

**“Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom” for Boston-Legal.org
Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with Star Trek
Season Three, Episode 13: (03x14) Selling Sickness; airdate: Feb 06, 2007
by Debb from Montreal**

Theme1: I NEED MY PAIN!!: Shirley’s argument that our good and bad experiences make us who we are is the crux of the movie Star Trek V: The Final Frontier. In one scene, Spock’s half brother, Sybok, uses Vulcan mysticism to take away the pain associated with a traumatic experience in each of the Enterprise’s crew, except for Kirk who will not allow Sybok to perform the mind trick. Here is the dialogue from the script: (www.geocities.com/ussmunchkin7/Star_Trek_V.htm)

SPOCK: (when he doesn't reply; to Sybok) What have you done to my friends?

SYBOK: I've done nothing. This is who they are, didn't you know that?

The question hits Kirk with force.

KIRK: (realizing) No... I didn't.

SYBOK: Now learn something about yourself.

KIRK: No. I refuse.

McCOY: (imploing) Jim, try to be open about this.

KIRK: About what? That I've made the wrong choices in my life? That I went left when I should've gone right? I know what my weaknesses are. I don't need Sybok to take me on a tour of them.

McCOY: If you'd just unbend and allow yourself --

KIRK: To be *brainwashed* by this con man?

McCOY: I was wrong. This "con man" took away my pain!

KIRK: Dammit, Bones, you're a doctor. You know that pain and guilt can't be taken away with the wave of a magic wand. They're things we carry with us -- the things that make us who we are. If we lose them, we lose ourselves. I don't want my pain taken away. ***I need my pain!***



Theme 2 – Emotionally yours: Similarly, in Star Trek VII “Generations”, Data (an Android) is overwhelmed by his newly acquired emotions, courtesy of an “emotion chip”. From the scene in Stellarcartography (condensed) Captain Picard counsels Data that we have a responsibility to learn how to manage our emotions:

Scene: Data is sitting at a computer console which has a great deal of complex information on the screen. Picard is standing next to him. Throughout the following, Data seems distracted and preoccupied.

PICARD: Data, are you all right?

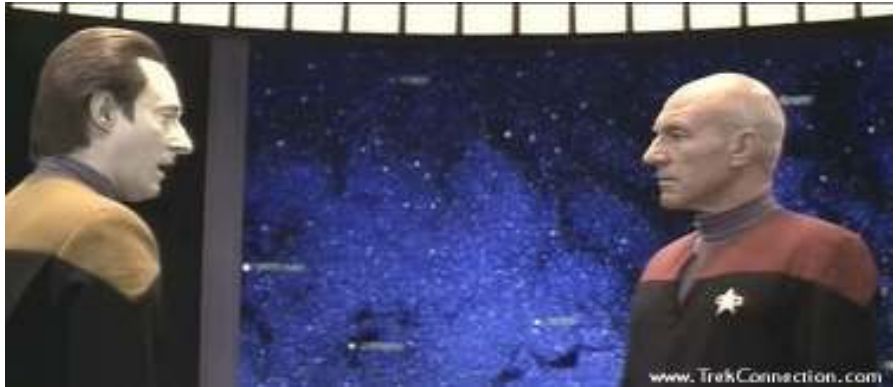
DATA: No, sir. I am finding it difficult to concentrate. I believe I am overwhelmed with feelings of remorse and regret concerning my actions on the observatory. I wanted to save Geordi. I tried. But I experienced something I did not expect. (beat) I believe it was fear.

PICARD (sympathetically) Fear is a very difficult emotion to overcome. It's something we all have to learn to deal with.

DATA But I did not deal with it, sir. I let it prevent me from helping my friend. (beat) Does that make me a coward?

PICARD No. And what you must try to avoid is becoming consumed by another emotion which I believe you're beginning to experience: guilt.

DATA: (considers) Guilt. It is a most unpleasant feeling.



Data hesitates, still obsessed with his own emotional turmoil. Picard finally has to lay down the law.

PICARD: (firm) Data. I have nothing but sympathy for what you're going through. But right now, I need your full attention on the task at hand. If you can't provide it, then I'll have to relieve you of duty until Doctor Crusher can remove this emotion chip of yours. I'm sorry, but you leave me no other choice.

DATA (determined) I do not wish to remove the chip, sir. Although these emotions are proving difficult to deal with, I cannot imagine going back to a life without them. I have taken an important step toward becoming truly human. If I were to turn back now... (beat) I would like to continue in my duties, sir.

PICARD (smiles) *Courage is an emotion too, Data.*

Star Trek Alumni: William Shatner (Denny Crane), René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), Ed Begley, Jr. (Clifford Cabot see 2x20), Henry Gibson (Judge Clark Brown see 3x1), Scott Klace (Dr. Mitchell Levinson), Michael Reisz (writer see 2x24)



ENT "Precious Cargo" Scott Klace portrays Firek Goff, a Retellian pilot.
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/8/8d/Firek_Goff.jpg



Scott Klace publicity photo
http://imdb.com/gallery/hh/0458136/iid_1213586.jpg.html?path=pgallery&path_key=Klace.%20Scott&seq=4