

**Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with Star Trek
For Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom for Boston-Legal.org
Season Three, Episode 21: (03x21) Tea and Sympathy; airdate: May 01, 2007
by Debb from Montreal**

Genetically yours: The case concerning ownership of a patent on one individual's DNA and who should be entitled to the benefits is just one of many ethical questions that need to be answered as science unravels the mysteries surrounding genetics. Certainly, the science is getting closer to solving humanities medical woes as depicted in Star Trek, but along with the miracles, come new ethical dilemmas and the potential for abuse. Star Trek explores these potential dilemmas in all of its series beginning with The Original Series.

When does it all begin?: According to the Startrek timeline, it begins in 1992:

1992: Khan Noonian Singh rises to power, assuming dictatorial control over one quarter of the planet Earth, from South Asia to the Middle East.

1993: A group of **eugenically bred** "supermen" seize power simultaneously in some forty of Earth's nations. This begins the Eugenics Wars.

1996: The Eugenics Wars end. The genetic supermen were defeated in part by their own selfish ambition and lack of unity. The DY-100 class SS Botany Bay, carrying Khan Singh and 83 of his followers in cryogenic freeze, is launched from Earth. Fleeing from persecution on Earth, Khan was hoping to colonize and conquer another world. No one is aware that Khan and his people have escaped (they are listed as unaccounted for) and there are no official records of the Botany Bay's launch.

www.geocities.com/phineasbg/timeline.html

Genetic Bad Guy:



TOS: "Space Seed" Enterprise discovers the Botany Bay carrying **genetically engineered supermen**, lead by Khan (Ricardo Montalban), who were cryogenically frozen and sent into space at the end of the Eugenics Wars. When Khan is revived, he and his followers try to commandeer the Enterprise. Kirk defeats Khan and exiles the crew of the Botany Bay to Ceti Alpha V.
<http://voy.trekcore.com>



ST III: "Wrath of Khan " 6 months after Khan's exile on Ceti Alpha V, Ceti Alpha VI explodes. The gravimetric shock shifts the orbit of Ceti Alpha V, laying the planet to waste. Khan and some of his followers manage to survive over the years. Khan tries again to destroy Kirk using the **Genesis Device**.
<http://voy.trekcore.com>

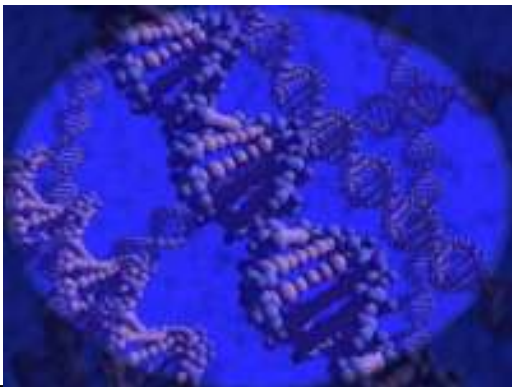
Star Trek III: Search for Spock, Spock's cells and DNA have been re-animated on the planet Genesis after his casket soft lands on the planets surface. His aging is directly linked to the rapid aging of the planet.

Re-Animation:



ST III: The Search for Spock: Spock Clockwise from left: age 9 (Carl Steven) age 13 (Vadia Potenza), age 17 (Stephen Manley), age 25 Joe W. Davis (mid - transformation)
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/c/c2/Young_Spock.jpg
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/3/31/Teen_spock.jpg
<http://movies.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/tsfs/ch7/tsfs0697.jpg>
<http://movies.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/tsfs/ch9/tsfs1004.jpg>

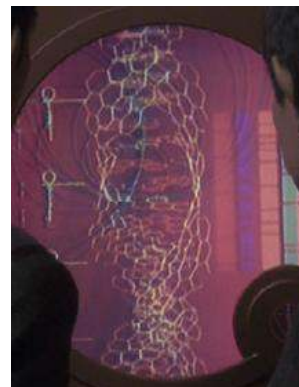
Identification:



VOY: "Scientific Method" DNA. The crew experiences genetic mutations due to a "tagged" gene.
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/0/07/DNA.jpg>



TNG: "Suddenly Human" By matching DNA, Jono (Chad Allen) was identified as Jeremiah Rossa, the human adoptive son of the Talarian officer Endar and grandson of Starfleet Admiral Connaught Rossa
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/e/e7/Jono.jpg>



ENT: "Stigma" "Vulcan DNA (T'Pol) with clear Pa'nar Syndrome.
http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/a/a5/Vulcan_DNA_schematic.jpg

And in my all-time favourite DNA-based plot:

Degeneration:



VOY: "Threshold" "Captain Janeway and Lt. Paris degenerate after crossing the transwarp threshold (warp 10). But in doing so, their DNA evolves into reptile beings. The Holodoc explains this as a possible foreshadowing of future human evolution in a very far future.

http://voy.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/2x15/threshold_468.jpg



VOY: "Threshold" Captain Kathryn Janeway (top), Lt. Tom Paris (bottom)

http://voy.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/2x15/threshold_125.jpg

http://voy.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/2x15/threshold_106.jpg

Augmentation: Genetic Good Guy or DNA "Do Not Augment"



DS9: Dr. Julian Subatoi Bashir, portrayed by Alexander Siddig was a **"human augment"**. Born a "slow learner". At age 7, he underwent specialized treatments known as **"accelerated critical neural pathway formation,"** a **method of genetic engineering** that involved the **resequencing of his DNA.**

http://ds9.trekcore.com/gallery/albums/2x06/melora_065.jpg

Star Trek Alumni: William Shatner (Denny Crane), René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), April Grace as Attorney Regina Williams



TNG: "Future Imperfect" Ensign
Maggie Hubbell, a transporter chief
aboard the USS Enterprise-D.

http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/8/82/Maggie_hubbell.jpg



April Grace publicity photo

<http://ia.imdb.com/media/imdb/01/1/35/44/60/10f.jpg>