

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

#40273-149

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STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - 7/3/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

CAST

PICARD		HRATHAN	
RIKER			
DATA		ARD'RIAN	
BEVERLY		GOSHEVEN	
TROI		HARITATH	
GEORDI		NOE	*
WORF			
WESLEY		<u>Non-Speaking</u>	
		COUNCILMEN (2)	*
O'BRIEN		OTHER LOCALS (15)	*
		HARITATH'S WIFE	
<u>Non-Speaking</u>			*
WOMAN VIOLINIST	*	YOUNG BOY (age 12)	
WOMAN VIOLIST	*	BOY'S MOTHER	
N.D. CREWMEMBERS (10)			
SUPERNUMERARIES (CONN & OPS)			

STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - 7/3/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
  MAIN BRIDGE  
  TEN FORWARD  
  OBSERVATION LOUNGE  
  TRANSPORTER ROOM  
  CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

CYGNA TAU CETI  
  ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM

HRATHAN WARSHIP

DATA'S SHUTTLE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

CYGNA TAU CETI  
  FRONTIER TOWN  
  MAINSTREET  
  TOWN SQUARE  
  AQUEDUCT  
  WATER PLANT  
  DATA'S SHUTTLE

HRATHAN WARSHIP

\*

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 1

Moving at warp speed.

\*

2 INT. TEN-FORWARD 2

Present are PICARD, BEVERLY, and TEN N.D. CREWMEMBERS. TWO WOMEN are seated, holding their instruments -- a violin and a viola. O'BRIEN tunes his cello. DATA ENTERS carrying a violin. He checks at the door, startled to see the Captain. Picard beckons, and Data crosses to him.

\*  
\*

DATA

Captain, Doctor, I am honored by your presence, but may I suggest you attend the second concert.

BEVERLY

Why, Data?

DATA

Ensign Ortiz will perform the violin part. My rendition will be less enjoyable.

\*

PICARD

Oh?

DATA

While I am quite proficient technically; according to my fellow performers, I lack soul.

BEVERLY

Data, telling us why you're going to fail before you make the attempt is never wise.

DATA

But is not honesty always the preferred choice?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

PICARD

Not necessarily. And in a  
commander it can cripple you.

DATA

(very intrigued)  
Indeed?

PICARD

Knowing your limitations is one  
thing. Admitting them to a crew  
can damage your ability to lead.

\*

DATA

Because you lose their respect?

PICARD

By admitting them you begin to  
believe in those limitations  
yourself.

\*

\*

DATA

Thank you for your honesty,  
Captain. But I am still puzzled,  
how do music and command  
correspond?

BEVERLY

(amused and impatient)  
Later, Data. Go and play.

Data takes his place with the other performers. Begins  
to tune his instrument. There is the SOUND of the  
communicator hail.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard to the bridge.  
We're receiving a message from  
the Hrathan Corporate.

Picard reacts with surprise, stands and EXITS. As  
he leaves we hear but do not see the trio begin to  
play.

\*

\*

CUT TO:

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

3

Picard ENTERS. RIKER, TROI, and WORF at their usual  
stations. Supernumeraries at CONN and OPS.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

RIKER

Eighty-two years of silence and  
they still don't want to talk to  
us. It's a pre-recorded message.

\*  
\*  
\*

PICARD

(to Worf)

There's no mistake?

\*  
\*  
\*

WORF

The origin point is Hratha.

\*

PICARD

On screen.

4 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

4

What appears is the text of a treaty. English on one  
side, Hrathan on the other. Hrathan is not symbols as  
we know them, but rather a pattern of lights. A  
recorded message begins.

HRATHAN

Federation creatures, there are  
humans on the fifth planet of  
Cygna Tau Ceti. This planet was  
ceded to the Corporate in section  
one hundred and thirty-three,  
paragraph seventy-seven of the  
Treaty of Armens. We will begin  
settlement of this world in four  
days. Remove the humans.

Troi is up, and heading for Science One to pull the  
treaty.

PICARD

What the devil --

HRATHAN

Federation creatures, there are  
humans on the fifth planet --

PICARD

Cancel message.

Inquiring look to Riker.

RIKER

I didn't think humans could  
survive on Hrathan worlds.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

TROI

They can't. Hyperonic radiation  
is essential to support Hrathan  
life.

PICARD

And deadly to human life.

RIKER

Then we're chasing ghosts.

PICARD

No, Number One. The Hrathan  
haven't broken their long silence  
to send us after phantoms. An  
investigation is in order. Set  
course for Cygna Tau Ceti.

Off Picard's expression:

FADE OUT.

END OF THE TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 5  
entering orbit around a planet.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 6  
Picard, Riker, Data, Beverly and Worf. Supernumerary  
at CONN.

DATA  
Human life form readings from  
the planet.

RIKER  
So, the Hrathan weren't  
hallucinating.

PICARD  
Numbers?

WORF  
Difficult to get an accurate  
reading, Captain. The high levels  
of hyperonic radiation are  
affecting our sensors.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Transporters are now unavailable,  
Captain. We can transport, but  
we won't like what comes back.

PICARD  
Understood, Mr. La Forge.

RIKER  
How can humans survive here?

BEVERLY  
Milan's work in radiation  
sensitivity suggests that some  
humans can adapt to hyperonic  
radiation over a period of years.  
The process can be accelerated  
in the lab. Give me two weeks  
and after complete blood  
replacement and virotherapy  
injections I can have an Away Team  
ready to beam down.

(CONTINUED)



6 CONTINUED:

6

PICARD  
Unfortunately we have only three  
days. And I need facts now.  
Who's down there, how many are  
there?

RIKER  
And will they leave?

PICARD  
They have to. This is a treaty  
violation. The Hrathan are within  
their rights to demand removal.

RIKER  
(to Worf and Data)  
Environment suits, gentlemen.  
And with these radiation levels  
it's going to take some pretty  
piloting to get that shuttle down  
safely.

DATA  
May I offer an alternative?

PICARD  
Yes, Mister Data?

DATA  
I am unaffected by the radiation,  
and my skills as a shuttle pilot  
are superior to any other officer  
aboard the Enterprise.

RIKER  
(a little miffed)  
Oh?

DATA  
Have I given offense?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

RIKER  
(teasing now)  
Close.

PICARD  
The point, Mister Data?

DATA  
This is mere reconnaissance.  
Perhaps I should go alone?

PICARD  
Agreed. You will handle the away  
mission.

Without a word wasted the Android is out of his chair,  
and EXITS the Bridge.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V

7

Mainstreet of a 24th century frontier town. Because  
of its distance from the sun an eternal twilight grips  
Cygna Five. The sun is a tiny jewel which hangs purple  
and brilliant on the horizon. Streetlights throw light  
across the dirt road. In the distance are mountains.  
A thin white line descends from the mountains, and as  
it comes closer we realize it is an aqueduct. It  
culminates in a strange cubistic shaped purifying  
station. A complex pump is churning the water into a  
white froth. \*

A FEW PEOPLE stroll the street. A tiny, lovely woman,  
ARD'RIAN is struggling to muscle a large 24th century  
plow into the farm equipment store. One of the blades  
is broken. She is dressed in the twenty-fourth century  
equivalent of blue jeans, work shirt, boots. Her hair  
is pulled back in a no-nonsense pony tail, and a  
battered hat is crammed onto her head. \*

Data comes around the corner. He is busy absorbing  
everything. Glancing from tricorder to the buildings,  
the people, etc. The locals freeze and stare at him.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Ard'rian continues to mutter under her breath, and fight with the unwieldy plow. Data notices, crosses to her, and easily hefts the equipment. She stares up at him in surprise.

DATA

Where do you wish this placed?

ARD'RIAN

Just inside the door.

Data does so.

ARD'RIAN

Thanks that was very nice of you.  
It seems like I spend my life  
repairing things.

(she extends a hand)

Ard'rian McKenzie.

\*

\*

They shake.

DATA

I am Lieutenant Commander Data.

Ardy studies him.

ARD'RIAN

(frankly)

I've never seen anybody who looks  
like you.

DATA

That is because I am an android.

ARD'RIAN

Amazing. Are there any more like  
you at home?

DATA

No, I am unique.

GOSHEVEN

(amused)

So, where are you from, Mister  
Unique?

GOSHEVEN slips an arm around Ardy's waist and gives her a proprietary kiss. She shrugs him off, and pulls out of the circle of his arm. He is an imposing, handsome man who towers over the slender Android. He is flanked by TWO MEN.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

All three of them carry weighted short staffs, similar to a billy club -- symbols of their office as councilmen.

\*  
\*

DATA

The Federation Starship Enterprise currently in orbit around your world.

\*  
\*

GOSHEVEN

Well, I'll be damned. You finally found us.

DATA

Excuse me?

GOSHEVEN

We're the descendants of the colony aboard the Artemis. We were forced to make an emergency landing eighty years ago.

All right! A way out of the problem!

DATA

Then you would welcome a rescue?

GOSHEVEN

Hell no. This planet damn near killed our grandparents, but it's home now.

\*  
\*  
\*

Dashed hopes.

DATA

Could you direct me to your local equivalent of mayor, president, prime minister --

GOSHEVEN

You found him.

\*

DATA

Excellent. How many individuals currently live on Cygna Five?

GOSHEVEN

Why?

DATA

So I may inform my captain.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

GOSHEVEN  
For the census, something like  
that?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

DATA  
(cautiously)  
Not precisely.

GOSHEVEN  
(suddenly suspicious)  
I don't think I want your captain  
to know.

DATA  
Why would you not?

GOSHEVEN  
You ignored us for eighty years.  
You can just go right on ignoring  
us. \*  
\*  
\*

DATA  
It is imperative that I determine  
the number of inhabitants --

Gosheven taps the tricorder.

GOSHEVEN  
Can't your little box tell you?

DATA  
Its range is limited. \*

GOSHEVEN  
Then I guess you're out of luck,  
(a beat)  
So, you can be on your way.

ARD'RIAN  
Gosheven! I don't think it's  
necessary to be rude.

Gosheven and the two councilmen walk away. Ardy is  
feeling sorry for Data \*

ARD'RIAN  
(continuing)  
I can tell you everything you  
need to know. \*  
\*

CUT TO:

8 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE 8

Picard, Troi, Worf and WESLEY in their usual places.  
Riker at Science One. Supernumerary at Ops.

RIKER

Got it. The Artemis, launch  
point Mars, destination Septimis  
Minor. When they failed to check  
in StarFleet began an extensive  
search.

DATA'S COM VOICE

They are rather resentful of  
Starfleet's failure to locate  
them.

PICARD

What carried them so far off  
course?

9 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - TWILIGHT 9

Data sits on the steps of the shuttle. Light spills  
from the door. Tumbled boulders, patchy bushes, and  
sand surround the shuttle.

DATA

My local informant does not know.  
In the early days survival on  
Cygna V was more important than  
history.

10 INTERCUTS 10

PICARD

Understood. How many are there?

DATA

Approximately fifteen thousand.

Reactions from the bridge crew. Now they really have  
got a problem.

RIKER

(to Picard)

We've only got three days. Even  
with transporters we couldn't have  
them out in time.

PICARD

Shuttles?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

Worf does some figuring on his console.

WORF  
Estimated time for evacuation --  
four weeks, four days.

Wesley in a soft aside to the crewmember at Ops. \*

WESLEY  
And where would we put them all?

DATA  
Captain, I do not think these  
people will leave.

PICARD  
One problem at a time. Hold your  
position, Mister Data. \*

Picard closes the com line.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
Mister Worf, get me the Hrathan.

WORF  
Their home world is quite  
distant, Captain. This will take  
some time. \*  
\*  
\*

CUT TO:

11 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - NIGHT

11

Data hears a SOUND, and rises searching for the source  
of the noise. Ard'rian, carrying a covered basket,  
steps out of the shadows.

ARD'RIAN  
Do androids eat dinner?

DATA  
I do not require the ingestion  
of food to maintain function.

Ardy reacts.

(CONTINUED)



11 CONTINUED:

11

ARD'RIAN

(startled)

All right. Well, can I offer you  
a bed? That'll be more  
comfortable than this.

DATA

I do not require sleep.

Ardy is a little miffed at having her hospitality so  
callously rejected.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

ARD'RIAN

So you don't eat and you don't  
sleep. Must save a lot of time.

DATA

I realize there are subtleties  
of experience for humans beyond  
the obvious necessity for food  
and rest, but the concepts still  
elude me.

She reads sadness into this speech, and instantly her  
attitude softens.

ARD'RIAN

How about company?

DATA

(accessing)

Ah, the friendly exchange of  
experiences and information. That  
is a concept I understand.

ARD'RIAN

Then please be a guest in my home.

Data takes the basket from her, and they walk away  
together.

CUT TO:

12 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

12

Picard, Riker and Troi are seated as GEORDI, O'Brien  
ENTER.

RIKER

Gentlemen, in the Captain's  
estimation and mine, you are the  
finest engineers in Starfleet.

\*

GEORDI

Thank you, sir.

Wary glance to O'Brien. Both of them cast wary glances  
at the impassive Picard. Now what the hell is he going  
to want?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

RIKER

We're giving you an assignment,  
and the one thing I don't want  
to hear is that it is impossible.

\*  
\*

PICARD

I need the transporters to  
function despite the hyperonic  
radiation.

\*

GEORDI

Impossi -- Yes, sir.

Geordi and O'Brien EXIT. Riker, Troi and Picard study  
each other seriously.

RIKER

I know they have the right, but  
will the Hrathan demand the  
removal of the colony?

\*  
\*  
\*

PICARD

Probably, but I'm going to  
attempt to forestall that.

\*

RIKER

How?

PICARD

By parleying with them.

\*

TROI

Captain, when the treaty was  
negotiated the Federation sent  
three hundred and seventy-two  
legal experts. What have we got?

PICARD

Thee . . . and me.

Off Troi's very dubious expression as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 13

in orbit around Cygna V.

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 14

Picard pacing nervously. Troi seated, serene but tense, as they wait for the call. Worf at his station. Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

WORF

No response.

PICARD

Try again. Boost signal strength.

Worf makes adjustments.

WORF

Hrathan Corporate. This is the Starship Enterprise. Respond please.

15 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN - (OPTICAL) 15

as it changes from a view of stars to ? someplace? Wherever the HRATHAN are calling from it is a disturbing place for humans. Darkness, mirrored surfaces, and hidden in the shadows a creature who is decidedly unsettling for the crew. Its shape is constantly shifting like oozing sludge, and there is a hint of flickering eyes -- too many eyes.

HRATHAN

Conversation is neither required nor desired.

Picard is furious, but he schools his features into an expression of polite interest.

PICARD

Very necessary if we are to find a solution to our mutual problem.

\*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HRATHAN  
Involvement in Federation  
illegality is not indicated. \*

PICARD  
Both parties are involved, sir.  
There is a colony on a Hrathan  
world. We need to work together  
to solve the problem.

HRATHAN  
You admit fault?

PICARD  
No! And assigning blame is  
pointless. The colony exists.  
Let us seek a solution. \*  
\*  
\*

HRATHAN  
Remove them. Three Earth days  
remain.

Troi leans in, and whispers:

TROI  
Their culture is extremely formal,  
almost ritualistic. An apology  
might smooth matters.

PICARD  
I apologize for our inadvertent  
violation of the treaty.

HRATHAN  
Acknowledged and accepted. Remove  
them.

PICARD  
You are not negotiating! You are  
issuing ultimatums!

HRATHAN  
To what purpose negotiation? The  
treaty is signed.

PICARD  
There is a thriving colony on the  
planet. Rather than uproot these  
people may I suggest a compromise?  
The Federation will offer a  
similar world in trade.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

HRATHAN  
Unacceptable.

PICARD  
Why?!

HRATHAN  
The law is paramount. We are  
entitled.

PICARD  
This is not a law. It is a  
treaty. It is designed to smooth  
relations between peoples. Not  
to act as a strait . . .

But Picard's talking to a blank screen. The Hrathan  
have hung up on him.

PICARD  
... jacket.

Off Picard's outraged expression.

CUT TO:

16 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

16

Geordi, O'Brien and Wesley have the panels removed from  
the wall behind the transporter console. Geordi's tool  
box is nearby. Sophisticated tools litter the floor.  
Off to the left side of the transporter are six test  
objects. They look a lot like crash dummies. The trio  
is watching tensely as O'Brien touches the console. A  
test dummy MATERIALIZES looking like swiss cheese. \*  
Geordi picks it up. Riker ENTERS.

RIKER  
Gentlemen, how are you coming?  
(spots the dummy)  
What the hell is that?

Geordi sets aside the mutilated dummy.

GEORDI  
Our first attempt.

O'BRIEN  
We recalibrated the transporter  
setting for the tightest possible  
beam.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

WESLEY

But we've got plenty of things  
left to try.

Geordi is studying the test object again.

GEORDI

There's some really interesting  
residue . . . reminds me of --

(a beat)

There's that damn pulsar in the  
neighborhood.

\*  
\*  
\*

WESLEY

Higgs-bosons.

\*

O'BRIEN

This just got a lot harder.

\*

WESLEY

They're one of the most massive  
sub-atomic particles known, and  
they really shred a transporter  
signal.

RIKER

Thank you, Ensign, I passed  
physics.

(to Geordi)

Keep at it. We need those  
transporters.

Riker EXITS.

GEORDI

Back to the oars, men. This is  
going to be a fun one to crack.

CUT TO:

17 INT. ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM - DAY

17

A comfortable room constructed of stone with a heavy  
beamed ceiling. A fireplace dominates one wall. There  
are two doors at opposite ends of the room leading to  
the kitchen and the bedrooms. The furniture is hand  
hewn, durable but comfortable.

18 ANGLE ON DATA 18

as he wipes his dirty hands on a cloth. A small generator sits on the coffee table, a few tools are strewn about. O.S. is the sound of energetic if tuneless whistling. \*

19 ANGLE ON KITCHEN DOOR 19

Ard'rian ENTERS. She is dressed in her usual jeans and boots, but her hair is down, floating softly on her shoulders.

DATA

I have completed the repairs on the generator. \*

ARD'RIAN

Is there anything you can't do?

DATA

Whistle, dance, sneeze.

(a beat)

A great many things.

ARD'RIAN

I can't help with the whistling, Dancing is overrated, and sneezing you can do without. I can't see that you're missing a thing. \*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Data has been studying Ardy, and he likes her. He doesn't want any misunderstandings. In typical straightforward Data fashion he says what's on his mind.

DATA

Are you developing a "crush" on me?

ARD'RIAN

What!

DATA

A crush, an infatuation, puppy love, a fascination or beguilement

-- \*  
\*

ARD'RIAN

You don't have to define it!

(aggressively)

What makes you think that?

(CONTINUED)



19 CONTINUED:

19

DATA

I am not unobservant, and there are cues. Your invitation. Your hair.

Her hands fly to her hair, and she yanks it back into its tight pony tail, and secures it with a clip from the mantle. She is angry, confused and embarrassed because Data's blunt question has brought to light feelings of which even she was unaware.

ARD'RIAN

Men! You think every damn thing we do is for you! No, I do not have a crush on you.

DATA

I have angered you. If I was in error I apologize.

ARD'RIAN

Fine.

She busies herself with some little clean-up task in another part of the room. There is tension in every line of her body. Suddenly she turns back to Data.

ARD'RIAN

(continuing)

If I were... if I did have... feelings for you; would that bother you?

DATA

I have no opinion one way or the other.

ARD'RIAN

So you really don't like me.

DATA

I did not say that.

ARD'RIAN

What are you saying?

DATA

Perhaps my use of the word crush was not specific enough. I am inquiring if you find me attractive? Emotionally, intellectually, sexually?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Ardy is gaping like a carp over this. She chuckles.

ARD'RIAN  
You're nothing if not honest.

DATA  
Yes.

ARD'RIAN  
Data, people don't say things like that.

DATA  
Why not?

ARD'RIAN  
Because . . .  
(a beat)  
Well, damned if I know.

DATA  
It helps to avoid misunderstandings.

Ardy crosses to him. Her hands are thrust into her pockets as if to keep from touching him. She looks up at him.

ARD'RIAN  
So you like people to say what's on their minds?

DATA  
Yes.

They are standing very close. Ardy is staring up at Data, and we see her realize that yes she is developing a crush on him. Suddenly Data's communicator trills. He touches the insignia.

DATA  
Data, here.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
The Hrathan won't bargain.

DATA  
Understood.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
I'm contacting Starfleet to  
arrange for transport. Get those  
people prepared for evacuation.  
We may have to move very quickly.

DATA  
Yes, sir.

Data cuts the communication.

ARD'RIAN  
Evacuation? What's going on?

DATA  
I must speak with Gosheven and  
the counselors. Do you wish to  
accompany me?

ARD'RIAN  
Don't be an idiot. Of course I'm  
coming.

Ard'rian grabs a coat, and they EXIT.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

20

In orbit around Cygna V.

21 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

21

Picard is pacing furiously about the office. Troi is  
seated on the couch watching him. Her expression is  
grim. Riker ENTERS.

RIKER  
Yes, sir?

PICARD  
Three weeks. Starfleet is  
profuse in their apologies, but  
it will still be three weeks.

\*  
\*

RIKER  
For?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

PICARD  
A colony transport ship equipped  
with dedicated personnel shuttles  
to arrive.

RIKER  
We're down to two days.

PICARD  
Oh, and they're quite certain I  
will handle the situation with  
my usual skill.

RIKER  
Nice of them.

Picard sits in silence for a beat.

RIKER  
(continuing)  
So what are we going to do?

PICARD  
Extend Data's deadline by three  
weeks. Lay in a course for  
Hratha.

TROI  
Sir, no Federation ship has ever  
approached the Hrathan home world.

PICARD  
We have to take the risk.

Off Picard's determined expression as we:

CUT TO:

22 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET

22

Data blinks and reacts as water hits him in the face.  
Pull back to reveal Gosheven who has just flipped a  
handful of water from the aqueduct pool into the  
Android's face.

The man and the machine are surrounded by the two  
members of the city council and Ard'rian. A few other  
interested on-lookers hang about in the background.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

GOSHEVEN

Feel that? Do you have any idea  
what it is? What it means?

DATA

It is water, a substance composed  
of two atoms of hydrogen --

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

GOSHEVEN

My grandfather's buried on that mountain.

(points to the distant line of hills)

He died in a rock slide surveying the route for this aqueduct. This town exists because of his sacrifice, and the sacrifice of hundreds of other people. No, we're not leaving.

Gosheven whirls and heads for the door to the government building. Data follows.

DATA

The Hrathan are within their rights. You are on this planet illegally.

GOSHEVEN

Whose side are you on, anyway? We crashed here. It wasn't our fault, but we're here now, and we're staying.

\*

Data turns back to appeal to the counselors.

DATA

Surely you have no desire to rob a sentient race of their property?

GOSHEVEN

(spinning on him)

Now you're calling us thieves.

DATA

Inadvertent ones, yes. This world belongs to the Hrathan.

GOSHEVEN

They aren't here. They weren't here eighty years ago.

DATA

They are on their way.

GOSHEVEN

Let 'em come.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

DATA

I am certain the Federation will offer you a new world.

GOSHEVEN

That's pretty damn ironic. For eighty years we don't hear a peep out of the Federation. Thousands of us die acclimating to the radiation, but we survive, and we make a home. And now you turn up trying to throw us off our land.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DATA

I must urge you to begin preparing for evacuation.

GOSHEVEN

No.

DATA

Let us consider the points in favor of relocation.

Gosheven starts back toward city hall.

DATA

(continuing)

The Hrathan are unwilling to dwell with humanoid life forms.

The councilors also walk away.

DATA

(continuing)

Their reaction may be... extremely....

Data's voice trails away. He is talking only to Ard'rian. She steps up to him, and dries his face with a handkerchief.

ARD'RIAN

Don't you see. You're asking us to give up everything.

DATA

My concern is that the Hrathan will not ask.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

Off her suddenly concerned expression, we:

\*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE 23

Riker pacing slowly, looking out at the stars.

RIKER

The Captain is taking the  
Enterprise to Hratha. Your job  
... well, you know your job.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - DAY 24

Data is also pacing beside the shuttle.

DATA

Commander, in human parlance,  
I do not believe I can "get the  
job done." My training has  
prepared me for starship command  
duties. As a cultural contact  
person I am proving to be less  
than exemplary.

25 INTERCUTS 25

RIKER

Data, I don't have time for  
this.

DATA

I believe I should return to the  
ship. I have tried everything,  
and the leadership has rejected  
my counsel.

RIKER

Then go back to them, and try  
something else.

DATA

I do not know what to try. They  
completely deny the logic of my  
arguments. They confuse me with  
talk of structures they have  
built, and I do not understand  
how this is relevant.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

RIKER

There's something visceral about land.

DATA

There are an estimated three point seven million habitable worlds in the nineteen percent of the galaxy we have explored. Could they not become viscerally attached to another plot of ground?

Ard'rian walks up to join the Android. He gives her a distracted nod, and she sits on the steps of the shuttle.

RIKER

It's not that simple.

Riker catches himself, irritated he's been drawn into this discussion.

RIKER

(continuing)

Look, Data, dammit, you've got this fancy positronic brain, and years of Starfleet education. Use the one, and prove to me the other hasn't been time wasted.

DATA

If I do not succeed, how violent is the Hrathan reaction likely to be?

RIKER

The treaty is the only thing which kept them from eradicating the colony to begin with.

DATA

Oh.

RIKER

Yeah, "oh" is right. The lives of fifteen thousand people are riding on you. You better get creative. Riker out.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Data 's face is a study in confusion. Ard'rian  
stands, and gives his shoulders a squeeze.

\*

ARD'RIAN  
Would these Hrathan really use  
force?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

DATA

Yes, and your people will lose.

ARD'RIAN

Some things are worth dying for.

DATA

This is not one of them.

ARD'RIAN

How do you know? How can you presume to tell us what this place means to us?

DATA

I am not denying your emotional attachment. I am merely questioning your reckless pursuit of death. \*

ARD'RIAN

You don't want to see me fight?

DATA

I do not wish to see any of you die. \*

Ard'rian moves away. Stares down at the ground, and scuffs thoughtfully with a booted toe.

ARD'RIAN

I'm so confused; I don't know what to do.

DATA

Prepare to leave.

ARD'RIAN

Is that an order?

DATA

I lack the authority to issue an order in this circumstance, but consider it a strongly worded request.

ARD'RIAN

This is such a hard decision. I don't know... I'll think about it, okay? \*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4)

25

DATA

That is fair. I only hope the rest of your people will "think about it."

ARD'RIAN

You're a Starfleet officer; you have a better chance of convincing them than anyone.

DATA

I wonder.

ARD'RIAN

What?

This is not whining, this is Data calmly assessing the facts.

DATA

I have hypothesized that my commission is an elaborate experiment on Starfleet's part. But do they really plan to have me command a vessel?

ARD'RIAN

Why wouldn't they?

DATA

Would you take orders from a machine?

A beat then Ard'rian suddenly gives Data a quick kiss on the lips.

DATA

(continuing)  
Why did you do that?

ARD'RIAN

You looked like you needed it.

DATA

Ah, a human custom sealing friendship or indicating support, attraction, affection.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (5)

25

ARD'RIAN

(saddened)

But it didn't mean anything to  
you, did it? You didn't feel  
anything.

DATA

I understand the motivation behind  
the action, and I thank you.

Ardy is confused, disappointed, sorry for Data, unable  
to ever understand the grand passion, but damn it she's  
still attracted.

ARD'RIAN

You're welcome... I guess.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

26

Travelling at warp speed.

27 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

27

As before, except there are more high tech tools and  
equipment lying about. Geordi is lifting yet another  
trashed test object off the platform. He holds it  
mutely out to Wesley and O'Brien who stare dully at  
this latest failure. There are now three intact  
objects, and four blasted ones. Picard ENTERS.

PICARD

(you will get it done)

How are we progressing, Mister  
La Forge?

\*

GEORDI

(it's impossible)

About like you'd expect.

\*

PICARD

(get it done)

Splendid.

\*

Picard EXITS.

WESLEY

(wearily)

He wants the impossible.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GEORDI  
(with a grin)  
That's the short definition for  
"captain."

Geordi and O'Brien have already returned to work. Wes looks at them bemused, then shrugs and pitches in.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V

28

\*

A large horseshoe shaped amphitheater with a place for the councilors and Gosheven. A number of citizens have turned out for the debate so the benches are filled. In the B.G. is the aqueduct purifying plant. Data and Ard'rian ENTER. There is some shifting and murmuring. Gosheven strides over to square off with Data.

\*

\*

\*

GOSHEVEN  
I thought you'd left.

DATA  
I wish to speak at this meeting.

GOSHEVEN  
No. And where have you been hiding?

DATA  
I have been staying with Miss McKenzie.

\*

GOSHEVEN  
Why?!

ARD'RIAN  
(resenting the tone)  
I invited him.

GOSHEVEN  
(to Ardy)  
Well, you shouldn't have.  
(to Data)  
And I'm warning you, stay away from her.

DATA  
Your interest does not translate into ownership.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

GOSHEVEN  
So you want her?

DATA  
No.

GOSHEVEN  
(outraged)  
Not good enough for you, Mister  
Starfleet officer, Commander, sir?

ARD'RIAN  
(angry and embarrassed)  
Oh, Gosheven, shut up!

DATA  
I did not say that. And I believe  
we have exhausted the  
possibilities for this topic of  
conversation.

Data turns his back on Gosheven and says loudly:

DATA  
(continuing)  
I wish to address the assemblage.

GOSHEVEN  
(furious)  
And I said no.

DATA  
Do you consider your position so  
weak that it cannot withstand  
debate?

A man, HARITATH, calls out.

HARITATH  
Let him talk.

Gosheven gives a terse nod. In a sense Data's called him a coward and he has to stand up to this city slicker, this outsider.

Data steps front and center. The Android is no fool and he knows he's no charismatic public speaker. In an effort to pull this off, to seem more commanding and persuasive he tries to imitate Picard and Riker at their commanding best. And it comes off as expected -- awkward and a little uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)



28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

DATA

You know why I have come. You know of the Hrathan threat, and of Starfleet's desire to evacuate you for your own protection. You know of your leaders' response -- no, here we stand. That is your right. We cannot force you to leave. And during the past day I have come to understand and admire your position. As a Starfleet officer I have sworn an oath to serve. To that end I will give you any help I can.

Ard'rian is staring at him, confused and bewildered.

DATA

(continuing)

It is urgent that you prepare for the Hrathan arrival. Arms and ammunition must be gathered, a plan for your defense prepared. Our effort will be valiant, but doomed. We will die, but we will die for land and honor.

29 ANGLE ON

29

The crowd. Data's starting to get a reaction. People are beginning to eye each other nervously. It's one thing to thumb your nose at a distant enemy, quite another to talk about guns and dying.

30 ANGLE ON DATA

30

As he reaches down, and takes a YOUNG BOY (twelve or so) by the arm, and pulls the child up next to him.

DATA

Your children will understand that they are dying for a worthy cause. And the sight of their burned and blackened bodies...

Big crowd reaction here. Murmurs from various people. Mothers pull their children closer to them.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

DATA

(continuing)

...will only serve to make us  
fight harder. We will not regret  
the sacrifice, and our courage  
will be remembered and extolled  
for... oh, possibly two or three  
years.

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

Ard'rian catches his game, and tries to support him.

ARD'RIAN  
(continuing)  
And that's something I'm ready  
to die for -- a mention in the  
history books.

31 ANGLE ON GOSHEVEN

31

as he begins to applaud slowly.

GOSHEVEN  
A valiant try, Commander, but what  
a low opinion you must have of  
us.

The boy's MOTHER snatches her son back from Data, and  
pulls him down in her lap.

DATA  
No, I was attempting to describe  
your inevitable destruction.

HARITATH  
(standing)  
And he describes it pretty damn  
well.

Murmurs of agreement from the crowd.

GOSHEVEN  
You ready to follow this stranger  
out the door, Haritath? Give up  
everything? Without a fight?  
He says we're going to lose, I  
think that's his own cowardice  
talking!

A man, NOE, leaps to his feet.

NOE  
Yeah, and what if he's right,  
and you're wrong?!

More crowd reaction. Sympathy is swinging away from  
Gosheven.

HARITATH  
I don't want to find out the hard  
way that the price was too high.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

GOSHEVEN

Last winter we buried your little  
girl -- laid her to rest next  
to your mother, and you whine  
to me about price?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Gosheven whirls and nails Noe with a look.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

GOSHEVEN

(continuing)

And you, Noe, we built you a new house after the fire wiped you out. You gonna walk away from that?

NOE

I'd be happy just to know I'm still gonna be walking after these Hrathan show up.

GOSHEVEN

(addressing them all)

This town exists because we all gave our blood and sweat to bring water to the desert. My father

--

ARD'RIAN

(interrupting.

Impatient and  
sarcastic)

Is buried on that mountain. Well, who's going to be left to bury you?

A vote of confidence is about to take place, and Gosheven realizes he's about to lose it. He falls back on the innate authority of an elected leader.

GOSHEVEN

Have you considered what this evacuation means? We'll be a displaced people, beggars at the door, supplicants pleading for a new home. And we've all seen what the Federation's word is worth. "We'll help you if you're ever in trouble." Well, we were in trouble, and thousands of us died adapting to the radiation. Where was the Federation? And now we're in trouble again, and all they can say is give up everything! Well, I say NO! You elected me to be your leader -- follow me now! I don't think our chances are as hopeless as he says. And I'm willing to stake our lives on it. Any objections?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

He rakes the crowd with a look. Some mutterings, but nobody's quite ready to lead the revolution.

GOSHVEN  
(continuing)  
Good, because here... we...  
stand.

A few people, and the goons step up to pound Gosheven on the back, but most of the crowd remains huddled on the benches glancing from Data to Gosheven and back again. Haritath and Noe stand, and step away to talk in private.

32 ANGLE ON DATA

32

standing with Ard'rian.

DATA  
(almost to himself)  
And here you die.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL) 33

Wesley, Geordi and O'Brien. There is now one intact test dummy, and three trashed ones. These are three exhausted people. They've been working round the clock. Maybe a day's growth of beard on O'Brien. \*

WESLEY

Maybe if we try by-passing the auto-sequence, and decompile the pattern buffer?

GEORDI

(shrugs)

Okay, do it. It's no crazier than anything else we've tried. \*

Wesley drops down by the panel, and begins to tinker while Geordi places the last test dummy on the platform. Suddenly the transporter console blows a fuse. Electricity races across the panel, and the console goes dark. O'Brien is not a happy man. Wesley slowly stands up. O'Brien struggles with himself, but can't master it.

O'BRIEN

Ensign Crusher.

WESLEY

Yes, sir.

O'BRIEN

If you ever touch my transporter again... I'll kill you.

WESLEY

Sorry, sir.

CUT TO:

34 INT. ARD'RIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 34

Data is seated on the couch staring intently at the far wall. Ardy is staring out a window. Suddenly she turns and crosses to Data. Stands directly in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

It takes him a moment to pull himself back from his contemplations. He looks up at her.

ARD'RIAN  
I've made my decision.

A beat as they regard one another.

ARD'RIAN  
(continuing)  
I'm going to leave.

Data remains silent. Ardy turns, and crossing to the coat rack pulls down a battered old jacket.

ARD'RIAN  
(continuing)  
How much can I take?

DATA  
Not much.

ARD'RIAN  
(needing reassurance)  
I hope I'm doing the right thing.

Data, filled with doubt after his defeat at the meeting.

DATA  
I hope so too.

She clutches the jacket, her expression is stricken.

ARD'RIAN  
No! You have to be sure for both  
of us. You can't have doubts...  
when I'm... leaving... everything.

And then she's crying, tears run down her face. Data crosses to her, studies this phenomenon, tries to understand the woman's emotional response.

(CONTINUED)

\*



34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

Then taking her by the shoulders he turns her to face him, and gives her a kiss on the lips.

ARD'RIAN

What was that for?

DATA

You appeared to require it.

ARD'RIAN

I didn't think you could respond this way.

DATA

My intent was to make you feel better. Did I succeed?

ARD'RIAN

(calculating)

Yeah... a little.

Seduction time, but the usual signals between a man and a woman are not applicable here. Ardy is counting on Data's logic. It doesn't fail her.

DATA

Would a continuation of this behavior increase the level of comfort?

ARD'RIAN

(shyly)

Yes.

Data agains leans in and kisses her. His arms hang at his sides.

ARD'RIAN

If you... put your arms... around me, it would help.

DATA

Like this?

ARD'RIAN

Yes.

They kiss again. Ardy's hand is on the back of his head, pulling him in for another kiss, and another. She's increasing the heat with each embrace. Things are becoming rather passionate.

35 ANGLE ON ARD'RIAN

35

as she comes up for air, and mutters faintly.

ARD'RIAN

It's working. Don't stop.

DATA

This behavior usually ends with  
--

ARD'RIAN

Yes!, I know.

DATA

Do you wish to --

ARD'RIAN

Yes.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

36

Travelling at warp speed.

37 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

37

Picard has brought Troi in for consultation.

TROI

In our dealings with other  
non-humanoid races there has been  
some point of reference; not so  
with the Hrathan.

PICARD

We must have something in common.  
We communicate.

TROI

Barely. The Hrathans have learned  
several Federation languages, but  
theirs continues to elude us.

PICARD

(have we tried?)  
Telepaths?

TROI

Attempted and failed.

(CONTINUED)