

Starship Excelsior
"Impeccable Logic"
(Season 4, D Prelude)
by James Heaney

Transcribed by Peter Stine

Note: Lines in brackets were recorded but interrupted. The complete line is left here for fuller context:

SCENE 4D-101**LOCATION: EXCELSIOR TORPEDO CONTROL ROOM**

(A door slides open.)

HELM: Commander Saavik?

SAAVIK: Ensign.

HELM: It's time, sir.

(Pause.)

HELM: Commander?

SAAVIK: Thank you, Ensign.

(She walks through the door, which closes behind her.)

LOCATION: EXCELSIOR TORPEDO BAY

(Saavik steps forward to address the assembled officers.)

SAAVIK: On Vulcan, there are no eulogies. It is not logical to appraise a person's entire life; to do so properly would take centuries. If I cannot speak of Commander Janice Rand's life, however, I can attest to the circumstances of her death. Though she was *Excelsior's* first officer, she was in command when three Romulan birds-of-prey ambushed us near Tomed Prime. I advised withdrawal, because their combined armament was superior to *Excelsior's*. However, she ordered us to stay and fight, in order to protect Captain Uhura's peace negotiations. I see now that her logic was superior to mine. It was not the first time. It would be the last. In the second volley, there was an explosion. Debris speared the Commander through the abdomen, pinning her to her seat at helm. The wound was mortal. Although she knew she would die, she also knew she was the best pilot on the bridge. She refused to relinquish helm control until Captains Uhura and Chekov arrived with reinforcements. There is at least a ninety-eight percent probability that she thereby saved the *Excelsior* and its entire complement. Janice's death followed the same impeccable logic that governed her life: her shipmates before herself, the Federation before her ship, and galactic peace and liberty above all else. We now commit her body to space over a world preserved from war through her actions – one of many such worlds. Any Vulcan would envy a death so fitting.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: Honors... ten-hut!

(Torpedo containing Janice's body is fired into space.)

SCENE 4D-102**LOCATION: EXCELSIOR BRIDGE**

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: Commander on deck!

SAAVIK: As you were, Lieutenant. I did not expect to find you in command. Where is Captain Uhura?

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: She went below a few minutes ago, sir. *Excelsior* holding at all stop, five light-years out of Iccobar, scanner deck still compiling the morning tactical report. Preliminary suggestions that the Romulans are massing their forces along the Neutral Zone. Captain Chekov has postponed his return to *Enterprise*.

SAAVIK: Very well. I have the bridge.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: You have the bridge. Good night, Saavik. And good luck.

SAAVIK: Lieutenant. This is not my first watch in command.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: But it is your first watch as *Excelsior's* first officer.

SAAVIK: I assure you, there is no cause for concern. I am fully trained on all relevant procedures and regulations.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: Saavik, I've been your friend way too long to question you on the regs. But I do question what you're doing sitting in at Science station. That chair, over there, near the center... that's where you belong now.

SAAVIK: I did not wish to make stylistic changes too quickly. I feared it would unsettle the crew in the midst of tensions with the Romulan Empire.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: Oh, so it's the Romulans' fault you're not sitting in Commander Rand's chair.

SAAVIK: That is correct. Forgive me, Lieutenant, I am receiving a number of Starfleet tactical bulletins.

EXCELSIOR LIEUTENANT: I don't doubt it! Good night, Saavik.

SAAVIK: Good night, Lieutenant.