

# STAR TREK I: "Space Seed"

*STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN* is a sequel to one of the TV-series' finest episodes.

Skirting the disaster of STAR TREK—THE MOTION PICTURE, the makers of STAR TREK-II wrote it as a follow-up instead to one of the classic first season episodes of the STAR TREK television series, "Space Seed." First telecast in February 1967, the episode was written by Carey Wilber and series producer Gene L. Coon, a figure credited by knowledgeable fans as "the true genius behind STAR TREK."

In the episode, the Enterprise picks up a distress signal which ship's computers identify as an SOS in long-disused morse code. At its source, the Enterprise finds a space derelict, shown on the ship's main viewing screen (top right).

Boarding the derelict, Kirk and crew find some 80 crewmen in suspended animation and revive the ship's leader (Ricardo Montalban), a superb physical specimen, when his sleeper unit begins to malfunction. His life saved by Dr. McCoy, Montalban is interviewed by Kirk, (William Shatner) in sick bay (second right), but evades Kirk's questions, claiming to be fatigued.

At dinner, given in his honor (third right), Montalban explains to Kirk that his ship is the SS Botany Bay, an atomic powered vessel that left Earth at sub-light speeds in 1998, headed for Ceti Alpha 5. The dinner breaks up after a bristling exchange between Montalban and Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy), who bluntly questions his story and motives. Ship's historian Maria McGivers (Madlyn Rhue) and Uhuru (Nichelle Nichols) look on.

Spock, with the aid of ship's computers, correctly deduces that Montalban is in reality Khan Noonian Singh, a genetically selected superman and the despotic instigator of Earth's Eugenics Wars, who vanished without a trace after his defeat. Kirk confines Khan to his quarters and proceeds to tow the Botany Bay to Star Base 12 for further disposition. Khan escapes and, after

seducing historian McGivers to his cause, beams aboard the Botany Bay, revives his crew, and proceeds to take over the Enterprise.

Khan sentences Kirk and Mr. Spock to death inside an Enterprise decompression chamber, for refusing to accept his command, and warns Mr. Scott (James Doohan), Uhura and Dr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley) that they could be next (bottom right). McGivers is shocked by Khan's ruthlessness and betrays him to save the lives of Kirk and Spock, who lead a force to retake the ship.

Given authority by Star Fleet Command, Kirk convenes a special Court Martial to mete out justice to Khan and his men. Kirk offers Khan a choice: to be marooned on Ceti Alpha V with a minimum of survival equipment to scratch out a bare subsistence on the rugged, inhospitable planet, or be sentenced to a penal planet for rehabilitation.

"Have you ever read Milton, Captain?" asks Khan defiantly. "I have," Kirk replies.

"Then you'll remember what it was that Lucifer said after his fall into the pit."

Kirk understands. McGivers, given the choice of her own court martial or sharing Khan's punishment, chooses to be marooned with her lover. "We've got what I wanted after all," Khan says, taking her hand, "... a world to conquer."

On the bridge, as the Enterprise warps out of orbit around Ceti Alpha V, Mr. Scott turns to Kirk, confesses he's not up on his Milton despite being a good Scotsman, and asks what Lucifer said. "He said ..." Kirk pauses, "better to rule in Hell than to serve in Heaven."

Adds ever-thoughtful Mr. Spock, "It would be interesting to come back to Ceti Alpha V in a hundred years and see what crop has sprung from the seed we've planted today."

Filming blue screen the 14-foot Enterprise model, as it tows Khan's ship, the SS Botany Bay. The model was donated to the Smithsonian after the series left the air.

