

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Justice"  
#40271-109

Story by  
John D.F. Black  
and  
Worley Thorne

Teleplay by  
Worley Thorne

Directed by  
James Conway

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2ND REV. FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Justice" - 9/4/87 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Justice"

CAST

PICARD	FIRST EDO CITIZEN
RIKER	TWO EDO CITIZENS
DATA	RIVAN (YOUNG FEMALE EDO)
TROI	LIATOR (MALE EDO)
BEVERLY	EDOLORD
TASHA	FIRST EDO BOY
GEORDI	CONN CREWMEMBER
WORF	EDO GIRL
WESLEY	SECOND EDO BOY
	FIRST MEDIATOR (MALE EDO)
	SECOND MEDIATOR (MALE EDO)
	EDO
	ADULTS
	CHILDREN
	MUSIC GROUP OF EDO HARPISTS
	TRANSPORTER CHIEF
	MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

STAR TREK: "Justice" - 9/4/87 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Justice"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

Main bridge  
Command and Helm Areas  
Corridor  
Starboard Lounge  
Corridor Outside the  
Observation Lounge  
Sickbay Corridor  
Sickbay

EDO COUNCIL CHAMBERS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT

SURFACE OF RUBICUN THREE

SECOND SCENIC LOCATION

MYSTERY OBJECT

EDO GARDENS

EDO COUNCIL CHAMBERS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Justice"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

- 1 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN PLANET ORBIT (OPTICAL)

A lovely blue and white planet, close to Earthlike in appearance.

PICARD (V.O.)  
Captain's log, stardate 41255.6.  
After delivering a party of Earth  
colonists to the Strnad solar  
system and providing...

- 2 CLOSER ON ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

emphasizing the starship's line.

PICARD (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
... them with all their basic  
necessities, we have discovered  
another Class M planet in the  
adjoining Rubicun star system.

- 3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

PICARD, TROI, Worf and Wesley on duty with replacement  
bridge crew, all examining the planet, as:

PICARD (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
We are now in orbit there, having  
determined it to be inhabited as  
well as unusually lovely. It  
is...

4 EMPHASIZING PICARD

PICARD (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
... a pastoral world, which also shows evidence of learning and civilization. My first officer has taken an away team down to make contact and they are in the process of returning to the ship.

5 COMMAND AND HELM AREAS

Picard looking to Troi.

PICARD  
Riker has sounded very enthused in his reports.

TROI  
(nods)  
He says the planet has life forms almost identical to us.

Interrupted by Beverly who ENTERS, obviously with much on her mind.

BEVERLY  
Captain... !  
(sees she has interrupted)  
Sorry, Troi.

Troi smiles, beckons Beverly in.

TROI  
The Doctor has something much more important on her mind, Captain.

BEVERLY  
(frowns; to Troi)  
Please, Troi, do not pick up my feelings!

TROI  
Your feelings? All we need are ears.

5 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(smiles to Beverly)  
You've been talking about it for  
days now... Shore leave for the  
crew.

Beverly sees that her son Wesley has also thrown her  
a concerned look. She gives an apologetic nod to Troi.

BEVERLY  
I'm tired myself.  
(to Picard)  
Establishing that colony has  
exhausted the entire crew, sir.  
We're not a supply vessel.  
Settling all those people was a  
strain on everyone.

RIKER interrupts by ENTERING with DATA, GEORDI, TASHA.  
They all register enthusiasm, giving the replacement  
crew nods, smiles, thumbs up gestures as they take over  
their positions. Riker has continued straight to  
Picard, acknowledging Troi and Beverly too.

PICARD  
Is it as good as your reports,  
Number One?

RIKER  
(enthused)  
Exactly per my reports, sir.  
Class M, so Earthlike, so  
beautiful, it will startle you!

BEVERLY  
It sounds wonderful for the  
children!  
(to Picard)  
The Holodecks are marvelous, of  
course, but nothing like giving  
them open space and fresh air...

Beverly takes a simulated deep breath of air.

TASHA  
I've listed my report on their  
customs and laws, sir. Fairly  
simple, common sense things.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

Wild in some ways, puritanical  
in others. Neat as pins,  
ultra-lawful, and making love at  
the drop of a hat.

TASHA

Any hat.

PICARD

(smile)

But even the happiest report has  
its negatives. Let's start with  
them.

RIKER

(grins)

There are none, sir. Not that  
any of us can find.

DATA

But there is a problem here, sir!

Data is puzzling over readings at his station.

DATA

(continuing)

I do not understand this at all!

WORF

(to Picard)

It's the faulty reading I  
reported, sir.

TASHA

Sensor technicians are working  
on it, sir. They've identified  
it as a "glitch" in the system.

Picard turns back to Riker.

PICARD

I take it you find no "glitch"  
at all in this planet, however.

TASHA

If you approve shore leave, sir,  
we could start with a small group  
at first.

5 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Of course...

(turns)

Wesley, if we go, you will join  
the away team to evaluate this  
world as a place for young people  
to relax.

WESLEY

Yes, sir!

He glances at Beverly to note her smiling approval of  
this.

PICARD

If all scans and observations  
confirm the reports...

(nods)

... certainly I'll approve it.

(beat)

Let's hope it is not too good  
to be true.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER



ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN PLANET ORBIT (OPTICAL)

The same lovely planet.

PICARD (V.O.)

We are in orbit of a planet  
designated Rubicun Three... and  
have found it to be the home of  
a life form who call themselves  
the Edo.

7 EXT. SURFACE OF RUBICUN THREE (OPTICAL)

The planet is as described. We are at an inhabited  
part of it... clean, neat, the "streets" appearing more  
like a running track, bordered with flowers. The  
TRANSPORTER EFFECT brings in our new away team of Riker,  
Troi, Tasha, Worf and Wesley. In the near distance, a  
group of very human appearing people have seen them  
arriving and two of them turn and race in this direction.  
Worf is quickly aware of it and prepares to interpose  
himself protectively.

WORF

Careful, sir...

RIKER

It's all right, Lieutenant, these  
are the Edo we met.

8 ANGLE ON THE EDO

ARRIVING at high speed. A young female and male who,  
like other Edo we'll meet, are both tall, full haired,  
with even white teeth, great bodies. They're also  
dressed in loose, sexy clothing and these two wear a  
silvery necklace indicating high rank. Riker is  
watching an attractive Edo woman, saying:

RIKER

They certainly are... fit, right?

Troi is looking at an Edo male.

8 CONTINUED:

TROI  
They certainly are.

RIVAN  
Health and happiness!

LIATOR  
A pleasant day to you!

Troi gives Riker an even sharper second look as the Edo ARRIVE and RIVAN, the woman, gives Riker a close and rather intimate hands-on hug which, although it touches upon the sensual, also combines genuine friendship, too.

RIVAN  
You did return as promised!

The man, LIATOR, is looking over Troi and Tasha with healthy interest. Like Rivan, although slim and very well muscled, he has a quiet dignity that fits well with this necklace-badge of leadership.

RIKER  
Rivan, Liator...  
(indicating)  
Also from our vessel is Troi...

LIATOR  
Slowly, slowly...  
(embraces Troi)  
I must also welcome this lovely one...  
(embracing Tasha)  
... and this lovely one...

Riker waits, watching with interest until Tasha disengages. She understands his look.

TASHA  
(smiles)  
My pleasure.

TROI  
Healthy sensuality, sir. I feel mainly happiness and friendship.

RIVAN  
And I welcome this huge one...  
(hugs and fondles Worf)  
... oh, yes, yes...

8 CONTINUED: (2)

          WORF  
          (pleased)  
Nice planet!

Rivan moves to Wesley, stops quizzically.

          RIVAN  
But you are a young one. I do  
not know your custom regarding  
love.

Wesley is clearly nervous, although intrigued too. He  
clears his throat:

          WESLEY  
Uh... I guess... whatever you  
usually do...

Rivan shows excellent taste, giving Wesley a "hug" but  
without any "extras."

          RIKER  
Others would like to visit here  
too. If you'll tell us what  
limits you'd place on the  
number...

          LIATOR  
Whatever pleases you. We can  
discuss it at the Council  
Chambers.

          RIVAN  
          (to Riker)  
Shall we go there now or remain  
and play?

          RIKER  
Play?

          RIVAN  
At love. Unless you don't enjoy  
that.  
          (to Worf)  
Perhaps you do?

          LIATOR  
          (to Troi)  
And you? Yes, I can see that you  
do.

8 CONTINUED: (3)

WESLEY  
Listen, maybe I'll just go on  
ahead...

RIVAN  
(indicates Wesley)  
This is unfair to him.  
(to Wesley)  
We'll go to the Council Chambers.  
You'll find young people your age  
there.

WESLEY  
(warily)  
Well... I really can't make any  
promises...

LIATOR  
(laughs)  
You don't have to. Our rules are  
simple. No one does anything  
uncomfortable to them.

RIVAN  
Come! Our people will want to  
know you.

Then she turns back, glancing at the more formal  
clothing worn by the humans.

LIATOR  
Rivan, perhaps they...can't...run.

WESLEY  
(to Riker)  
Can't run? Sure we can run, right  
sir?

RIKER  
(to the others)  
That's the custom here, running...  
(to Wesley)  
Right! Lead the way!

Rivan, Liator, and Wesley LEAD OFF, the Others JOGGING  
AFTER them.

9 TRUCKING - EMPHASIZING RIKER AND WORF

who find themselves out in front of Tasha and Troi.

RIKER

"When in Rome... ," eh?

WORF

When where, sir?

CAMERA HOLDS as the Group runs past.

9A EXT. SECOND SCENIC LOCATION

Rivan and Liator leading the Enterprise people along another lovely pathway where an elderly but very trim FIRST EDO CITIZEN and a pair of younger N.D. EDO CITIZENS see them coming and break into a run to join them. Lots of smiles and waves.

9B TRUCKING - EMPHASIZING AWAY TEAM AND FIRST EDO CITIZEN

The Enterprise people very much taken with the joy and good health they're seeing. First Edo citizen notes Tasha's light complexion and amazon form.

FIRST EDO CITIZEN

Good health to you!

TASHA

Happiness to you!

(to Troi)

It's like an "Eden" here.

10 EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A combination of conference and recreation facilities, lots of light and air and spectacularly healthy looking people in revealing but comfortable garb. SOUND of delighted ADULT LAUGHTER from inside the chambers too. Two adults and a child DEPART on the run, another older woman ARRIVES -- on the run too. She doesn't seem to be breathing very hard at all.

11 ANGLE ON RIKER AND TEAM

ARRIVING on the run with their Edo companions. They haven't done too badly. Rivan stops, looks Riker and the Enterprise people over, then moves in and embraces Riker again.

11 CONTINUED:

RIVAN  
Good health! I thought you might  
be out of breath.

A SHRIEK from children at play, several Edo children  
race INTO SIGHT.

LIATOR  
Children, we've brought you a new  
friend!

FIRST EDO BOY  
Hello! Join us!

EDO GIRL  
Yes, please!

Wesley joins the smiling children.

RIKER  
(grins)  
We may surprise you in a lot of  
ways.

12 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The kind of place you'd like to visit. No particularly  
formalized furnishing plan -- it includes just about  
any way anyone would like to sit or loll. The same sort  
of revealing but sensible garb here too -- along with  
good humor. In fact, joy is what is mainly present  
here. Lots of fruit, nuts, food and drink selections.  
A MUSIC GROUP of Harpists in sight -- admittedly  
strange looking harps on which they compose, and now  
and then PLAY LILTING MUSIC which, like everything else,  
is not taken too seriously here either.

RIVAN  
Everyone! We've brought the  
visitors!

LIATOR  
(gesturing to away team)  
Please enjoy what we have!

13 EMPHASIZING ENTERPRISE PEOPLE

as they are taken charge of with great hospitality.

14 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT (OPTICAL)

The same lovely planet.

15 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as Data ENTERS bridge from the turbolift, strides rapidly toward his station, his face reflecting concern.

DATA

I have traced it through all sensor channels, Captain! It is not a glitch... !

Picard becomes alarmed at Data's tone, follows him to the Ops station where Data begins going over readings again.

DATA

(continuing)  
... or any other form of error or malfunction, sir.

GEORDI

Confirmed by my readings, sir.  
It's like a "shadow something"...

DATA

Exactly! As if it's not entirely in or out of our dimension.

PICARD

"What" is, Commander?

Data points off to front starboard of the vessel.

DATA

Whatever is sitting out there without triggering our alarm relays, Captain.

PICARD

Center Main Viewer on that area.

16 ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

as the IMAGE there shifts slightly, but REVEALS nothing but the planet and star background previously seen.

16 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(to Data; continuing)  
I need more, Commander.

Data seems stumped for a moment, then:

DATA  
Permission to go to hailing  
frequencies, sir?

A puzzled Picard nods.

DATA  
Hailing frequencies open. On all  
frequencies and language forms,  
send...  
(beat)  
Enterprise to Object off our  
starboard bow. Request that you  
identify yourself!

As suddenly, the "what" begins appearing -- A HUGE AND COMPLEX LOOKING OBJECT, A BIT SMALLER THAN THE ENTERPRISE. IT IS HALF-TRANSPARENT BUT PARTLY SOLID, TOO, AND VERY DEADLY LOOKING. A VESSEL? PERHAPS, BUT SEEMINGLY MORE, TOO. WE WILL LEARN THAT IT SOMEHOW EXISTS HERE AND IN ANOTHER CONTINUUM AT THE SAME TIME. At the moment it appears, the Enterprise RED ALERT with KLAXON comes on too.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MYSTERY OBJECT (OPTICAL)

The partially transparent Mystery Object as described, positioned very close to the starship Enterprise. Its very nearness implies threat.

18 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The Red Alert lights FLASHING, the KLAXON SOUNDING a couple more times, then going SILENT. The mystery object IMAGE is on the Main Viewer; Picard and the others are as we last saw them.

GEORDI

Shields and deflectors up full,  
sir. Main phaser banks ready.

PICARD

Hailing frequencies? Any reply?

DATA

(puzzled)

It was something unintelligible,  
Captain. Now running it through  
our logic and language circuits...

PICARD

Have a real look at it, Geordi!

GEORDI

(hurrying for the  
turbolift)

Aye, sir.

TASHA

Sir, my sensors read it... well,  
as "half there." And it does  
look...

She hesitates. Data finishes her thought.

DATA

As if it's partly...transparent.

18 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Data, what the hell is it?

It is rather frightening to see Data turn to his  
Captain... slowly shake his head.

18A INT. STARBOARD LOUNGE - (OPTICAL)

Geordi ENTERING on a run, racing to the first large  
port, from which the mystery object/vessel thing can  
be seen from here too. He stands examining it. Then:

GEORDI  
Lieutenant La Forge to Captain.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
Go ahead, La Forge. What can you  
make out?

GEORDI  
This is something I've never  
seen before, sir.

18B INT. MAIN BRIDGE - COMMAND AREA - (OPTICAL)

Picard intent upon:

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
It's as if it isn't entirely in  
our dimension, sir.

PICARD  
Anything else?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Negative, sir. It's something  
I don't understand.

DATA  
(to Picard)  
I have some information on its  
first transmission, sir. It  
translates as...  
(looks up)  
... "stand by."

18B CONTINUED:

CONN CREWMEMBER

Sir! Sensors show something  
emerging from that... that ship,  
if you want to call it that.

DATA

Verified. Something very small...

19 EXT. SPACE - ON MYSTERY OBJECT (OPTICAL)

REVEALING A TINY PINPOINT OF LIGHT having come out of  
the side of the mystery object (no hatchway visible)  
CROSSING orbital space toward the Enterprise.

20 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Data watching Main Viewer.

DATA

Getting smaller...

21 EXT. SPACE - ANGLE ON ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Still smaller now, the PINPOINT OF LIGHT moves toward  
the starship then actually passes through its "solid"  
side.

22 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

Several crewpersons stopping, astonished at the sight  
of what this CLOSER VIEW shows as the SWIRLING BLOB  
OF LIGHT comes INTO SIGHT near the corridor deck and  
passes on an upward diagonal path of EXITING VIEW near  
the ceiling beyond. (It is on its way to the bridge.)

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

where Conn is reacting to an alarm from his panel.  
Geordi RE-ENTERS bridge, takes his position.

CONN CREWMEMBER

Intruder alert, sir! But I  
don't...

(puzzled)

... show a location...

23 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(to Geordi)  
Why a tiny swirl of light,  
Lieutenant? Could you make out  
anything else?

GEORDI  
(puzzling; looks up)  
No, sir. Perhaps it is meant to  
seem "non-threatening" to us.

DATA  
(interrupting)  
The away team signal has been cut  
off, Captain! We are no longer  
in contact with our people!

Conn is very puzzled over a reading at his station.

CONN CREWMEMBER  
Intruder relays do show  
something...

He hesitates, puzzled.

PICARD  
Why has everything become a  
something, or a whatever?

He gets his answer as the tiny SWIRLING LIGHT OBJECT  
COMES INTO VIEW. It is about the size of a 'light bulb'  
now, moving more slowly than before. COMING IN ON AN  
UPWARD ANGLE THROUGH THE DECK, IT STOPS NOW, SUSPENDED  
IN THE MID-BRIDGE AREA.

24 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA (OPTICAL)

Picard has come to his feet, watching as the TINY  
SWIRLING LIGHT OBJECT which moves in his direction, and  
STOPS. Picard has tried not to retreat before the  
mysterious thing, but it is with some difficulty. Conn  
has moved in holding a large hand phaser ready, but  
has gotten a headshake from Picard. Then, from the tiny  
swirling light object, a VOICE we'll come to know as  
the EDOLORD. THE WORDS ARE TRANSMITTED WITH SUCH VOLUME  
THAT THEY LITERALLY SHAKE THE BRIDGE (OPTICAL OR CAMERA  
JIGGLE). A couple of the bridge crew throw hands to  
ears protectively. At the same time, we HEAR SOUND OF  
SOMETHING SHATTERING "GLASSLIKE" AS IT COMES APART,  
various PANELS FLARE WITH LIGHT.

24 CONTINUED:

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
STATE THE PURPOSE...

Apparently aware the volume has been too great, the Edolord message is begun again at least at a bearable volume level.

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
(continuing; repeating)  
STATE...  
(volume still reduced)  
STATE THE PURPOSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE  
DONE!

25 SHOT PERMITTING NEXT EFFECT (OPTICAL)

Picard fighting to stay calm. As he realizes he has heard the entire message:

PICARD  
I am Captain Picard, commanding  
this Federation starship...

VIOLENTLY, THE ENTIRE MAIN BRIDGE BUCKS AND SHAKES (OPTICAL AND/OR CAMERA MOVEMENTS) IN A WAY SUGGESTING SOMETHING "SHAKING SENSE" INTO A SMALL CHILD OR ANIMAL. All not seated are thrown to the deck or must hang on.

26 ANOTHER ANGLE

Data moves toward the Command Area, examining the LIGHT SWIRL.

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
(repeating)  
STATE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT  
HERE!

PICARD  
(toward LIGHT SWIRL)  
We have sent down what we call an  
away team to make peaceful contact  
with...

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
DO YOU PLAN TO LEAVE LIFE FORMS  
HERE?

26 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
No... we are merely visiting  
here...

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
(interrupting)  
BUT YOU DID MORE AT THE WORLD  
YOU JUST LEFT. WHY HAVE YOU LEFT  
YOUR OWN LIFE FORMS THERE?

DATA  
The colony we just planted, sir...

PICARD  
We found that world uninhabited.  
The life forms we left there...  
(carefully choosing his  
words)  
... had sought the challenge...  
(shrugs)  
... at least that's the basic  
reason... had sought the challenge  
of creating a new lifestyle,  
a new society there.  
(beat; explaining)  
All life on our world is driven  
to... to protect its own form by  
re-seeding itself as... as widely  
as possible.

EDOLORD (V.O.)  
DO NOT INTERFERE WITH MY CHILDREN  
BELOW!

27 ANGLE ON DATA (OPTICAL)

genuinely puzzled over Picard's last statement.  
Suddenly the TINY LIGHT SWIRL RISES TOWARD DATA, comes  
to rest floating inches in front of his face. Then,  
Data registers a surprised expression now as he  
continues looking at the SWIRLING LIGHT OBJECT. Then:

DATA  
Captain... I do not understand how,  
but it is asking me if I was...  
constructed for information  
exchanges.

27 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(hesitates, then)  
If there... is any way of our  
learning more about whatever is  
out there, Data...

Data starts to nod, a movement which triggers action -- the tiny LIGHT SWIRL moving in to touch Data's forehead -- resulting in Data going down to the deck with a crash.

28 ANGLE DOWN ON DATA (OPTICAL)

His entire form GLOWING as he goes stiff, eyes rolling back in their sockets.

29 EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ESTABLISHING.

30 CLOSER ON ENTRY

as Wesley comes INTO VIEW with THREE EDO YOUTHS of about his own age, two male and one a very pretty young female who has very much caught Wesley's attention. The boys have a ball; they're all smiling, laughing.

FIRST EDO BOY  
Watch! You can't do this!

The Edo boy stands expertly on his hands. Wesley eyes this, decides to do something else. He turns a series of cartwheels. The Edo kids CHEER with enthusiasm, especially the girl who hugs Wesley impulsively.

EDO GIRL  
I want to do something too! With  
you.

WESLEY  
(loses smile; warily)  
Uh... What?

EDO GIRL  
Something you can teach me. Will  
you?

30 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Well, actually, there are some games I... uh, don't quite know yet...

EDO GIRL

It's playing ball. Will you teach me?

WESLEY

(relieved)

Oh, sure. If you have a bat for the ball, I'll show you my favorite.

(sees their puzzlement)

A bat...

(shows measurement)

... a stick or branch, about this thick, this long...

EDO GIRL

We can get it from the gardens.

They race OFF leading the way, beginning to toss the ball back and forth.

31 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - EMPHASIZING RIKER

Riker in the midst of reacting to something Worf has just said. With him the balance of the away team is mixing happily with various of the Edo.

RIKER

(touching his insignia)

Enterprise, come in.

(waits, then again)

Captain, do you read me?

He gets nothing in return. Troubled, he turns to Worf, speaking quietly:

RIKER

(continuing)

Let's... it may be nothing, but let's move our people together.

WORF

(nods, then)

Including the boy, Wesley? He's outside...



31 CONTINUED:

TROI  
Is there some problem?

Troi has somehow sensed Riker's feelings and made her way toward them now.

RIKER  
We've lost contact with our ship.

TROI  
(scans room)  
It's nothing these people have done... I'm certain of that. Their minds are so open...

RIKER  
Help me locate Wes. He's wandered somewhere.

He LEADS Troi toward the entrance as Worf eases his way toward the rest of the Away Team.

32 OMITTED

33 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - EMPHASIZING WORF

Not wanting to create a false emergency, he works his way toward Tasha carefully. She's with Rivan, Liator and other Edo.

WORF  
If I can take a moment of your time, Lieutenant...

TASHA  
Yes, Worf... but you've got to hear this.  
(to Liator)  
Are you telling me that there's no crime here whatsoever? No one breaks any laws?

LIATOR  
(smiles)  
Once they did. Long, long ago there was much disorder.  
(smiles; shakes head)  
But not now.

33 CONTINUED:

TASHA  
(to Liator and Rivan)  
But I've seen no sign of... of  
police... those who enforce laws.

RIVAN  
We have very few. They're called  
"Mediators." And they are needed  
only in one place each day...

LIATOR  
The "punishment zone." An area  
that's selected for a period of  
time.

TASHA  
It's a completely random selection?

LIATOR  
(nods)  
No one but our Mediators know what  
place or for how long. We're very  
proud of the wisdom of our  
ancestors. No person ever knows  
where or when a zone will be.

RIVAN  
(smiling too)  
... and so no one risks death.

WORF  
(suddenly alert)  
Death?

RIVAN  
(nodding)  
... by breaking any law.

TASHA  
Wait, let's explain this...

LIATOR  
(nodding, pleased)  
Only one punishment for any  
crime.

WORF  
Anyone who commits any crime in  
the punishment zone dies!

33 CONTINUED: (2)

LIATOR

(nods)

The law is the law. Our peace  
is built on that.

TASHA

Even a small thing? Such as  
ignoring a rule like "keep off  
the grass?"

RIVAN

(nods; happily)

Then no one breaks that rule.  
Who wants to risk execution?  
There's always a white wall or  
fence to remind anyone of a  
forbidden area like that...

Tasha begins EXITING calling a question back to the  
Edo.

TASHA

And just who tells visitors of  
those rules?

WORF

We'd better find Wesley!

They leave behind two puzzled Edo.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 EXT. EDO GARDENS

Wesley INTO VIEW with his friends, still tossing the ball back and forth. He makes a difficult catch, capturing the Edo girls' admiration again. (In b.g. is an attractive, glassed potting shed surrounded by a low white fence.)

EDO GIRL  
You're very clever at this!

Wesley decides to show off, runs ahead...

WESLEY  
At home we play a lot of it.  
(gestures; running  
ahead)  
Here, toss the ball ahead of me!

Which is done, but it is going over his head.

35 CLOSE ON EDO GIRL

registering concern.

EDO GIRL  
No, Wes...

36 PANNING WESLEY

making a strong effort to reach the ball, leaping a neat white fence at the potting enclosure. The Boys are now registering too.

FIRST EDO BOY  
(shouting)  
No! It's forbidden to disturb  
the new plants... !

37 ANGLE ON WESLEY'S FALL

Leaping for the ball, missing... falling into the potting shed.

## 38 GROUP SHOT - THE YOUNG PEOPLE

The girl hanging back, ANXIOUS. The boys pressing in, short of the white fence. Wesley lying in the broken glass of the Shed.

FIRST EDO BOY  
Couldn't you see the fence?  
That's for new plants...

SECOND EDO BOY  
(overlapping first)  
Don't ever go past a white  
marker!

WESLEY  
(getting up)  
What's wrong?

The the girl sees someone approaching from O.S., reacts horrified, SCREAMS.

## 39 WIDER ANGLE

REVEALING a pair of Edo MEDIATORS (local law enforcement) hurrying toward the potting shed area in b.g. They are middle-aged men, exceedingly trim and healthy-looking, also kindly in appearance. Their only indication of office is a neat belt and pouch. But at the sight of them the girl SHRIEKS AGAIN and it is from genuine despair and fear for Wesley.

EDO GIRL  
Oh, no! Oh, please, no!

## 40 PAN THE MEDIATORS IN

as Wesley climbs back over the fence, brushing himself off. The Edo young people now back away, awed at what has happened.

FIRST MEDIATOR  
Speak the truth. We are  
Mediators.

WESLEY  
(brushing clothes)  
I said I was fine. Just some  
splinters...

40 CONTINUED:

EDO GIRL  
(staying back; through  
tears)  
He doesn't know; he's from another  
place.

SECOND MEDIATOR  
(genuinely)  
How very sad. But this zone has  
been selected.

FIRST EDO BOY  
He doesn't understand!

FIRST MEDIATOR  
(nods)  
It's always sad... now doubly so.

SOUND OF RUNNING STEPS, heralding:

RIKER (O.S.)  
What's happening here?

41 ANGLE TO INCLUDE RIKER AND TROI

HURRYING IN to where the two Mediators stand with  
Wesley. The Edo young people are frightened, stay in  
b.g.

WESLEY  
(to Riker)  
I was chasing a ball...  
(indicating shed)  
... and fell into that. I'm  
really sorry!

MEDIATOR  
You admit you did that? Freely?

Wesley straightens up, throwing a look toward Riker.

WESLEY  
I'm with Starfleet. We don't  
lie.

Riker gives Wesley a look with some pride hidden in it.

41 CONTINUED:

RIKER  
(to Mediators)  
It won't happen again. We  
apologize.

FIRST MEDIATOR  
We're sorry, too. But that  
changes nothing.

Mixed with MORE RUNNING FOOTSTEPS.

42 WIDER ANGLE

TO INCLUDE the rest of the away team, Tasha and Worf,  
as they ARRIVE.

TASHA  
Careful, Commander, they've got  
some strange laws here...

RIKER  
I thought you reviewed the laws  
here.

TASHA  
But they list nothing about  
punishment. That's what all this  
is about.

FIRST MEDIATOR  
One moment, please...  
(to young Edo)  
Is there a witness to this  
transgression?

Hesitantly, sadly, the other young people nod.

FIRST EDO BOY  
But it was my fault; I threw the  
ball past him...

First Mediator holds up his hand, appearing to be  
genuinely saddened as he silences the Edo boy. Second  
Mediator drops his head in a gesture of extreme sadness  
too.

42 CONTINUED:

FIRST MEDIATOR

We have a visible transgression,  
ample witnesses, and an admission  
of guilt...

(to Wesley)

... and it deeply pains us to do  
what we must. Are you prepared  
for punishment?

First Mediator has opened his pouch during this, brought out a small device (to be identified as a syringe). Second Mediator has stepped to get to the rear of Wesley, trying to get past Riker.

SECOND MEDIATOR

(to Riker)

Please?

WORF

Punishment? If you mean what the  
others were talking about...

RIKER

(demanding)

What kind of punishment? Name  
it!

FIRST MEDIATOR

Death, of course! Don't make  
it...

(raising syringe)

... difficult for the boy...

Second Mediator has now squeezed past Riker, obviously intending to grab Wesley's arms from the rear... and is up-ended fast by Riker while Tasha and Worf bring out phasers trained directly on First Mediator.

WORF

Drop that; drop it now!

The Mediators seem even more stunned by what the humans have done. The syringe has been dropped; Tasha retrieves it, holds it for Riker's examination.

TASHA

It's a kind of syringe...

Riker grabs it, holds it under First Mediator's nose.



42 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER  
What is this? You said "death;"  
is it "poison?"

FIRST MEDIATOR  
(offended; very upset)  
But... but of course it is!  
Completely painless; the boy would  
have felt nothing...  
(indicating Wesley)  
But look at him now. You've  
frightened him!

WESLEY  
(disbelieving)  
He was going to kill me?

SECOND MEDIATOR  
(to Riker)  
And if this Zone were still in  
effect, you would all deserve  
death.

FIRST MEDIATOR  
It was announced you came as  
friends. Is this how friends act?

During which Riker has touched his insignia.

RIKER  
Enterprise from away team, come  
in.  
(waits)  
Are you receiving us, Enterprise?

TASHA  
(touching insignia)  
Urgent, Enterprise. Please  
respond!

43 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MYSTERY OBJECT (OPTICAL)

in orbit of the planet.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE EMPHASIZING DATA (OPTICAL)

CONTINUING LAST SHOT with the exception that Beverly  
is now present, leaning over Data and checking him with  
a medical tricorder. Both are also anxiously aware of  
the tiny LIGHT SWIRL and his GLOWING FORM.

44 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Condition?

BEVERLY  
No sign of consciousness, but the  
balance of the readings are quite  
normal for him.

45 EMPHASIZING PICARD AND BEVERLY

Both anxious.

PICARD  
I believe this is some form of  
information exchange with whatever  
is over there. At least, I hope  
that's it.

BEVERLY  
Any communication from our away  
team?

46 EMPHASIZING DATA (OPTICAL)

as Picard shakes his head.

PICARD  
Something is blocking  
communication both...

He cuts off mid-word. The LIGHT SWIRL breaks contact  
with Data -- THEN ABRUPTLY DISAPPEARS!

47 ANGLE ON PICARD AND BEVERLY

REACTING to this, and to the LIGHT GLOW fading from Data  
whose eyes remain closed. Beverly reaches in quickly,  
touching Data, examining him again.

48 WIDER ON MAIN BRIDGE

Reactions from the others to that and to the SOUND of  
TASHA'S VOICE in mid-message:

TASHA'S COM VOICE  
... Security, urgent. Repeating,  
Enterprise from away team...

48 CONTINUED:

GEORDI  
(interrupting)  
This is the Enterprise,  
Lieutenant. We're receiving you  
now.

49 ANGLE ON DATA

Beverly checking readings on her medical tricorder  
again.

TASHA'S COM VOICE  
This is an urgent call for Captain  
Picard.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
We may need your presence here,  
Captain. We have serious trouble  
with... with a member of our away  
team and an unusual law they have  
here...

PICARD  
Captain to Riker, stand by.  
(to Beverly)  
Signs of consciousness?

BEVERLY  
None yet. Perhaps in minutes,  
hours... I don't yet know what's  
happened to him.

PICARD  
Take him to Sickbay; call me the  
instant he's awake.  
(to Geordi)  
Anything new on that... that thing  
out there?

GEORDI  
Negative, sir.

PICARD  
Captain to first officer. I'm  
beaming down.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MYSTERY OBJECT (OPTICAL)

still next to each other, orbiting the planet.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. We have encountered a strange vessel-like object, one with frightening power, which appears to exist partly in another dimension. On the world below...

51 EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ESTABLISHING. As before, both young and old are seen traveling easily at a run.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

... what began as a shore leave opportunity among delightful inhabitants of a lovely Earthlike planet... has led incredibly to a death sentence...

52 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - WIDE ANGLE

in which Picard is being led to what appears a "seat of honor" next to Rivan, Liator, other planet folk. Riker, Troi and Geordi are moving in to take a place next to the Captain. Hovering anxiously nearby are Tasha and Worf holding their small phasers unobtrusively in hand as they scan the Edo, alert for any further surprises.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

... a death sentence proclaimed against... one of our crew members for what our world considers a petty, non-criminal infraction. How can I allow a crew member to die for that?

(MORE)

52 CONTINUED:

PICARD (Cont'd)  
How does the Prime Directive apply  
to this case? Indeed if we do  
save our crewmember, how will the  
frightening object up here react  
to that?

53 CLOSER ON KEY GROUP

Before Picard takes his seat, he moves Troi aside,  
speaks quietly:

PICARD  
Care to comment privately how you  
read any of this...

TROI  
(shakes head)  
Unnecessary, sir.  
(indicates)  
I get strong feelings that they  
are honest almost to a fault.  
But they do have great respect,  
even pride, in their own ways.

Picard moves to take his seat.

LIATOR  
Welcome to our world, Captain.  
We regret that our system of  
justice is troubling you.

PICARD  
Wesley Crusher -- where is he?

RIKER  
In accord with the Prime  
Directive, Captain, I've let them  
hold him pending the outcome of  
this.

RIVAN  
(gently)  
He is safe and unharmed. We  
promise that.

53 CONTINUED:

RIVAN

Captain Picard... I do not know how you Earth people conduct law and justice; even if you respect such things...

PICARD

We do.

LIATOR

Good, so do we. Our precepts have been handed down from long ago. The tranquility you see in our lives has been made possible by our laws...

RIVAN

We are a people of law. They do sometimes bring us sadness, but we have learned to adjust to that. Perhaps your laws work as well...

PICARD

They haven't always, but they do now.

LIATOR

Do you execute criminals?

PICARD

No... not any longer, that is.

RIVAN

You did once?

PICARD

Unfortunately, yes. But since then...

RIVAN

(interrupts)

And when you did, was it believed necessary to do so?

PICARD

Can we please get to the facts concerning our crewmember?

(MORE)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD (Cont'd)

(waits; gets no answer)

Yes, some people then felt it was necessary. But we've learned how to detect the seeds of criminal behavior... Capital punishment is no longer justified in our world as a deterrent.

LIATOR

But you once believed execution necessary.

(to Rivan)

So, we are not yet as "advanced" as they are.

(to Picard)

And since you are "advanced" in other ways too, I suggest you use the, ah, transfer device...

RIVAN

"Beam... "

LIATOR

... the "beam" device to permit the Wesley boy to escape from us. We will record him as a convicted-criminal out of our reach...

(then sarcasm)

... an "advanced" person who luckily escaped the barbarism of this backward little world.

Picard reacts uncomfortably to this.

PICARD

Unfortunately, we have a law ourselves known as the Prime Directive...

RIVAN

(nods)

Riker has explained it to us...

PICARD

Is the boy in the slightest danger from you right now?

Rivan and Liator exchange looks.

53 CONTINUED: (3)

LIATOR  
(to Rivan)  
Until sundown?

RIVAN  
(nods; to Picard)  
Because you are strangers, we are  
delaying enforcement of the law.  
But we must act by the time of  
sundown.

PICARD  
Then, I have another question now,  
please. While orbiting... while  
circling high above your world  
as we do... we encountered a  
strange object, a "vessel"  
perhaps? Do you know of such a  
thing? It was... well, you could  
say not entirely real, at least  
not completely what you might call  
solid...

RIVAN  
Do you mean God?

PICARD  
God?

LIATOR  
God is said to be somewhere up  
there. Protecting us.

A long beat during which the Enterprise people exchange  
looks, uncertain what this could mean.

PICARD  
Exactly... exactly how would you  
describe "God?"

RIVAN  
(indicating Picard)  
As you just did. As existing  
both here and in another place  
also.

LIATOR  
But when God wants to show its  
power, it can make itself felt  
most fully.



53 CONTINUED: (4)

GEORDI  
(with a look to Picard)  
We know.

Communicator BOS'N WHISTLE SOUNDS; Picard touches his insignia.

PICARD  
Picard here.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE  
CMO Crusher here, sir. Commander  
Data has just regained  
consciousness.

PICARD  
What condition? Can he talk?

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE  
He is insisting on it, sir.  
Urgently.

Troi has made a signal to Picard, mouths the word  
"Wesley."

PICARD  
Stand by; Picard out.  
(to Troi)  
I'd rather explain about her son  
to her personally.  
(to Rivan and Liator)  
You promise Wesley Crusher will  
be safe until sundown?

LIATOR  
(nods)  
You have our word.

PICARD  
Then, will one of you return with  
me to our vessel?

RIVAN  
(nods)  
Of course. I'll go as a hostage  
for the boy's safety.

53 CONTINUED: (5)

PICARD  
No, that's not it. I want you  
to... identify something for me,  
if you can.  
(touches insignia)  
Captain to Transporter Room.  
Stand by for three to beam up...

Picard motions to Troi, beckons for Rivan to join them  
as they stand to one side.

RIVAN  
I'm...frightened...

TROI  
(touches her gently;  
smiling)  
No reason to be.

PICARD  
Transporter Room, energize.

54 EFFECTS ANGLE - (OPTICAL)

as Picard, Troi and Rivan BEAM OUT.

55 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MYSTERY OBJECT/VESSEL

still in orbit of the planet together.

55A INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Troi and Rivan ENTER SCENE coming down the  
corridor. Rivan is astonished by what she is seeing.  
She looks from Troi to a couple of very efficient  
appearing crewmembers who are passing.

RIVAN  
But this is a ... a city. A great  
city!

Now, Beverly ENTERS SCENE also, her expression freezing  
as she sees Picard and bears down upon him.

BEVERLY  
Captain, I've just seen the away  
team report about Wesley...

55A CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(interrupting; firmly)  
In a moment, Doctor...

BEVERLY  
(interrupting)  
"In a moment..."

PICARD  
(icily)  
Exactly, Doctor, in a moment.  
(to Rivan; more gently)  
You were about to say... ?

Rivan gives Beverly a puzzled glance, then turns her attention to Picard, indicating the vessel.

RIVAN  
Since you have all this power,  
why be concerned about our laws?  
You could take the boy from us!

PICARD  
(troubled smile)  
It's not that simple.

Beverly gives a quick look at Rivan and Picard at this, beginning to understand at least something of what may be happening. With so much of her own at stake, it is all Beverly can do to keep from interrupting again, but Picard's firm expression detains her. Picard, Beverly, and Troi lead Rivan into a turbolift. Troi gives a troubled look toward Rivan.

55B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as Picard, Troi and Rivan ENTER from turbolift.

TROI  
From here we can view whatever's  
outside our vessel.

RIVAN  
Do you mean my world?! You said  
we'd be high above it...

55B CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(nods)  
And something else that's up here  
circling your world too. It's  
very important to us... perhaps  
to you... to know what it is.

Rivan is puzzled.

56 ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

REVEALING THE MYSTERY VESSEL/OBJECT out beyond what WE  
CAN SEE of the Enterprise. CAMERA PANS to Rivan,  
Picard, Troi, and Beverly. At the instant Rivan sees  
it, she drops to one knee, clenching her eyes closed,  
with hands crossed over her chest.

PICARD  
I'm sorry, Rivan, but this was  
necessary. Do you know what that  
is?

Rivan nods jerkily, her eyes still clenched closed.

TROI  
(waits; then gently)  
Can you tell us what it is?

Rivan stays frozen in the same position. Picard now  
waits, then:

PICARD  
Is it "God?"

Rivan again nods jerkily, eyes still clenched.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
Now, it's very important you  
answer something. How do you  
recognize what it is?

57 ANOTHER ANGLE

Rivan actually trembling. Troi bends close, speaks  
encouragingly:

57 CONTINUED:

TROI  
Nothing will harm you, I promise!  
Just tell us how you recognize  
it.

RIVAN  
(beat; weakly)  
It... has appeared...before. It  
is... the same.

PICARD  
Can you speak to it... Does it  
speak to you?

TROI  
Captain... !

57A ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Troi is pointing agitatedly to where the mysterious object/vessel is GLOWING BRIGHTER, and the bridge begins to shake as WE HEAR THE IMMENSE VOLUME OF THE VOICE WE HEARD EARLIER IN THE BRIDGE.

EDOLORD (V. O.)  
RETURN MY CHILD!

BEVERLY  
(to Captain; puzzled)  
"Return... ?"

Picard's eye falls on the trembling Rivan and he suddenly understands. The moment interrupted by the Enterprise beginning to SHUDDER and the LIGHTS BLINK OFF, EMPHASIZING THE NOW BRIGHTLY GLOWING EDOLORD OBJECT/VESSEL.

TROI  
It's coming toward us, sir... !

And this is exactly what is happening. THE EDOLORD OBJECT/VESSEL IS MOVING TOWARD THE ENTERPRISE ON A COLLISION COURSE. The Enterprise is SHAKING heavily now, WE CAN HEAR STRUCTURAL STRAIN.

Picard understands what to do, takes off his insignia, attaching it to Rivan's clothing as:

57A CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Picard to Transporter Room,  
urgent!

TROI  
Yes, do that! But hurry... !

BEVERLY  
It is still coming toward us...

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S COM VOICE  
Transporter Chief to Captain...

PICARD  
One to beam down to away team  
location. Hurry!

57B ANGLE EMPHASIZING RIVAN (OPTICAL)

Picard steps back from her, his insignia attached to her  
clothing.

PICARD  
Engage, Transporter Room, urgent!  
Engag...

The TRANSPORTER SOUND cuts him off and Rivan BEAMS OUT.

57C ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER (OPTICAL)

as slowly the LIGHTS COME ON and the EDOLORD  
OBJECT/VESSEL RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL DISTANCE FROM  
ENTERPRISE.

57D INT. SICKBAY CORRIDOR

as a turbolift door opens, Picard and Beverly EMERGING  
to stride down the corridor toward Sickbay.

BEVERLY  
What do you intend to do about  
my son?

PICARD  
He is being held safely, until  
sundown...

Beverly pulls to a stop, faces Picard.

57D CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

When he faces execution! Although he has committed no crime, certainly none that any sane and reasonable person would...

Beverly's words have come faster, louder, until she finally realizes she is giving way emotionally. She stops, controls herself with an effort we can see.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

I... apologize, sir... but this is very difficult for me...

PICARD

You saw what that thing was about to do. I have a ship, an entire crew to consider...

BEVERLY

If you felt the same, you'd be as frightened and trembling...

PICARD

(quietly)

But I am.

They face each other silently. Then she nods.

BEVERLY

Data is in Sickbay here. You'll find him able to talk.

58 INT. SICKBAY

Data is conscious, being scanned on Sickbay equipment by a MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. As Beverly and Picard ENTER, the Technician pauses in what he is doing.

MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

He's checking out fine, Doctor.

BEVERLY

(nods)

Finish it later, please.

The medical technician withdraws. Picard moves in to bedside. Data nods at him.

58 CONTINUED:

DATA

I was an excellent choice for them, Captain. They could communicate with me quite...

(shakes head)

... I was about to say quite "easily," but there was nothing "easy" about it. Fortunately, they stopped short of overloading my circuitry...

PICARD

(interrupting)

You're saying they. It is a vessel of some sort...

DATA

(interrupting)

Definitely not a single "entity" if that's what you mean, sir... although they know the Edo worship them as a "God thing."

PICARD

They know... ?

DATA

(nods)

They recognize that this is quite expected and harmless at the present Edo stage of evolution, and...

PICARD

(interrupting)

What kind of vessel?

DATA

(without pause)

It is perhaps not what we'd understand as a "vessel," sir. The dimensions this one occupies allows them to... well, to be in several places at once. But they consider this entire star cluster to be theirs, and it was probably unwise of us to attempt to place a human colony in this area.

(MORE)



58 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (Cont'd)

Of course, there are three thousand four other planets in this general star cluster in which we...

PICARD

Data, don't babble!

DATA

"Babble," sir? I am not aware that I ever babble, sir. It may be that from time to time I have considerable information to communicate, and you may question the way I organize it...

Data trails off as he becomes aware of Picard's expression.

PICARD

Please "organize" it into brief answers to my questions. Do they accept our presence at this planet?

Obedying Picard exactly (and without any sign of rancor), Data gives clipped answers.

DATA

Not yet decided, sir.

PICARD

(waits)

Please feel free to volunteer any important information, however.

DATA

I volunteer that they are now observing us, sir.

PICARD

To judge what kind of life forms we are?

DATA

No, it is more curiosity, sir. I doubt they expect us to abide by their value systems.

Picard throws a glance toward Beverly, as:

58 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Do they... know of our Prime Directive?

DATA

They know everything I know, sir.

PICARD

And, in your opinion, if we violated the Prime Directive.. ?

BEVERLY

(interrupting; blurting it)

That's not a fair question at...

Beverly bites off her words. But it is all she can do to keep from saying more.

PICARD

(to Data)

Continue.

DATA

That would be a case of judging us by our own rules, sir. If we violate our own Prime Directive, they might consider us deceitful and untrustworthy.

(beat)

You do recall, sir, they cautioned us not to interfere with their "children" below.

(looks from Beverly to Picard)

What has happened?

BEVERLY

(exploding)

The Edo want to execute my son.

(to Picard)

I will not allow that to happen, Jean-Luc!

She exhibits a fury that Data has watched with considerable interest. He turns to Picard.

DATA

Most interesting, sir. The emotion of motherhood, compared to all others felt by humans...

58 CONTINUED: (4)

Beverly whirls on Data now.

BEVERLY  
SHUT UP!

She DASHES angrily from the room. Data looks from Picard, to her, to Picard. Then he nods:

DATA  
You were right, sir. I do tend  
to babble.

FADE OUT.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

59 EXT. SPACE - EMPHASIZING ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The mystery object between starship and planet, their relative positions not moving.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41255.9.  
Whatever the object or vessel in orbit with us, it hangs there like a "nemesis". It is one thing to communicate with something mysterious...

60 INT. STARBOARD LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

Picard sitting alone, looking out at the mysterious object.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

... but it is quite another to be silently observed by it. I am concerned whether it understands the same concept of reason that we do?

Picard ponders all this for a moment more until Data ENTERS. Picard beckons.

DATA

You sent for me, sir?

PICARD

Let's talk some more, Data.

DATA

Yes sir. What level of communication?

Picard gives him an annoyed look.

PICARD

Any. My apologies for saying you babbled.

60 CONTINUED:

DATA  
But I do, sir.  
(beat)  
It was wise to beam back the Edo  
woman.

PICARD  
(nods)  
Barely in time.

DATA  
(nods)  
The Edo's "God" is very protective  
of its children.

PICARD  
There was no choice but to  
learn...  
(indicates mystery  
object)  
... what we could about that thing  
from her.

DATA  
Apparently the Edo people had seen  
it before, from time to time, sir.

PICARD  
(nods)  
But I'm sorry I had to. She was  
so frightened.

DATA  
(nods)  
Understandable. To share an orbit  
with "God" is no small experience.

Picard looks at Data, smiles.

PICARD  
You have a facility for seeing  
things not in the way we do, but  
as they truly are.

Picard shifts in his seat closer to Data, addresses him  
eye to eye.

60 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD  
(continuing)  
I need help, my friend. I cannot let Wesley or any member of this vessel be sacrificed this way. The Prime Directive does not really intend that.

DATA  
The problem, sir, is there!  
(indicates mystery object)  
Although they have learned of the Prime Directive from my mind, how will they evaluate it? How do they reason? What are their values? Remember its warning to us, sir.

PICARD  
Exactly. How do I explain not obeying the laws down there, not permitting young Crusher's execution? Does that endanger this ship and over a thousand other lives?

DATA  
Would you choose one life over one thousand, sir?

PICARD  
(snaps)  
I refuse to let arithmetic decide questions like that!

Picard examines Data's expression again. Then, he indicates out toward the mysterious object/vessel again.

PICARD  
Did you learn anything of the relationship between the Edo and that? Why are they so certain it is "God?"

DATA  
Any sufficiently advanced life form can appear to others to be that, sir.  
(MORE)

60 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA (Cont'd)  
(looks out toward the  
Object)

But when they were probing my thoughts, Captain, I could feel that whatever they are now, they once existed in this dimension, just as we do. Perhaps also in the same kind of "flesh and blood" form. Since then, however, they have evolved considerably further. Their present existence in mixed dimensions no doubt has advantages we do not understand...

PICARD  
Then, in their earlier flesh and blood existence they could have once shared our kind of values.

DATA  
The Edo share them, sir.

PICARD  
Why would advanced things like that feel obliged to protect the Edo?

DATA  
Perhaps because the Edo are a child-race by comparison. Possibly a race which the life forms over there "planted" here much as we now plant human colonies on Class-M planets.

Interrupted by Beverly ENTERING. She moves to face Picard, trying for a somewhat respectful position of attention. She is mastering her emotions, but the pain is obvious.

BEVERLY  
Having fulfilled my professional obligations regarding Commander Data...

60 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD  
You now request permission to beam  
down -- permission granted.  
(stands)  
You can accompany me while I try  
to resolve this.  
(starts; then stops and  
turns)  
And you should know that whatever  
the cost, I will not allow them  
to execute your son.

Beverly turns to Picard -- she wants to fall crying at  
his feet, or embrace him, cover him with kisses of  
gratitude.

BEVERLY  
(correctly)  
Thank you, sir.

PICARD  
(to Data)  
Take command, Data.

Picard STRIDES OUT of the lounge, then Beverly HURRIES  
AFTER him. As he leaves, Data smiles a second time.

DATA  
Aye, sir.

61 EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

Only a few Edo in sight. It's getting late in the day.

62 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - ANGLE ON RIKER

at the door, looking outside. Then he turns, takes a  
few steps to where Liator sits talking with Rivan.

RIVAN  
Almost dark.  
(turns)  
I want the boy brought here now.

On hearing this, Tasha and Worf move in. They do not  
brandish their phasers but it is clear they will enforce  
what Riker wants. Rivan and Liator obviously understand  
this -- and perhaps do not really oppose it.



62 CONTINUED:

TASHA  
I'll go along with you.

LIATOR  
Of course.

They EXIT. Then WE HEAR the TRANSPORTER ARRIVAL SOUND  
and:

63 TRANSPORTER SHOT (OPTICAL)

where several Edo come to their feet in wonder again as  
PICARD AND BEVERLY BEAM IN.

RIVAN (O.S.)  
Captain Picard...

Her RUNNING FOOTSTEPS as she hurries INTO SCENE.  
Reaching Picard, she drops worshipfully to one knee,  
crossing her hands across her chest, eyes closed as when  
she saw the mystery/vessel object. She hands Picard  
his insignia.

RIVAN  
I saw you share the sky with God.  
You must be Gods.  
(turning to the other  
Edo, eyes still  
clenched)  
And the boy too.

The Edo there shuffle nervously, uncertainly. They have  
always appeared to be a calm, intelligent life form,  
never seeming overly superstitious, but should they  
reject this possibility? Beverly turns to Picard  
hopefully; is this an answer to the dilemma? Then  
Picard bends, lifts Rivan up by her elbows.

PICARD  
No, no, we're not "Gods."  
(small smile)  
Your own idea of that is much  
better for you at this time...

WESLEY (O.S.)  
(interrupting)  
Mother...

## 64 ANOTHER ANGLE

to INCLUDE WESLEY ENTERING along with Liator, the two Mediators. Those two act rather stiffly, officers of law who have tried to do their sworn duty and are having outsiders interfering with it. Wesley has stopped short of going to his mother.

WESLEY  
(to Beverly)  
I guess you know a lot has  
happened here...

BEVERLY  
(nodding; holding it  
in)  
I know.

WESLEY  
Are you going to let them kill  
me, sir?

PICARD  
No.  
(turning to Liator and  
Mediators)  
But I'd like to prevent it in a  
way you can understand...

FIRST MEDIATOR  
How can we let this happen,  
Liator? Everything we respect,  
our law, our peace, our world's  
order...

SECOND MEDIATOR  
(moving to Picard)  
You are more powerful but we beg  
you not to do this to us. At  
least study what we once were --  
hurtful to each other, savage,  
thieving...

RIKER  
(interrupting)  
We understand. In fact, your  
system of law and punishment may  
be better than many we once had.  
(points at Picard)  
But he has laws he must obey too.  
And one of them says he must  
protect his people from harm.

64 CONTINUED:

LIATOR

We did not ask you to come here...

PICARD

(nods)

Which has to do with another law I must obey. All of us are sworn not to interfere with other life in the galaxy. I am caught between the two. If I save this young man, I break that law...

FIRST MEDIATOR

And you should be executed if you do so!

PICARD

(nods)

I may suffer almost as much. Starfleet takes our Prime Directive very seriously...

SECOND MEDIATOR

No, it is God who will punish you!

RIKER

(nods)

That has crossed our minds too.

LIATOR

Our laws have been violated. What of justice?

TASHA

What of justice to Wesley? Does he deserve to die?

FIRST MEDIATOR

What makes our law strong is the certainty of punishment!

BEVERLY

But my son had no warning...

SECOND MEDIATOR

We cannot allow ignorance of the law to become a defense...

64 CONTINUED: (2)

RIVAN

Is it possible we are wrong about that? Surely there is such a thing as too much harshness...

FIRST MEDIATOR

We do not dispense mercy... only justice.

TASHA

(calls from entrance)  
Their sun is almost down, sir.

PICARD

(to the others)  
Stand ready to beam out.

65 ANGLE FOR BEAM OUT (OPTICAL)

as the Away Team gathers in position. CROSSING toward them, Picard passes Liator.

PICARD

The question of justice has concerned me a good deal lately. Pained me. Until now, Liator. I realize now that there can be no justice...

SECOND MEDIATOR

God will destroy you!

PICARD

(back to Liator)  
... no justice so long as laws are absolute. Life itself is an exercise in exceptions.

RIKER

(quietly)  
Bravo. When has justice ever been as simple as a rulebook, sir?  
(looks around)  
Six to beam up, Captain?

PICARD

(touches insignia)  
Six to beam up.

65 CONTINUED:

SECOND MEDIATOR  
(screams it)  
God will punish you!

And with this ringing in their ears, they BEAM OUT.

66 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MYSTERY OBJECT/VESSEL

both still in orbit.

67 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

as the turbolift DISCHARGES Picard, Riker and the others. The balance of our regulars are on duty there too.

RIKER  
Main Viewer on!

They slowly take their positions, eyes on the Viewer. As Wesley ENTERS with Beverly, Geordi looks up.

GEORDI  
Greetings, Jailbird.

It doesn't get a big laugh at this moment.

PICARD  
Hailing frequencies open.

TASHA  
Open, sir.

PICARD  
To the object sharing this orbit... we will remove the human colonists from the adjoining solar system if signaled to do so. Or we'll proceed on our mission, if signaled to do that. Please tell us...

DATA  
Captain!

The IMAGE on the Viewer begins FADING, FINALLY DISAPPEARS.

67 CONTINUED:

GEORDI  
Is that a signal?

PICARD  
(beat)  
I was hoping for more.

GEORDI  
More of what, sir? I'm happy it's  
gone.

RIKER  
(nods)  
We're all thrilled with that, sir.

PICARD  
(beat)  
I was hoping we'd learn more about  
it. But since we can't...  
(looks to Riker)  
Take us out of here, Number One.

RIKER  
Gladly, sir.

68 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it begins leaving orbit.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END