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Commentary on "Star Trek: A Guide to the Soul and Virtuous Action"

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Commentary by Shayla Poling

"Star Trek: A Guide to the Soul and Virtuous Action," by Melissa Cherry, is an interesting amalgamation of philosophy and science fiction. Its originality is one of its greatest strengths. The topic is new, fresh, and explored in enough depth to support the paper's arguments and, at the same time, make them understandable to those who are not as well-versed in philosophy. During our session, however, we did talk about clearing up some definitions that were not quite as clear as others, such as the definition of the "plant-like" part of a soul. Though understandable, I felt that the specifics of that part of the soul could be elaborated on a bit more. Another thing that we discussed was expanding on the thesis. It is true that the essay comes to the conclusion that "Kirk must be captain" for the Enterprise to resemble a virtuous soul, but it is not quite as simple as that. In reality, Kirk must be captain but must also have Spock's logic ready to back him up, and we worked on changing the thesis to match this more elaborate conclusion

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