

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Right There Behind You, Part I"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise travels at impulse through the Sol System, passing the giant, awe-inspiring body of Jupiter. A title appears:

STARDATE 78996.8
TWO WEEKS AGO

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

It's quiet, almost empty. Only TALORA, QUINLAN, DOJAR and TWO CREWMEN are present and none of them seem particularly busy.

Another title appears:

THREE DAYS AFTER THE STRIKE ON COULAR III

The power that once ran through the command center seems distant, even though three days ago it pulsed with energy and was the central hub of destruction, raining fire down on the surface of Coular Three. Perhaps that is why it is so empty. Finally, someone breaks the silence.

DOJAR

Commander, I'm receiving a hail from Earth. It's Admiral Delfune.

Talora sighs, looks back at Dojar.

TALORA

Put her through to the Captain's ready room.

She stands and walks towards the door, pausing for a second, as though she is about to chime through -- but stops, realizing something, and continues walking as the doors slide open.

We remain on the Bridge -- a feeling of isolation and solemnity sweeps over it.

QUINLAN

So who's in charge now?

DOJAR

Me... I think.

QUINLAN

Unless the Captain shows up.

DOJAR
(confirming)
Unless the Captain shows up.

He sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM

Talora has positioned herself on the side of the table she is used to sitting on, the side she is used to looking at her captain from, and has activated the viewer.

TALORA
What has provoked this change?

DELFUNE
Starfleet feels that the Enterprise will be safer, and better cared for at Utopia Planitia.

TALORA
You mean that they want the ship out of the way?

DELFUNE
I meant what I said, Commander.

Talora's not pleased with the answer, but she's not going to do anything about it.

TALORA
What are our orders once the Enterprise has docked?

DELFUNE
There's a fleet of transports awaiting your crews arrival. You're all to travel to Earth to be debriefed.

TALORA
The crew has already been debriefed.

DELFUNE
The brass has decided that they would like to debrief you again. They're looking for someone to point a finger at.

TALORA
(under her breath)
How surprising.

DELFUNE
I didn't quite catch that last comment, Commander.

TALORA

It doesn't matter -- there must have been some interference.

Delfune raises an eyebrow.

TALORA

If there's nothing else, Admiral?

DELFUNE

I was expecting Captain Cross to respond to my hail.

TALORA

Captain Cross has...
(beat)
is in his quarters.

DELFUNE

I expect to see him in person upon your return to Earth.

TALORA

I'm sure that you will.

Delfune nods.

DELFUNE

Delfune out.

The image of Delfune is replaced by the Starfleet insignia, leaving Talora looking at the screen -- but not for long. She stands and EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Talora walks down a corridor, stops outside a door leading to Cross's quarters. She taps the chime -- a beat, and nothing. She taps it again. Another beat, she taps her commbadge.

TALORA

Talora to Cross.
(beat)
Capt-

Before she can finish speaking the doors slide open, revealing Cross stood at the door. He hasn't shaved for at least the past two days and looks like he couldn't care less. He looks at her for a long beat.

CROSS

What do you want?

TALORA

Starfleet has ordered us to dock at
Utopia Planitia.

CROSS

You could have told me that over the
comm.

TALORA

I thought that perhaps you'd like to
be present when we arrive...

CROSS

You could have told me that over the
comm as well.

A beat.

TALORA

Captain, it's been three days...

CROSS

(interrupts, voice
raised)

And five since those bastards killed
Admiral Portman. Do you really think
that I care, Commander? At all?

Another beat.

CROSS

(softly)

Is there anything else?

TALORA

Would you like me to inform the crew?

CROSS

Of Starfleet's orders?

Talora nods.

CROSS

Yeah -- I'll be here.

Cross nods, and turns to return to his quarters, as the door
shuts behind him. Talora stands there for a while, looking
at the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise approaching Mars.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

The Enterprise crew look on as Mars begins to fill the viewscreen. Now present, along with the bridge crew from earlier, is GREY. Moments after the scene begins ELRIS enters from a turbolift.

ELRIS

I never thought that it would end like this.

Talora turns around.

TALORA

We are docking at Utopia Planitia as part of the scheduled investigation, Doctor. I doubt that Starfleet will keep us here any longer than is necessary.

Elris walks closer to here, both speak quietly.

ELRIS

Are you really so blind?

TALORA

I am not. But for the sake of the crew...

ELRIS

This crew won't even be together by this time in two weeks...

TALORA

But until that time comes, I intend to function as any other crew would.

ELRIS

I guess you won't let Y'lan up here then.

TALORA

Captain Cross specifically said...

ELRIS

Captain Cross is in his quarters feeling sorry for himself -- I can hardly see him...

TALORA

(interrupts)

Where the captain is is none of your concern, and you have no right to question his orders.

Elris nods, realizing that she's in the wrong as some of the closer Bridge officers turn, apparently listening into their conversation.

ELRIS
(louder)
How long until we dock?

TALORA
We will have docked with Utopia
Planitia by 1500 hours.

Elris nods and steps back.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The Enterprise docks at Utopia Planitia.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Same as before, Cross is still not present.

QUINLAN
Docking complete.

Talora nods, taps some controls on her chair; activating the intercom.

TALORA
Talora to all crew, prepare to
disembark. You will be given
instruction as to how to proceed
once you are within Utopia Planitia.

She taps the controls again, and she is off, she turns to look at Grey.

TALORA (CONT'D)
Begin powering down the ship.

Grey nods and EXITS through the turbolift, presumably on his way to Engineering. Quinlan stands up and leaves her console, the rest of the crew stand and also begin to step into the waiting turbolifts, except Talora.

QUINLAN
Wonder when I'll see this again...

DOJAR
Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

As the turbolift doors begin to CLOSE, Dojar notices that Talora is still sat in the command chair, alone on the Bridge but it is too late for him to do anything, as the doors close and the lift begins moving.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

The camera pans around the edge of the Bridge, with Talora sitting alone in the center. The camera has nearly completed a full rotation when we hear the turbolift doors HISS open, and hear and see footsteps.

The footsteps get closer to Talora until:

VOICE

I think you're in my seat.

The camera pulls up to reveal CROSS.

TALORA

As far as many of the crew are concerned, it has not been your seat for the past two days.

CROSS

It's my name on the plaque, Commander.

He indicates the Enterprise's DEDICATION PLAQUE.

TALORA

For some reason, I don't think that's going to be there for much longer.

Cross looks at it for a moment, before sitting down in the First Officer's seat.

CROSS

I know.

(sighs, beat)

I had a dream once, you know. To be here, where I am now. I can't tell you how much I wanted to be here.

There's a beat, Talora looks at him.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I can't believe how far away it seems right now.

(shakes head)

Maybe it was the Dominion.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

Maybe all that time I spent thinking about it in the POW camp just blew it away... maybe it was when I lost Daniel... or maybe when I got this command. Maybe I just spoke it too loudly.

(beat)

Look at me.

He sighs.

CROSS (CONT'D)

What are you planning to do when we get back to Earth?

TALORA

I have not yet made up my mind.

CROSS

How long's it been since you were last home?

TALORA

Two years, two hundred and sixty-four days, and this morning.

CROSS

Maybe you should go there... while you still can?

TALORA

(confused)

Thank you for your advice.

They sit in silence for a moment.

TALORA (CONT'D)

How long has it been since you last went home?

CROSS

I've not been home for a long time, Commander.

(beat)

I don't think I'll ever find it...

Talora looks at him, hopefully, but Cross doesn't see it. Maybe he doesn't want to see it. A beat.

TALORA

Permission to disembark, Captain.

CROSS

Permission granted, Commander.

She stands to leave.

TALORA

Will you join me?

CROSS

I just want to stay here for a moment.

Talora nods, and EXITS in a turbolift.

The camera pulls back from a close up of Cross in the First Officer's chair, just sitting there. Thinking... and staring at the empty Captain's Chair next to him.

FADE TO:

EXT. ENTERPRISE -- DRYDOCK

The camera closes in on the abandoned Enterprise at Utopia Planitia, its lights out and its glory snatched away from it. (As seen in "Living in the Shadows.")

A title appears:

STARDATE 79035.2
THREE DAYS LATER

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

An empty corridor, with its lights shut down.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Empty again, with its lights out. The induction core peacefully at rest.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Yup, you've guessed it. Lights out and empty.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- Y'LAN'S LAB

We see Y'lan looking at his table, it's bleeping at regular intervals. He picks up the Q'tami equivalent to a SPANNER and proceeds to DETACH part of the table's main frame, revealing what looks like GREEN ORGANIC CIRCUITRY. Y'lan looks at it, CLAWING his way through the wire with tentacles until he appears to find the piece of wire that he wants, it stands out because it's a slightly discolored GREENY-BROWN and CUTS IT with one of his tentacles.

The TABLE'S LIGHTS DIM, obviously the table is being powered by an auxiliary power source or it wouldn't be working full stop, and Y'lan picks up an ADVANCED LOOKING TRICORDER, complete with some kind of VIDEO SCREEN attached to it.

On the screen we start off by seeing a CROSS SECTION OF THE CIRCUITRY, before closing in through it until we see an out of place looking BLOB within it.

We zoom in closer until we can see that it's a GREENY-BROWN HELIX (almost the color of the discolored circuitry -- but not quite).

Y'lan looks intently at it, taps some controls on his tricorder and watches the screen as what must be the table's entire database transfers over. He turns and EXITS.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Y'lan discretely exits his lab and proceeds to RUN down the corridor, as fast as his tentacles will carry him. He suddenly stops, and we hear movement. He scuttles up a wall, lurking in the corner where wall and roof meet, as we see two SPECIAL OPS SOLDIERS, like the ones we saw in "Living in the Shadows" walk below him.

From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SHUTTLEBAY

The doors from the corridor SLIDE OPEN, but we see nothing. We hear scuttering again, and the camera pans up to the bays extremely high roof, where we see Y'lan.

Suddenly he DROPS DOWN, perfectly landing on a SHUTTLE and calmly activating the controls to allow him to enter through the VENTRAL ENTRANCE (like the one Picard and Worf used to rescue Date in "Insurrection").

INT. SHUTTLE

The shuttle's standby lights are running as Y'lan ENTERS through the airlock thingy and walks over to a console. He detaches AN ORGANIC Q'TAMI DEVICE from his body, OPENS the console and places it on some of the shuttles, comparatively, less advanced circuitry --the shuttle's standby lights EXTINGUISH.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning: All shuttle systems offline.

Y'lan places another Q'tami device somewhere else on the circuitry and at the far end of the cockpit the navigational console LIGHTS UP. He turns and walks over to the console, seats himself, albeit awkwardly and taps some keys.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SHUTTLEBAY

The shuttle Y'lan has entered, still powered down except for the navigational array and engines -- yup, no life support folks because guess what, Y'lan doesn't breathe -- and the shuttle lifts up off the deck and floats through the bays force field and into space.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The shuttle flies through space, heading away from Mars and towards Earth.

INT. SHUTTLE

Same as before. Y'lan's eyes seem to be GLAZED OVER, we stay on him for a second, before closing in very quickly on one of his eyes, going into his pupil, through a long DARK TUNNEL until we reach...

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

A purple colored organic room. Y'lan APPEARS through a strange fade, not at all like the transporter effect but more like a bright flash -- hey, maybe they should even be a little bit of smoke.

A small Q'tami looking creature, except it looks like a snake but upright, is also present.

Y'LAN

Retrieve and open my encoded neural pathways for supplemental recording.

The creature DASHES OVER to part of the organic room and pushes some organic controls on the wall, before DASHING BACK to Y'lan.

CREATURE

Begin.

Y'LAN

By means of a thorough investigation, I have discovered that something has modified the data stored within my table's external database. During the time period since I exposed the modification I have discovered that the most significant file modified contained data regarding the Reformist colony located on Coular Three. It was not at that location where the Klingon fleet that destroyed Starbase 23 departed from.

(beat)

I believe that the Federation officials will be severely aggravated by this knowledge when they are informed, and so I have decided to take the information to the Romulan, Talora, as a precursor to informing the rest of the crew. I see her as someone who will take the news rationally and who will consider what...

Suddenly, the room begins to CHANGE ITS SHAPE, ITS COLOR, ITS TEXTURE, ITS ATMOSPHERE -- everything. The mystical feel, already present, continues to grow, as a second Q'tami begins to appear, slower but in the same style as Y'lan's grand entrance.

Y'lan looks at the new Q'tami. It is SPRAWLED OUT across the floor, not looking like it is in a good state.

Y'LAN
(to Creature)
State what is occurring.

CREATURE
A foreign entity is placing itself
within your neural pathways.

Y'LAN
Impossible.

CREATURE
It is a Q'tami -- designation,
T'phlan.

Y'lan's eyes seem to WIDEN, but not in the way that humans eyes do -- they move further apart from each other -- all three of them. Once T'phlan has fully materialized, Y'lan walks over to him.

Y'LAN
State your intention.

T'PHLAN
Y'lan?

Y'LAN
What is happening?

T'PHLAN
Y'lan -- it's the Q'tami. They're
coming for your vessel -- your crew.

Y'LAN
Elaborate.

But it is too late. T'phlan bursts into a PURPLE FLAME and IMPLODES. Y'lan looks on at what is happening and for the first time since we met him we see an emotion play across his alien face -- shock.

The Creature, who is still present, reacts to something on the wall that is making a CLICKING sound, it DASHES over to investigate. It turns to look at Y'lan.

CREATURE
T'phlan has implanted a data package
within your neural pathways.

Y'LAN
Open it.

CREATURE
It could damage us.

Y'LAN
It may be of interest.

CREATURE

The package contains coordinates
(pause)
and limited information regarding
the attack scheduled to take place
on your crew.

Y'LAN

Limited?

CREATURE

T'phlan's telepathic signal was
extremely weak when it reached us
the data package is damaged and
incomplete.

Y'LAN

Retrieve what you are able to and
import it to my physical vessel.

CREATURE

Understood.

The camera begins to spin around Y'lan, faster and faster,
faster and faster, until it is a blur and we gradually slow
down to reveal...

INT. SHUTTLE

...And we begin to gradually slow down. The expression of
shock is gone from Y'lan's face and he is back to the usual
Y'lan that we know not so well. His eyes close for a second,
seemingly absorbing information. With his eyes still closed
he moves one of his tentacles with a Q'TAMI WRIST ACCESSORY.

An ORGANIC TUBE extends out from it, and links with the Q'tami
device which Y'lan placed on the navigational console earlier.
The camera pans down to the Q'TAMI TRICORDER from earlier
and we see data flooding on to the screen -- IMAGES OF THE
ENTERPRISE CREW, A Q'TAMI, data containing COORDINATES, and
more.

The data flow seems to slow down and stop, before the organic
tube removes itself from the Q'tami tricorder and Y'lan's
eyes reopen. He looks down at the tricorder and closes it
he sits back into his seat.

Y'LAN

Computer, set a course for the
following coordinates.

He taps some controls on the console.

COMPUTER

Course laid in.

Y'LAN

Initiate the course change at maximum velocity.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle goes to warp.

START FLASHBACK:

Note: During the flashbacks, the image should be slightly color washed to indicate this.

A flash of white light, indicating the beginning of the flashback.

INT. SHUTTLE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

Quinlan nods as Talora hits some keys on the shuttle's controls. The face that appears on the screen is instantly recognizable -- it is BRODY.

TALORA

With whom do I have the pleasure of speaking?

Brody's working on something and not looking at the screen, he realizes that Talora is a Romulan as he turns to look at her as he completes his sentence.

BRODY

I could ask you the same question... Romulan.

TALORA

My name will not mean anything to you. All that you need to know is that I'm willing to pay you a substantial amount of money if you will take me to a set of coordinates.

Brody raises an eyebrow and returns to the console, hitting some controls.

BRODY

My scans show that you're in a pretty powerful ship yourself. What's wrong with that?

TALORA

Starfleet security is in the process of searching for our vessel. I don't think that we'd get very far in...

BRODY

How much do you have to stop me from
calling them right now? I never
have been very fond of Romulans.

At this Dojar stands up and walks behind Talora, and bends
down so that her eye level is the same as Talora's.

DOJAR

You'll do as the Romulan asks or
I'll inform the Romulan government
that we've found the man who smuggled
a test tube full of the Gellidian
Flu on to Romulus.

A FLASH of white light, indicating that we have skipped some
of the scene.

BRODY

Where do you want to go?

TALORA

I need to know that you will allow
us passage before giving you the
coordinates.

Brody nods.

BRODY

I will rendezvous with your ship
within the hour.

TALORA

We'll be ready.

END FLASHBACK.

NOTE: The flashback ends at this point and we return to the
usual style of the episode.

EXT. SPACE

Y'lan's shuttle at warp.

INT. SHUTTLE

Same as before. Something beeps on Y'lan's console. He
taps the console, yet again, and pulls up an onscreen sensor
scan of a ship seemingly following him.

Y'LAN

Computer, identify the vessel.

COMPUTER VOICE

The cargo vessel the Tears of the
Jackal.

Y'LAN
Scan for life signs.

COMPUTER VOICE
Currently reading two humans, one
Romulan and one Cardassian.

Y'LAN
Confirm that they are on the same
heading as this vessel.

COMPUTER VOICE
Confirmed.

Y'LAN
Has the vessel's sensors detected
this vessel?

COMPUTER VOICE
Negative. The vessel will come into
sensor range in one hour, thirty-two
minutes.

Y'LAN
How long until this vessel arrives
at the Hellion Expanse?

COMPUTER VOICE
Three hours, two minutes.

Y'lan calmly looks at his console and we see TWO OTHER SHIPS displayed, which are roughly on the same heading. One is closer to the shuttle, and is notably slower -- but it will still reach the expanse many hours before Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan's shuttle.

Y'LAN
Computer, how long until we catch up
with the vessel heading towards the
Hellion Expanse?

COMPUTER VOICE
One hour, fifteen minutes.

Y'LAN
Computer, inform me when this vessel
is five minutes distance away from
the specified vessel.

He taps some controls.

COMPUTER VOICE
Acknowledged.

At this point we have a strange BLURRING EFFECT as time seems to pass around us.

Y'lan shifts only very gradually, but we see lights flashing and various other shuttle functions happening around us, and of course, the stars moving at a seemingly impossible speed.

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

There is now five minutes distance
from the specified vessel.

The atmosphere suddenly becomes tenser.

Y'LAN

Computer, arm the self-destruct.

COMPUTER VOICE

Authorization code required.

Y'lan ignores this comment and just opens his Q'tami tricorder, setting the shuttle's self destruct in motion.

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

Warning. This vessel will self
destruct in six minutes and thirty
seconds.

Y'lan stands up and calmly walks over to the airlock he came in through and taps the controls, the door slides open.

INT. SHUTTLE -- AIRLOCK -- CONTINUOUS

Y'lan ENTERS and the doors slide closed behind him. He bypasses the space suits that are stored there, and heads straight for the shuttle's airlock. He taps the controls.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Decompression in progress.

Y'lan remains calm as the doors open in front of him. As soon as they have fully widened, he walks out on to the hull of the shuttle.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle, extreme close up, as Y'lan exits the shuttle, and walks out on to the hull. The stars fly by, as the shuttle gets closer and closer to a modern looking CARGO TRANSPORT not so far into the distance.

Y'lan walks on to a position on the dorsal side of the shuttlecraft and prepares to jump as the passing shuttle gets closer and closer to him. It gets as close as it's going to get and he JUMPS across space and on to the cargo ship's hull.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO SHIP

Some PAKLED sit around a table playing some kind of game, involving HALF BALD SQUIRREL-like creatures running across the table, when suddenly a loud BANG is heard from the roof.

PAKLED

Sounds like the shiny thingy's broken again.

The other Pakleds stop playing the game for a second and look at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Y'lan walks over to a rise in the cargo ship's hull design, like the bump of the bridge on Federation starships -- and pushes his body against it, supporting himself.

As this is happening, the shuttle which Y'lan jumped from begins to split from the parallel path it has been following and flies off into the distance. The camera follows it and we see it EXPLODE in a mighty ball of fire.

As we watch the fireball, it seems to absorb the screen and MORPH into...

EXT. SPACE -- SOME TIME LATER

The HELLION EXPANSE. The cargo ship drops out of warp and approaches it at impulse. Y'lan pushes himself out of the bump in the hull design, with seemingly very little effort and walks to the front of the vessel, looking out into the expanse.

The expanse grows closer and closer as Y'lan looks around, with no fascination at all, at the passing vessels. He pulls his tricorder from his body and holds it up to the Expanse; looking for something.

Almost immediately he spots something familiar and we cut to what he's looking at: a group of CARDASSIAN WARSHIPS.

As the ship heads towards them Y'lan prepares to jump again, and as the ship gets as close to the warships as it's going to get...

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO SHIP

One of the Pakleds is looking out of a window, when he sees Y'lan gracefully jump across on to the hull of one of the Cardassian vessels, apparently from the middle of nowhere.

He shakes his head, disbelieving, and wanders off screen to fetch another Pakled as Y'lan scuttles up the Cardassian ship and ENTERS it through an airlock, which closes once he is inside.

The Pakled returns with another one by his side and he points at the Cardassian ship, as normal as it could ever be and the other Pakled WHACKS him across his head.

PAKLED 1
(aggravated)
No more magic dust for Filbop!

PAKLED
(confused and hurt)
No more magic dust.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan is standing next to the Cardassian helm control, and taps some keys. The viewscreen activates, and we see the ship beginning to move. He taps some more keys.

EXT. SPACE

The entire fleet of Cardassian ships, all four or five of them, begin to move through space, albeit very slowly, using only thrusters to power them.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan looks at a sensor readout on the helm control, and compares it to the image on his tricorder. From the image we are seeing he is not far from the coordinates displayed and he taps yet more keys on the console, and the stars and vessels on the viewscreen begin to come to a stop.

Y'LAN
Computer, what is the distance from
this vessel to the specified
coordinates?

CARDASSIAN COMPUTER VOICE
Two light years.

Y'lan says nothing, but looks again at his tricorder, apparently scanning the coordinates.

His tentacles flip around a little, excited.

Y'LAN

Computer, time until the Tears of
the Jackal reaches this location?

CARDASSIAN COMPUTER VOICE

Four minutes.

Y'lan walks away from the helm and down the Cardassian
corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

The transporter room looks quite different to the usual design
it has been modified. The modifications look very Q'tami
in design, and as Y'lan taps some of the controls we see
that it is a very different transporter effect to the usual
Cardassian one we have seen it is a PURPLEY-GREEN transporter
effect.

Once the process has been completed we see a KLINGON
materialize, looking rather annoyed. He SCREAMS, infuriated,
running over to Y'lan only to be blocked by a forcefield.
He pounds his fist against it, before clutching his head and
falling to the ground, apparently dead.

Y'lan looks at the corpse, before walking over to it, and
straight through the forcefield and prodding it with a
tentacle, apparently hoping that it will awaken. Nothing
happens.

He walks back over to the transporter controls, apparently
about to try again when:

CARDASSIAN COMPUTER VOICE

The Tears of the Jackal is now within
sensor range, raising shields and
defenses.

Y'lan looks over at the Klingon, before calmly walking out
of the door and EXITING.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan watches the viewscreen as the TEARS OF THE JACKAL passes
by the Cardassian ships and travels further out into the
Hellion Expanse.

A flash of WHITE LIGHT, indicating the beginning of the
flashback.

START FLASHBACK:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- CORRIDOR (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

A dark, empty Klingon corridor. The only source of light is coming from a faded red alert klaxon, that has grown dimmer and dimmer in time. The only way that anyone would be able to recognize this as a Klingon ship would be from the five dead bodies strewn across the camera shot, as Talora, Dojar and Quinlan beam in.

They look around, the usual post transport surroundings familiarization, before the smell of decaying flesh begins to take hold of them, overwhelming them, as all three begin to balk, having to hold their hands to their mouths.

Quinlan is the first to see the Klingon corpses and points them out to Dojar and Talora.

QUINLAN

These smell like they've been dead
for weeks!

Talora checks her tricorder.

TALORA

They have. According to this, these
men were killed four weeks ago.

A FLASH of white light, indicating a time lapse in the flashback.

DOJAR

But why do the coordinates lead here?
What relevance does this have to the
Enterprise... or Janus?

Another WHITE FLASH.

CUT TO:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

Quinlan looking at a console, Talora behind her, Dojar at another.

QUINLAN

A lot of the files have been
damaged... but I think we'll be able
to reconstruct them.

TALORA

How long?

QUINLAN

A few minutes.

Something else beeps -- this time it's on Dojar's console.

DOJAR

We may not have that long...

Another WHITE FLASH, this time indicating that the flashback has finished.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Something beeps on Y'lan's console. He looks down at it.

COMPUTER

Warning, the self destruct on the specified Reformist vessel has been activated.

Y'LAN

By whom?

COMPUTER

Via a subspace link.

Y'LAN

How long until the ship self-destructs?

A flash of WHITE LIGHT, indicating the beginning of the flashback.

START FLASHBACK:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

A screen shows the countdown as being at 3:15. The camera pans up to Quinlan.

QUINLAN

Does this strike anyone else as a set up?

TALORA

We'll worry about that later... but now, we need to get out of here.

QUINLAN

I'm one-third of the way into restoring the Janus references.

TALORA

We won't have time for any more.

DOJAR

Then let me stay. I can do it.

TALORA

We're not leaving without anyone.

DOJAR

Commander! This information... it could be vital.

Talora nods.

Another WHITE FLASH, indicating the end of the current flashback.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP - CORRIDOR

Y'lan scuttles down the corridor, as fast as his tentacles will carry him.

Another WHITE FLASH.

START FLASHBACK:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

Dojar's now on his own -- Talora and Quinlan have left to go to their escape pod. Dojar's now standing up, partially kneeling on the seat ready to run as soon as the restoration is complete. A tricorder lies open next to the console downloading the data restored so far. Next to that the countdown continues, 1:02, 1:01, 1:00...

Another WHITE FLASH.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan hurriedly ENTERS, and scuttles over to the transporter console.

A WHITE FLASH follows.

START FLASHBACK:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP - BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

We watch Dojar sweat, intercut as the numbers get lower and higher respectively, until finally at 0:08 both percentage readouts read 100% and Dojar picks up the tricorder and runs as quickly as he can out of the Bridge and around the corner...

We cut back to the console which reads 0:04...

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part I" - ACT ONE 25.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

...into the corridor and hits the control on the nearest escape pod and the door whooshes open and Dojar hurries in.

INT. REFORMIST ESCAPE POD (2) -- CONTINUOUS (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

He hits the control for the door to close and straps himself in.

INTERCUT:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

The display now reads 0:02.

INTERCUT:

INT. REFORMIST ESCAPE POD (2) (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

We watch as the escape pod door slowly closes, Dojar's getting restless and his hand rests over the eject button.

INTERCUT:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

The display now reads 0:01, before flicking over to 0:00.

We cut to a wide view of the Bridge which explodes in a huge ball of flames and proceeds to head down to the corridor.

Another WHITE FLASH, this time indicating that the flashback has ended.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan feverishly works at the transporter console, attempting to set up the transporter to work within acceptable parameters, apparently not with much luck.

There's a bright FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT, indicating the beginning of the flashback.

START FLASHBACK:

INT. REFORMIST ESCAPE POD (2) (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

Dojar sits as the door is about to close looking out through the window, aching to press the eject button, aching to get away from the ship that's dying around him...

INTERCUT:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- CORRIDOR (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

The camera follows the flames and we reach the space where we should see the escape pod -- a beat as the camera lingers on the shot for a while... has it left the ship? The flames flash past obscuring the view of the escape pod...

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan realizes that he can't keep toying with the controls any longer, and finally hits the energize key. He looks up as the figure begins to materialize.

EXT. SPACE

The escape pod is moving away, but the Reformist fleet that were gathered in the area begin exploding into a huge ball of flames which nothing could survive -- as we see the escape pod incinerated in the flames. The sight of the Klingon ships exploding is an amazing sight, a sight which should send a rush of awe and adrenaline into each viewer... but it's tainted with grief and sympathy...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

The figure materializes -- it's Dojar. He stands, looking around in a state of semi-shock.

DOJAR

Y'lan... I...

He doesn't get to finish his sentence, though, as he pulls his hands up to his head and SCREAMS in pain.

Y'lan rushes over to him and through the forcefield, as Dojar collapses into his tentacles. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

SEQ. DREAM SEQUENCE

Now we have the episode's second nifty dream sequence, there should be some kind of transition indicating that a dream sequence is about to begin, but not like the white flashes that have indicated the beginning of the flashbacks.

In the sequence we see characters that we have seen through "Renaissance" (at least those that are still alive -- Dojar is notably absent), flashing past at a high speed, so much so that every time someone watches the scene they will see something different.

We get faster and faster and faster until we just STOP on...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

...the image of Dojar, resting on the deck of the Cardassian Bridge, opening his eyes and looking very much in pain, as though he wishes to scream but suppresses the urge to.

Y'lan is at the controls, Dojar is laid out on the floor towards the back of the bridge. Slowly, he begins to stir and as he sits up, Y'lan hears the movement and scuttlers over to him.

Dojar raises his hands to his head, and rests it in them.

Y'LAN
Lieutenant Dojar.

Dojar looks up for a brief instant, he's in shock. It's important that Dojar plays the scene as though he's schizophrenic and doesn't quite know where he is, both in life and in his mind. At first he's quiet, in shock.

DOJAR
(weakly)
Y'lan?
(beat)
I'm alive?

Y'LAN
To the best of my knowledge, your
life signs are mostly within normal
parameters.

DOJAR
I thought I was going to die...
(beat)
Everything was so close.
(distant)
So final. I saw the light.

Y'LAN

That was undoubtedly the transporter
beam.

Then he becomes a lot more confident of himself...

DOJAR

(more affirming)

I saw the light...

Y'lan remains silent.

DOJAR

Then I saw you...

As he begins to realize what's happened to him...

Y'LAN

Yes. I beamed you out of the escape
pod.

DOJAR

No... before that. I saw you... I
saw everyone.

He puts his head back into his hands.

Y'LAN

What do you mean?

DOJAR

I felt you... I saw your soul.

Y'LAN

Elaborate.

Dojar seems to gain some strength, though he keeps his head
in his hands. He continues to speak as though he is in a
considerable amount of pain.

DOJAR

I saw your thoughts, Y'lan. I saw
that you feel isolated and alone,
that you lost someone close to you
recently.

Y'LAN

How do you know this?

Dojar then becomes agitated, annoyed at what's happening to
him.

DOJAR

It hurts.

Y'LAN

If you have indeed seen into many
people's...

DOJAR

(interrupts, bitter)

Many? I don't think that comes close
to describing it...

Y'LAN

No matter. If you have acquired all
of this... imagery, at once, then
the data flow may have...

Then he becomes a lot more compassionate, as he feels
something else inside him...

DOJAR

(quietly)

I don't think it's that what's hurting
me.

Y'LAN

Then what do you refer to?

DOJAR

The people. Their pain. I... I can
feel everything.

The camera closes in on Y'lan as he realizes what has
happened.

Y'LAN

You were incompatible.

Dojar continues to feel pain of the soul, as well as the
pain in his head -- he looks like he's finding it hard to
concentrate.

DOJAR

What?

Y'LAN

You were incompatible with the
Q'tami's transporter. Just like the
Klingon.

DOJAR

I don't understand.

Y'LAN

I attempted to beam a Klingon from
the vessel that you were onboard but
the process failed and he died soon
after rematerializing.

He looks up at Y'lan for a second, then, gratefully:

DOJAR

But I'm alive.

Y'LAN

I made as many modifications as I could to the matrix to support humanoid transport. Apparently, it was not successful.

DOJAR

But I've been through a Q'tami transporter before. When we were here before.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami more than likely tapped into the shuttle's own transporter beam.

Dojar begins to get more angry again, steadily building up to something, but it's also obvious that he's afraid.

DOJAR

So something went wrong in the transport?

Y'LAN

Apparently so.

DOJAR

So if you make some modifications to the transporter you could, take them away?

Y'LAN

I do not know at this point.

DOJAR

You have to try, Y'lan.

Then it happens, the build up pays off:

DOJAR

(shouts)

I can't live like this!

Y'lan looks at him, seemingly not bothered about what Dojar's feeling -- only confused as to how Dojar's supposedly seen a part of him.

Y'LAN

How can you know what I am feeling?
I have no feelings in this body.

Dojar says the following line slightly quieter, but still with a lot of force in his voice -- but not in the volume he's throwing his voice at.

DOJAR
I can't live like this!

At this point Y'lan walks away... and we pull back away from Dojar, alone.

DOJAR
(snaps)
Y'lan?

Y'lan turns.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
(quiet, calm)
I think it's all going to work out.

Y'lan turns and looks at him.

Y'LAN
No. It's not.

A beat.

DOJAR
It sounds like we both know something
that we shouldn't.

Y'LAN
Indeed.

At this point Y'lan walks away, leaving Dojar alone, who pushes his body back against a bulkhead, and closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan ENTERS and walks over to the transporter console. He taps some keys and looks down at the readings, a graph appears, displaying the PATTERN BUFFER DATA RATE. It looks like a pretty even graph, until suddenly there's a huge increase for a few brief moments in the graph, before it settles back down at a steady rate of materialization.

Y'lan looks at the readings as Dojar ENTERS, still looking pretty weak on his feet.

DOJAR
(quietly)
What have you found?

Y'LAN
It appears that there was a large
increase in the pattern buffer at
the moment you were completely
dematerialized.

DOJAR

(shakes head)

I'm... I'm sorry. I'm finding it hard to concentrate.

Y'LAN

I am not certain at this point, but from what you have told me one would assume that you read the minds of other inhabitants of the galaxy through a process unknown to me.

Dojar sees the dead Klingon and grimaces.

Y'LAN

As you can see, your outcome could have been far worse.

Dojar nods, swallows. He sees a FLASH, apparently of something he saw during transport.

INT. HALL OF WARRIORS

A Klingon SCREAMS as he is stabbed to death by an army of oncoming Klingons, which triggers another FLASH...

INT. ROOM

A room seemingly made up of nothing, except every now and then we can see a faint trace of what could be atoms FLYING AROUND looks like the parameter of the room, as a translucent alien sits, despondent in the middle of it. Then another FLASH...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Same as before.

DOJAR

Y'lan...

(beat)

What's the range of the Q'tami transporter?

Y'LAN

We can transport occupants across galaxies.

He holds his head.

DOJAR

Then it's not just the inhabitants of this galaxy's mind I've seen into.

Y'lan doesn't seem to react to this at all, as Dojar seems to grow pale.

Y'LAN

I would not have thought that it was possible for your mind to consume such a large amount of information.

Dojar sees a reflection of himself in the shine of a panel.

DOJAR

Strange... I'd almost forgotten what I had looked like...

A beat, as he feels his face.

DOJAR

I don't think everyone in the galaxy had such strong feelings at the time I was transported either. I think I've just seen into the minds of a select few...

(beat, saddened)

Those that were in pain.

He sighs. Y'lan doesn't seem all that interested.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

You have to get them out of me, Y'lan.

(beat)

I can't live like this.

Y'LAN

Unfortunately, Lieutenant, there are more pressing needs which require my attention at the current point in time.

DOJAR

(angrily)

Oh?

Y'LAN

Walk with me.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan and Dojar ENTER, Y'lan in mid-flow as they walk through the doors.

Y'LAN

... which led me here. I admit that there is not a lot for us to go on but...

DOJAR

The Klingon ships?

Y'LAN

Excuse me?

DOJAR

Was that an attempt on our lives?

Y'LAN

Quite obviously, it was -- but whether it was by the Q'tami or not is questionable.

DOJAR

It all sounds vague... what have we done to make them want to kill us?

(beat, then snaps)

We're not objects that the Q'tami can just play with, Y'lan! We're people we're, we're...

He suddenly collapses down into a corner, and looks up at Y'lan, pushing himself into it like a frightened child.

DOJAR

I'm scared Y'lan...

Y'LAN

We need to protect our crew. You can help me -- it will be a distraction to your...

(beat)

Distractions.

DOJAR

(shouts)

Is that all you think this is? A distraction? I'm in pain, Y'lan!

Y'LAN

Quite.

DOJAR

You have no idea how much it hurts...

Y'LAN

Then add to that the pain of yourself, if the crew dies without us trying to save them.

Dojar looks up, determined, before frowning.

DOJAR

I saw her as well. Talora.

Y'LAN

We must decide on a course of action.

DOJAR
She feels...

Y'LAN
Dojar!

DOJAR
(confused)
What?

Y'LAN
We must decide on a course of action.

Dojar tries as hard as he can to concentrate.

DOJAR
You said the Q'tami were coming after
the crew... that narrows it down to
the Faction, right?

Y'LAN
No.

Dojar looks intrigued.

Y'LAN
But I do suspect them -- the
Enterprise destroyed one of their
vessels last year.

DOJAR
They have the motive.

Y'LAN
Indeed.

DOJAR
But there's something else. Isn't
there?

Y'lan looks at him.

DOJAR
You can't stand the thought that it
could be the Hegemony.
(beat)
It would devastate you. On the
inside.

Y'lan remains silent. Dojar manages to pull himself out of
the pain game again, and get himself into a serious state of
mind.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
So we go and warn the crew that the
Faction are trying to harm them?

Y'LAN

If we decided upon that strategy the Q'tami would more than likely attack ourselves also.

DOJAR

So what do we do?

Y'LAN

I must show you something.

Dojar looks intrigued.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

A modified Cardassian cargo bay, in fact, it is almost unrecognizable. Q'tami technology fills the room, leaving room for a large HOLOGRAPHIC type map on the center of the bay's floor.

The map is of the Milky Way, it is an impressive sight as we can see great detail in what becomes increasingly clear is not a projection, but something far more complex.

Y'lan and Dojar enter. Dojar sees the map and stops in his tracks.

DOJAR

When did the Q'tami acquire this level of technology?

Y'LAN

We have never not had it.

DOJAR

It's amazing.

Y'LAN

It is adequate.

Dojar smiles.

DOJAR

What does it do?

Y'lan walks over to the Q'tami equivalent of a console and moves some holographic controls with a tentacle, and seven blue points appear on the map.

Y'LAN

The points you are seeing are the positions of the senior staff of the Enterprise -- including us.

Dojar nods. Y'lan moves some controls with his tentacles and some red areas appear around the map -- some around one of the blue points.

Y'LAN
The red areas indicate Q'tami activity.

DOJAR
Who does that point represent?

Y'lan moves some more controls and a representation of Elris appears. It shows part of her activities from "Homecoming."

DOJAR
Elris.

Y'LAN
Indeed.

Y'lan moves more controls and the representation of the Milky Way closes in until we can see a planet.

NOTE: The following portion of the scene is from the episode "Homecoming."

Y'lan is studying a sensor console. We can see a planet rotating slowly in one part of the display; as the display zooms in, we see that it's Bajor.

Y'LAN
Intervention may be required. Prepare to alter course to the following coordinates...

Y'lan taps at the console with several tentacles. The display zooms further in, until we're at street level in the capital city of B'Havral.

Y'lan calls out a complex string of coordinates...

NOTE: The following is new material.

DOJAR
How long do we have?

Y'LAN
Assuming that the Q'tami are in the Bajor region in relation to Doctor Elris's activities -- we may already be too late.

As this sinks in to Dojar, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

NOTE: The following is a scene from the episode "Homecoming."

Y'lan is still at his sensor console.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

How much longer will this take?

Y'LAN

As long as is required. I expect you will be relieved to know that intervention will not be necessary on Bajor. The situation has resolved itself.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Shall I resume course to Earth?

Y'LAN

Do so immediately. Intervention will very likely be required there, and soon...

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

The same room we saw earlier, the creature is also still present, as is Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Retrieve and open my encoded neural pathways for supplemental recording.

CREATURE

Begin.

Y'LAN

Dojar and myself have left Bajor after deciding against intervention on the part of Doctor Elris. It was decided that the Q'tami were not involved in any activities on the planet Bajor. We have detected a worrying signal from the planet Romulus and have set a course to investigate. We are due to arrive within the hour.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian shuttle enters orbit of ROMULUS.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

The modified cargo bay that we saw earlier. Y'lan and Dojar stand looking at the display, apparently in the middle of an argument.

Y'LAN

It is not an option.

DOJAR

I need to see her, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

What would that lead to? You have an emotional attachment to this woman...

DOJAR

(interrupts)

I have an emotional attachment to all of them.

Y'LAN

(continues)

It would lead to her gaining knowledge of what is happening.

DOJAR

You know what? I'm really not seeing the point of all this "the crew can't know what we're doing" business. If anything, Talora could help us.

Y'lan looks at him.

DOJAR

I can't stand the thought of her not knowing that I'm alive. I know how much she's suffering.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami would gain awareness of our presence.

DOJAR

Not if we're careful enough!

Y'LAN

The Q'tami have eyes everywhere. If they have sent a Q'tami to kill a member of the Enterprise crew then that Q'tami will always be one step ahead of us. Waiting for us to make a mistake. It is not going to be an easy mission.

DOJAR

But if they don't know that we're
intervening...

Y'LAN

(interrupts)
They know anyway.

DOJAR

How?

Y'LAN

It is complicated.

DOJAR

Then simplify it.

Y'LAN

I cannot.

DOJAR

Why not?

Y'LAN

It is of a personal nature.

DOJAR

Just like Talora is for me?

Y'LAN

Yes.

DOJAR

Yet you're going on the mission?

Y'LAN

I am.

DOJAR

It's not fair.

Y'lan pauses for a second, realizing he's going himself into
a corner.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

So I'm going with you.

Y'lan nods.

DOJAR

Good. Let's get to work.

Y'lan walks over to the map of the Milky Way and indicates
one of the red patches of Faction activity, surrounding one
of the blue points. The red patch is gradually, but
noticeably, FADING.

Dojar looks nervous, runs over to the map, he gets down on all fours, looking at the fading red area above him.

DOJAR
(shouts urgently)
Why is it fading? We're losing them!

Y'LAN
The fading represents the fact that although Faction activity ceased in this area some time ago, there is a strong probability that their influence has not left the area.

Dojar still looks nervous, but looks notably calmer then he did a few moments ago.

DOJAR
I thought you said that the Q'tami sent would get the work done themselves?

Y'LAN
True. But if the Q'tami believe that the action they set in motion will not be disturbed, they may move on to their next target.

DOJAR
So what are we looking for?

Y'LAN
I do not know. It is reasonable to assume that if there is no longer Faction activity in the area, that the mission has been left with someone who will not arouse suspicion of Faction involvement.

DOJAR
(shouts)
She's not dead yet!

Y'LAN
I am aware of that.

DOJAR
(shouts)
Good!

Y'lan scutters across to one of the consoles again, and we ZOOM IN on Romulus, on the map of the Milky Way. We get closer and closer to Romulus until we are on the streets of it, and we see Talora walking along with MARKAN.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Who's that?

(nervously, paranoid)

It could be someone trying to hurt
her, she could be being kidnapped
it could be the killer!

Y'LAN

I highly doubt that, Lieutenant.
She is far too calm.

DOJAR

Who the hell are you to decide when
Talora's calm?

Y'LAN

I am aware of what it is like to be
"calm."

Dojar narrows his eyes.

DOJAR

(suspiciously)

What are you implying?

Y'LAN

You are not looking at the situation
with any kind of rationality. This
operation will not succeed unless
you rationalize.

DOJAR

I am not acting irrationally!

Y'lan ignores the comment.

DOJAR

(scared)

Am I?

(beat)

Or am I?

(realizing)

I don't know what I'm feeling...

He turns, looking at Y'lan. Dojar begins breathing deeply.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Anyone down there could be trying to
kill her, hell, it could be the most
obvious person down there and I
wouldn't have a clue. As far as I
know, it could be me! And I have no
idea what I'm feeling! For myself,
for her, for you...

(shouts)

What the hell is going on?

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part I" - ACT THREE 43.

He wanders off to a corner and sits down as Y'lan gets back to business.

Y'LAN
Perhaps that is where we should start.

DOJAR
What?

Y'lan begins working at the console again and a list of names appears next to the image of Talora.

Y'LAN
A list of individuals or groups who would likely have a strong motive for the murder of Commander Talora.

At the top of the list we see THE TALONS OF D'DERIDEX.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
I believe we have our starting point.

Dojar looks up.

DOJAR
The anti-Federation movement?

Y'LAN
I believe so.
(beat)
Lieutenant, I need you to assist me.

DOJAR
Me? I thought you said I wasn't acting rationally?

Y'LAN
You're not, but there is no one else on board the ship.

Dojar doesn't say anything.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
There is no one else to assist me save Commander Talora's life.

Dojar stands up and walks to Y'lan.

DOJAR
What can I do?

Over the following dialogue, we see a MONTAGE as Dojar goes about researching the Talons of D'Deridex and finding proof of Q'tami involvement, while Y'lan investigates Talora -- as he discovers who Markan is and what his position within the Romulan command structure is etc.

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I need you to find proof that the Q'tami have indeed infiltrated the Talons of D'Deridex, before moving on to the next suspect -- whilst I research a method to intervene with as little notice as possible.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is alone, still working at the console.

Y'LAN

If we are to succeed there can be no trace of our intervention within the Romulan computer systems. The files must be ready for Markan's viewing when he becomes aware of the Talons of D'Deridex's intentions.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar working at a console.

DOJAR

There won't be. How are things going at your end?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Reasonable. I intend to beam the subject aboard now.

DOJAR

Have the modifications you've made to the transporter been successful?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I believe so.

DOJAR

(sighs)
Good luck.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

NOTE: The following is a scene from the episode "The Public Eye."

A room in the mysterious alien ship we've seen in the previous episodes. It's too dark for us to see what kind of room or on what ship it is, though.

Markan beams in, and looks about, disoriented.

MARKAN

What the...?

Suddenly, four tentacles whip out and grab hold of his wrists and ankles. Markan squirms, trying to break free, but to no avail. A fifth tentacle brings a hypospray to Markan's neck and presses it down. As the hypospray hisses, Markan's body goes limp. The tentacles put Markan down onto the ground gently. The camera pans to the owner of the tentacles, Y'LAN.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Do we have him?

Y'LAN

Yes, you did. I will commence with the memory implant shortly. What is your progress on the Tal'Shiar computer systems?

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

They have some heavy security around their database, but nothing we can't handle. I'm planting the files right now.

Y'LAN

Satisfactory. Continue monitoring our targets' activities and inform me of any changes.

Y'lan starts putting a strange device on Markan's head.

NOTE: The following is new material.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I expect to have the subject back on the surface within ten minutes.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Understood.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar stands over a console, still working on placing the files into the Romulan database. A picture of an unknown Romulan suddenly appears on the screen, Dojar looks at it and begins to break down, tears gradually beginning to stream down his face.

At this point we see another DREAM TYPE SEQUENCE that we saw earlier, where Dojar saw hundreds of faces. It is basically the same as before, but different faces should be used this time around.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part I" - ACT THREE 46.

Whatever he is experiencing becomes more and more intense, and he turns his back on the console and slides to the floor, as a BEEPING begins to sound on the console, at regular intervals.

The camera pulls up to reveal an on screen warning stating "DETECTION IN PROGRESS." We cut back to Dojar on the floor before we...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

We fade in on the console, which is still displaying the "DETECTION IN PROGRESS" warning, before zooming out and seeing Dojar still resting against the console.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is still working at his own console, when something BEEPS. He scuttles over to another part of the modified cargo bay where the "DETECTION IN PROGRESS" warning is FLASHING. At this point Y'lan scuttles out of the door as fast as his tentacles will carry him.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan hurriedly ENTERS and scuttles over to the console Dojar was working at, and hits some of the controls, and the detection sign is replaced by whatever Dojar was working on before it appeared.

Y'lan taps some more controls on the console before:

Y'LAN

We have been detected.

Dojar says nothing, only curls himself up into a ball. Y'lan looks down at him.

Y'LAN

Do you not care?

DOJAR

Do you?

Y'LAN

Yes. It would be beyond your ability to comprehend, but I have a deep concern for the well being of the crew.

There's a short beat.

DOJAR

I do understand.

Y'lan looks at him.

Y'LAN

Then perhaps what we are "feeling"
will help you to understand what is
at stake. We have been detected.

Dojar doesn't say anything.

Y'LAN

I must beam down to Romulus to remove
the evidence.

DOJAR

We must.

Y'LAN

As you have just exhibited,
Lieutenant, you are a liability to
this mission.

DOJAR

(affirmatively)

And you can't risk going alone.

(beat)

If you leave me alone here I could
do more harm than good.

(beat, then quietly)

I need someone to keep me sane.

Y'LAN

You believe an armed Romulan guard
could help you achieve the state of
bliss of which you so speak?

DOJAR

Perhaps. Especially if it involves
my fist and his face.

Y'LAN

Whilst we are on the surface you
will do everything I tell you -- no
ifs, no buts, no maybes. Do you
understand?

Dojar nods.

DOJAR

Let's get going.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROMULAN SENATE BUILDING

The Romulan Senate Building, in the heart of Romulus' capital.
Two hooded figures swiftly walk up the steps at the front of
the building.

DOJAR

Things aren't going the way they should, are they?

Y'LAN

The course of events has proved to be most frustrating.

DOJAR

I thought Q'tami transporters could get through anything?

Y'LAN

Apparently the Tal'Shiar have found a way to circumvent that theory.

They enter the building.

CUT TO:

INT. ROMULAN SENATE BUILDING -- RECEPTION

The two hooded figures enter the great reception area of the building.

DOJAR

How do we get to the Tal'Shiar's database?

Y'LAN

We may be able to access it from our current location.

DOJAR

How?

Y'lan pulls out his tricorder and begins working.

Y'LAN

The Tal'Shiar computer system runs through this building. I may be able to access the database through a small subsystem.

After a beat, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROMULAN SENATE BUILDING

We're around the back now, as a door FLIES OPEN and Dojar and Y'lan RUN OUT, still with their hoods up, closely followed by some ROMULAN GUARDS. They run down a back alley, and stop behind a wall, crouching behind it.

DOJAR

What did you do?

Y'LAN

I entered the database though the
Tal'Shiar's surveillance system.

DOJAR

A "small subsystem"?

Y'lan looks at him, a beat before.

DOJAR

Did it work?

Y'LAN

Partially. The Tal'Shiar will never
find any evidence of our presence.

DOJAR

But the Q'tami?

Y'LAN

It is a distinct possibility that
they will now be aware of our
intervention.

Y'lan opens his tricorder once again, looks satisfied that
it is safe and steps from behind the wall, followed by Dojar.

They walk down the back alley and towards a main street,
walking in a direction so that they will come out OPPOSITE
the entrance to the Senate Building.

They walk in silence for a moment or two, before:

DOJAR

Who was it?

Y'LAN

Excuse me?

DOJAR

When I was in the transporter... I
felt that you'd lost someone close
to you. Who was it?

Y'LAN

It is of a personal nature.

DOJAR

Maybe you should start to talk more,
Y'lan. I know you haven't exactly
gained the trust of the crew over
the last year, but... you know, you
haven't exactly given us a reason
to. You're an enigma.

Y'LAN

That knowledge is not required. It is not customary among Q'tami to talk to anyone about what we are...

(beat)

"feeling." It is of a private nature between our physical vessels and our mental state -- no one else.

DOJAR

I don't think I'd be able to live without talking to someone. A friend...

He trails off, they're now dead opposite the Senate Building -- and on the steps we see Talora, walking down the large number of steps in front of the building.

Part of the way down, she pauses and looks across the large open square between her and Y'lan and Dojar. She pauses and looks at the two hooded figures (Y'lan and Dojar), Dojar looks at her, great intensity in his eyes.

Y'lan sees what Dojar is looking at...

Y'LAN

We must leave.

Dojar doesn't say anything, but Y'lan begins to walk away, but Dojar continues to stare at her, just looking. Y'lan turns around, realizing that Dojar isn't following him.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Dojar.

Dojar continues looking at Talora, we see great pain and grief in his eyes.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Dojar. Call to mind what I told you on the shuttle.

Somehow, Dojar manages to pull himself away, and the two walk back down the street they came, and walk down another alley. Behind them, Markan runs down the steps and towards Talora.

EXT. ROMULAN ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Dojar catches up with Y'lan as the two walk down the back alley.

Y'LAN

Another moment and she would have recognized you.

DOJAR

You don't know that.

Neither of them say anything as they continue to walk down the alley, Dojar lost in his thoughts, Y'lan with nothing relevant to say, until:

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(shakes head, sadly)

We should have told her what's happening. She'd have been able to help.

Y'lan chooses to ignore the comment, pulls out his tricorder, scans the area and satisfied that no one is present he taps some keys and the two hooded figures BEAM OUT of the alleyway.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

NOTE: This scene comes from "The Public Eye."

Y'LAN watches Markan sleeping blissfully [on a monitor], and checks several other readouts on other displays.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Mission accomplished.

Y'LAN

Yes, but now we have other complications.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

What do you mean?

Y'LAN

They will likely discover that this time, their plan was not thwarted by a coincidental event. There will be obvious clues in Markan's brain that there was a memory implant. They may also decide to take care of their targets themselves instead of manipulating others to carry out their mission.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

What's our new course?

Y'LAN

Sector 001.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Understood.

Y'lan's face is as unreadable as ever.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar looks at Romulus rotating on the viewscreen, as the capital city lights up, as that part of the planet begins to fade into the darkness.

DOJAR
(whispers)
Good night, Talora.

He taps some keys on the console and the ship begins to pull away from Romulus, gradually turning until it is looking out into space.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship flies past our point of view. The stars are streaking by similar to the normal "warp" effect, but at a much faster rate.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is still diligently working at the same sensor console, as before. The representation of the Milky Way rotates slowly in the background, with specific callouts and descriptions appearing as Y'lan manipulates the image.

Our view shifts downward to see Dojar, asleep with his back against the wall. However, it's clearly not a restful sleep, as his eyelids are quickly fluttering as if he were in some particularly active dream.

Y'lan, working at the console, turns slightly when he hears some mumbling. For the viewer, it should be barely audible. Each fragment, for Dojar, should be played as if from a different experience, a different lifetime.

DOJAR
Don't do it... don't, please...
(beat)
It hurts, it hurts so much!
(beat)
I can't believe they're gone... why?
(beat)

NO!

Suddenly, Dojar JOLTS AWAKE. His eyes dart around, his breathing heavy, sweat dripping from his face. Gradually, he seems to gain some focus, and calm down. The BEEPING of the sensor console continues, as Y'lan continues his work.

Dojar struggles to a sitting position, still on the floor, and turns to face Y'lan across the room.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Y-- Y'lan? Am I still on the ship?

Y'LAN

I am quite certain that you never left it. You were dreaming.

Dojar seems to be frustrated, struggling to keep his equilibrium in the wake of his experience.

DOJAR

It didn't seem that way...

(bitterly)

It seems I can't even escape this knowledge in sleep.

(beat)

You don't sleep, Y'lan. How can you stand it? Every moment of your life spent totally aware of everything that happens to you... How do you possibly stand it?

(more manic)

How can you get away? How can I make it go away?

Y'lan continues working at his console for a moment, unperturbed, before responding -- though he doesn't yet turn to face Dojar.

Y'LAN

As I explained to you before, the Q'tami physiology is vastly different from what humanoids consider "normal." Our mental structure is also quite different as a result. We do not require "sleep" as you define it. Humanoids generally require sleep as a way to subconsciously order their thoughts and to refresh their neural pathways prior to resuming activities. The Q'tami have a much more--

DOJAR

(interrupts)

Yes, I know.

(mimicking Y'lan's speech)

"The Q'tami have a much more efficient makeup. We maintain a strict control of our thoughts and only require periodical meditation to keep that control. Also, our physical vessels are much more energy-efficient and therefore do not require periods of inactivity in order to rejuvenate ourselves."

(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(beat, realizing)

It's your macrochondria... the Q'tami developed a synthetic organ to implant in your physical vessels to provide you with a constant flow of energy!

(amazed)

That's an incredible feat of bioengineering, Y'lan...

Y'lan, though outwardly unperturbed, seems subtly surprised about Dojar's insight. He turns to face Dojar for the first time in this exchange.

Y'LAN

You appear to have retained more knowledge about the Q'tami than I previously believed. I had not thought that your humanoid brain would be able to --

DOJAR

(interrupts, morosely)

I shouldn't have asked... Never mind.

Y'LAN

As you wish.

(beat)

I am attempting to monitor other known Q'tami activities near Earth in order to anticipate where they plan to strike next. I believe that the Faction may be soliciting the services of the Klingon Reformist movement to eliminate Lieutenant Grey.

Dojar gets agitated.

DOJAR

Eliminate? Eliminate? That's all you have to say? They're going to kill him, Y'lan!

(beat, controls himself)

The Reformists, again? Isn't that too obvious? Or too dangerous?

Y'LAN

Perhaps. However, the Reformists have a clear motive for assassinating an officer of the Enterprise. It is unlikely that anyone would suspect outside interference.

Dojar closes his eyes for a moment, seeking calm.

DOJAR

What can I do to help?

Y'lan turns back to his console, and resumes manipulating the projection of the galaxy.

Y'LAN

At the moment, nothing. We remain on course for Sector 001, and should arrive there in approximately two hours.

DOJAR

(insistent, almost pleading)

What about your investigation?

Y'LAN

At the moment, I do not require assistance.

DOJAR

What are you looking at right now?

Y'lan does not respond immediately, but continues working before speaking again.

Y'LAN

I am observing several Q'tami operating near Klingon space, to determine if any of those threats presents a potential threat to Lieutenant Grey or Captain Cross.

DOJAR

(impatient)

But you don't have anything yet?

If Y'lan were a Human, he'd sigh in frustration. But he's a Q'tami, and so gives absolutely no indication of annoyance.

Y'LAN

I do not. There are several established observation missions monitoring Reformist activities with respect to the ongoing Klingon conflict. However, none have produced an indication that they pose a threat to any member of our crew.

As Y'lan speaks, we see several IMAGES flash by on the projection of the galaxy, indicating views of various events being watched by the Q'tami.

DOJAR

(suddenly)

Wait! Go back!

Y'LAN

What do you mean?

Dojar seems almost surprised at his own outburst. He searches for an answer.

DOJAR

I... Something was there that I recognized.

(uncertain)

Or someone...?

Y'LAN

Perhaps it is merely an effect of your recent experiences. You have absorbed an extraordinary amount of information for your limited cognitive capacity.

DOJAR

(insistent)

No, no... I SAW something. Someone dangerous. Go back.

Y'LAN

Very well.

The images on Y'lan's projection begin cycling backwards, repeating the ones we saw previously, and in a slower order.

DOJAR

There!

Y'LAN

I do not see any connection between this incident and our current mission...

DOJAR

No, I remember this man... where's he from?

Y'LAN

It appears that he escaped from the prison colony on Rura Penthe two days ago.

DOJAR

(disturbed)

I remember reading about him somewhere. It was... it was...

Dojar stops for a second, unable to resolve the memory immediately. Y'lan dismisses it and resumes scanning. Then, suddenly:

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(shouts)

It was Quinlan!

(triumphantly)

I read about him in Quinlan's file...

he was a criminal, a pirate.

(realizing, urgently)

He wants to kill her! I remember
his pain... he wants to kill her!

Y'lan manipulates the console, pulling up more detail on Rura Penthe. We see a file with an image of MAC (from "Chasing the Dragon").

DOJAR (CONT'D)

You said he escaped from Rura Penthe... he must have had help. It must have been the Q'tami. They want him to kill Quinlan!

Y'LAN

That is a tenuous leap of logic, Lieutenant. I cannot find any evidence of Q'tami influence at Rura Penthe.

DOJAR

Dammit, Y'lan, we've got to help her! We've got to go find her!

(beat, less coherently)

Where is she? What can we do? Maybe she's off on Farius... or Caldik... or maybe she's gone to Rigel...

Y'LAN

Lieutenant, we have absolutely no information on Lieutenant Quinlan's current activities or whereabouts. Therefore, we have no way of finding her.

DOJAR

Don't tell me that, Y'lan... I know full well that we can find her!

Y'LAN

Doing so would waste valuable time. Time that could be spent investigating the full scope of the Faction threat. We will not assist her.

On Y'lan's inscrutable face, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Continuous action from the end of Act Four.

Dojar stands behind Y'lan, agitated and incredulous.

DOJAR

I can't believe that after all this you're refusing to help one of our crew. And you've said "our crew" too, Y'lan! Don't tell me you don't care about her.

Y'LAN

I have told you before, that I do indeed care about the fate of the crew of the Enterprise. However, my decision is not clouded by an emotional attachment. We must continue on course for Earth in order to ensure ultimate success in preventing the deaths of the entire crew.

Dojar starts to get a little unhinged, running on and on...

DOJAR

How can we possibly prevent Quinlan's death if we do nothing to help her? We won't be able to do anything for her on Earth... and it'll take hours or days or weeks to get to her if we do find her, and hours or days or weeks or even months to do something to help, and by the time we do it'll be too late! We've got to go look for her, now! It's got to be now!

Y'LAN

(interrupting)

Has it not occurred to you that the Q'tami may make other attempts after we counter their current plans? Unless we determine the source of this conspiracy to eliminate the senior crew of the Enterprise, we will be forced to continue our current stratagem and simply react to their attempts. A more proactive approach will be required in order to neutralize the threat.

DOJAR

You're gambling with the crew's lives,
Y'lan! Jennifer could be killed
before we accomplish anything on
Earth. Hell, you don't even know
that we can do anything worthwhile
on Earth!

Y'LAN

I am quite aware of the risks
involved, Lieutenant.

Dojar is on the verge of freaking out completely:

DOJAR

Of course you're aware of the risks,
you slimy squid! You've probably
calculated the odds to a hundred
decimal places in that oh-so-perfectly
ordered mind of yours!

A beat. Y'lan pulls inward slightly, but otherwise he shows no reaction. Dojar takes a deep breath. He remains agitated, but it's more of a controlled fury than paranoid rambling now -- he's trying to keep himself under control. He's still obviously manic, though.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

You know all about the facts relating
to the risks, but you have absolutely
no clue about the consequences of
the risks.

A pause. Y'lan still does not respond, and so Dojar presses forward.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Just why are you doing this anyway,
Y'lan? You were on the Enterprise
for a whole year, observing us --
even spying on us. You've, never,
ever shown an interest in us other
than as "specimens" to be
investigated. You've made no effort
to associate with any member of the
crew unless absolutely necessary.
No one trusts you. Hell, you've
even endangered lives on more than
one occasion!

Y'LAN

I have also saved lives on more than
one occasion.

Dojar ignores the comment and starts pacing, building up a head of steam.

DOJAR

I know how you think, now, Y'lan.
We humanoids -- we're beneath you.
No matter how much you're interested
in us scientifically, we're still
primitive lifeforms, biologically
inefficient, socially undeveloped...
and you're only among us to do a
job. And yet here you are, risking
your life to save people who barely
mean a thing to you. Why?

Y'LAN

Because I respect life, whether it
is inferior or not.

Dojar smiles triumphantly.

DOJAR

That's a lie, Y'lan. You only respect
primitive life when it suits your
purposes. I remember some of what
you did at Macana, last year. You
didn't give a damn about saving the
thousands or millions of people living
there, you only cared about catching
those renegade Q'tami.

(ranting)

We're like insects to you, Y'lan,
insects!

During the following dialogue, Y'lan walks over to a console
against the wall, and enters some instructions.

DOJAR

(not stopping)

It's as if we're tiny little bugs
crawling on the deck... one little
movement of your tentacle and you
could squash us into oblivion! Or
you could get a flyswatter and give
us a good quick whack, or...

Dojar stops again, trying to keep in control. He deliberately
sits down on the floor, forcing himself to stay calm.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

My point is, that you didn't always
have the kind of respect for life
that you're now claiming. Why the
change?

Y'lan pauses in his work, and then turns around to face Dojar
fully.

Y'LAN

When I first arrived on the Enterprise, your generalization would indeed have been correct. However, in many ways, my studies did not proceed at all in the manner which I expected.

Dojar smiles.

DOJAR

We bipeds gave you a surprise, huh?

Y'LAN

In a manner of speaking. Before the incident which forced me to remain in stasis, I was assigned as a terraformer, and I therefore had little contact with non-Q'tami. The results of my interactions in the past year have been surprising. And I believe that they have affected me in some ways, as well.

DOJAR

Isn't that what a cultural exchange is supposed to be about, though? For both sides to learn about the other?

Y'LAN

That is certainly how Captain Cross perceived my presence. However, the Hegemony has little to learn from the Federation that it has not already found somewhere else.

(beat)

Nevertheless... recently, I have become accustomed to my assignment aboard the Enterprise. And I have discovered that you are, perhaps, not quite as primitive as your environment would suggest.

For anyone else, this would be taken as a compliment, as an admission of a change of perspective. But Dojar, with a fresh perspective on Y'lan's mentality, doesn't buy it.

DOJAR

(flatly)

Really.

Y'LAN

However, this philosophical discussion does not solve the immediate issue, which I notice you have attempted to sidestep with your emotional invective. Time is of the essence, and the crew's lives are in danger.

(beat)

Before you broke off on your tangent regarding my motives in this endeavor, I was addressing the need for us to continue on course for Earth.

Dojar seems perplexed as Y'lan has suddenly turned the tables on him again. He opens his mouth to respond, but says nothing.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I am quite aware of the danger that Lieutenant Quinlan could face should we not assist her. Our mission has already been jeopardized by the probable detection of our activities on Romulus. Our previous successes do not guarantee any further progress. Therefore, we must choose a path which offers the greatest opportunity for neutralizing the threat to the crew -- the entire crew.

Dojar starts to visibly crumble under Y'lan's unrelenting logic, but he won't give up without a fight.

DOJAR

Simple, uncaring reasoning, Y'lan?

Y'LAN

Of course. However, there is another reason. The discovery of our activities would mean that the Q'tami would likely take direct action to accomplish their objective, rather than acting through intermediaries.

DOJAR

(realizing, worried)

You mean the Q'tami will try to kill us.

Y'LAN

That is quite likely.

Dojar pauses to absorb this new possibility.

DOJAR

So what now?

Y'LAN

We already know that they are targeting Lieutenant Grey, and I have already confirmed his whereabouts.

Dojar nods reluctantly.

DOJAR

And Jen-- Quinlan?

Y'LAN

We cannot help her at the moment. It is imperative that we act on the information that we currently have rather than search for further data.

A beat. Dojar hangs his head, almost dejected.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

(neutral)

Lieutenant Quinlan is a resourceful individual. Although she is certainly in danger, I am confident that she will be able to fend for herself.

(off Dojar's look)

We will arrive at Earth in less than two hours. Once there, we must focus our efforts on Lieutenant Grey and Captain Cross, and neutralizing those behind these attacks.

(beat)

However, you may be able to obtain some information regarding her current location before then. If so, then we may be able to provide assistance once our operation on Earth is concluded.

Dojar smiles briefly before heading for the door. He stops in the doorway and turns around.

DOJAR

Y'lan? Sorry about calling you a "slimy squid"...

Y'LAN

Your attempt to insult my physical appearance was of no consequence. I accept your apology.

Dojar EXITS.

After the doors close, Y'lan's eyes start to glaze over, and we see the same sequence from previously when we entered...

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

The room appears identical to the last time Y'lan appeared here. The small Q'tami-looking creature is also still present.

Y'LAN

Retrieve and open my encoded neural pathways, recorded from interval 42501, frame kral'o.

The creature DASHES OVER to part of the organic room and pushes some organic controls on the wall, before DASHING BACK to Y'lan.

CREATURE

Ready.

Y'LAN

Begin.

A SWIRL of purplish light flashes across the scene, indicating...

START FLASHBACK:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM (FLASHBACK: "FACTION PROTOCOLS")

In the aftermath of the action of that episode, Y'lan is standing in the Ready Room, and Cross is seated behind his desk. We see a SECOND Y'lan (our present character) observing the event, standing in the background. (The second Y'lan would be digitally inserted into the previous footage.)

We enter in mid-conversation:

CROSS

Everyone on your world follows the common good, I suppose?

Y'LAN

Exactly. We do what we are asked to do, and nothing more. If information is not relevant then we are not given it.

CROSS

That is a very alien concept to us, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Yes, captain. Although I admit... recently I am finding it easier to see your point of view.

CROSS

Being amongst us is finally rubbing
off on you, eh?

Y'LAN

Rubbing off on me?

END FLASHBACK.

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

Same as before.

Y'LAN

(to Creature)

Open my neural pathways for
supplemental recording.

As before, the Creature dashes over, manipulates the controls,
and returns.

CREATURE

Begin.

Y'LAN

Our attempt to prevent the
assassination of Commander Talora on
Romulus was successful. Lieutenant
Dojar and I were able to avoid
detection by local Romulan
authorities. However, our secrecy
may have been compromised during the
operation, and our activities revealed
to the Q'tami who are orchestrating
these events.

(beat)

If we have indeed been detected,
they will likely initiate direct
action to eliminate the Enterprise
crew members. I am uncertain as to
how to approach this situation, given
that I currently lack many specifics
relating to the motive and goal of
my unknown adversary.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship drops out of warp. As it passes the
camera, our view shifts, and we see EARTH and the Moon in
the background.

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Y'lan and the Creature, as before. Y'lan is continuing his log.

Y'LAN

...And Lieutenant Dojar's perplexing condition continues to cause me concern. There is no recorded information regarding the long-term effects on such mentally primitive bipeds. Therefore, his future remains unpredictable -- as does his mental state. I believe --

Abruptly, the room CHANGES COLOR again, as in Act One.

The Creature reacts to something on the wall that is making a CLICKING sound, it DASHES over to investigate. It turns to look at Y'lan.

CREATURE

We are detecting another entity attempting to access your neural pathways.

Y'LAN

Block it.

The camera begins to spin around Y'lan, faster and faster, faster and faster, until it is a blur, but instead of gradually slowing down, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

A tight shot of Y'lan. His eyes quickly de-glaze from his trancelike state, and he pauses, contemplating what just happened.

He then straightens, before rushing off-screen.

We hear the (O.S.) WOOSH of the door opening just as we...

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

... And see the doors open over the same woosh sound, and Y'lan enters the Bridge.

Dojar is standing at a side console, monitoring some readings.

DOJAR

We should be in Earth orbit in just
a few minutes, Y'lan.

Y'lan does not respond.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(uncertain)

Y'lan?

Y'LAN

(abruptly)

Someone is coming.

DOJAR

What do you mean, com--?

He is cut off by the unmistakable sound of a TRANSPORTER,
and both Y'lan and Dojar whirl around to see A Q'TAMI beam
in to the back of the bridge -- pointing a weapon at both of
them.

Q'TAMI

If either of you move, I will be
forced to terminate you.

HOLD on a wide-shot of this tense tableau for a moment, with
Dojar's shocked expression and Y'lan's unexpressive facade,
before we...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FIVE

TO BE CONTINUED...