

**Star Trek: TOS (#19) – “Tears of the Singers”**  
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Back Cover:

*Captain Kirk and the USS Enterprise join the Klingons to avert disaster in the Taygeta V system – where a time/space warp has swallowed a spaceship without a trace. Spock suspects a link between the anomaly and the inhabitants of Taygeta, semi-aquatic creatures killed for the jewel-like tears secreted at the moment of death. But a mutinous Klingon officer threatens the vital mission, as a desperate Kirk and Spock race to save the Taygetians, the Federation – and the entire universe!*

Summary:

The Enterprise is roused from its scheduled maintenance layover at Starbase 24 and is en route to the Taygeta V system to investigate a mysterious phenomenon that is warping space and time in that sector. The Taygetan system has just recently been opened to exploration but funding has so far been unavailable to send a proper expedition; therefore, the Enterprise's mission is tri fold: first, determine what happened to the freighter Wanderlust, which discovered and reported the phenomenon after returning to pick up a group of hunters it left there; two, discover the nature of the phenomenon, what is causing it and how, if able, to close the rift; and three, investigate if the native specie, which is currently being hunted for the crystal tears they secrete upon death, and establish their level of intelligence according to established Federation surveys.

When Spock is unable to translate the Taygetan song on Starbase he requests famous composer and conductor Guy Maslin - whom Kirk and Spock saw in concert on starbase - to analyze the recordings. Maslin determines that beyond whatever the creatures are doing, their song has the scope and complexity of a Bach chorale, and the mathematical complexity to match; however, there are places in the song where the logical progression of the sound inexplicably break down. Determining they need an expertise of his magnitude onboard, Kirk asks him to accompany. When he turns the invitation down, Kirk presses him into service with article 9, section 5, paragraph 7 of the Emergency Defense Act entitled “The Civilian Emergency Mobilization Act”, which doesn't draft him, but mobilizes his talents. Therefore, Maslin comes albeit reluctantly and lets his attitude show: it's crass, harsh and burdensome. Uhura takes to the man immediately.

*“We are within minutes of attaining the Taygeta system. I have placed the ship on standby alert in case we should find enemy vessels already present in the system. I hope my fears will prove to be groundless, and that we will be able to accomplish this mission without the added burden of dealing with the Klingons.”*

Unfortunately that was not to be; upon their arrival the Enterprise is met by two Klingon warships: the *IKS Klothos*, commanded by Kor, the Klingon office Kirk met at Organia; and *IKS Emperor's Pride*, commanded by Kandi, one of Kor's friends.

After reintroductions the Klingons go about coping with this intrusion - they too are at Taygeta to investigate the spatial anomaly; however, their mission is more urgent. Taygeta is near their borders and at the rate of expansion; the rift will interfere with Imperial freight lanes in fifteen more days. Therefore, in order to ensure success, Kor suggests to his senior officers - Kandi and Kaandal (who is a treacherous beast) - that they work with the Earthers in solving this menace. Reluctantly his officers agree to his terms (believing they can always attack the Enterprise after they have dealt with the rift) and preparations are made to work with Kirk.

The work the Enterprise begins on is on the Taygetians themselves, exploring, observing and recording interactions, songs and harmonics. At each turn bizarre events ensue; meanwhile, Uhura and Maslin continue their relationship - taking it into the realm of sexual promiscuity, and Kor and his wife set about an internal struggle as Kaandal plots to take Kor's place. Eventually a particular breakthrough harmonic piece is discovered, which allows Maslin and Spock to assemble a complete fragment that shows the mathematical progression of the song. They analyze...

*“First, we know that the Taygetians are involved in an undertaking that requires the total energy of the adult population. Second, we know that this undertaking is in the form of a song, but we do not know what it signifies. Third, we know that the Taygetians appear to have the power to teleport objects, as in the case of the fish. And fourth, we know that this song encompasses all frequencies from the audible to the inaudible.” (Spock)*

When the crew continues their analysis, Kali (Kor's wife) suggests the songs are almost magical, which gives Spock pause. He recalls an earlier event whereby Maslin passes out after one of the Taygetians is killed and the song ceases to be sung. Maslin felt sad, almost as if it hurt him physically (indeed it caused him great discomfort). Spock begins to theorize that perhaps the songs are not only audio but extend through the entire spectrum of frequencies; perhaps, even, into warp space and beyond. Through this breakthrough they realize the Taygetians can manipulate their world to suit them – obviously intelligent, if there was any lingering doubt – and since the song resonates in subspace that seems to solve the anomaly problem too: the loss of harmonics by those Singers lost to the hunter's actions has caused an imbalance, a rift to form. And when the crew realizes that their orientation is vocal, Uhura leads the attempt at communication.

Finally seeing each other as sentient races, the Taygetians, Federation and Klingons converse to solve each others mutual problems: the Federation has disposed of the hunters, the Klingons will get their ships back and the Taygetians, through the help of their young, will continue to sing, mending the rift in space. The Enterprise continues about its way to Starbase 23 with three new passengers onboard: Taygetians, which will help lay the groundwork for formal relations with the Federation.

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