

Star Trek Continues

Episode 1
PILGRIM OF ETERNITY

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. HOLODECK. ALL BLACK WITH A FEW WESTERN SALOON PROPS. 1

We open on a tight CU of a revolver, then pan left to reveal KIRK, a stunned look on his face.

As we PULL BACK from his shocked expression we see an old six-shooter pistol is pointed at his face. The cowboy holding it pulls back the hammer with an audible CLICK! Kirk's POV, we stare down the barrel in the hands of a cowboy from Earth's Wild and Ancient West. The cowboys face is blocked by his hat. He slowly looks up to reveal himself.

PALADIN

I'd like you to take a good look at this gun. It was handcrafted to my specifications. The balance is excellent and the trigger responds to a pressure of one ounce.

KIRK

I'm well acquainted with the piece. Perhaps we could talk about this.

PALADIN

I rarely draw it unless I mean to use it. (BEAT) Looks to me like you need a demonstration. (cocks it)

SCOTTY (OFF SCREEN)

Freeze program.

The cowboy and the gun are frozen solid. A smiling SCOTTY walks into frame right through the holographic cowboy carrying a handheld computer, followed closely by DRAKE.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)

Isn't she everything I promised, sir?

KIRK

And more. I've never seen a holographic simulation this detailed. I swear I can almost smell the gun oil.

DRAKE

Just imagine the endless uses for this thing... security training, tactical strike team scenarios... (Kirk interrupts Drake)

KIRK
Right down your alley.

SCOTTY (PROUD)
She's still a developmental stage,
but once the bugs are worked out...

SPOCK (LOUDSPEAKER)
Bridge to Captain Kirk.

Smiling, Kirk speaks up as if addressing a talkback system.
Drake examines the cowboy's gun.

KIRK
Kirk here.

SPOCK (LOUDSPEAKER)
We've arrived at the first of the
power stations, Captain.

2 INT. HOLODECK. ALL BLACK WITH A FEW WESTERN SALOON PROPS 2

KIRK
On my way- Kirk out.
(to Scotty)
Playtime's over, gentlemen. Time to
go to work.

Scotty pushes a button on the handheld computer and the
cowboy disappears. All three exit

3 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE HOVERING NEAR POWER STATION 3

4 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 4

Kirk and Scotty exit turbolift and head to their stations.

KIRK
Report, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK
Starfleet's communique was
accurate. All three power stations
in this system are completely
drained.

KIRK
Any idea what caused it?

SCOTTY (JOKING)
The Klingons stealing fuel cells
again?

SPOCK (OBLIVIOUS TO JOKE)
There is no evidence to back up
that theory, Mr. Scott.

SCOTTY
That's because it wasn't a theory..
it was a joke.

SPOCK
(eyebrow) The power stations were
anchored in this system for the
purpose of providing energy and
fuel for passing Federation ships.

KIRK
And what would account for a
failure on this scale?

SPOCK
Unknown. But if theft was intended,
it would be far more efficient to
steal the power station itself than
to siphon them one by one.

SULU
Captain, I'm registering a minor
drain on engine power.

KIRK
Scotty?

SCOTTY
Checking. Aye, slight, but
noticeable.

KIRK
Any danger?

SCOTTY
Not yet, but I don't like it, sir.
I cannae even tell you what's
causing it.

McCoy enters the bridge

KIRK
Alright... Spock, scan the station
and see if you can find any clues
to the power loss.

CHEKOV
Captain, I'm reading something
320,000 km off the Starboard bow.

KIRK
Put it on screen.

Cutaway to main viewer and THE REALM appears on screen.

5 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - VIEWSCREEN 5

On the viewscreen we see the anomaly- an unknown object hovering in space.

6 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 6

MCCOY
What the devil?

KIRK
Spock?

SPOCK (SCANNING)
Unknown.

KIRK

KIRK (CONT'D)
Sulu, bring us around. Scotty,
shields up.

SCOTTY
(surprised) Shields not responding,
sir. Power drain has accelerated.

SPOCK
The source of the drain is the
anomaly directly in front of us.

KIRK
Can we do anything about it?

SPOCK
Unknown.

Suddenly the lights dim for a second and then return, albeit not to full power.

SCOTTY
Ships systems, including life
support, now at 54% and falling.

KIRK (TO SPOCK)
What is it? A machine? An organism?

SPOCK
Unknown.

KIRK (FRUSTRATED)
That's a lot of unknowns, Mr.
Spock. I need answers. Go to red
alert..

Uhura begins broadcasting ("all decks, red alert, all hands
to battle stations! This is not a drill") overlapping
dialogue.

(to Sulu)
Sulu, put some distance between
us... Back away...

SULU
Engines aren't responding, Captain.
I can't seem to...

SCOTTY (INTERRUPTS)
Warp drive and impulse engines are
off-line!

KIRK (TO UHURA)
Uhura, anything?

UHURA
Nothing, sir. I've tried friendship
messages on all known hailing
frequencies!

SCOTTY
Ship's power now at 29%! She's
fading fast!

KIRK
Not without a fight. Ready phasers.

SCOTTY
We don't have enough power for
phasers. I've already diverted
every thing we have left to life-
support.

KIRK
Photon torpedoes?

SCOTTY
Aye... we might be able to get off
one shot, but there's no telling if
it will...

KIRK (INTERRUPTS)
Sulu, lock photon torpedo- dead
center.

SULU
Torpedo locked.

KIRK
Fire.

Lights dim when torpedo is launched.

7 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE LAUNCHES TORPEDO TOWARD ANOMALY. 7

8 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 8

CHEKOV
Twenty seconds to impact.

SCOTTY
Power now at 14%!

The bridge lights are surging off and on.

SPOCK
Captain, I'm reading two life forms
at the center of the anomaly.

KIRK
Life forms?

MCCOY

Jim...

SPOCK
Confirmed. Readings are very faint,
but definite.

MCCOY
Jim, You don't know anything about
them... They could need our help!

KIRK
Scotty-- transporters?

SCOTTY
No way, sir! Power levels at 9%!

CHEKOV
Impact in five seconds.

MCCOY
(more urgent)
Jim!

*

KIRK

We're out of options here, Bones!

MCCOY

But you don't even know...

CHEKOV

Impact!

9 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - VIEWSCREEN 9

On the viewscreen we see the torpedo explode.

10 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 10

The bridge is rocked by a light shock wave and people cover their eyes at the light flash. Then it calms. Power starts returning immediately as indicated by lights.

KIRK (TO SCOTTY)

Report.

SCOTTY

Power levels at 12%... 19%...
increasing steadily.

UHURA

All decks reporting in... no
casualties.

SPOCK

Our torpedo broke several small
pieces off the anomaly. The bulk of
it remains intact, but no longer a
viable threat.

(a beat)

I read no life signs.

Kirk looks to McCoy.

KIRK

I'm sorry, Bones, it couldn't be
helped.

MCCOY

I know, Jim. It's just hard see
lives taken, even when it's to save
our own.

SCOTTY

24%, 31... still climbing.

SPOCK
Captain, I'm reading some form of
energy build up--

*

Kirk & McCoy move toward Spock's station

SPOCK (CONT'D)
--focused within the Enterprise.

KIRK

Can you pinpoint an exact location?

SPOCK
The bridge.

Suddenly, a glowing shape forms in front of the turbolift door. Reaction shots all around as the form takes shape to reveal two beings, a man and a woman, lying on the floor. The man looks up and sees Kirk. He appears relieved, tries to speak, but is too weak to form the words.

KIRK (SPEECHLESS)

Dolly to CU On Kirk's stunned expression we--

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

11 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE HOVERS 11

The Enterprise hovers in space. The power stations float ahead. Pieces of the anomaly float in front of the Enterprise.

12 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 12

McCoy starts to stoop to the couple on the floor but Kirk hold him back. Others remain at, or near, their stations, watching the action.

KIRK'S NARRATION

Captain's Log: Stardate 6147.3.
It's been nearly two years since the alien called Apollo from Earth's ancient history tried to enslave us on Pollux IV. Now, a much older Apollo has reappeared... only this time, on board the Enterprise.

SCOTTY (AT HIS STATION WHISPERING)

Security to the bridge on the double.

Apollo's gold tunic and wreath of gold leaves looks just as it did when last we saw him.. But he is much older and weaker. His age appears to be Michael's present age.

KIRK

Apollo?

*

Apollo ignores Kirk (perhaps interrupts Kirk midsentence?) to reach for the woman lying next to him. She is barely breathing. The woman opens her eyes, barely more than a sliver. She is weak, tries to speak. Her voice is tiny, barely audible.

ATHENA (WEAK)

A thousand years in a day...

APOLLO (CONSOLING SMILE)

Rest, my dearest. We continue... because of you.

ATHENA

YOU continue. I am... pleased the final image my eyes behold is that of your face.

APOLLO
(with a smile) No. We are safe...
together. You can't go... I forbid
it.

ATHENA
As with the others... eternity
beckons... and I must answer.

Athena takes Apollo's hand and guides it to the brooch on her
shoulder. She detaches it and puts in his hands.

ATHENA (CONT'D)
Live on for us.

Athena dies. All look on in concern and sorrow.

APOLLO
Travel gently... beloved Athena.

Crew reacts. Security CHIEF DRAKE and another rush in and
freezes just as Athena gently begins to blur and fades away.

UHURA
Where did she go?

APOLLO
(fearfully) I don't know.
Emptiness.

Apollo starts to lose consciousness.

KIRK
Bones... (gestures to McCoy to help)

McCoy kneels and takes readings.

MCCOY
I'm not sure what I can do... but
let's get him to sickbay.

SCOTTY (INCREDULOUS)
Sir! You're not actually going to
allow...

Kirk raises his hand and halts Scotty. McCoy looks at Kirk as
if to say "do you want me to continue?" Kirk nods yes and
gestures to the security guards to pick up Apollo.

MCCOY
Go easy.

The security guards pick up Apollo. Apollo's hand goes limp
and drops the brooch to the bridge floor.

No one seems to notice-- except Uhura. They move to the turbolift, followed by McCoy.

13 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE HOVERS 13

The Enterprise hovers in space in front of the now dark anomaly. Pieces of the anomaly float closer. A few minutes have passed since Apollo's reappearance.

14 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 14

Kirk is leaning over the engineering station. Scotty seated.

SCOTTY

The power's stabilized, sir. Shield output is increasing but...

KIRK

But...?

SCOTTY

Well, sir, pieces of whatever that thing out there was have hardened on the ship's hull.

SULU

Captain, if that debris clogs the intake manifolds...

SCOTTY

Aye, I've already sealed them but we're stuck here until we've cleared the debris.

SPOCK

Readings indicate the material to be innocuous once hardened. There is, however, an unknown corrosive substance at their centers.

KIRK

Corrosive enough to eat through the hull?

SPOCK

Possibly.

KIRK

Suggestions, gentlemen??

SCOTTY (TO HIMSELF)

What a whaup i the raip....

SULU (CONT'D)

We could go out on the hull with couple of hand phasers and cut the residue off the ship's exterior.

SPOCK

Interesting strategy, Mister Sulu.

SULU

By setting the phasers at the proper resonating frequency we should be able to scrape the stuff off fairly easy with no damage to the hull.

SCOTTY (TO SULU THEN KIRK)

Aye, like sandpaper! But it's precision work. We can't afford any bumps.

KIRK

I think Mr. Chekov can handle that.

(Chekov nods with a smile)
(to Sulu)

Well, Mr. Sulu, feel like taking a walk outside?

SULU (SMILING)

Absolutely.

KIRK

Very well, you and Simone from structural engineering suit up and get it done. Mister Scott will monitor the E.V.A. from here.

SULU/SCOTTY (SIMULTANEOUSLY)

Aye, sir.

Sulu and Scotty exit the Bridge. Spock makes his way to the command chair.

KIRK

You seem concerned, Spock.

SPOCK

I am, Captain.

*

KIRK

Sulu knows what he's doing.

SPOCK

It is not Mr. Sulu that concerns
me. It is Apollo.

Spock pushes button and original Apollo image comes up on
screen.

KIRK

Yes... I don't like him being here
one bit, but I am... somewhat
responsible for him... being here.

SPOCK

Curious that he has aged so rapidly
in two years.

KIRK

Computer, analyze the age of the
subject on screen.

COMPUTER

Working. Subject's physiological
age based on established norms
between 38 and 41 earth years.

KIRK

Now analyze the age of the subject
currently in sickbay.

COMPUTER

Working. Subject in sickbay's
physiological age based on
established on established norms
between 77 and 82 earth years.

Kirk throw a look at Spock.

SPOCK

I'm at a loss to explain, captain.

KIRK

Why don't we pay our guest a visit
and see if we can get some answers.

Kirk heads toward turbolift. Spock follows.

KIRK (CONTINUOUS) (CONT'D)

Scotty, you've got the con.

Kirk and Spock enter the turbolift.

EXT SPACE- Anomaly hovering in foreground as we boom up to see the ENTERPRISE in the background.

15

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICK BAY

15

Apollo is on the biobed. Security guards at the door. McCoy is over him. Kirk & Spock enter. DR. ELISE MACKENNAH intercepts them.

MACKENNAH

Captain, Doctor Elise MacKennah. I was just recently assigned to--

KIRK

Not right now. (he continues toward Apollo)

MacKennah starts to protests, but thinks better of it.

KIRK (SOFTENS) (CONT'D)

How is he, Bones?

MCCOY

It's damn peculiar, Jim. His vitals are stable--for now. Can't say for how long, especially given his condition.

KIRK

His condition?

MCCOY

Dying... like any ordinary human.

SPOCK

Fascinating.

MCCOY

That extra organ I detected in him on Polux IV?

KIRK

(nods affirmative)

MCCOY

Well, it's still there, but barely detectable by my sensors. I had to scan him twice to find it.

APOLLO

(interrupts - weak)

Captain Kirk?

KIRK
So you remember me.

APOLLO
Yes.
(a beat)
You have extended an undeserved
kindness considering our history.
For that I am grateful.

KIRK
Don't mention it. What's the
meaning of the attack on my ship?

APOLLO (WEAK)
It was not my doing. When we sensed
your weapon approaching, Athena
sacrificed her last portion of
energy to allow us both to escape
the Realm.

KIRK
Realm?

APOLLO
Created by our race eons ago to be
a place of eternal respite. Absent
of worship after we left your
beautiful Earth, The Realm was to
provide the energy for us to live
on through eternity.

SPOCK
Clearly it did not operate as
intended.

APOLLO
No. Hera, Poseidon, and my beloved
Artemis were the first to arrive.
The Realm drained their life energy
until they were too weak to escape.
Then the others... Aphrodite,
Athena... all trapped.

Apollo closes his eyes, in pain, both physical and emotional.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
A malfunction in the Realm caused
it to siphon power from any nearby
energy source, whether organic or
artificial.

KIRK
The power stations...

Apollo nods

MCCOY

And your rapid aging....

APOLLO

Even gods... with no worship...
quickly wither.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Because I waited for you, my
children, I was the last to arrive
at the Realm. I was ill prepared
for what I discovered.

MACKENNAH (COMPASSIONATE)

The others were dying.

APOLLO

Yes. So many had perished. We never
conceived of our own mortality, but
once in the Realm we were gods no
longer. What was meant to be our
sanctuary-- became our prison. One
by one, my brothers and sisters
slipped into oblivion...

A beat as Apollo forces himself to say his next words,
painful as they are to him.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

And I... I was powerless to save
them.

KIRK (SYMPATHETICALLY)

I'm sympathize, Apollo. But nothing
has changed. We still can't give
you the worship you want.

APOLLO

MUCH has changed, Captain. I no
longer seek it.

Stone faced, Kirk stares at Apollo, waiting for more, but
Apollo shows signs of weakening again.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

And now, I am here... in this fading
shell... hoping you will have mercy
upon me.

Apollo touches his own face, feels the aged skin.

(MORE)

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Time... who never dared to speak my name, now pursues me.

Kirk, Spock and McCoy were not expecting this reaction.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Does that surprise you? Perhaps even please you? To know that I fear passing into oblivion?

KIRK

No, it doesn't please us... but your presence on this ship IS a great concern.

APOLLO

Then hear my plea. (pause) I ask that you to take me to a world where mortals exist--the warmth of the sun... an evening breeze on my face... that there I may live out what is left of this life.

KIRK

(Shakes head "no")
So you can play god to yet another unsuspecting race?

APOLLO

I swear upon all Olympus... upon the holy temple itself. I only desire to spend my remaining days among them... as one of them.

KIRK

I'm afraid that's a big risk, Apollo... and one I'm not prepared to take.

APOLLO

To be a god for centuries only to now weaken and die alone... after my actions toward you... perhaps you believe that is what I deserve.

Apollo's eyes close for a moment as if he's about to lose consciousness. Kirk is about to continue, but McCoy stops him.

MCCOY

Jim, perhaps we can let him rest.

Kirk stares at Apollo for a moment, then Kirk, Spock and McCoy move to the door.

KIRK (TO SPOCK)
Check on Sulu's progress, then I
want to see the senior officers in
the briefing room.

SPOCK
Yes, sir.

Spock exits sickbay.

KIRK
Bones, make sure Apollo is exactly
what he says he is.

MCCOY

What's that?

KIRK (AT DOOR) (CONT'D)
Powerless.

Kirk exits sickbay before McCoy can comment.

16 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR 16

McKennah waits outside sickbay. Before she can say anything,
Kirk begins.

KIRK
Yes... Doctor McKennah... welcome
aboard.

MCKENNAH
Thank you, sir. I'm eager to
discuss this new position...

KIRK (INTERRUPTING)
Of course. But for the time being,
I need you to assist Dr. McCoy with
our guest.

MCKENNAH (SOFT)
Yes, sir.

Kirk enters the turbolift, leaving McKennah standing alone.

17 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE PRIMARY HULL- LONG SHOT MOVING IN TO REVEAL TWO FIGURES FIRING PHASERS. 17

E.V.A. in progress. Sulu and Simone phaser off remnants of
The Realm. They are close to each other to execute the
crossphase, each firing a hand phaser while crisscrossing the
beams.

SULU

A few more minutes and we can go back in and use the shield array to scrub the last bits off.

SIMONE

You really love this stuff don't you? No matter how much we train, I can't get into assignments like this. Give me artificial gravity any day.

SULU

(shakes head) Artificial gravity.

18 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

18

McKennah slips back into the room and approaches Apollo, who is awake.

MCKENNAH

I'm Dr. McKennah. Feeling up to some company?

APOLLO

The company of a beautiful woman is always welcome.

MCKENNAH (SMILING)

You're as charming as she said you were.

APOLLO (CONFUSED)

She?

MCKENNAH

Lt. Palamas.

(BEAT)

Carolyn.

APOLLO

Carolyn. The only mortal woman to ever spurn my love.

19 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - HULL

19

Before Simone can reply to Sulu, Scotty interrupts over comms.

SCOTTY (V.O.)

Mister Sulu. I'm reading increased hull temperature in your area.

(MORE)

SCOTTY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Reduce phaser strength by twenty
percent to compensate.

SULU
That's going to slow us down.

SCOTTY (VO)
Aye, laddie, it will at that, but
better to err on the side of
caution, wouldn't you agree?

20

USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

20

MCKENNAH
She did so out of devotion to her
crewmates. She said it was the most
painful thing she ever did.

APOLLO
Then why does she not declare this
to me herself?

MCKENNAH
She died.

Apollo is taken aback by the revelation of Palamas' death.

APOLLO
Carolyn, gone as well?

MCKENNAH
She decided to leave the ship after
the encounter with you. She was
killed trying to save lives on a
colony infected by a plague.

APOLLO
Such sacrifice by such beauty. She
is even more what I immediately
knew her to be... a rare treasure,
McKennah.

MCKENNAH
(softening)
Elise.

21

EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - HULL

21

Sulu makes an adjustment to his phaser while holding it
steady. Simone tries, but his phaser jams or malfunctions.

Sulu realizes that something is wrong. Simone has not cut
power.

SULU

Simone, you heard him. Compensate!

Simone fidgets with his phaser, but cannot lower the setting. It's as if the power is being pulled from the phaser.

SIMONE (TENSE)

I'm trying! It won't--

SULU

Enterprise, we may have a problem out here.

22 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

22

(CONT'D)

MCKENNAH

Why did you and the other gods not seek out another world where you could be worshipped?

APOLLO

So deep was our love for humanity, and our heartbreak when they rejected us- we could not bear the risk of such heartbreak again. Our only choice was The Realm.

(beat)

Of all of us, none loved you humans as I.

MCKENNAH

You must understand the Captain's concerns.

APOLLO

Yes. If only I could open my heart and show him... show all of you... all I desire is life and peace.

23 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - HULL

23

There is a sudden flash about ten feet away from Sulu and Simone. An energy build-up becomes massive like a fire suddenly out of control. Sparks fly in all directions. A BRIGHT FLASH distracts Simone who moves his phaser out of alignment with Sulu's and into the energy build-up. As a result, the energy build-up comes after him and encapsulates him.

SULU (SHOUT)
Simone!

Simone screams, but no sound forms. Sulu taps his suit's comm badge but nothing happens.

SULU (SHOUT) (CONT'D)
Enterprise! Emergency!

CLOSE-UP of Sulu's horrified face in the helmet as the same type of energy build up is now approaching him. His suit's power begins to flicker like Simone's did. The energy build-up draws nearer, leaving Sulu in deadly peril. The look on Sulu's face sells that danger as we--

FADE TO BLACK.

End of Act One.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - HULL

24

Simone's lifeless body drifts away from the hull and into space. The energy field moves to encase Sulu. His suit goes dark indicating that the power has been drained.

SULU (LOUD)
Enterprise! My suit's losing power!
Emergency beam out!

Sulu is losing air.

SULU (LOUD) (CONT'D)
Enterprise, do you read me?

A split second before the field can reach Sulu he is enveloped by the transporter effect and beamed off the hull.

25 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

25

Sulu materializes on the transporter pad. He is on his hands and knees, clawing at the EVA suit. Inside, he cannot breathe. The suit's power has been drained. The door hisses open and Kirk, McCoy, and Scotty enter at a full run. They reach Sulu and help him out of the suit's helmet.

KIRK
SULU!

MCCOY
Get that helmet off!

Sulu gasps for air as soon as the helmet comes off.

SCOTTY
Are ya all right, lad?

SULU (GASPING)
Be-- better now.

MCCOY
Take slow, easy breaths, Sulu.

Scotty picks up the helmet and examines it.

KIRK
Scotty?

SCOTTY

Drained of power, Captain. This was no bloody malfunction. That monster lyin' in sickbay! I'd lay odds it's his doin'!

KIRK

Scotty, I don't think Apollo is in any condition to...

SCOTTY

But, sir. Remember what he did to Carolyn. And now he's killed Simone!

SULU

Everything was going as planned, captain. Simone was trying to compensate when... his phaser... I tried to help... there was nothing we could do...

KIRK

It's alright, Sulu. Bones?

McCoy and Kirk help Sulu to his feet.

MCCOY

He's okay. A bit shaken, but no permanent damage.

SULU

I'm fine, Captain. Simone... his body...

KIRK

We'll bring him home. Get some rest. Return to duty when you're up to it.

(to McCoy & Scotty)

Bones, Scotty, you're with me.

Kirk exits the transporter room as the others watch him go.

26

EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

26

We zoom toward the Enterprise onto a CLOSE-UP of a small portion of the remnants on the hull, its greenish goo prominent, slowly oozing into the ship through one of the manifolds.

27 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIEFING ROOM

27

The senior staff is assembled around the briefing room table. Kirk is pacing near his chair.

SCOTTY

It's him! He's to blame for all of this!

KIRK

There's no evidence that this was anything more than an accident, Mr. Scott.

SCOTTY

I tell ya he's behind it somehow! He wants us all on our knees prayin to him!

SPOCK

It would be illogical for Apollo to kill us, especially when he seems so desperate for our help.

MCCOY

I agree with Spock.

Kirk gives a look that indicates his surprise. Spock and McCoy so rarely agree on anything.

KIRK

A decision needs to be made about Apollo and what do to with him. As my senior officers I'm bringing you in on that decision with me.

MCCOY (CONT'D)

Well, right now Apollo is in no condition to do anything. Maybe things are exactly as he claims.

SCOTTY

Doctor McCoy! You cannae be serious! Simone would be alive right now if that... creature hadna come aboard.

SPOCK

Dr. McCoy's point is valid. Apollo's arrival could have, as he said, been a matter of survival. He is now the last of his race.

KIRK

Gentlemen. I sympathize, but not to the point where the safety of this crew is in jeopardy.

Scotty grins with satisfaction

SPOCK

We have no further facts at this time, Captain.

MCCOY

And he's not demonstrated any aggression of any kind, Jim. We're the ones keeping him locked up in sickbay.

SCOTTY

Ahg!!!

SPOCK

Captain, if our objective is to determine Apollo's true intentions, perhaps we should- what is the saying - "give him enough rope"?

KIRK (CHUCKLES)

Something like that.

SCOTTY

I don't believe it!

KIRK

That'll be enough, Mister Scott.

SCOTTY

Aye, sir. If you'll excuse me, I need to continue repairing the damage caused by our guest.

Scotty exits in frustration

MCCOY

Scotty isn't as forgiving as some, Jim. Seeing Apollo again has opened some pretty deep wounds.

KIRK

He doesn't trust him. Can't say I really blame him.

(To Spock)

Assign a security detail to Apollo and let him... walk around a bit.

Spock nods.

KIRK (CONT'D)
And Mr. Spock?

SPOCK
Yes, Captain.

Kirk holds up his forefinger and thumb about an inch apart.

KIRK
Make it a short leash.

SPOCK
(reaction)

28 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE FLY BY 28

29 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY - 2 GUARDS POSTED OUTSIDE THE DOOR 29

Kirk walks to Apollo's biobed. Apollo is viewing Earth history tapes, focusing on the APOLLO space flight. He looks older now... this will be the oldest he looks in the entire episode.

APOLLO
Many things have changed on your Earth over the centuries. Some things have not.

KIRK
One thing has changed. I have one less crewman than I did an hour ago. Perhaps you could explain how your Realm managed to kill one of my men?

APOLLO
I have no knowledge in this matter, Captain.

KIRK (STERN)
That's not good enough! (pause) If you want our help, you're going to have to start providing some answers.

APOLLO
The Realm thrives on energy. Survival became its sole purpose. Athena and I were it's prisoners. Had your ship not been so close, we would have been unable to flee.
(MORE)

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(a beat)

Perhaps you have reconsidered my request?

KIRK

I have a responsibility to our federation's noninterference directive. Allowing someone with your history to descend upon a planet and set up church is...

APOLLO (INTERRUPTS)

YOUR history tapes show how humans have evolved as a species, yet your federation's promise of compassion and benevolence seem little more than words.

Apollo's words strike a chord with Kirk

KIRK

Is that what you learned from looking at our history?

Apollo doesn't answer.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I assure you our decision will be a just one. In the meantime, if you're up to it, you're welcome to move around the ship and get to see present day humanity from some of its best representatives... my crew.

(a beat)

Accompanied by security, of course.

APOLLO (SARCASTIC)

Of course.

Kirk starts to exit. Apollo turns the viewer toward Kirk. The Apollo space flight is on the screen

APOLLO (CONT'D)

I am pleased to see that I was remembered.

KIRK

Yes... you were remembered... but not as a deity.

Kirk exits leaving Apollo to contemplate the offer.

30 EXT USS ENTERPRISE- CLOSE UP

30

We see a breach in the hull clearly the result of the corrosive remnants of the Realm.

We push through Engineering, settling onto a panel before moving into a system of wires and circuits. The green-ish remnants move like syrup through the machinery, causing wires and relays to spark as it touches and drains them of power.

31 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

31

Apollo walks the corridor. He is now in a blue medical jumpsuit with the black shirt. Behind him are two red-shirted security officers. Several crew walk past him, some gently pointing, others smiling, and others stopped in obvious private discussion about him. Apollo stops when he comes upon Rec Room 2. He hears singing (Uhura) from inside and smiles. The door opens as a crewman exits and Apollo enters the rec room.

32 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - REC ROOM 2

32

Several crewmen & women are sitting around at tables, perhaps some drinking, some playing chess, etc. But they are all listening to Uhura singing a song.

UHURA

Travel, my love to the end of the
stars
And know you are with me, adored
from afar
One starry night, on the moon of
SaDun
We'll meet and fly off, forever as
one

Apollo smiles, seemingly pleased by Uhura's singing. Security remains in the rear of the room near the exit. Uhura finishes her song. The onlookers clap as she steps out of the center. Apollo takes a few steps to approach her

APOLLO

You have the voice of an angel... as
that of another...

UHURA

Thank you...

APOLLO

My sister, Artemis.

UHURA
 (taken aback)
 THANK YOU. Wait- If I remember
 greek mythology, you're the god of
 music!

APOLLO (PROUDLY)
 I am.

Apollo's face changes

APOLLO (CONT'D)
 I was.
 (a beat - he tries to
 force a smile)

UHURA
 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-

APOLLO
 It's alright, my child. Even
 through the centuries, music stills
 echoes in my mind... of battles &
 heroes, bravery... love. To love a
 mortal was to watch the sun rise on
 a perfect day, only to mourn too
 quickly it's setting into eternal
 night.

Uhura listens intently. Apollo seems to drift off to himself
 and begins singing softly.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
*Walk, you and I through the gardens
 of old,
 Adorn thou, my love, in silver and
 gold,
 Drink of sweet wine as brave tales
 are told,
 Pray to the gods that we may
 Love a thousand years in a day.*

All background noise in the rec room stops during the song.
 When he finishes and opens his eyes to see Uhura smiling. She
 begins to clap. The room fills with applause and Apollo looks
 around to see that the people in the rec room is applauding,
 some standing.

UHURA
 That was so lovely.

APOLLO (UPBEAT)
 You are kind. (alt- "high praise
 indeed")

He notices everyone looking on with great admiration and seizes the opportunity.

APOLLO (CONT TO ALL) (CONT'D)
It pleases me that you still enjoy
my music, my children.

(pause)

Marsyas once challenged me to a
contest of music.

CREWMAN
Who is Marsyas?

APOLLO
Marsyas was a satyr who believed he
could play his flute as
proficiently as I my lyre.

Spock enters and in the back-ground as the focus is on Apollo.

APOLLO (CONT'D)
After we both played, the muses
declared the contest a tie, until I
decreed that we sing *and* play at
the same time.. an impossible feat
for Marsyas!

They all laugh and gather closer.

33 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - KIRK'S QUARTERS

33

Kirk is shirtless and stretching in the bedroom portion of the room when the intercom beeps and he walks to it with tunic draped over his shoulder.

SCOTTY (V.O.)
Engineering to Captain Kirk.

KIRK
Kirk here.

SCOTTY (V.O.)
Scott here, sir. My panels are
lighting up with malfunctions
everywhere. Some of that corrosive
junk definitely got into some of
our systems.

KIRK
How bad?

SCOTTY (V.O.)
Ah don't know yet. I'm working on a
way to rig a ship wide
electromagnetic pulse to wipe it
all out in one shot.

KIRK
Do what you have to, Scotty. Keep
me posted. Kirk, out.

The door buzzer chimes.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Come.

Mckennah enters

MCKENNAH
Captain. I thought, perhaps now...

There is a brief uncomfortable moment that she has caught
Kirk with his shirt off.

KIRK
Yes, Lieutenant?

MCKENNAH
That... um, now would be a good time
for that little chat.

KIRK
You're certainly persistent,
Doctor.

MCKENNAH
Occupational hazard. (Comes with
the territory)

Kirk steps into the dark of the bedroom area to put his tunic
on.

KIRK
I suppose you feel like you have a
lot to prove being Starfleet's
first onboard ship's counselor...

MCKENNAH
Not, I assume, unlike you feeling
you had to prove yourself when you
became captain at 33, the youngest
starship captain in Starfleet
history.

KIRK (CORRECTS HER)
32... but who's counting. (alt-but
close)

MCKENNAH (SMILES)
My mistake.

Kirk returns the smile

MCKENNAH (CONT) (CONT'D)
Captain, part of my job is to
assess the psychological condition
of all onboard-- even alien life
forms like Apollo-- and make
recommendations.

KIRK
I suppose you have one?

MCKENNAH
I do. (pause) I believe him. I think
he's sincere in what he says.
Whatever Apollo might have been
once upon a time, his experience
since then has changed him.

KIRK
But changed him how? That's what I
need to know before I could even
CONSIDER granting his request. If
I'm wrong, there's no way to know
what he's liable to do.

MCKENNAH
But can that not be said about any
one of us? In each of us there is
the potential to do dangerous and
unpredictable things. How is Apollo
any different?

KIRK
Last time I checked, neither of us
has been worshipped as a god. I'd
call that a big difference.

MCKENNAH
He watched his friends die in that
"Realm" and now he's alone and
facing death himself. I truly
believe that if we only--

The desk comm whistles, interrupting. Kirk answers.

KIRK

Kirk here.

SPOCK (V.O.)

Spock here, Captain. I suggest you
come to rec room 2 as soon as
possible.

KIRK

Why? What is it?

SPOCK (V.O.)

I think you should see for
yourself.

KIRK

On my way.

They both exit, McKennah right on Kirk's heels.

34

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - REC ROOM 2

34

Apollo looks the age he did when he came on board, and stands
taller stronger. His voice has the familiar echo it did on
Polux IV. Kirk enters with McKennah behind him to find an
unnerving sight... Apollo has taken control of the room.

APOLLO

Achilles arrived at Troy with 50
ships, his arrogance only matched
by his rage. And on that fateful
day, when Paris fired his arrow, it
was I who guided it right into
Achille's heel... payment for the
sacrilege of murdering Troilus, my
son, on the very altar of

Kirk interrupts from the doorway

KIRK (CONTROLLING TEMPER)

Apollo...

Apollo reacts, seeming annoyed that he has been interrupted.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I'd like a word... outside, please.

Kirk gestures to Apollo to follow him out the doors.
Irritated, Apollo looks around the room and slowly follows
Kirk into the corridor.

35 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

35

Kirk addresses Apollo head-on as soon as they reach the corridor.

KIRK (IRRITATED)
What exactly was that in there?
Your idea of Olympian honor? You
assured us that you had no need nor
desire for worship.

Apollo walks slowly and defiantly down the corridor. Kirk speeds up and steps in his path.

KIRK (CONT'D)
This is a pretty poor way of
proving yourself worthy of our
help.

APOLLO
It is YOU who are not worthy!

KIRK
If you expect us to-

Apollo strikes out at Kirk, waving his hand and sending Kirk flying across the corridor. The security guards draw their phasers but Apollo sweeps them from their hands with a motion. The phasers clatter across the floor. Apollo turns his focus back on Kirk, who is suspended off the ground against the wall.

FADE OUT

End of Act Two

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

36 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

36

Act III picks up right where Act II left off. CLOSE ON Kirk who is pinned against the wall and struggling against Apollo's power. Using his last breath, Kirk tries one last tactic.

KIRK (PINNED AGAINST WALL)
Is this a preview of what you'll do
to some unsuspecting planet? Well
you'll never get there and you'll
die ALONE... is that what you want?

APOLLO
I want what is mine! Humanity's
worship and love!

KIRK
Humanity never loved you! They
feared you! No true god survives on
fear!

APOLLO
ENOUGH! Receive the wage for your
blasphemy!

Suddenly, as Apollo is about to strike, there is a phaser blast that hits him in the back. He turns aggressively as if to strike to see McKennah holding the phaser--trembling and crying. At the sight of McKennah pointing a weapon at him. In a tight CU, we see that Apollo realizes what he has done. He releases his hold on Kirk and Kirk drops to the floor.

DRAKE
Security! Take him to the brig!

KIRK
Wait.

(Kirk stands and squares off with Apollo, looks into his face and sees the brokenness and disappointment.)

KIRK (CONT'D)
Take him back to sickbay.

DRAKE
Sickbay? Captain, gimme a chance to-

KIRK
Put him in restraints. Tell McCoy
to sedate him if he has to.

Drake grabs Apollo roughly. Remorseful, Apollo offers no resistance.

DRAKE
Aye, sir. (to Apollo) Make one
false move, mister.

Kirk, still rubbing his bruised neck, walks to McKennah and gently takes the phaser from her hands. It was the first time she had ever shot anyone.

KIRK (TO UHURA)
Help Dr. McKennah.

Uhura takes McKennah gently in tow and they walk away together.

UHURA
Come with me, Elise.

KIRK
Alright, everyone... back to your
duties.

The crowd disperses. Kirk & Spock have a conversation in the corridor.

KIRK (RUBBING NECK) (CONT'D)
I'm starting to think Mr. Scott is
right.

SPOCK
How so?

KIRK
You did see what just happened,
Spock!

SPOCK
Yes, sir. And while Apollo clearly
had an influence on those in the
recreation room, I do not believe
he intended to behave as he did.

KIRK
So you think it's beyond his
control. He's been this divine
parasite for so long that he can't
help himself, is that it?

SPOCK

It has been my observation that humans, if not most beings, are seldom able change their deeply ingrained behavior by choice. Such change is most often forced by tragedy or outside intervention.

KIRK

Well Apollo's therapy won't be at the expense of the crew of the Enterprise. Apparently you cant teach an old god new tricks.

Kirk walks off. Camera pushes into Spock watching him go.

37

INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

37

Kirk enters sickbay with intent and heads toward Apollo's biobed. McCoy moves to intercept.

MCCOY

Easy, Jim. He's restrained. He offered his wrists for the straps.

Kirk moves to Apollo's bedside.

APOLLO

What words can I offer, captain?

KIRK

Let's start with an explanation.

APOLLO

Even a god can lose control.

KIRK

But you said you're not a god anymore.

APOLLO

I am not. (pause) I am a fool. I believed I could control the deepest ancient drives by sheer force of my will. I see now I cannot. (pause)

You will not help me, will you?

KIRK

That little show of yours demonstrated exactly why I can't.

APOLLO
Nor should you. (pause) I'm sorry.

KIRK
So am I. But I don't see any
alternative.

Kirk turns to leave when Apollo says something that stops him
and brings him back.

APOLLO
Wait...

Kirk turns

APOLLO (CONT. RELUCTANTLY) (CONT'D)
The organ in my body.

MCCOY
That's what allowed you to channel
the power from that temple of
yours, right?

APOLLO
Yes. But it serves another purpose.

KIRK
I'm listening.

APOLLO
It is also what converts mortal
worship into energy... An energy
that defies your understanding.
(a beat)
I cannot control it as I had first
believed, but I neither will I
allow it to control me.

MCCOY
"If thine eye offend thee, pluck it
out..."

Apollo looks at McCoy in confusion

MCCOY (CONT'D)
A quote from one of Earth's
greatest books. You want me to
remove the organ.

APOLLO
Yes.

KIRK
Can you do it?

MCCOY

I don't know, Jim. I mean, removing organs is normally straightforward stuff, but considering how vital...

APOLLO

I accept any risk. My powers must be extinguished permanently if I am to survive. And no god- no ONE- should survive on fear.

KIRK

It's your call, Bones.

APOLLO

Please, Doctor. I have faith in you.

Close up on McCoy as he's thinking it over. *(thy will be done)*

38 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLY BY 38

KIRK'S NARRATION

Captain's Log: Supplemental.

39 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY 39

McCoy operates on Apollo. A nurse assists. Security officers are still stationed around sickbay.

KIRK'S NARRATION (CONT'D)

While ship's surgeon McCoy performs elective surgery on Apollo to remove what the medical staff has deemed the "God Organ"--

40 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 40

On the bridge, Kirk, Spock, and Scotty discuss the plan to remove the slime from the ships systems.

KIRK'S NARRATION (CONT'D)

--Mr. Scott has come up with a solution to our other problem. He and his engineering team begin within the hour.

Kirk receives a message.

MCCOY (V.O.)

Sickbay to Captain Kirk.

KIRK

Kirk here.

41 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY 41

McCoy reports. We see Apollo on the recovery bed in the background.

MCCOY

It's done, Jim. He's very weak and I can't make a guess about his recovery, but it's out.

42 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 42

KIRK

Understood. Join us in the briefing room as soon as you're able.

43 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLY BY 43

44 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIEFING ROOM 44

Kirk and his senior staff are seated around the briefing table. The last to arrive, McCoy enters and takes his seat.

KIRK

Thanks to some skillful work by our good doctor--

McCoy nods, smiles.

KIRK (CONT'D)

It's probable that Apollo no longer has the urge to thrive on the worship of others. Therefore, I'd like to revisit the question of resettling him.

MCCOY

As with any surgery, we'll have to wait and see to make sure, but I'm fairly certain he's harmless now.

SPOCK

I believe Apollo's sincerity and intention was demonstrated by his willingness to have an organ that he has relied upon for centuries removed.

SCOTTY

Forgive my saying so, gentlemen, but that sounds like a lot of wishful thinking.

(MORE)

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
We've nothing but Apollo's word
that removing that thing'll make a
blasted bit of difference.

MCCOY
What would you suggest, Scotty?

SCOTTY
I don't know, but I still just feel
in my bones that turning him loose
somewhere is certain disaster.

KIRK (SIGHS)
So we still have no consensus.
Bones, keep Apollo under
observation and inform me of any
changes. (turns to Scotty) What's
the status of YOUR operation?

SCOTTY
We're ready to trigger the surge
and sweep the ship's systems of
that gunk.

SPOCK
I will monitor Mr. Scott's
procedure from the bridge.

KIRK
How soon?

SCOTTY
I can have it ready in ten minutes.

KIRK
Ten minutes it is. Dismissed
gentlemen.

Spock and Scotty exit. Kirk and McCoy trail behind.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Offering himself for major surgery?
Maybe he IS sincere, bones.

MCCOY
Maybe... maybe not. But one thing's
for sure. If we don't reach a
consensus soon it wont matter.
Instead of the warmth of the sun,
Apollo will probably die in
sickbay.

46 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - JEFFRIES TUBE 46

Scotty is at work in the Jeffries tube. We see bright flashes on Scotty's face.

SCOTTY
Scott to Bridge. We're ready to begin.

KIRK (V.O.)
At your discretion, Mr. Scott.

47 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 47

At his station, Spock reports Scott's progress. Kirk is in the chair observing. Uhura is at her station.

SPOCK
It's working, Captain. The pulse has so far eliminated thirty percent of the foreign substance.

KIRK (TO HIMSELF)
Well done, Scotty.

Perhaps we could have someone like Chekov get a little shock.

48 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - JEFFRIES TUBE 48

SCOTTY
Good riddance... get off our ship.

Suddenly Scotty notices something he doesn't like the look of.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
Bridge, I'm reading a build up of electrostatic energy in the Bridge systems. Everyone step away from their stations as a precaution while I try to compensate.

49 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 49

Everyone stands up and away from their panels. Uhura notices something and quickly moves back to grab it when there is a huge electrical arc and she is thrown back and possibly over the railing.

KIRK (SHOUT)
UHURA!

Kirk calls a medical emergency then rushes to Uhura's side.

KIRK (CONT'D)
 Bridge to Sickbay! Medical
 Emergency!

With no time to wait, Kirk picks up Uhura and heads to the turbolift. Spock follows.

KIRK (CONT'D)
 Sulu, tell McCoy we're on the way
 down! You have the bridge!

Kirk doesn't wait for a reply from Sulu before the turbolift doors close.

50 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

50

Kirk rushes in carrying Uhura.

KIRK (LOUD)
 BONES!

McCoy goes to work on Uhura. He gives her a shot and then checks the monitor above the bed. He then performs yet another act with no response. Apollo pushes himself up on one elbow to see what's happening.

MCCOY
 Stay with me, Uhura. Just hold on.
 (to nurse) Cortical stimulators!

CUT TO the monitor over the bed as all indicators go flat. He looks up at Kirk with sad eyes.

MCCOY (CONT'D)
 (pained))
 Jim... I..

Close in on Kirk. Kirk's face sells the fact that Uhura is dead. Staying on Kirk's pained expression we--

FADE TO BLACK.

End of Act Three.

51

51

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

52

Kirk, Spock, and the nurse stand around Uhura as McCoy tries to save her. Apollo watches as well.

MCCOY
Come on, dammit!

A close up of the medical screen above her bed shows her vital signs drop and flatline.

NURSE
Doctor...

MCCOY
No, Prepare for--

KIRK (INTERRUPTS)
Bones.

Kirk nods to give up and McCoy sags in sadness.

Uhura's hand goes limp and falls off the side of the biobed. Athena's brooch falls from her fingers onto the floor.

Apollo sees the brooch hit the floor and is suddenly reminded of the sacrifice that Athena made for him. He struggles to rise from his bed. He starts to move toward Uhura.

McCoy sees him, pulls himself back together, and tends to his patient.

MCCOY
No, no you don't. Get back in bed.
You just had major surgery.

Apollo ignores him and just keeps moving toward Uhura. He weakly approaches her bed. He composes himself next to it before spreading his hands over Uhura's lifeless body.

SPOCK
Apollo, I do not know what you hope to accomplish, but your recovery will require what little energy you have.

Apollo continues. The crew watches, stunned as Apollo focuses all his energy on Uhura. Suddenly, Uhura revives and gasps for breath. Apollo collapses to the floor.

KIRK

Nyota!

UHURA

Captain..... What happened?

MCCOY

Relax, Lieutenant. You're in sickbay.

Kirk looks down to see Apollo, whose back is to the camera, apparently lifeless. Kirk kneels down and turns Apollo over. Apollo is younger than he was before. Kirk's reaction should sell this. Off Apollo's face we DISSOLVE to

53 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

53

Apollo in the biobed in the background, while Kirk, McCoy, and Spock discuss what they just saw.

KIRK

Removing that extra organ was supposed to render him powerless. How did he do it?

MCCOY

I couldn't tell you if I were from Mount Olympus myself. And he has more energy now than he did before the surgery!

Spock is deep in thought

KIRK

Something, Spock?

SPOCK

Is it possible that Apollo's species are able to draw energy from something other than worship?

KIRK

Apollo himself said that it was worship that the organ converted into energy.

MCCOY

"Life energy", he said. What are you getting at, Spock?

KIRK (REVELATION)

SACRIFICE.

They look at him for further explanation

KIRK (CONT'D)

Why not? We've seen other species throughout the galaxy who draw energy from many different sources.

SPOCK

Fascinating. Perhaps Apollo's selfless act of saving Lt. Uhura was what actually rejuvenated him.

MCCOY

If that's the case, then why all the insistence on worship?

SPOCK

Perhaps the gods assumed that since worship from humans empowered them, that it was the only thing that did so.

Kirk looks across the room at Apollo. McKennah is standing between his and Uhura's biobeds, talking with them.

MCCOY

The question now is what will he do with this new information?

KIRK

Let's find out.

Kirk, Spock, and McCoy cross sickbay to Apollo's biobed.

KIRK (TO NURSE) (CONT'D)

How is he?

Before the nurse can answer, Apollo speaks up.

APOLLO

HE-- is fine.

KIRK

What you did... that was really something.

APOLLO

I do not fully understand it myself. When I saw Lt. Uhura lying there, and the grief on all your faces, I realized that the universe is a much richer place with her in it.

KIRK
So you decided to trade your life
for hers?

APOLLO
My time is short. I know it. As one
sacrificed for me, I would
sacrifice for another.

McKenna chimes in.

MCKENNAH
So you believed saving her would
kill you?

Apollo nods.

KIRK
Not only did you not die, but we
believe the life energy you gained
may have actually COME from your
act of sacrifice.

APOLLO
Do... you mean to say that...

KIRK
All the centuries you spent
demanding worship, forcing
adoration, striking those who
resisted... you never considered
there could be another way- a
BETTER way.

APOLLO
(realization) No... we did not.

SPOCK
It is unlikely that sacrificial
acts alone will provide you the
energy that you once enjoyed.

MCCOY (HUMOROUS)
So no more lightning bolts.

SPOCK (CONT'D)
But if you continue in this manner,
you could conceivably prolong your
life indefinitely.

APOLLO
(still overwhelmed)

(MORE)

APOLLO (CONT'D)

We never knew. (ALT: for we who considered ourselves gods, there is much we did not know)

Close in on Kirk.

KIRK

I'd like to see the senior officers in the briefing room.

Kirk gives Uhura a wink and nod in Apollo's direction.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Keep an eye on him.

Uhura, lying on the biobed, smiles at Apollo and he smiles back.

54 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLY BY 54

55 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIEFING ROOM 55

The senior staff is once again gathered.

KIRK

And that, gentlemen, is where we stand. I believe that Apollo can peaceably live among humanoids as one of them.

SPOCK

Our present course will take us past the Basilean epsilon system-- the second planet has a simple humanoid population.

KIRK

Apollo sacrificed himself to save one of our own, and has put his fate in our hands. All in favor of giving him a new home?

Kirk raises his hand. Spock and McCoy do as well as we move around the table from one to another, each raising their hand until the only one left is Scotty. Scotty looks at them a moment and we wonder if he will join or decline. But after a reluctant beat Scotty raises his hand to join them. Kirk smiles

56 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - ORBITING A PLANET 56

57 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

57

Kirk, Spock and Scotty are in the transporter room as Apollo enters with McCoy. Apollo is dressed in some sort of rural, simple hooded robe or tunic.

KIRK

This will be quite a new experience
for you.

APOLLO

And I am eager for it. Captain
Kirk, you and your crew have my
deepest thanks. None of this would
be possible without your
enlightenment.

MCCOY

(friendly)

Well, that's what we mortals do.

SPOCK

You'll find the planet's
inhabitants to be a simple people,
at a cultural development stage
similar to the Earth's 14th
century.

KIRK

Which means you'll have plenty of
opportunities to practice your
newfound gift of yours.

APOLLO

And I shall do so with all my
heart. I swear it.

He steps onto the transporter pad and looks around the room.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Thank you.

He focuses on Scotty

THANK YOU.

KIRK

Godspeed, Apollo.

Apollo smiles

KIRK (CONT'D)

Energize.

Apollo beams away.

58 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - HOVERING NEAR POWER STATIONS 58

59 INT. USS ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 59

Everyone is at his or her station on the bridge, including Uhura. McCoy exits the turbolift and moves to Kirk's chair.

UHURA

Sir, Mr. Scott reports that repairs
to the power stations are complete.
We may depart at any time.

Kirk is standing close to Uhura. Lays a hand on her shoulder
as if to say "glad you're here"

KIRK

Very well, Lieutenant. (crosses)
Mr. Sulu, lay in a course for
Starbase 10.

SULU

Course plotted and laid in.

KIRK

(with a smile) Well... Dr. Leonard
McCoy, surgeon to the gods.

MCCOY

(bows and smiles)

Who woulda thought an simple (old)
country doctor like me...

SPOCK (INTERRUPTING)

You must be very proud, Doctor.

MCCOY

Darn tootin. I may write a paper.

SPOCK

It is highly unlikely Starfleet
would allow such a paper to be
published..

Both look at Spock in disbelief at the insult

SPOCK (CONT'D)
Based on it's highly sensitive
subject matter, of course.

KIRK (PEACEMAKER)
Regardless, gentlemen, Apollo
learned what it took our respective
peoples centuries to discover--
self-sacrifice is the best way to
live, benefiting the giver as much
as the receiver.

MCCOY
If I had an entire culture adoring
me on bended knee, I'm not certain
I'd be in a hurry to find another
way of worship, either. (BEAT)
One thing is clear, though. They
sure did love humanity.

UHURA
Apollo still does.

MCCOY
Just something about us loveable
humans, don't ya think, Jim?

Spock gives as close to an annoyed look as he can. Kirk and
McCoy share a chuckle.

KIRK
Now don't pout, Mr. Spock. I'm sure
the gods would have loved the
Vulcans just as much if they had
landed there.

MCCOY
What's not to love?

Spock looks at them in disbelief

SPOCK
I wasn't pou... (gathers
composure) Captain, I'll be at my
station.

Kirk and McCoy laugh.

KIRK
Take us out of here, Mr. Sulu, warp
two.

60 EXT. USS ENTERPRISE - FLY AWAY

60

FADE OUT

End of Act Four.

Epilogue

FADE IN:

61 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

61

We move on the planet surface and along a dusty dirt road until we stop on a loaded wagon stuck in a ditch with one wheel off. Two young men try to lift the wagon but cannot.

An old man stands nearby, obviously the wagon's owner, very distraught and concerned. A large stranger enters in front of the camera and approaches the scene. We do not see his face.

The stranger lifts the cart and the two young men hurry to put the wheel on. Once the wheel is in place, he lowers the cart to the road. The old man approaches, beside himself with gratitude.

MAN

Thank you, thank you! You can't
know what this means! You have done
my family a great kindness!

The stranger watches the wagon pull away down the dirt road. He turns to camera and looks toward the stars with a smile- it's Apollo... younger than ever.

FADE OUT

End of Episode