

TAKYA, SHRELAN

BOLDLY GO!

worriedly takes a bite of a sandwich as HE works, despite the large sign above HIM that reads "NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE LABORATORY". HE continually attempts to eat his food without being noticed and is continually interrupted. TAKYA enters hurriedly.)

TAKYA: Shrelan! Have you run the diagnostic?

SHRELAN: (*neurotically*) Yes, Professor! The detector is running smoothly... the radiation levels we're detecting are accurate! But they're far too high! The evacuation warnings have already been triggered!

TAKYA: You're sure the cosmic rays are being properly accounted for?

SHRELAN: I just went over the gamma ray algorithms... it's all correct. The radiation *has* grown in strength over the past few days. And now it's reaching dangerous levels!

TAKYA: I built that detector myself. I tested it thoroughly. I know it isn't faulty... and yet we're detecting a sudden large flux of high-energy gamma rays from Klingon Space. (*SHE stalks up to SHRELAN, fervently speaking to HIM.*) Unthinkable! Theoretically impossible! (*SHE wordlessly takes his sandwich and moves to throw it out.*) The only thing that could produce such levels would be large quantities of antimatter annihilation. (*SHE squeezes the sandwich, upset.*)

SHRELAN: But... (*HE moves to take his snack back.*) there's no astrophysical mechanism for such a vast quantity as this!

TAKYA: (*brandishing the sandwich menacingly*) Exactly! But there it is! I've been waiting for a discovery like this my whole life... but the Andorian Science Syndicate would never take results as strange as these seriously. (*SHE finally throws the food away, much to SHRELAN's dismay.*) Without proof to back up this phenomenon, we'll be the laughing stock of every physics convention for the next century!

SHRELAN: (*uncomfortably*) But-

TAKYA: The Andorian Science Syndicate is our planet's leading scientific organization!

SHRELAN: But-

TAKYA: (*with growing tension*) The A.S.S. won't publish results that don't make sense!!

SHRELAN: But-

TAKYA: (*distraught and deadly serious*) The A.S.S. won't blow hot air – no buts about it!!!

(*SHRELAN whines worriedly and pulls a candy bar from his pocket and opens it, taking a messy bite.*)

TAKYA: Stop eating in the lab!