

STAR TREK II

"Devil's Due"

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ORIGINAL SCRIPT

(?) 1978

CAST

CAPTAIN KIRK

LT. XON

McCOY

SCOTT

SULU

UHURA

LT. ILIA

CHEKOV

DR. CHAPEL

ZXOLAR

REYLOZ

EULIX

KLEYAX

ZXEDA

KOMETHER

JUNIOR MED OFFICERS (2)

BITS:

5 PHILOSOPHERS

SERVENTS

CREWMEN

NATERRANS

SETS

THE ENTERPRISE:

BRIDGE

TRANSPORTER ROOM

CORRIDORS

WARD ROOM (TRIAL)

SICKBAY

COMPUTER ROOM

NATERRA:

PALACE (MAIN SALON)

PALACE (LIBRARY/COMPUTERS)

GARDEN

EXT:

LANDING SITE (WOODED)

A PATH (VIEW OF PALACE)

"DEVIL'S DUE"

FADE IN

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (STOCK)

moving through an endless void.

2 INT. BRIDGE OF ENTERPRISE - CREW AT STATIONS

All alert to an expanding situation as they follow their course.

KIRK

Steady as she goes, Mr.
Sulu.

SULU

Steady, sir.

UHARA

(at Commo)

Still nothing, sir.

KIRK

Maintain watch, Lieutenant.
As we close there may be some
reply to our signals.

XON

My main sensors have determined
there is life on that planet.
It may be they lack the techno-
logy to respond.

As Xon speaks, DR. McCOY approaches, smiling:

McCOY

Or maybe they'd just as soon
not. Have you thought of that,
Mr. Xon?

Kirk grins, but Xon fails to see the joke:

XON

I find that notion totally
illogical. If someone had traveled
literally millions of miles through
virtually uncharted space to
contact me, I would certainly--!

KIRK

(amused)

I don't think Dr. McCoy's
terribly serious, Mr. Xon...

(catching McCoy's

wry look)

...In fact, I'd say he's pulling
your leg.

CONT'D.

2 CONTINUED:

XON

(not amused)

Pulling my... If you'll pardon
my saying so, Captain - As a
Vulcan, there are times when I
find your Earth colloquialisms as
inexpressibly quaint as I find Dr.
McCoy's...humor...

(as McCoy's eyes express
mock dismay)

...If you'll excuse me, sir...
There's some new computer data
I must interpret.

And he's gone, leaving McCoy to stifle a gaffaw. A
beat, then:

KIRK

I'd say you've been needling
Mr. Xon again, Bones.

McCOY

(warily)

Spock was only half Vulcan. Xon's
all Vulcan. That makes him twice
as literal - twice as 'logical' --
and twice as much fun.

KIRK

(understanding)

You miss Spock, don't you, Bones?

McCOY

(softening smile)

Guess we all do, Jim...

(again, that look)

...But this boy's going to be
allright -- after I break him in!

Kirk grins again - turning away to his duties.

KIRK

Navigation check.

3 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDES LT. ILIA

ILIA

All in order, Captain. No
course alterations at present.

4 KIRK AND McCOY

KIRK

Thank you, Lieutenant. ..
Recheck ETA.

5 ILIA - AS BEFORE

ILIA
Rechecked, sir. At present
speed, Estimated Time of Arrival,
0 - six - three - zero hours.

6 KIRK AND McCOY - AS BEFORE

KIRK
Maintain course one-three-niner,
mark 24.

SULU
Ay, sir!

McCoy - watching all this routine - never loses his smile.

McCOY
You really think we'll find
anything, out in this remote,
little corner of nowhere, Jim?

KIRK
Two robot vehicles spotted
something out here.

McCOY
That was 60 years ago -- and
no one bothered to follow up
then. Why the sudden interest?

KIRK
First, because it lies within the
limits of my mission to investigate
new areas at my discretion. Second,
because we've already come this
far. And, third--

McCoy
--Reminds me of that wheezy, old
mountain-climbing joke: 'Why do
you climb mountains?' Answer:
'Because they're there...' As our
friend, Xon would say: 'What could
be more logical', eh?

Kirk sees McCoy's got him. He laughs.

KIRK
Where's your own curiosity,
Bones?

CONT'D.

6 CONTINUED:

McCOY

In the innermost secrets of that
wonderous universe of myriad
galaxies called...the Human Body!

KIRK

And mine's fixed on that tiny
dot out there, somewhere, designated
by Federation charts as ZV-33.4...

(considering it)

...Somehow...it's very remoteness
from the Earth makes its...aura of
mystery more...irresistable...
Imagine, Bones. A planet - dark and
mysterious to us - containing...who
knows what wonders! Whirling through
space for untold millions of years...
Waiting for us...!

McCOY

(unable to suppress a smile)
You're hopeless, you know that? You
could've had an admiral's flag -
and the softest desk job on Earth.
Instead -- here you are again!

KIRK

What about you, doctor?

McCOY

(ruefully)

Well...we all make mistakes!

(a beat)

Anyway, Jim. We're still buying
what the old folks called a 'pig-
in-a-poke.' After coming all this
way, you've still no guarantee
we'll find anything on that planet.

KIRK

Xon said we will -- and he never
makes mistakes, Dr. McCoy.

7 ON LT. UHARA

UHARA

Captain. Sensors indicate we're
within viewer range.

8 KIRK AND McCOY - CMDR. DECKER

arriving as Kirk says:

CONT'D.

8 CONTINUED:

KIRK
Activate viewer!

McCOY
(to Decker)
You're just in time for the
show, Commander.

ANGLE INCLUDES VIEW SCREEN, which has lighted, picking
up showing the Enterprise POV of SPACE AHEAD. At the
moment we see nothing significant.

DECKER
Thought you might be ready for
relief, Captain. You've been at
it for hours.

KIRK
(absorbed with viewer)
Not just yet, Will... We should
make a sighting any moment.

McCOY
(looking, too)
Don't see anything, except miles
and miles of--

KIRK
(quickenings)
Wait, Bones! There...!

9 THE VIEWER

where a speck has appeared - growing larger.

10 KIRK, McCOY, DECKER - OTHERS IN B.G.

watching avidly now.

McCOY
Occurs to me... Xon said
we'd find life... But he didn't
say what kind.

And as the others turn to look at him - that thought
penetrating:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

11 EXT. ENTERPRISE ORBITTING PLANET

as we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:

Captain's log - Star Date
3029.1... We are orbitting
ZV-33.4, the fourth in a
series of bodies which circle
a minor sun-star designated
in Federation charts as ZV-33...
Our sensors show it to be an
Earth-size, M-Type planet...
From here it appears green and
tranquil -- and very pleasing
to those of us aboard this
Starship who haven't seen their
native Earth for over a year...

12 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

revealing intense interest in the strange Planet by
our Principals.

13 TIGHT ON THE VIEWER - AND THAT STRANGE PLANET

as we Continue HEARING:

KIRK'S VOICE:

...I have ordered a landing party
consisting of Mr. Xon, McCoy, Mr.
Sulu, Lt. Ilia and Lt. Chekov,
who will direct security. I will,
of course, lead, while Commander
Will Decker remains in command of
the Enterprise...

Even as Kirk SPEAKS - we are seeing:

14 THE LANDING PARTY - IN TRANSPORTER ROOM

already beaming down. And:

15 EXT. THE PLANET - NEAR A WOODED, HILLY AREA - DAY

as our Landing Party materializes and looks around.
Almost immediately, Kirk has his intercom out, while
Xon activates his tricorder, moving it around.

CONT'D.

15 CONTINUED:

KIRK
(into intercom)
Captain here, Lt. Uhura --
Put me through to Cmdr. Decker.

UHURA'S VOICE:
Aye, aye, sir!

A beat, then:

DECKER'S VOICE:
Yes, Captain?

KIRK
We're on the surface. Everything
seems fine. Conducting routine
tests and will procede with mission.
No alien contact seems imminent.
If there's any change, I'll contact
you. Meanwhile, hold the fort!

DECKER'S VOICE:
Good luck, sir!

As Kirk pockets the intercom, we see that Xon's already
busy buzzing rocks, trees, bushes, soil -- everything in
sight with that tricorder, getting readings.

McCoy - the only one not intensely caught up in explorat-
ion - takes a deep, joyful breath, saying:

McCOY
Ah...! Fresh air! The forgotten
commodity!

XON
Everything seems quite normal,
Captain. The planet's composition
is almost identical to that of
Earth, as I predicted.

McCOY
(disgusted)
'Quite normal' ... 'composition...'
Can't you see that sun? Can't you
feel that beautiful earth beneath
your feet, Xon? Have you no soul?

XON
I'm afraid, Doctor, you're con-
fusing sensual pleasure with
scientific exploration.

CONT'D.

15 CONTINUED:

McCOY
(a mock disdain)
Scientific malarky...! This
morbid fascination with reducing
everything to its molecular compo-
nents can only end with you turning
into a turnip, Mr. Xon!

KIRK
(laughing)
Allright, you two. We haven't
been on this planet two minutes,
and--!

ALTERING ANGLE - TO INCLUDE OTHERS REACTING
as Chekov says, tensing and backing:

CHEKOV
Captain...!

And still ALTERING - to INCLUDE AKJOINING WOODS

from which a GROUP of ALIENS are emerging slowly -
regarding our Crew with large, curious, and surprisingly
innocent eyes -- eyes which light up more as they draw
closer.

And now they're right up to the Crew - regarding them
with undisguised interest and pleasure -- some of them
actually touching their clothes and hands and faces.

But there's no alarm to be taken, for these People are
as shy, delicate and beautiful as their surroundings.
As sweet and overtly loving as anyone from the Enterprise
has ever encountered. It's really quite disarming.

After a beat, Kirk says:

KIRK
I... I'm Captain James T. Kirk,
of the Starship Enterprise...
(with difficulty - trying
to cope with a beautiful
girl, who has taken his
hand, and is feeling it)
...I... Ah... And this is...
part of my crew...

A handsome young Alien acknowledges the greeting by
taking Kirk's hands and raising them to his (the Alien's)
forehead, replying in a gentle voice:

CONT'D.

15 CONTINUED:

REYLOZ
May joy dwell in you....
I am Reyloz. Welcome to
Naterra.

In b.g., the other Aliens are similarly greeting our
Crew - touching hands to foreheads, with:

ALL
(AD LIBBING)
May joy dwell in you...
Welcome to Naterra...!

Their voices are so gentle - their actions so delicate -
that our Crew People are instantly, and visibly, charmed.

XON
So that's the name of this
planet?

KIRK
We thank you for your hospi-
tality...
(to Reyloz)
I presume you're the leader
here?

REYLOZ
I'm but a humble follower.
(bowing)
He who leads it called Zxolar.

KIRK
Zxolar?

REYLOZ
Zxolar the Blessed. He who is
wise, and all-seeing.

The Crew notice that as the name 'Zxolar' is pronounced,
the Aliens bend their heads, reverently, placing their
hands to their foreheads.

KIRK
Can you...take us to...Zxolar?

REYLOZ
It shall be done.

MCCOY
Is it far?

CONT'D.

15 CONTINUED:

REYLOZ
(smiling pleasantly)
It is not far. Come with me.
From just beyond the wood,
there, you will see the Palace
of the Circle of the Blessed...

Even as Reyloz speaks, we're:

DISSOLVING TO

16 EXT. A LONG SHOT - ZXOLAR'S PALACE - DAY

surrounded by green hills and a cluster of low, white,
pristine buildings. As beautiful a spot as we'll ever
see. And now we're:

DISSOLVING TO

17 INT. THE PALACE - MAIN SALON - DAY

As KLEYAX - a patrician, young man - enters, hurrying
across. And in Panning with him we see that this interior
is merely an extension of the world outside: Instead of
carpets or decorations, there are flowers, grass and
fountains; and birds fly freely everywhere. Rocks and
trees are used for chairs or tables, and even the stairs
and beds and storage spaces are part of a natural setting.
It's a super Frank Lloyd Wright heaven.

18 ANOTHER ANGLE - KLEYAX

arriving to bow before a beautiful Old Man, who is
seated at the far end of this remarkable room.

KLEYAX
May joy dwell in you, Zxolar,
my teacher.

ZXOLAR
(weak voiced; tired)
May joy dwell in you, Kleyax.

Right off we can see that Zxolar isn't well. His voice
is weak, his manner listless, his spirits at low ebb.
The realization effects Kleyax, too. But he goes on:

KLEYAX
I come from Raytoz, who bids
me tell you...there are strangers
among us!

CONT'D.

18 CONTINUED:

A sudden flash of fear comes into the Old Man's eyes, and he sits up, weakly, reaching for Kleyax's arm.

ZXOLAR

(alarmed)

Strangers? Who...? Wha...?

We've seen two beautiful women beside Zxolar -- one (EULIX), an exquisite blonde, seemingly in her late teens -- the other (ZXEDA), a lovely, gentle person, seemingly in her early 30's.

As Zxolar reacts, they both move to comfort him, easing him back gently:

ZXEDA

Zxolar - you mustn't tire yourself.

EULIX

Rest, Zxolar. Please...

And they look at Kleyax with eyes which seem to say: 'You mustn't alarm him...' But Kleyax has little choice:

KLEYAX

I saw but a glimpse of them, before leaving. They are beings - somewhat like us - however...

(with difficulty)

...I am not sure from where they came -- or how.

EULIX

(alarmed)

What do you mean?

KLEYAX

They... They're not of our world! None of us saw them arrive -- yet they were there! Their leader--

ZXOLAR

(in pain; to himself)

Komether...!

(a whisper)

...It's the beginning of the end!

The others all look puzzled, then:

KLEYAX

You spoke, Master?

But Zxolar only shakes his head. Then:

CONT'D.

18 CONTINUED:

ZXOLAR

(with an effort)

Their leader... Tell me...
Tell me about him...

KLAYAX

I saw little of him. I - I...

But Zxolar has fallen back, closing his eyes - his
ancient face a mask of sheer despair - again whispering:

ZXOLAR

Komether...!

Seeing Zxolar's exhaustion, Klayax reacts with dismay,
whispering aside to Eulix:

KLAYAX

He grows worse...!

EULIX

I'm afraid, Klayax. Afraid for
him. What would Naterra do
without Zxolar?

ZXEDA

(joining them; sorrowfully)

All men become ambience when
their time is done.

EULIX

(in sudden despair)

Not him! Not Zxolar-the-Blessed!
He was here when we arrived --
and shall be here when we are
gone! He is all-wise, and forever!

ZXEDA

(sadly)

Look at him. With each breath he
grows weaker - with each sigh a
cycle older. I have watched Taru
rise and set three times...and
watched our Master age tenfold!

EULIX

He was so happy, always! So vital!
What is it? What's killing him,
Klayax?

And as they all look at each other, without answers:

CUT TO

19 INT. CLOSE ON KIRK - DAY

he's looking down at something o.s., and as we WIDEN - we see the other Crewmembers with him. Now - ALTERING ANGLE - we see our Principal Waterreans. We're in the Main Salon of the Palace, and see that Kirk has been watching Zxolar -- who looks at him, fixedly, with thinly-disguised fear in his ancient eyes. And something akin to loathing.

ZKOLAR
(to his People)
Leave us. Go, my children.

They bow out, leaving the Old Man alone with the 'Aliens'. Kirk nods to his own People, and they go with the Naterrans - only Xon and McCoy remaining. A beat, then:

ZKOLAR
(tensely)
Why are you here? The contract
is not yet due!

Kirk and the others evidence some puzzlement.

KIRK
I'm afraid I don't understand
what you're saying.

ZKOLAR
You know what I am saying,
Komether! I am not deceived
by your appearance -- or by
these other...images!

More puzzlement. Then:

KIRK
I think you've got us mixed up
with someone else, Zxolar. As
I've said - my name is Captain
Kirk. I command a Starship, from
Starfleet Command...
(seeing disbelief - or something)
...Earth Federation... Lt. Xon and
Dr. McCoy are two of my officers.

McCOY
We know no one named...Komether.
Please believe us - we come in
friendship!

ZKOLAR
(suspiciously; to Kirk)
If you're not Komether -- or from
him... What manner of being are
you? Why have you taken our form?

19 CONTINUED:

KIRK

It's our form, too...
We are Humans. From the planet
Earth, which lies many light
years across the galaxy.

ZXOLAR

(indicating Xon)

He is not like you!

Xon - taking it in stride - replies:

XON

I am a native of the planet
Vulcan, which is part of the
Federation...

(a glint of irony?)

...I expect, in strictly Human
scientific terminology I might
be described as a.... 'Humanoid
Biped'.

McCoy gives him a wry look, which Xon ignores. For a
moment longer Zxolar tenses - leaning toward them. Then
he begins trembling violently, alarmingly, so that McCoy
jumps forward, grabbing the Old Man, aided by Xon.

KIRK

Are you alright, Zxolar?

McCoy

No he's not, Jim! This man's
very sick!

But Zxolar tries to free himself, feebly, saying:

ZXOLAR

Leave me... I'll - I'll be...
allright in a moment...

(and composing himself)

...I beg you to forgive me. I...
It's not in our nature to be...
suspicious - or inhospitable, but...

McCoy

(doing so)

Let me help you... Here, lie
back. Try not to talk.

KIRK

You'll be alright. You're in
good hands.

CONT'D.

19 CONTINUED:

ZXOLAR
(despondantly)
...It's over! Nearly over...!

KIRK
What do you mean, Zxolar? What's
nearly over...? What is it...?

ZXOLAR
(growing weaker; delirious)
...All this contentment and beauty.
All you see - all we are - will be
no more...! We're doomed! Finished!

KIRK
(urgently now)
Doomed how...? How, Zxolar?

ZXOLAR
(weaker still)
...Before Taru has risen and
set 6 more times...this planet -
and all on it - will be destroyed...
Gone in a sheet of flame...!

XON
(shaking his head)
Impossible, Captain. There's no
indication that this solar system
is endangered!

ZXOLAR
(feebly; in agony)
Komether needs no... He is...all
powerful...powerful -- and evil...!

KIRK
That word again.....
(to Zxolar)
...Zxolar... Who - or what - is
this...Komether...? Zxolar...?

But suddenly Zxolar gives a small convulsion, lapsing
into unconsciousness. McCoy, who's been working over him,
looks up, puzzled:

McCOY
I don't understand, Jim! This
man's dying -- and I don't know
why!

KIRK
What can we do, Bones?

CONT'D.

19 CONTINUED:

McCOY

I'd like permission to transport him up to the Enterprise, where I can use our equipment. It's the only chance he's got!

KIRK

Permission granted!

As Kirk pulls back, reaching for his intercom, we see Xon react -- hard.

XON

Captain! Look!

Kirk does - reacting, too. As they stare at McCoy (still kneeling over Zxolar) they see a strange, kaleidoscopic form appearing, coalescing around McCoy's head.

Suddenly McCoy screams, in excruciating pain, rising and looking at them, unseeing. As they watch, helplessly, McCoy falls to his knees again, then rises again. He's still screaming in agony.

Now the apparition moves to a spot on the wall. Kirk and Xon rush to McCoy, who runs toward the apparition -- and right into the wall, still screaming with pain. Even as Kirk and Xon try to reach him, McCoy disappears, and before they can reach the spot, and apparition is vanishing, too.

KIRK

Xon! McCoy's gone! Gone right into that wall!

XON

It's not possible, Captain!

KIRK

We both saw him! He disappeared into that wall!

(quickly)

Come on! Let's get outside!

And as they run out the door:

CUT TO

20 EXT. REVERSE OF WALL - A PALACE GARDEN

as Kirk and Xon round the corner, running fast -- Then they stop, staring at the spot where McCoy should have emerged -- if the impossible were possible.

CONT'D.

20 CONTINUED:

KIRK
Xon! Where's McCoy? Where
did he go?

XON
I don't know, Captain! I...
don't know!

And as we CLOSE ON Kirk's face - then on to that spot
on the solid wall:

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

FADE IN

21 EXT. ENTERPRISE ORBITTING

as we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:

Captain's log. Star Date 3029
point 6... All efforts to locate
Dr. McCoy have failed, despite
additional personnel beamed
down to aid in the search...
Meanwhile Zxolar has been
transported to the Enterprise,
where he is barely alive...

22 INT. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY - PANNING FROM DOOR

as Kirk enters, crossing to a bed, where Zxolar lies,
unconscious, tended by DR. CHAPEL.

KIRK

How is he, Doctor?

CHAPEL

Still comatose and failing
fast, Captain.

23 AGAIN ON DOOR - XON ENTERS, CROSSING

to join Kirk and Chapel.

KIRK

Any luck?

XON

None, sir... Not a trace of
Dr. McCoy -- and the Naterrans
look at me as if I'm crazy when
I say he ran through a wall.

KIRK

I can't blame them. That wall was
2 feet thick, if it was an inch...
What about that apparition -- that...
thing we saw?

XON

They've never heard of anything
like it.

CONT'D.

23 CONTINUED:

CHAPEL

Maybe it was...just some kind
of...hallucination.

XON

Negative, Doctor.

KIRK

(picking up on that)
You have something, Mr. Xon?

XON

Only the evidence of our eyes,
Captain. You and I both saw
that...being. We watched it
appear and envelop Dr. McCoy.
It was like...

KIRK

An aura - a formless, kaleido-
scopic field playing over him.

XON

Precisely my impression, Captain.

CHAPEL

A formless, kaleidoscopic...?

At this instant Zxolar suddenly moans, getting their
attention. Dr. Chapel hurries to the Old Man.

CHAPEL (Continues)

He may be responding!

(examining Zxolar)

Yes. He's coming to! I think
there's a chance. I'm going to
try to--!

As Chapel works over Zxolar, suddenly we see the same
kaleidoscopic form appearing over her head that we saw
over McCoy's. As[^]envelops her, Kirk reacts:

KIRK

Xon! It's that thing! It's
here!

XON

Dr. Chapel -- get back!

They both rush toward her, and as they do, she suddenly
grabs her head, screaming in agony, and spinning against
the bulkhead. Kirk grabs her, but she tears away, still

CONT'D.

23 CONTINUED:

screaming, and falls to the floor, unconscious. Kirk makes an attempt to reach her, but is violently flung back. Meanwhile, Xon has grabbed a tricorder and aims it at the swirling, coalescing phantom before him, as Kirk yells:

KIRK

I can't get close to her! It
won't let me! Xon -- sound
'Intruder Alert!' Quick!

Xon runs to the ALARM, sounding it -- Meanwhile the 'being' is fading, disappearing, leaving Dr. Chapel unconscious on the floor. And Xon is calling:

XON

(intercom)

Intruder aboard! Security check
all areas! Activate sensors, on
the double!

As the ALARM is 'sounding, Kirk finally reaches Dr. Chapel, trying to revive her, but it's no use:

KIRK

Dr. Chapel....! Christine....!
(to Xon, who joins him)
...It's no use!

XON

She seems to be in a state of
suspended animation, Captain!

Two MEDICS enter on the run, reacting.

KIRK

You Medics! Bear a hand here!
Let's get her on a bed!

They AD LIB: "Aye, aye, sir!" - placing her on a bed.
They check her over, quickly, giving necessary aid.

MEDIC #1

There doesn't seem to be
anything wrong with her, sir --
but she's not responding!

KIRK

Keep working on her! Do
everything you can! ...And,
whatever you do...don't leave
either patient alone for a
moment! Got that?

CONT'D.

23 CONTINUED:

MEDIC #1
Got it, sir!

Kirk turns away, joining Xon, who is examining the tricorder he used during the emergency.

KIRK
What is it, Mr. Xon?

XON
I got a reading that time, Captain. No question -- it's real, alright!

KIRK
Real how...? What?

XON
I'm not sure yet... But, look at this...

KIRK
(looks; reacting)
Good lord, Xon! The energy level is phenomenal!

XON
Beyond even the tricorder's capacity to record it fully...!
(a thought)
...Whatever that 'thing' is - it appears to made up of pure energy. That's why it can come and go from one dimension to another.

KIRK
Both McCoy and Dr. Chapel were attacked while tending Zxolar. It seems important to our mysterious being that Zxolar be left to die.

XON
Could it be, Captain, that this is the being Zxolar called... Komether? The thing he feared?

As Kirk reaches for the bulkhead INTERCOM, he says:

KIRK
At this stage...anything's possible...
(and switching on)
Captain Kirk to bridge...
Report on search.

CONT'D.

23 CONTINUED:

DECKER'S VOICE:

Decker here, skipper. Negative.
Security and sensors turned up
zero.

KIRK

Secure Alert. Captain out...
(and as he switches off)

24 ANOTHER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE BEDS IN B.G.

KIRK (Continues)

(to Xon)

...One thing's certain... We're
not getting any answers here.
Not from Zxolar...

(a beat)

I think it's time we beamed down
to Natterra again...and asked our
questions there.

And as we CLOSE ON Kirk's grim face:

CUT TO

25 INT. THE PALACE SALON - CLOSE-UP ON REYLOZ' FACE - DAY
as he says:

REYLOZ

I would give my life for
Zxolar... But I can tell you
nothing - nothing at all -
about this...'energy being' --
this...'Komether'!

Even as he speaks, we're PULLING BACK to reveal Kirk
and Xon with him, and:

KIRK

You can't...or you won't?

XON

It's not logical that you
should be Zxolar's pupil
and confidant -- his chosen
successor...yet know nothing
of the thing he feared most.
A thing which has nearly cost
him his life!

Reyloz looks as if he's been slapped, but he still
says nothing. Kirk follows, hard:

CONT'D.

25 CONTINUED:

KIRK

You say you'd give your life
for him. You bow to him, venerate
him, call him 'Zxolar-the-Blessed' --
Yet you'll do nothing to help him!

REYLOZ

(stung hard)

No! That's not so! I love him!
I--!

KIRK

Yes...?

A beat. Reyloz controls himself - yet we see in his
eyes the pain deep in his soul, as he says:

REYLOZ

I... I can tell you nothing...
(in sudden desperation)
...Can't you see? It is my love
for Zxolar which binds me to
secrecy!

KIRK

(hard; pressing)

Why? What is it about Komether
that you're hiding?

(harder)

What did Zxolar mean when he
said Naterra would be destroyed?

(as Reyloz remains silent)

Can't you see - we can't help
you -- help him - if you won't
tell us!

Reyloz bows his head in anguish, but says nothing. A
beat, then:

REYLOZ

Please...leave... There is
nothing you can do here. When
my Master becomes ambience...
it is best that we all go with
him.

KIRK

(hotly)

It's all well and good for you
to think that way. But Dr. McCoy -
my crewman and my friend - has
disappeared...

(pointing angrily)

...right through that wall...
and I'm damned if I'm leaving
here without him! ...You want

(MORE)

CONT'D.

25 CONTINUED:

KIRK (Continues)
 to wallow in self-pity, go
 ahead! I'm going to find
 McCoy if I have to tear this
 place apart!
 (and starting off)
 Let's get started, Mr. Xon!

And he stalks off angrily, leaving Peyloz behind.

CUT TO

26 INT. A CORRIDOR OF THE PALACE - TRACKING SHOT - DAY
 as Kirk and Xon round a corner and walk on.

XON
 You may be interested to know,
 Captain, that further analysis
 of my tricorder readings has
 verified that our 'creature' is -
 indeed - pure energy, as I earlier
 surmised. Moreover, he's made up
 of 6 semi-distinct facets.

KIRK
 (suddenly stopping cold)
 What do you mean: '6 semi-distinct
 facets...' What sort of facets?
 And why 6?

XON
 (mulling that over)
 Interesting questions...
 (and seeing Kirk's look)
 ...However, so it shouldn't be
 a total loss -- I've evolved a
 theory concerning Dr. McCoy's
 disappearance...

KIRK
 Which is...?

XON
 (unflustered)
 ...As you know, Captain, no solid
 object is - in scientific fact -
 totally solid... There's always
 more space between molecules than
 the space the molecules actually
 take up...

CONT'D.

26 CONTINUED:

KIRK
I'm listening...

XON
...It's my theory that this...
energy creature somehow insulated
the molecules in the wall and Dr.
McCoy in such a way as to enable
them to pass through one another...
allowing McCoy to 'filter' through
the wall.

Kirk considers this, then:

KIRK
Allright... Why?

XON
I wish I knew, Captain.

KIRK
(a sudden idea)
Could it be...to keep us here?

Now Xon considers it - then:

XON
Why?

KIRK
That's my line, Mr. Xon...
(then)
...All I can say is that at this
point anything makes sense. Mean-
while -- where is McCoy?

And as they look at each other, wonderingly:

CUT TO

27 INT. A SUBTERRANIAN VAULT - DUSTY, ANCIENT, UNUSED

as the old door opens, we see two shadowy figures
enter - one flashing a small light. He finds a wall
switch, presses, and... The room LIGHTS up, revealing
Kirk and Xon, looking around.

KIRK
Well, we've searched this
palace from top to bottom.
I'd say we've just run out
of places where McCoy might
be!

28 ANOTHER ANGLE - A FAR WALL - CLOSE ON XON

who examines it. Suddenly he finds a hidden spring, and presses it. Part of the wall OPENS.

XON

Captain?

Kirk frowns, then follows Xon through - into:

29 A LARGER HIDDEN CHAMBER

older and mustier than the first. As Kirk and Xon enter, their attention is instantly drawn to the technical aspect of that room, for it looks - quite unlike Naterra's 'natural' decor - like some kind of scientific lab of some sort, with extensive shelves filled with books and tapes.

After their initial reaction, Kirk and Xon explore the contents. Finding a large viewing screen, they play with it -- and it goes on.

XON

Well...!

Exploring the shelves further.

KIRK

It appears to be an archive of some sort...

(pulling down several cassettes)

...Very interesting...

As Kirk and Xon both turn toward the viewing screen again, we HEAR:

REYLOZ' VOICE:

So you found the Chamber of Images...?

30 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDES RAYLOZ

by the doorway - then entering.

KIRK

I thought you had no technology.

REYLOZ

None that is new. The instruments you see here - those images you hold in your hand - are over 1000 cycles past.

CONT'D.

30 CONTINUED:

KIRK

Cycles?

XON

Years, Captain...

(seeing their reactions)

...I've been observing Naterran chronology: A 'beat' - 1 hour.

20 'beat' - a day - 1 Taru or Sun. 20 Taru is 1 Glow - for Moon or Month - and 13 Glow equals a Cycle, or Year.

REYLOZ

I congratulate you, Mr. Xon, on your knowledge of our humble language...

(to Kirk)

...This chamber is known only to Zxolar and myself. It was formally the 'Chamber of Philosophers'. Those of the Blessed Circle.

KIRK

I don't understand.

REYLOZ

You hold the answers there -- in your hand...

(pained)

...The things my oath to Zxolar forbade me from saying... Even though...

(with an effort)

...it might mean...his death!

Kirk glances at the tapes he holds - then inserts one. Now - MOVING PAST Kirk - we're TIGHT ON the Viewer, and we're SEEING:

31 A NEWSREEL-LIKE MONTAGE OF:

A - A CITY

very much like any 20th Century American city - except that its atmosphere is clogged with fumes.

B - INTERCUTS OF: RIVERS - OCEANS - LAKES

all clogged with filth, waste, litter and dead fishes.

C - INTERCUTS OF: STREETS - HOUSES - FACTORIES - FREEWAYS

everything fallen-in, boarded-up, littered, desolate, deserted. The ruins of a once splendid city, now dead.

CONT'D.

31 CONTINUED:

D - INTERCUTS OF: A DESOLATE DUSTBOWL

blowing away. Dead or dying cattle, other animals.

E - INTERCUTS OF: PEOPLE

in the streets - choking - fogged in by noxious fumes that obscure the sun. A CLOSE-UP of a wide-eyed, grimy and bewildered CHILD, sitting alone in the middle of nowhere.

And OVER this all, we've been HEARING:

REYLOZ' VOICE:

It was 1000 cycles ago and Naterra was dying. Our laws and industry had failed. Without fuel, our once marvelous technology had collapsed... The air and seas were poisoned. Our planet's atmosphere exhausted. Everywhere the social order lay in chaos. In the streets, the people died, until only a few hundred thousand Naterrans remained of our once vast population...

32 ON REYLOZ - KIRK AND XON WATCHING THE IMAGES O.S.

as he CONTINUES:

REYLOZ

...It was then that a small cabal of young Philosophers took over what remained of the government. Six dedicated, young men, who worked and prayed, desperately seeking some way to save what remained of their world...

And INTERCUTTING KIRK AND XON

REYLOZ' VOICE (Continues):

...But there seemed no way. Amid death, destruction and decay -- they, too, waited for the end...

and now:

33 AN IMAGE OF THE CABAL - ON VIEWER

the 6 YOUNG PHILOSOPHERS - and among them we see ONE YOUNG MAN who looks remarkably like ZXOLAR. And we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:

That one man...looks remarkably like Zxolar.

CONT'D.

33 CONTINUED:

XON'S VOICE:
A distant ancestor, no doubt.

34 ON KIRK, XON AND REYLOZ

REYLOZ
No, Mr. Xon... Not an ancestor.

The others react:

KIRK
You mean...? But that would
make Zxolar over 1000 years old!

REYLOZ
He was then the youngest of the
6 Philosophers, known as 'The
Assembly of Wise Men', and later
as 'The Circle of the Blessed' --
for it was they who were to bring
salvation to Naterra...

And as Reyloz CONTINUES:

35 INTERCUTTING SHOTS - THEN FULL SHOT - THE PHILOSOPHERS

seated in a circle - in a large, almost bare and dim
room. And there is hopelessness and failure in their
faces, on which the bluish glow of a lamp in the middle
of their circle casts dancing lights and shadows.

REYLOZ' VOICE (Continues):
...but this, yet, lay ahead... Meanwhile,
despite their prayers, the very Gods
of Naterra had failed them. Unable
to find an answer, even the Young
Philosophers despaired... Then one
night, during one of their prayer-
vigils, hope appeared in a strange,
mysterious form...

(a beat)
But... Observe for yourselves...

As we watch this seance-like scene, we see the 6 Philo-
sophers - Zxolar among them - sitting in their circle.
We see them praying, meditating. Now:

36 INTERCUTTING THEIR FACES

the terrible tensions they're experiencing. Then:

37 THE FULL CIRCLE - AS BEFORE

and a FAINT GLOW seems to emanate from their bodies -- growing, swirling, gradually expanding, like a bluish, electric cloud, until it seems to connect them in the center of the circle. Then growing ever more powerful as the terrible stresses and tensions of the Young Philosophers increase, and their faces glisten with sweat. And as we CLOSE on it, we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:

It's Komether!

As he speaks, the IMAGES FADE - the viewer becomes blank, and we're back on:

38 KIRK, XON AND REYLOZ

REYLOZ

Yes, Captain. Komether... Shortly after his appearance, the destruction of our planet was reversed. Naterra was revitalized, and prospered. Our seas were cleansed, as was the air. Crops grew again. The population increased, and grew healthy. Zxolar and the other Philosophers became known as 'The Circle of the Wise' -- venerated as 'The Prophets of Hope'. And so began an epoch known to us as 'The 1000 Years of Joy'.

KIRK

You mentioned Zxolar's age as being over 1000 years.

REYLOZ

Longevity became one of our many gifts. How old would you judge me to be?

KIRK

30... 35, perhaps.

REYLOZ

I am 209 cycles of age.

Even Xon reacts to that. Then:

KIRK

And those...images we've seen. They were true - and accurate?

CONT'D.

38 CONTINUED:

REYLOZ

Accurate...? What you have seen
were mental images - impressed
directly - from Zxolar's brain.

XON

(intrigued)

You mean ... Zxolar can trans-
form his thoughts into pictures?

REYLOZ

Those within the Enlightened
Circle possessed that power. Yes...
(again, as Kirk and Xon
react)

Now you know all.

XON

Not precisely... Captain, I
perceive one major flaw in
our stream of logic.

KIRK

What's that, Mr. Xon?

XON

Admitted - there may be a
connection between Zxolar's dying
condition and the presence of
Komether - and the implied threat
to Waterra... But why is Komether
so eager to dispose of Zxolar,
when the old man is bound to die
with his planet, anyhow?

KIRK

(considering it)

A very good point, Mr. Xon...

(thinking)

...Which brings up another...

If Komether has the power to
restore - or destroy - an entire
planet...why didn't he just kill
Zxolar - or, for that matter,
McCoy and Chapel - right off...?

(still thinking aloud)

...Could it be there's a limit to
Komether's power? And could it
be that control over Komether's
power has something to do with
Zxolar?

CONT'D.

38 CONTINUED:

They both glance at Reyloz, who shakes his head.

REYLOZ
I know nothing of that. On
my oath!

XON
Logically, all our answers
depend on one man...

KIRK
Zxolar! ...Mr. Xon, we've got
to find some way to restore
his health. To get those answers!
(thinking)
The Life-Support Table! ... But, with-
out McCoy and Chapel... Mr. Xon --
you'd have to do it! Can you?

XON
(uncertain)
I could try...
(another thought)
...But...Zxolar foretold the
destruction of Naterrá, within
6 days - of which 2 have passed.
Unless we find Dr. McCoy and
leave soon, the Enterprise and
its entire crew may be caught in
the destruction of Naterra.

KIRK
(to himself; grimly)
Or I may have to leave Bones to
save my ship.

And as we CLOSE ON Kirk's distressed face:

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

39 THE ENTERPRISE ORBITTING

as we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:

Captain's log. Star Date --
3029.7... It was decided to try
restoring Zxolar's strength by
artificial means... By taking
tricorder readings of Reytoz, we
hoped to properly adjust the Life
Support Table to Naterran body
functions...

40 INT. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY - CLOSE-UP - ZXOLAR

as he is wheeled from the sickward, through a set of
double doors, into an adjoining room. As Zxolar is
taken off, the ANGLE WIDENS - then ALTERS - revealing
that Kirk and Xon have remained behind, and are quickly
jumping to the Life Support Table System - starting to
work on it, making rapid adjustments.

KIRK'S VOICE (Continues):

...Aware that Komether might be
watching every move around Zxolar,
I had Zxolar moved to another ward,
while Xon and I started work on the
Table...

41 CLOSE ON THE TABLE - A MONTAGE - TIME PASSING

as Kirk and Xon work feverishly to adjust the instru-
mentation.

KIRK'S VOICE (Continues):

...It was a chance - a gamble...
When the time came to move Zxolar
back, the danger would be even
greater, for it would have to be
done under Komether's scrutiny --
under the threat of his power...
But there was no other way...

We see Kirk and Xon - tired and uncertain. They make
some fast tests, glance at each other, and steel them-
selves.

42 INT. THE ADJOINING SICKBAY ROOM - ZXOLAR

as he lies there, seemingly lifeless, we ALTER ANGLE
PANNING THE ROOM, revealing that Kirk, Xon and Others

CONT'D.

42 CONTINUED:

have entered by two separate ways, and are approaching Zxolar's bed cautiously, slowly...

KIRK'S VOICE (Continues):

...It was decided the safest way would be to use a group of volunteers, moving Zxolar fast. If Komether tried to stop us - he would have to attack us all at once...!

43 INTERCUTTING: THE VOLUNTEERS - APPROACHING

They are Scotty, Chekov, Sulu, Xon and Kirk. Now:

44 FULL SHOT - AROUND ZXOLAR'S BED

KIRK
(suddenly)

Now!

Together they rush, starting to propel Zxolar toward the big, double doors. And at this same instant Komether divines their intent -- and begins materializing: that same swirling, menacing, kaleidoscopic form suddenly coalescing over the bed -- then rapidly spreading, jumping toward the Volunteers, engulfing each of them in a sizzling, crackling, furious display of fireworks such as we've never seen before!

Immediately the men begin screaming, shuddering with pain - nearly out of their heads -- but they keep going, pushing, enduring it somehow, while they get Zxolar through those doors!

45 ANGLE ON DOORS - MAIN WARD - SICKBAY - INTERCUTTING FAST as they emerge with Zxolar - all the men crazy with pain now -- that evil snapping, crackling, sparkling mass of energy turning blue and flaming red in its potent rage as it presses over them.

KIRK
(in agony, too)
Keep going! Keep moving!

One by one our People drop along the way, until only Kirk and Xon are left. As they lift Zxolar to the Life-Support Table, Kirk drops. Xon's face is contorted, covered with sweat, but enduring the tremendous pain, he completes the necessary body connections and activates the machinery.

Almost immediately, we see Zxolar's reaction. His

CONT'D.

45 CONTINUED:

eyes flutter open -- and even as his condition improves, we're seeing that Komether's force and fury are weakening - fading.

46 INTERCUTTING NOW: THE OTHERS

who are slowly recovering. Even Dr. Chapel seems to stir, briefly - but she falls back into her coma.

Kirk rises, joining Xon at Zxolar's bedside. The others, shaken, but unharmed, pick themselves up.

XON
(watching Zxolar)
He's coming to, Captain.

KIRK
Look after the others, Mr.
Xon.

And as Xon goes to do that - we're CLOSING on Kirk's sweated, pallid face - looking down at Zxolar, and:

DISSOLVE TO

47 KIRK'S FACE - AS BEFORE

but time has passed, and he's more composed. And as we PULL BACK we see that Zxolar is fully conscious now - if still weak - and that Xon is with them. A beat, then:

KIRK
We almost lost you, Zxolar.

ZXOLAR
(faintly)
I had...such...dreams...
Evil dreams...

KIRK
About the end of Naterra...
The destruction of your
people...? About your...
pact with Komether?

Even in his weakened condition, the Old Man reacts with a sudden energizing fear, his eyes widening. Both Xon and Kirk sense the moment. Kirk presses:

KIRK
It wasn't all a dream,
Zxolar. Komether was here.
(MORE)

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

KIRK (Continues)
Twice we've fought him for
your life -- and held him!
We've taken casualties...
(looking toward her
still form in b.g.)
...Dr. Chapel, lying over
there... Dr. McCoy -- still
missing! But we've met your
Komether... And we've held!

ZXOLAR
(closing his eyes; an
agonized whisper)
Komether...!

KIRK
I'm involved in this now...
My ship. My people...
(hard)
...While I didn't intend it --
your fight's become my fight
as well... But I've got to know
what - and why - I'm fighting!

His face contorted with spiritual pain, Zxolar turns
away from Kirk. But Kirk is fighting mad now, and won't
let go:

KIRK
Mr. Xon and I found the Chamber
of Images. We've seen the tapes.
We know the story! ...Zxolar...!

ZXOLAR
(weakly; frightened)
There is no...story...!

KIRK
We know about the Philosophers:
'The Enlightened Circle' - or
whatever else you were called...
We've seen your images! It was
Komether who came to you that
night -- the night everything
began to change! Wasn't it?

ZXOLAR
(agitated; feebly)
No...!

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

XON
(reaffirming it)
We have seen the images,
Zxolar.

KIRK
What are you afraid of?
(and, as Zxolar shakes
his head, mutely)
...Zxolar - why has Komether
returned? Why does he want to
destroy Naterra...?

The Old Man stares at Kirk now. Stares at him, hard
and helplessly.

KIRK
Look at you: A man paralyzed
with terror. A man like you --
venerated, wise, all-powerful...!
A man once determined enough to
turn a dying world into a new
paradise...!
(harder than ever)
...What happened, Zxolar? A man
regarded as a living saint,
reduced to this -- dying by
inches, while his world, his
people face extinction at the
hands of an evil...savage
creature like Komether?

The Old Man lies still, but his ancient eyes have welled
with tears. Xon looks from him to Kirk, shaking his head
quietly, as if to say: "You'll get nothing out of him..."
But Kirk turns again to Zxolar, saying pointedly:

KIRK (Continues)
Shall I tell you what I think?
(almost a whisper)
I think it's not fear alone that's
killing you. And it's not Komether...
(as Zxolar turns to look
at Kirk, his eyes widening
apprehensively)
...If Komether had the power --
you'd be dead, already. As it is:
All he can do is wait...and let
you die...of your own volition.
As he knows you will... That's
the truth, isn't it...?
(the look in Zxolar's eyes
confirms it, as do his tears)
(MORE)

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

KIRK (Continues)

...You're willing yourself to die, Zxolar. Why?

(and seeing Zxolar's eyes)

...You needn't answer, Zxolar. I saw it in those images. I see it now -- in your eyes!

(suddenly hard)

...That night, alone, terrified - feeling forgotten by your gods - you turned to something else. You turned to the only thing left!

ZXOLAR

(very frightened)

No!

KIRK (Continuing)

You prayed to something evil!

ZXOLAR

(rising desperately)

No! No!

KIRK (Continuing)

You and the others -- you prayed long and hard and desperately! And when that thing calling itself Komether appeared -- you made a pact with it!

ZXOLAR

(near collapse again)

Stop! Please...no more!

KIRK

What did Komether offer you?

(and seeing Zxolar's eyes)

...He's not here now. We've been monitoring with our tricorder. For the moment, we're alone... Now, what did he offer you...?

Zxolar looks uneasy, but unable to resist any longer:

ZXOLAR

One thousand cycles, filled with serenity and happiness.

KIRK

In exchange for what? ...For what, Zxolar?

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

ZXOLAR

For our planet. He would have Naterra at the end of that time.

XON

Naterra? Why?

ZXOLAR

To rule. To do with as he wished... He said he would first destroy everything on it. Begin again, creating his own world. For 1000 cycles we would have anything we wanted... along with time to find another planet, and rebuild the technology to take us there.

KIRK

So, you accepted.

ZXOLAR

We were so young...and 1000 cycles seemed like forever...!
(remembering)
...We agreed among ourselves. The people would never know. It seemed unnecessary to--to concern them... Rather, we would move ahead, rebuild our world, restore our lives. Preparing for our eventual journey into space.

KIRK

What happened?

ZXOLAR

Given their world back, the people rejected the science, the industry, which had once destroyed their environment. Nature became their religion, their way of life... Not even we, of the Enlightened Circle, wanted to think of our world choking in its own wastes and stupidity again. We worshipped beauty. Wars were forgotten, greed and suspicion put aside. Our lives became idyllic...

(MORE)

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

ZXOLAR (Continues)

...nourished by freedom and love... The average lifespan, which had been 60 cycles, became 100. Then 200, and more. So began the 1000 Years of Joy...

(to Kirk)

...We Philosophers grew old, loved and respected. One existed for 360 cycles. Another, 410. Two survived more than 600 cycles, and the last - before me - did not become ambience til the first Glow of the White Hue of this past cycle. He was then my age and 20 cycles more... Can you blame us for not wanting to change our ways...?

KIRK

Go on.

ZXOLAR

In time Komether seemed as unreal as a nightmare is to the awakened dreamer. At times I wondered if we had - indeed - not imagined him...

(tensing)

...Then one night - shortly after Zxando's ambience - Komether began appearing in my dreams, reminding me each night of our contract - our pact - until my guilt and terror had grown so that I couldn't sleep or eat or think of anything else! My life became ashes. My sleep filled with images of Naterra in flames!

(near panic)

I wished for death! I prayed to die!

XON

And you almost did!

KIRK

You said something about a contract. Is there such a document?

ZXOLAR

Yes. A scroll, signed by the 6 of us, ceding Naterra to Komether on the first Taru of the first Glow of the Green Hue. At the ending of the 1000 cycles.

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

XON

(to Kirk)

The first of March - computed
in Earth terms...or 3 days from
now.

KIRK

Where is this contract, Zxolar?

ZXOLAR

It is kept in a secret vault,
in the palace.

KIRK

Does Reyloz know the hiding place?

ZXOLAR

Yes.

KIRK

Mr. Xon. Contact Chekov on
Naterra. He's to find Reyloz
and beam him up -- with that
contract!

XON

Right away, Captain!

And as he goes:

KIRK

Just for security -- have
Lt. Ilya beam up with Reyloz.
I'll be in my cabin.

XON

Right, sir!

And he's gone. A beat, then:

ZXOLAR

(weakly)

It's too late. Naterra's doomed!

KIRK

There may be something in that
contract. Some way out!

ZXOLAR

There's none... You see, I know
now what we of the Enlightened
Circle only suspected before...

CONT'D.

47 CONTINUED:

KIRK
What's that?

ZXOLAR
That Komether is also Daimon.

KIRK
Daimon?

ZXOLAR
(as if imparting a
terrible secret)
The Dark One!

And as we CLOSE on the Old Man's frightened eyes:

FADE OUT

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

48 INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - KIRK, XON AND LT. ILIA

Kirk - seated at his desk - is going over an ancient SCROLL, while the others watch. Finally he looks up:

KIRK

Well, Mr. Xon -- what do you think?

XON

I think you'll have trouble, Captain. However harsh you may find it, the document is legal. It clearly states that Komether may take possession of Naterra when the 1000 years are up... Moreover, it's duly signed by all six Philosophers.

KIRK

It's a license to murder! We've got to find some way to break it!

XON

On what legal basis would you challenge it? And before what court?

KIRK

I don't know. But I'm sure of one thing: Once we leave Naterra, Zxolar will be on his own, and at Komether's mercy... If Komether should become more powerful through Zxolar's death...what would prevent him from taking over other planets?

XON

Agreed, Captain. A malevolent being with so much power represents a threat to the Federation and should be stopped. But how?

KIRK

I'm not sure, Mr. Xon. We're going to play this one by ear. But we're going to play it, because we haven't any other choice. Besides Zxolar and his people -- there's Doctors McCoy and Chapel... That reminds me... where's Reyloz, Lieutenant?

CONT'D.

48 CONTINUED:

ILIA

He begged to see Zxolar, sir.
I thought it wouldn't hurt--

KIRK

It's alright, Lieutenant.
I've got two Medics on watch,
in case Komether shows up!

XON

Curious.

KIRK

What is, Mr. Xon?

XON

I was thinking about Naterran
word roots and derivation...

KIRK

Oh?

XON

The word 'Daimon', which you say
Zxolar used. Earlier today, I
looked it up. It's derived from
an obsolete Earth word, meaning
'divine power', 'fate', 'god'.
But also meaning 'evil spirit'.

KIRK

Is that so?

XON

The name, 'Komether', itself,
may be akin to another obsolete
Earth term meaning 'friend'.

KIRK

(a deeper interest)
Friend?

XON

But also meaning, to the Earth
people of many centuries ago --
'one who beguiles...'

Kirk considers this, and Ilia says:

ILIA

I found something interesting,
too, Captain. In Zxolar's library.

CONT'D.

48 CONTINUED:

KIRK

What was that?

ILIA

There's an almost forgotten legend that the Naterrans came from another solar system, untold centuries ago. It tells of 'a green planet', much like Naterra, where the people prospered and built a civilization where art and learning flourished. Then one day a great earthquake struck, and the city disappeared into the sea... And only a few people managed to escape 'into the stars...'

KIRK

Into the stars?

ILIA

That's what the legend says, Captain.

XON

(skeptically)

Aren't we romanticizing this a bit? After all, Lt. Ilia, there's no logical proof that Atlantis ever existed, much less that its mythical inhabitants might have possessed the capabilities for space travel... If it is Atlantis we're talking about.

ILIA

What about the word roots?

XON

What?

ILIA

Your obsolete Earth words and derivations. How did they get here?

XON

(pondering that)

An interesting thought...

The INTERCOM buzzes. Kirk answers:

CONT'D.

48 CONTINUED:

KIRK
Captain!

INTERCOM VOICE:
Sir! Ship's security sensors are
picking up activity!

KIRK
Specify area!

INTERCOM VOICE:
Sickbay, sir! Should I sound
alert?

KIRK
Negative, I'll handle it! Out!
(and turning to Xon)
Mr. Xon!

But Xon's already heading for the doors - and as the
others follow:

CUT TO

49 INT. HALLWAY - ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

as Kirk, Xon and Ilia exit - and we PAN them toward
the Sickbay, on the double. Now:

CUT TO

50 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON ENTRANCE - AND PANNING IN

as they enter, heading for Zxolar and Dr. Chapel's
bedside. Our Two Medics are there, but before they
can speak, Kirk motions them out. As he and the others
reach the beds, Xon is already checking a tricorder
which hangs nearby. Kirk glances up. Xon's nod is
almost imperceptible, and both glance around quickly.

Reyloz, besides the unconscious Zxolar, looks uneasy
and puzzled. Kirk says:

KIRK
Has he come to at all?

Reyloz shakes his head, sadly.

REYLOZ
Please, help him, Captain! Take
him away, where he'll be safe.
The rest of us don't matter!

CONT'D.

50 CONTINUED:

XON
(checking)
Energy force intensifying,
Captain!

REYLOZ
He's lost all will to live.
He's dying.

But Kirk's already adjusting on the Life-Support systems:

KIRK
We're not going to let him
die!

XON
(reading)
Coming on stronger, Captain!

KIRK
(angrily)
Komether! Show yourself! We
know you're here!

Suddenly, high overhead, Komether begins materializing in that electric-blue/sparkling-red angry form he took earlier. There's a lot of hissing and crackling, but Kirk looks up, totally unimpressed -- challengingly.

KIRK (Continues)
You're not impressing anybody!
You've got a voice. I know you
can speak! Are you afraid to
answer me?

Abruptly, the angry display of fireworks stops -- that swirling, kaleidoscopic cloud taking shape in a corner of the room as a peal of dark laughter fills the air. Kirk's look is equally disdainful as he says:

KIRK (Continues)
So you think it's funny, do you?
Well, I'm here to challenge you,
Komether. That so-called contract
Zxolar and the others signed isn't
worth the parchment it's written
on!

The response, this time, is a quickening of that swirl of colors, and a deep, audible growl that seems to come from all the bulkheads.

CONT'D.

50 CONTINUED:

KIRK

What's the matter, Komether?
Suddenly lose your humor?
(to the cloud; directly)
Let's hear you, Komether...
Let's have a look at you. I
like to know what I'm talking
to!

In the corner we see the swirl condense, slowly gathering
in the vague outline of a MAN. A form without detail.
And then a VOICE comes from it -- deep and hollow:

KOMETHER

Send Zxolar back to Naterra.
He does not belong here!

KIRK

This is my ship, Komether. I'll
decide who belongs... What sort
of being are you? What galaxy
do you come from?

(Kirk waits; no reply)

Why do you want to hurt these
people?

Again, the outline swirlings quicken.

KOMETHER

The existence or nonexistence
of Zxolar's race means nothing
to me! We made a contract!

KIRK

Why do you want their planet?

KOMETHER

That is not your concern,
Captain Kirk!

KIRK

You know me.

KOMETHER

I know everything!

KIRK

Then, you must know Naterra is
the only home these people have.
There's no way for them to leave.
No place for them to go!

KOMETHER

That is not my concern!

CONT'D.

50 CONTINUED:

KIRK

But it's mine! Naterra's under protection of the Federation -- and I represent that Federation here!

KOMETHER

Does your Federation have laws?

KIRK

It does -- and strict ones!

KOMETHER

(triumphantly)

Then read the contract Zxolar signed...and enforce it!

Kirk walks back and forth for a second, before replying. Then he goes up to the form, saying pointedly:

KIRK

I've read it. The contract's invalid and unenforcible!

KOMETHER

(flaring)

On what grounds?

KIRK

That it was obtained under duress!

Suddenly the humanoid outline disintegrates -- turning into a violent bluish mass which lunges toward Kirk, who stands his ground.

KIRK (Continues)

(disdainfully)

If you can't outthink 'em - scare 'em! Is that it?

The mass stops short -- then slowly recedes, saying:

KOMETHER

What do you want, Captain Kirk?

KIRK

I challenge you to put your so-called 'contract' to a test -- before a Federation court. We'll let the Law decide who's right.

KOMETHER

(scornfully)

I recognize no law above my own!

CONT'D.

50 CONTINUED:

KIRK

Perhaps your own logic's not as solid as you'd like us to believe. Maybe your power and confidence are just empty bombast!

Again that threatening reaction.

51 TIGHT ON KIRK AND XON

XON

(whispering)

You may have struck it\$ weak point, Captain. The 'being's' arrogant sense of power and infallibility.

52 ALL - AS BEFORE - FAVORS KIRK AND KOMETHER

KIRK

If you're as confident as you'd have us believe -- prove it now!

A beat, then:

KOMETHER

There must be conditions.

KIRK

Name them!

KOMETHER

I will select the judge and jury...
(that dark laughter again)
...Don't worry, Captain. They will conform with Federation requirements.

KIRK

In that case, I've no objections.
Name them.

KOMETHER

(amused)

Your own ship's computers.

53 TIGHT ON KIRK AND XON - AS BEFORE

both reacting - and Xon whispering hurriedly:

XON

With the computer there's no room for legal maneuvering. It'll consider only hard, legal facts -- and Komether's got an iron-clad contract!

CONT'D.

53 CONTINUED:

KIRK
(a hurried whisper)
I've got no choice, Xon -- and
he knows it! I've already agreed!

54 ALL - AS BEFORE

KIRK (Continues)
(to Komether)
Alright, Komether. Then it's
settled.

KOMETHER
(ironically)
Not quite, Captain... There is
another condition. You are asking
me to risk my right to Naterra...
What are you willing to risk? If
the court finds for me -- what
compensation are you willing to make?

KIRK
I'll make no concessions!

KOMETHER
Then...it stands as it was. I will
foreclose as the contract stipulates!

KIRK
What more do you want?

This time Komether's movements - his spectral sounds -
indicate pleasure. He enjoys discomfiting this Earthling
upstart. His VOICE laced with irony, he replies:

KOMETHER
If I prevail -- as I will... You
must be ready to pay damages.

KIRK
I own nothing of value.

KOMETHER
You own your life. But what is
one small life for a whole planet?
(gleefully)
...If you would have a trial --
you must be ready to forfeit your
life - this ship - and her entire
crew!

55 A FULL SHOT

They all look stunned. Even Xon is surprised.

CONT'D.

55 CONTINUED:

KIRK

That's out of the question!
The Enterprise and her crew
are not my property! They're
not mine to risk!

KOMETHER

(amused)

Where is that logic and
righteousness you were so
full of a few moments ago,
Captain Kirk...?

The others all gather around Kirk, whispering hurriedly -
tensely - AD LIBBING that he must do it. That they're
willing to take the risk. That Drs. McCoy and Chapel's
lives are at stake, too. That they can't let Komether
destroy Naterra. Kirk sees they mean it.

XON

(summing it up)

If Komether wins now... There
may be no stopping him later!

A beat. Kirk considers it all, then:

KIRK

Allright, Komether. I agree.

(a beat)

The court will convene in one
hour, in the ship's wardroom!

(a beat; hard)

But remember, too... If we win,
Naterra is free. You return Dr.
McCoy, restore Dr. Chapel...and
leave this dimension forever!

56 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORS KIRK AND KOMETHER

who is beginning to fade, with a deep, hollow and
mocking laughter, saying as he goes:

KOMETHER'S VOICE:

Fool! You have destroyed yourself --
and your command!

Finally, only the echo of his laughter remains. And
as Kirk and the others look at one another:

DISSOLVE TO

57 THE ENTERPRISE - ORBITTING NATERRA

a time passage, and:

DISSOLVE TO

58 INT. ENTERPRISE WARDROOM - FULL SHOT

as the COURT assembles. And this includes COMPUTER BANK in a prominent spot behind the semi-circular table, and our PRINCIPALS, from Naterra and the Enterprise.

Foremost are Kirk, Xon, Decker and Reyloz (with perhaps Kleyax, Eulix and Zxeda in evidence - their faces showing anxiety).

59 INTERCUTTING: FROM MAIN COMPUTER (JUDGE) TO HUMANS

the Computer showing its own peculiar signs of life:

COMPUTER VOICE:

The court will now convene.
Captain Kirk - are you ready?

KIRK

Ready!

COMPUTER VOICE:

Where is Komether?

Suddenly the atmosphere seems charged. Those in the room can sense something, particularly Xon, who quickly checks his tricorder.

60 INTERT TRICORDER DIAL

registering a growing activity.

61 INTERCUTTING ALL - AS BEFORE

And there's that brightly-hued, swirling mass that is Komether, saying, mockingly, echoingly:

KOMETHER

Komether is present...your Honor!
(amused)
But...where is Zxolar-the-Blessed?

KIRK

(quickly)

Komether is well aware that Zxolar is ill, and unable to be present. As he is also aware that in bringing this action, I may speak for the people of Naterra.

COMPUTER VOICE:

All noted. You may now present your case, Captain Kirk!

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

KIRK

First, a request... I find it rather disconcerting talking to abstract lights and disembodied voices.

KOMETHER

I would not dream of disconcerting the good captain. Perhaps if I assume the form of a humanoid biped...

(with evident sarcasm)

...I believe, Mr. Xon, that is the preferred term for human lookalikes?

As he speaks, Komether is materializing - and his chosen form is tall, handsome and youthful, with large, mocking eyes and a smile laced with cynicism. When he is fully materialized, he bows mockingly, saying:

KOMETHER

When you are ready, Captain.

A beat as the others react. Then:

KIRK

I will now prove to this court that the contract in question is invalid, for a variety of legal reasons, adding up to coercion and duress. Let me remind this court that at the time of the signing, Zxolar and the rest of the 'Enlightened Circle' were under great mental and emotional stress. Their world was dying. They were desperate, frightened, without hope.

KOMETHER

(rising easily; with feigned humility)

May I thank Captain Kirk for proving my case? For it was I who returned both their hope and their world to them, in exchange for...certain considerations, clearly stated in the contract, of course...

KIRK

I was under the impression this was my opening statement.

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE:
Objection sustained. Proceed,
Captain.

Komether takes it with a small, cynical grin. He's cool.

KOMETHER
So sorry!

KIRK
May I submit the document
in evidence?

He hands it to Xon, who feeds it to the Computer:

COMPUTER VOICE:
Document authenticated. Proceed.

KIRK
I contend that at the time of
the agreement the Naterrans
faced death as their only alter-
native. Under such circumstances,
they were emotionally incapable
of exercising sound judgement.

KOMETHER
Zxolar and his fellow Philoso-
phers - as appointed representa-
tives of Naterra - agreed to the
terms of the contract - to wit:
that in exchange for 1000 cycles
of prosperity they would turn
over their planet to me. They
set no conditions as to disposi-
tion of the planet, its inhabi-
tants, or anything else... The
date on which I take possession
is clearly specified. The docu-
ment - as noted by this court -
is duly signed by all consenting
parties. It is, in effect, a bona-
fide, legal instrument.

KIRK
(hard)
It is a license to murder
Naterra and its people!

KOMETHER
Objection!

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE:

Sustained! Captain Kirk - the issue here is not morality. Emotion is not evidence. You must base your case on facts: Is the contract valid or not?

KOMETHER

Captain Kirk accuses me of contemplating murder, when, in fact, I'm merely trying to take possession of what will soon be mine... The Naterrans had time to develop a new technology and find another home in space. They made no effort. They had 1000 years to reconsider and appeal. They were not mentally and emotionally impaired for 1000 years... What they did was to help themselves to all the benefits of the contract, then renege. They are squatters and deadbeats, trying to squirm out of a deal which they, themselves, solicited. For it was Zxolar and his fellow Philosophers who prayed for mercy and salvation when they were unable to solve their own problems. Problems created by their own greed and shortsightedness!

KIRK

Objection! That's conjecture!

COMPUTER VOICE:

Overruled!

KOMETHER

Conjecture...? Centuries ago - even before Zxolar - Naterra entered an age of science and progress. Commerce became their guiding star. Unbridled industry flourished. Their chief preoccupations became building, buying and selling things, and their ultimate god was money. They prospered, and there seemed no end to their ingenuity and success... But in the wake of this greedy philosophy came disaster... Their resources

(MORE)

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

KOMETHER (Continues)
were exhausted. So was their
environment. Their true gods
forgotten, they had nothing left
but--

KIRK
--To go to the Devil?

Komether smiles.

COMPUTER VOICE:
Captain -- you are out of order!

KIRK
To make his case, Komether paints
himself a hero at the expense of
the Naterrans! How do we know he
had any real influence in saving
the planet? Where are his facts?

KOMETHER
Did Zxolar's people not survive?
Did the pollution not disappear,
and the earth, sea and air not
recover and flourish? Did these
Naterrans not enjoy 1000 cycles
of peace and happiness...? Were
I to put Reyloz, Kleyax, Eulix,
Zxeda on the stand -- would they
deny that Naterra's the most
beautiful and tranquil planet
imaginable to live on...?

COMPUTER VOICE:
Captain Kirk?

KIRK
It won't be necessary. I'll
concede that point!

COMPUTER VOICE:
Do you wish to call any other
witnesses?

KOMETHER
(a thin smile)
None. Not for the moment.

COMPUTER VOICE:
Captain...?

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

KIRK

I would like to call...Reyloz.

COMPUTER VOICE:

Specify purpose.

KIRK

He's been like a son to Zxolar.
His chosen successor. He can
establish--!

KOMETHER

Objection! Reyloz is clearly
baised and unqualified. He
wasn't even alive when the
contract was signed!

COMPUTER VOICE:

Sustained! You may not call
Reyloz!

KOMETHER (Continues)

The fact is, outside of Zxolar
and myself, there's no one else
alive who can speak, first hand.

(a triumphant smile)

...What has Captain Kirk presented
to this court? Accusations, rumors,
conjecture and hearsay testimony.
Has he proven the contract false,
illegal, or invalid? He has not!
Has he proven his allegations of
coersion or duress? He has not!
Has he produced one scrap of
evidence - one valid witness to
show this court why I should not
be allowed to exercise my rights
according to the contract? He has
not! ...Since Capt. Kirk has failed
to prove his case, I now ask--!

As Komether speaks, with increasing confidence, we've
seen Kirk and Xon conferring in hurried whispers. Suddenly
Kirk rises, saying:

KIRK

(over Komether)

May I be granted a short recess?

KOMETHER

(sensing something)

Objection! I was about to ask
for a ruling!

CONT'D.

61 CONTINUED:

KIRK

I wish to bring Zxolar to the stand. Due to his weakened condition, I will need a short recess.

KOMETHER

I object! It's not necessary to hear Zxolar's evidence. All the pertinent facts are already before this court!

COMPUTER VOICE:

You are overruled, Komether. This court is recessed for 30 minutes!

And as we CLOSE on Kirk and Xon, looking at each other grimly:

CUT TO

62 SICKBAY - CLOSE-UP - DR. CHAPEL

unconscious - only the Life-Support Systems working for her. And BACKING we see Medics #1 & #2 beside her. Now:

63 CLOSE-UP - zxolar

in a comatose state, his own life sustained only by the Table's Life-Support Systems. BACKING - we see Kirk and Xon beside Zxolar. Xon just turning to Kirk from reading the dials and instruments, says:

XON

He should be reaching the threshold of consciousness in about 12 minutes, Captain.

KIRK

Thank you, Mr. Xon.

A beat. Xon is checking the tricorder, then:

XON

Curious.

KIRK

What's curious?

XON

Zxolar's energy force seems to be fragmenting... Into 6 distinct facets.

CONT'D.

63 CONTINUED:

KIRK

Six?

XON

Unmistakably...
 (and as they mull that)
 ...Conversely, I kept my sensor
 on during the trial, and noted
 another curious fact: Komether's
 energy force is becoming unified.

KIRK

Unified?

XON

The 6 facets which comprised
his energy force are becoming
one. Growing even more powerful.

KIRK

(thinking hard)

Six...

(then - suddenly)

Waitamminute...! That tape - in
 the Chamber of Images... How
 long would it take to beam it
 up here?

XON

It's already here, Captain. In
 the Security File...

(as Kirk reacts)

...I had Reyloz bring it - along
 with several others...just in case...

KIRK

Get it -- and meet me in my
 quarters. On the double, Mr.
 Xon!

XON

(unflappable as ever)

Aye, aye, sir. On the double.

And as they both start off:

64 KIRK'S CABIN - ANGLE ON A SMALL VIEWER SET - LOW LIGHTS

We're seeing the 6 Philosophers, meditating in their
 Circle.(A reprise of SHOT #37 -- as KOMETHER APPEARS.)

65 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDE KIRK AND XON - WATCHING

Kirk's eyes particularly keen -- then suddenly reacting:

CONT'D.

65 CONTINUED:

KIRK
That's it!

XON
You were right, Captain.

66 AGAIN - THE VIEWER - CLOSE-UP

as that bluish, electric mist rises out of the Philosophers, swirls, intensifies and coalesces in the center of the circle, growing larger, more distinct, as we HEAR:

KIRK'S VOICE:
Look at that aura around them.
That mass of energy's coming
from all of them. They're forming
it. Willing it! The 6 of them!

XON'S VOICE:
The six-faceted form. It's...
Kinetic energy! Their energy!

KIRK'S VOICE:
Exactly!

67 KIRK AND XON - AS BEFORE - VIEWER GOING BLANK

KIRK (Continues)
Mr. Xon. I think we're ready to
proceed with the trial!

and as we CLOSE on KIRK:

68 CLOSE-UP - AGAIN, KIRK'S FACE - WIDENING ANGLE

as he speaks - and we see we're back in the WARD ROOM,
and the trial is re-convened. All present - as before.

KIRK
...The Naterrans were misled,
lied to. Komether had nothing
to do with their survival. Ko-
mether, in fact, is a fraud!
The Others are electrified by Kirk's comments. however,
Komether's handsome face never loses its cynical smile:

KOMETHER
If I didn't know better...I'd
say the Captain's getting...
a bit frantic.

KIRK
We'll see...

69 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK AND B.G.

as we PAN him to Zxolar, who sits in the Witness Chair, looking incredibly ancient, frail and frightened:

70 INTERCUT: KOMETHER

for only a fleeting instant we perceive a glint of viciousness in those eyes - and quickly to:

71 KIRK AND ZXOLAR - COURT B.G.

KIRK

Zxolar... You once referred to Komether as 'Daimon - the Dark One...' Do you still believe that?

ZXOLAR

Yes... He is Daimon!

KIRK

How do you know he is?

ZXOLAR

He has the power to destroy us!

KIRK

What if I told you he hasn't the power to destroy - or save - anything? That he has no power at all? That the only power Komether has is what you give him?

72 FAVORS KOMETHER

rising angrily:

KOMETHER

Kirk's out of order! He's taking flights of fancy!

COMPUTER VOICE:

I will decide on questions of procedure, Komether... Captain Kirk, you are on dangerous ground. Unless you can furnish proof--!

73 FAVORS KIRK AND ZXOLAR - KOMETHER, OTHERS IN B.G.

KIRK

I'll give you proof! I'll prove, beyond any doubt, that Komether is a fraud! That he has no substance, no identity, and therefore can't be a party to any legal transaction. I shall prove that Komether didn't even exist - in

(MORE)

CONT'D.

73 CONTINUED:

KIRK (Continues)
fact - until he was created by
Zxolar and the Circle of Philoso-
phers, out of their own desperation!

KOMETHER
(rising, angrily)
That's a lie!

COMPUTER VOICE:
Komether - you are out of order!
Sit down! Captain Kirk - this is
your final warning. If you fail
to prove your allegations...!

KIRK
Mr. Xon!

Immediately Xon steps up, aiming his sensor at Kirk.

KIRK (Continues)
Will the court monitor the
tricorder?

COMPUTER VOICE:
Affirmative.

KIRK
Reading?

COMPUTER VOICE:
A diversified bipedal envelope
of cytoplasm. A composition of
matter, generally described as
'Human'.

Xon quickly aims the tricorder at Zxolar.

KIRK
Reading?

COMPUTER VOICE:
Composition of matter described
as 'Humanoid Bipod'.

Now - as we ANGLE OVER - Xon aims at Komether.

KIRK
Reading?

COMPUTER VOICE:
Pseudomorphic mass simulating
humanoid biped.

CONT'D.

73 CONTINUED:

KIRK
Specify!

COMPUTER VOICE:
Energy.

KIRK
Identity?

COMPUTER VOICE:
Negative.

74 INTERCUT KOMETHER - REACTING

savagery in his eyes now - staring fiercely at Kirk.

75 KIRK AND ZXOLAR - TIGHT SHOT - AND CLOSING

KIRK
You heard that, Zxolar. Komether's
no phantom - no devil! He's only
a mass of energy, created by you
and the others!

ZXOLAR
But he's alive!

KIRK
Only because you believe he's
alive!

ZXOLAR
He saved Naterra!

KIRK
You saved Naterra! ...Don't you
see? There was no magic formula -
no diety. The will and power that
restored your planet was your
own! You and the other Philosophers,
and your people, working together!
Komether was only a reflection of
your need - your helplessness! You
created him because you'd lost
faith in yourselves!

76 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK SPEAKING TO COURT

KIRK
...Once Komether was created, he
began seeking an identity of his
own. Power was what he'd sprung
from - and what he needed to grow.

(MORE)

77 FULL SHOT - ANOTHER ANGLE

KIRK (Continues)

...At first he fed off the Circle of Philosophers. Later, when the first Philosopher died - or became 'ambience' - Komether absorbed his energy, becoming stronger, more dominant. And then another died, and another - and each time Komether grew closer to the absolute power he craved, until finally only Zxolar remained between him and unrestrained power...

78 CLOSE ON KIRK - CONTINUING AS HE MOVES AROUND

KIRK (Continues)

...But while time worked for Komether, it also worked against him. The 1000 years were almost up - and Zxolar still existed! What would happen when the contract came due, and Komether couldn't enforce its terms? What if Zxolar learned that he - not Komether - held the real power? To insure his own survival, Komether had to rid himself of this control...this danger to his ambitions: Zxolar...!

79 NOW - INTERCUTTING KIRK - ZXOLAR - KOMETHER - OTHERS

CLOSER each time - with SPEEDING TEMPO:

KIRK (Continues)

...He began by haunting Zxolar - by reinforcing Zxolar's belief in the contract - stressing his intention to destroy Naterra... As Zxolar weakened, Komether slowly drew Zxolar's life force into himself, as he'd earlier drawn that of the other Philosophers... And Zxolar began dying by inches, while Komether grew stronger -- like some vile parasite, feeding on a dying spirit...

KOMETHER

Don't listen to him, Zxolar!

KIRK

(to Zxolar)

So long as you believed Komether was 'Daimon' - that you'd sold

(MORE)

CONT'D.

79 CONTINUED:

KIRK (Continues)
out to the devil - he could
count on your remorse, and fear,
to do his work. Then we arrived --
and Komether knew he'd have to
move faster. Before our sensors
determined he was never far from
you -- that he couldn't exist far
from you, because it was your
energy that nourished him!

ZXOLAR
But he was going to destroy us all!

KIRK
He was going to destroy you! He
never intended to burn Naterra.
He wanted to feed off it! To draw
off the energies of everything on
it - growing more powerful. Perhaps
going on to find other planets, and
feeding on them, too!

KOMETHER
Don't listen to him, Zxolar! I'll
destroy you now! Destroy your planet!

KIRK
You haven't the power to destroy
Zxolar! But he can destroy you!
(to Zxolar)
You always could! All you have to
do is will it! Stop believing in
him...! Say it, Zxolar. Say:
'There is no Komether...!'

We see Zxolar - frightened, desperate. He looks toward
Komether, whose face has turned savage. Who screams:

KOMETHER
I will destroy you all!

Suddenly Komether's body becomes radiant, bluish --
metamorphosing into an angry, swirling mass of energy
which suddenly explodes, and disappears.

And now Zxolar speaks -- in KOMETHER'S ECHOING VOICE:

ZXOLAR/KOMETHER
I will destroy you all!

CONT'D.

79 CONTINUED:

KIRK

Zxolar! You have the power
to drive him out! To destroy
him forever! He can't hurt you!
He can't hurt anyone, if you
won't let him!

As Kirk speaks, Zxolar is becoming radiant - flashing with some inner, violent field of rampant energy. Yet we see that Zxolar is also in the midst of a terrible struggle: he is TWO BEINGS - both fighting for possession of his frail body and spirit. His eyes stare at Kirk evilly, his open mouth doesn't move, but out of it comes Komether's savage, mocking voice again:

ZXOLAR/KOMETHER

You are too late, Captain Kirk!
I have the power! I will destroy
you...!

80 FULL SHOT - EVERYTHING

Suddenly the ship begins to shudder, the lights flicker and the systems falter. Those in the room gasp for air - struggle to stand. Everything is failing - the Enterprise shaking violently - the people tossed about. And in the midst of this ZXOLAR KEEPS CHANGING TO KOMETHER - and BACK AGAIN.

81 ON KIRK AND XON - OTHERS IN B.G.

XON

We can't take much more of
this, Captain. The Enterprise
will be torn apart!

KIRK

(shouting it)
Zxolar! Zxolar...!

ALTERING ANGLE now: We see Zxolar's terrible inner struggle. Like the Enterprise, he's being torn to pieces. We see him holding his head in agony - trying to speak. Then - rising, trembling with the effort, he screams:

ZXOLAR

Komether... BE GONE...!

In that instant everything GROWS STILL. The silence is profound. It takes Kirk and the others a moment to recover -- then they rush to Zxolar, who has collapsed. Xon checks him quickly. Then he quickly moves the tri-corder around, checking the room...

CONT'D.

81 CONTINUED:

XON
Komether is gone, Captain...
There's not a trace of him left.

Zxolar slowly opens his eyes, looking at Kirk. In a weak, shaken whisper, he says:

ZXOLAR
Captain... I can die in peace
now... Take me...home...

And as a distraught Reyloz and the other Naterrans help Kirk raise the old man:

CUT TO

82 INT. ZXOLAR'S PALACE - MAIN SALON - DAY

Where we first saw Zxolar - we now see him again. We are CLOSE-UP on his face, and - BACKING - we see Kirk, Xon, Others of the Enterprise - and those Naterrans closest to Zxolar... The old one is dying.

ZXOLAR
Naterra is...safe... All my
people...my...children...

KIRK
(gently)
Don't speak, Zxolar. You must
save your strength.

ZXOLAR
Reyloz... The evil dies with
me... Look after - after my...

He reaches out his hand to Reyloz. Then he dies.

83 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE OTHERS - REACTING

Then Kirk rises, followed by Xon and the Others. Kirk extends his hand:

KIRK
Goodbye, Reyloz. For all of us...
there's still a long journey ahead.

REYLOZ
I...thank you... May - may
joy be with you, Captain Kirk.
And with all of you.

As the Naterrans echo Reyloz' wish - then turn to tend their dead leader, Kirk and his Crew start out, and:

68A.

83A ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK AND CREWMEN - TRACKING SHOT
speaking as they go:

SULU

Captain. What about Dr. McCoy?

KIRK

I don't know. I've got to
think about that. There must
be something we can do!

XON

I hate saying it. But Komether
could have sent him into another
dimension. Even destroyed him...
(sadly)

We may never see Dr. McCoy again.

And as they walk on - that grim thought lingering:

CUT TO

84 EXT. THE PALACE GARDEN - NEAR FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

as Kirk and the Enterprise Crew emerge. Suddenly Xon reacts, looking to one side -- and, for once, surprised:

XON

Captain!

The others also look, and - ALTERING ANGLE - we see the WALL. And out of it is materializing a form. The form of Dr. McCoy.

KIRK

(happily; surprised)

Bones!

McCoy looks at them with evident confusion:

McCOY

Jim... Xon...! Where've you all been?

And as they all surround him, AD LIBBING surprise and pleasure:

SULU

Where have we all been?

XON

Remarkable! Of course, the wall! What could be more logical?

KIRK

(grinning as he pulls out his intercom)

Logical -- indeed! ...Captain Kirk. Give me sickbay.

CHAPEL'S VOICE:

Sickbay. Dr. Chapel...

(and as Kirk's smile grows)
...Captain...? Captain...?

KIRK

Thought you'd like to know. We're bringing Bones up...intact. Have Commander Decker beam up - and I'll tell you all about it. Out.

And as he puts the intercom away, McCoy looks more puzzled than ever:

CONT'D.

84 CONTINUED:

McCOY

Tell her all about what...?
(and looking around at
all those smiling faces)
...Hey, what's the matter with
all you people? You act as if
you've never seen me before!

Kirk looks at McCoy with a wonderful contentment, and
putting an arm around him, says:

KIRK

Never mind, Bones. Let's go
home.

And as they start to dematerialize:

FADE OUT

THE END.