

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 shim 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

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

MCKENNAH

I'm Dr. McKenna. 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 won't 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