCK
(continuing)
I offer my services as Science
Officer.

Kirk starts to grin -- then remembers to wipe it off his face as he turns to Decker.

KIRK
If our Executive Officer has no
objections...?

DECKER
(interrupting)
Of course not. I'm aware of
Mister Spock's qualifications.

KIRK
(grinning openly now;
turns, calls)
Mister Chekov, log Mister Spock's
Starfleet commission reactivated;
list him as Science Officer; both
effective immediately.

151 ANGLE TO INCLUDE ELEVATOR DOORS

151

as they SNAP open -- McCoy and Chapel appear. Chapel sees Spock at the science console -- she moves in quickly, overjoyed. Even McCoy seems pleased.

CHAPEL

Mr. Spock...!!!

McCOY

So help me, I'm actually pleased to see you.

But as Chapel crosses to Spock, her pleased smile brightening her whole face, Spock turns, dismisses her presence with a cold disinterested glance -- Chapel stops, stands dumbfounded. Spock gives McCoy a similar glance - turns back to his console readings as:

UHURA

That's how we all feel, Mister...

The same cold glance causes Uhura to stop in mid-sentence. Several grins directed toward Spock are now fading from bridge crew faces. Spock has turned back again for a last quick reading at the console and now stands -- totally ignoring everyone else as he speaks coolly, unemotionally to Kirk:

SPOCK

With your permission, I will now discuss these fuel equations with the Engineer.

Kirk manages a nod, a bit dumbfounded himself at Spock's strange manner. Spock heads for the elevator -- puzzled expressions from the entire bridge crew. Then Kirk calls after him, very sincerely:

KIRK

Mister Spock, welcome aboard!

Spock continues onto the elevator without any acknowledgment, leaves. Kirk glances, perplexed, at McCoy. McCoy, equally perplexed, shrugs.

McCOY

Never look a gift Vulcan in the ears, Jim.

KIRK (V.O.)
(buoyant)
Captain's Log. Stardate 7413.4.
Thanks to Mr. Spock's timely
arrival - and assistance...

153 INT. ENGINEERING - SPOCK AND SCOTT 153

Scott making an intermix chamber reading with a hand-held timer-temperature device which emits SIGNALS while Spock now in regulation uniform and hair trim, makes adjustments in the circuitry of a panel complex. During the following, they will react as if they've solved the engine problem.

KIRK (V.O.)
(continues)
... we have the engines rebalanced
into full warp capacity. Repair
time less than three hours...

154 INT. BRIDGE - ALL BRIDGE CREW EXCEPT SPOCK 154

Sulu at the helm, accelerating; just a touch of tenseness in crew as they move toward the speed which earlier threw them into the "wormhole" effect.

KIRK (V.O.)
(continues)
... which means we will now be
able to intercept Intruder while
still more than a day from Earth.

155 ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (O) 155

Stars accelerating as Sulu calls off:

SULU
Warp point eight... point nine...

The viewer shows the QUANTUM LEAP into warp drive. The stars ahead shift, streak and congeal into WARP EFFECT MASS.

SULU
(continuing)
Warp one, sir.

The others wait, then show relief as:

SULU
(continuing)
Warp two, sir... warp three...

He continues to seven.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
Engineering to Bridge... New
intermix balance holding steady.
She's not even straining!

156 INT. OFFICER'S LOUNGE (O)

156

Where, first, CAMERA SHOOTS THROUGH THE WINDOW, the myriad of stars, space, the whole magnificent vista. In the lounge, empty but for them, are Kirk and McCoy -- obviously awaiting Spock, who ENTERS and presents himself cold and aloof as before:

SPOCK
Reporting as ordered, Captain.

KIRK
Sit down, please.

Spock remains standing, addresses Kirk:

SPOCK
Sir, I would appreciate Dr. McCoy
absenting himself from this
interview.

KIRK
I want him here.
(indicating)
Sit down!

For an instant, it looks like Spock will refuse. Then, he complies but sits formally, rigidly. He ignores McCoy totally.

KIRK
You've reported that you felt
strong thought emotions. A
group of minds from a space
vessel? Could you make out any
plan, anything to do with
Earth?

SPOCK
(still formally)
Negative, Captain. I could sense

only what seemed an almost
omniscient pattern of perfect
logic. I can explain nothing
more; I understand nothing more.

Kirk is clearly disappointed -- and a bit uncomfortable
about what he must ask next. He exchanges a glance
with McCoy, then:

KIRK

Also -- there was nothing in your
report about why you're here.

SPOCK

That inquiry invades my personal
life, Captain.

McCOY

Spock, we've already guessed why
you're here...

KIRK

I inquired about you -- learned
you were studying with the
Masters...

Although Spock has been almost infuriatingly emotionless,
his expression shifts slightly. McCoy indicates this:

McCOY

That flicker of emotion confirms
our guess. You failed.

SPOCK

(facing McCoy for
the first time)
Your deductions do you credit,
Doctor... if your puerile
curiosity does not.

McCOY

(not in amusement)
And now, anger, Spock?

Spock looks straight ahead -- his face instantly com-
posed to almost total blankness.

SPOCK

(beat; nods)
I still contain fragments of my
human half.

KIRK

And whatever you sensed out here....

SPOCK

... is my only hope of accomplishing what the Masters could not.

McCOY

If you achieve perfect logic, Spock, you'll pay a price. It's given your planet ten thousand years of peace, but no poetry's been written since then, no music.

Spock has come to his feet fast - but Kirk is on his feet too, confronting him. During which:

KIRK

Let it drop, Bones.

(to Spock)

You are my Science Officer -- I'll expect an immediate report on anything further you learn or sense from here on.

SPOCK

I have accepted service here as a Starfleet officer... sir.

KIRK

(nods)

I know this has been painful, Spock. For me too. Thank you.

Spock EXITS. Kirk and McCoy exchange a troubled look, then EXIT too as CAMERA CENTERS AGAIN ON OBSERVATION WINDOW, the view of space there.

157 OMITTED

157

-

-

159

159

159A INT. BRIDGE - CLOSE ON CHEKOV'S HAND

159A

pushing red alert. The ALERT SOUNDS; the red lights begin FLASHING.

CHEKOV'S VOICE

Red alert! Red alert!

160 BRIDGE ANGLE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

160

All regulars in position (different uniforms), extra CREW hurrying in from elevators to man the remainder of the console positions. Decker is making a bridge circuit.

KIRK

Full mag on viewer!

Sulu hits a control -- viewer seems to ZOOM AHEAD and in the distance we SEE a point of light which grows into the LUMINESCENT CLOUD. The same as seen by the Klingons and Starfleet's Epsilon Nine station. Mysterious, beautiful, and menacing.

KIRK

(continuing)

Linguacode?

UHURA

Continuing friendship messages on all frequencies, sir.

CHEKOV

All decks and divisions confirm status red.

SPOCK

(flat, impassive)

We are being scanned, Captain.

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

161

as Kirk whirls toward Spock's station, calls out:

KIRK

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

SPOCK

Intruder scans emanate from the exact cloud center. Energy of a type entirely unknown to me.

UHURA

(after a moment)

No response to friendship messages, Captain.

CHEKOV

Should I go to battle stations,

sir.

KIRK

Negative, We'll take no provocative action.

Decker has reacted sharply, disapprovingly, to this:

DECKER

Recommend defensive posture,
Captain: Screens and shields.

KIRK

No...

(pause)

... that could also be misinterpreted as hostile, Mr. Decker.

(to Spock)

Cloud composition, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK

Twelve power energy field --

SULU

(in disbelief)

-- twelve power?!

DECKER

(urgently)

Captain, we've seen what their weapons can do. Shouldn't we take every possible precaution -- ?

KIRK

Mr Decker....

SPOCK

(interrupting)

Captain, I suspect there's an object at the heart of that cloud.

KIRK

(cool)

Mr. Decker, I will not provoke an attack, If that order isn't clear to you...

DECKER

(interrupting in mid sentence)

Captain, as your Exec, it's my duty to point out alternatives.

A moment of thought from Kirk.

ILIA

Five minutes to Cloud boundary!

KIRK

(a look)

I stand corrected Mr. Decker.

(toward Ilia)

Navigator, lay in a conic section
flight path into the cloud center;
bring us parallel to whatever
we find in there...

162 FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

162

The Cloud has now grown so large it DOMINATES THE ENTIRE VIEWER. Sulu hits a button, reducing magnification. Immediately, the CLOUD diminishes in size -- but almost instantly begins GROWING AGAIN. Decker's annoyance (with Kirk) suddenly seems to dissipate as his total attention is diverted to the cloud.

162A ANOTHER ANGLE - SPOCK, DECKER AND KIRK

162A

Decker turning to Spock

DECKER

That measures twelve power?
Ten thousands of starships couldn't
generate that much...

Decker trails his words, realizing that Spock isn't hearing a word. Spock's attention is on the O.S. main viewer, totally absorbed by something he's feeling. He is slowly rising from his seat, stepping forward -- Kirk becomes conscious of this, turns and sees Spock's strange expression. Before he can speak:

SPOCK

They have... they have been
communicating with us. I sense
... puzzlement. Why have we
not replied?

KIRK

Communicated with us how?

Spock shakes his head... then reacts as if sensing or theorizing something further. He turns, moves quickly to his console, begins there as if searching for something.

Interrupted by another ALARM KLAXON.

DECKER

Signal medical alert, Mister
Chekov!

COMPUTER VOICE

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

163 FULL ON THE MAIN VIEWER (O) 163

showing a WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT streaking from the
Cloud!

KIRK (O.S.)

Forcefields now...! Deflectors
up full!

SULU (O.S.)

Commencing evasive
maneuvers... !

Bridge begins to tilt.

164 REVERSE ANGLE 164

CHEKOV

Forcefields and deflectors up
full, Captain.

165 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (S) 165

The WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT speeds toward the Enterprise,
which veers sharply away now -- but WHIPLASH 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 Star-
ship. 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 of the

forcefield barriers.

167 FAVORING CHEKOV'S STATION (O) 167

as a sheet of GREEN WHIPLASH ENERGY bursts from Chekov's console -- a LASH of FLAME engulfs Chekov's arm. Automatic fire control nozzles SPURT FOAM over him as he falls twisting and groaning in pain. Ilia reacts first, crossing quickly to assist Chekov -- Decker joins her, taking over Chekov's console.

168 OMITTED 168

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

The SHEET OF WRITHING-GREEN ENERGY enveloping 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 with GREEN ENERGY BRILLIANCE, forcing all to shield their eyes against the impossible glare.

171 OMITTED 171

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 it is gone. The bridge lights go on again. Elevator doors open. Doctor Chapel and Medical Corpsmen arrive and cross immediately to where Ilia tends to the injured Chekov.

SULU
The new screens held...!

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE

Engineering to bridge; we cannot hold full power on forcefields; deflector power is down seventy percent!

173A CHEKOV'S STATION

173A

Over the following, we will HEAR Captain Kirk AD LIB order; "Divert auxiliary systems power to deflectors!" and SCOTT INTERCOM VOICE answer: "All auxiliary power to deflectors, sir." Meanwhile, Chapel and Corpsmen giving medical treatment to Chekov who is in agony. Chapel is about to give an injection.

ILIA

No, I can stop his pain.

The Deltan woman takes Chekov's upper arm in both her hands, kneading her fingers deep into nerve centers -- Chekov's pain begins to quickly recede and he is almost startled by the sudden relief. Doctor Chapel, now spraying plasti-skin on the burned hand and wrist, gives Ilia a surprised, approving look and a flicker of female friendship passes between the Deltan and Earth woman. (setting up a later story point)

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 SPARKLING, FLARING COLOR.

175 EMPHASIZING 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...

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

SPOCK

(continuing)

... frequency more than one million megahertz at such high speed their entire message lasts only a millisecond.

Chapel and Corpsman are assisting Chekov from the bridge (we'll have SEEN that the remarkable plasti-skin sprayed on his hand has completely covered the ugly burn marks - he is even able to move his fingers a bit). Ilia returns to her station -- a relief CREW WOMAN takes over from Decker at Chekov's console.

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 messages were too slow for them to be noticed.

(touches a control)

Programming computer to send linguacode at their rate.

Decker has hurried in to assist the science console. Spock indicates a console area -- Decker works there -- Spock works another section of console buttons.

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 VIEWER

178

where the oncoming WHIPLASH BOLT is SEEN emerging from the Cloud. In the b.g., 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, zero, mark, zero...

KIRK

(into intercom)

Engineering... what's happening

to our forcefields?!

179 INT. ENGINEERING

179

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

SCOTT

Systems are overloading, Captain!
Our shields cannot handle another
attack!

180 OMITTED

180

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

181

The WHIPLASH BOLT streaking toward the ship.

182 INT. BRIDGE

182

KIRK

(desperately)

Mr. Spock?

ILIA

Impact in fifteen seconds...

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

KIRK

Transmit, Mr. Spock! Now!

ILIA

Ten seconds....

183 CLOSER ON SPOCK'S STATION

183

as Spock hits the "transmit" button, and we HEAR the SHRILL BEEP SOUND (lasting but a fraction of a second), and Decker calls to Kirk:

DECKER

Transmitting...!

ILIA'S VOICE

... five seconds.

184 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (O)

184

where the WHIPLASH BOLT is now BRILLIANT, almost upon

us! Then the WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT abruptly VANISHES.
In the blink of an eye, the entire EFFECT IS GONE.

185 REACTIONS

185

relief, incredulity.

SPOCK

It appears that our message has
been understood, Captain.

KIRK

(to Uhura)

Any reply from them?

UHURA

Negative, no reply, sir.

KIRK

(returning to Spock)

Spock, have you sensed anything
else?

Spock turns, gives the O.S. viewer a glance. Then he
shakes head.

SPOCK

The 'puzzlement' I sensed was
fleeting... minor...

(ponders, then)

... as if carrying a sense of
our insignificance, Captain.

KIRK

Our... 'insignificance'?

All have reacted to this; Kirk exchanges a look with
Spock who nods firmly. Then Kirk sees that both Decker
and Sulu are throwing him a questioning look. In b.g.
McCoy and Chapel have EXITED bridge with Chekov.

SPOCK

We are obviously confronted by
a highly advanced mentality...
yet they cannot understand who
we are, or what we want.

KIRK

But they understood our messages;
they broke off the attack.

DECKER

They may have attacked only as
a warning to us, Captain. To
keep away.

SPOCK

That would presuppose a feeling,
Commander... compassion. I sensed
no emotion, only...

(reverentially)

... pure logic.

Kirk peers at Spock hoping for some assistance on
the decision; but Spock merely peers back at him ex-
pressionlessly: the decision is Kirk's. Kirk faces
Spock one last beat, then turns and starts back to-
ward his chair, calling to Ilia.

KIRK

Tactical plot on viewer.

185XC ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (O)

185XC

where the IMAGE of the "powerfield Cloud: changes to a
tactical plot of Enterprise's conic flight path ap-
proach. It shows a large schematic of the Cloud itself
as well as a series of FAINTLY BLINKING schematics of
various recent positions and directional attitudes of
the Enterprise during its approach. These blinking
Enterprise schematics show that the starship has gone
from a head-on approach to the Cloud into a (tech.
advice) skidding movement around the Cloud (the star-
ship always heading directly toward Cloud center),
with the last Enterprise positions now showing it ap-
proaching the Cloud from a quartering rear approach.

185XD REVERSE ANGLE

85XD

ILIA

Thirty seconds to Cloud
boundary...

KIRK

Opinion, Mister. Spock?

SPOCK

Recommend we proceede, Captain.

KIRK

Mr. Decker... ?

DECKER

I advise caution, Captain; we

can't withstand another attack.

KIRK

That thing is twenty hours from
Earth. We know nothing about it yet.

Decker glances around, moves close to Kirk so only
Spock is able to overhear:

DECKER

That's precisely the point,
Captain. We don't know
it will do. Moving into the
cloud -- at this time, is
an unwarranted gamble.

KIRK

How do you define unwarranted,
mister?!

DECKER

You asked my opinion, sir.

Kirk looks at him, then at Spock, who once more is
peering in momentary concentration at the viewer,
feels Kirk's gaze -- and turns to him, again expres-
sionlessly; it's up to Kirk.

ILIA

Fifteen seconds to Cloud Boundary.

KIRK

Viewer, standard ahead.

185XE ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWER (O)

185XE

Main viewer IMAGE reverts to the "powerful cloud."
All peer in grim fascination at the cloud another
moment. Then:

186 OMITTED

186

187 Kirk sits contemplating his next move. Once again, the
decision is his. He looks to the Viewer a moment, then:

187

KIRK

(to Helm)

Mr. Sulu, steady as she goes.

SULU

Aye, sir.

as the Enterprise slowly enters deeper toward the chamber ahead. We SEE the sheer size of the Cloud as opposed to that of the small ship now entering unknown territory.

As the Enterprise enters the Cloud:

On Viwscreen we SEE a vast array of IMAGES, spiralling IMAGES, changing in size, shape, colour. Its walls spinning and turning, looping and twisting, as the Enterprise proceeds further Into the Cloud.

Amazed bridge crew members can do nothing but awe at the sight before thier eye's. Even Spock has turned to view the sight now illuminating the View screen. Kirk sits pondering, amazed, thinking "What comes next?"

Moving slowly through the maze of VISUAL'S seen from the Main Viewer.

as the CLOUD OBSCURES all now. Everyone gazes at the viewer, almost mesmerized by the shifting violet power-field displays.

KIRK

(staring at viewer,
frustrated, awed)

No vessel could generate a
powerfield of this magnitude...

SPOCK

Instruments fluctuating, Captain.
Patterns unrecognizable.

SULU'S VOICE

Captain....!

Sulu peering toward O.S. main viewer, his eyes wide with incredulity.

Crew peering at O.S. main viewer with expressions of

near disbelief. Similar reactions as Kirk and Decker turn too, reacting to:

193 WHAT THEY SEE ON MAIN VIEWER (O)

193

(V'GER THEME MUSIC UP) The Cloud "Aurora" EFFECT rapidly thinning -- in the "eye of the hurricane" center of the Cloud is the object which has stunned the entire bridge crew.

Rapidly growing in size -- already frighteningly huge. Totally alien in look. Its enormous bulk is irridescent, faintly glowing, suggesting that it is made up of exotic combinations of matter, and energy far beyond the scientific knowledge or ability of Earth's 23rd Century technology. Menacing and yet strangely beautiful, both at the same time.

194 VARIOUS ANGLES ON THE BRIDGE CREW AND THE VIEWER

194

-
197

-
197

The Object continues to GROW RAPIDLY IN SIZE as the Enterprise continues moving toward it. Everyone is awed; even Spock, from whom we discern an involuntary, impressed reaction. Decker is with Spock at the science console.

DECKER

Incredible dimensions, Sir!
... I make it as seventy-eight kilometers in length...

All digest the dimensions, as:

198 ANGLE ON THE BRIDGE ELEVATOR DOORS

198

opening to admit McCoy and 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 with wide astonishment. He crosses quickly to his weapons--defense station, his eyes on the viewer. McCoy, eyes also fixed on the sight, moves to Kirk's side.

UHURA

It could hold a crew of tens of thousands...!

McCOY

Or just one thousand, ten miles tall.

KIRK
Evaluation, Mister Spock?

199 ACROSS KIRK TO SPOCK

199

(This will be the first time we've seen Spock displaying a definite reaction, almost an emotion.) So engrossed is Spock in the main viewer IMAGE that he appears not to have heard Kirk, whose AD LIBS a sharp "Mr. Spock...!" Spock looks absently at Kirk an instant, then:

SPOCK

(awed; compelled)

That vessel is generating a
forcefield measurably greater
than the radiation of the Earth's
sun.

KIRK

(turns to Uhura)

Transmit image of the Alien to
Starfleet; advise we are attempting
further communication.

UHURA

(interrupting)

Unable to make contact with
Starfleet. Our transmissions
out of the Cloud are being
reflected back.

ILIA

Distance to object now seventy-
thousand kilometers...

SULU

(turning; concerned)

We're closing in on it rapidly,
Captain.

Concern reflected on the faces of others too. Kirk considers his next move.

200 OMITTED

200

-
203

-
203

204 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ALIEN

204

CAMERA TRAVELING WITH ENTERPRISE as it moves on a

parallel--closing course -- Alien continues to GROW IN SIZE. Although it already seems an impossibly large vessel compared to the Enterprise, in reality they are still tens of thousands of kilometers apart; the incredible size of the Alien is nowhere near being realized yet.

204A INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER

204A

Tension high as -- the Alien now appears so close that its IMAGE MORE THAN FILLS VIEWER. Considerable tension of bridge -- crew members, throwing nervous looks from viewer to Kirk. How much closer?!

KIRK

Reduce magnification. Factor
4, Mr. Sulu.

SULU

(uneasy)

We're already two settings
below that, sir.

KIRK

(reacts, then)

Adjust parallel course, Navigator.
Bring us in to one hundred
kilometers distance.

Very nervous looks now directed toward Kirk. Even Spock gives him a glance, a raised eyebrow.

205 EXT. SPACE - CAMERA TRAVELING WITH ENTERPRISE

205

The Alien Object appears A DOZEN TIMES LARGER THAN ENTERPRISE and still GROWING IN SIZE.

We begin to SEE Alien exterior detailing which had not even been suspected at a longer distance.

The Enterprise is now quartering in toward the Intruder, coming closer and closer. The Alien vessel is still GROWING IN SIZE -- more and more, its exterior appears to be made of substances never before seen by a human eye -- substances considered possible only in the wildest flights of scientific theory -- plasma-matter, energy fields diamond--hard in their power, solid sheets of subatomic particles, crystalline-lace patterns which seem capable of shifting their nature and rearranging themselves.

205A ANGLE ON INTRUDER

205A

This time, the Enterprise travels on away from us, as its course takes it angling nearer and nearer the gigantic Alien Intruder -- the Starship dwindling in size, growing smaller, smaller, smaller... until it is a tiny dot compared to the enormity of the Alien vessel.

206 INT. BRIDGE - VIEWER (O)

206

We are coming alongside the mid-section of the Alien vessel, now so huge that only a small section of it now completely fills main viewer frame.

SULU

One hundred kilometers...

KIRK

Hold relative position here...

Kirk's voice is blotted out by a DEAFENING, SHRILL-ING SOUND, accompanied by a multi-hued point of LIGHT which EXPLODES into BLINDING INTENSITY, obscuring everything for an instant. Overlapping this action, we HEAR:

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Intruder alert...! Intruder alert!

Continues.

207 OMITTED

207

208 THE PLASMA ENERGY PROBE (O)

208

The BLINDING LIGHT FADES and in its lace we SEE a strange "entity" shocking us with its frightening appearance and its ugly-sounding THROBBING HUM of power. It is about seven feet tall and resembles a "blob" of raw energy in shifting patterns and colors of deep, ugly hues of upper spectrum violet. Yet, it looks strangely alive. At the end of the "tendrils" (of light) is an "eye" (a small multi-colored device)

209 CREW REACTIONS -- ELEVATORS IN B.G. (O)

209

The bridge crew reacting hard, shocked and shaken -- the THROBBING SOUND of the Alien thing intensifies as it begins to move across the bridge. Suddenly, in b.g., an elevator door snaps open and two SECURITY MEN burst onto the bridge, phasers drawn. Chekov

shouts warningly at the Men:

CHEKOV

No weapons...!

But Chekov is too late: First Security Man FIRES -- the BLAST harmlessly absorbed by the Probe which emits a SCREECHING nerve-grating SOUND --- sends out a SMALL WHIPLASH ENERGY BOLT which instantly envelopes First Security Man in a PURPLE GLOW (of implosion). Second Security Man has almost lifted his phaser -- but now carefully, slowly is moving his hand away from his weapon.

210 CLOSER - THE SECURITY MEN (O)

210

PURPLE GLOW FADES, the First Security Man has simply vanished.

210A FULL SHOT - BRIDGE

210A

Chekov, like the others, horrified, flips a switch and the COMPUTER-VOICE ("Intruder Alert") goes OFF. At the same time Chekov speaks into his intercom:

CHEKOV

Security... do not send further teams!

The Probe is sending out snake-like tendrils to the various consoles on the bridge.

These tendrils lash out in a cobra-strike movement, the tendril-head seeming to enter into the console affected -- at which time all monitors and instrument lights there come ON as if the Probe is "reading" each console function. The crew carefully stays clear of the tendrils.

Spock has risen, moving to Kirk's side as he slowly brings his tricorder up, very carefully extracting its tiny sensor and aiming it at the probe.

CHEKOV

(shaken)

No intruder readings on other decks, Captain...

(to Spock)

Can that be one of their crew?

SPOCK

(quiet)

A probe from their vessel...
(to Kirk)
A plasma-energy combination...

Meanwhile, the probe is now hovering near Chekov who sits frozen, fists clenched, jaw tight.

DECKER
Don't interfere with it...!

CHEKOV
Absolutely, I will not interfere!

210B ANGLE INCLUDING SPOCK'S CONSOLE (O)

210B

as the "probe" withdraws an energy-tendrill from one bridge station and "inserts" it into another console.

KIRK
No one interfere...! It doesn't seem interested in us -- only the ship...!

Kirk's words are never completed as suddenly all the energy tendrils withdraw from all consoles and a larger, more powerful-looking tendrill lashes out, snaking into the science console complex.

210C CLOSER ON SCIENCE CONSOLE

210C

Where, also immediately, all the console and computer lights are suddenly flashing wildly, rapidly --

-- There is an incredibly fast EXCHANGE OF HIGH-PITCHED BEES -- the computer obviously in unauthorized communication with the probe!

KIRK
Computer off!

DECKER
It's taken control of the computer...!

KIRK
It's running our records! Starfleet strength, Earth defenses...

As Decker moves to the main power control, Spock now steps in, his Vulcan strength easily brushing Kirk and Decker aside. Spock clasps his fists above his head,

brings it down in a SHATTERING BLOW on the console. It splits open! As the bridge lights dim even more, and as the science console shorts itself out -- and off, Decker confronts Spock:

DECKER

We could have cut it off at the main computer...

SPOCK

This served the purpose.

Kirk has been giving Spock a puzzled look -- Spock now turns abruptly, and:

210D ANOTHER ANGLE (O)

210D

as Spock, in stepping back, accidentally brushes the probe's energy tendril -- a FLASH OF LIGHT at the contact point sends Spock sinning under the rail and to the floor near Ilia. The probe's energy-tendril has withdrawn from the darkened science console, hovers high over the dazed Spock as if angrily seeking the reason for the break in its computer contact. Spock starts to rise.

ILIA

Mr. Spock, don't move...!

Decker steps toward her, AD LIBBING a grim "Ilia...!" But he has no chance as:

211 OMITTED

211

-

-

219

219

220 CLOSER ON ILIA (O)

220

The Probe hovers over her, its whole mass seemingly about to envelope her with a single tendril extended toward her, somehow freezing her into immobility - and then the entire Probe DISSOLVES IN A BLINDING FLASH OF WHITE, obscuring Ilia. Almost instantly the WHITE FLASH FADES -- but Ilia has vanished -- her tricorder clattering to the deck.

221 OMITTED

221

222 ACROSS THE NAVIGATOR'S STATION TO KIRK AND DECKER

222

helpless, shocked, gazing at the place Ilia was -- but which is now empty.

DECKER
(to Kirk, quiet
fury)

This is how I define unwarranted!

And almost at the same moment a new BRIDGE ALARM
SIGNAL.

223 OMITTED 223

- -

232 232

233 The ALARM still sounding as from the giant alien ves- 233
sel, we SEE STRANGE, OPAQUE ENERGY PATTERNS STREAKING
TOWARD US. Kirk vaults to the command chair, lunges
for controls, as Decker races to the weapons-defense
console.

DECKER
(voice amplified)
The ship is under attack...!
Man all defensive stations...!

KIRK
Forcefields, full remaining
strength...! Total reserve!

Appropriate ALARM KLAXONS, and COMPUTER VOICES begin
SOUNDING, and all this is lost in a SUDDEN SHRILLING
SOUND (a constant, high-pitched tone). For a moment
the energy patterns are prominent on the viewer --
and then the PATTERNS VANISHED and the SHRILL SOUND
FADES -- and:

234 FAVOR THE VIEWER (O) 234

showing V'ger GROWING RAPIDLY IN SIZE. The Enterprise
is being pulled along the length of the big ship,
toward its "prow."

SPOCK
Captain, we have been seized
by a tractor beam...!

KIRK
(to Decker)
Get someone up here to take
the Navigator's station...!
(into intercom)
Engineering... full emergency
power!

DECKER
(into intercom)
Chief Difalco to the bridge;
on the double!

234A ENGINEERING

234A

in a state of controlled chaos, all personnel at their stations, the Engine CORE GLOWING. Scott is working his controls, speaking into the intercom:

SCOTT
Going to full emergency...
(studying readings)
But Captain, if we don't break
free in fifteen seconds, she'll
burn up...

234B INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING SPOCK

234B

as Spock studies his readings, and:

SPOCK
We cannot break free, Captain.
(indicates monitors)
We do not have a fraction of
the power necessary.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Delay that order, Scotty...!
Disengage all main drive systems!

Spock peers in deep concentration at the Main Viewer, trying to sense some clue. Kirk glances at him another moment, then turns to the Main Viewer himself, watches in frustrated helplessness.

235 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE BEING PULLED TOWARD V'GER (S)

235

the starship being pulled toward the giant as though on a taut cable. As we MOVE CLOSER, we SEE still more intricate details of the incredible Alien design.

236 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER (O)

236

as Difalco arrives on the run, and Decker AD LIBS to her, "Assume Navigator's station, Chief...!" Difalco, bewildered, wants to ask what happened, but no time, and she quickly sits at the post, begins orienting herself. Meanwhile, Decker has begun an Executive

Officer's bridge circuit, assisting with various consoles. Kirk is glancing toward Spock who continues concentrating on the Viewer, striving to comprehend the myriad of thoughts he is sensing from the Aliens. McCoy also arrives on the bridge, takes in the chaotic scene, watches the Viewer grimly.

237 OMITTED 237

- -
238 238

239 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND V'GER (S) 239

At the forward end of the giant, an odd-shaped "iris" begins opening menacingly. And it is frighteningly obvious that the tractor beam is pulling the Enterprise to the opening.

240 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER (O) 240

showing the unusual "iris" now almost fully open as Enterprise is drawn closer, closer -- through the "iris" we now SEE (some of) V'ger's interior: a dark void relieved only by strange flickering glows of distant ENERGY FIELD PATTERNS.

The crew reacts with understandable awe, apprehension, curiosity, as:

DECKER

Captain, suggest a maximum phaser strike directly at the beam might weaken it just enough for us to break free --

Spock replies for Kirk: quickly, as though to make his point convincingly:

SPOCK

Break free to where, Commander...?
(to Kirk)
Any show of resistance would not only be futile, Captain...

240XA ACROSS SPOCK TO KIRK (DECKER AND McCOY IN B.G.) 240XA

as Kirk reacts somewhat curiously to Spock's remark, but it is Decker who articulates it:

DECKER

(troubled; suspicious)
We don't know that, Mr. Spock.

Why are you opposed to trying?

Before Spock can reply:

UHURA

They're pulling us inside...!

All face the Viewer again, react, with McCoy who has been observing all these reactions now galvanized into action:

McCOY

(to Chekov)

Medical observers to all decks!

And he hurries toward the elevators, CAMERA WITH HIM a moment, then SWINGING BACK TO:

240A PAST KIRK TO VIEWER (O)

240A

Kirk staring at the viewer -- the "iris" now fully open so that the exterior of V'ger is no longer visible -- and all we can SEE is the monstrous void dead ahead, which is looming faster and larger before our eyes. And now we are inside.

241 OMITTED

241

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-

243

243

244 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND V'GER - AT THE "IRIS" (S)

244

Enterprise now being pulled past the opening -- into the ship proper. Now we can SEE that the dark void is actually a vast chamber, dimly and intermittently lit by POWERFIELDS appearing and vanishing along the vessel's inner walls, which are miles away in the distance. And here and there in the chamber gigantic ENERGY DISPLAYS erupt briefly with a certain symmetry that suggests they must be part of V'ger's ower or control systems.

245 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER (O)

245

Kirk peering awed at the Viewer, the incredible sight of the chamber -- suddenly glances up to see that Spock is standing beside him -- Decker nearby, turns to Spock:

DECKER

(to Spock)

Why bring us inside? Not to

destroy us; they could have
done that outside.

KIRK

They could have many ways of
destroying things, Mr. Decker.

SPOCK

(peering at Viewer)

Something about us puzzles them...
perhaps even concerns them.

245A ANGLE ON UHURA

245A

Reacting to a console reading:

UHURA

Captain, photic-sonar readings
indicate the aperture is closing;
we're trapped, sir...!

246 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE ENTERING VIEWER (S)

246

The starship is pulled inside, the "iris" is closing
behind it.

247 INT. BRIDGE - FAVORING THE VIEWER (O)

247

The viewer image changing from the huge dark chamber,
rear angle shot, showing the "iris" closing.

SULU

Reverse angle on the viewer,
Captain.

On the viewer the final glimmer from exterior space
as the "iris" closes completely.

248 REACTIONS

248

All eyes on the viewer, CAMERA FINDING ONE FACE AFTER
ANOTHER, the reality of the situation etched into
each face. Then:

248A FAVORING KIRK

248A

As Spock turns from a reading:

SPOCK

The tractor beam has released
us, Captain.

DIFALCO

Confirmed: Vessel is floating
free. No forward momentum.

KIRK

Viewer ahead.

SULU

Viewer ahead, sir.

248B INSERT - MAIN VIEWER

248B

Ahead, the cavernous interior of V'ger.

248C BACK TO SHOT

248C

Kirk eying the main viewer -- Decker watching Kirk.

KIRK

Maneuvering thrusters, Mr.
Sulu; ahead one third.

(to Spock)

Full sensor scan, Mr. Spock;
they can't expect us not
to look them over now!

SULU

(manipulating controls)

Thrusters ahead, one third.

SPOCK

(manipulating
controls)

Commencing sensor scans.

Kirk rises, goes to Spock's station.

249 INT. V'GER ENTRANCE CHAMBER - ENTERPRISE (S)

249

The Enterprise moving slowly forward in this vastness,
its running lights merely specks of light, candles in
the darkness. In the distance those occasional ERUPT-
ING POWER DISPLAYS in distant locations, sizes, shapes
and patterns.

250 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (O)

250

showing another perspective of the above, and further
away GLOWING ENERGY FIELDS dimly illuminating the alien
ship's walls -- miles away. Strange semi--solid LIGHT
SHAPES (some are "sensor-bee" swarms) traverse the dark-
ness in random directions. But in the distance ahead,
there seems to be an opening to another chamber.

SULU
(of Viewer)
Something ahead, sir; looks
like another area...
(reacts)
It's closing up...!

Sulu is indicating what appears to be a lace-bulwark of POWERFIELD PATTERNS closing off the "chamber" in the distance ahead. Kirk, from the Science Station calls out:

KIRK
Hold station...!

SULU
(manipulating
controls)
Thrusters at station keeping...

251 ANGLE EMPHASIZING SPOCK

251

at his Science consoles, working rapidly, shifting from one set of controls to another. Now he hits a master control -- his console monitors FLASH, then go dark.

SPOCK
Captain...

Spock brings a monitor IMAGE ON again, indicates a (Povill) pattern showing a line hitting something, then reversing direction.

SPOCK
(continuing)
All scans are being reflected
back, Captain. Our sensors are
useless.

251A ACROSS THEM TO THE MAIN VIEWER

251A

Kirk reacts with disappointment, indicates the main viewer.

KIRK
Have you been able to analyze
any of this...?

SPOCK
(voice increasingly
reverential)

I believe the light flares to be energy fields -- undoubtedly part of the vessel's inner mechanism. A technology so incredibly sophisticated that I cannot --

COMPUTER VOICE

(overlapping)

Intruder Alert! Intruder Alert..!

(continues)

252	OMITTED	252
-		-
253		253
254	ANGLE ON CHEKOV	254

Reacting to a console reading:

CHEKOV

Deck four, Captain; Officers' Quarters...!

KIRK

(to Chekov)

Have a security team meet me at Deck Four main elevator!

A moment's reaction from all at this, Kirk hurrying toward elevator, calling:

KIRK

(continuing)

Take the conn, Mr. Decker: Hold present position...

(gesturing Spock to join him)

Spock...

And Spock rises, joins Kirk and they hurriedly exit, the CAMERA SWINGING BACK to Decker, his perplexed concern (because of Ilia).

254A	INT. ILIA'S CABIN - THE SONIC SHOWER	254A
------	--------------------------------------	------

Where we SEE, behind the translucent stall door, what is unmistakably the form of the NUDE FEMALE.

255	INT. ILIA'S CABIN - KIRK	255
-----	--------------------------	-----

entering, Spock slightly behind him - and one Security

Guard. Kirk glances around the room, now glances at the shower area and reacts as he sees the NAKED FORM. The others react similarly, even Spock cannot help repressing an expression of surprise. A moment's uncertainty as Kirk peers at them, then he steps to the stall door, hesitates another instant -- then slides the door open.

(NOTE: Arrange lighting for bizarre, mysterious effect.)

Kirk's eyes cannot believe what he is seeing:

255A "ILIA"

255A

standing in the sonic mist, naked but for a small multi-colored button embedded in her throat. As she looks at Kirk -- and the others -- the men peer back at her, speechless.

"ILIA"

I have been programmed by V'ger to observe and record normal functioning of the carbon-based units infesting USS ENTERPRISE.

Kirk peers at her another nonplussed moment, then leans into the shower to touch a control, his eyes fixed on the lovely body behind the mist. He punches in a three digit code. Immediately a HUMMING SOUND emanates from the shower stall, Kirk closing the door, but 'Ilia' remaining inside.

256 ACROSS KIRK AND THE OTHERS TO THE SHOWER STALL

256

The HUMMING SOUND just now reaching a gentle crescendo -- through the translucent door you can see COLORS ENVELOPING "ILIA'S" FORM. And now the SOUND STOPS. "Ilia", attired in a leisure robe, steps from the stall, into the room. She stands facing Kirk, her face impassive, eyes unblinking. He looks her back a moment, then glances at Spock, who is gazing at "Ilia" in absolute fascination. Kirk addresses her:

KIRK

Who is... 'V'ger'...?

"ILIA"

V'ger is that which programmed me.

KIRK

Is V'ger the Captain of the alien vessel?

rushing in, concerned:

McCOY

Jim, what's --

At the sight of 'Ilia", McCoy's words die in his throat -- and his trained eyes have instantly told him something is awry. He unslings his tricorder, aims the sensor unit at "Ilia". As he reads his instruments, his face reveals the results (incredulity, fascination). Meanwhile, from the start:

"ILIA"

V'ger is that which seeks the
Creator.

McCOY

(of "Ilia")

Jim, this is a mechanism...!

Kirk stares at McCoy, then at "Ilia" and realizes that "Ilia" is indeed non-human. And quickly:

KIRK

Where is Lt. Ilia?

"ILIA"

That unit no longer functions.
I have been given its form to
more readily communicate with
the carbon-based units infesting
Enterprise.

SECURITY GUARD

"Carbon-based units"...?

McCOY

(drily)

Humans, Ensign Lang: us.
(continues tricorder
exam, increasingly
impressed)

KIRK

(to "Ilia")

Why does V'ger travel to
the third planet of the
solar system directly
ahead?

"ILIA"
V'ger travels to the third
planet to find the Creator.

Stunned, disbelieving reactions as all four attempt to digest this -- Spock gazing at "Ilia" with even more rapt fascination. Kirk, bewildered, addresses the others:

KIRK
Find the Creator? What Creator?
Whose...!?
(to "Ilia")
What does V'ger want of the
'Creator'... ?

"ILIA"
To join with him.

256B FAVORING SPOCK

256B

suddenly alert, addressing "Ilia":

SPOCK
Join with the Creator... ? How?

"ILIA"
V'ger and the Creator will become
One.

SPOCK
Who is the Creator?

McCOY
(worried)
Mr. Spock, be careful.

"ILIA"
The Creator is that which created
V'ger.

KIRK
Who is V'ger?

"ILIA"
V'ger is that which seeks the
Creator.

Another moment of total exasperation, frustration, during which "Ilia" seems to be waiting politely, patiently for

any further questions. When none are forthcoming:

"ILIA"

(continuing; pleasant,
bland)

I am ready to commence my
observations.

SPOCK

(fast; to McCoy)

Doctor, a thorough examination
of this probe might provide some
insight into those who manufactured
it, and how to deal with them.

McCOY

Let's get her to sickbay.

And he grasps "Ilia's" arm to escort her. But is as
though he has seized cast iron: immovable. McCoy is
thrown off balance merely by 'Ilia's" remaining sta-
tionary. She ignores McCoy, addresses Kirk:

"ILIA"

I am programmed to observe and
record normal functioning
procedures of the carbon-based
units.

256B Kirk glances at McCoy, who is totally bemused, but then 256B
Kirk quickly responds to "Ilia":

KIRK

The examination is a normal
function.

"ILIA"

(a beat)

You may proceede.

McCOY

(carefully)

Thank you.

257 CLOSE SHOT OF EXAMINING ROOM VIEWER (O)

257

scanning a "body". PULL BACK TO SHOW McCoy, Chapel,
Kirk, Spock and Chekov -- standing over "ILIA" who lies
prone on the table, the physicians moving the scanner
over her.

McCOY

(from the start;
indicating)
... micro-miniature hydraulics,
sensors, molecule-sized multi-
processor chips... and look at
this...

In the b.g., Decker enters, grimly observes the proceed-
ings.

CHAPEL
(impressed)
An osmotic micro-pump... here
and here. Even the smallest
body functions are exactly
duplicated.
(traces with finger
on screen)
And every exocrine system is
here, too --

Chapel breaks off abruptly, noticing "Ilia" is peering
intently -- almost with a glimmer of recognition -- at
Decker. Slightly disconcerted, Chapel continues:

CHAPEL
(continuing)
-- even eye moisture.

"ILIA"
(peering at Decker)
Deck -- er.

257A FAVORING SPOCK

257A

as everyone reacts to "Ilia's" utterance of Decker's
name. It seems to make the deepest impression on
Spock, confirming something he has suspected.

SPOCK
(to "Ilia")
Interesting. Not 'Decker-unit'?

"Ilia" continues peering at Decker with just a hint
of a puzzled frown, a glimmer of distant recognition.
It's the first time we've seen her expression look
anything but cool and bland. This results in the
quizzical rising of one of Spock's eyebrows.

258 ANOTHER ANGLE

258

McCoy's examination now turns "Ilia" away from the

others. Spock quickly catches Kirk's and Decker's attention, indicates an adjoining door -- they follow him out of the room.

259 INT. McCOY'S OFFICE

259

as Kirk, Spock and Decker enter, the door snapping shut -- and Spock touching the electronic lock to secure them. He faces the others:

SPOCK

Captain... this probe may be a key
a key to the Aliens.

DECKER

It's a programmed mechanism,
Mr. Spock...

SPOCK

We have just seen that its body
duplicates our navigator in
precise detail. Suppose that
beneath its programming, the
real Ilia's memory patterns are
duplicated with equal precision.

KIRK

They had a pattern to follow...

SPOCK

(nods)

... they may have followed it
too precisely.

KIRK

(comprehending)

Ilia's memory, her feelings of
loyalty, friendship, obedience...
might all be there.

259A ANGLE ON DECKER

259A

also comprehending, and not liking it one bit as Spock
and Kirk are both turning their attention to him.

SPOCK

Exactly.

(to Decker)

And you did have a 'relationship'
with Lieutenant Ilia, Commander.

DECKER

That probe in there -- in a different form now -- is the same thing that killed Ilia!

KIRK

Commander, we're locked in an alien vessel, six hours from Earth orbit, our only contact with our captors is the probe. If we can control it, persuade it, use it in some way...

Interrupted by the SOUND of someone trying to open the locked door behind them. Then a METAL RIPPING SOUND as they whirl to see:

260 MEDICAL OFFICE DOOR

260

with the METAL BUCKLING, TEARING -- and a single hand slicing the steel door like paper. It is the "Ilia" probe, her face absolutely impassive, her whole manner incongruously benign. (Behind her, a startled McCoy, Chapel and Chekov.) "Ilia" speaks flatly, blandly.

"ILIA"

I have recorded enough here.
(motions to Kirk)
You will now assist me further.

Kirk exchanges a quick glance with Spock. Then:

KIRK

(indicating Decker)
The Decker-unit can assist you with much greater efficiency...

"Ilia" has seemed about to object -- but now her eyes hold on Decker. Then she nods.

KIRK

(continuing)
Carry on with your assignment, Mr. Decker.

260A ANOTHER ANGLE - ACROSS DECKER TO THE SMASHED DOOR
(AND "ILIA")

260A

as Decker looks at "Ilia" who stands at the torn door. You can read Decker's mind: I'm supposed to persuade that?! He turns back, finds Kirk's eyes on him.

Decker nods.

DECKER

Aye, sir.

"Ilia" and a reluctant Decker EXIT.

260B EMPHASIZING SPOCK

260B

looking very troubled as they watch Decker and "Ilia" leave. Kirk notices.

KIRK

Spock? Concerned about his chances?

SPOCK

I am uneasy with that being our only hope of more information.

Spock EXITS.

261 INT. V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE

261

floating in the vast, eerie, alien chamber -- sporadic FLASHES OF ENERGY, erupting now and then. Various other EFFECTS. OVER this, Kirk's VOICE:

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log. Stardate 7414.1. Our best estimates place us some four hours from Earth. No significant Ilia memory patterns within the alien probe. This remains our only means of contact with our captor.

262 INT. ENTERPRISE AIRLOCK AREA

262

The area dimly lit -- unoccupied but for a lone AIRLOCK TECHNICIAN checking and adjusting instruments. The CAMERA MOVES PAST him to FIND:

263 SPOCK

263

His face fixed with grim determination, walking quietly with obvious intent not to attract the Tech's attention. Now he steals up behind the TECH -- and in an instant has applied a Vulcan nerve pinch. The Tech slumps over his console.

264 INT KIRK'S CABIN - VIEWER MONITOR

264

Showing a CLOSE SHOT of ENTERPRISE PICTURES, then PULL BACK SLIGHTLY for an IMAGE of Decker and "Ilia" walking through the Rec Deck. PULL BACK FURTHER TO SHOW Kirk watching this -- and with him is McCoy. They continue watching a troubled beat, as:

DECKER

(of pictures)

All these vessels were called
"Enterprise".

"Ilia" is giving the pictures a very interested look as we HEAR in Kirk's cabin:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

(controlled excitement)

Bridge to Captain...

265	OMITTED	265
266	INT. BRIDGE - UHURA'S STATION (SCIENCE STATION IN B.G.)	266

Uhura at her console, struggling to hear the signal.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

Kirk here.

In the b.g., Spock's station a MAINTENANCE TEAM is replacing the broken Science Station computer. (Spock is conspicuously absent.)

UHURA

A faint signal from Starfleet,
sir. They have the intruder on
their monitors...

(struggling to
hear)

They show us... three hours...
twenty-four minutes from Earth!

KIRK'S VOICE

(thru intercom)

Thank you.

267	INT. RECREATION DECK	267
-----	----------------------	-----

Decker and "Ilia", the Rec Deck unoccupied but for a pair of wary SECURITY GUARDS at a very discreet distance. They are near the pictures of the five Enterprises, which should be FEATURED in this SHOT, as

Decker waves his hand about the huge room.

DECKER

The carbon units use this area
for recreation...

(carefully)

What type of recreation does the
crew aboard your vessel enjoy...?

268 CLOSER TWO SHOT (PICTURES O.S.)

268

As "Ilia" moves on into the room, Decker follows:

"ILIA"

The words 'recreation' and 'enjoy'
have no meaning to my programming.

Decker peers at the lovely android with frustration -- and no little pain, for she is after all the exact replica of Ilia. She pays not the slightest attention to Decker's reaction, and begins walking about the Rec Deck taking in (and, clearly, transmitting all images to V'ger) the sights. They are near a game area (electronic games), and now Decker points to one game, switches it on -- presses button to activate its LIGHTS and SOUNDS. "Ilia" watches interestedly as Decker operates the game.

DECKER

Ilia 'enjoyed' this game... she
nearly always won --

And he demonstrates again, as "Ilia" steps to the device, deftly hits some buttons -- and for just an instant she turns to Decker with a momentary glimmer of recognition.

269 INT. KIRK'S CABIN - GROUP WATCHING THE MONITOR

269

McCoy watching with special interest:

McCOY

(approving)

Good! He's using audial-visual
association.

But the words are not out of McCoy's mouth when "Ilia" says:

"ILIA"

This device serves no purpose.

She steps away from the game; Decker's disappointment is evident. So is everyone else's.

KIRK

Damn...!

McCOY

(nods grimly)

She needs something else:
something much more personal to
stimulate memory patterns. Something
with a more emotional tie.

Kirk reacts to this, reflective.

270 INT. REC DECK FULL ON DECKER AND "ILIA"

270

Decker waving back toward the general area of the Enterprise pictures.

DECKER

The crews of the previous Enterprises were also carbon units. In what way is the life form in your vessel different?

"ILIA"

Carbon units are not true life forms... Do those images represent how Enterprise has evolved into its present form?

DECKER

(hoping he's struck
a responsive chord)

Yes.

"ILIA"

Carbon units have clearly retarded Enterprise's proper evolution.

DECKER

(controlling surprise)

What is Enterprise's proper evolution?

"ILIA"

Enterprise should not require the presence of carbon units.

And with this she moves off, observing other Rec Deck objects. Decker moves with her; then:

DECKER
(carefully)
Enterprise would be unable to
function without carbon units.

"ILIA"
More data concerning this functioning
is necessary before carbon units can
be patterned for data storage.

271 ACROSS "ILIA" TO DECKER

271

as he reacts to this ominous note; he stops abruptly.

DECKER
What does that mean?

"ILIA"
(stopping; almost
pleasantly)
When my examination is complete,
the carbon units will be reduced
to data patterns.

This has been delivered with chilling blandness, and she stands facing Decker, almost as though waiting for him to thank her. He thinks fast now.

DECKER
Within you are memory patterns of
a carbon unit. If I can help you
revive these patterns; you could
understand our functions better.

"ILIA"
That is logical. You may procede.

272 ON DECKER

272

realizing the difficult task ahead; the pain he will
suffer.

273 INT. V'GER - ANGLE UP TOWARD ENTERPRISE (M)

273

The ship stationary in the chamber as now we SEE an exterior hatch sliding fully open. Up through the hatch a circular airlock door opens -- and a tiny figure in a thruster spacesuit emerges, steps into space, slowly floats down through the hatch and under the Enterprise saucer section. In this and subsequent VIEWS we will SEE that on the rear pack of his thruster

spacesuit is a FLASHING STROBE LIGHT which regularly EMITS the identifying SIGNAL of this particular suit. (By which Kirk will be able to see Spock's position even from several miles away.)

274 CLOSER ON THE SPACESUITED FIGURE (M)

274

MOVING TOWARD the CAMERA until the features behind the face mask are clearly identifiable: Spock, his face set in the same grim, determined expression, as he touches his spacesuit transmitter control.

SPOCK

Computer, commence recording.
Captain Kirk -- this message
will detail my attempt to
contact the aliens...

275 INT. BRIDGE

275

Kirk ENTERING, crossing Uhura as she calls:

UHURA

Starfleet signals, sir, growing
in strength...

(listening intently)

They -- have Intruder on their
monitors -- it's decelerating --
powerfield cloud beginning to
dissipate...

SULU

Confirm, Captain. Lunar beacons
indicate Intruder on a course
into Earth orbit...

CHEKOV

(interrupting)

Sir! Airlock four has been opened;
a thruster suit is reported missing!

KIRK

(reacts knowingly)

Spock...!

(to navigator)

Get a fix on his position!

276 INT. V'GER - MED. ON SPOCK

276

His features now set into an almost trance-like expression as he concentrates on the thought emanations. Then we SEE his head turn, he peers off -- then he

moves his thruster controls. We SEE the small blue jets of his thrusters -- his spacesuit figure begins to move off in the direction he was concentrating upon.

277 ANOTHER ANGLE - SPOCK

277

His thrusters moving him across V'ger's vast chamber then dropping down into a deep "trough"-like area which stretches into the distance ahead of him. A cloud of CRYSTAL FORMS (Kirk's entrapment) become visible to one side but Spock passes them at some distance and does not attract them.

We can SEE more clearly now the point on the inner wall of the trough toward which Spock is heading. It is an unusual combination of GLOWING FORCEFIELDS which seem to mark this point of the vessel as of some importance. (Here, also, we will become aware of "sensor-bee" swarms, intermittently darting toward this same wall from all points of the chamber.)

278 INT. AIRLOCK AREA

278

SHOWING Kirk in a thruster spacesuit, helmet being readied by AIRLOCK TECHNICIANS. McCoy is also here, arguing with Kirk:

KIRK

(from the start)

... I don't want him stopped, Bones;
I want him to lead me to whatever's
out there...!

McCOY

And if that 'whatever' has taken
over his mind....?

KIRK

Then he'll have still led me to
it, won't he?

And Kirk steps into the airlock door, hits a control -- it begins sliding closed behind him.

279 INT. V'GER - ANGLE UP TOWARD ENTERPRISE

279

UP THROUGH the circular airlock door as it slides open -- and Kirk's tiny spacesuited figure floats down clear of the saucer.

280 CLOSER ON KIRK

280

SEEING his face through the spacesuit faceplate as he scans the darkness.

SULU'S VOICE

Bridge, Captain. We make Spock as 26 Mark 345 degrees off ship's axis.

During which, Kirk spots something.

281 KIRK'S POV 281

Spock's STROBE blinker at a mile or so distance, nearing V'ger's inner walls.

282 ANGLE ON KIRK 282

KIRK

I have him in sight.

During which, Kirk touches his thruster controls and blue thruster jet propels him off in the direction indicated. His thrusters come on for a longer period of time as he accelerates to the higher speed necessary to overtake Spock...

283 INT. ILIA'S QUARTERS 283

The DOOR SNAPPING open, and "Ilia", McCoy and Decker entering. Then CAMERA REVEALS Chapel already inside, looking through some female adornments she's found there.

CHAPEL

I remember Lt. Ilia once mentioning that she wore this...

DECKER

(reacting; tight)

... when we met.

Clearly this is very painful to Decker. Meanwhile, Chapel hands the Deltan headband to "Ilia".

CHAPEL

(gently)

Put it on.

"Ilia" hasn't the slightest idea what to do with the headband, holds it, runs her fingers over the jewels and feathers embedded into it. Chapel takes it from

her, places it on 'Ilia's" head, now switches on the light illuminating the dressing table mirror -- stands behind her with Decker, both watching apprehensively.

284 ANGLE ON "ILIA"

284

studying her image in the mirror, her face totally blank a moment, but then breaking into a bemused frown -- as though trying to remember. And:

CHAPEL

(helpfully)

Ilia...

DECKER

(quiet; urging)

On Delta... remember...?

And it seems that "Ilia" does remember. She peers at her image, then sets the headband into its exact proper position. Then she turns and looks at them with recognition.

"ILIA"

(haltingly)

Dr. Chapel...

285 ACROSS CHAPEL TO DECKER

285

as Chapel smiles, pleased, and looks at Decker who stares at "Ilia" nonplussed. This is Ilia coming alive!

"ILIA"

(to Decker)

"Will..."

And she touches his hand, runs her own hand over it, and smiles.

Decker is completely overwhelmed, struggles for words and looks to McCoy for some kind of help. McCoy realizes Decker is losing himself in fantasy.

McCOY

(gently reminding)

Commander... this is a mechanism...

Decker is startled, and for another split-second he's lost -- but then he realizes the reality, and what he should do:

DECKER

(gently; but urgingly)
Ilia, help us make direct contact
with V'ger...

"ILIA

I... cannot.

Decker looks at "Ilia's" hand still resting on his.
Then:

DECKER

Then tell us who V'ger is; where
he's from... We need your help.

For another moment "Ilia" continues smiling at Decker,
holding his hand. Then, abruptly, the smile vanishes
-- the hand is released. Clearly, she's again the
probe, as:

"ILIA"

Why have two carbon units entered
V'ger...?

Decker glances at McCoy, who shakes his head almost
imperceptibly: he doesn't know. But Decker has an
obvious reply:

DECKER

They want to make contact with
V'ger...

(trying to revive
"Ilia's" memory again;
touches her hand)

Ilia...

"Ilia" peers at him blankly, allows him to continue
touching her hand, but obviously it means nothing to
her.

DECKER

(continuing;
distressed,
to "Ilia")

Does V'ger object to the presence
of the two carbon units?

"ILIA"

The carbon units are of no
consequence; V'ger will determine
their purpose.

McCOY

Their purpose is to survive.

"ILIA"

That is also V'ger's purpose.

Decker's face reflects his bemusement:

DECKER

You said V'ger's purpose was to
find and join with the Creator.

"ILIA"

That is how V'ger will survive.

286 ON DECKER

286

as now, the bemusement changes to just the slightest
enlightenment.

"ILIA"

I wish to continue my observations.

287 INT. V'GER - KIRK MANEUVERING WITHIN THE CHAMBER

287

Kirk but a small object, thruster jets occasionally
spurting as he guides himself deeper into the trench
as he continues forward progress in the direction he
saw Spock taking.

288 CLOSER ON KIRK

288

So we can SEE his face (through the plate), as he looks
ahead into the distance toward Spock.

289 KIRK'S POV (O)

289

Spock's STROBE signal closer and Spock's tiny space-
suited figure now becoming dimly visible as he moves
steadily toward the GLOWING FORCEFIELDS of the inner
wall.

290 ON KIRK

290

His attention fixed on Spock, he never notices until
an instant too late an O.S. object; quickly he hits a
thruster control, and we SEE the MANEUVERING JET turn
him to the side as:

291 WIDER ANGLE - KIRK AND THE BLOB FORMATION (O)

291

A swarm of strange-looking translucent crystal-like
FORMS on a collision course with Kirk. (NOTE: They

were traveling randomly, and are not deliberate obstructions. However, Kirk's nearness now has attracted them and the swarm of them heads in his direction. Kirk tries to avoid them; he hits a second MANEUVERING JET -- but he overcompensates, and spins straight into the intercepting swarm of them.

292 MED. SHOT - KIRK (O)

292

as the nearest crystal forms WHIP INTO SHOT, adhering to Kirk's spacesuit. He hits full MANEUVERING JETS now, seems to make some escape, but still more forms WHIP IN, adhere.

KIRK

Bridge...!

293 INT. BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING HELM

293

All eyes anxiously on the O.S. main viewer.

KIRK'S VOICE

... stand by, I may be in trouble...

Sulu hits the viewer magnification control.

294 ANGLE TO MAIN VIEWER (M)

294

As the distant STROBE FLASHES of Kirk's spacesuit are MAGNIFIED CLOSER, pulling Kirk into MEDIUM LONG SHOT. We can SEE the details of the swarm of forms adhering. But we can SEE that Kirk's spacesuit is now about half covered with them!

294A REVERSE ANGLE

294A

Expressions of bridge crew to reflect the horror of what they're seeing as:

SULU

Your phaser, Captain...!

Use your phaser...!

KIRK'S VOICE

(transmitter, weak)

Can't... reach... phas --

(transmission breaks
off in heavy STATIC)

CHEKOV

Airlocks two and four --
prepare to launch rescue

teams!

(glancing at viewer)

Chief Lang! Get them out
there! Fast!

SULU

Mr. Spock, the Captain is in
trouble, directly behind you --
three hundred meters!

(beat)

Mr. Spock!

Looks of distress are exchanged.

295 INT. V'GER - SPOCK

295

Spock's spacesuited figure MOVING TOWARD the CAMERA,
as we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE

(weak; STATIC)

... Spock...! ... need help...!
... trapped...!

No indication at first that Spock has heard; his face
set with determination, his eyes fixed on his destin-
ation: the inner wall.

KIRK'S VOICE

(continuing; weakening;
STATIC)

... pressure on me...! ... can't
move...! Spock...!

296 ON SPOCK - CLOSE

296

as Kirk's VOICE STOPS -- and all that is heard now
is the HEAVY STATIC crackling ominously. Spock's
expression flickers, then he hits reverse thruster
JETS, stops -- he turns to glance at the inner wall,
then his thrusters turn him so he can look back the
way he came from. But he cannot resist Kirk's call;
he suddenly hits his thruster controls, then JETS
FLARE, and:

297 WIDER ANGLE - SPOCK

297

as thruster JETS accelerate him back toward Kirk.

298 INT. BRIDGE - VIEWER (M)

298

showing Kirk's spacesuit completely covered, encased

in the blob. Kirk is no longer moving. But in the distance, facing toward him is Spock!

299 INT. V'GER - KIRK AND SPOCK

299

with Spock in the near distance, heading TOWARD the CAMERA. As he approaches Kirk, Spock brings out his phaser. Now he hits the controls for the REVERSE JETS -- he slows RAPIDLY as he approaches Kirk's now completely encased spacesuit. Spock makes a quick phaser adjustment.

300 ANGLE ON SPOCK AND KIRK'S ENCASED SPACESUIT (O) (S)

300

Spock levels the phaser carefully. FIRES. The PHASER BEAM strikes the blob form -- it SHATTERS, the pieces DISINTEGRATING.

301 INT. V'GER - SPOCK AND KIRK

301

facing each other while hovering in space.

KIRK

Bridge, cancel rescue teams.

(hard)

Spock, what in the hell are you doing out here!

SPOCK

I am seeking answers, Captain.

KIRK

(with insight)

Answers to what, Spock? Our dilemma -- or your personal one?

Spock does not immediately reply, peers at Kirk through the faceplate a long beat, then abruptly looks away, points off into the distance:

302 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING INNER WALL (O)

302

We can SEE what appear to be SPARKLING GLOBULES OF LIGHT darting toward the inner wall in the distance, then disappearing there. (We'll SEE other swarms occasionally too, coming from different directions -- they will later be identified as "sensor swarms" on closer examination.)

SPOCK

(pointing)

Captain, I believe there we will

find an indication of whoever --
or whatever -- is aboard this
vessel...

Kirk weighs alternatives, then pushes his thruster controls and begins moving in the direction Spock indicated.

Their thruster jets flash, propel them toward the point on the inner wall.

303 INT. V'GER - AT INNER WALL 303

The most prominent area of the vast inner wall -- the patterns on the wall here seem to GLOW with life. The spacesuited figures of Kirk and Spock ENTER SCENE, gliding slowly toward what seems to be the central part of these patterns.

304 CLOSER ON KIRK AND SPOCK 304

as they approach and then we SEE the brief REVERSE THRUSTERS and then forward momentum stops; motionless. Then Spock sees something, indicates.

305 LONG ANGLE TO INCLUDE SENSOR SWARM (O) 305

Now, we SEE that they are tiny, multi-colored points of FLASHING LIGHT -- almost like swarms of bees. They approach the inner wall at this central point and seem to "disappear" through the orifice.

306 KIRK AND SPOCK - ANOTHER "SWARM" APPROACHING (O) 306

This "sensor swarm" has been coming from a direction that will take them close past Kirk and Spock. Then, as it passes, Spock reaches out quickly, grabs. He turns to Kirk, his hand closed on something.

307 CLOSE ON KIRK AND SPOCK (AGAINST "TUBE" WALL) 307

Spock opens his hand, retaining a hold on something with his fingers. He brings it up to Kirk's face mask -- it's a tiny SENSOR, its multi-colors flashing as it tries to escape from Spock's fingers. And in this CLOSE VIEW, we SEE that this is a SENSOR very much like the one we've seen earlier embedded in the Ilia-probe's throat hollow. Then Spock releases it and it darts to join the sensor swarm near the opening of the inner wall.

308 KIRK AND SPOCK'S POV (O) 308

From this closer distance, we SEE that an opening ap-
pears in the wall, admits the sensor swarm, then closes
immediately.

309 BACK TO SHOT 309

Kirk and Spock exchange a look. Their thruster JETS
ignite briefly, moving them in that direction.

310 INT. V'GER - KIRK AND SPOCK (O) 310

closely approaching the inner wall now, timing their
movements to coincide with the arrival of another
"swarm" -- the wall begins OPENING. The "swarm"
through, the wall begins CLOSING -- but Spock and
Kirk slip in before it closes.

311 INT. "MEMORY CAVE" - SPOCK AND KIRK 311

The wall closing behind them, they are safely inside.
But as they stop their forward momentum, their eyes
widen with awe and surprise at what they are seeing:

311A WHAT THEY SEE (M) 311A

The long "cave" chamber with its row of huge MEDIATOR
BALLS extending into the distance. To one side, the
gleaming CRYSTAL MEMORY WALL.

311B KIRK AND SPOCK 311B

as Spock makes a quick analysis and estimate of what
they are seeing. Then, he takes out his tricorder
again, propels himself toward the memory crystals.
Kirk follows.

311C AT MEMORY CRYSTAL 311C

as Spock adjusts his tricorder through several readings.

SPOCK

It would appear that the atomic
arrays of these crystals store
information. A remarkably
efficient system.

KIRK

(indicates)

And these 'sensor-swarms' collect
that data, carry it here.

SPOCK

(nods; indicates)

New crystals: they must contain
the most recent data obtained --

And Spock touches one of these new crystals (it will be
shinier, more pulsating than the others): ANOTHER

RAPID

PROFUSION OF FAINT IMAGES, but this time including a
pattern-like image of Klingons, Klingon vessels (the
ones destroyed by the Cloud), and obvious Starfleet
personnel -- and the Epsilon 9 station. Also, a

pattern

of the Security Guard killed by the probe. And Ilia.

KIRK

Klingons... our Epsilon 9 station
... and Ilia!! They seem to be
more than just images...

SPOCK

(agreeing)

Exact patterns. The energy bolt
that hit them wasn't simply a
weapon -- it dematerialized them,
stored them. But why?

And he turns and begins moving on, studying the wall,
consulting his tricorder.

312 ACROSS THEM TO ANOTHER SECTION OF THE WALL

312

Spock inspecting this area at which the "newer" crystals
are PULSATING and GLOWING, and which appears to be a
termination of the Crystal area, continuing on and dis-
appearing through the wall.

KIRK

If this is their ship's data
banks, where is the crew? Or
is their entire ship automated?

SPOCK

Captain, I do not believe there
is a crew -- or that this is a
vessel as such.

A beat, as Kirk reacts incredulously.

SPOCK

(continuing)

I am almost certain now that all of this is V'ger -- I believe that we are inside a life form, a living machine.

Spock turns his spacesuit, turns his tricorder out toward the Mediator Balls, takes a reading in that direction. Then a glance to Kirk.

SPOCK

I must attempt mindmeld with it, Captain.

Spock touches his spacesuit controls; the THRUSTER JETS move him out toward the Mediator Balls.

KIRK

(warningly)

Spock...

313 ANGLE AT MEDIATOR BALL

313

Spock reaching the Ball, halts his momentum and removes one gauntlet, baring his hand. Stretching the bare hand toward a part of it which looks strangely "alive." The very power generated from this area is clearly affecting Spock's hand. Meanwhile, Kirk has used his THRUSTERS to join him.

KIRK

Spock, if you're right, its mind may be enormous...

But Spock pays him no attention, his entire being now focused on the PULSATING GLOW of the "alive" area -- the CAMERA MOVING IN CLOSER TO Spock, as he forces his hand toward that surface, closer, closer.

314 KIRK

314

watching, almost mesmerized. Torn between wanting to pull Spock away from the wall -- and knowing that Spock must go through with it. For everyone's sake.

315 CLOSER ON SPOCK

315

preparing for the ordeal, moving his hand to the "living area," the invisible force even stronger -- but Spock's strength unwavering, and now he touches the surface -- and it FLARES WITH STRANGE ENERGY at the touch. And at the same moment Spock' body convulses

as if tens of thousands of volts of electricity are charging through him.

316 CLOSE ON SPOCK'S FACE 316

as he begins to shudder with the shock, the CAMERA CONTINUES INTO EXTREME CLOSE-UP as we SEE Spock's mouth open -- he SCREAMS. CAMERA INTO EXTREME CLOSE SHOT OF SPOCK'S EYES.

317 CAMERA ZOOM - THROUGH SPOCK'S EYES 317

MUSIC IN AND UP as we travel through ABSTRACT IMAGES (per Con Pederson discussion). Symbolizing V'ger's incredible and complex store of mechanistic knowledge, these IMAGES suggest patterns of atoms, molecules, galaxies, dimensions of the universe beyond human knowledge or comprehension. It takes only fifteen or twenty seconds, but seems to span aeons, taking us through micro-infinity and macro-infinity.

DISSOLVE TO :

318 INT. DISPENSARY - SPOCK'S EYES 318

CAMERA BRIDGING BACK OUT THROUGH SPOCK'S EYES AND INTO ANGLE ON SPOCK'S FACE as he lies in a sickbay bed. His eyes are open; he is staring straight ahead as if in a catatonic state, completely unaware of his surroundings. Then Doctor Chapel leans INTO SCENE, moving a medical scanner over the brain area.

CHAPEL

Now scanning pons area at spinal
nerve fiber connection...

319 ANGLE ON McCOY AND KIRK 319

McCoy at a console, watching readings he is getting from Chapel's scanner. Kirk watches McCoy anxiously.

McCOY

Indications of some neurological
trauma--the power pouring through
that mind-meld must have been
staggering...

Before Kirk can reply, they HEAR a LAUGH! An abrupt, harsh, bitter laugh.

320 ACROSS THEM TO SICKBAY 320

as all whirl to the patient area where it is obviously Spock who has just laughed -- but there is no indication of laughter from him now. A startled Chapel has stepped back away from the bed. Spock seems to be attempting to focus, orient himself as Kirk and McCoy hurry to the bedside.

SPOCK

(quiet)

Jim...

And Spock reaches out a hand weakly., takes a surprised Kirk's hand in his. McCoy exchanges a surprised glance with Kirk, as Spock -- clutching Kirk's hand in friendship and need -- struggles to summon strength to speak.

SPOCK

(continuing)

This simple feeling...

(looks at Kirk)

... is so far beyond V'ger's comprehension.

321 ANOTHER ANGLE

321

with Kirk and McCoy exchanging another surprised glance (at Spock's emotion), with McCoy gesturing Kirk not to question it.

KIRK

(gently)

Were you right? Spock? V'ger is a living machine...?

SPOCK

(nodding)

A life form of its own; a conscious, living entity.

CHAPEL

(reacting)

A living machine...?!

MCCOY

(to Chapel)

We're living machines, too: protein mechanisms.

Kirk nods at McCoy.

KIRK

And it considers the Enterprise a

living machine: that's why the probe refers to our ship as an entity.

CHAPEL

If it thinks our ship is alive what does it think we are?

McCOY

(dryly)

An 'infestation' -- bacteria... microbes.

322 ANOTHER ANGLE

322

as Spock turns to Kirk.

SPOCK

I saw V'ger's planet: a planet populated by living machines. Unbelievable technology.

(pained)

V'ger has knowledge that spans this universe.

And... in all this order... all this magnificence, V'ger feels no awe...no delight... no beauty...

(a beat; exhausted)

I should have known...

Kirk waits for Spock to continue, but Spock seems too weak.

KIRK

Know what, Spock? What?

But Spock falls back, exhausted -- and McCoy gently tugs at Kirk, AD-LIBBING, "Let him rest, Jim..." Kirk shrugs McCoy away, addresses Spock:

KIRK

(continuing)

What should you have known?

SPOCK

(weak)

No meaning... No hope...

(summoning strength)

And, Jim, no answers...!

Jim, it's looking for answers itself!

KIRK

What answers?

SPOCK

'Is this all I am? Is there not more?'

Just then an INTERCOM SIGNAL:

UHURA'S VOICE

A faint signal from Starfleet, sir! Intruder Cloud has been located on their outer monitors for past twenty-seven minutes... dissipating rapidly as it approaches.

Immediately, Sulu's voice:

SULU'S VOICE

Starfleet reports forward velocity has slowed to sub-warp speed! We are three minutes from Earth's orbit!-

KIRK

(into intercom)

I'll be right there...

(to Chapel; crisp)

I need Spock on the bridge.

323 ANOTHER ANGLE

323

as Chapel turns to a MED TECH, AD LIBS an order, "Dalaphaline, twenty cc's..." As the Tech quickly sets the hypo-injector, and hands it to Chapel - and she injects Spock, the hypo emitting a fast, QUIET HISS -- Kirk gazes at Spock just an instant as Spock breathes deeply, the drug clearly strengthening him. Chapel and the Tech help Spock from the bed, as Kirk addresses McCoy:

KIRK

A machine planet...? Sending a machine to Earth looking for its Creator...?

McCOY

God.

Kirk looks at him, then at Spock -- on his feet now -- then at McCoy again:

KIRK

'To find the Creator,' the probe
said. Find God...?

McCOY

Isn't that what we're all trying
to do...?

(dryly)

All us machines...?

Kirk stands facing him another moment, then whirls
and steps to the monitor, flips some buttons, and
peaks into his communicator.

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, Commander Decker's
present location?

CHEKOV'S VOICE

He... they... are in Engineering,
sir.

KIRK

(into intercom)

I want to make a ship's announcement.
But it's to be heard only in
Engineering.

UHURA'S VOICE

Ready, Captain.

KIRK

(voice amplified)

This is the Captain speaking. It
appears that the alien ship...
V'ger... is NOT a manned vessel...

324 ENGINEERING

324

SHOWING Scott (at his console) listening to Kirk's
words -- and facing Decker and "Ilia" who are just
about to leave Engineering. (In b.g. the Engine core
GLOWS the appropriate color, and there is a SOFT
HUM of IDLE POWER.) Kirk's VOICE continues:

KIRK'S VOICE

(amplified)

It is a living entity...! A machine
life form. We are attempting to
ascertain its intentions. All
personnel will maintain yellow alert

status!

325 CLOSER ON DECKER AND "ILIA"

325

The probe bland as usual, but Kirk's words seem to have strangely elated Decker; he says to her:

DECKER

A machine...! Then it had to be programmed. By whom...?

"ILIA"

By the Creator.

DECKER

(probing)

To join, and become One with the Creator?

"ILIA"

To learn all that is learnable; to deliver all collected data to the Creator on the third planet. That is the programming.

326 INCLUDE SCOTT

326

just now confronting them, regarding "Ilia" with open disapproval.

SCOTT

Well, sir, now what about all that? A living entity, the Captain says... entity... A living thing...!

Decker really hasn't heard Scott; he's gazing at "Ilia," attempting to digest what she's just said. But quickly:

DECKER

Thank you, Scotty...

He moves to leave.

SCOTT

(dourly)

Your welcome, sir.

Now Decker and "Ilia" move toward the exit, Scott gazing after them glaringly, watching "Ilia's" every move. Suddenly, almost into the corridor, "Ilia" turns and looks back at the engine room. She addresses Decker, but loud enough for Scott to overhear:

"ILIA"

There is no logical reason for
carbon units to control Enterprise's
power systems.

SCOTT

(to "Ilia")

Lassie, if I were functioning
'logically,' right now I'd be
showing you the inside of our
scrap metal compactor!

327 INT. BRIDGE

327

Kirk with McCoy and Spock, who although somewhat shaky,
is clearly more alert. They are just assuming their
stations.

UHURA

We're now locked into Starfleet's
transceivers; Admiral Nogura has
received your reports, sir.

328 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER (O)

328

Kirk pausing halfway to his chair to study the viewer
on which is appearing an IMAGE of V'ger looming omi-
nously in orbit over Earth.

UHURA

The visual is a lunar monitor
relay, sir.

As they begin to study it, the IMAGE suddenly distorts and
is replaced by signal interference -- SIGNAL STATIC LINES
RUNNING ACROSS THE VIEWER SCREEN.

(Somewhat resembling the kind of high voltage interference
some-times seen on the television screen.)

UHURA

(continuing)

Heavy interference, sir -- it's
coming from here, inside the
intruder itself...

Uhura hits buttons and immediately from the speakers we
HEAR A SERIES OF CARRIER WAVE BEEPS. Spock looks up from
his console, listens to it.

SPOCK

Puzzling! The interference

appears to be a rather simple
carrier wave code signal...

UHURA

On an old style radio frequency,
sir...

329 PAST KIRK TO THE ELEVATOR

329

as the doors snap open and Decker and "Ilia" appear.
All eyes go to them as:

"ILIA"

(to Decker;
interrupting)

As I stated, V'ger calls to the
Creator.

DECKER

(nods; turns to Kirk)

V'ger is announcing that it has
arrived, sir -- that it's ready
to deliver the information it
was programmed to collect...

"ILIA"

'To learn all that is learnable.'

DECKER

(to Kirk)

It expects a return signal now,
ordering it to transmit that
information to the Creator.

UHURA

(whirling)

Sir! V'ger's signals have
stopped...

"ILIA"

(as if frightened)

Decker... The Creator has not
responded.

Kirk hears this, turning inquiringly toward her, but
Uhura interrupts:

UHURA

Picking up Starfleet again; a
lunar monitor relay...

330 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER (O)

330

as, indeed, the interference is fading and a new Main Viewer IMAGE is appearing -- it shows V'GER IN EARTH ORBIT with a strange looking OBJECT moving away from V'ger. It is an ominous looking, HUGE SWIRLING GREEN MASS -- it resembles the same green plasma-energy bolts that destroyed the Klingons and Epsilon 9 -- and very nearly the Enterprise. It is not a bolt now -- the mass is much larger and appears much more deadly. A second object has now formed and moves off, a third one begins to appear. (Meanwhile, the first and second PLASMA-ENERGY OBJECTS are moving off into the distance in different direction.)

McCOY

My God! They're the same kind of things that destroyed the Klingons, Epsilon Nine...

SPOCK

(interrupting; from science console)

These read as identical composition...

(turns to Kirk)

... however, Captain, they measure several hundred times more powerful!

KIRK

High mag, Mr. Sulu!

Sulu adjusts the viewer through several IMAGE MAGNIFICATIONS until we SEE the huge OMINOUS GREEN DEVICES more clearly.

SULU

The third one is moving off too -- a fourth one is forming...

UHURA

(overlapping)

Urgent signal from Starfleet, Captain!

(turns, shaken)

All Earth defense systems have gone dead.

Kirk reacts hard at this. Uhura gets another message.

UHURA

(continuing)

Sir, Starfleet computes their trajectories as moving toward equidistant positions over Earth.

331 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK AND SPOCK

331

exchanging significant glances.

SPOCK

From four equidistant positions, Captain, a detonation would blanket the entire surface of the planet.

DIFALCO

I plot them as reaching equidistant positions in... twenty-nine minutes, sir... mark!

332 ACROSS KIRK TO DECKER AND "ILIA"

332

as Kirk vaults from his chair, strides to a handrail to confront the "Ilia"-probe.

KIRK

Why...?!

"ILIA"

The carbon-units infection will now be removed from the Creator's planet.

KIRK

Why?!

"ILIA"

The Creator has not answered.

KIRK

The carbon-units are not responsible for that.

"ILIA"

You infest and control Enterprise. V'ger believes carbon-units interfere with the Creator in the same manner.

SPOCK

(to Kirk)

Then V'ger believes the Creator to be a machine too.

DECKER

(nods)

It seems we all imagine God in our own image.

333 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER - INCLUDING CHEKOV (O)

333

Three of the four OMINOUS SWIRLING GREEN OBJECTS have all moved away from V'ger now, in different directions, growing smaller in the distance. The fourth object is holding position nearby, seeming to grow in size and intensity.

334 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

334

as he throws a look toward Spock who is now in deep meditation. Kirk turns and takes "Ilia's" shoulders and carefully turns her to face him.

McCOY

'... similar life forms...?'
Jim, V'ger's saying the Creator
is a machine...!

DECKER

(grimly amused)

Of course: we all create God
in our own image.

Kirk peers at Decker a moment, ingesting this thought. Then he addresses "Ilia" again, this time with emotion: after all, he is pleading for the survival of the entire planet:

KIRK

V'ger! If we are lesser beings,
we are still, like you, living.
And because we are alive, we --
like you -- wish to survive.
You must not destroy --

Kirk pauses abruptly: "Ilia" is regarding him blandly, stonily -- not the slightest reaction or response; clearly Kirk's plea is being ignored. Kirk draws in his breath to continue, realizes the futility, turns helplessly to Spock.

335 ACROSS KIRK TO SPOCK

335

who has been listening intently, with near fascination -- an idea forming in his mind. Quickly, he steps down to Kirk:

SPOCK

(quiet, terse)

Captain...

(reaches Kirk)

Treat V'ger as you would... a
child.

336 FAVORING KIRK

336

startled at this, not sure he's heard correctly.

KIRK

Child...!?

SPOCK

Yes, Captain, a child: evolving
into adulthood -- learning, searching
-- instinctively needing.

DECKER

(intrigued)

Needing what...?

McCOY

Spock, this 'child' is about
to eliminate all life on Earth;
how do we teach it that that's
'wrong'? With a spanking...!?

Spock peers at McCoy almost sadly, then replies to
Decker.

SPOCK

It doesn't know what it needs,
Comm ander...

(to Kirk)

It does not know.

Kirk says nothing, looks at Spock who is awaiting a
reaction; then Kirk glances at "Ilia" -- his brain
is racing, struggling to reach a decision. And then:

KIRK

(abruptly to
"Ilia")

The carbon--units-know-why-the
Creator-has-not-responded.

McCOY

(shocked)

Jim...!

DECKER
(to "Ilia,"
urgingly)
Ilia... we can help V'ger
find what it needs --

"Ilia" studies Decker just a bland beat, then turns
to Kirk:

"ILIA"
(to Kirk, hard)
Disclose the information.

KIRK
(cool, calm)
Not until V'ger withdraws the
devices orbiting the third planet.

"ILIA"
KIRK UNIT! DISCLOSE THE
INFORMATION!

Kirk studies her a moment, then decides to press his
bet:

KIRK
(to "Ilia," almost
pleasant)
No.
(then to crew
commandingly)
Secure all stations. Clear
the bridge.

A moment where all are startled at this order -- but
no time for questions as just then the ship is ROCKED
BY A FURIOUS POWERFUL ERUPTION NEARBY within V'ger.

DECKER
(amplified)
Bridge to all decks, secure
your stations.

McCOY
Your child is having a
tantrum, Spock.

SULU
Clear the bridge, Captain...?

KIRK
That was the order, Mr. Sulu:

Clear the bridge.

Just then another ERUPTION -- the ship is ROCKED AGAIN.

337 INT. INSIDE V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE 337

rocked about by the furious powerfields -- with frightening displays of ray energy.

338 INT. BRIDGE 338

as all react to the powerful blasts, holding on to railings, etc, at the same time attempting to secure their stations for the evacuation. The DAMAGE REPAIR TECHNICIAN leaves his station, crossing to exit.

DAMAGE TECH.

(leaving bridge;
to Captain)

Severe stress on engine pylons,
sir.

"ILIA"

(to Kirk; flat)

V'ger requires the information.

Kirk merely looks at her, then to the evacuating crew:

KIRK

Bridge secure all stations!
Move out!

McCOY

Jim, what the hell kind of
strategy is this...?

Meanwhile, Decker has crossed to Chekov's now abandoned console, checks it.

DECKER

All ship's functions going to
automatic, Captain.

339 ANGLE ON KIRK 339

turning to confront "Ilia":

KIRK

If V'ger destroys the Enterprise,
the information V'ger requires
will also be destroyed.

as LIGHT SHOW outside perceptually recedes, and simultaneously the ROCKING CEASES. At the same time, "Ilia" is saying:

"ILIA"

It is illogical to withhold
required information.

Kirk does not reply to this, turns away to observe the withdrawing crew. Most are out; only Spock, Decker and McCoy remain behind -- with McCoy on his way. The bridge lighting dims, and now Kirk looks at Spock, who nods approvingly; clearly Spock is the only person who seems to comprehend what Kirk is doing, and why. As Kirk now moves toward the exit, and the lights are dimmed even further:

"ILIA"

(almost polite)

Kirk-unit, why do you not
disclose information?

KIRK

Because V'ger is going to
destroy all the carbon units
on the third planet.

"ILIA"

They have repressed the Creator.

KIRK

The information will not be
disclosed.

And, gesturing the others ahead of him, Kirk starts toward the bridge elevator. "Ilia" calls after him:

"ILIA"

(almost a plea)

V'ger needs the information.

Decker and McCoy about to enter, Spock and Kirk just behind -- all stopping abruptly now at "Ilia's" statement. The very tone of her voice is enough for them to realize they have made a very telling point. Kirk follows fast:

KIRK

Then V'ger must withdraw its
orbiting devices.

"ILIA"

V'ger will comply if the carbon
units disclose the information.

341 ANGLE ON McCOY

341

wryly reacting to this:

McCOY

It learns fast, doesn't it...?

342 ACROSS McCOY TO KIRK AND SPOCK

342

as Kirk looks at Spock, Kirk's whole expression convey-
ing the obvious question: "What the hell do we do now?"
But Spock is ready with an answer:

SPOCK

Captain, the vessel -- V'ger --
obviously operates from a
central brain complex...

Spock allows the sentence to hang, as he and Kirk
eye each other significantly, the CAMERA SWINGING
OVER TO KIRK so we can perceive that to Kirk this
idea has an even greater significance.

KIRK

(to Spock)

The orbiting devices would be
controlled from the point,
then...?

SPOCK

Precisely.

Kirk nods grimly, faces "Ilia" again; this time
he's playing for all the stakes.

KIRK

The carbon units' information
cannot be disclosed to V'ger's
probe... only to V'ger directly.

343 ANOTHER ANGLE - REACTIONS

343

all wait with hushed expectancy, all eyes on "Ilia"
who seems momentarily in some internal communication.

She turns away from Kirk and steps forward looking at the Main Viewer.

McCOY
(indicating
viewer)

Jim...!

344 PAST THEM TO VIEWER

344

the image of the chamber in which the Enterprise is imprisoned. But now, toward the chamber-end, where further passage had previously been barred by the lace-work energy barriers -- an OPENING APPEARS. And at the same time there is a GENTLE LURCHING EFFECT, and:

DECKER
Forward motion, Captain...!

SPOCK
A tractor beam...

"Ilia" steps down from the platform and into the well where she is closer to the viewer.

DECKER
Captain, what's the next move?

KIRK
The question is, Mr. Decker, is
there a next move...

345 INT. V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE

345

moving through the chamber, pulled by the invisible tractor beam, toward the OPENING -- toward the next chamber which, from this POV seems even larger, more forbidding.

346 INT. BRIDGE

346

as the four officers step down onto the bridge, Spock hurrying to his science station, Kirk to the center seat.

KIRK
Resume duty stations, Mr. Decker.

As Kirk attends to his console, Deck is at an intercom:

DECKER

(into intercom,
voice amplified)
All personnel resume stations...!

At the same time the lights are brightening -- and members of the bridge crew begin returning. All this time there is an ever increasing sense of movement. Kirk glances at Decker:

KIRK
Well, Mr. Decker, it seems my bluff is being called.

DECKER
I'm afraid our hand is pretty weak, Captain.
(slight smile)
But it's the only game in town.

Kirk reacts, pleased, a split beat at Decker's "our" hand, and goes on:

Kirk throws him a look of appreciation, then, abruptly his manner changes as he addresses Chekov:

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, when do those devices activate?

CHEKOV
They reach final position in...
Twenty-seven minutes -- mark.

KIRK
(a beat; then into intercom)
Engineering...

347 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT

347

at his console, a female engineering technician (CHIEF ROSS) nearby, the usual engine room ambience in the b.g., as:

SCOTT
Scott, here, sir.

348 INT. BRIDGE - KIRK WITH AN ANGLE ON SPOCK

348

as Kirk hesitates, glances around at the crew -- now all having resumed their stations -- and then grimly looks at "Ilia" who still remains at the rail.

KIRK
(into intercom,
eyes on "Ilia")
Mr. Scott, be prepared to execute
Starfleet order two zero zero
five.

Hearing this, Spock whirls around -- peers incredulously at Kirk. He appears for a moment to be incensed at Kirk's words. Then he realizes and understands Kirk's position and turns, sadly resigned, back to his work.

349 INT. ENGINEERING

349

as Scott, too, hears this, but his reaction is of grim acceptance. Not so Chief Ross; she is horrified.

SCOTT
(with a glance at
Ross, into intercom)
When, Captain?

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE
On my command.

SCOTT
(somberly, into
intercom)
Aye, sir.

And Scott hits buttons on his console, now moves to step from his station, nearly collides with Ross, who clearly is bravely struggling to maintain her poise and dignity:

ROSS
Why has the Captain ordered self-
destruct, sir?

SCOTT
(a beat; gently)
I would say, lass, because he
thinks -- he hopes -- that when
we go up... we'll take V'ger
with us.

ROSS
Will we?

SCOTT
(with grim

satisfaction)

When that much matter and anti-matter are brought together?

Oh, yes; we will, indeed.

350 EXT. ENTERPRISE - INT. V'GER

350

The ship passing now through a chamber that is vastly more active than anything we have previously seen. Directly ahead appears to be an area that dispatches powerfields; a tremendous volume of them seem to emanate and converge there. The medium from which the ship moves appears almost solid, to the point where it seems incredible that the ship can be pulled through it at all. The entire chamber pulses with machine-like, alien life. This should even be evidenced in the booming POWERFIELD LIGHTENING BOLTS as they course in ever more frighteningly close proximity to the ship as:

350A INT BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWER

350A

The crew all watching the awesome spectacle of V'ger's interior (on the viewer) as the Enterprise is being pulled toward the brain complex. All are somewhat subdued, for all realize how their journey will end -- but at the same time they also realize there is no other way. The CAMERA PANS, catching facial reactions -- as, in the b.g., we HEAR a constant flow of AD-LIBBED crew comments:

CHEKOV

Twenty-five minutes to device activation, sir.

ALT. (Twenty-two)

ALT. (Eighteen)

UHURA

Starfleet has been apprised of our situation, Captain.

SULU

Tractor beam remains constant...

DIFALCO

We are seventeen kilometers inside the vessel...

351 ANGLE ON SPOCK

351

His back to the viewer, the angle does not reveal his facial features, but we can discern him struggling to

contain his feelings.

352 WIDER ANGLE (INCLUDE KIRK, McCOY, AND DECKER)

352

Kirk's back to Spock as he watches the viewer, Kirk now turning toward Spock.

KIRK

Spock... Spock...

Spock does not respond, then Kirk reacts with momentary annoyance, then realizes Spock is totally distracted. Kirk peers at him a moment, then suddenly rises and steps up to:

353 SPOCK'S STATION - KIRK AND SPOCK (McCOY IN B.G.)

353

as Kirk arrives, with Spock still facing away from him, clearly distracted.

KIRK

(starts)

Mr. Spock -- I think...

Spock moves to face him, turning fully INTO the CAMERA so we can see now, just under Spock's eye:

A tear! Welling from the eye, rolling down his cheek. Kirk is speechless a moment, glances at McCoy who has also witnessed this phenomenon, and started toward Spock; but Kirk gestures McCoy to stay back, as he addresses Spock:

KIRK

(quiet, feeling)

Not for us?

SPOCK

No, Captain, not for us... for V'ger.

Spock pauses as Kirk peers incredulously at him, then continues:

SPOCK

(continuing)

I weep for V'ger, as I would for a brother -- far more knowledgeable than I -- and yet one step behind.

354 ANGLE ON McCOY AND DECKER

354

Listening, McCoy's face reflecting concern; Decker's

face compassion and understanding, with Decker stepping closer to Spock, as Spock continues:

SPOCK

As I was -- when I came aboard...
so is V'ger now: empty, incomplete.
Searching. Logic and knowledge are
not enough.

McCOY

(with empathy)

Spock, are you saying that you
found, what you needed -- but V'ger
hasn't?

SPOCK

Has not, Doctor -- and now, because
of what we are planning... will not...

KIRK

(almost hard)

There is no alternative.

DECKER

(gently pressing)

Mr. Spock, what would V'ger need
to fulfill itself?

SPOCK

V'ger has begun to understand the
true limits of our universe,
thereby realizing the existence
of other dimensions. To fulfill
itself it must evolve to a
higher dimension; V'ger believes
this can be achieved only by
joining with the Creator.

SPOCK (ALTERNATIVE)

Each of us, at some time in our
life, turns to someone, a father,
a brother, a God and asks 'Why
am I here?' 'What was I meant
to be?' V'ger hopes to touch its
Creator to find its answers.

as Decker reacts with sudden, almost evangelical enlightenment, as Kirk Says:

KIRK
(understanding)
'Is this all that I am? Is there
nothing more?

ON DIFALCO

reacting to the (O.S.) viewer, AD-LIBBING a terse:

DIFALCO
Captain...!

PAST KIRK AND SPOCK TO THE VIEWER

where another opening is suddenly visible -- another chamber. But the violent and color energy effects of the previous chambers are no longer evident. Instead, the entire chamber appears beautifully symmetrical, with a strange, subdued glow, which increases as we move closer.

SPOCK
(flat)
Captain, I believe that is our
destination.

356 EXT. ENTERRISE - INT. V'GER - NEAR THE "ISLAND"
COMPLEX

356

This enormous chamber resembles a hemisphere, laced throughout with dazzling energy patterns, not at all ominous, but quite lovely in effect. As the Enterprise continues forward motion, now ahead you will to SEE a small "island." Floating in the exact center of the hemisphere, the "island" seems alive with PULSING LIGHT, with more of the lovely and delicate ENERGY FORMS and COLORS. On the "island," vague at this distance, appears to be a "solid" matter form.

357 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER

357

The "island" looming larger in the distance. And the Enterprise (as evidenced from the viewer) perceptibly slowing. Kirk just resuming his command chair, as:

SULU
Forward motion slowing, Captain...!

Kirk says nothing a moment, studies the viewer -- and then:

KIRK

(into intercom)
Engineering... Status, Mr. Scott?

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
(somber)
We're ready, sir.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Thank you, Scotty. Stand by.

358 ACROSS KIRK TO McCOY 358

as Kirk turns from the intercom and glances at McCoy.
Between them a total look of understanding.

359 EXT. ENTERPRISE (INT. V'GER) 359

The Enterprise approaching the edge of the "island" --
slowing, but still quite clearly being pulled by the
tractor beam. The "solid matter" in the "island" cen-
ter still obscured by the STRANGE LIGHT GLOW emanating
from that area. The Enterprise is now nearly at the
"island" edge.

360 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER 360

as all watching "island" loom closer and closer.

CHEKOV
Tractor beam strength lessening,
Captain.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Mr. Scott... on my next signal.

SPOCK
(fast)
Captain, the orbital device will (ALT.)
not be triggered for twenty-two (nineteen...)
minutes... (fifteen...)

KIRK
The point...
(Your)

SPOCK
(eying "Ilia";
carefully)
The point is, Captain, twenty-two (ALT.)

should

minutes. We could have that much loop "19" &
more time... "15")

Kirk glances at the Viewer, the oncoming "island," then
at Spock:

KIRK

(shakes head, no)

(ALT: "19",) (Mr. Spock), if we do not provide
("15) V'ger with certain information, we
won't have twenty-two seconds; the
plan must be implemented upon arrival.

DECKER

Captain, we can't be sure that our...
move... will actually save Earth.

KIRK

No!

Decker's last word is interrupted by an almost gentle
BUMP -- and on the Viewer all perceptible motion has
stopped. At the same time:

SULU

Forward motion stopped, Captain.

CHEKOV

Tractor beam is released.

361 INT. INSIDE V'GER - THE ENTERPRISE AT THE "ISLAND" 361

The ship's saucer leading edge holding position at
the "island" edge as though docked.

362 INT. BRIDGE "ILIA" 362

watching the (O.S.) Viewer.

"ILIA"

(indicating viewer)

V'ger...

363 INCLUDING THE VIEWER KIRK AND THE OTHERS 363

all very silent a moment, gazing at the sight. Now
Kirk glances at the people around him: on his command
their lives are about to end. Nothing is said; no
time for it, no inclination to articulate the obvious.
No need to.

KIRK
(into intercom:
with finality)

Mr. Scott...

364 ANGLE ON CHEKOV

364

reacting to a console reading with surprise.

CHEKOV
Captain... I read an oxygen and
gravity envelope forming outside
the Enterprise...!

UHURA
Sir, I have located the source
of V'ger's radio signal: (it's)
directly ahead.

SPOCK
That transmitter is a vital link
between V'ger and the Creator.
(its)

DECKER
(urging)
(ALT. "18",) We have twenty-one minutes. Captain,
(.... "14") we can still save V'ger... and ourselves.

All this has caused Kirk to vacillate, but he still
believes his course of action is the proper one, as:-

"ILIA"
The carbon units will now provide
V'ger the required information.

"Ilia" is moving toward the elevator, turning to face
the others as she says this. Kirk remains frozen, his
hand on the intercom button. He glances at McCoy, as
though seeking advice. McCoy peers at him blandly,
levelly; Kirk must follow his own instinct.

365 FAVORING KIRK

365

gazing at "Ilia," then at Spock, his brain racing, con-
sidering all the possibilities, options. He glances
at the anxious faces awaiting his decision: a possible
twenty-two more minutes of life -- or instant death.
Another beat as he decides. Then:

KIRK
(into intercom)

Mr. Scott... we're holding off;
there may be a chance...
 (rises, gestures
 Spock and McCoy)
Spock, Bones...

He starts for elevator.

366 PAST DECKER TO KIRK

366

as Kirk strides toward the elevator, joining McCoy and Spock.

KIRK
Mr. Decker... I will contact you
every five minutes. Otherwise...
inform Mr. Scott immediately.

DECKER
 (calls after him)
Captain... I'd like to go along...

Kirk studies Decker a beat -- there is something compelling about Decker's manner -- a certain sense of absolute necessity. Kirk seems about to deny the request, then turns to Sulu:

KIRK
Mr. Sulu, you have the conn...

And Kirk leaves; Decker, his face reflecting a strange, almost eager gratification, hurries after him.

KIRK
V'ger plans to literally meld
to reduce both itself and the
Creator to patterns...

SPOCK
... and then to reassemble itself
combined with the Creator. The
most certain way of obtaining
all the Creator's answers.

A sudden STORM OF LIGHT AND STRANGE SOUND. In the midst of it, Kirk finds a SHAFT OF LIGHT very much centering on him. He sees "Ilia" watching him with none of their "former navigator" in her expression now. Kirk hesitates, gathering his thoughts:

KIRK
 (to "Ilia")

Our data is being prepared.

"ILIA"

Answer!

KIRK

We will answer and present proof
of our answer when it is ready!

Kirk's words lead to a suggestion of FRUSTRATION in the
STORM OF LIGHT AND SOUND around them.

KIRK

(continuing)

V'ger, we will bring the Creator
to you! Here!

367 ANGLE EMPHASIZING "ILIA" AND DECKER

367

as he moves to her:

DECKER

We need only a few more minutes.
Believe me...

Decker has reached out to touch her -- the probe spins
at his touch -- the move knocks Decker from his feet,
tumbling, a hard fall. Then the robe looks at him
lying there -- just the slightest softening of her
features now.

368 EMPHASIZING DECKER

368

slowly turning to face the probe again.

DECKER

Ilia, believe me... the Creator
will appear!

369 EMPHASIZING "ILIA"

369

as she meets Decker's look, her expression softening
still more. The STORM OF LIGHT and SOUND begins to
subside a bit. She moves to him and he gets to his feet.

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

Enterprise to Captain...

370 INT. BRIDGE

370

Uhura with Sulu and Chekov there.

UHURA

Problem, Captain: the response signal is not in our records. Voyager Six was sent out by Earth's 'United States Subdivision.' The code was probably...

371 INT. VOYAGER SIX SITE

371

as Uhura continues:

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

... kept secret to keep Voyager's data from rival subdivisions.

McCOY

That's preposterous! They wouldn't have kept scientific data from one another.

CHEKOV'S INTERCOM VOICE

We are now checking with Starfleet Archives, Captain. Stand by.

372 ANGLE ON DECKER AND "ILIA"

372

Kirk, Spock and McCoy are standing some distance from them (out of hearing). The probe is clearly moving into still closer touch with Lt. Ilia's memory patterns as Decker takes her hand.

DECKER

And when V'ger melds? What will happen to you?

"ILIA"

It will... take me from you...

373 KIRK, SPOCK AND McCOY

373

McCoy is looking at Kirk with an incredulous expression on his face.

McCOY

And when it realizes what the Creator is...?

KIRK

There's no way to know. V'ger expected it to be a machine -- some single entity.

(indicates entire site)

All of us here may be reduced
into patterns...

SPOCK

That seems to be what it has
planned -- to have the Creator
physically present here.

McCOY

(small smile)

The God it captures is going to
be a hell of a disappointment.

374 DECKER AND "ILIA"

374

at the side of Voyager Six, Decker in the midst of
twisting a wing-nut which releases a hatch which swings
open. Decker peers inside while "Ilia" waits.

375 KIRK, SPOCK AND McCOY

375

Decker and "Ilia" at the old capsule in b.g. as Kirk
looks that way.

KIRK

Commander...

We SEE Decker look up at Kirk's call, then ignore him
and go back to inspecting inside the access hatch. At
this moment, from Kirk's communicator, a SIGNAL.

KIRK

(continuing;
into communicator)

Kirk here.

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

We now have the response code,
sir.

KIRK

Stand by. Transmit it on my
orders.

The three of them exchange looks -- Kirk, Spock and
McCoy exchanging a silent moment of friendship and
resignation. Then Kirk lifts his communicator again:

KIRK

(continuing)

Enterprise... transmit.

catching Decker in the midst of pressing a control on his tricorder. Both he and "Ilia" are watching Kirk and the others closely. Now Decker looks down at the tricorder's face. He nods:

DECKER

Recording...

377 KIRK, SPOCK AND McCOY

377

still waiting. They continue to wait. McCoy shifts uncomfortably, throws Kirk a puzzled glance. Kirk finally lifts his communicator.

KIRK

Enterprise, are you transmitting?

UHURA'S INTERCOM VOICE

Affirmative, Captain. For some time now.

KIRK

Confirm code and transmitting frequency.

CHEKOV'S INTERCOM VOICE

Both signal and frequency confirmed, sir.

DECKER

(calling)

Captain Kirk!

378 VARIOUS ANGLES

378

as the others turn to Decker and "Ilia."

DECKER

(continuing)

The fault is here, sir, not in the transmission.

(indicating into hatch)

The antenna leads have been disconnected. V'ger never intended to accept a transmitted signal.

KIRK

Capture God! In order to

retrieve V'ger's data, the
Creator has to physically come
here!...

DECKER

And plug the signal directly into
the circuitry at this...

(indicates into
access)

... point here, Captain. It
should pick up even a tricorder
playback.

KIRK

(lifting communicator)

Enterprise, I want that signal
again. Transmit!

Then Kirk touches a control on his tricorder exactly
as Decker did earlier. Then he looks up, reacts as
he sees Decker holding his own tricorder up -- and a
smile playing on Decker's face.

379 ACTION ANGLE

379

as Kirk suddenly pivots, races toward Decker -- but he
passes too close to the "Ilia"-probe. It sends him
spinning back, tumbling to his knees.

380 AT KIRK

380

as KIRK starts up to scramble to his feet but Spock has
stepped in, putting a hand on Kirk's shoulder and re
straining him.

SPOCK

Jim... he wants it.

DECKER

You got the Enterprise, it's
what you wanted. This is what
I want.

(smiles)

But, Jim...

(now very seriously)

... I'm the right choice for this
mission.

And then Decker shoves the tricorder into the access
hatch.

381 VARIOUS EFFECTS SHOTS - DECKER BEING FUSED - V'GER

381

TRANSCENDING (S)

For just an instant nothing happens -- and then a BLINDING SHAFT OF LIGHT STRIKES Decker. The color becomes BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, begins spiraling through the room. "Ilia" stes toward Decker, is caught in the LIGHT, and instantly VANISHES in a BRILLIANT WHITE GLOW.

We SEE Decker seeming to grow larger -- as if his molecular pattern is expanding. A SPECTACULAR SERIES OF VISUALS., THE SPIRALING LIGHT enveloping the entire area.

All this emanating from Decker's body, becoming LARGER -- also 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 the new dimension.

Kirk, Spock and McCoy stand transfixed another instant. Around them, V'ger seems to be TRANSFORMING INTO BRILLIANT, LOVELY PATTERNS. They all turn and race into the complex in the direction of their vessel.

382 EXT. EARTH ORBIT - AN ENERGY BOLT (S) 382

It too seems to be flowering into loveliness, brilliant, graceful patterns as they seem to slip through to another dimension, vanishing.

383 EXT. V'GER - FULL SHOT 383

The "FLOWERING" EFFECT now spreading outward, V'ger's massive shape becoming a spiraling pattern of twisting, graceful shapes and brilliant colors -- a transcendence into another dimension.
And then all of that is left is a shimmering, jewel-like point of light -- and then it too fades -- and reveals there in the blue-black of space, the U.S.S. Enterprise.

384 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWER (O) 384

which shows now only space and its familiar star patterns. All gaze at the viewer, awed at what they've seen and undergone. They exchange looks silently, no one wanting to be the first to try to comment on something which is beyond mere words. We HEAR an ELEVATOR DOOR, Scott and Chapel ENTER the bridge and stand silently watching.

McCOY

Well, it certainly has been...
interesting.

KIRK

Spock, we were its answer!

SPOCK

(nods)

Yes, Captain. It needed our
mortality, the fear of it, our
struggle against it, our fears,
our dreams...

KIRK

... and the 'foolish' emotions
which drive us?

SPOCK

(looks at Kirk; then)

I prefer your poet Dante's phrase
-- 'the divine restlessness of
the human spirit.'

McCOY

Spock... you're quoting poetry?

Spock's cold look at McCoy is interrupted by:

UHURA

Starfleet signal, Captain!
Return to orbital dockyard for
inspection.

KIRK

Ignore that signal.

(to Scott)

Shall we give the Enterprise a
proper shakedown, Mr. Scott?

SCOTT

(suddenly beaming)

I'd say it's time for that, I
would, sir.

(toward Spock)

We can have you back on Vulcan
in four days, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK

(coolly)

I have no business on Vulcan,

Engineer.

Kirk and Spock exchange a look -- then Kirk turns to the helm.

KIRK

Ahead Warp One, Mr. Sulu.

DIFALCO

Heading, sir?

KIRK

(taking center seat;
indicates generally)

Out there. Thataway.

SPOCK

(nods gravely)

A most logical choice, Captain.

Then the trace of a smile comes over Spock's face.

385 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (S)

385

Planet Earth in the distance, and receding in size as the starship heads out the other direction.

FADE OUT.

THE END