

Law Trek V - the Final Exam

The Scene: the Bridge of the starship.

Narrator: "These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise Liability. Our 3 year mission: to seek out new torts and new causes of action, to boldly go where..."

(Sound effects): phasers firing - the ship rocks (the actors lean left, then right, in unison).

James T. (Treece?) Kirk: What's happening? Who's attacking us?

Spock(olow): I'm having difficulty identifying them, sir. There seems to be a problem with the Martindale-Hubble Space Directory.

Kirk: Put them on the viewing screen.

Aliens: We command you to surrender your vessel.

Kirk: What are you doing here? What do you want?

Aliens: Our sensors detected a distortion in the sub-ether in this vicinity. It appears that your violent abuse of your language has created an eddy in the time-space continuum.

Kirk: Say what?

Spock: I believe he is referring to our narrator.

Aliens: Correct. Your infinitive is split.

Spock: This confirms my hypothesis, captain. These beings are from a strange world known as TLR. A distant and unsociable race...

Kirk: I don't understand. We've been opening the show that way since the first episode. Everybody knows what we mean. Isn't communication the goal of language?

TLR: Ha! What little you know. The goal of language is the same as the goal of all human activity: power, prestige, money, summer clerkships in the Big Apple... Why, if you continue in your incorrect habits, you'll never get that huge signing bonus. You'll be lucky to get even a government job when you graduate.

Sulu: But captain, we've already got government jobs.

TLR: Research Assistant is not a real job!

Sulu: And I like government work. We don't need to buy \$500 suits; we get to wear these neat bell-bottom uniforms. We go home at 4:30 every day. We get more holidays than we know what to do with...

TLR: AARRRRGGGGHHHHH!!!

Spock: Mr. Sulu, I suggest you refrain from using a preposition to end a sentence ~~with~~. The Aliens may interpret it as hostile behaviour.

Kirk: We are a peaceful race. We do not wish to harm you. I'll speak to the Narrator and see if we can't work something out.

TLR: You have earned our eternal gratitude. But don't tell anyone we said that.

Narrator: These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise Liability. It's 3rd year mission, boldly to go where no man has gone before...

(Sound effects): phaser fire, the ship is hit...

Spock: Under attack from yet another vessel sir.

Kirk: Don't tell me, let me guess. WLC?

Spock: Correct, sir. The Women's Law Caucus...

TLR: Strictly speaking, to say that no man has gone before is not incorrect. ~~ET~~

WLC: Your attitude ignores half the population. It's just this kind of thinking that has caused so many problems in this galaxy.

TLR: I don't know. It looks pretty cushy from our offices. Besides, one can assume that if no man has gone before, surely no woman has gone.

WLC: A properly worded statement would not depend on such unstated assumptions.

TLR: What do you want? "Where no man or woman has gone..."? It just doesn't flow.

WLC: Ha! Don't talk to us about language that flows. We're law students, too. We know language isn't supposed to flow...

Argument between TLR & WLC continues, while we

(Blackout)

Kirk: Captain's log, Stardate 21.06(a). Our exploration of the universe continues. We have not yet abandoned our hopes of contacting intelligent life in this galaxy...

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