



What It Means To Be Human:
the Problematic of Humanity
in *Star Trek*

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I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.



DEDICATION

For my grandfather...I miss you.

And for Gene Roddenberry, the Great Bird of the Galaxy.
Thankyou, and I hope you like it.

“I will praise You forever for what You have done;
in Your Name I will hope,
for Your Name is good.”
(Psalm 52 v 9 a&b)

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If you watch *Star Trek*, look for yourself. You will be there.

Yvonne Fern, in

Gene Roddenberry: The Last Conversation pp217/8

PREFACE

In the writing of this thesis I made use of information books (as opposed to novels etc) on both series of *Star Trek*, as well as more than half the episodes themselves. I also read and used magazine articles, and computer articles. The ideas contained within this study are my own.

If you *view* the original *Star Trek* series, you will notice a lot of orange paint, plastic plants, a pointy-eared guy named Spock, and a collection of rubbery aliens. If you *see* it, you will encounter questions, and very few answers: How can we overcome prejudice? What is death? Should we orchestrate war? Is patriotism a disease? What is the difference between sexuality and love? When does duty end and morality begin? Should there be government? Whose ethics predominate in a relationship- mine or yours? And most often: What does it mean to be human?

If you *view* the series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, you will notice great special effects, terrific makeup and astounding technology. If you *see* it, you will encounter the same questions, explored in greater detail, with additional concerns that our current society engenders: Do machines live? What use is religion? Is love the exclusive property of heterosexuals? Just because we can do something, should we? What is the difference between dreams and reality? What is consciousness? Is there a case for drug dependency? What is the difference between male and female power? Are ethics morals? And again, most often: What does it mean to be human?

Yvonne Fern, in
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