

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

"Revelation"

Written by

David Johnson

(NOTE: This script was written for
DSN's fourth season and takes place
before the episode "Accession")

davidjjr@hotmail.com

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

"Revelation"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

SISKO (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 49161.2.
We are awaiting the arrival of
Gallad Copa, a Bajoran physicist
who has developed a device that
tracks the motion of verterron
particles. Hopefully, an analysis
of these particles will finally
give us some insight into the
construction of the wormhole.

INT. QUARK'S BAR

The bar is busy as usual. DAX is alone at a
table in the middle. A Ferengi waiter brings
her a plate of hideous looking food. Dax
acknowledges the waiter with a subtle nod.

DAX

Thank-you.

Dax stares at her dinner with a look that
says "here goes..." and is about to take a
bite when KIRA comes up to the table.

KIRA

May I join you?

DAX

Have a seat.

Kira looks at Dax's dinner with disgust.

KIRA

What is that?

DAX

It's Andorian Redbat. Curzon used to love it.

KIRA

I didn't know that Quark had an Andorian menu.

DAX

The Andorians are negotiating with the Wadi in the Gamma Quadrant. I think Quark smells potential customers.

Kira looks at Dax's dinner again.

KIRA

I can't even describe what I smell.

Dax tries again to take a bite but suddenly grimaces and drops the fork.

DAX

You're right. This is awful.

KIRA

You don't like it?

DAX

I'm always trying to experience things my previous hosts have enjoyed. Sometimes it's like finding an old book you once loved. Other times...

Dax gestures toward the plate.

DAX

It's not.

Dax gives a little sigh and pushes the plate away.

DAX

So, I assume you're not here to discuss my dinner.

KIRA

No. Gallad Copa's transport will be arriving soon and the Captain wants us to meet him at the airlock.

Kira looks at the plate on the table.

KIRA

That is, if you're done.

DAX

Very done.

Kira and Dax rise from the table and head out of the bar.

INT. STATION CORRIDOR/AIRLOCK

Dax and Kira are walking to the airlock. Kira is unusually quiet. Dax notices.

DAX

Are you still upset about our last springball match?

Kira relaxes a little.

KIRA

Is there any game you haven't mastered?

DAX

We have something similar on Trill.

Kira acknowledges this. Beat.

KIRA

It's not the match. It's this mission.

Dax understands.

DAX

I find it strange that the ministers would authorize a scientific mission to study their Celestial Temple. It seems almost... blasphemous.

KIRA

The ministers don't seem to think so.

DAX

You've talked to them?

KIRA

Oh yeah.

DAX

And you don't think we should go.

Dax and Kira reach the airlock.

KIRA

I don't think the Celestial Temple can be understood, at least by any scientific means. And we have no right interfering with the Prophets.

DAX

We interfere with them every time we travel through the wormhole...

KIRA

Traveling through the wormhole, with their approval, is one thing. But analyzing them like this... it's wrong.

Just then the airlock door opens. Bajoran supernumeraries come through and head off in different directions. GALLAD COPA, an intelligent looking Bajoran male in his

fifties, comes through and stops. Kira and Dax move forward to meet him.

KIRA

Gallad Copa, welcome to Deep Space Nine. I'm Major Kira Nerys and this is Commander Dax, science officer. She will be accompanying us on this mission.

GALLAD

(nodding to Kira)

Major...

(turning to Dax)

Commander Dax, it's an honor to be working with the person responsible for discovering the Celestial Temple.

DAX

I've read your reports on the
verterron sensor. It's a
remarkable achievement, but there
are a few things I'd like to go
over with you once you've settled.

GALLAD

Of course. I'm happy for any
chance to show off my work.

Dax smiles. Kira begins to look impatient.

KIRA

I'll see that your equipment is
taken to the runabout. This way.

Kira heads for the turbolift followed by Dax
and Gallad.

INT. UPPER LEVEL OF THE PROMENADE (OPTICAL)

Kira leads Dax and Gallad to one of the
large view ports and gestures to space.

KIRA

(to Gallad)

This is one of the best views of
the wormhole on the station. It
should be visible soon -- the
Defiant is leaving for the Gamma
Quadrant.

Gallad steps up to the view port and stares
into space.

GALLAD

All my life I've tried to
understand the beauty the Prophets
have created. I've never felt so
close to realizing this dream.

ANGLE - VIEWPORT (OPTICAL)

Through the view port the wormhole suddenly BECOMES VISIBLE. After a brief show of swirling light it VANISHES again.

ON GALLAD

He reacts with awe to the sight of the wormhole.

GALLAD

Incredible. The Celestial Temple is one of Bajor's greatest mysteries. And hopefully, we'll soon unlock its secrets.

Gallad turns away from the view port. Dax leads the way down the stairs. Kira shows a flash of anger then hurries to catch up.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. RUNABOUT

CHIEF O'BRIEN is overseeing the installation on the sensor. Parts are strewn all over the place. He stands in the middle for a moment giving directions to a Starfleet engineer supernumerary.

O'BRIEN

I also want you to re-route the deuterium flow. I'll align the sensor's emitters to the lateral array. I don't know how we're going to get this thing finished on time.

The supernumerary nods and moves off as O'Brien moves to a side panel and begins working, on his back, underneath the panel. He is trying to pull out components as SISKO enters and moves toward him.

O'BRIEN

(to himself)

Come on, you little...

Sisko stops near O'Brien as he continues trying to remove parts.

O'BRIEN

Damn it!

SISKO

Problem, Chief?

O'BRIEN

(angrily)

No. No problem.

(he tries again --
unsuccessfully)

No problem at all.

SISKO
(A little amused)
Okay.

O'BRIEN
(lets out a sigh)
Sorry, Captain. It's just that
this 'brilliant' little device is
incompatible with every power
system on board except impulse
energy. I've never seen anything
like it.

SISKO
No one has, Chief. This is a
completely new technology and
you've gotta expect a few quirks.

O'BRIEN
Yeah, well, I can install it
directly into the impulse system
but we'll have to take the
runabout completely apart to do
it.

SISKO
We've scheduled the mission for
0900 hours tomorrow. Can you have
it ready by then?

O'BRIEN
Sure, sure. If we stay here all
night.

SISKO
(rising)
Good.
(looks amusingly at O'Brien)
Carry on.

Sisko exits the runabout. O'Brien sighs
again and continues his work.

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Gallad and Dax are seated at the computer console. There is a long beat as they both stare at a screen showing a schematic of the sensor.

DAX

(coming out of deep thought)
What about the elevated proton counts?

GALLAD

The sensor frequency isn't susceptible to proton emissions.

Another beat.

DAX

And the neutrino interference?

GALLAD

The narrow bandwidth compensates for any neutrino interference.

After a moment Dax leans back with a look of satisfaction.

DAX

We've been studying the wormhole for over three years and we still don't know how it was created. All we know is that it consists of verterron particles. Our sensors just can't cut through the interference it generates. I can't tell you how frustrating it's been. But now all that's changed..

(she considers a moment)

This is an important breakthrough for Bajor.

GALLAD

(a little surprised)

For Bajor?

(beat)

I'm afraid there are few on Bajor who would applaud this. Most

people feel threatened by this
type of work. And I suspect Major
Kira is among them.

DAX

(a little knowingly)
What did she say?

GALLAD

Oh, she didn't have to say
anything.

(MORE)

GALLAD (CONT'D)

There's a particular look I've seen so many times that I can recognize it instantly. No one wants to hear about the latest scientific advance if it interferes in the slightest way with the established view of the universe.

(shaking his head; beat)
Most Bajorans are deeply conservative, at least in spiritual matters. They just aren't willing to listen to new ideas.

DAX

If that's true then I don't see how you got the ministers to approve this mission.

GALLAD

Because the ministers realize that no one will listen. But to deny permission for a scientist to study the wormhole would hurt our chances for Federation membership. And the ministers want very much for Bajor to join the Federation.

DAX

So they think they can bury your findings?

GALLAD

That's right.

There is a pause as Gallad is far away for a moment, but only a moment.

GALLAD

Well, enough politics. Right now I'd like to see some more of this station. Would you care to join me for a late dinner?

DAX
(rising)
I'd love to. I'm starved.

Gallad and Dax head for the door.

GALLAD
Good. Major Kira said something
about Quark serving Andorian food.
I've always wanted to try it..

Dax sighs softly as they exit.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

Kira is at her usual station. A Bajoran supernumerary is standing nearby, listening to instructions. Worf is working at his tactical station. Sisko is coming out of his office.

KIRA
(to Bajoran supernumerary)
And tell the Iridians they will
not be able to dock until we have
received their manifest.

The supernumerary nods and moves off.

WORF
Major, Chief O'Brien reports the
runabout is ready. Commander Dax
and Gallad are standing by.

Kira sighs and heads toward the turbolift.

KIRA
(to herself)
I'd better get this over with.

Sisko, standing in front of his office,
overhears.

SISKO

(stopping Kira)
Major...
(moves closer to Kira)
This is just a research mission --
nothing more.

Kira acknowledges and enters the turbolift.
She still doesn't look convinced as she
heads down.

ON WORF

who glances knowingly in Kira's direction
for a moment before returning to his
computer panel.

EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE - RUNABOUT
(OPTICAL)

The wormhole opens and a runabout enters.

INT. THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

Kira and Dax are seated up front. Gallad is
seated at the side station behind Kira.
Through the runabout windows we see the
inside of the wormhole.

KIRA
Impulse engines at one-third.

DAX
Sensors are on-line and
functioning. We're receiving data.

GALLAD
And the answers to a lot of
questions.

KIRA
(irritated -- quietly)
There are some questions that
shouldn't be answered.

GALLAD
(overhears)

We can't stay in the Dark Ages
forever, Major. We need to move
forward.

KIRA
If you call it that..

GALLAD

And what do you call it, Major?
Blasphemy? The only true blasphemy
is ignorance. The Prophets have
created a universe full of beauty
and wonder. What makes you think
they don't want us to explore it?

Kira is too busy trying to contain her anger
to respond.

GALLAD

Bajorans have tried for centuries
to understand the nature of the
Celestial Temple. Now, for the
first time, the answers are within
reach. I can think of few things
more important to Bajoran life.
And few opportunities more
provocative.

KIRA

Oh, it's provocative...

DAX

(looks nervous -- trying
to stay neutral)
We're exiting the wormhole. I'm
bringing us around for another
pass.

EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE - RUNABOUT
(OPTICAL)

The runabout exits the wormhole.

EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

The runabout turns and heads back toward the
wormhole.

INT. THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

Through the cockpit windows we see the re-
entry into the wormhole.

NEW ANGLE

We see Dax, Kira and Gallad working but the mood is tense.

DAX

(quietly to Kira, trying to
break the tension --

slightly

sarcastic)

By the way, dinner was just great.

Kira smiles.

KIRA

I'm glad you enjoyed it.

DAX

I will get you back...

Kira suddenly looks worried and begins working fast.

DAX

What's wrong?

KIRA

We're losing velocity.

DAX

(checking her panel --
surprised)

Down to eighty k.p.h.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Warning -- impulse system
overload. Auto shutdown in twelve
seconds.

Kira reacts.

EXT. INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - RUNABOUT
(OPTICAL)

The runabout slows.

INT. THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

We see Kira and Dax (but NOT Gallad) working
in stunned silence. A beat.

DAX
Twenty k.p.h.

KIRA
It's happening again, isn't it?

Dax doesn't respond. She's thinking the same thing.

KIRA
They're coming.

DAX
Gallad, do your sensors show anything?

No response.

DAX
Gallad?

Dax turns to see Gallad on the floor of the runabout, unconscious.

DAX
Kira.

Kira turns. Dax moves to the floor to help Gallad. She grabs a tricorder and begins SCANNING.

DAX
Heart rate has slowed..

KIRA
What happened?

DAX
I don't know. We need to get him back to the station.

Kira works the controls.

KIRA
The impulse system is coming back on-line. Engaging engines.

EXT. INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - RUNABOUT
(OPTICAL)

The runabout, stopped dead, begins to move again.

INT. THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

Dax is still monitoring Gallad with her tricorder. Gallad's eyes open.

DAX
(a little startled)
Gallad...

Gallad reaches up and grabs Dax's arm.

GALLAD
(almost whispering)
They were here, Commander...

Dax leans closer.

GALLAD
The Prophets... spoke to me.

Dax turns to look at Kira then turns back to Gallad, on her reaction.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. INFIRMARY

Gallad is seated on a bio-bed, being examined by BASHIR. Dax is standing close. Sisko enters and moves toward them.

SISKO
(to Gallad)
I'm Captain Benjamin Sisko. How do you feel?

GALLAD
A bit shaken. But then I've never encountered the Prophets before.

Sisko acknowledges. He understands.

SISKO
Doctor?

BASHIR
I'm detecting unusually high levels of cillicynine. It's perfectly normal to find the neurotransmitter after telepathic communication, but not in such large quantities.

SISKO
Anything to worry about?

BASHIR
No, it'll dissipate in a few hours.

GALLAD
I think I'll be fine, Captain. I am anxious, though, to share my experience with other Bajorans.

SISKO
(sighs)

About that... We need to debrief you as soon as possible about this encounter.

(MORE)

SISKO (CONT'D)

I've just received a communiqué from Kai Winn requesting that a delegation from the Vedek Assembly be present at that debriefing. The delegation will arrive in a day. Until that time, I'm afraid you'll have to sit tight.

GALLAD

'Sit tight?' You mean you want me to keep quiet.

SISKO

Just until the delegation arrives.

GALLAD

(irritated)

I trust I'm not confined to quarters as well.

SISKO

No, of course not... as long as you don't volunteer any information.

GALLAD

(to Bashir)

May I be released now, Doctor, or does the Kai require further examination?

BASHIR

Aside from the cillocynine you're in perfect health. But contact me immediately if you have any other problems.

Gallad acknowledges and rises from the bio-bed.

GALLAD

(angrily)

Well, since I'm forbidden from talking about my encounter, at least for now, I think I'll spend the time analyzing the data we collected.

DAX
(moving towards Gallad)
I'll join you.

Gallad and Dax start to leave.

SISKO
(to Gallad)
We don't mean to inconvenience
you. But, as you know, any contact
with the Prophets is of great
importance to Bajor. We need to
proceed very carefully.

GALLAD
(evenly)
Of course, Captain. I understand.

Dax and Gallad exit. Sisko turns to Bashir
and sighs.

INT. LOWER LEVEL PROMENADE

Gallad and Dax are coming out of the
infirmary.

GALLAD
I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

DAX
At what?

GALLAD
That Winn wants to hear what
happened first. She wants to take
control of this situation
immediately. It's an old story.

DAX
You've had problems with Winn
before.

GALLAD
Yes...
(MORE)

GALLAD (CONT'D)

(a beat as Gallad
is in thought)

However well-intentioned the
spiritual leaders of Bajor are,
they still tend to stifle us. They
want to control everything. For
some of us it's almost as if the
Cardassians never left...

(beat)

I thought it was hard enough
getting my work approved. And now
this...

As Gallad and Dax are walking they are
noticed and a crowd begins to form. A
BAJORAN WOMAN in the crowd finds the courage
to confront Gallad.

BAJORAN WOMAN

Gallad Copa?

GALLAD

Yes?

BAJORAN WOMAN

(coming closer to Gallad)

You spoke to them, didn't you? You
spoke to the Prophets.

Dax steps in front. She wants to avoid a
scene.

DAX

Everything will be explained
later. Now please...

GALLAD

It's okay, Commander.

BAJORAN WOMAN

What did they say?

There is a beat as Gallad appears to be
considering whether or not to tell her. He
decides.

GALLAD

Something that will change Bajor...
forever.

Gallad continues walking. Dax looks surprised and follows. We see the Bajoran woman react.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. LOWER LEVEL PROMENADE

Bashir is seated at one of the tables sipping tea, watching the flow of Bajorans into the station. Sisko comes up from the side and catches him staring at two beautiful Bajoran women.

SISKO

Doctor...

BASHIR

Oh. Ah... Hello, Captain.

SISKO

Doing a little sightseeing?

BASHIR

No. I was just...

Sisko gives him a "tell me another one" look.

BASHIR

Well... Yes.

SISKO

Any prospects?

BASHIR

Not yet. But with the Dominion and the Klingons I never thought I'd see the station this busy again.

SISKO

All the transports from Bajor have been loaded to capacity. Everyone wants to see Gallad Copa.

BASHIR

What was it like, Captain? I mean,
when you encountered the Prophets?

SISKO

It was... strange. I felt like an
entire alien species was running
around inside my head.

BASHIR

That must've been embarrassing.

SISKO

Actually, I found the attention I
received afterwards to be more
embarrassing than the experience
itself. I'm still not comfortable
with the name 'Emissary.'

BASHIR

Hmm... They'll have to find a new
one for Gallad.

SISKO

Yeah...

(stares at the crowd)

His life is about to become very
complex.

There is a beat as Sisko and Bashir continue
to stare at the Bajorans pouring into the
station.

INT. STATION CORRIDOR

We see a deserted corridor and the door to
one of the guest quarters. QUARK appears and
moves toward one of the doors, nervously
looking around him. He is about to activate
the door chime when ODO comes up behind him.

ODO

Quark...

Quark spins around, almost jumping.

QUARK

Odo. You almost scared me to death. What are you doing here?

ODO

What are you doing here?

QUARK

Personal business. Must you shapeshift your way into all my affairs?

ODO

Yes. That's my business.

Odo looks at the door.

ODO

Gallad Copa's quarters. Now what would you want with him?

QUARK

I have a... proposition for him.

ODO

Really? I heard that you're selling his account of what happened in the wormhole to the highest bidder. You wouldn't be here to acquire it, would you?

Quark begins to look impatient.

QUARK

Odo, you wouldn't know a business opportunity if it walked up and shook your hand, so let me break it down for you. The station is full of faithful Bajorans desperate for any detail of Gallad's story. Now, if I had the exclusive rights to that story... I would make enough to leave this miserable station and you wouldn't have to worry about me ever again. Doesn't that sound good?

ODO

It does. But Gallad is under strict orders from the Kai not to discuss what happened. What makes you think he'll talk to you?

QUARK

Scientists always need funding. Latinum talks.

Quark turns and is about to activate the door chime when Odo grabs him and pulls him away.

ODO

Not today. Leave him alone.

Odo begins leading Quark away from Gallad's quarters, then pauses.

ODO

Oh, and if I hear of you selling a bogus story, I'll put you away for so long that you'll never have to see this miserable station again. How does that sound?

QUARK

You enjoy this, don't you Odo? Following me, antagonizing me. The Founders must be very proud.

Odo smirks and continues leading Quark away.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. WARD ROOM (OPTICAL)

Sisko is seated at the head of the table. Kira is to his right, with Dax and Gallad seated on the same side. To Sisko's left are TWO BAJORAN VEDEKS, both in their sixties. Neither of them look very welcoming.

SISKO

(to Gallad)
Alright. Now, tell us what
happened during the second pass.

GALLAD
We had just re-entered the
wormhole. I was monitoring the
sensor readings.

(MORE)

GALLAD (CONT'D)

A few moments later I felt something... I suddenly realized I wasn't in the runabout anymore...

CUT TO:

INT. GALLAD'S LABORATORY

Here we begin a flashback sequence. Gallad is alone in the middle, surrounded by his equipment. The mood is eerie and dreamlike. This is the beginning of his contact with the Prophets.

GALLAD

(confused)

My lab... What is happening?

Close on Gallad. He turns his head and sees a BAJORAN VEDEK ALIEN.

VEDEK ALIEN

What are you doing here?

Gallad turns his head in the other direction and sees a CARDASSIAN ALIEN.

CARDASSIAN ALIEN

Why are you attacking us?

GALLAD

(still confused)

Attacking you?

(he suddenly realizes what's happening -- to himself)

The Prophets...

VEDEK ALIEN

We will not allow the emissions from your ship to harm us.

GALLAD

(apologetically, reverently)

The emissions from my ship are sensor scans. They are simply a

means of collecting information
about this place.

CARDASSIAN ALIEN

He lies. We should destroy his
craft now.

GALLAD

No, I'm telling the truth. We only
wish to learn. If the scans harm
you, I will stop them.

Gallad turns in another direction and sees a
BAJORAN SCIENTIST ALIEN.

SCIENTIST ALIEN

If this is true, then your purpose
here is similar to ours. We
created this passage to learn
about other lifeforms.

Gallad doesn't understand.

GALLAD

To learn about other lifeforms?
(confused, but still
reverent)
I'm sorry, but I don't understand.
What do you need to learn?

SCIENTIST ALIEN

We have much to learn.

GALLAD

But you are the Prophets. You
created us.

Another BAJORAN ALIEN appears.

BAJORAN ALIEN

We cannot create lifeforms.

SCIENTIST ALIEN

We collect information on every
ship that enters this passage. We
wish to understand your existence.

But we have no influence over any
lifeform outside of the passage.
We are... explorers, much like
yourself.

GALLAD

(to himself)

Then there are no Prophets...

BAJORAN ALIEN

We wish for others to understand
our existence as well. You may
continue your sensor scans.

Gallad is still trying to accept this
revelation.

BACK TO:

INT. THE WARD ROOM (OPTICAL)

As above. Gallad is continuing his story.

GALLAD

Suddenly they were gone, and I
found myself on the floor of the
runabout being treated by
Commander Dax.

The room is silent as Gallad finishes his
story. Sisko quietly sighs. Kira looks
shocked. The Vedeks, however, show no
emotion.

GALLAD

(to the Vedeks)

I wish to address the Vedek
Assembly as soon as possible.
Bajor must know what happened.

There is a pause as the Vedeks look at each
other suspiciously. One of the Vedeks
responds.

VEDEK #1

(rather nonchalantly)

That won't be possible.

Gallad is taken aback by this response.

GALLAD

Why?

VEDEK #1

The Assembly need not be bothered
by this heresy.

GALLAD

Heresy?

VEDEK #1

The Prophets reveal our pagh to us. They have simply shown you your contempt for Bajoran faith. You are not to speak of this again.

A beat as Gallad becomes defensive.

GALLAD

You cannot silence me.

VEDEK #1

We will not allow you to harm Bajor with your lies.

Gallad turns away in frustration. We see him beginning to boil.

GALLAD

(angrily)

It's your ignorance that's harming Bajor.

VEDEK #1

We won't stand for insults.
(to Sisko)
I think we've heard enough, Captain.

The Vedeks rise and begin to exit. Gallad rises as well.

GALLAD

You can't hide the truth anymore. The beings in the wormhole are simply a different species. They are not gods.

VEDEK #1

We interpret the prophecies, not you.

The Vedeks exit. Gallad turns to Sisko.
Sisko is sympathetic but there is nothing he
can do. Gallad bows his head in frustration.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. DSN TEMPLE

Kira is alone with her eyes closed, deep in her meditation. But instead of the usual contentment we see the subtle signs of tension in her face.

DAX (O.S.)
Am I disturbing you?

At the familiar sound of Dax's voice Kira opens her eyes and turns..

REVERSE ANGLE

Dax is coming through the door.

KIRA
(a little distracted)
No... I was just about to leave.

DAX
I wanted to see how you're doing.

KIRA
(evenly)
I'm fine.

DAX
(eyes Kira for a beat)
That's good. Because I thought you might be disturbed by what Gallad said today. I'm glad I was wrong.

KIRA
(smiles, lets down her guard)
I shouldn't even try anymore.

DAX
Try what?

KIRA
To hide anything from you.

DAX
I think even Quark could've
figured this one out.

KIRA
(smirks)
Probably...
(gets serious; beat)
What Gallad said today goes
against everything I've ever
believed, everything that Bajor
stands for...
(beat)
But I can't ignore the word of the
Prophets either. Right now I don't
know what to think.

DAX
Do you agree with the Vedeks?

KIRA
They were obviously hand-chosen by
Winn, which pretty much destroys
any credibility they might've had...
But what am I supposed to do, just
give up my beliefs? I can't do it.

DAX
It's going to take a long time to
work this out.

Kira turns and moves toward the Bajoran
symbols on the wall. A beat.

KIRA
That's just it. I don't think I
can work this out.

DAX
It's still too early...

KIRA

Maybe. But I don't think I'm
capable of that kind of change.
And I don't think Bajor is either.

Kira turns away from the wall and moves
toward the exit. Dax reacts for a moment and
then follows her.

INT. SISKO'S OFFICE (OPTICAL)

Sisko is leaning over his desk, talking to a
BAJORAN MINISTER on the monitor in front of
him. He is managing to keep his famous
temper in check, barely.

SISKO
I won't do that.

MINISTER
I don't think our request is
unreasonable, Captain.

SISKO
When Gallad is ready to leave, I
won't hold him.

MINISTER
We're not asking you to hold him...

SISKO
It sure sounds like it to me.

MINISTER
You misunderstand. We simply feel
that he is safer on the station at
this time.

SISKO
He has done nothing wrong. He has
the right to come and go as he
pleases.

MINISTER
We understand that, Captain. What
you have to understand is that
Bajor may be a dangerous place for

him right now. We don't know how the people will react. We have to allow time for them to accept this revelation.

SISKO

And time for the Chamber of Ministers to decide what to do with him.

MINISTER

He has made a very serious claim and yes, we need time to evaluate it.

Sisko turns his head away from the screen for a beat as he makes his decision.

SISKO

I'll make him aware of your security concerns. But ultimately, the decision to leave is his.

We can see the Minister quietly sigh, slightly irritated.

MINISTER

You'll keep us informed...

SISKO

Of course.

The Minister reaches over to press a button we can't see and Sisko's monitor returns to the Starfleet insignia. A beat as Sisko stares suspiciously at the screen.

INT. UPPER LEVEL OF QUARK'S BAR

Gallad and Dax are sitting at a secluded table near the rail, overlooking the crowd below. Gallad is silent for a moment as he stares down at them.

GALLAD

The Vedek Assembly is dismissing my account of the encounter. They are calling it a 'false' prophecy. They say because I'm a scientist I couldn't hear the 'true' voice of the Prophets.

(beat)

They just aren't going to listen, are they?

DAX

Starfleet has often encountered situations where one species worships another. When the truth is revealed the transition is always a difficult one. The fact that Bajorans are an exceptionally passionate people makes it even harder...

(beat)

But they will adjust. It won't be easy, but it will happen.

GALLAD

(a slight beat)

Have you always been so optimistic, Commander?

DAX

(smiles)

That's a hard question for a trill to answer. Jadzia Dax has.

GALLAD

(slightly distracted)

You remind me of my wife, Lenor... always optimistic...

DAX

You're very lucky to have someone like that.

GALLAD

Yes...

(beat)

Unfortunately she objected to my coming here.

DAX

Why?

GALLAD

She thinks I'm being selfish. She doesn't think I should force my 'scientific outlook' on others...

(shaking his head)

The truth is always in Bajor's best interest.

(MORE)

GALLAD (CONT'D)

And I couldn't pass up the opportunity to explore the Celestial Temple. I wish she understood that.

There is an uncomfortable silence as Dax nods. After a moment Gallad appears to snap out of his reverie and looks up at Dax.

GALLAD

Well, I'm glad someone does.

Dax smiles subtly.

INT. QUARK'S BAR

It's business as usual at the bar. The patrons seem oblivious to what is happening. The sounds of gambling fill the air. Meanwhile, Odo stands near the bar, quietly watching over Gallad and Dax who still sit at a table on the upper level. Quark approaches from behind the bar.

QUARK

Constable. Just the man I wanted to see.

ODO

Not now, Quark. I'm busy.

QUARK

I think you'll want to hear this.

ODO

If you have a complaint you can file it later. Right now I'm busy.

QUARK

Fine. But if something happens to a certain Bajoran scientist on

this station, don't say I didn't try to warn you.

Odo turns around slowly.

ODO

What did you hear?

Quark looks around for a moment then leans in close to Odo.

QUARK

Nothing specific. But a lot of people don't like what he has to say. And some of them will do whatever it takes to make sure he doesn't say anything more.

ODO

Who?

Quark backs off a bit. He isn't willing to go that far.

QUARK

I don't have names, Constable.

ODO

Of course not. But what I don't understand is why you're suddenly so concerned with Gallad's welfare.

QUARK

Because talk like this makes customers nervous. And when customers get nervous, they stop coming.

ODO

But this sounds like the perfect opportunity for a 'middleman.'

QUARK

I deal in merchandise, Constable. Not murder.

ODO
Murder can be very profitable..

QUARK
(seriously)
Murder is bad business.
(lightens up)
Besides, such an arrangement would
clearly violate Bajoran law, and I
would never...

ODO
(interrupting)
I'm sure your dedication to
Bajoran law would touch my heart..
if I had one...

Odo turns and looks up.

ODO'S POV - GALLAD AND DAX

Gallad and Dax are still talking in the
upper level.

ANGLE - ODO

Still looking up. Beat.

ODO
You don't have to worry Quark. I'm
already on it.

Odo begins to move off. Quark stops him.

QUARK
(excited)
One more thing, Constable...

ODO
(interrupting)
Wait. Let me guess. I didn't hear
this from you.

Quark smiles.

QUARK

Aahh...

Odo smirks and moves away. Off on Quark's expression.

INT. LOWER LEVEL PROMENADE

Gallad is walking past the shops. He seems separate from the other Bajorans, as if he's not really one of them. The others try to ignore him as he passes but it's obvious what is happening.

As Gallad passes the jumja kiosk he suddenly slows and stares intently at it.

GALLAD'S POV

At the kiosk we see a young Bajoran couple buying a jumja stick for a small child.

RESUME PREVIOUS ANGLE

Gallad continues to stare as if he knows them. He is interrupted as Sisko approaches from another walkway with a BAJORAN SECURITY OFFICER.

SISKO

Gallad Copa...

GALLAD

(turns to Sisko)

Captain...

SISKO

I just had a talk with the Minister of State. He is very concerned about the reaction other Bajorans may have to your encounter.

GALLAD

(resumes walking)

He should be concerned.

SISKO

(ignoring Gallad's remark)
The minister feels that some extreme factions may want to retaliate so I'm assigning you a security detail just as a precaution.

GALLAD

If you think it's necessary...

SISKO

I do, but there's something else I wanted to talk to you about...

(beat)

I'm also concerned about your reaction to the encounter.

GALLAD

My reaction?

SISKO

(awkwardly, searching for the words)

Yes. I know when I encountered the Prophets it had a profound impact on my life. It made me confront a lot of personal issues I hadn't addressed... as well as fundamentally changing the way Bajorans relate to me. It gave me a place in Bajoran faith which, frankly, I'm still not comfortable with...

(beat)

What I'm trying to say is that all this can be a lot to deal with and, since I've been through it, I may be able to help you with...

GALLAD

(interrupting)

Captain, I appreciate what you're trying to do. But I don't need a counselor right now. What I need is for Bajor to accept the truth.

SISKO

I understand. But I just want you
to know, if you want to talk..

GALLAD

Thank-you, Captain. I'll keep your
offer in mind. Now, I have some
work I must get back to..

Sisko nods and Gallad moves off with the
security officer. Sisko stops and watches
Gallad leave, a curious expression on his
face; feeling a bit snubbed, perhaps. After
a moment he heads back to the turbo-lift.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. STATION CORRIDOR

Outside of Gallad's quarters. The Bajoran Security Officer (same as above) stands guard outside the door.

A LADOWSIAN, a relatively nondescript humanoid alien, dressed conservatively and holding a PADD, approaches the security officer.

SECURITY OFFICER

(placing his hand
on his weapon)

Stop. This is a secure area.
You'll have to leave.

LADOWSIAN

(stopping -- very polite)
Excuse me, I'm from the Daystrom
Institute. I was sent here to meet
with Gallad and discuss his
findings.

SECURITY OFFICER

He is not to be disturbed right
now. You'll have to come back
later.

LADOWSIAN

Of course.
(holds up the PADD)
May I give him a message from the
Institute?

SECURITY OFFICER

(holds out his hand)
Leave it with me. I'll see that he
gets it.

LADOWSIAN

(handing the officer the
PADD)

I would appreciate that...

The Security Officer takes the PADD. Almost instantly he begins to feel something. He looks down at the PADD and begins to stagger. He tries to draw his weapon but it is too late -- he falls to the ground unconscious.

The Ladowsian immediately grabs his weapon and changes the setting. He then takes a small device out of his jacket and places it on the door to override the lock.

INT. GALLAD'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

In the f.g. we see Gallad working at his computer station. The entrance to his quarters is in the b.g. There are pictures on the wall and one above the doorway.

Suddenly the door slides open and we see the Ladowsian in the doorway. Gallad reacts with shock to the sight of the assassin.

As the Ladowsian comes through the doorway the picture above CHANGES SHAPE. It then DROPS from the doorframe behind the Ladowsian. We see the familiar shape of Odo FORM. As the assassin raises the weapon towards Gallad Odo grabs him from behind. Odo thrusts the assassin's arm upward and a PHASER BLAST goes harmlessly into the ceiling. After a brief struggle Odo manages to wrestle the Ladowsian to the ground and disarm him. With the assassin under control Odo looks up to Gallad.

ON GALLAD

who still has the look of horror on his face. He sighs softly and bows his head in relief.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. GALLAD'S QUARTERS

It's the aftermath of the assassination attempt. Bajoran security supernumeraries are inspecting the room. Sisko is talking with Kira and Odo on the far side of the room. Bashir is attending to Gallad in the f.g. The door to Gallad's quarters slides open and Dax enters. She moves toward Gallad and Bashir.

DAX
(to Gallad -- concerned)
Are you alright?

GALLAD
I'll be fine.

Dax looks to Bashir, who nods in agreement.

DAX
Even the station isn't safe
anymore.

GALLAD
The fanatics are everywhere,
Commander. I'm afraid I'll have to
get used to this.

There is a beat as Dax searches for something positive to say, without success.

SISKO (O.S.)
Commander...

Dax flashes Gallad a concerned look then turns and moves toward Sisko, who is still standing with Odo and Kira.

SISKO
Report, Commander.

DAX

The PADD was coated with a neurotoxin that is harmless to Ladowsians but lethal to most other humanoids. The guard died instantly.

SISKO

What do you know about Ladowsians?

DAX

There's little information in Federation records aside from speculation about their mental abilities.

SISKO

What sort of mental abilities?

DAX

Apparently they can purge any memory from their minds.

ODO

(breaking in)

I've heard about them, Captain. They have little regard for other humanoid life. And with their ability to erase certain memories, they make the perfect assassin. Whoever hires a Ladowsian is guaranteed anonymity because the killer truly cannot remember who it was. But whoever did hire this fellow paid handsomely for him. Ladowsian assassins would even be out of Quark's league, if he were to deal in that sort of thing. I don't think we're going to get anything out of this one.

SISKO

All the same Constable, I want you to keep trying. And go through the passenger manifests of ships that

have recently docked. Maybe we can trace his movements that way.

Odo nods and moves off.

SISKO

(turning to Kira)

Major, contact Bajoran Security. I want to discuss the possibility of transferring Gallad to a safer location. He's at risk here.

KIRA

Yes, sir.

Kira and Dax begin to leave together. As they reach the door Dax gives Gallad a final worried look before exiting.

INT. STATION CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Kira and Dax are walking toward Ops.

DAX

I'm worried about Gallad.

KIRA

(rather nonchalantly)

He should've known this would happen.

Dax is surprised.

DAX

What do you mean?

KIRA

(more forcefully)

I mean, you don't condemn the Prophets without expecting a response.

DAX

But it sounds like you agree with the response.

KIRA

No, of course not. But there are some things you don't do. And trying to destroy the Prophets is one of them.

DAX
(getting frustrated)
He had no choice, Kira...

Kira stops in the middle of the corridor.

KIRA
(angrily)
Look, he had a choice. We all have a choice. And I don't give a damn about any 'scientific breakthroughs.' As a Federation officer you may not understand that some things are sacred. Some things you do not question. Gallad should've realized that.

Kira continues walking towards Ops. Dax stares in her direction with surprise and irritation. She is about to start walking again when she hears...

COM VOICE
Ops to Commander Dax.

DAX
(hesitating a moment
before answering)
Dax here.

COM VOICE
Commander, we're receiving a communiqué for you.

DAX
(reluctantly)
I'm on my way.

Dax sighs and heads in the same direction as Kira.

INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

Kira is at her usual station looking tense. Dax enters from the turbolift and stares at Kira for a moment. Kira turns away coldly

when she sees Dax and resumes her work. Dax moves to her station with a very even expression on her face.

A female STARFLEET ENSIGN is working at a nearby station.

DAX
(to the ensign)
What is the source of the
transmission?

The ensign stares at the computer console for a moment.

STARFLEET ENSIGN
Unknown.

DAX
(surprised)
Unknown?
(beat)
Transfer the message to my
station.

Dax reads the message (which we CANNOT see) as it comes on her screen. She reacts with a mixture of surprise and confusion. Dax considers for a moment, then:

DAX
Ensign, I want you to start a
subspace trace. I need to find out
who sent this message..

STARFLEET ENSIGN
Yes, sir.

Dax continues to consider the message for a beat, then:

DAX
(tapping insignia, still
staring at the screen)
Dax to O'Brien.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

O'Brien here.

DAX

Chief, report to runabout pad 'A.'
There's something I need you to
check...

Kira looks up from her station for a moment
in curiosity but then quickly returns to her
console to avoid Dax's eyes. Dax is
oblivious as she begins working quickly at
her computer station.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. RUNABOUT

The runabout is in pieces again. O'Brien is
working at one of the side computer stations
with a sensor log on the screen. Dax enters.

DAX

What've you got, Chief?

O'BRIEN

Something I never would've found
unless you told me where to look...

(beat)

When you returned from the mission
I assumed the Prophets had stopped
the ship... just as they'd done
before. But when I went through
the sensor logs I found a power
surge at 1846... exactly when the
encounter began.

O'Brien points to the computer screen which
shows a graph with a huge jump in output at
one point.

DAX

(very interested)

What caused it?

O'BRIEN

That's just it. The sensor caused it. It sent an energy spike through the impulse system and shut it down. And it was no accident. The sensor was designed to do that.

DAX

You're sure?

O'BRIEN

Yeah.

There is a beat as Dax continues to stare at the screen, her mind spinning with possibilities.

INT. QUARK'S BAR

Kira is at a table by herself. She is deep in her own thoughts and oblivious to the crowd around her. Worf observes her from the bar for a few moments before approaching.

WORF

Major...

Kira snaps out of it.

KIRA

Worf, what can I do for you?

WORF

I'm hoping there is something I can do for you.

KIRA

(intrigued)

Have a seat.

WORF

(sitting)

You're troubled.

KIRA

Don't tell me you were the ship's counselor on the Enterprise.

WORF

I was not. But I think I understand your dilemma. A similar one sent me to Boreth after the Enterprise was destroyed. It is an issue I've struggled with my entire life..

(beat)

During my years of service my duty as a Starfleet officer has often conflicted with my faith as a Klingon.

(MORE)

WORF (CONT'D)

It seemed as if the two were incompatible and that I would have to choose between them. Much as you feel you have to now.

KIRA

Sounds pretty close. Got any insights?

WORF

(beat)

Only that you must still believe despite the 'evidence' to the contrary. Faith has never been a matter of proof.

KIRA

(sighs)

But how can I do that? I feel like I'm being torn apart...

WORF

I never said it was easy, Major. But it is a struggle you must learn to accept.

KIRA

So you just ignore the doubts?

WORF

No... The believer needs doubt just as the warrior needs combat. It keeps him strong. The warrior who does not fight becomes weak and is easily defeated. He is no longer a true warrior...

(beat)

The same is true with the believer, only the battle is waged in your heart. Doubt keeps your faith alive... There is no faith without it.

There is a beat as Kira looks more confused than she was before. Worf rises.

WORF

I hope I've been some help to you.

With that Worf turns and exits. Kira watches in bewilderment as Worf leaves, then sighs and returns to her thoughts.

INT. INFIRMARY

Bashir is busy working. The door opens and Dax enters.

DAX

Julian, do you have a minute?

BASHIR

(looking up from his work)
Of course. What is it?

DAX

When you examined Gallad after the encounter with the Prophets, you said you detected high levels of cillicynine.

BASHIR

Yes, unusually high.

DAX

Is there any way to achieve those levels without telepathic communication?

Bashir considers for a moment.

BASHIR

Yes, I suppose... Large doses of prexidol could lead to a high cillicynine reading.

DAX

Is prexidol detectable?

BASHIR

Yes, but not unless I scanned specifically for it...

(MORE)

BASHIR (CONT'D)

(beat)

Are you saying that Gallad injected himself with prexidol to simulate telepathic communication?

DAX

Possibly.

BASHIR

But prexidol has some nasty side effects. Large doses can cause permanent damage. Why would anyone want to do that?

DAX

(beat)

I don't know.

INT. OPS

The Starfleet Ensign (same as above) is still working at the computer station. Dax comes up the turbo lift and approaches her.

DAX

Any luck?

STARFLEET ENSIGN

(looking frustrated)

I can't pinpoint the source of the message. The signal dissipates before the trace is complete.

Dax considers for a moment.

DAX

Try modulating the subspace frequency.

The ensign presses a few buttons and after a moment we see her frustration change to satisfaction.

STARFLEET ENSIGN
(triumphantly)
Got it. Bajor eight.

DAX
(staring at the screen)
Good work, ensign.

The ensign acknowledges with a subtle smile and Dax moves off.

INT. SISKO'S OFFICE

Sisko is working at his desk. We hear the door CHIME. Sisko presses a button, the door slides open and Dax enters.

SISKO
Commander, Bajoran Security just informed me they will be sending a shuttle for Gallad. Please let him know.

DAX
I will. In the meantime, I need a runabout to go to Bajor eight.

SISKO
Bajor eight? What for, 'old man'?

Dax takes a deep breath and sits down. Beat.

DAX
I think there's more going on here than we realize.

Sisko reacts as his curiosity is piqued.

EXT. SPACE - DSN - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

A runabout gracefully lifts off the landing pad and heads into space.

EXT. BAJORAN SETTLEMENT - DAY

We see a small community with impressive Bajoran buildings.

EXT. BAJORAN HOUSE - DAY

We see the door to one of the houses and a green lawn. Dax MATERIALIZES on the lawn and moves to the door.

She presses the door chime and after a few moments the door opens. A middle aged Bajoran woman, GALLAD LENOR, answers. We can sense her strength from the confidence of her movements.

LENOR

Can I help you?

DAX

Gallad Lenor?

LENOR

Yes?

DAX

I'm Commander Dax. I got the message you sent to the station.

LENOR

I'm afraid I don't know what you're talking about.

Lenor begins to close the door but Dax puts up her hand and keeps it open.

DAX

I checked the sensor logs and I know the truth. I need to speak to you.

Lenor continues to resist for a moment before realizing it's futile. She sighs with resignation and gestures for Dax to enter.

INT. BAJORAN HOME

Lenor leads Dax into the living room, a clean, well-ordered place with the odd piece of scientific paraphernalia here and there.

LENOR

I'm surprised you found me at all. I thought I scrambled the signal so well that no one could trace it.

DAX

I have eight lifetimes of computer experience.

Lenora looks at Dax's spots.

LENOR

You're a trill.

DAX

Yes.

There is a brief pause as Dax prepares herself. Then:

DAX

I want you to come back to the station and help me stop Gallad.

LENOR

I've tried to stop him but he won't listen to me.

DAX

He has to. He's going to get himself killed if he doesn't.

(beat)

There are very few people on Bajor who could afford a Ladowsian. I wouldn't be surprised if the Kai herself was behind the attempt. If they were willing to hire an assassin like that, they will stop at nothing to silence him. Eventually they'll succeed.

Lenor is clearly taken aback by this. She steps away from Dax and moves toward a window. She stops and stares reflectively.

LENOR
(quietly, almost to herself)
I know. That's why I contacted
you.

DAX
I don't know why he's doing this
but I bet you do.

LENOR
Yes, I do.

DAX
Then only you can help him. Come
back with me.

Lenor reaches down to a nearby table and picks up a small picture.

INSERT - PICTURE

We see Gallad and Lenor with a small child, a girl, smiling happily between them.

BACK TO SCENE

Lenor puts the picture back and turns around.

LENOR
I will.

DAX
(tapping insignia)
Dax to Mekong. Two to beam up.

We see the look of determination on Lenor's face as she and Dax DEMATERIALIZE.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. GALLAD'S QUARTERS

Gallad is seated at his workstation as before but he is not working. He is simply sitting before an empty screen, staring reflectively. The door CHIMES.

GALLAD
(coming out of thought)
Come in.

The door slides open and Dax enters. She stands in the doorway, keeping the door open. Her expression is neutral.

GALLAD
(brightening a little)
Ah, Commander. I was hoping to see you before I left.

DAX
(the slightest beat)
I've brought someone else I think you'll be interested in seeing.

Gallad appears puzzled but before he can ask Dax looks back toward the corridor and Lenor appears. They both enter the room and the door slides shut.

GALLAD
(surprised and angry)
Lenor. What are you doing here?

LENOR
I've come to stop you... from making a dreadful mistake.

Gallad rises the turns his back to them.
Beat.

GALLAD

It's dangerous here. I don't want you involved.

LENOR

It's too late Copa, I am involved. And I won't allow this lie to continue.

GALLAD

What lie?

DAX

(breaking in)

About your encounter with the Prophets.

Gallad turns and glares at Lenor with anger.

LENOR

She knows.

GALLAD

(turning away again)

What does she know?

Lenor turns to Dax.

DAX

During the second pass in the wormhole the device you designed shut down the impulse system on the runabout, making it appear as if the Prophets had stopped the ship. You injected yourself with prexidol, a drug that mimics the effects of telepathic communication. You wanted it to seem as if the Prophets had contacted you, when in fact they hadn't. The whole thing was a charade. The encounter never happened.

Beat as Gallad considers. Then:

GALLAD

(to Lenor)
You told her this?

LENOR
(nodding slowly)
Yes.

DAX
What I want to know is why you
lied to me. Why you used me.

GALLAD
(apologetically)
I had to, Commander. Because my
lie is insignificant compared to
the one Bajor lives with everyday.
They won't listen to science or to
reason... Don't you see? Bajorans
are children and it's time for
them to grow up.

DAX
And you think you can accomplish
that by destroying the Prophets?

GALLAD
I have no desire to harm the
entities in the wormhole, but yes,
I want to destroy the idea of the
Prophets. The notion that we are
all helpless creatures whose
destinies have already been
determined by supreme beings. It's
absurd. As scientists how can we
possibly accept this?

DAX
The vast majority of Bajorans have
no problem accepting it.

GALLAD
(increasingly angry)
And they are fools. They place
their faith in beings who have
subjected them to evil beyond
imagination. The Occupation was

one of the most hideous atrocities
this quadrant has ever seen but
the Prophets did nothing to stop
it. Where were our benevolent
guardians when Cardassian troops
were slaughtering millions?

(MORE)

GALLAD (CONT'D)

For fifty years they let us
suffer, our prayers answered only
with more death and destruction...

(beat)

If this is the work of the
Prophets, I want nothing to do
with them.

Gallad finishes and turns away. Dax searches
for a response but before she can answer
Lenor steps in.

LENOR

This isn't about the Cardassians.
It's about Mena.

DAX

(puzzled)

Mena?

Lenor stares at Gallad a moment before
continuing.

LENOR

Mena was our daughter. She was
visiting her grandparents on New
Bajor in the Gamma Quadrant when
the Jem'Hadar came... and destroyed
it.

Gallad sighs and turns away.

ON GALLAD

We follow Gallad as he goes to his window
and stares out for a beat. As he closes his
eyes we can see the pain in his face.

CUT

TO:

EXT. NEW BAJOR COLONY - DAY

It is a sunny day. We see a playground in
the f.g. and a Bajoran settlement in the

b.g. Several children are playing on the bars and one of them is GALLAD MENA, the girl from Lenor's picture.

Sitting on a bench on the edge of the playground is an elderly man and woman. They are obviously Mena's grandparents and they watch the children happily.

Suddenly there is a RUMBLING from the direction of the settlement. Several children, including Mena, stop playing and look towards the buildings. The grandparents turn and look as well. JEM'HADAR FIGHTERS suddenly APPEAR from the sky and BEGIN FIRING on the buildings, DESTROYING them. The children begin to scream and run and the playground becomes chaos. Mena tries to get to her grandparents but can't through the crowd. As the ships, still FIRING, ominously CLOSE on the playground we see the intense fear on Mena's face. She begins to scream as we...

FLASH CUT

TO:

INT. GALLAD'S QUARTERS

Gallad is still facing the window. His eyes suddenly snap open.

DAX

(to Gallad)

Is that why you're doing this?
Because you blame the Prophets for
what happened to her?

GALLAD

(angrily)

Mena's death only opened my eyes.
It showed me what a fool I'd been,
and led me to one inescapable
conclusion -- there are no
Prophets.

(beat)

And how could there be? We finally defeat the Cardassians and what do the Prophets do? They create a wormhole that exposes us to an even greater evil, the Dominion. They allow the Jem'Hadar to come through their Celestial Temple and kill the innocent...

A beat as we see Gallad's anger turn to grief.

GALLAD

We give them our faith, our love,
and all we receive is pain...

(beat)

We trusted them... to guide our
child through the Temple Gates... to
protect her... and they took our
little girl...

Gallad can no longer continue. He breaks down in anguish.

LENOR

(tenderly)

Copa, stop this.

(moving close to Gallad)

Stop this before it kills you.
You've been angry for too long...
It's destroyed your faith... and
your work. You're obsessed with
revenge...

(beat)

But it's time to let it go... before
I lose a husband as well.

We can still see the grief on Gallad's face as Lenor takes him in her arms. Beat.

GALLAD

I miss her so much...

LENOR

So do I Copa, so do I... but this
won't solve anything. It's time to
go home.

Gallad acknowledges as Lenor continues to hold him. Dax looks on with sympathy.

EXT. SPACE - DSN (OPTICAL)

INT. REPLIMAT

We see Kira approach the replimat and look around briefly, obviously searching for someone. The replimat is full of supernumeraries enjoying their food.

Kira spots Dax and Worf sitting at a table and takes a deep breath before approaching them.

WORF
(seeing Kira approach)
Major...

KIRA
Mr. Worf, may I speak with Dax for a moment?

WORF
(knowingly)
Of course.

Worf rises and heads out of the replimat. Kira sits down and hesitates a moment before she begins.

KIRA
The Captain told me about Gallad...

DAX
He's been suspended from the Institute of Science while they review the case. Gallad's returning to Bajor eight where he'll make a full statement. Everyone will know the truth.

KIRA
(awkwardly)
I want to apologize for the way I snapped at you earlier...
(beat)
You were right -- I needed some time... and a little help to work things out.

DAX
Really... from whom?

KIRA
Mr. Worf.

DAX
 (surprised)
 Well, if there's one thing I've
 learned about Worf...

Dax looks over Kira's shoulder at someone
 approaching...

DAX
 It's that he's full of surprises.

Worf returns to the table carrying two large
 jumja sticks, which look like overgrown
 popsicles, something a child would eat.

WORF
 (offering one to Kira)
 Jumja, Major?

KIRA
 (caught off guard)
 Ah, no thank-you. I've got to go...
 (rises from the table)
 I'll see you in ops...

Kira moves away from the table as Worf sits.
 Worf gives Dax a jumja stick and they both
 dig in with glee.

INT. PROMENADE

We see Kira walking towards the entrance to
 the Bajoran shrine. Just as she reaches it
 the two Vedeks we saw earlier emerge. Kira
 stops before them.

KIRA
 Vedeks... I hope you've enjoyed your
 stay on the station.

VEDEK #1
 We have, Major. But now we must
 hurry to our shuttle...
 (beat)
 You should hurry too... services are
 about to begin.

Kira nods and the Vedeks move off. Kira eyes them cautiously for a beat before going into the shrine.

THE TWO VEDEKS

We follow the Vedeks as they slowly walk through the promenade.

VEDEK #2

The word has gotten out. The people are returning to the temples.

VEDEK #1

Gallad's claim will be forgotten and life will return to the way it was... before his blasphemy.

VEDEK #2

(a beat -- then in hushed tones)

If that's true, then I don't see why we have to...

VEDEK #1

(interrupting)

Because the people may forget but the Kai does not.

VEDEK #2

I don't think we can risk another attempt on the station.

VEDEK #1

No, he's too well-protected here. We will wait until he leaves the station.

VEDEK #2

But if he's going to tell the truth...

VEDEK #1

(forcefully)

It doesn't matter. He has offended
the Prophets and he must be
punished.

(MORE)

VEDEK #1 (CONT'D)

(a beat)

But not now. He is returning to
Bajor eight. We will deal with him
there.

There is another brief pause before Vedek #2
nods his head in agreement. They then calmly
continue walking through the promenade,
towards one of the exits.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END