

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Who Watches the Watchers"
#40273-152

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2ND REVISED FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Who Watches... " - 8/7/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Who Watches the Watchers"

CAST

PICARD	Mintakans
RIKER	NURIA
DATA	LIKO
BEVERLY	OJI
TROI	FENTO
GEORDI	HALI
WORF	
BARRON	

Non-Speaking
PALMER
WARREN
MEDICS
ENTERPRISE CREW
MINTAKANS

STAR TREK: "Who Watches... " - 8/9/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Who Watches the Watchers"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE
 READY ROOM
 SICKBAY
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 TEN FORWARD
 CORRIDOR

DUCK BLIND

ASSEMBLY HALL

EXTERIORS

MINTAKA THREE
 ASSEMBLY HALL
 DUCK BLIND
 PATH
 SECLUDED AREA

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Who Watches the Watchers"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Cruising at warp speed.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 43125.2.
We are en route to Mintaka Three,
where a three-man Federation
anthropological field team has
been studying the inhabitants.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF and DATA
are at their stations; SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

PICARD (V.O.)
Our mission is to resupply the
outpost and repair their
malfunctioning reactor.

TURBOLIFT DOORS OPEN and GEORDI ENTERS.

PICARD
Report, Mister La Forge.

GEORDI
We've finished replicating the
parts they need.
(a beat)
What I don't understand is why
a three-man station needs a
reactor that can produce
four-point-two gigawatts.

Riker knows, but wants to see if Geordi can figure it
out for himself:

RIKER
That's enough to power a small
phaser bank, a subspace relay
station, or...

2 CONTINUED:

GEORDI
(putting it together)
... a hologram generator. Right
-- a "duck blind."

PICARD
(nods)
The anthropologists are studying
an extended family of Mintakans
at close range... from a
camouflaged observation post.

TROI
According to Doctor Barron's
preliminary reports, the Mintakans
are proto-Vulcan humanoids at the
Bronze Age level. Quite peaceful
and highly rational.

PICARD
(nods)
Not surprising, considering how
closely their evolution has
paralleled Vulcan.

WORF
Captain, incoming transmission
from Mintaka Three.

PICARD
On screen.

On the MAIN VIEWER appears the fuzzy image of BARRON,
intermittently broken up by LINES AND SWIRLS of STATIC
INTERFERENCE. Barron is a middle-aged human; he's in
a small cave-like room -- the "DUCK BLIND" -- which
is both scientific laboratory and living quarters for
the three members of the field team. One wall contains
ports looking out onto the planet.

Behind Barron, two more scientists -- PALMER (a young
human male) and WARREN (an older human female) --
work on the malfunctioning reactor. Barron's mood
is calm, unhurried -- the situation is not desperate.

BARRON
Barron to Enterprise. Our
temporary repairs have failed.
The reactor is now inoperative.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Do you have battery backup?

BARRON

Three hours' worth at best.

2 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

Captain, if we increase to warp seven we can be there in twenty-three minutes.

PICARD

Make it so.
(to Barron)
We're on our way --

On the Main Viewer, an EXPLOSION rocks the outpost. Haywire ELECTRICAL BOLTS cascade everywhere. A console a few feet from the reactor SHORTS OUT. STATIC and INTERFERENCE obscure the image.

Barron and Warren are STRUCK by the BOLTS and knocked unconscious. Palmer, also ZAPPED, covers his eyes, temporarily blinded, and gropes randomly.

3 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

A hillside with sheer rock walls and outcroppings. About three meters up a nearly sheer rockface is a narrow path. A large section of the rockface above the path SHIMMERS and FADES AWAY -- revealing the exterior ported wall of the "duck blind" (the interior of which is built inside the rockface). BLUE SPARKS dance about the metal structure of the duck blind.

3A INT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Palmer stumbles to a port, falls through it to the outside --

3B EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Palmer has fallen clear of the duck blind. Dazed and disoriented, he makes his way down the path and EXITS the area.

4 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard watches the Main Viewer helplessly as the image from Mintaka -- with Barron lying on the floor -- BREAKS UP completely and DISAPPEARS.

WORF

We've lost contact, sir.

PICARD

Increase to warp nine.

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

streaking to the rescue.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Mintaka Three.

7 INT. DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Riker, Data, Geordi, BEVERLY, and A MEDIC MATERIALIZE inside the duck blind. SPARKS and CORONA EFFECTS are coursing through all metal parts of the structure.

Riker and Geordi start working on the damaged reactor while Data begins repairs on the shorted-out console. Beverly and the medic tend to the injured Barron and Warren.

8 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - PATH - DAY

Two Mintakans -- middle-aged LIKO and his teenaged daughter OJI -- are walking. Mintakans look very similar to Vulcans -- they have the same pointed ears and arched eyebrows. Note: Though Mintakans are a cool-headed, rational people, they are not as stoic and emotionless as Vulcans.

LIKO

Why did we have to come so early?

OJI

When the sun reaches its zenith,
I have to be ready to take the
measurements.

LIKO

(amused)

You'll be ready. You've read
the sundial hundreds of times.

8 CONTINUED:

OJI
Yes, father -- but never as the
appointed recordkeeper.

LIKO
(smiles)
You're taking your duties quite
seriously. Your mother would have
been proud of you.

8A EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Liko and Oji ENTER the area, which is presently
unoccupied. Outside the "assembly hall" is a large
bronze sundial/astrolabe. Oji steps up to the
astrolabe, takes a preliminary sighting. In doing so,
she notices something o.s.:

9 REVERSE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

On a distant hillside, the exterior of the duck blind
is visible. Oji points it out to Liko:

OJI
What is that?

LIKO
I don't know...

Curious, they quickly head off toward the hillside.

10 INT. DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

The medic works on Warren as Beverly tends to Barron,
who is semi-conscious.

BARRON
(delirious)
Keep work... Palmer... Warren...

Beverly applies a hypo.

10A ON RIKER AND GEORDI (OPTICAL)

still working on the reactor; Data is finishing up on
the console nearby.

10A CONTINUED:

DATA

The hologram generator is now
functional.

RIKER

Or would be, if we had power...

GEORDI

Almost there...

10AA EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Liko and Oji ENTER the area around the duck blind and
stop in amazement. Liko gestures for Oji to stay
hidden as he cautiously approaches the path leading to
the duck blind.

10B WIDER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The medic working on Warren nods to Beverly -- ready.
Beverly taps her communicator:

BEVERLY

Enterprise -- beam Martinez and
his patient directly to Sickbay.

Warren and the medic attending her DEMATERIALIZE. Data
looks up:

DATA

Doctor --

Beverly also looks up --

11 ANGLE ON THE PORT (OPTICAL)

Peeking in one of the ports is Liko -- stunned at the
sight of these strangers magically disappearing.
Curious, Liko pokes his head further into the port, and
places a hand on the metal frame.

11 CONTINUED:

A furious ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ZAPS Liko; dazed and disoriented, he stumbles back.

12 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Liko has fallen away from the duck blind. He slips off the narrow path, falls three meters, and lands hard on a section of jagged rock, severely gashing his head. He GROANS.

13 ANGLE ON OJI

Oji is at the bottom of the path. She's about to come to her father's aid, but holds back as she sees:

14 ON BEVERLY (OPTICAL)

Beverly has already emerged from the duck blind and is heading down the path to Liko's side.

15 ANGLE ON LIKO (OPTICAL)

in intense pain. Beverly approaches, administers a hypo. A moment later, Liko is out cold. Beverly examines him, then touches her communicator:

BEVERLY
Crusher to Enterprise. Medical
emergency. Two to beam directly
to Sickbay.

Beverly and Liko DEMATERIALIZE.

15A ANGLE ON OJI

emerging from her hiding place and moving toward the spot where her father disappeared.

16 INT. DUCK BLIND - DAY

Riker and Geordi at the reactor. Geordi finishes up:

GEORDI
That should do it.

16 CONTINUED:

Geordi makes an adjustment. The reactor HUMS to life.

17 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

As the camouflage unit kicks in, the duck blind DISAPPEARS; the rockface is now, to all appearances, solid rock.

18 ANGLE ON OJI

gazing bewildered at the wall of rock. She's overwhelmed by the inexplicable wonders she has witnessed.

CUT TO:

19 INT. SICKBAY

Busy. MEDICAL PERSONNEL are performing surgery on Liko and applying various forms of burn and anti-radiation treatment to Warren and Barron.

Beverly moves from one station to another, giving orders. She crosses to Liko's biobed. The medic is finishing up with Liko.

20 NEW ANGLE

as Picard ENTERS, crosses to Liko's biobed, and reacts to the sight of a Mintakan aboard the Enterprise. Picard glowers at Beverly, but before he can speak:

20 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Before you start quoting the Prime Directive -- he'd already seen us; the damage was done. It was bring him aboard or let him die.

PICARD

Then why didn't you let him die?

BEVERLY

Because we were responsible for his injuries!

PICARD

I don't know if I concur with that reasoning, Doctor. But now that he's here, you must remove all memory of his encounter with the away team.

BEVERLY

By erasing short-term recall?

PICARD

It's been accomplished before.

BEVERLY

Yes, I'm familiar with Doctor Pulaski's technique.

(studies Liko)

Though I can't guarantee it will be effective on Mintakan brain chemistry --

Beverly is interrupted by a COMMOTION O.S. --

21 ANGLE ON BARRON

Barron has regained consciousness, but he's half-delirious and agitated. He struggles wildly with a medic who's trying to restrain him:

BARRON

No! We must evacuate --

Picard, Beverly, and other medics run to Barron's biobed and hold him back. Beverly zaps Barron with a hypospray; Barron's struggles weaken.

21 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
(forceful)
Doctor Barron! You're on the
Enterprise. You're safe now.

Barron gazes at her; reason slowly returns.

22 ANGLE ON LIKO

CLOSE on Liko's face -- after a beat, Liko's eyes open.

BARRON (O.S.)
The others?

PICARD (O.S.)
Doctor Warren is here. We're
doing all we can.

Liko, not daring to move a muscle, looks to the source
of the voices:

23 ANGLE - WHAT LIKO SEES

Medical personnel, Beverly, and Picard are gathered
around Barron's biobed. Picard is the only one in a
red uniform; he stands out dramatically.

BARRON
And Palmer? Where is Palmer?

PICARD
Still on Mintaka Three.

BARRON
Picard -- you have to find him.

PICARD
We will.

BARRON
He may be hurt --

PICARD
Rest assured -- we will not leave
until we locate Palmer.

Picard's strength and conviction mollify Barron.

23 CONTINUED:

BARRON
Thank you, Picard.

Beverly helps Barron lie back and relax. Picard moves away from the biobed, taps his communicator:

PICARD
Picard to bridge. Report.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Scans of the planet detect no humans, Captain.

PICARD
Very well. Take us into a close orbit.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Sir, a close orbit will increase sensor efficiency by only four percent.

PICARD
I want that four percent, Lieutenant.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Aye, sir.

PICARD
Picard out.

24 NEW ANGLE

as Picard turns, finds himself looking at Liko -- who's looking right back at him. Picard's speechless. After a beat:

LIKO
(tentative)
Picard?

Liko's voice catches everyone's attention. Beverly moves instantly to Liko's side, knocks Liko out with a hypospray.

24 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Damn --

PICARD

Doctor, your next task is clear.

Beverly nods as she looks at her troublesome patient:

CUT TO:

25 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Mintaka Three.

26 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY

Oji is atop a bluff, finishing her reconnaissance. No luck. She returns to the duck blind rockface, touches it once more. Nothing happens. The hologram generator's doing its job; the rockface looks and feels authentic.

27 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - SECLUDED AREA - DAY (OPTICAL)

In a location not visible from the duck blind area, the sleeping body of Liko MATERIALIZES. Slowly, Liko awakens.

28 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY

as Oji starts to walk back down the path.

LIKO (O.S.)

(weak)

Oji?

28 CONTINUED:

Startled, Oji turns, looks about, tries to place which direction the voice came from --

OJI
Father?

29 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - SECLUDED AREA - DAY

as Liko sits up, examines himself.

LIKO
Here...

After a beat, Oji ENTERS, rushes to her father's side -- and is amazed to see that her father's wounds have disappeared.

OJI
I thought I'd never see you again.
When you and the woman vanished,
I was sure you were dead.

LIKO
I think I was... but I was brought
back to life. I awoke in an
incredible place -- and my wounds
were gone. I had been healed.

OJI
How is that possible?

Liko ponders this gravely.

LIKO
Long ago, our people believed in
beings with great powers. These
beings made the rains come, told
the sun when to rise, and caused
all life to be born, to grow,
to die.

OJI
But those are just tales -- old
superstitions.

29 CONTINUED:

LIKO

Perhaps the beliefs of our
ancestors are true. Nothing else
can explain what's happened.

(a beat)

Everything's changed now, Oji.
We must tell the others...

On Liko's resolute expression, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

30 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Data, and Beverly. Beverly is in mid-report.

BEVERLY

... Barron is stable, but Warren is still critical.

RIKER

Palmer is missing, and scans of the planet pick up Mintakan life forms only -- no humans. However...

Riker looks to Data.

DATA

The area around the duck blind exhibits Karst topography -- sinkholes, underground rivers, and caverns. And the rock strata contain a high concentration of thallium compounds, which may be obstructing our sensor beams.

PICARD

So if Palmer, in his delirium, fled into a cave, we might be unable to detect his life signs.

DATA

Correct.

BEVERLY

Captain, if he is still alive, he probably needs medical attention. We must send an away team to locate him.

TROI

But our presence mustn't interfere with the cultural development of the Mintakans.

PICARD

Agreed. Further contamination must be prevented.

30 CONTINUED:

RIKER
Sir, I have a suggestion.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Orbiting Mintaka Three.

RIKER (V.O.)
First officer's log, Stardate
43125.3. Counselor Troi and I
are beaming down to Mintaka Three
to locate Doctor Palmer and
determine the extent of the
cultural contamination.

32 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - SECLUDED AREA - DAY (OPTICAL)

The same spot where Liko was beamed down. Riker and
Troi MATERIALIZE, along with two bundles of woven
cloth.

Riker and Troi have been made up as Mintakans,
complete with angled eyebrows and pointed ears.
They're wearing typical Mintakan garb: austere,
mannerly outfits of woven cloth.

RIKER (V.O.)
Doctor Crusher has temporarily
altered our features and skin
color. She's also implanted
subcutaneous communicators so that
any transmissions we receive will
be inaudible to the Mintakans.

Riker and Troi look around. No one's in sight.

RIKER
Riker to Enterprise -- do you
read?

Riker hears Data's com voice via direct bone
conduction, so it sounds unusually thin and faint:

DATA'S COM VOICE
(filtered)
Perfectly, Commander. I will be
monitoring you continuously.

32 CONTINUED:

Riker and Troi pick up their bundles of woven cloth.

TROI

Mintakan emotions are quite interesting. Like the Vulcans, they have highly ordered minds... A very sensible people.

They start to walk. Riker automatically takes the lead. Troi stops him, moves in front of him. MOVE with them as they walk.

TROI (cont'd)

(enjoying this)

For example, Mintakan women precede their mates. It's a signal to other women.

RIKER

"This man's taken; get your own?"

TROI

Not precisely... More like, "if you want his services, I'm the one to negotiate with."

RIKER

What kinds of "services?"

TROI

All kinds.

RIKER

(amused)

Ah. They are a sensible race.

Riker and Troi come around a rock formation and find themselves on a path leading to the assembly hall area.

32A EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

A few MINTAKANS are entering the area. Riker and Troi ENTER and follow the Mintakans toward the assembly hall.

33 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Assorted MINTAKANS are gathered around Liko and Oji. This is the "town hall" where Mintakans meet daily -- both to barter and to talk, philosophize, exchange information, and debate ideas.

Among the listeners is NURIA, an attractive, middle-aged Mintakan woman who's the leader of this community; the Mintakans respect her calm, clear-headed intelligence and give extra weight to her opinions.

33 CONTINUED:

Next to Liko and Oji is FENTO, an elderly Mintakan man who's the community's "storyteller" -- its oral historian.

LIKO
I understand your skepticism.
Had it not happened to me, I would
find it difficult to accept as
well.

34 ANGLE ON RIKER AND TROI

as they enter the assembly hall.

OJI (O.S.)
But it did happen, just as we've
told you.

Riker and Troi stay on the outskirts of the group.

35 WIDER

as Liko turns to a skeptical Fento.

LIKO
Fento -- you know the legends
better than anyone. Don't they
speak of beings like the ones I've
seen --

OJI
-- who could vanish like smoke?

FENTO
(dubious)
There are the stories of the
Overseer... who could appear and
disappear at will...

To Liko, this is confirmation. Fento's tone, however, indicates that though he's aware of the legend, he doesn't believe it.

LIKO
And couldn't this Overseer heal
the dead?

35 CONTINUED:

FENTO

(nods)

He had supreme power -- or so our
ancestors believed.

Liko nods. That's more confirmation.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

LIKO
I believe I've seen the
Overseer...

RIKER
(sotto)
Uh-oh...

LIKO
He is called the Picard.

MURMURS from the Mintakans. This is heady stuff.
Riker and Troi exchange an "oh, hell..." glance and
speak in low tones:

TROI
His memory is intact.

RIKER
The procedure didn't work.

36 NEW ANGLE

as Nuria steps forward.

NURIA
Liko -- all this talk of a
supernatural being... No one's
believed that for countless
generations. Just as we no longer
believe the stars control our
fates, or that the spirits of the
dead haunt the living.

LIKO
I'm not saying all the old beliefs
are true. But I did see the
Picard, and I was restored to
life.

More MURMURS from the Mintakans.

37 OMITTED

38 WIDER

as Riker and Troi step forward and address Liko.

TROI
We are visitors; we've come to
trade our cloth. May we speak?

NURIA
Please do -- we welcome outsiders.
I am Nuria.

TROI
I am Troi; this is Riker.
(to Liko)
You've had a very interesting
dream.

LIKO
(scoffs)
Dream? It was real!

OJI
My father and I both witnessed
these beings.

TROI
If you are father and daughter,
you may have shared the same
dream.

LIKO
That is not reasonable.

RIKER
Is it any less reasonable than
being magically propelled to a
strange place by "the Picard?"

The Mintakans exchange looks. Riker makes a good
point. Then:

HALI (O.S.)
Nuria!

The Mintakans turn --

39
thru OMITTED
41

42 NEW ANGLE

as HALI and one more MINTAKAN HUNTER (both with elaborately-designed crossbows) come into view at the entrance to the assembly hall -- carrying a bedraggled and unconscious Palmer.

Surprised reactions from the Mintakans. Liko and Oji are triumphant.

LIKO

It has to be -- Palmer -- the one
the Picard wished to find.

The Mintakans rush as one to gather around Palmer, peer at him, touch his skin and clothing. They're not aggressive -- merely curious about the stranger.

NURIA

(examining Picard)
Remarkable. You were speaking
the truth.

LIKO

The Picard will be pleased.

43
thru OMITTED
44

45 ON RIKER AND TROI

exchanging a look. So much for their cogent arguments.

RIKER
Riker to Picard.

46 INT. SICKBAY

Picard and Beverly in f.g. Warren lies motionless on her biobed, her vital signs dangerously low.

46 CONTINUED:

Barron, in a hospital gown, is standing next to Warren.

PICARD
Go ahead, Number One.

47 INTERCUTS - SICKBAY AND MINTAKA THREE

RIKER
We have a problem.

PICARD
The contamination?

RIKER
It's worse than we suspected.
The Mintakans are beginning to
believe in a god -- and the one
they've chosen... is you.

PUSH IN on Picard's appalled reaction, and --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

48 INT. SICKBAY

As before.

BARRON

Picard -- you must beam Palmer
aboard immediately. Without
medical attention --

PICARD

It's not that simple. He's
surrounded by Mintakans. If he
dematerializes before their
eyes...

BARRON

... it will slightly increase the
cultural contamination which
already exists. A small price
for saving Palmer's life.

Picard thinks it over, addresses the com panel:

PICARD

Number One -- is there any chance
of your freeing Palmer and
transporting up unseen?

49 INTERCUTS - SICKBAY AND MINTAKA THREE

Riker and Troi, still out of earshot of the Mintakans,
survey the area.

RIKER

We can try...

PICARD

Try hard. Picard out.

50 ANGLE ON BARRON

scowling at Picard.

50 CONTINUED:

BARRON

Picard, I must protest. You're endangering Palmer with this delay.

PICARD

I'm aware of that. But each of us -- including Doctor Palmer -- took an oath to uphold the Prime Directive... if necessary, with our lives.

51 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Nuria, Liko, Oji, Hali, Fento, and the other Mintakans are still gazing at the unconscious Palmer. Riker stands nearby; Troi is not present. Hali explains:

HALI

We followed a hornbuck into a cave. The stranger was there -- asleep.

NURIA

This Palmer is one of the Overseer's servants?

LIKO

Yes -- the Picard has many servants.

(to Fento)

Isn't that true?

FENTO

(still skeptical)

According to the legends. But if Palmer is a servant of the Overseer, what was he doing in the cave?

OJI

Perhaps he ran away.

HALI

Or he failed the Picard somehow and was hiding from him.

LIKO

We should bind him in case he wakes and tries to escape.

51 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It's senseless to hold this stranger captive. This Overseer talk is nothing more than an old superstition.

Fento nods agreement.

NURIA

I disagree. All the evidence suggests the Overseer does exist.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

LIKO

And I heard the Picard say he
wanted to find Palmer.

OJI

Then by keeping Palmer safe, we
will please the Picard.

LIKO

And he'll grant us favors in return.

NURIA

Favors?

Nuria raises an eyebrow, looks to Fento for
elaboration. Fento shrugs:

FENTO

The Overseer was said to be
all-powerful. He could provide
gentle winters, plentiful hunting,
fertile crops... anything.

LIKO

(quiet intensity)

He could even bring back those
who have died.

Oji looks at Liko as Liko's meaning dawns. Is it
possible... ? Liko smiles warmly back at Oji: yes, it
is. The Mintakans look to Nuria, who reaches a
decision:

NURIA

We will keep Palmer for the
Picard.

A BUZZ of approval from the Mintakans -- good decision.

52 NEW ANGLE

Troi ENTERS.

TROI
I've seen another one -- like
Palmer!

LIKO
Another servant of the Picard?

TROI
(nods)
He's headed toward the caves!

NURIA
Fento -- stay and bind Palmer.

Troi, Nuria, Liko, Oji, Hali, and the others EXIT the
assembly hall.

53 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Troi leads Nuria, Liko, Oji, Hali, and the others off
toward the hills.

54 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Fento leans over Palmer, starts tying him up with a
length of woven rope. Riker steps up next to Fento.

RIKER
Excuse me... that knot won't hold.
If I may assist...

FENTO
Please do.

As Riker unties the rope:

RIKER
The trick is to make a knot that
tightens under pressure. Here,
I'll show you...

55 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - PATH - DAY

Nuria, Liko, Oji, Hali, and the others are following Troi. Oji suddenly notices the sun's position, stops:

OJI
Father -- the sun's reaching its
zenith. If I don't go to measure...

LIKO
Go.

Oji turns around, rushes back the way she came.

56 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Fento has been bound and gagged by Riker.

RIKER
Forgive me, friend... but the
stranger must be set free.

Riker picks up Palmer in a fireman's carry and starts off.

57 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Riker EMERGES from the assembly hall, carrying Palmer, and heads for a path out of the area (not the same path Troi took).

57 CONTINUED:

Riker sees Oji ENTER the area at the far end.

RIKER

Riker to Enterprise. Lock on and
prepare to beam us directly to
Sickbay, but wait for my signal.

DATA'S COM VOICE

(filtered)

Acknowledged, Commander.

Oji sees Riker --

OJI

Riker?

Riker ignores her, keeps heading out.

58 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - PATH - DAY

Troi leading the others as before.

OJI (O.S.)
(distant)
Riker! Stop!

NURIA
Oji?

OJI (O.S.)
(distant)
It's Riker -- he's taking Palmer!

Nuria puts it together instantly, whirls to face Troi:

NURIA
Yari -- don't let her escape.

The Mintakan hunter levels his crossbow at Troi, takes her captive. The others follow Nuria as she charges back toward the assembly hall area.

59 OMITTED

60 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Riker is about to reach a path through the rocks surrounding the assembly hall area. Nuria and the others ENTER the area at the other end. Hali levels his crossbow to take a shot at Riker, but Riker ducks between the rocks, EXITS the area. The Mintakans pursue.

61 OMITTED

62 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - ANOTHER PATH - DAY (OPTICAL)

Riker carrying Palmer; Nuria and the Mintakans in pursuit. Finally, Riker finds what he's been looking for: a spot where he's momentarily out of sight of the Mintakans.

RIKER
I'm clear. Energize!

Riker and Palmer DEMATERIALIZE. A moment after they're gone, Nuria and the others ENTER, rush down the path past where Riker disappeared, and keep going.

63 OMITTED

64 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

as Riker and Palmer MATERIALIZE in Sickbay. Beverly and a medic help Riker put Palmer on a biobed. Riker stretches his aching muscles.

RIKER
Data. Has Counselor Troi beamed up?

DATA'S COM VOICE
Negative, Commander. Sensors show she's in the midst of a group of Mintakans.

RIKER
Damn.

Riker EXITS.

65 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Hali uses a knife to cut Fento's ropes. Nuria, Liko, Oji, and other Mintakans surround Troi. Liko's concerned; Troi is calm.

NURIA
Hali -- find Riker and Palmer.

Hali motions for the hunter and other Mintakans to accompany him; they EXIT. Liko accosts Troi:

65 CONTINUED:

LIKO

Why? Why did you and Riker take
Palmer from us?

65 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI
We did not "take" Palmer...

66 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Data, and Worf are silent, listening to Troi's communicator. Riker ENTERS.

TROI'S COM VOICE
... we set him free. Riker and
I don't believe these fables about
the Overseer.

LIKO'S COM VOICE
Don't you realize what you've
done?

67 INTERCUTS - BRIDGE AND MINTAKA THREE

LIKO
You've angered the Picard -- and
we may all suffer for it!
(to Fento)
Weren't there stories of the
Overseer destroying those who
offended him?

FENTO
Stories. Nothing more.

NURIA
Liko, we'll get Palmer back.
Riker was carrying him -- they
can't have gone far.

LIKO
Still, the Picard may blame us
for Palmer's escape.
(points to Troi)
Perhaps we should punish her --
to let the Overseer know that she
and Riker acted alone.

NURIA
We'll keep Troi captive.

67 CONTINUED:

LIKO
That's not enough.

NURIA
You would have us harm her?

Liko looks sadly at Troi. He's not a zealot out for blood -- he's concerned for the future of his people. This isn't an easy thing to suggest, but -- in Liko's eyes -- it's imperative.

LIKO
If it will hold off the Picard's anger -- yes. I've seen how powerful he is...

68 ON NURIA

weighing Liko's argument as the anxious Mintakans look to her for orders. Sometimes being the leader is a hell of a burden.

NURIA
(slowly)
I am unwilling to hurt Troi needlessly.
(a beat)
We will wait for Hali and the others to return.

OJI
And if they don't find Palmer?

NURIA
(looking at Troi)
Then we may have to do as Liko suggests.

69 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, and Barron.

PICARD
(to Barron)
You believe the Mintakans are capable of harming Troi?

69 CONTINUED:

BARRON

(nods)

They are not normally a violent
people... but these are
extraordinary circumstances.
They're trying to comprehend what
they believe to be a god.

69 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
Recommendations?

BARRON
The Mintakans wish to please the
Overseer, but they can only guess
what he wants. They need a sign.

PICARD
Are you suggesting...

BARRON
(nods)
You must go down to Mintaka Three.

RIKER
Masquerading as a god?

PICARD
Out of the question. The Prime
Directive --

BARRON
Has already been violated. The
damage is done; all we can do now
is minimize it.

PICARD
By sanctioning their false
beliefs?

BARRON
By giving them guidelines...
letting them know what the
Overseer expects of them.

PICARD
I cannot -- I will not impose a
set of commandments on these
people. To do so violates the
essence of the Prime Directive.

BARRON
Like it or not, we've rekindled
the Mintakans' belief in the
Overseer.

RIKER
(to Barron)
And you're saying that belief will
eventually develop into a
religion.

69 CONTINUED: (3)

BARRON

It's inevitable. And without
guidance, that religion could
degenerate into inquisitions...
holy wars... chaos.

69 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD

Your own reports describe how rational these people are. Millennia ago, they abandoned all belief in the supernatural. And now you're asking me to sabotage that achievement... send them back into the Dark Ages of fear and superstition.

(adamant)

No. We must undo the damage we've caused.

(turning to Riker)

Number One -- tell me about the group's leader.

RIKER

Nuria is exceptionally fair-minded and sensible... the Mintakans trust her judgment. If we could convince her we're not gods...

PICARD

... she might be able to persuade the others.

BARRON

And how do you propose to convince her?

PICARD

She sees the Picard as a magical figure. I'm going to show her how the magic works.

(a beat)

Bring her aboard.

70 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Troi is being guarded by two Mintakans. Liko and Oji are standing nearby. Nuria is walking away, toward the exit.

71 ON TROI

Troi doesn't react as Data's voice pops into her ear:

DATA'S COM VOICE
(filtered)
Counselor, sensors indicate five
Mintakans in your immediate
vicinity.
(MORE)

71 CONTINUED:

DATA'S COM VOICE (cont'd)
Four are motionless; the fifth
is eight meters away, proceeding
south. Is Nuria one of these
five?

TROI
("yes")
Mmm-hmm.

72 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Worf, supernumeraries. Data reacts to
the odd sound Troi just made.

DATA
Was that intended to be an
affirmative?

RIKER
(a smile)
Yes, Data, it was.

73 INTERCUTS - BRIDGE AND MINTAKA THREE

DATA
Is Nuria the closest of the five?

TROI
("nope")
Mmm-mmm.

Data reacts, puzzled again. Riker "translates":

RIKER
Negative.

DATA
Is Nuria the one in motion?

TROI
("yes")
Mmm-hmm.

RIKER
Lock sensors on Nuria.

DATA
Locked on, Commander. We can
beam Nuria aboard at will.

73 CONTINUED:

Picard gets to his feet.

PICARD
Data, when sensors indicate she's
alone, beam her to Transporter
Room One.

DATA
Aye, sir.

Picard EXITS into a turbolift.

74 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In close orbit to Mintaka Three.

75 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Picard ENTERS, approaches the ENSIGN at the console.

PICARD
Ensign Hoy, I'll handle this.

The Ensign EXITS and Picard takes his place behind
the console. Picard energizes.

76 ANGLE ON THE TRANSPORTER PAD (OPTICAL)

as Nuria MATERIALIZES -- and GASPS in shock. What's
happened? Where the hell is she?

PICARD (O.S.)
Nuria -- don't be afraid.

Nuria turns to face --

77 WIDER

Picard steps forward, nods reassuringly.

PICARD
No one's going to harm you.

Nuria can barely speak:

NURIA
Who... ?

PICARD
My name is Jean-Luc Picard.

78 ON NURIA

astonished. She sinks to her knees in fear and
reverence, and we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

79 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Nuria is still on her knees on the transporter pad. Picard takes another step. She averts her eyes.

PICARD
Please -- get up.

No response.

PICARD (cont'd)
Get up! You don't kneel to me.

NURIA
You do not wish it?

PICARD
I do not deserve it.

Picard extends a hand. Slowly, timidly, Nuria takes it. Picard lifts her to her feet, stands eye-to-eye with her, clasps her hand.

PICARD (cont'd)
Look at me. Feel the warmth of my hand, the rhythm of my pulse. I am not a supreme being -- I am flesh and blood, like you.

Nuria shakes her head -- inconceivable.

NURIA
Not like me...

PICARD
Like you! Different in appearance, yes. But we are both living beings -- we are born, we grow, we live, we die. In all the ways that matter, we are alike.

NURIA
But -- you are the Picard!

Nuria gazes at him, uncomprehending. Picard smiles.

79 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Let me show you my people.

(ALTERNATE:)

Let me show you something.

Picard leads Nuria to the door, which OPENS. Nuria jumps back, startled -- then looks at Picard, gathers courage from his presence. In the corridor, a CREWMEMBER passes.

NURIA

What a wondrous place this is.

Even the doors obey your commands.

PICARD

It is wondrous -- but not miraculous. The doors merely work differently from the ones you know.

Picard and Nuria EXIT into the corridor.

80
thru OMITTED
81

82 OMITTED

83 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

Picard and Nuria are at a window, looking at the magnificent sight of Mintaka Three set amid thousands of stars. Nuria is overwhelmed. So many wonders...

NURIA

That is my home?

PICARD

Seen from far, far above.

NURIA

Yet we don't fall.

(a beat)

I never imagined I would see the clouds... from the other side. Your powers are truly boundless.

She looks like she's ready to drop to her knees again, and that's not the attitude Picard is trying to inspire. He SIGHS, tries again:

PICARD

Nuria -- your people live in huts. Was it always so?

NURIA

No. We have found remnants of tools in caves. Our ancestors must have lived there.

PICARD

Why do you now live in huts?

NURIA

Huts are better. Caves are dark and wet --

PICARD

If huts are better, why did your people ever live in caves?

NURIA

The most reasonable explanation is that at one time we didn't know how to make huts.

83 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(nods)

Just as there was a time when you didn't know how to make cloth -- or bows.

NURIA

That is reasonable.

PICARD

Someone invented huts. Someone invented the bow. And they taught others, who taught their children, who taught their children's children...

Nuria mulls it over. Makes sense. She nods.

PICARD (cont'd)

Now suppose one of your cave-dwelling ancestors could see you as you are today. What would she think?

NURIA

I don't know.

PICARD

Put yourself in her place. You have a power she lacks. You can kill a hornbuck from a great distance.

NURIA

Only because I have a bow.

PICARD

She has never seen a bow -- it doesn't yet exist in her world. To you, it's a simple tool. To her, it's magic.

NURIA

(musing)

I suppose she might think so.

PICARD

And how would she react to you?

NURIA

I think... she would fear me.

83 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Just as you fear me.

Nuria nods slowly. Picard's made his point. After a long beat:

NURIA

(matter-of-fact)

I do not fear you any longer.

PICARD

Good. My people once lived in caves, too. We learned to build huts... and, later, to build ships such as this one.

NURIA

Perhaps some day my people will travel above the sky...

PICARD

Of that, I have absolutely no doubt.

84 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - NIGHT

A fire has been lit in a fire pit. Flashes of LIGHTNING outside are followed by distant THUNDER. Liko, Oji, and Fento are worried.

LIKO

It's not the season for lightning. It must be a warning...

FENTO

(protests)

We've had storms at this time of year before.

ANOTHER BOLT FRACTURES the night outside. The Mintakans react.

OJI

Not like this one...

84 CONTINUED:

LIKO

It must mean something!
(mounting anxiety)
The Picard is angry with us. He
blames us for Palmer's escape.

FENTO

Liko -- we don't know that the
Overseer is responsible for this
storm...

LIKO

(interrupts, panicking)
Will he also send floods? My wife
died in last year's floods -- will
we all die now?

Still more THUNDER. Liko makes a decision:

LIKO (cont'd)

We must find Nuria.

As Liko, Oji, and Fento EXIT, the THUNDER CRASHES ever
closer.

85 INT. READY ROOM

Nuria and Picard are looking at the model of the
Stargazer.

NURIA

Picard... you have shown me
wonders I could never have
imagined... and I am grateful
beyond words... but might I
request something for my people?

Picard is moved by her devotion to her people.

85 CONTINUED:

PICARD

You are indeed a leader.

85 CONTINUED: (2)

NURIA

You have shown me such generosity;
I wish my people could share in
it.

(a beat)

Six Mintakans died in a flood last
winter. Four of them were
children.

Picard grows wary as he sees what's coming:

NURIA (cont'd)

Would you bring them back to life?

Picard takes a long beat before replying:

PICARD

That is beyond my power.

NURIA

Why? You restored Liko's life.
Did the six who died offend you
in some way?

(a new thought)

Or have I offended you? Should
I have ordered the death of Troi?
Please -- if there is anything
I can do to change your mind...

86 ON PICARD

A sobering realization.

PICARD

(almost to himself)

I've failed to get through to you,
haven't I? Despite all my
efforts...

Nuria looks at Picard, her expression pleading for him
to do her people this simple favor. And all Picard can
do is look helplessly back at her...

87 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - NIGHT

Oji and Fento ENTER, rush up to a desperate Liko as
LIGHTNING CRACKLES outside.

87 CONTINUED:

OJI

Nuria can't be found. No one
knows where she's gone.

Hali and the Mintakan hunter ENTER, out of breath.

LIKO

Hali! Any sign of Palmer or
Riker?

HALI

(shaking his head)
They've escaped us. We searched
everywhere.

The LOUDEST THUNDER CRASH; this time, directly
overhead.

OJI

What do we do now?

After a moment of indecision:

LIKO

As the Picard wishes. Punish
those responsible.

Liko holds out his hand to Hali -- "give me your
crossbow." The Mintakans are astonished.

FENTO

Nuria would not allow --

LIKO

Nuria isn't here -- and we can't
wait.

More ear-splitting THUNDER. Hali looks from Liko to
the others, reluctantly makes up his mind, hands his
crossbow to Liko. Liko marches off toward the captive
Troi.

88 CLOSE ON TROI

watching impassively as Liko strides purposefully
toward her, crossbow in hand...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

89
thru OMITTED
90

91 INT. SICKBAY

Warren has started to spasm. A medic is at Warren's side. Barron looks on helplessly. Beverly ENTERS, tapping her communicator as she crosses --

BEVERLY

Crusher to Picard. I think
we're going to lose Warren.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

On my way.

Warren's spasms worsen. Beverly looks at the monitor. Not good. The medic has a hypo ready; Beverly glances at it, shakes her head.

A massive convulsion shakes Warren's body. The vital signs are dropping. Beverly and the medic can do little more than wipe the sweat from Warren's brow and keep Warren restrained. It's any doctor's nightmare -- being forced to watch from the sidelines as the patient fights the final battle.

Picard ENTERS. Nuria is right behind him.

92 ON WARREN

Another spasm. Her eyes open. She tries to speak, but hasn't the strength. Beverly motions for Barron to stand near so Warren can see him. Warren can barely focus -- but she recognizes Barron, tries to take his hand. Barron clasps her tiny, frail hand and holds on.

92 CONTINUED:

BARRON
I'm here, Mary.

Beverly watches the vital signs. Almost nil.

BEVERLY
(to Medic)
Prepare two cc's of norep.

The medic readies a hypo. Warren is hit with a seizure; her eyes close as a wave of pain racks her body. Again she tries to speak -- nothing. With a last effort of will, she forces her eyes open, looks up at Barron --

-- and then, mercifully, it's over; Warren goes limp; her vital signs drop to zero. Beverly takes the hypo, injects Warren's carotid artery, but it's futile and she knows it.

BEVERLY (cont'd)
(to Barron)
I'm sorry.

Barron sits down, bows his head in grief.

93 ON PICARD AND NURIA

Picard lowers his head, grieves over their loss. Nuria, profoundly moved, looks from Picard to Barron to Beverly -- their remorse is palpable.

NURIA
(quietly)
Picard?

Picard doesn't respond.

NURIA (cont'd)
You could not save her.

PICARD
No.

NURIA
You do have limits. You are not masters of life and death.

93 CONTINUED:

PICARD

No, we are not.

(a beat)

We can cure many diseases and repair many injuries. We can extend life... but despite all our knowledge -- all our advances -- we are just as mortal as you are... just as powerless to prevent the inevitable.

Nuria gazes at Picard as if seeing him for the first time -- empathizing with his remorse, his helplessness, his humanity.

NURIA

You are a remarkable people. But you are not superior beings.

(a beat)

My people must be made to understand that.

Picard nods agreement.

94 INT. MINTAKA THREE - ASSEMBLY HALL - NIGHT

As before. The THUNDER continues. Liko steps up to the captive Troi, followed by Oji, Fento, and Hali.

TROI

Liko -- you don't want to kill me.

LIKO

I have no choice. I must do as the Picard wishes.

TROI

Are you sure you know what he wants?

Liko is torn. No, he's not sure.

TROI (cont'd)

(after a beat; to the others)

That's one problem with believing in a supernatural being... trying to determine what he wants.

A PEAL of THUNDER.

94 CONTINUED:

LIKO

We must do something.

OJI

But what if we do the wrong thing?

95 NEW ANGLE

Liko, agonized, picks up the crossbow and moves toward Troi.

97 CONTINUED:

LIKO

Why are you trying to deceive me?

NURIA

Picard speaks the truth. I've visited his people... I've seen how they live... how they die. When death takes their loved ones, they are as helpless as we are.

LIKO

Then how was I brought back to life?

NURIA

You were not dead. Picard's people have knowledge we lack -- they can heal wounds that we cannot.

Liko whirls upon Picard.

LIKO

You can bring people back from the dead. Show them, Picard. You can bring my wife back to me.

PICARD

I can't.

LIKO

Why? Why won't you do this for me? Have I failed you somehow? Are you angry with me?

PICARD

I am not angry.

LIKO

Then I beg you -- bring her back to life!

Picard answers with silence.

LIKO (cont'd)

I will give you my life in exchange! Please -- take back what you've given me -- and give it to her! Let her live!

97 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
It is beyond my power.

LIKO
Nothing is beyond your power!
You are the Overseer -- I'll
prove it!

Liko raises the crossbow, aims it at Picard. Nuria,
shocked, starts toward Liko --

NURIA
Liko!

98 ON PICARD

as he blocks Nuria with his arm.

PICARD
Go ahead, Liko. If I am
all-powerful, you can't hurt me.
(a beat)
If, however, I am telling the
truth and I am mortal... you will
kill me.

Picard lets that sink in.

PICARD (cont'd)
But if the only proof you will
believe is my life -- then shoot.

Liko doesn't respond, keeps the crossbow aimed at
Picard's heart.

NURIA
Don't do it, Liko!

Picard remains unflinching.

99 CLOSE ON LIKO

A jumble of emotions -- anger, frustration, fear, and
doubt swirl in Liko's mind.

OJI
Father -- no!

Oji grabs Liko's arm to stop him. The crossbow fires.

100 ON PICARD

as the bolt strikes him in the shoulder -- hurling him to the ground.

101 WIDER

as Nuria rushes to Picard's side. Picard writhes in pain. Nuria touches his wound and holds up her bloody hand for all to see.

Liko drops his crossbow and steps up to Picard. Liko's shock gives way to grief as he stares at the wounded man lying in agony.

102 NEW ANGLE

The Mintakans approach Picard with curiosity. The fear and reverence are gone.

102A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Orbiting Mintaka Three.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental.
Before we dismantle the
observation post and depart, I
must make one last visit to
Mintaka Three.

103 EXT. MINTAKA THREE - DUCK BLIND - DAY (OPTICAL)

Picard, wearing a sling on his arm, stands before the rockface. (His wounded shoulder has been healed in Sickbay.)

Above and behind Picard is the (camouflaged) rockface. Gathered are Nuria, Liko, Oji, Hali, Fento, and several other Mintakans. One of the children hands Picard some woven cloth. Picard nods his appreciation, then taps his communicator.

PICARD

Now, Mister La Forge.

The rockface camouflage DISAPPEARS, REVEALING the duck blind. The natives are surprised -- but not overwhelmed.

103 CONTINUED:

NURIA

What is it?

PICARD

A place where we could watch your people.

FENTO

Why?

PICARD

To study you. To understand your ways.

NURIA

Why should a people so advanced want to learn about us?

PICARD

Because we were once as you are. To study you is to understand ourselves.

FENTO

But why did you have to hide from us?

LIKO

(realizing)

Because their presence would affect us... as it affected me.

Picard is pleased that Liko has made this leap.

PICARD

It is our highest law that we shall not interfere with other cultures.

OJI

Then revealing yourselves was an accident.

PICARD

Yes. And now we must leave.

OJI

Why? There's so much you could teach us...

103 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(gently)

But that would also be
interfering. You must progress
on your own.

NURIA

As we will. You've shown us
that nothing is beyond our reach.

PICARD

Not even the stars.

NURIA

I wish you good journeys, Picard.
Remember my people.

PICARD

Always.

104 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as she breaks orbit and leaves Mintaka Three behind.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END