

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Deja Q"  
#40273-161

Written by  
Richard Danus

Directed by  
Les Landau

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FINAL DRAFT

NOVEMBER 14, 1989

STAR TREK: "Deja Q" - 11/14/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Deja Q"

CAST

PICARD	Q
RIKER	Q2
DATA	DOCTOR GARIN
BEVERLY	SCIENTIST
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
GUINAN	Non-Speaking TECHNICIANS
ENGINEER'S VOICE	
Non-Speaking	
SECURITY GUARDS	
SUPERNUMERARIES	

STAR TREK: "Deja Q" - 11/14/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Deja Q"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

ENGINEERING

SHUTTLCRAFT

CORRIDOR

DETENTION CELL

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

TEN FORWARD

TURBOLIFT

SHUTTLECRAFT

STAR TREK: "Deja Q" - 11/14/89 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Deja Q"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

BRE'EL	bree-EL
CALAMARAIN	kal-ah-mah-REIGN
DELTIVED	DEL-tih-ved

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Deja Q"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship orbits Bre'el, a small, verdant planet orbited by a single moon, irregularly shaped.

PICARD (V.O.)  
Captain's log, Stardate 43539.1.  
We have moved into orbit around  
Bre'el Four to investigate a  
potentially catastrophic threat  
to the population from a  
descending asteroidal moon...

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

To include MAIN VIEWER. PICARD, TROI and RIKER in the Command Chairs. DATA and WORF at their stations. SUPERNUMERARY at Conn. On the Main Viewer is DOCTOR GARIN, a middle-aged man. He is obviously very troubled. Another SCIENTIST is at his side. In the b.g. various TECHNICIANS check monitors. It has the look of controlled chaos that fills a hurricane center during a big storm.

DATA  
The satellite's trajectory  
continues to deteriorate,  
Captain... This orbit will bring  
it to within five hundred  
kilometers of the planet's  
surface.

GARIN  
We're predicting the atmospheric  
drag will bring it down on the  
next orbit.

SCIENTIST  
Have you been able to find any  
explanation for this?

DATA  
No, Doctor... it is a most unusual  
phenomenon.

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Won't the moon disintegrate prior  
to impact?

SCIENTIST

No, it has a ferrous crystalline  
structure and will be able to  
withstand tidal forces, Captain...

RIKER

Couldn't we just blow it into  
harmless chunks?

DATA

The total mass of the moon would  
remain the same, Commander. And  
the impact of thousands of  
fragments would spread destruction  
over an even wider area.

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD

How long before impact...

DATA

Twenty-nine hours... projected somewhere on the western continent. It would destroy an area eight hundred kilometers in radius.

SCIENTIST

That damage would be insignificant, Captain, compared to the seismic repercussions... massive landquakes, and tsunamis...

GARIN

The force would raise a cloud of dust around the planet, leading to a significant temperature reduction. We could be looking at our own ice age.

PICARD

(keying insignia)

Commander La Forge, is there any way the Enterprise might be able to coax this satellite back where it belongs... ?

INTERCUT:

3 INT. ENGINEERING

GEORDI's at a console. SUPERNUMERARIES at various positions. The matter/anti-matter blender bubbling with power.

GEORDI

We'd need to apply a delta-vee of at least four kilometers per second. Even with warp power to the tractor beam, it would mean exceeding recommended impulse engine output by at least forty-seven percent. It'd be like an ant pushing a tricycle... a slim chance at best...

3 CONTINUED:

RIKER  
(to Picard)  
Given a choice between slim and  
none, I'll take slim any day...

PICARD  
Make it so.

RIKER  
Lieutenant Worf, signal all ships  
in this sector to rendezvous and  
join us in relief efforts.

WORF  
Aye, sir.

PICARD  
(to Main Viewer)  
We'll keep you informed of our  
progress. Picard out.

4  
thru OMITTED  
8

9 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The tractor beam flares out of the ship and grabs onto  
the small moon. The warp engines flare brighter as we  
apply power. The ship is trying to "plow" the moon  
into a higher orbit.

10 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

As before. Picard and Riker looking at the viewer.  
The tractor beam holds the small moon. The moon does  
not move.

Picard gets up and walks closer to the viewer.

RIKER  
Can you give us any more,  
Geordi... ?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Not without burning out the  
tractor beam emitter... the  
circuits are already beyond their  
thermal limit.

10 CONTINUED:

DATA

Delta-vee is ninety-two meters per second. The mass is too great. We are having an effect but it is negligible.

In the background, a strange noise... it begins low... more like a million voices than a million machines...

RIKER

What is that...

DATA

Unable to identify source...

It gets louder...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Impulse engines passing safety limits. We're seconds from automatic shutdown.

PICARD

Reduce engines... tractor beam off...

The sound continues to grow... and seems to surround the ship... they react... almost deafening now...

RIKER

Worf, what the hell do the sensors show... ?

WORF

The sound is not registering, Commander...

The sound swirling inside and all around... ends with a slight POP. Q APPEARS, naked, suspended above everyone, as though held by an invisible puppet.

Q

Red Alert.

PICARD

Q.

And Q promptly crashes to the floor. On reactions...

11  
thru OMITTED  
16

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

17 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As it orbits Bre'el, maintaining its distance to the moon, Klyo.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. We are no closer to finding a solution to the deteriorating orbit of the Bre'el Four moon... but with the arrival of Q, we now have a good idea of the cause.

18 INT. BRIDGE

Starting with Q putting on his jump suit...

GEORDI (O.S.)

We couldn't drive the tractor emitters hard enough, Captain...

Panning to find Picard is getting a debriefing on the failed moon attempt from Geordi...

GEORDI

The beam was flexing, and it was impossible to transfer enough kinetic energy to the moon...

PICARD

Our options?

GEORDI

We did everything by the book and a little extra... we need more time or more power and we're short on both. I'll take a look and see if there are any rules I haven't broken.

18 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Keep me advised.

Geordi EXITS. Picard turns toward Q with loathing in his eyes...

RIKER

We know you're behind this, Q...

Q

(re: the jumpsuit)

It's not at all my best color...  
Behind what... what are you  
blathering about, Riker...

Picard moves to confront him...

PICARD

What kind of twisted pleasure does  
it give you to bring terror into  
their lives... ?

Q

What? Whose lives?

PICARD

The millions of people down there  
who are watching as their moon  
falls out of the sky...

Q

I haven't the vaguest idea what  
you're talking about... and I have  
a much more serious problem...  
I am no longer a member of the  
continuum. My superiors have  
decided to punish me.

Picard frowns... refusing to participate with this  
game of Q's...

PICARD

And punish us as well, it seems...

He ignores Q, moves away...

18 CONTINUED: (2)

Q

They said I've spread too much chaos through the universe and they have stripped me of all my powers.

They look at him with disbelieving eyes. Off their reaction --

Q

You do not believe me... ? Would I humiliate myself like this?

RIKER

If it served your purposes, yes.

Q

It is the truth. I stand before you, defrocked. I'm condemned to be a member of this lowest of species. A normal, imperfect, lumpen human being.

TROI

Turning you into a human was part of their punishment... ?

Q

No, it was my request. I could have chosen to exist as a Markoffian fire lizard or a Belzoidian flea, anything I wished... so long as it was mortal, but I only had a fraction of a second to mull and I chose... "this"... and asked them to bring me here...

TROI

Why?

18 CONTINUED: (3)

Q

(moving to Picard)

Because in all the universe you  
are the closest thing I have to  
a friend, Jean-Luc.

Q smiles to Picard... Picard's look says it all. Data  
aims a tricorder at Q.

DATA

He is reading as fully human.

Q

(looks around the  
bridge)

Is there an echo in here?

TROI

I'm even sensing an emotional  
presence in him. I would  
normally describe it as being  
terrified.

Q

How rude.

Enough of this... Picard rises, moves back into the  
fray.

PICARD

Q, what is it you want...

Q

Your compassion...

(a beat, off Picard's  
look)

All right... Sanctuary on your  
ship... dreary as that may sound  
to both of us...

PICARD

Return the moon to its orbit.

Q

I have no powers. Q the ordinary.

PICARD

Q, the liar. Q, the misanthrope.

18 CONTINUED: (4)

Q

Q, the miserable. Q, the  
desperate. What must I do to  
convince you people...

WORF

Die.

18 CONTINUED: (5)

Q  
Very clever, Worf. Eat any good  
books lately?

PICARD  
Fine. You wish to be treated as  
a human?

Q  
Absolutely.

PICARD  
Mister Worf, throw him in the  
brig.

WORF  
Delighted, Captain.

Q  
Jean-Luc... you can't do this...

Worf moves to him...

WORF  
You will walk or I will carry you.

Q  
Given the options -- I'll walk.

As they EXIT...

Q  
(to Picard)  
You've disappointed me, Jean-  
Luc... I'm very disa...

And Worf closes the turbolift doors... Riker and Picard  
exchange a glance.

18A INT. TURBOLIFT (FORMERLY SCENE 19)

Worf and Q.

Q  
It was a mistake... I never should  
have picked human... I knew it  
the minute I said it.  
(MORE)

18A CONTINUED:

Q (Cont'd)

To think of the future in this shell... forced to cover myself with fabric because of outdated human morality, to say nothing of being too hot or too cold, growing feeble as the years pass, losing my hair, catching a disease, being ticklish, sneezing, having an itch, a pimple, bad breath, having to bathe...

WORF

(acknowledges)

Too bad.

19 INT. CORRIDOR (FORMERLY SCENE 20)

Q and Worf exit the turbolift and walk down the corridor.

Q

"Klingon"... I should have said "Klingon". In my heart, I am a Klingon, Worf... So you understand I could never survive in confinement...

The universe has been my back yard... this is cruel and unusual punishment. As a fellow Klingon, if you would speak to the captain on my behalf, I would be eternally grateful... which doesn't mean as much as it used to, I admit.

19A INT. DETENTION CELL (OPTICAL)

WORF

Be quiet or disappear back where you came from.

Worf ushers him in.

Q

I can't disappear any more than you can win a beauty contest.

(MORE)

19A CONTINUED:

Q (Cont'd)

If I ask a very simple question, do you think you can grasp it without troubling your intellect too much... ready? If I still had powers, would I permit you to lock me away?

WORF

You have fooled us too often, Q.

Q

Perspicacity incarnate. Please don't feel compelled to tell me the story of "the boy who cried Worf"?

WORF

Computer, activate forcefield.

The room is now divided by a rim of lights. Q tests the force field. We see the EFFECT. Worf leaves. A security guard holds position...

Q

(yelling at Worf)

I demand to be let out of here, do you hear me? You will deactivate this cell immediately.

(no answer)

"Romulan". I should have said "Romulan", you Klingon goat!

And he sits down in frustration.

20 OMITTED

21 INT. READY ROOM

Picard and Riker seated at the desk.

PICARD

The question is -- what sort of jaded game is he playing this time?

21 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Maybe he just wants a big laugh.  
He'll take Bre'el Four to the edge  
of disaster, then pull the moon  
back.

PICARD

(thoughtful)

Or he may have nothing to do with  
it at all.

RIKER

Do you honestly believe Q is  
telling the truth?

PICARD

Oh, I agree that is highly  
unlikely. But we have to proceed  
with our current dilemma as though  
Q is powerless to prevent it,  
don't we?

RIKER

As he sits, and watches us  
struggle...

PICARD

I don't see much choice.  
(speaking to com)  
Mister Worf, hail the Bre'el Four  
science station...

WORF'S COM VOICE

They're standing by, Captain...

Picard turns on his monitor to reveal Garin and the  
Scientist.

PICARD

I'm sorry to report that our first  
attempt to restore the moon to  
its proper orbit has failed.

GARIN

We have less than twenty-five  
hours before impact...

21 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

Our chief engineer is working on ways to reinforce our tractor beam.

PICARD

There is hope... but if you have an evacuation plan...

GARIN

We have already started moving people from the coastal areas of the western continent...

PICARD

(acknowledges)

We will make another attempt shortly... Picard out.

He turns off the monitor...

RIKER

I gotta tell you Geordi is not optimistic...

Suddenly, the room begins to glow... Picard and Riker exchange glances and head for the door.

PICARD

What the devil... ?

As they exit...

22 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

the EFFECT continues... Picard and Riker ENTER from the Ready Room... Data and supernumeraries are reacting.

22 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Data... ?

DATA

Sensors are showing broad band emissions... including Berthold rays...

RIKER

Lethal?

DATA

No, Commander. Overall exposure is under seventy-five rems. Very low intensity. More like a soft medical scan... I would speculate that we are being probed...

PICARD

By whom?

DATA

The sensors cannot identify point of origin. It seems to be coming from all around us...

Off their reactions...

22A INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi reacts as the EFFECT rolls by...

22B INT. DETENTION (OPTICAL)

Q is asleep with a rather pleasant expression on his face as the EFFECT zips right through the forcefields holding him prisoner... As the probe penetrates the field there is an additional EFFECT. The probe finds him and lingers on his face... and as it suddenly zips away...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22C EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit.

23 INT. DETENTION (OPTICAL)

Picard ENTERS... Q, lying on his bunk, opens an eye...

Q

Ah, you've come to apologize...  
how nice... no offense taken...  
all is forgiven...

He rises.

PICARD

Enough. I want to know exactly  
what is going on, Q...

Q

But Jean-Luc, how can I know what  
is going on? I have been in this  
dungeon of yours, helpless and  
alone... bored to tears...

PICARD

We have a moon that is  
inexplicably falling out of  
orbit... and now the ship has been  
probed with Berthold radiation...

Q

(covering up some  
concern)

When? I wasn't aware of it.

(off Picard's look)

Truthfully, Jean-Luc. I have  
been entirely preoccupied by a  
most frightening experience of  
my own. A couple of hours ago,  
I started realizing this body was  
no longer functioning properly...  
I felt weak, the life oozing out  
of me... I could no longer  
stand... and then I lost  
consciousness...

23 CONTINUED:

PICARD

You fell asleep...

Q

It's terrifying... how can you stand it day after day...

PICARD

One gets used to it...

Q

What other dangers are in store for me... I am totally unprepared for this... I need guidance...

Picard frowns, getting nowhere.

PICARD

I am unwilling to play along, Q. If you must keep up the charade, you will do it alone...

As he starts to leave...

Q

Jean-Luc... wait...

He walks into the FORCEFIELD... bounces back...

Q

This is getting on my nerves... now that I have nerves...

Picard pauses at the door...

Q

You have a moon with a deteriorating orbit... I've known moons across the universe... big ones, small ones... I'm an expert... I can help you with this one... if you let me out of here.

Picard reacts.

PICARD

Q, we're dealing with millions of lives... if you have the power to...

23 CONTINUED: (2)

Q

I have no power... But I still have the knowledge... locked in this puny brain. You cannot afford to dismiss that advantage, can you?

Picard must hold himself back... finally keys his insignia...

PICARD

Mister Data, please report to Detention Cell Three. Computer, remove the forcefield.

(to Q)

If this is what I must do to save those lives, I will.

The field is removed. Q tentatively crosses past the barrier...

PICARD

(continuing)

You will not be left alone for one moment while you are on this ship, Q. If you are human, which I seriously doubt, I suggest you work hard to earn our welcome.

Q

Oh, I'll earn your welcome. You only dislike me. There are others in the cosmos that truly despise me.

Data ENTERS.

PICARD

You are hereby assigned to Q for the remainder of his stay... escort him to Mister La Forge in Engineering...

Q

Can I have a Starfleet uniform...

That does not require an answer... Picard EXITS...  
Data studies Q.

Q

What are you looking at?

23 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

I was considering the possibility  
that you are telling the truth...  
and really are human.

Q

It's the ghastly truth, Mister  
Data... I can now stub my toe with  
the best of them.

DATA

(recognizing)

An irony.

(off Q's reaction)

It would mean you have achieved  
in disgrace what I have always  
aspired to be.

A beat on Data, then...

23A INT. CORRIDOR

Q accompanying Data to Engineering.

Q

Humans are such commonplace little  
creatures. They roam the galaxy  
looking for something, and they  
don't even know what it is.

DATA

The human race has an enduring  
desire for knowledge, and for new  
opportunities to improve itself...

Q

There is certainly room for  
improvement. The truth is, Data,  
they are a minor species in the  
grand scheme. Not worth your  
envy...

DATA

Oh, I do not feel envy.

Q

Good.

23A CONTINUED:

DATA

I feel nothing at all. That is part of my dilemma. I have the curiosity of the human... but there are some questions I will never be able to answer... what is it like to laugh or to cry or to experience any human emotion... ?

Q

Believe me, life's a lot simpler without feelings... a lot simpler...

And as they proceed down the hall...

24 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Q is with Data and Geordi, bending over, studying data, photographs at the pool table...

GEORDI

The moon will hit its perigee in ten hours... we match its trajectory... increase emitter coolant rate so we can apply continuous warp-equivalent power nine to the tractor beam. We can keep pushing it for nearly seven hours and I think that might do it... but there's a problem...

DATA

The Enterprise will be dangerously close to the atmosphere.

GEORDI

That's the problem.

Q

This is incredible.

24 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

You see something here, Q?

Q

I think I just hurt my back. I'm feeling pain. I don't think I like it. What's the right thing to say... "ow"?

GEORDI

(frustrated)

Yeah...

Q

Ow. I don't think I can straighten up...

DATA

(keying insignia)

Medical assistance to Engineering...

GEORDI

Q, I've got a few people down on Bre'el Four who are gonna be hurt if we don't...

Q

(interrupting)

Yes, with your marvelous plan, you will not only tear the moon to pieces... but your precious ship as well.

GEORDI

You have a better idea... ?

Q

I would certainly begin by examining the cause and not the symptom.

GEORDI

We've done that, Q... and there's no way to determine...

24 CONTINUED: (2)

Q

This is obviously the result of a large celestial object passing through at near right angles to the plane of the star system... probably a black hole...

DATA

Can you recommend a way to counter the effect?

Q

Simple. Change the gravitational constant of the universe.

GEORDI

(reacts)

What... ?

Q

Change the gravitational constant of the universe. And thereby alter the mass of the asteroid...

GEORDI

Redefine gravity. How am I supposed to do that?

Q

You just do it. Where is that doctor anyway... ?

DATA

Geordi is trying to say that changing the gravitational constant of the universe is beyond our capabilities.

Q

Oh. In that case, never mind.

Beverly ENTERS from the Engineering turbolift.

Q

Ah, Doctor Crusher, Starfleet shipped you back into exile, I see...

DATA

Q says he has hurt his back...

24 CONTINUED: (3)

BEVERLY  
(disbelieving)  
Uh huh.

Geordi's mind is working now... as Beverly examines Q's back, he goes to the computer, starts working on something...

BEVERLY  
Well, I wouldn't believe it if  
I didn't see it with my own eyes,  
... and I still don't believe  
it... according to this, you have  
classic back trauma, muscle  
spasms...

Q  
I've been under a lot of stress.  
Family problems...

BEVERLY  
You won't get any sympathy from  
me. You've been a pain in our  
backside often enough...

Q  
Your bedside manner is admirable,  
Doctor. I'm sure your patients  
recover quickly just to get away  
from you.

She gives him a hypospray and he immediately feels  
better... at the computer --

GEORDI  
You know, it might work...

Data moves to Geordi...

GEORDI  
We can't change the gravitational  
constant of the universe but if  
we wrap a low level warp field  
around that moon, we could reduce  
its gravitational constant...  
make it lighter so we can push  
it.

Q  
Glad I could help.  
(reacts)  
Ow... I think.

24 CONTINUED: (4)

BEVERLY

Now what?

Q

Something's wrong with my  
stomach...

BEVERLY

It hurts?

Q

It's making noise.

BEVERLY

Maybe you're hungry.

25  
thru OMITTED  
28

29 INT. TEN FORWARD

Q and Data ENTER...

Q

What do I ask for? I've never  
eaten before.

DATA

The choice of meal is determined  
by individual tastes.

Q

What do you like?

DATA

Although I do not require  
sustenance, I occasionally ingest  
a semi-organic nutrient suspension  
in a silicon-based liquid medium.

They sit at the bar.

Q

Is it good?

DATA

It would be more accurate to  
say it is "good for me" as it  
lubricates my bio-functions.

29 CONTINUED:

Q

It doesn't sound too appealing.  
What else is there?

DATA

A wide variety of items... the replicator can make anything you desire.

Q

How am I supposed to know what I desire?

DATA

I have observed that many food selections are influenced by the mood of the person ordering...

Q

I'm in a dreadful mood... get me something appropriate...

DATA

(considers)

When Counselor Troi is in an unhappy mood, she often has something chocolate...

Q

Chocolate...

DATA

For example, a hot fudge sundae. I cannot speak from personal experience, but I have seen it often has a profound psychological impact.

A waiter comes over.

Q

I'll have ten hot fudge sundaes.

The waiter reacts.

DATA

I have never seen anyone eat ten.

Q

I'm in a really bad mood. And since I've never eaten before, I should be very hungry.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

The waiter shrugs and moves off. Q reacts as he sees  
--

29A ANGLE - GUINAN

down the bar, coming out from the back... she sees him,  
reacts... Q frowns...

Q  
(sotto, to Data)  
This... is not a moment I've been  
looking forward to.

She slowly comes over... with a controlled grin, a long  
beat as they look each other. Finally...

GUINAN  
I heard you were drummed out of  
the continuum.

Q  
I prefer to look at it as a  
significant career change.

GUINAN  
Just one of the boys, huh?

Q  
One of the boys with an IQ of  
two thousand and five.

DATA  
The Captain and much of the crew  
are not yet convinced that he is  
truly human.

GUINAN  
Is that right?

Guinan never takes her eyes off Q as she casually picks  
up a fork from behind the counter... and sharply stabs  
Q's hand...

Q  
AAAH...

GUINAN  
He's human.

29A CONTINUED:

Q

(to Data)

This is a dangerous creature.  
You have no idea... how could  
Picard allow her to join the crew  
and not me...

GUINAN

It must be frightening... totally  
defenseless... after being  
omnipotent all those centuries...

Q

(intimidated)

I'm warning you... I still have  
friends in high places...

GUINAN

... terrorizing one race after  
another... teasing them like  
helpless animals... delighting  
at the fear of your victims...

Q

(sarcastic)

From now on, I'll do missionary  
work...

DATA

That would be a very noble cause,  
Q.

GUINAN

(re: Data)

You could learn a few things from  
this one.

Q

Sure, the robot who teaches the  
course in humanities.

DATA

I am an android, not a robot.

Q

I beg your pardon.

GUINAN

Get used to it, Q.

Q

What?

29A CONTINUED: (2)

GUINAN

Begging. You're a pitiful excuse  
for a human and the only way  
you're going to survive is by the  
charity of others.

She moves down the bar.

Two waiters bring Q's ten hot fudge sundaes... he's  
depressed, turns to Data, sighs --

Q

I'm not hungry.

On Data's reaction...

30 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Worf, supernumeraries.

WORF

Captain, sensors are picking up  
a cloud of energetic plasma...  
bearing three-four-one mark  
two-zero... range twelve kilometers  
and closing...

PICARD

On screen.

30A ANGLE - INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

An amorphous mass, shapeless and changing.

WORF

Energy patterns are reading as  
highly organized...

RIKER

(to Picard)

A lifeform?

PICARD

Mister Worf, attempt to make  
contact...

WORF

Receiving a signal, sir... on  
speaker...

30A CONTINUED:

Worf puts it on speaker... it sounds like a series of computer modem signals... hurts the ears...

RIKER  
Computer, analysis of signal...

COMPUTER  
Signal patterns indicate intelligence. Unable to derive necessary referants to establish translation matrix.

30B INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

As people react to the cloud in view out the windows... Guinan reacts more than the others...

GUINAN  
Calamarain...

... and as she glances at Q who hasn't seen it yet... there is a shot of light from the cloud which shoots through the window... and immediately isolates Q... he yells... avoids them briefly... but they move after him... as Data reacts...

30C INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

WORF  
We're being hit by a field of energetic tachyons... penetrating the hull... location... deck ten... forward...

PICARD  
Red alert.

RIKER  
Increase power to shields...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Increasing power by twenty percent...

WORF  
No effect...

30C CONTINUED:

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Increasing to forty percent...

WORF  
Still no effect...

30D INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

The light EFFECT has wrapped up Q's legs as he scrambles helplessly to escape... Data tries to assist but the light EFFECT effectively blocks him off...

30E INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi working feverishly...

GEORDI  
Adjusting shield harmonics...  
Diverting power to the forward  
grids.

30EA INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

WORF  
The added harmonics are blocking  
the tachyon field.

30F INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

The light EFFECT is cut off... Q is freed... still terrified... rolling on the ground...

Q  
HELP ME. SOMEBODY HELP ME...

On Guinan's reaction...

GUINAN  
How the mighty have fallen.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Orbiting Bre'el. The plasma cloud is still ominously present.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. We have sustained light damage from an attack by an alien species known as the Calamarain. They apparently have a grievance with Q... no doubt one of many lifeforms that do.

32 INT. BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf, Troi are on the bridge. Q paces nervously. His rhetoric remains, but there is an underlying fear that we've never seen from him.

Q

The Calamarain are not very hospitable creatures. They exist as swirls of ionized gas.

PICARD

What did you do to them to motivate such a vengeance?

Q

Nothing bizarre. Nothing grotesque.

RIKER

You tormented them --

Q

A subjective term, Riker. One creature's torment, is another creature's delight. They simply have no sense of humor... a character flaw with which you can personally identify.

RIKER

I say we turn him over to them.

32 CONTINUED:

Q

Oh, my mistake... you do have a  
sense of humor... a dreadful one.

RIKER

I'm serious.

Picard is adding things up... realizing...

32 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Of course. You knew this would happen, didn't you?

Q

I assure you one cannot anticipate the Calamarain, Picard... they're intelligent, yes... but undependable... very flighty...

PICARD

But you have so many enemies, Q, of various shapes and sizes... certainly you must have been concerned that once you became mortal... some of them might try to look you up...

Q

It occurred to me.

PICARD

With all your chatter about "friendship", the real reason you're here is for protection, isn't it?

Q

You're so bright, Jean-Luc. Yes, of course, you're correct. I know human beings. You are all sopping over with compassion and forgiveness. The human race can't wait to absolve almost any offense. It's an inherent weakness in the breed.

PICARD

What you call weakness, some of us would call strength.

Q

Call it what you want, Picard. I know you'll protect me even though I've tortured you now and again...

RIKER

Fighting off every species you've insulted would be a full time mission. And it's not the one I signed up for.

32 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Indeed. Human or not, I want no part of you. We will deposit you at the first starbase. Let them deal with you...

Q

But I can be a valuable member of your team, Picard...

PICARD

As though you have the faintest notion about team-work or cooperation...

32 CONTINUED: (3)

Q  
I can learn. I'm human.

PICARD  
Then I suggest you apply to  
Starfleet Academy...

RIKER  
Don't use me as a reference.

DATA  
He has provided important  
theoretical guidance for Geordi's  
analysis of the Bre'el satellite,  
Captain.

Reactions. Surprise at Data speaking up on his behalf.

TROI  
It seems you have an advocate,  
Q.

DATA  
I am only stating a fact,  
Counselor.

Picard reluctantly acknowledges that fact... keys his  
insignia...

PICARD  
Mister La Forge, your status?

33  
thru OMITTED  
34

INTERCUT:

35 INT. ENGINEERING

At the console...

GEORDI  
I've been putting together a  
program to extend the forward  
lobe of our warp field. The field  
coils are not designed to envelop  
such a large volume. But I'm  
attempting to modify their  
alignment parameters.

35 CONTINUED:

DATA

Maintaining field integrity will  
be difficult, Geordi.

GEORDI

I think we can do it manually.  
The moon's reaching its perigee  
in fourteen minutes...

36 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD

Mister Data, escort Q to  
Engineering...

(to Q)

You will assist Mister La Forge.

Data and Q EXIT.

PICARD

Mister Worf, hail the Bre'el Four  
science station.

36A INT. TURBOLIFT

Data and Q... Q fuming...

Q

Picard really thinks I can't cut  
it on his starship... I can do  
anything his little trained  
minions can do.

DATA

I do not perceive that your skills  
are doubted, Q. I believe the  
captain is more concerned with  
your ability to interact  
successfully with... his "little  
trained minions".

The turbolift opens... they EXIT...

36B INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Leading to Engineering.

DATA

Human interpersonal relationships  
are most complex... your  
experiences may not have  
adequately prepared you.

36B CONTINUED:

Q

I don't want human interpersonal relationships. I just want to prove to Picard that I'm indispensable.

DATA

To function aboard a starship, or in any human activity, you will have to form relationships.

Q

Why does this have to be so hard...

DATA

Of more immediate importance is your ability to work within groups...

Q

I've never been any good in groups... it's difficult working in a group when you're omnipotent...

Moving down the corridor toward Engineering...

37

thru OMITTED

38

39 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Doctor Garin and the scientist are on the Main Viewer... Troi has left the bridge.

GARIN

The tides reached ten meters on the last orbit. They are already beginning to swell again. We have a lot of frightened people down here, Captain...

PICARD

Your moon has begun moving toward its perigee, Doctor... we are prepared to make our attempt...

39 CONTINUED:

SCIENTIST

(acknowledges)

Our population has already taken  
shelter... but I'm afraid no  
shelter will be adequate if you  
fail... Especially for the  
people on the western continent.

GARIN

Whatever the results, we know  
you've done your best, Picard.  
It's appreciated.

39 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

I'll keep you advised, Doctor.  
Picard out.

WORF

Captain, sensors are reading  
increased energy output from the  
Calamarain...

39A PICARD

reacts...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

La Forge to bridge. The moon has  
reached its minimum orbital  
distance... it's time, Captain...

RIKER

We'll have to lower shields...

PICARD

(knowing the risks)

Proceed.

(beat)

Mister Worf, keep a close eye on  
Q's friends out there...

WORF

Understood.

40 INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi and supernumeraries are working the controls as  
Data and Q ENTER... Q, the "camp director"...

Q

Okay, everyone, here's what we're  
going to do...

Geordi reacts...

40 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Q, everybody already knows what they're going to do, except for you... now here's what I need...

Q

La Forge, obviously my knowledge and experience exceed yours... by about a billion times... so if you'll just step aside gracefully...

GEORDI

(impatient)

Your experience will be most valuable to me if you can manually control the field integrity...

Q

(reacts)

Don't be foolish. That's a waste of my talents...

GEORDI

Get to the controls or get the hell out of here...

And he moves off to serious business...

GEORDI

Data, you're my liason to the bridge... I'll need you with me...

Q

(to Data)

Who does he think he is to give me orders...

DATA

Geordi thinks he is in command here... and he is correct.

Q swallows hard... moves to the controls... as Data moves to Geordi...

40A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER

Engineering, holding at station keeping, range six hundred and forty meters.

40A CONTINUED:

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Containment fields to flight  
tolerance.

40B INT. ENGINEERING

Q running the controls... moving to find Data  
monitoring sensors with Geordi...

DATA  
Warp core to ninety percent.

GEORDI  
Engage field coils. Tractor beam  
to stand-by. Field output... ?  
Field output... ?

Q  
(reacts, bored)  
Two-seventeen...

GEORDI  
Impulse engines to full. Ready  
to engage tractor beam.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Lowering shields. Engage tractor  
beam.

41 OMITTED

42 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As in the tease, the tractor beam locks onto the moon.

42A INT. ENGINEERING

GEORDI

Extending warp field forward.

42B ANGLE - MONITOR (OPTICAL)

A computer graphic shows the field extending from the ship and embracing the moon... only it doesn't quite get it all...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Engineering, is that the forward limit?

DATA

Yes, Captain... we are unable to encompass the entire moon...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Do you recommend we proceed... ?

A beat as they look to Geordi...

Q

(shakes his head)

The two parts of the moon will have different inertial densities...

42C ANGLE - MOVING WITH GEORDI

GEORDI

I can adjust the field symmetry to compensate...

Q

I doubt it.

GEORDI

You don't know what this ship can do, Mister...

(keying insignia)

(MORE)

42C CONTINUED:

GEORDI (Cont'd)

Yes, Captain... I think it still  
might work... increasing power  
to tractor beam and warp field...

Q

(to LaForge)

And if you're wrong, the moon will  
crumble due to subspace stress...  
don't say I didn't warn...

GEORDI

Shut up, Q.

Leaving his post...

Q

I will not be spoken to in this  
manner...

42C CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI  
(do something about him)  
Data...

DATA  
Q, I strongly advise that you  
return to your post.

Q reacts, listens to Data, hangs his head, returns to  
his post...

DATA  
(checking readings)  
Inertial mass of the moon has  
decreased to approximately  
two-point-five million metric  
tons...

GEORDI  
It's working. We can move it.  
Firing impulse engines...

42D EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As the impulse engines provide thrust...

43 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

As before. The computer graphic is on the main viewer.

DATA'S COM VOICE  
The moon's trajectory has  
moved point-three percent...  
point-four percent...

Worf reacts to something he sees on sensors...

WORF  
Emergency... shields up...

RIKER  
Disengage tractor beam...

WORF  
Calamarain attacking...

He's interrupted as the Enterprise suffers a massive  
impact...

43 CONTINUED:

WORF

Shields holding... tachyon field  
repelled...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Captain, the impact of the blast  
is pushing us into the upper  
atmosphere...

44  
thru OMITTED  
45A

45B EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

glows as it hits the atmosphere...

45C INT. ENGINEERING

DATA

Hull temperature rising... two  
thousand degrees... two thousand  
five hundred degrees.

GEORDI

Moving to full impulse power...  
we've gotta get out of here...

45D INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

Calamarain are resuming attack...

Suddenly, the ship is shaken again... and now the light  
EFFECT invades the bridge...

WORF

They've overpowered the shields...  
hull penetration... deck  
thirty-six... Engineering...

RIKER

Geordi, can you direct any more  
power to the shields... ?

45E INT. ENGINEERING

GEORDI

We need all the power we have to  
get out of the atmosphere,  
Commander.

The LIGHT EFFECT reaches and grabs Q who yells...  
Data is on his feet on his way to help Q... who is  
being wrapped up in the EFFECT like a caterpillar in  
a cocoon... being raised up in the air...

45E CONTINUED:

Geordi gets an idea to repel the attack...

GEORDI  
(to a supernumerary)  
Try activating the structural  
integrity field.

As Q is lifted, Data grabs him in a tug of war... when suddenly Data is enveloped by the EFFECT... Geordi reacts...

GEORDI  
(yelling orders)  
It's not working. Structural  
field harmonics on manual.

He moves to the console, begins making manual adjustments...

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Hull temperature falling, Geordi...  
we're in the clear...

GEORDI  
Diverting power to forward section.  
Now.

The light disappears... Data and Q fall to the ground... Geordi rushes to Data who isn't moving... others join him...

GEORDI  
Data... Data... ?

Q, not getting any attention...

Q  
What about me?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

46 OMITTED

46A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit.

46B OMITTED

46C INT. SICKBAY (FORMERLY SCENE 46B)

Data is unconscious. Geordi and Beverly are both working on him... Picard, Riker and Q watching. Q seems confused, unsure of how to act or what to do.

GEORDI

The charge nearly knocked out his positronic net.

RIKER

What can you do for him?

GEORDI

We'll try to discharge and reset the motor pathways, recouple autonomic nodes...

BEVERLY

There's overpressure in his fluidic systems, thermal shock... If he was mortal, he'd be dead.

Q

(with a subtext of guilt)

Let us not overstate matters here, Doctor... I am mortal and I survived...

They stare at him...

Q

(off their reaction)

The cheers are overwhelming.

46C CONTINUED:

PICARD

(quietly seething)

You exceed your own standards of selfish preoccupation. Have you no concern for the officer who very probably saved your life?

Q does, but this is hard for him to admit...

46C CONTINUED:

Q  
(more hope than  
conviction)  
He's strong, he'll survive.

GEORDI  
Osmotic pressure still negative.  
Maybe if we by-passed the flow  
regulator...

BEVERLY  
It would be helpful if everybody  
just got out of here now...

GEORDI  
We'll let you know as soon as  
there's anything to tell you.

Picard and Q EXIT... Riker lingers for business...

RIKER  
Geordi, the moon's trajectory... ?

GEORDI  
All we did was buy ourselves  
another orbit at most... we can  
try again when it comes back to  
the perigee...

RIKER  
And when we drop our shields, the  
Calamarains go after Q again...

GEORDI  
(bitter about Data)  
He's not worth it, Commander.

Riker acknowledges... EXITS.

47 INT. READY ROOM

Picard sits at his desk, doing some busy work...  
sipping tea... a chime at the door...

47 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Come...

Q ENTERS... they take a beat to look at each other...  
and Q is in an unusually somber mood...

Q

You're right, of course. I am  
extraordinarily selfish. It's  
served me so well in the past...

PICARD

It will not serve you here.

Q

Don't be so hard on me, Jean-Luc.  
You've been mortal all your life.  
You know all about dying. I've  
never given it a second thought.  
Or a first thought for that  
matter.

(beat)

I could have been killed. If  
not for Data... that one, brief  
delay he created, I would have  
been gone. No more me. And  
nobody would have missed me, would  
they?

Picard looks across at Q for a long, long beat... no  
compassion from our captain here...

Q

And yet Data may have sacrificed  
himself for me. Why? Why would  
he risk his own life for mine?

PICARD

That is his special nature. He  
has learned the lessons of  
humanity well...

Q

I ask myself if I would have done  
the same for him. And I am forced  
to realize the answer is no. And  
I feel... I feel ashamed.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

I am not your father confessor.  
You will not receive absolution  
from me, Q. You have brought  
nothing but pain and suffering  
to my crew. And to this very  
moment, I am not entirely  
convinced that this is still not  
your latest attempt at a bad joke.

Q

It is a bad joke. On me. I am  
the joke of the universe. The  
king who would be man.

(beat)

As I learn more and more about  
what it is to be human, I am more  
and more convinced that I will  
never make a good one. I just  
don't have what it takes,  
Jean-Luc. Without my powers,  
I'm frightened of everything. I'm  
a coward. I'm miserable.

(beat)

And I don't think I can go on this  
way.

And he is clearly broken... he EXITS... on Picard's  
reaction...

47A  
thru OMITTED  
48A

49 INT. SICKBAY

Geordi and Beverly are still working on Data who is  
conscious, but has not regained full use of his  
program...

Q ENTERS...

BEVERLY  
He's going to be all right.

49 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

We're recalibrating his language circuits... he can't talk to us yet.

Q goes to Data's side. Data looks up at him.

Q

There are creatures in the universe who consider you the ultimate achievement, android. No feelings, no emotions -- no pain. And yet you covet those qualities of humanity. Believe me, you are not missing anything.

(beat)

But if it means anything to you, Data... you are a better human than I.

He goes out and the doors close on him. Data looks at Beverly and Geordi...

49A INT. TURBOLIFT

Q ENTERS, morose...

Q

Where's the Main Shuttlebay?

COMPUTER VOICE

Main Shuttlebay is located on deck four.

Q

Take me there...

50  
thru OMITTED  
55

56 INT. BRIDGE

Picard, Riker and Worf.

WORF

An unscheduled shuttlecraft has just been launched.

PICARD

On Main Viewer.

56A ANGLE - VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The shuttlecraft moves away from the ship.

PICARD  
Opening hailing frequency.

WORF  
Frequency open.

PICARD  
Shuttle occupant. Identify  
yourself.

56A CONTINUED:

The screen changes to reveal Q in the shuttle cabin.

Q

Don't try to talk me out of it,  
Jean-Luc.

PICARD

Q? Return to the ship at once.

Q

I just can't get used to following  
orders.

WORF

Captain, the plasma cloud is  
moving toward the shuttle.

Q

It's easier this way. They won't  
bother you after I'm gone.

RIKER

Engineering, prepare to extend  
shields...

Q

Please, do not fall back on your  
tired cliché of charging to the  
rescue in the nick of time... I  
do not wish to be rescued... My  
life as a human being is a dismal  
failure. Maybe my death can have  
a little dignity.

PICARD

There is no dignity in suicide...

Q

Yes, I suppose you're quite right.  
The death of a coward. So be it.

(beat)

Anyway, as a human, I'd die of  
boredom.

He pushes a button, goes off line and the starfield  
with shuttlecraft returns... on reactions...

57  
thru OMITTED  
59

60 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The Calamarain in the distance... closing on the  
shuttlecraft.

61  
thru OMITTED  
67

FADE OUT.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

68 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

As before, the Calamarain moves toward the shuttlecraft.

69 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard frowns...

PICARD

This goes against all my better judgment...

(keys insignia)

Transporter Room Three, lock on to Shuttle One... beam it back to it's bay.

ENGINEER'S VOICE

Aye, Captain...

PICARD

Well, it's a perfectly good shuttlecraft...

ENGINEER'S VOICE

Captain, unable to transport... For some reason, I can't lock on...

RIKER

Worf, are you sensing any sort of interference from the Calamarain?

69 CONTINUED:

WORF

No, Commander, but they are  
continuing to move toward the  
shuttle.

RIKER

Geordi, extend shields around  
Shuttle One...

69A INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi moving to action...

69A CONTINUED:

GEORDI  
Extending shields ...  
(reacts)  
Commander... the shields are  
frozen...

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Cause...

GEORDI  
Unknown.

69B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER  
Lock on tractor beam...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Tractor beam is not functioning  
either...

RIKER  
What the hell is going on?

70 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

Q, at the controls. Suddenly beside him, APPEARS a man dressed in the same clothes as Q's. Q reacts.

Q2  
Not bad, Q. Not great. But not  
bad.

Q  
(surprised)  
Q...

Q2  
Sacrificing yourself for these  
humans... ? Do I detect a selfless  
act... ?

Q  
You flatter me. I'm only trying  
to put a quick end to a miserable  
existence.

Q2  
(re: the suit)  
What a dreadful color.

70 CONTINUED:

Q

What are you doing here?

Q2

I've been keeping track of you.

Q reacts, pleasantly surprised...

Q

Really? I always felt you were  
in my corner...

Q2

Actually, I was the one who got  
you kicked out...

(off Q's look)

You're incorrigible, Q, a lost  
cause. I can't go to a single  
solar system without apologizing  
for you... and I'm tired of it...

Q

I wasn't the one who misplaced  
the entire Deltived asteroid  
belt...

Q2

This is not about me.

(beat)

I have better places to be. But,  
somebody had to keep an eye on  
you in case you still found a  
way to cause trouble... even as  
a member of this limited  
species...

Q2

(sarcastic)

I hope I've kept you amused.

Q2

Barely. But these humans are  
rather interesting... I'm  
beginning to understand what you  
see in them. After all the  
things you've done, they're still  
intent on keeping you safe.

Q

A genetic weakness of the race.

70 CONTINUED: (2)

Q2

And they're still at it. They just tried to beam you back or whatever they call it... I stopped them...

Q

(gallows humor)

Well then, if the Calamarain will just hurry up and finish this, we'll get you on your way...

Q2

No, I put them on hold too. There's still this matter of the selfless act...

Q reacts...

Q2

You and I both know that the Calamarain would have eventually destroyed the Enterprise to get to you... and that's really why you left...

Q

(sensing hope)

It was... a tiny bit selfless... wasn't it...

Q2

And there's my problem. I get back to the continuum and tell them you committed a selfless act just before the end... I'm gonna be tied up with questions and explanations for centuries...

Q

Q, I've learned my lesson...

Q2

(bull-stuff)

Remember who you're talking to here... all knowing, all seeing...

(sighs)

Fine. You have your powers back. Try to stay out of trouble...

70 CONTINUED: (3)

He DISAPPEARS. Q smiles, rises... tries on his powers by snapping his fingers, immediately CHANGING his jump suit into a Starfleet uniform...

Q  
And they wanted to destroy me,  
did they?

He holds out the palm of his hand.

71  
thru OMITTED  
79

80 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The Calamarain disappear.

81 INT. SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

Q holding out the palm of his hand. There is now a glow on it.

Q  
If you think I tormented you in  
the past, my little friends --  
wait until you see what I do with  
you now.

Q2's head comes down through the hull...

Q2 (V.O.)  
(a warning)  
Q --?

He stops.

Q  
I was just seeing if you were  
still watching

He blows on the palm of his hand. The glow is blown away. Q2 reacts, nods okay.

82 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Troi, Worf, Data, Geordi on the bridge.

82 CONTINUED:

DATA

Sir, the aliens have disappeared.

(beat)

And so has the shuttle.

RIKER

Scan the sector...

DATA

I have, sir.

PICARD

(reacts)

Well, I guess that's the end of

Q.

A cue for the APPEARANCE of a Mexican Mariachi Band...  
Q as the lead trumpet...

Q

Au contraire, mon capitaine...

hee's back...

And as they blare into a song... Q waves his arms and  
confetti is falling out of nowhere... and the crew  
finds fat cigars in their mouths... which they  
promptly discard...

Q

I have been forgiven, embraced  
by my brothers and sisters of the  
continuum... I am immortal again,  
omnipotent again...

RIKER

Swell.

Q

Don't fret, Riker... my good  
fortune is your good fortune.

Two beautiful babes APPEAR in bikinis with their arms  
around Riker...

RIKER

I don't need your fantasy women,  
Q...

Q

You've become so stolid,  
Commander... you weren't like this  
before the beard...

(MORE)

82 CONTINUED: (4)

Q (Cont'd)  
(off Riker's look)  
Very well...

He snaps his fingers and the girls are now caressing Worf... who reacts...

PICARD  
Q...

Q  
But I feel like celebrating...

PICARD  
I don't.

Q frowns, snaps his fingers... and the girls DISAPPEAR...

PICARD  
All of it.

Q snaps his fingers and the band DISAPPEARS and Q is dressed again in the Starfleet uniform.

PICARD  
Now, at the risk of being rude...

Q  
Yes, I have once again overstayed my welcome. As a human, I was ill-equipped to thank you, Picard. But as myself, you have my everlasting gratitude.  
(beat)  
Until next time, of course. But before I go, there is a debt I must repay...

And he moves to Data...

Q  
... to my professor of the humanities... I have decided my dear Data to give you something very, very special...

DATA  
(reacts)  
If your intention is to make me human, Q...

82 CONTINUED: (3)

Q

No no no no no... don't be  
foolish... I would never curse  
you by making you human... Let's  
just call it a going away present.

Data reacts and Q grins at him and suddenly Q  
disappears and Data bursts into a belly laugh...  
reactions...

GEORDI

Uh, Data... Data? Why are you  
laughing?

Data collects himself.

DATA

I do not know. But it was a  
wonderful... feeling.

WORF

Bre'el Four hailing us, Captain.

PICARD

On screen, Lieutenant.

82A  
thru OMITTED  
89

90 ANGLE - INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Garin and the scientist are all smiles...

GARIN

Captain Picard... you've done  
it...

PICARD

I'm sorry... ?

SCIENTIST

The moon is back in its normal  
orbit. How did you manage it?

PICARD

(reacts)

I didn't. Stand by, Bre'el  
Four...

RIKER

Let's see it, Worf...

90 CONTINUED:

The viewscreen changes to the moon in orbit around the planet...

PICARD

Mister Data, your analysis...

DATA

The moon's altitude is fifty-five thousand kilometers, projected orbit is nearly circular. There is no further danger to the planet.

Picard and Riker exchange a look. Picard acknowledges, relieved...

PICARD

Good. Ensign, set a course for Station Nigala-Four.

(sitting)

Perhaps there's a little humanity left in Q after all.

As he raises his hand to "engage", a cigar appears in it...

Q (V.O.)

(whispered so only he can hear it)

Don't bet on it, Picard.

91 OMITTED

92 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

It warps away to continue its journey.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END