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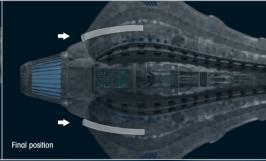
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Development Director: Maggie Calmels

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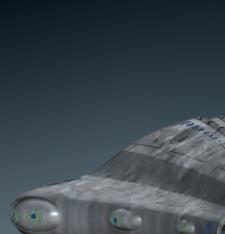
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### **VOTH CITY SHIP** SPECIFICATION



	THE VOTH
$\subseteq$	CITY SHIP
$\int$	24th CENTURY
$\subseteq$	DELTA QUADRANT
$\subseteq$	11,000 METERS (APPROX.)
$\int$	TRANSWARP
	DAMPENING FIELD

✓ At nearly seven miles in length, the Voth city ship was an awesome sight to behold and an incredible feat of engineering. Even more amazing was the fact that the Voth possessed technology that could cloak the huge vessel using a form of spatial displacement, rendering it invisible.

he Voth city ship belonged to a race of highlyadvanced reptilian humanoids, who in the 24th century resided in the Delta Quadrant. The city ship was a gargantuan vessel, measuring approximately 11,000 meters in length, making it more than 6.8 miles long.

As its name suggested, the vessel was basically a flying city, with presumably all the facilities that one would expect to find in a metropolis. Despite its huge dimensions, it was still recognizably a ship with an arrow-shaped front end that flared out into wing sections towards the rear before tapering into a primary propulsion reactor at the back. At various points around the outer hull, there were illuminated green and blue energy signatures.

## VOTH CCITY SHIP

The Voth operated the largest, and possibly the most technically advanced, ship Starfleet ever <u>encountered</u>.





The city ship appeared to be the center of Voth civilization. The Voth government, known as the Ministry of Elders, was accommodated here. Indeed, the majority of the Voth appeared to live on the ship, although there was reference to a 'Fourth Colony' and a 'detention colony,' which seemed to suggest that the Voth had several more permanent settlements on various worlds.

#### **TRANSWARP TECHNOLOGY**

The technology aboard the city ship was far more advanced than anything that Starfleet had developed by the late 24th century. The most impressive piece of engineering the city ship possessed was a form of transwarp propulsion. This allowed the massive ship to cover enormous distances almost instantly. Their transwarp system was even more advanced than that of the Borg and could propel the ship at a near-infinite velocity. The ship could also transition from transwarp to regular warp travel.

The interior of the city ship had a chamber where the elders of Voth society could meet to discuss issues of the day. This darkened room featured a large decorative chair, similar to a throne, where council elders could sit while they listened to evidence and considered judgments concerning affairs of their society. The room also featured a large table where evidence could be laid out.

In 2373, a matter of contention came before Chief Minister Odala, who sat on the council of Voth Elders. Professor Forra Gegen, a molecular

#### DATA FEED

The Voth referred to themselves as a saurian species, which basically meant they were a suborder of reptiles that was composed of lizards.

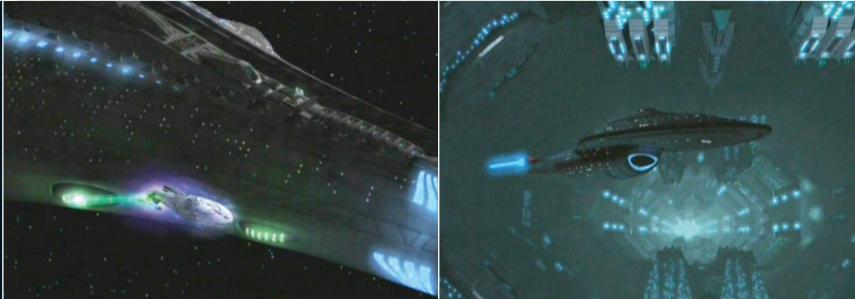
◄ Inside the Voth city ship was a chamber where the leaders of their society could listen to evidence and pass rulings on matters of controversy as they related to Voth society. In 2373, Minister Odala sat in judgment regarding Professor Gegen's 'distant origin' theory.





The Voth city ship had a recognizable forward section that was shaped similarly to a bird's beak and head. The rest of the ship's body grew in volume as it approached the engines at the rear.

► The U.S.S. Voyager was held in a green beam that issued from the side of the city ship. The Voth then showed how powerful they were by beaming the entire Starfleet vessel inside their city ship.





Captain Janeway was confronted by Haluk, a security officer aboard the city ship. Like many of the Voth, he looked down on mammalian species as he considered them inferior. He was fully prepared to use "interrogation surgeons" on the captain to make her reveal what he wanted to know.



Apart from its sheer size, the city ship possessed many advanced technologies. The most remarkable of which was a transwarp propulsion system that was even more sophisticated than the one developed by the Borg. It allowed the ship to cross huge distances almost instantaneously.



▲ Professor Gegen laid out the skeleton of the human he found in front of Minister Odala in her chambers aboard the city ship. Despite the compelling evidence, Odala refused to believe his `distant origin' theory. paleontologist, brought evidence before her that strongly suggested their species evolved on a distant planet. This so-called 'distant origin' theory had serious implications as it undermined the guiding principles of Voth society. They lived by a set of beliefs, or 'doctrines,' one of the most important being that they were the 'First Race,' and had a claim over a region of the Delta Quadrant that went back millions of years.

Despite Chief Minister Odala being appalled by Gegen's theory, he was not to be put off, as he merely wanted to discover the truth. He eventually tracked down a race that had 47 genetic markers identical to those found in his own species, proving that they must have evolved on the same planet. This race was humanity, representatives of which were found on the *U.S.S. Voyager*.

Before Gegen could present his findings to the Voth scientific community, the Voth city ship had tracked down *Voyager*. The city ship was capable of cloaking itself using a form of spatial displacement, which meant that the *Voyager* crew were taken by surprise. Despite having its shields at maximum, *Voyager* was captured and beamed to a huge bay inside the city ship.

#### **POWERLESS TO RESIST**

Once *Voyager* was inside the vast chamber, the city ship engaged a dampening field that drained the ship of power. Propulsion, shields and weapons were all rendered inoperative. The crew tried to switch to auxiliary power, but they were locked out of command control and could not get a single relay back online. Lieutenant Tom Paris briefly managed to access the manual override from main engineering, but this was soon shut down. Haluk, who was the security adviser to Minister Odala aboard the city ship, wanted to use an interrogation surgeon on Captain Janeway to get her to comply with their wishes, but by that time Professor Gegen was in custody.

Gegen was given a simple ultimatum: either retract his 'distant origin' theory or spend the rest of his life in prison. Even this failed to sway Gegen, and it was only when Odala threatened to destroy *Voyager* and imprison the crew that Gegen publicly recanted his theory. The Voth agreed to let *Voyager* go, provided they never returned to that area of space, while Gegen was forced to take a job as a metallurgical scientist, an occupation he felt he would not be good at. ▲ Voyager found itself inside a huge chamber within the city ship that had the capacity to hold many more starships. The Voth then used some kind of dampening field to drain Voyager's main power systems. Without power to the propulsion and weapon systems, the Voyager crew were unable to escape or fight back against the Voth.

#### DATA FEED

Odala was a female Voth and the chief minister of the Council of Elders. She presided over the case involving Professor Gegen's 'distant origin' theory. Initially, she listened to the evidence, but she was merely indulging Gegen. In fact she was outraged by his theory that the Voth were related to a mammalian species, no matter how distantly. It went against every principle she held dear as a protector of Voth doctrine.

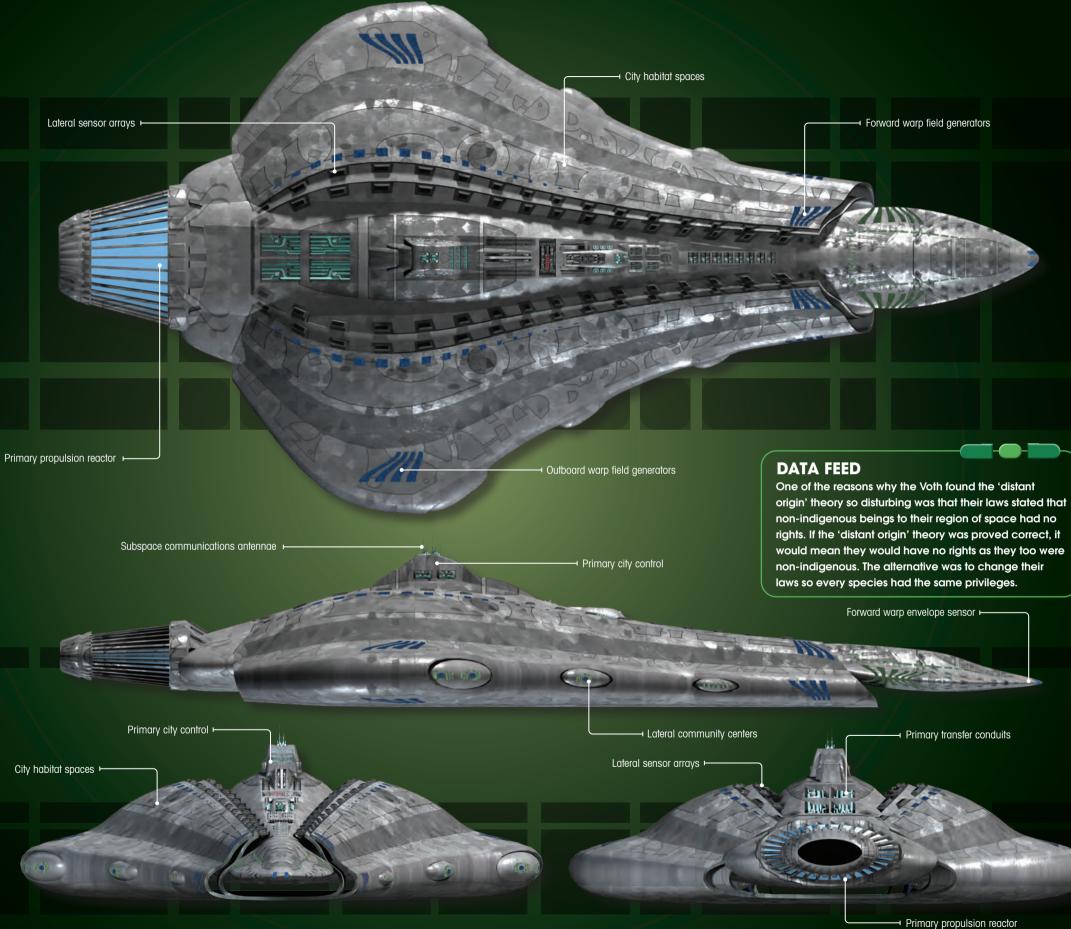


#### **TRANSWARP SUCCESS**

The Voth were one of the most technologically advanced races that Starfleet encountered. They had perfected transwarp propulsion, something that eluded Federation science for hundreds of years. In the 24th century, warp factor 10 had been recalibrated to mean infinite velocity. Breaking this threshold meant that a vessel would occupy all points in the universe simultaneously. In 2372, the Voyager crew discovered an extremely rare form of dilithium that allowed them to break the transwarp barrier. A transwarp engine was fitted to the shuttlecraft Cochrane, and it was piloted to transwarp speeds by Tom Paris. However, this technology proved to be unsafe as it induced hyper-evolution in Paris and Janeway. The Voth's transwarp design produced no harmful effects to their species, and it was fitted to all their vessels from the city ship down to small research vessels.



▲ All Voth vessels, from the huge city ship down to small research craft, were capable of achieving transwarp speeds without the occupants suffering any strange side effects.



#### HUMAN IMAGE

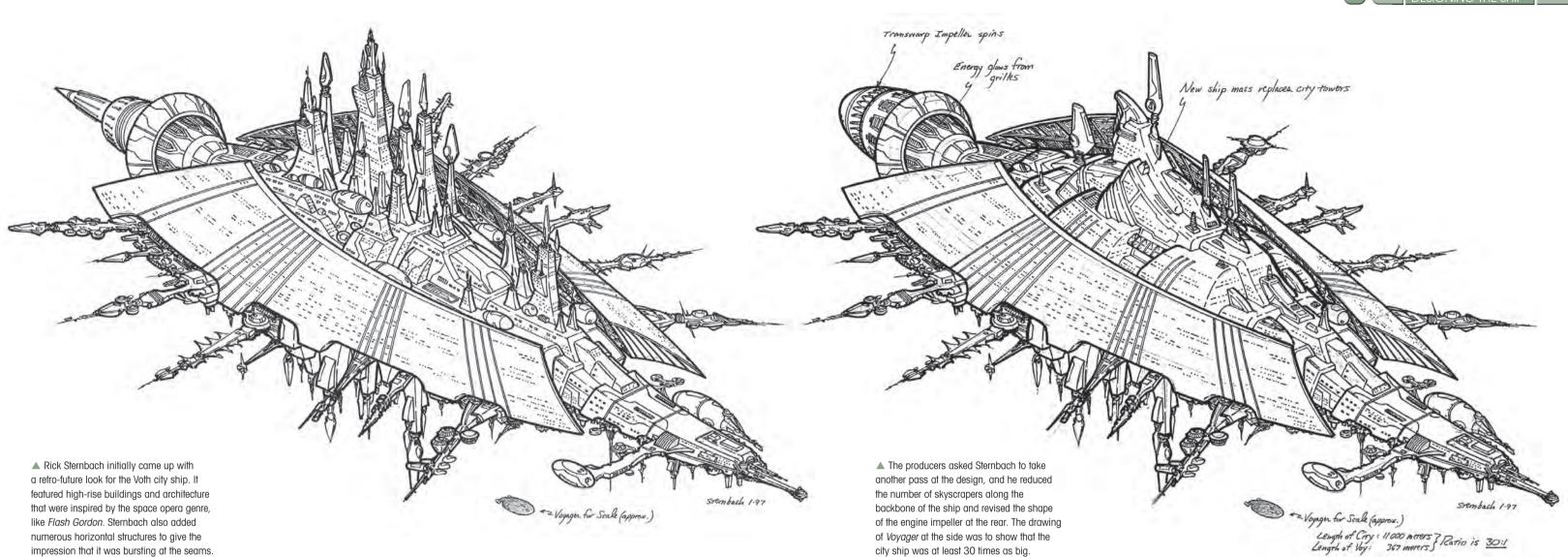
Based on the human bones Gegen found, he image of what a living except he had green skir

#### SCIENTIFIC FIELDS

The Voth had established many 'Circles of Science,' which specialized in different fields of research. such as the Circle of Archeology and the Circle of Exobiology

#### **VOTH SIGHTINGS**

Other Voth individuals the crew of the U.S.S. Voyager while they were in the Delta Quadrant besides those on the citv ship. In 2376, the crew met a Voth at a Markonian outpost where the ship briefly stopped. In the same year, a Voth was seen attending a Tsunkatse fight.



## **DESIGNING** THE **VOTH CITY SHIP**

For the Voth city ship, senior illustrator Rick Sternbach devised an entire urban metropolis attached to a huge transwarp drive.

s the senior production illustrator on STAR TREK for many years, Rick Sternbach had designed countless futuristic props and starships, but the Voth city ship was the largest, as

it was supposed to be the size of a... well... a city.

Sternbach also had a few more clues about how the ship should look, as the preliminary script outlined a few facts

about the Voth. He knew that they were a race based on dinosaurs, they were highly advanced and that the ship should be equipped with transwarp. After putting his thinking cap on,

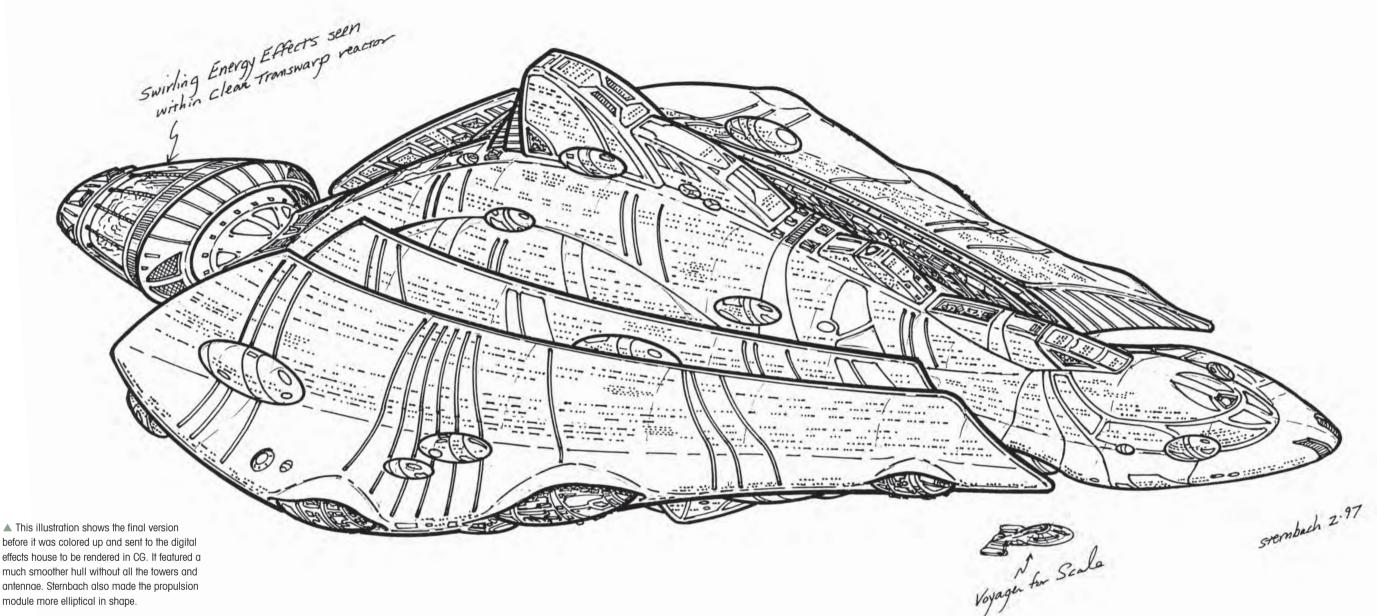
Sternbach soon came up with a design direction. "The original concept was a very large flying structure with many vertical towers and horizontal antennae, docking arms, and other support equipment," he said. "The central body of the ship had a few layers of smoother plating dotted with windows that could have been habitat areas.

comparison."

It could also be seen from this initial concept that it was very much a city in DESIGNING THE SHIP

The aft end contained an enormous matter-antimatter capacitance impeller for propulsion, which also provided onboard power. I drew the U.S.S. *Voyager* next to it in scale, so they could see the Starfleet vessel was very small in

the form of a starship. It featured numerous high-rise buildings along the backbone of the ship, topped off with diamond-shaped structures that gave it a retro-future look, similar to how the future was envisaged from the 1930s through to the 1950s. The zeppelinshaped structures and jagged antennae that emerged from the side



before it was colored up and sent to the digital effects house to be rendered in CG. It featured a much smoother hull without all the towers and antennae. Sternbach also made the propulsion module more elliptical in shape.

also added to this Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow vibe.

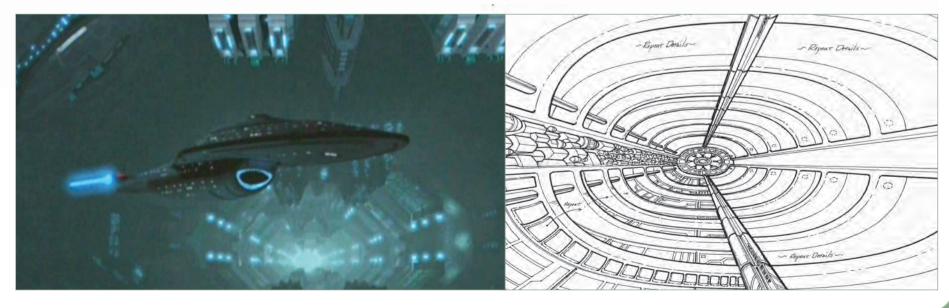
#### **REVISING THE CONCEPT**

After seeing this concept, the producers asked Sternbach to scale back the number and shape of the tall city towers and give it a slightly different propulsion module. Sternbach's second illustration rounded off the turbine structure at the rear of the engine module, and drastically cut the number of tall towers, replacing them with much more streamlined structures.

It was felt that the design was still not

quite right, and Sternbach was asked to refine it further. "The majority of the hull extensions were eliminated and the hull was further smoothed out, bringing it closer in style to the smaller Voth research vessel," said Sternbach. "The sides were given a few more layers and the big aft engine was made more elliptical in cross section."

This was the final version that was then colored up and sent to the CG house to be built. Sternbach also drew up a concept envisaging the cavernous internal bay of the Voth city ship that was used to hold Voyager.



The script for 'Distant Origin' mentioned how Voyager was beamed inside a vast bay. Sternbach illustrated a concept of how it might look to help the digital modelers when they created the CG version.



# ANCIENT LIFE FORMS

#### STAR TREK would have us believe that several intelligent life forms, including the Voth, have called Earth home in the distant past.

CCORDING to STAR TREK, the Voth are just journey, the Voth settled in the Delta Quadrant 20 one of several species that have lived on Earth in the past. The STAR TREK: VOYAGER homeworld has long since been lost. episode 'Distant Origin' explained how the saurian species that became known as the Voth evolved on Earth more than 20 million years ago.

The origins of the Voth lay with a bipedal dinosaur species - the hadrosaurs - that arose during the Cretaceous period, more than 130 million years ago. Most dinosaurs on Earth became extinct after an asteroid impact, but the hadrosaurs continued to evolve, eventually becoming the sentient Voth species that developed spacefaring technology. After a long million years ago, and all memory of their original

In fact, intelligent life on Earth may have had even more complicated origins, and was the product of an alien life form that flourished some 4.5 billion years ago. The STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION episode 'The Chase' explained how an ancient species evolved in the Milky Way galaxy not long after Earth was formed. Worried that they would one day die out, they seeded the primordial environments of many planets with their DNA. They hoped that this would create simple life forms on these planets, which would

▲ The crew of the U.S.S. Voyager ran a holodeck simulation and discovered that humans and the Voth shared a common ancestor in the ervops over 400 million years ago. This then evolved into the two-legged hadrosaur, which was the direct evolutionary predecessor of the Voth. eventually evolve into ever more complex creatures, culminating in intelligent beings much like themselves.

'The Chase' told the story of how the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise-D unearthed a message from these ancient aliens that was embedded in the DNA strands from different species. When assembled, it formed a computer program that made an ancient hologram appear. It was a message of peace and goodwill and confirmed that, despite their differences and the vast distances between planets, all the humanoid races in the Galaxy were descended from the same common seed. This was why there were so many humanoid races in the Galaxy, and why they looked similar.

#### **ANCIENT EARTH ALIENS**

Other aliens have also made Earth their home in its past. Approximately 5,000 years ago, a species settled in a region near Greece, and were worshipped as gods according to THE ORIGINAL SERIES episode 'Who Mourns for Adonais?'.

In the 19th and 20th century, a non-humanoid life form known as Redjac settled on Earth. This non-corporeal being was similar to a parasitic organism and was featured in THE ORIGINAL SERIES episode 'Wolf in the Fold.' It possessed humanoid hosts and set out to cause pain and fear as it fed on these emotions. It committed several murders in the 19th century as Jack the Ripper, and went on to commit more murders on other planets right into the 23rd century.

There was also an anaphasic life form named Ronin who lived in Scotland, Earth from at least 1647. He bonded with women of the Howard family, ancestors of Dr. Beverly Crusher, as they had compatible biochemistry. He continued to live with every subsequent Howard daughter for 20 generations, as he moved from Scotland to North America and eventually out to the Caldos II colony, 200 light years from Earth.

So in STAR TREK, humans were far from the first sentient race to live on Earth, and may even have evolved from an alien species, like many of the humanoid races in the Galaxy. STAR TREK history has also shown that humanity has shared Earth with several intelligent species, even though they were not aware of it at the time.

In approximately 2,700 BC, a group of highly sophisticated space travelers landed in Greece, Earth. They made it their home for some time, and appeared as gods to the humans of the time as they could alter their form at will and command great energy. Mankind eventually turned away from them and they returned to their home planet Pollux IV.

An anaphasic life form appeared in human form as Ronin, a man in his mid-thirties. It needed the company of a suitable host in order to maintain molecular cohesion From 1647 it found a host in Jessel Howard, who was compatible. From then on, it joined with each successive female member of the Howard line, right up to Beverly Crusher in 2370.

An ancient humanoid life form seeded many worlds with their DNA, including Earth. Fragments of the DNA also contained parts of a computer program designed to display a holographic message from this species. This DNA puzzle was an attempt to bring all their offspring together and let them know they were linked to one another.









## WRITING 'DISTANT ORIGIN'

How the descendants of dinosaurs led to one of *STAR TREK's* most powerful episodes. T STARTED LIFE AS A STORY about dinosaurs with guns. As Joe Menosky remembers, the writers were in a meeting with executive producer Jeri Taylor, when his co-writer on the episode, Brannon Braga, pitched the idea. "Brannon had an image of dinosaurs or dino-like aliens shooting AK-47s."

This was typical of the way Braga worked many of his best stories started with an image, but at this point, there was no real story attached to the idea. Fortunately, Rick Berman had found the time to sit in with the writers that day. He hated the idea because it lacked the intelligence he thought was an essential ingredient of the best *STAR TREK* stories. "Where's the humanity?" He asked. "It should be Galileo."

Menosky instantly sparked to the idea. He was fascinated by the Italian Renaissance and had read a lot about Galileo, who had been put on trial by the inquisition for insisting that the Earth went round the sun rather than the other way around, which contradicted the church's teaching at the time. Galileo's devotion to scientific truth was so great that he had refused to lie and, as a result, he had spent the rest of his life under house arrest.

#### **DINOSAUR HERESY**

Braga and Menosky took this idea away and thought about what would constitute heresy for Braga's dinosaurs. The idea they came up with was that they had originally come from Earth. "At the very least they shared a common ancestor of dinosaurs," Menosky remembers. "The crucial points were that they were saurian in appearance, had originated on Earth, had escaped Earth so long ago that there had been no fossil evidence (yet) discovered by humanity of their existence, AND that any evidence of that origin and escape had been lost also to their own species."

The writers came up with a Voth equivalent of Galileo: Professor Gegen, who discovered the remains of a human member of *Voyager's* crew. This provided evidence for his 'Distant Origin' theory. The writers decided to take an unconventional approach to the storytelling. "Brannon," Menosky says, "was always pushing to do things that looked fresh, and it felt very fresh to us to tell as much of this story from the aliens' POV as we could before we had to include our regulars."

So the first act of the episode was told entirely from Gegen's point of view. The genetic similarities between the Voth and the dead *Voyager* crewman give him the proof he needs that his species and humans originate from the same planet. However, the Voth authorities dismiss his claims because they contradict their doctrine. Gegen then sets out to find the rest of the *Voyager* crew so he can prove his theory beyond doubt.

When the story finally involved the regular cast, the two writers decided that Gegen would kidnap Chakotay. "We always looked to service the different characters," Menosky say. "And it wasn't easy for some reason to focus on Chakotay solo rather than in relation to Janeway for example. Maybe that's the 'Curse of the First Officer' - because there was a similar situation with Riker on *TNG*."

Chakotay's existence proves that Gegen is right, but the Voth authorities are unmoved and threaten to wipe out the *Voyager* crew to prevent Gegen's heretical ideas from getting out. This meant that the writers were essentially able to put Chakotay on trial alongside his captor, and they gave him a powerful speech in which he argued for truth and the progress of knowledge. "Robert Beltran was just awesome in it," Menosky says. "His scenes – the courtroom scenes – I think are just really wonderful. He knocked it out of the park." Ultimately the writers decided that Chakotay's speech would be in vain and that unlike Galileo, Gegen would recant, in this case to save the lives of *Voyager's* crew.

Both Braga and Menosky were very proud of the finished episode, which they considered to be their best work on *VOYAGER* up to that point. Menosky feels that it was a story that would have been absolutely at home on *TNG*. "It was very self contained, standalone, and felt larger than life and mythic the way the best *TNG* - and *TREK* always felt," he says.

VOYAGER's co-creator and consulting producer Michael Piller agreed, sending Menosky a memo saying that 'Distant Origin' was the best VOYAGER script he'd ever read.



▲ The Voth scientist, Professor Gegen (left), was deliberately constructed to be the science-fiction equivalent of Galileo, who had refused to withdraw his ideas although they were seen as heresy.



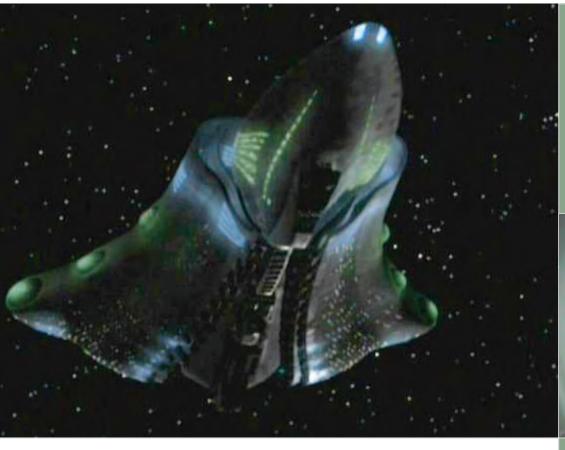
▲ When Gegen finds the *Voyager* crew, the evidence for his theory is overwhelming, and he kidnaps Chakotay in order to prove it to his people.



▲ Chakotay ultimately allies himself with Gegen and speaks at his trial, arguing that progress depends on a willingness to change your mind.

#### H CITY SHI

## ON SCREEN



Rick Sternbach

#### FIRST APPEARANCE: TV APPEARANCE: DESIGNED BY:

#### KEY APPEARANCES STAR TREK: VOYAGER

#### 'Distant Origin'

Voth scientists Professor Forra Gegen and Tova Veer discover the remains of a human skeleton. Upon examination of it back on their research ship, they discover that its DNA shows remarkable similarities to their own. They take their findings back to the Voth city ship where the leaders of their society reside.

Chief Minister Odala listens to Gegen's evidence, which he insists proves the `distant origin' theory. This states that the Voth evolved on a distant planet and not in the Delta Quadrant. Odala contemptuously dismisses his findings as they go against Voth doctrine, which claims that they are the oldest species in the region of the Galaxy.

Determined to prove his theory correct, Gegen tracks down living members of the human race on the U.S.S. Voyager. While studying the crew under cloak, Gegen and Veer are discovered. In the ensuing panic, Veer is captured, while Gegen escapes with Commander Chakotay. Shortly after, the city ship locates Voyager, captures it and drains all its systems of power. Gegen returns to the city ship and is put on trial for heresy. Despite the evidence, Gegen must admit that he is wrong or the Voth will destroy Voyager.

#### **TRIVIA**

Actor Henry Woronicz, who starred as Professor Forra Gegen in 'Distant Origin, also featured in two other *STAR TREK* roles. His first appearance was in *THE NEXT GENERATION* episode 'The Drumhead,' where he played the Klingon scientist and spy J'Dan. His final *STAR TREK* role was in the *VOYAGER* episode 'Living Witness,' where he portrayed Quarren [pictured below], the curator of a Kyrian Museum of Heritage in the 31st century.



The dinosaurs that were seen in the holodeck in 'Distant Origin' involved the use of physical models as opposed to CG depictions. The eryops [pictured below] was made out of modeling clay by a sculptor named Jordu Schell, whereas the hadrosaur was rented as a fully complete dinosaur.



Brannon Braga and Joe Menosky, the writers of 'Distant Origin,' used Galilio's trial as the inspiration for this episode. The Italian astronomer was accused of heresy, forced to recant and spent the rest of his life under house arrest for asserting that Earth was not the center of the cosmos, and that the planets went around the sun.

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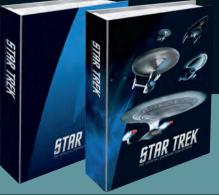
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A look at how some of the favorite species from THE ORIGINAL SERIES were resurrected and brought back to the screen for ENTERPRISE

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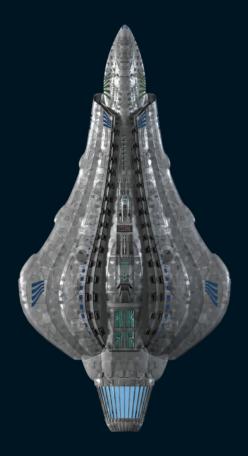
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