

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Sins of the Father"
#40273-165

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FINAL DRAFT

JANUARY 5, 1990

STAR TREK: "Sins of the Father" - 1/5/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Sins of the Father"

CAST

PICARD	KURN
RIKER	K'MPEC
DATA	DURAS
BEVERLY	KAHLEST
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
	KLINGON SUPERNUMERARIES
TRANSPORTER TECH	KLINGON COUNCIL MEMBERS
	TWO KLINGON ASSASSINS
Non-Speaking	KLINGON GUARD
SUPERNUMERARIES	KLINGON WOMAN CLERK

STAR TREK: "Sins of the Father" 1/5/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Sins of the Father"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
 TURBOLIFT
 CORRIDOR
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 TEN FORWARD
 SICKBAY
 CAPTAIN'S DINING ROOM
 KURN'S QUARTERS

KLINGON CITY
 ANTE ROOM
 GREAT HALL
 PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL
 KLINGON HOME
 K'MPEC'S CHAMBERS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
KLINGON SHIP (STOCK)
KLINGON CITY (MATTE)
 OLD CITY STREET
 KLINGON HOME

STAR TREK: "Sins of the Father" - 1/8/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Sins of the Father"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

biHnuch	bekh-NOOCH*
cha'DIch	cha-DICH*
DURAS	DYUR-as
'el	L
ghIj qet jaghmeyjaj	geej ket JAG-mee-jaj
ghojmoK	GOJ-mok
Ha'DIbah	KHA-di-bakh
JA'ROD	JAH-rod
jIlaj	jil-LAZH
jIlajneS	jil-LAZH-nesh
KAHLEST	KAY-lest
K'MPEC	KIM-peck
KHITOMER	KIT-to-mur
KURN	KURN
kut'luch	cut-LUCH*
len'mat	LIN-mat
LORGH	LORG
Mek'ba	MICK-bah
mev yap	MIV-yap
MOGH	MOHG

STAR TREK: "Sins of the Father" - 1/8/90 - PRONUNCIATION

CONTINUED:

nuqneH	nook-NEKH
nuqneHneS	nook-NEKH-nesh
PAGH	PAH
patahk	PAH-tock
Qapla'	khap-LA
seloh	SEE-low
tam	TOM
tlhIH ghIj jIHyoj	te-LIKH gizh jikh-YOZH
tuHmoH	tookh-MOKH

* ch as in chew or artichoke.

NOTE: Many Klingon words are pronounced with guttural or vibrating vocal cord sounds. See reference by Marc Okrand (provided separately).

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Sins of the Father"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND KLINGON SHIP (OPTICAL)

The two ships facing each other (STOCK FOOTAGE).

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43685.2
As part of a continuing exchange
program, the Enterprise is taking
aboard a Klingon officer to return
the recent visit of Commander
Riker to the cruiser Pagh.

2 INT. CORRIDOR

PICARD and RIKER are walking along the corridor toward
the Transporter Room.

PICARD

We must take care that while he
is with us, Commander Kurn is
accorded all the rights and
responsibilities due the first
officer of this ship. If he
should feel patronized in any
way...

RIKER

We'd know about it, sir. One does
not patronize a Klingon warrior.

PICARD

I'm quite sure your experience
aboard the Pagh will prove
invaluable during the commander's
tour. Be sure that the crew is
prepared for any... unusual
orders.

RIKER

The Klingons are very thorough,
Captain. I'm sure Commander Kurn
has studied for his assignment
with us just as I studied to serve
with them.

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(acknowledges)
I understand that he specifically
requested the Enterprise...

Moving into --

3 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard and Riker ENTER. TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN is
waiting at the console.

TECHNICIAN
Commander Kurn is ready for
transport, Captain.

PICARD
Energize.

The Technician works the console and the Transporter
EFFECT begins. Kurn materializes on the stage. Kurn
is clad in full Klingon regalia... he bears a striking
resemblance to Worf and is about the same age. Picard
and Riker step forward in greeting.

PICARD
Welcome aboard the Enterprise,
Commander. I am Captain Picard.

Kurn steps off the stage. There is a slightly awkward
moment as Kurn remembers the human custom of greeting.
He hesitates only briefly and then extends his hand.
Picard smiles and shakes his hand. Kurn responds
politely, but it sounds rehearsed and stilted.

KURN
Thank... you, Captain. I am ready
for duty.

PICARD
This is Commander William Riker
who will be yielding the first
officer's position to you during
your tour...

KURN
(to Riker)
You are relieved.
(to Picard)
May I take my station, Captain?

3 CONTINUED:

Picard and Riker react to the Klingon's impatience.

RIKER
I thought that I might show you
your quarters...

Riker stops as he sees fire come to Kurn's eyes
struggling to keep his temper.

KURN
(to Picard)
I am ready for duty, sir. I ask
that I be allowed to take my
station.

Picard and Riker exchange a glance.

PICARD
Very well... If you will
accompany us to the bridge...

They head for the door. There is a slight moment of
awkwardness as Riker almost goes through the door ahead
of Kurn. Riker catches himself and allows Kurn to go
first. Kurn glares at this near-breach of protocol,
but says nothing.

4 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WESLEY at Conn, WORF at Tactical, DATA in Command. Picard,
Riker and Kurn ENTER from the turbolift. Picard leads
Kurn down into the Command area. Everyone watches to
see the reaction as Worf and Kurn see each other for
the first time. Worf is uncomfortable. Kurn runs his
eyes over him... silently taking his measure of Worf...
then looks away as if he'd seen nothing worth his time.

PICARD
May I present your bridge crew...

And it is a question, so Kurn feels free to answer --

KURN
Unnecessary, Captain. I am
prepared to take command.

PICARD
(reacts)
Proceed.

4 CONTINUED:

KURN

(to the crew)

I am Kurn, commander rank, Klingon Defense Force. You will address me as "Commander" or "sir" at all times.

Moving about the bridge... making strong, challenging eye contact... bellicose...

KURN

I am fully aware of all Starfleet regulations. They will be strictly adhered to by all personnel while I am in command. It is my intention to bring a sense of discipline that you may not be accustomed to.

The last is said at Worf... then to Picard --

KURN

(continuing)

With your permission, of course, Captain.

Picard rather enjoys this, covers it.

PICARD

By all means, Commander.

Wesley throws a do-you-believe-this glance to Riker. Kurn notices, moves face to face with Wesley...

KURN

Do you wish to speak, Acting Ensign Wesley Crusher?

Wesley is surprised that he knows his name.

WESLEY

Nosir, Commander, sir.

KURN

(to the crew)

I have studied all your service records. Impressive. We shall see if you live up to your reputations. The crew awaits your orders, Captain.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard looks around the bridge and sees his crew sitting straight, alert, indeed ready. Picard swallows a grin and sits in the captain's chair. It takes Kurn a couple seconds to realize where his place is, but then sits down with confidence in Riker's accustomed seat. Riker moves to the seat on the other side of Picard.

PICARD
(casually)
Take us into the outer cometary
cloud, Commander.

KURN
(booming)
Set course one-one-four, mark
two-three-zero, one-third impulse
power!

WESLEY
(works console)
Aye sir.

KURN
Execute!
(Wesley works furiously)
Execute!

WESLEY
(a little rattled)
Engaged. Increasing to one-third
impulse power, sir.

Kurn grunts and shakes his head. As Picard sits back, even faced, knowing we're in for an interesting ride...

CUT TO:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship accelerates to full impulse power.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 INT. TEN FORWARD

Riker ENTERS, sees Wesley at a table and goes over to him. Wesley is staring into space with a look of unhappiness on his face.

RIKER
Mind if I join you?

WESLEY
No, sir.

RIKER
(sits down)
Something wrong, Wesley?

WESLEY
No, sir.

RIKER
(beat)
Commander Kurn perhaps?

WESLEY
He... just doesn't seem to like me, sir. I can't do anything right for him. Every time I respond to one of his orders... he jumps down my throat. I'm not sure what I'm doing wrong.

RIKER
He's just...

Riker's voice trails off as he notices that GEORDI has just come up to the table looking outraged.

RIKER
Problem, Geordi?

Geordi hesitates slightly, he doesn't really want to bother Riker with his problems, but he's clearly at the end of his rope.

GEORDI
Well, sir... it's our new first officer.

7 CONTINUED:

RIKER
(can't help but smile)
I take it he found something wrong
in Engineering?

GEORDI
(exasperated)
Just the entire section. He made
a surprise inspection in the
middle of a maintenance cycle!
I tried to explain to him, but...

RIKER
He wouldn't listen.

GEORDI
We're all going to be doing double
shifts to get things ready for
the next inspection.

RIKER
(to both of them)
His style of command is just
different. Klingons believe in
a strict formality of command and
obedience.

GEORDI
But this isn't a Klingon ship.
He's got to loosen up a little,
Commander.

WESLEY
It's not just us. He's leaning
pretty hard on everybody except...
(hesitates)

Off Riker's look...

GEORDI
Except the one guy who wouldn't
mind it...

8 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON WORF

Kurn in Command, Worf at his station.

WORF
Sensors picking up asteroidal
debris ahead, Commander.

8 CONTINUED:

KURN

Can you identify the coordinates,
Mister Worf?

Kurn stands up and moves up the ramp to the Tactical station.

WORF

Bearing zero-zero-one, mark
point-oh-three, range three
hundred thousand kilometers.

KURN

Excellent. Please scan the
asteroid field for me, Lieutenant,
and report.

WORF

Approximately two thousand small
objects, none in our direct flight
path, sir.

Kurn is now standing near Worf. Kurn's attitude is easy, gentle, almost as if he thinks he might bruise Worf if he isn't careful. As Kurn's manner becomes more soothing and polite, Worf slowly begins to overheat at this treatment.

KURN

So, no course correction is
necessary, is that what you're
saying?

WORF

(tightly)

It should not be needed,
Commander.

KURN

Very good, Lieutenant. You
handled that well.

This is too much for Worf. He looks sharply at Kurn. Kurn notices... challenging --

KURN

Yes?

Worf looks away from Kurn... stares straight ahead. Kurn studies him for a moment.

8AA EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Cruising at one-third impulse.

8A INT. TURBOLIFT

Riker is inside as the door opens and Kurn ENTERS.

RIKER
(greeting)
Commander.

Kurn nods an acknowledgement...

RIKER
Captain's mess... ?

KURN
Yes.

RIKER
(to computer)
Resume.

The doors shut and they proceed. A beat of silence for a few steps before Riker decides to bring up what's been on his mind.

RIKER
Your knowledge of our systems and
procedures is very impressive...
(off his look)
...Sir.

Getting a little tired of this...

RIKER
I would like to make one
suggestion, sir.

KURN
A suggestion...

Friendly, charming --

RIKER
When I served aboard the Pagh,
the hardest part for me was in
recognizing and adapting to the
demands of the crew. They needed
an iron hand. They wanted it.
(MORE)

8A CONTINUED:

RIKER (Cont'd)

I can imagine how difficult it must be for you to work with a crew that is so different. I'd be happy to guide you in this regard if it would be helpful.

KURN

(beat)

No. It wouldn't.

The door opens. As Kurn begins to exit...

RIKER

(a little burned)

This is not a Klingon ship, sir.

Kurn pauses, glances threateningly back at Riker --

KURN

No, Commander, it is not. If it were a Klingon ship, I would have killed you for offering your... "suggestion".

And EXITS. Riker reacts...

8B INT. CAPTAIN'S DINING ROOM - CLOSE ON A ROASTED TURKEY (REPLICATED)

As a hand puts a carving knife to work... and pull back to see Picard in a chef's apron, carving at the head of an elaborate buffet table. Kurn observes, in line near Geordi.

KURN

(concerned)

How long has the bird been dead? It appears to have been lying in the sun for some time.

GEORDI

(reacts)

It's not really dead, it's replicated. But you do understand we... cook many of our foods...

8B CONTINUED:

KURN

Ah yes... I was told to prepare
for that... I will try some of
your burned replicated bird meat.

8B CONTINUED: (2)

Picard puts a slice on his plate.

PICARD

I have attempted to select a menu
that will allow you to sample a
variety of dishes, Commander.

And indeed, the table is filled with a variety of
foods... and garnished with a beautiful flower
centerpiece... all the senior officers are there,
filling up their plates... Riker, Geordi, Worf,
BEVERLY, TROI, Data. Mozart is playing in the
background.

BEVERLY

Try some caviar...

KURN

The odor is not palatable. What
is it?

DATA

The unhatched eggs of a large
scaleless fish.

Kurn reacts, are you serious... ?

PICARD

It is from the Caspian Sea on
Earth, Commander. A delicacy and
a personal favorite of mine. Our
replicators have never done it
justice. I managed to store a
few cases aboard for special
occasions...

Kurn reluctantly takes some.

KURN

(dubious)

I am honored, Captain.

And as he decides to finish this process of collecting
the Earth foods, he takes a good sampling of the
flowers from the centerpiece and puts them on his
plate.

8C ANGLE - THE DINNER TABLE

As Kurn sits opposite Troi... the others follow to the
table... Worf chooses not to be too close to Kurn.

8C CONTINUED:

TROI

Are you adjusting to your new environment, Commander?

KURN

I find the constraints quite difficult to conform to... I'm sure any Klingon warrior would...

Worf reacts... as Kurn continues, casually --

KURN

... just a short time ago, I had to stop myself from killing Commander Riker.

Troi laughs before realizing Kurn is not joking. During all this, Kurn eats with much gusto and noise and with his hands... then slowly realizes the others are waiting for the others to sit before they begin to eat...

KURN

I believe he was trying to communicate the crew's discomfort with my style of command... under different circumstances, I would take that as a challenge to my authority.

Picard now joins them at the table... and everyone starts to eat with their knives and fork, quite daintily... Kurn watches tries awkwardly to imitate...

PICARD

One of the goals of the exchange program is for all of us to learn tolerance, Commander. As for my crew, it may be healthy to shake up the status quo occasionally. Feel free to disagree, Mister Riker...

Picard is deliberately displaying a casual example of starship command by welcoming disagreement...

RIKER

Well, I'd say the commander certainly has the crew on their toes...

8C CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI
... And then some.
(quickly realizing his
error, to Kurn)
No offense meant, sir...

KURN
None taken. I never kill anyone
at the supper table, Mister La
Forge.

Kurn has struggled the best he can with his dinner,
cannot eat any more...

BEVERLY
Don't you like it, Commander?

KURN
(trying to be tactful)
Our food has much more... taste
to it. While I'm sure this is...
well prepared, it is far too bland
for the stomach of a Klingon...

And the natural glance in the room has to be at Worf
who is enjoying his meal when he hears Kurn say this...

GEORDI
It seems to agree with Worf.

KURN
Yes.

And Worf feels extremely self-conscious, promptly
losing his appetite... and Kurn glances at him out of
the corner of his eye to put a little punctuation into
the moment...

9
thru OMITTED
10

11 INT. KURN'S QUARTERS

Kurn is standing near the table, looking over some
information on a computer terminal. The door CHIMES.

KURN
Enter.

11 CONTINUED:

He turns around and the door opens, revealing Worf standing in the corridor. Worf does not enter right away.

KURN
'el (Enter.)

Worf steps into the room, stands stiffly at attention.

WORF
Permission to speak freely, sir?

KURN
For what purpose?

WORF
I have questions I wish to pose.

Kurn looks around his cabin with disdain and ignores Worf's request for the moment.

KURN
Are your quarters so...
comfortable?

WORF
They serve me.

KURN
This entire ship seems built
for... comfort, relaxation, being
at ease. It is not the ship for
a warrior... not the ship for a
Klingon.

Worf says nothing, and after a beat Kurn returns to Worf's request.

KURN
You cannot ask these questions
within the boundaries of protocol?

Worf is definitely agitated. Kurn's attitude is really getting under his skin.

WORF
They are... of a personal nature,
sir.

Kurn thinks for a second and then sits down.

11 CONTINUED: (2)

KURN

Permission granted. Pose your questions.

Now we can see a little more of the fires that are burning within Worf. His entire demeanor now changes and he cannot prevent the anger he feels from rising to the surface.

WORF

I wish to know if I have given you offense.

KURN

I am not a human... if you had given offense, you would not need to ask.

WORF

Perhaps I have not performed my duties to your satisfaction?

KURN

I find you to be a capable Starfleet officer. A credit to your ship.

WORF

Yet you dishonor me at every opportunity.

KURN

Have I? I was not aware that being polite to a Starfleet officer would bring dishonor on him.

WORF

(very tight)
I am a Klingon.

Kurn looks at him almost with amusement. He decides to push a little harder. Kurn stands and casually turns away from Worf.

KURN

Really?

(beat)

Perhaps your blood has thinned in this environment. I simply don't want to... hurt you.

11 CONTINUED: (3)

This too much. Worf explodes with rage. He snarls a roar of challenge and moves to Kurn, knocking over a chair and small table in the process. Kurn whirls, ready for anything, but brings Worf up short before they can actually exchange blows.

KURN

mev yap! (That is enough!)

Worf stops, but it is a struggle. Kurn relaxes a bit, but is still ready in case Worf should move on him. Kurn looks over Worf with satisfaction... "that's more like it!"

KURN

So... your blood is not so thin after all.

WORF

I am Klingon... if you doubt it, a demonstration can be arranged.

KURN

That is the response of a Klingon. The response I would expect... from my... older brother.

Push in on Worf's reaction to this news.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship is cruising at impulse speed.

13 INT. KURN'S QUARTERS

A short time later. Kurn is acting less like Worf's superior and more like his brother. But there is still tension between them. He goes to a window, looks out. He is thinking back over the early years of his life and we can see the shadows pass before his eyes.

KURN

I was barely a year old when you went to the Khitomer Outpost. The outpost was new... unfinished. You... our mother and father were not going to stay long. It was decided that I did not need to go. I was left with our father's friend, Lorgh, until you returned.

(beat)

You never did.

WORF

The Starfleet officer that rescued me was told by the Klingon High Command that I had no living relatives.

KURN

They assumed I was killed with the family at Khitomer.

Moving to Worf...

KURN

Lorgh had no sons. He took me into his family. It was not until I had reached the Age of Ascension that I was told the truth.

WORF

So you asked to serve aboard the Enterprise... to watch me.

13 CONTINUED:

KURN

It was an excellent opportunity to find out what kind of Klingon you were... or if you were Klingon at all.

WORF

Your deception offends me, brother.

KURN

(pleased)

It should. But it was required.

WORF

To satisfy your curiosity.

KURN

No. Much more. You are the eldest son. The challenge is yours to make.

WORF

Challenge... ?

KURN

The Klingon High Council has judged our father a traitor to the empire.

On Worf's reaction...

14 INT. READY ROOM

Picard and Worf. Picard has just learned the news, reacts with concern.

PICARD

What are the allegations, Worf?

WORF

My father is accused of aiding and abetting the Romulan attack on the Khitomer outpost.

PICARD

The attack in which he himself was killed... ?

WORF

It is a lie.

14 CONTINUED:

PICARD

But why now... after twenty years?

WORF

I do not know, Captain. I will hear the evidence when I arrive. The charge has been made by Duras, the son of my father's greatest rival.

(beat)

Our family name will be disgraced for seven generations. It is my responsibility to clear his name or answer for his crimes.

PICARD

Answer for them?

WORF

The family of a Klingon warrior is responsible for his actions and he is responsible for theirs. If I fail in my challenge, I will be executed.

(beat)

Will you grant my leave, Captain?

A long beat as Picard mulls this with great concern. Then...

PICARD

No.

Worf reacts.

PICARD

If I understand correctly, a Starfleet officer, a respected member of my crew could stand accused of a capital crime. Your actions in this matter reflect on this ship and the Federation.

(beat, personal)

Therefore, it seems only appropriate for your captain to be at your side as you make your challenge, Lieutenant. I'm sure you would do no less for me.

On Worf's reaction...

15 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Kurn, Riker, Troi in Command. Data, and Wes at their stations. Picard and Worf ENTER from Ready Room.

PICARD
Commander Kurn...

KURN
Sir.

PICARD
We are changing course. Set
coordinates for the First City
of the Klingon Imperial Empire.

Kurn reacts with surprise. He had not expected the Enterprise itself to change course. Kurn looks over at Worf and we can see respect forming in their relationship.

KURN
Mister Crusher...

WES
(instantly)
Sir!

KURN
Lay in a course for the Klingon
System. Bearing one-four-five
by two-four-oh...

WES
(overlapping Kurn)
Ready sir!

Kurn is pleased. Quite calmly --

KURN
Execute.

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship makes a sweeping turn and accelerates to warp speed.

17 INT. TEN-FORWARD (OPTICAL)

Worf is seated by the forward windows, lost in thought. Kurn ENTERS, sees Worf and then goes over to him.

17 CONTINUED:

KURN

We arrive within the hour.

WORF

Yes.

KURN

The Council will receive you at
high sun in the Great Hall of--

WORF

I know the procedures of the
challenge.

Kurn nods. He's beginning to look at Worf in a
different way... as his older brother rather than as
a Klingon in a Starfleet uniform.

KURN

You'll need a cha'DIch to defend
you. While you are accused, you
will not be allowed combat.

Pause a beat as Kurn decides to take the next step.

KURN

I would be honored if you chose
me.

Worf looks at Kurn and can see that his brother's
opinion of him has started to change. Worf himself
is starting to think of this as their fight rather than
just his.

WORF

(formally)

I ask you to stand with me...
to be my cha'DIch.

KURN

jIlajneS. ghIj qet jaghmeyjaj.
(I accept. May your enemies run
with fear.) The two sons of Mogh
-- together, we shall restore the
family honor.

WORF

No. For the proceeding, you will
not reveal your true father.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

KURN
(reacts)
I must...

WORF
(firm)
You will not.

KURN
(understands)
Because it would mean my death
as well if you fail. A Klingon's
honor means more than his life.
Perhaps your human values cloud
your judgment. I insist...

WORF
On this ship, you are my
commander. And I obey. In the
council chamber, you are my
cha'DIch. You do not insist.
You obey.

And now the reversal of roles is complete.

KURN
(with due respect)
Yes, brother.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND KLINGON HOME WORLD
(OPTICAL)

The ship enters orbit. The planet has a single large
land mass, and the world is dominated by a vast ocean.
The tilt of the planet's axis has created wild seasonal
changes and the atmosphere should appear turbulent and
showing extremes of both warm and frigid weather on
the planet.

19 EXT. THE FIRST CITY (MATTE SHOT)

A large, sprawling city that was once an enormous
fortress. The architecture should reflect a soldier's
sensibilities for ease of defense and Spartan
decoration. The city is dominated by the Great Hall.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ANTE ROOM (OPTICAL)

A spare, simple room adjacent to the Great Hall, which can be entered through an ornate door. There is a table, chairs and a few decorations. It is basically a waiting room for the Great Hall. Picard, Troi, Riker, Worf, and Kurn BEAM IN.

Taking in their surroundings --

RIKER

(quietly to Picard)

There was a time... when just standing here would have been a death sentence for us.

WORF

Captain, I am honored that you... Commander Riker... Counselor Troi... have chosen to accompany me. Your presence will surely impress the council.

PICARD

We're here as long as you need us, Worf.

WORF

Once I make the challenge, I assume the sins of my father. I will be in disgrace until his innocence is proven. I would request that you not remain for the entire proceeding.

TROI

You will never be a disgrace to us, Worf.

KURN

It is a matter of personal honor to my brother.

PICARD

I understand.

(to Kurn)

You will advise us when it is appropriate to depart.

WORF

(somber)

It will be clear.

20 CONTINUED:

He moves toward door and they follow him to...

21 INT. GREAT HALL

Worf, Kurn, Picard, Troi, Riker, ENTER. The hall is a parliament/supreme court/public square. One end of the room is dominated by a raised dais with chairs for the High Council. There is a large, open floor area and the floor itself is emblazoned with the triangular Klingon insignia. There should be small partitions to suggest that the room is used for a variety of functions. Several KLINGON SUPERNUMERARIES are present. There is a general buzz of noise which builds as our characters enter the hall. The COUNCIL MEMBERS, including K'MPEC and DURAS ENTER the Hall and take their seats at the dais. The council members are mostly older Klingons, with one or two young upstarts.

Worf and Kurn lead the way to the center of the room. Worf stands squarely in the center of the insignia on the floor, Kurn at his side, the others behind them. The crowd moves back and stands at the edges of the insignia. A hushed silence falls over the hall. People glare at Worf and the others from the Enterprise. Worf faces the council squarely.

WORF

I am Worf, son of Mogh. I have
come to challenge the lies that
have been spoken of my father.

A buzz goes around the room as we...

22 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22A EXT. KLINGON FIRST CITY - MATTE SHOT - DAY

23 INT. GREAT HALL

As before. Worf still facing the council. K'mpec now stands and addresses Worf.

K'MPEC

Worf, son of Mogh, you have challenged the judgment of the council. Are you prepared to answer for this if you fail?

WORF

With my life, K'mpec.

K'mpec now turns his attention to Kurn.

K'MPEC

Why do you come before us, Commander?

KURN

I am Kurn, son of... Lorgh. I will stand by Worf's side. I am cha'DIch.

K'mpec nods to a GUARD, who steps forward and hands Kurn a ceremonial scabbard and short sword which Kurn will wear from now on. Duras stands and walks down to Worf and Kurn. His attitude is hostile.

DURAS

(to Worf)

You claim a birthright you have forsaken.

WORF

I have not forsaken my heritage. I am Klingon. My heart is of this world... my blood is as yours.

DURAS

Yet you come to us wearing a child's uniform...

(looks at Picard)

And you bring outsiders to our hall.

23 CONTINUED:

Picard steps forward.

PICARD

I am here at my own request.
(moving forward, to
council)

I am Captain Picard of the
Enterprise. I extend greetings
on behalf of the Federation.

DURAS

Your words have no meaning here.

K'mpec raises a hand, silencing Duras, and waits for
Picard to continue.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf has served under
my command with distinction. He
has earned my admiration and my
respect. It is my greatest wish
that this council in its wisdom
will clear his family name and
return him to duty.

K'MPEC

(nods with satisfaction)
The trust of a commanding officer
is admirable... the council has
noted it.

Picard glances at Worf, then moves off to the side with
Troi and Riker. That done, K'mpec turns his attention
back to Worf.

K'MPEC

Speak the accusation.

Duras moves forward again.

DURAS

(to council)
For many turns, the truth about
Khitomer has lain dormant...
unknown. Now the truth is
revealed. The traitor, Mogh, sent
the defense access code to the
Romulan patrol ships and allowed
them to destroy the outpost.

(MORE)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

DURAS (Cont'd)
(to crowd)
Thousands died on Khitomer... my
father died on Khitomer. Their
deaths must be avenged!

The crowd grumbles for a moment.

23A OMITTED

23B ANGLE ON DURAS AND WORF

DURAS
(steps close to Worf)
Your father was a traitor! By
posing this challenge, you are
a traitor!

Duras slaps Worf hard.

23C PICARD, RIKER, TROI

react.

23D ANGLE ON DURAS AND WORF

Duras grabs the sash on Worf's chest.

DURAS
You will not wear the emblems of
our people!

Duras rips the sash from Worf as the crowd look on.

24 PICARD - CLOSEUP (OPTICAL)

His eyes deeply troubled for his officer... knows it is time to leave.

PICARD
(activates com badge)
Picard to Enterprise. Three to beam up.

The away team BEAMS OUT.

25 OMITTED

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, and Troi ENTER from turbolift.

PICARD
(quietly)
Mister Data... I want you to find out everything you can about the destruction of the Khitomer outpost. Cross reference with Romulan tactics and strategic information on the region. Request access to the Klingon central information net.
(on the move to Ready Room)
Computer. Presentation overview of Klingon custom and law pertaining to familial accountability.

COMPUTER VOICE
Acknowledged.

PICARD
In my Ready Room.

Picard heads toward his Ready Room, and Data moves to one of the Aft Science Stations.

CUT TO:

27 INT. GREAT HALL

As before. Duras and Worf still face each other in the Hall. Worf's sash lies on the ground in tatters.

27 CONTINUED:

DURAS

You are a fool. Your challenge
will only result in a fool's
death.

WORF

(coolly)

It is a good day to die, Duras...
and the day is not yet over.

Duras returns to his place, and K'mpec stands.

K'MPEC

The council stands in recess.
We will return for the mek'ba,
when the evidence will be
presented. Qapla' (Success! --
a traditional Klingon parting)

The crowd begins to break up and the council adjourns.
Duras and Worf scowl at each other, but they move off
in different directions.

28 ON WORF AND KURN

They move off to one side of the hall where they can
plan their strategy, but before they can speak, K'mpec
approaches them. Worf and Kurn straighten up at the
sight of him.

K'MPEC

(to Worf)

I would speak with you alone.

A glance passes between Worf and Kurn, but one does
not turn down such a request by a member of the
council. Kurn bows his head briefly and moves a few
feet away to give them privacy.

29 ON WORF AND K'MPEC

as they move into a small cul de sac in the hall.

30 ON KURN

he is watching for any move against him or Worf. A KLINGON WOMAN CLERK is routinely distributing PADDs to members of the council... laying them on desks, etc. As she comes to Kurn, she puts it on his desk and gives him a special look that points him toward the PADD, then moves off. He discovers a note underneath it... He reads it... glances at Worf... then heads out of the hall.

31 ON WORF AND K'MPEC

As before.

K'MPEC

You should not have brought the challenge... there was no risk to you... what does it matter... ?

WORF

(not understanding)

I am Klingon...

K'MPEC

Of that I have no question. But your life in the Federation would not be affected by this judgment.

WORF

My father...

K'MPEC

Is dead. He died long ago.

(beat)

I knew your father, served with him... this is not the way I wanted to remember him. But we must let the past be and protect what we have now.

Worf gives him an enigmatic look.

31 CONTINUED:

K'MPEC

If you leave before the mek'ba...
no shame will fall on you. Return
to your ship... go back to your
life. The challenge will be
forgotten.

WORF

Why would you ask me to lay aside
the honor of my father... my
family... Are these the words
of the council... ?

K'mpec considers Worf. He is angry, but there is a
trace of sadness in his voice.

K'MPEC

(draws himself up)
I will not be questioned by you!
Leave now or you too will be
condemned as a traitor.

K'mpec leaves. Worf reacts, wonders what the hell that
was about...

CUT TO:

32
thru OMITTED
36

36A INT. MAIN BRIDGE (FORMERLY SCENE 40)

Data and Riker are at one of the Aft Science Stations
looking at INFORMATION scrolling across one of the
screens. Geordi stands nearby, watching their work
with curiosity.

DATA

The Klingon council is refusing
to allow us access to their
information net, Commander.

Riker lets out a breath in irritation.

36A CONTINUED:

RIKER
On what basis?

DATA
Orders of a member of the council.

RIKER
Duras...

36B ANGLE - GEORDI

overhears... begins to get an idea and moves quietly
over to another station to begin work.

36C BACK TO DATA AND RIKER

RIKER
What Federation starship was
closest to Khitomer at the time
of the attack?

DATA
The USS Intrepid, sir. They
were the first ship on the scene.

RIKER
Contact Starfleet, request all logs
of the Intrepid...
(to Com)
Riker to Doctor Crusher.

BEVERLY
Crusher here...

RIKER
Doctor, I want you to look over
the medical records of all rescue
vessels that responded to the
Khitomer massacre... see if there
is any information on the aftermath
that could help us.

36C CONTINUED:

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
Understood.

GEORDI
Uh, Commander, could I see you
a moment...

Riker moves to Geordi's station...

GEORDI
(lying)
I was just making a few routine
entries... and somehow, by
accident, I just happened to...
access the Klingon information
net.

Data and Riker react.

DATA
How could you obtain access
without the proper authorization
codes?

RIKER
I don't think we want to know,
Data.

As he exchanges a glance with Geordi, they begin
investigation of the files.

CUT TO:

37 INT. PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL

Kurn is waiting... after a few seconds, Duras
approaches him in the tunnel. Kurn prepares for an
attack.

KURN
I should have known... come then
Duras. Worf was right... it is
a good day to die.

DURAS
That time has not yet come.
(beat, then
conspiratorially)
It does not have to come for many
turns. I know who you are,
Kurn... son of Mogh.

37 CONTINUED:

KURN

(taken off-guard)

What?

DURAS

A strange decision to serve as his cha'DIch. I was curious to know why. Nothing can be hidden from me, Kurn.

(beat)

It was a wise choice to hide your family name -- do not err by embracing it again... for you only embrace death.

KURN

We will see.

DURAS

Worf has made his choice and he will die for it. But you are still safe. Let him stand alone. He is no longer your brother... he is not one of us. I promise you no one will learn of your family line. You'll have your rank... maybe even a command of your own.

KURN

He is my brother. I will not betray him!

We can see the rage boil up in Duras, but he just manages to keep control of it.

DURAS

Then you will die for him.

Duras turns quickly and leaves. Kurn watches him go... looks around the empty tunnel and is about to leave when TWO KLINGON ASSASSINS suddenly attack him from behind. Kurn is caught off guard, but he manages to shake off the first attack.

The assassins are wielding vicious-looking, yet ornate weapons.

Kurn pulls his own knife and tries to keep them at bay... the fight is brutal and no quarter will be given by either side.

37 CONTINUED: (2)

Kurn manages to disable one of the assassins, but the other slips under his guard and drives the weapon deep into Kurn's side.

Kurn falls to the ground. The assassin twists the weapon viciously and then takes his companion and flees. Kurn is seriously injured and passes out. Linger on his prone form...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship is cruising in orbit.

39 INT. SICKBAY

Kurn is lying on the operating table, post op. A MEDICAL SUPERNUMERARY is checking on him using the surgical clamshell. Beverly moves to Worf nearby. Worf's spirits are beginning to sag.

BEVERLY

What kind of vicious weapon makes
a wound like that... ?

WORF

A kut'luch... the ceremonial
weapon of an assassin.

BEVERLY

Fortunately, his metabolic
recovery is phenomenal... he'll
be all right...

WORF

It does not matter. We should
have let him die.

Beverly reacts with shock, but Worf ignores her look.

WORF

Now that Duras knows his
bloodline, we will both be
executed.

BEVERLY

You sound like you've already
lost, Worf.

Worf just looks at her, that's how he feels, and EXITS.

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Data, Riker and Geordi are still looking through the Klingon computer files at two science stations. Data calls Riker to join him...

40 CONTINUED:

DATA

Commander, I have discovered the basis of the charges against Worf's father.

They move to look over his shoulder...

DATA

Apparently the Klingons recently captured a Romulan ship with logs that provided new information on the Khitomer attack. They clearly indicate a transmission from the outpost to the Romulans moments before the shields dropped.

GEORDI

From Worf's father?

DATA

(calling something up)
It does correspond to Mogh's personal security code.

Riker and Geordi frown.

RIKER

How can we be sure these records haven't been falsified?

GEORDI

We can cross check them against the Intrepid's sensor logs...

DATA

(operating controls)
I will try... but the Intrepid was at the edge of sensor range during the attack and we cannot be sure if the scans are complete.

Data works the console and the screen shows the resulting information.

GEORDI

Looks like a pretty good match-up, Data...

INTERCUT:

40A THE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

shows a split screen of parallel lines scrolling with various coded signals displayed (Okudagrams). Both sides match exactly.

DATA

Both the Intrepid and Romulan logs show a series of distress signals from Khitomer...

When gaps appear on the left split screen...

RIKER

What happens here...

GEORDI

Gaps in the Intrepid logs, missing information because of the range...

Data pauses the scroll.

DATA

This is where Mogh's alleged transmission should be.

RIKER

(frowns)

Right in the middle of a gap.

GEORDI

Wait a second, Data. Back up.

Geordi leans in and presses a few panels...

GEORDI

Look at this... just before the Intrepid gap begins, the timebase of both files are in perfect sync... but look at the signals just after the shields dropped.

Now on the monitor, the split screens clearly don't match.

DATA

They are no longer synchronous.

GEORDI

Commander, somebody's been rewriting history.

40A CONTINUED:

Off Riker's reaction.....

41
thru OMITTED
44

45 INT. READY ROOM

Picard and Worf. Picard is quite animated.

PICARD

I will not pretend to fully understand the nuances of your world's law or culture, Mister Worf. But I do understand when somebody is trying to hide something...

WORF

(considering this)

K'mpec urged me to drop my challenge, abandon my family honor... it was impossible to believe I was hearing a Klingon speak...

PICARD

Obviously, they did not expect and never wanted this challenge... you're getting close to something, Lieutenant... something they care a great deal about protecting...

WORF

If it is true, it is not just Duras but the High Council itself that is my enemy.

(beat)

Captain, I must choose a new cha'DIch. I would like your permission to ask a member of the crew.

PICARD

Of course, Lieutenant. Ask whomever you wish.

Worf hesitates, not sure what Picard's reaction will be. Picard waits for him to go on.

45 CONTINUED:

WORF

Sir, I would ask that you stand
with me.

45 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard reacts, very surprised.

WORF

(quickly)

You may refuse... with no
dishonor.

PICARD

I appreciate the gesture,
Lieutenant. But I know there are
stronger, younger men from which
to choose...

This is a difficult moment for Worf. He must actually
voice some of his inner feelings and motivations, and
it doesn't come easily.

WORF

A Klingon warrior knows that brute
strength is not the most important
asset in a fight. I have served
under you in many conflicts...
and know you to be a shrewd and
forceful opponent. I can think
of no one I would rather have at
my side.

Picard is moved by this expression of admiration by
his officer. There is a brief pause. Picard walks
over to Worf, looks him in the eye.

PICARD

(perfectly pronounced)

jIlajneS. ghIj qet jaghmeyjaj.
I accept.

Worf straightens up and his face again hardens with
determination.

46 INT. GREAT HALL

Duras is standing in a cul de sac, talking with the
two assassins seen earlier.

47 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The council ENTERS and sits in session. Picard and
Worf BEAM IN.

47 CONTINUED:

Duras reacts to them and moves away from the assassins. Worf moves forward to address the council and Duras.

WORF

(to Hall)

My challenge will proceed. No threat, no treachery will stop it.

(to Duras)

Not even a trap for my cha'DIch set by a coward.

Duras boils over and moves forward.

K'MPEC

(warning)

Duras...

DURAS

I will not listen to this filth from the son of a traitor...

Picard moves quickly in front of Worf in a defensive move and Duras is brought up short by this unexpected action. Duras is dumbfounded, and unsure just what the hell Picard thinks he's doing.

DURAS

Keep your place, Picard!

PICARD

This is my place.

WORF

He is now my cha'DIch.

The crowd REACTS to this news. Duras is outraged.

DURAS

(to K'mpec)

No! This cannot be allowed.

(to Picard)

This is not your world, human. You do not command here.

PICARD

I am not here to command.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

DURAS

Then you must be ready to fight...
something that Starfleet doesn't
teach you.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard confronts Duras directly. He's not taking any crap from this guy. Picard's voice is low and deadly.

PICARD
You may test that assumption...
at your convenience.

Duras's eyes narrow and they stand toe to toe for a few seconds before K'mpec intervenes.

K'MPEC
The cha'DIch is accepted.

DURAS
No!

Duras has stepped over the line and K'mpec's tone calls him on it.

K'MPEC
You challenge my authority?

Duras looks chastened at K'mpec, backs down. Picard gives Worf a look: "How was that?" Worf nods his head in approval. K'mpec motions to the guard, who then brings over a ceremonial scabbard and sword identical to the one that was given to Kurn.

K'MPEC
Mek'ba will begin.

48
thru OMITTED
49

50 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Data, Wesley, Geordi... Beverly ENTERS...

BEVERLY
I've got something...

She moves to a science station, sits at a position... calling up a file... Riker joins her...

BEVERLY
Worf was not the only survivor
of the Khitomer massacre.

RIKER
Another child?

50 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

No. A Klingon woman was found
with Worf.

The file is on the screen.

RIKER

Kahlest... who was she?

BEVERLY

I don't know. Just says here she
had severe injuries...
transferred to Starbase twenty-four
for treatment. That's when
she was separated from Worf.
After she recovered, she returned
home.

RIKER

We've got to find her if she's
still alive. Data, scan the
Klingon central net... see if
there's any record of her...

As Data goes to work...

51
thru OMITTED
52

53 INT. GREAT HALL

Duras is at the apex of the insignia on the floor,
addressing the entire hall. There is much noise and
frequent interruptions by angry reactions.

DURAS

... The Romulans lowered the
outpost shields themselves. They
were given the defense access
code! The records clearly show
the Romulan patrol ships receiving
a personal transmission from Mogh
just before they lowered the
outpost shields. Mogh betrayed
us. Four thousand Klingons died
on Khitomer... and only the son
of Mogh survived.

53A OMITTED

53B ON PICARD

His com badge BEEPS.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Riker to Captain Picard.

PICARD
(hits com badge)
Stand by.

Picard moves over to a cul de sac in the Hall. Duras continues his presentation in the b.g.

DURAS
The Khitomer commander noted in his log that Mogh had been acting suspiciously... that he was often away from his post for long periods of time. The commander found that Mogh was sending coded neutrino pulses to a sector within Romulan territory. A formal charge would have been made, but Mogh betrayed them and thousands were killed.

Over the above --

PICARD
(sotto voce)
Go ahead, Number One.

INTERCUT:

54 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker standing near science station.

RIKER
We've located another survivor of the Khitomer massacre, Captain... a woman who was found with Worf. Her name is Kahlest... she resides in the Old Quarter of the First City.

PICARD
Well done. Picard out.

54A NEW ANGLE

including Worf and the council. Duras is still going through his evidence.

54A CONTINUED:

DURAS

... another witness has testified
that Mogh often spoke of his
admiration for the Romulans...
Their culture... their women.

Jeers from the crowd.

PICARD

K'mpec.

K'mpec nods to Picard.

PICARD

May we have a... short recess?

K'MPEC

(nods)

Len'mat. (recess)

Picard and Worf move off to one side.

PICARD

Have you heard of a woman named
Kahlest?

WORF

She was my ghojmoK... my nurse.

PICARD

Then it's possible she was an
eyewitness to your father's
activities at Khitomer...

WORF

But she died in the attack---

PICARD

She survived. She's living in
the Old Quarter. I'm going to
find her.

WORF

It is too dangerous. You cannot
go alone.

54A CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
I am your cha'DIch.

Worf knows he's right and nods in agreement. Picard
EXITS.

55 ANGLE ON DURAS

who is watching Worf and Picard from a hidden vantage.
The two assassins stand behind Duras. As Duras leans
over and whispers to the two assassins...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

56 EXT OLD CITY STREET

A narrow, gloomy street in the oldest section of the capital city. A hooded figure in a cape moves down the street. The figure stops in front of a simple door, above which is a unique symbol (possibly a bigger representation of the emblem worn on Worf's sash?).

56A ON PICARD

as he moves the hood enough so we can see him. He looks around and then sounds the door CHIME. After a few seconds, the door slides aside and Picard goes in.

CUT TO:

57 INT. KLINGON HOME

Picard ENTERS from the street. The home is small, yet comfortable. The furnishings should be in contrast to the martial decor of the rest of the planet... this is the home of an old woman with no need to proclaim power or strength. Picard looks around for a few seconds, lets his eyes adjust to the dimmer light.

PICARD

Kahlest?

KAHLEST moves in the shadows. She does not step into the light yet, but answers from the safety of the darkness.

KAHLEST

What do you want?

PICARD

(toward direction of
voice)

Your help.

KAHLEST

No.

Kahlest moves out of the shadows and we can see that she is quite old by Klingon standards. She barely looks at Picard as they talk.

57 CONTINUED:

PICARD

You don't even know what I want.

KAHLEST

You are cha'Dich. I know.

PICARD

Then you know that Worf's life
is at stake.

KAHLEST

I cannot help. I am dead.
(a whisper)
A long time dead.

PICARD

Were you with Worf's father just
before the attack on Khitomer?

The the mention of Khitomer, Kahlest moves away from
Picard and her face becomes even more tired and
haggard. Her eyes are haunted.

KAHLEST

(vehemently)
I am dead!
(beat)
My... life ended on Khitomer.
I served a proud family... a
strong house. All that is gone.

PICARD

Worf is not gone, Kahlest. The
family you served needs you again.

KAHLEST

I cannot help.

PICARD

(quietly)
Was his father a traitor?

KAHLEST

(defensively)
No!
(proudly)
Mogh was loyal... to the emperor.
Mogh suspected someone of plotting
with the Romulans and followed
them to Khitomer.

Hope rising --

57 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Who? Who was the traitor?

KAHLEST

I do not know.

Disappointment. A beat. Thinking...

PICARD

We know a signal was sent to the
Romulans just before the attack...
if you were with Mogh and his
family...

KAHLEST

I was not. I was with Worf only.

PICARD

(sighs, concluding)

Then, there is no way to prove
Mogh's innocence, and Worf will
die as the son of a traitor.

KAHLEST

You must leave, cha'Dich. I am
dead.

Picard cannot think of anything else, EXITS.

58 EXT. OLD CITY STREET

Picard has left the house and is heading back up the street when the two assassins suddenly burst out of a recess in the wall and attack Picard. They are wielding the same ornate weapons seen earlier.

Picard is not the easy mark they had taken him for, however. The captain is able to move out of the way before they can land a blow on him. He brings Assassin #1 to the ground by whipping off his cape and throwing it with a flourish in Assassin #1's face.

Assassin #2 lunges forward with his weapon, but Picard has now pulled his own ceremonial sword and parries the thrust. Assassin #2 makes a hard thrust. Picard grabs the Klingon's hand and falls backward, yanking the Klingon off balance and bringing them both down. Picard holds his own sword steady and the Klingon falls directly on the point as he falls on top of Picard.

58 CONTINUED:

Assassin #1 is back on his feet and prepares to kill Picard as he's trapped under the fallen Klingon... when he suddenly grimaces in pain... as he falls we can see a knife sticking out of his back.

59 ON KAHLEST

standing in her doorway watching.

60 NEW ANGLE

including Picard and the Klingons. The first assassin is lying on the ground with knife that Kahlest had thrown sticking out of his back. Picard gets up and rubs his shoulder.

PICARD

My appreciation, madam.

KAHLEST

You are brave, cha'Dich. Worf chose well. Lessons hold.

She starts to return inside. Picard gets an idea.

PICARD

Kahlest, would they know who you are? Would they recognize you?

She pauses.

KAHLEST

K'mpec would remember Kahlest. I caught his eye back then. I had many suitors once. He wanted seloh (sex) with me. He was too fat.

PICARD

Then, come back with me. They do not know how much you know. Perhaps it will shake loose the truth.

60 CONTINUED:

Kahlest considers a beat... nods.

KAHLEST

I will come.

As Picard begins to hope again... they move past the fallen Klingons and...

61 INT. GREAT HALL

As before. Duras is finishing his presentation of evidence.

DURAS

The mek'ba is complete. The evidence is clear. I ask that the judgment stand... and that Worf be condemned as the son of a traitor to the Empire.

The crowd growls in agreement. Worf shows no reaction.

K'MPEC

Worf, son of Mogh...

K'mpec trails off as he notices something happening in the hall.

62 NEW ANGLE

Someone is making their way through the crowd to the Council... Picard and Kahlest finally step forward. Worf reacts to the sight of the woman from his childhood.

62 CONTINUED:

K'MPEC
tam (Be quiet!)

The crowd settles down and Picard and Kahlest move onto the insignia with Worf. K'mpec and Kahlest clearly know each other. Duras looks at K'mpec -- what the hell is this? K'mpec knows he has a problem.

PICARD
The mek'ba is not complete. I
bring an eyewitness to the
Khitomer massacre... with new
evidence, K'mpec.

K'mpec struggles a beat with how to handle this...

KAHLEST
Mogh was innocent.

There is no way K'mpec is going to let her continue.
He gruffly calls a recess.

K'MPEC
Len'mat.

The crowd begins to buzz with confusion. The council breaks up and K'mpec indicates that Picard, Worf and Kahlest should follow him. Duras goes with them toward a side door.

63 INT. K'MPEC'S CHAMBERS

A small, private room with a few decorations and furnishings. It is the Klingon version of a judge's chambers. K'mpec, Duras, Picard, Worf, and Kahlest ENTER.

DURAS
What is it you think you know,
old woman?

PICARD
(to Kahlest)
Do not answer.
(to K'mpec)
Rules of the mek'ba require that
her evidence be presented in open
council.

63 CONTINUED:

DURAS
(to Kahlest)
You will die before giving
evidence.

63 CONTINUED: (2)

KAHLEST

(to K'mpec)

You stand there while this patahk
threatens an old woman?

K'mpec realizes that things have gone too far and there
is no alternative.

K'MPEC

(to Duras)

Be silent, Duras. Would you kill
old women to cover your dishonor?

And Duras backs away... and Picard realizes he has the
lead he needs. Pulling the string...

PICARD

Yes, Duras, it is your dishonor
we are protecting here, isn't it?

DURAS

I have no reluctance to kill you,
human.

PICARD

Are you prepared to hear her
evidence in open council, Duras?

Duras glares at K'mpec... who hates all of this.

K'MPEC

Obviously, we are not. Kahlest,
you will go now.

63 CONTINUED: (3)

She acknowledges... at the door --

63 CONTINUED: (4)

K'MPEC

It is good to see you again.

KAHLEST

You are still fat, K'mpec.

And with a brief twinkle in her for Picard, she EXITS.
K'mpec regards Worf with regret. Shakes his head.

K'MPEC

I asked you to leave, to let this
judgment go unanswered... but
you did not hear my words, and
now it has come to this.

WORF

Why did you judge my father guilty
when you knew he was not?

K'MPEC

(apologetic)

Someone had to be blamed. The
warriors who captured the Romulan
ship had learned of the treachery.
But only the council knew whose
security code had been
transmitted. Ja'rod, father of
Duras.

WORF

(indicates Duras)

This Ha'DIbaH (animal) should have
been fed to the dogs!

K'MPEC

His family is powerful. If the
truth were known, it would shatter
the council... almost certainly
plunge us into civil war.

(looks at Worf)

You were in Starfleet... we did
not expect you to challenge the
judgment. Nor did we know that
there was another son of Mogh.

63 CONTINUED: (5)

PICARD

Worf's challenge is successful.
His family honor must be restored,
K'mpec.

K'MPEC

(regret)

You don't understand. His
challenge was defeated before he
ever made it. You will not be
allowed to present this evidence.
The judgment will stand and you
will be condemned... as will your
brother.

PICARD

You admit the truth and still
expect him to accept punishment.
What does this say of an empire
that holds honor so dear?

K'MPEC

The empire will not be destroyed
for one family's honor.

PICARD

This is unacceptable, K'mpec.

DURAS

You have no say in this, cha'DIch!

PICARD

I speak now as the captain of
the USS Enterprise and
Lieutenant Worf's commanding
officer. You will not execute
a member of my crew, sir. Nor
will I turn his brother over to
you.

K'MPEC

You risk much. This is not the
Federation, Picard. If you defy
the orders of the High Council
in an affair of the empire, the
alliance with the Federation
could fall to dust.

63 CONTINUED: (6)

PICARD

The alliance with the Federation is not based on lies! Protect your secrets if you must, but do not sacrifice these men.

DURAS

A true Klingon will not run from his judgment, Captain. No matter what you would have them do.

K'MPEC

What will you do with Kurn? Make him a Starfleet officer? He is a Klingon. When his tour aboard your ship is complete he will have no place to go. He would rather die.

WORF

I will die for the empire.

PICARD

Lieutenant...

Worf gives him a hard look --

WORF

The cha'DIch will be silent.

Picard blinks, shuts up.

WORF

Allow my brother to return to his life. Only you need know his true bloodline.

DURAS

Not acceptable. His honor would demand revenge. He is too dangerous.

WORF

If you allow him to live, I will give you something that will serve your purpose far more than my death. I will accept... discommendation.

K'mpec and Duras exchange a glance -- this is pretty good for them.

63 CONTINUED: (7)

DURAS

You would do this in open council?

Worf acknowledges.

K'MPEC

It would be the same as admitting
your father's guilt, Worf.

WORF

So be it.

K'MPEC

(with respect)

Your heart is Klingon. It will
be done.

(to others)

What has been said here will never
be spoken of again.

Worf steps to Duras... one last thing to do.

WORF

You... are the son of a traitor.

And he slaps Duras just as hard as Duras hit him
earlier. Duras burns with the shame of it.

WORF

I am ready.

64 INT. GREAT HALL (OPTICAL)

Picard is waiting off to one side for something. The
transporter EFFECT begins and Kurn beams in along with
a MEDICAL SUPERNUMERARY who is helping him. Kurn is
recovering from his injuries, but is still a little
unsteady on his feet.

KURN

(to supernumerary)

Enough! I will stand alone in
the hall.

Picard nods to the ensign and Kurn steps forward on his
own. He and Picard move slowly toward the other end
of the hall.

64 CONTINUED:

KURN

Why is he doing this? I was ready
to die.

PICARD

Worf wants you to live... the name
of your father must someday be
cleared. He needs you alive...
with your honor intact.

KURN

But to do this...

PICARD

There will be another day,
Commander. Do not forget what
he does here today... do not let
your children forget.

Kurn nods in agreement and they go through the crowd.

64A NEW ANGLE

The council in session. Worf facing them as Picard and
Kurn move to stand on either side of him. K'mpec faces
Worf.

WORF

tlhIH ghIj jIHyoj. (I fear your
judgment)

K'MPEC

biHnuch (Coward)

The crowd REACTS with disgust. The council rises as
one and turn their backs on Worf. The assembled crowd
does the same. Worf turns to Kurn.

WORF

You must also...

KURN

(beat, then sotto voce)
May you stand here again someday
and roar over the fallen bodies
of your enemies.

WORF

We will stand together...
(sotto)
...brother.

64A CONTINUED:

They share a moment of silent promise, then Kurn reluctantly turns his back on his brother. Picard moves to Worf and they walk side by side, heads held high through the crowd and EXIT. The double doors close behind with a LOUD CLANG as we...

65 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END