

= Hide and Q =

" Hide and Q " is the tenth episode of the first season of the science fiction television series Star Trek : The Next Generation , and originally aired on November 23 , 1987 , in broadcast syndication . The story was originally written by Maurice Hurley but went under numerous re @-@ writes by the show 's creator Gene Roddenberry . The episode was directed by Cliff Bole , and saw the return of John de Lancie as Q.

The series follows the adventures of the crew of the Starfleet starship Enterprise . In this episode , Q returns to the USS Enterprise following his original encounter with the crew in " Encounter at Farpoint " . Q transports the bridge crew to a landscape where they are attacked by humanoids and grants Commander Riker (Jonathan Frakes) the powers of a member of the Q Continuum , which he is forced to use to resurrect both Worf (Michael Dorn) and Wesley (Wil Wheaton) . Riker promises never to use the powers again , but after a rescue mission he breaks down and grants each of the bridge crew a wish , which they refuse , with Riker subsequently rejecting his new powers . Q is recalled to the Continuum in failure .

Writer Maurice Hurley requested that he be credited under the pseudonym C.J. Holland in protest against Roddenberry 's re @-@ writes , which he later regretted . The problems with the scripting of the episode changed the way the staff handled subsequent script developments for the series . Bole subsequently praised the abilities of de Lancie during the course of filming the episode . Reviewers thought that while the episode was predictable , the relationship between Q and Picard (Patrick Stewart) was praised , and " Hide and Q " received average overall scores .

= = Plot = =

The USS Enterprise is en route to Quadra Sigma to aid colonists caught in a methane explosion when Q re @-@ appears and demands that they abandon their mission to compete in a game . He teleports Commander Riker and the bridge crew , with the exception of Captain Picard , to a barren landscape and appears in front of them whilst wearing a uniform of a Napoleonic era French marshall . He explains the rule of the game is to stay alive , and after Yar (Denise Crosby) refuses to compete , he transports her back to the bridge of the Enterprise in a " penalty box " .

Q returns to the bridge too , to talk Picard into setting a wager . He explains that the Q Continuum is testing Commander Riker to see if he is worthy of being granted their powers . Picard , having the utmost faith in his First Officer , takes the bet , as winning it would mean Q would get off their backs . Meanwhile , Riker and his team are attacked by what Lt. Worf reports as " vicious animal things " wearing French soldier 's uniforms from the Napoleonic era and armed with muskets that fire energy bolts instead of the classic projectiles . Q returns to Riker and tells him that he has granted him the powers of the Continuum , and Riker promptly returns his crew mates to the ship but remains behind with Q to ultimately reject the powers . Q brings the crew back to the landscape , this time without their phasers and with Picard . The crew are attacked once more by the aliens , and both Worf and Wesley Crusher are killed . Riker uses the powers of the Q to return the crew again and bring both Worf and Wesley back to life .

Riker makes a promise to Picard never to use the powers again and the ship arrives at Quadra Sigma . A rescue team beams down and discovers a young girl who has died . Riker is tempted to save her , but in the end he refuses to do so out of respect for his promise ; however , he quickly shows signs of regret at this decision , which he expresses to the captain . Tension between Picard and his first officer grows as Riker now seems to be embracing his powers , and his behavior toward the crew begins to change . At Q 's suggestion , and with Picard 's blessing , Riker uses his powers to give his friends what he believes they want , turning Wesley into an adult , giving La Forge (LeVar Burton) his sight , and creating a Klingon female companion for Worf . All the recipients reject their gifts , however , with Data (Brent Spiner) even anticipating and declining Riker 's attempt to make him human . Picard declares that Q has failed , and when Q attempts to go back on his word , he is forcibly recalled to the Continuum . Picard is pleased to see Q gone , and praises Riker for confirming his trust in his " Number One " .

= = Production = =

Writer Maurice Hurley requested that his contributions to this episode appear under the name of C.J. Holland because of the number of extensive rewrites by the show's creator Gene Roddenberry. Hurley later described the situation as a "misunderstanding" as the situation was subsequently resolved and proved to be a turning point for the series in how scripts were produced. Subsequently Roddenberry spent less time conducting detailed rewrites. Some of the elements of Hurley's original story expanded on the back story of Q's species, explaining that there were only three Qs but another hundred thousand residents on their planet who required relocation as the planet was dying. These elements didn't subsequently make it into any future episodes. The episode marked the return of John De Lancie as Q. Cliff Bole was returning as a director for the series, and knowing that de Lancie would appear as Q, Bole watched "Encounter at Farpoint" in order to maintain Q's tone. He found after shooting began that his research wasn't required as de Lancie slotted back into his previous role naturally. Bole later described the episode as "a lot of fun" and de Lancie as "a joy and a creative guy to work with". De Lancie would next return in the second season episode "Q Who". Meanwhile, the removal of the character of Deanna Troi from this episode alongside three other episodes made actress Marina Sirtis believe at the time that she was about to be cut from the show. Elaine Nalee guest starred as a female survivor, while William A. Wallace appeared as the adult Wesley Crusher.

The theme of the episode, where a humanoid gains the powers of a god is a recurring theme from Star Trek: The Original Series, having featured in several episodes including the second pilot "Where No Man Has Gone Before" and "Charlie X". The most similar episode from TOS is "Plato's Stepchildren", where the character Alexander also rejects god-like powers in a similar manner to Riker in "Hide and Q". The premise would once again be revisited in the season six episode "True Q".

= = Reception and home media release = =

"Hide and Q" aired in broadcast syndication during the week commencing November 22, 1987. It received Nielsen ratings of 11 @.0, reflecting the percentage of all households watching the episode during its timeslot. This was the higher than both the episodes broadcast before and afterwards.

Several reviewers rewatched Star Trek: The Next Generation after the end of the series. Keith DeCandido for Tor.com thought that the plot was predictable, describing Riker being written as "so paint-by-numbers the color is practically dripping off the screen". He praised the relationship between Q and Picard, stating that de Lancie was having such "fun with the role that the episode itself is also fun despite its flaws". He gave "Hide and Q" a score of five out of ten. Zack Handlen rewatched the episode for the A.V. Club, and thought it was an example of where TNG avoided characterisation in favour of a morality play. He thought that the episode was a mess, with the highlights being Picard reciting Shakespeare and the Napoleonic monsters. He rated the episode as a C-.

Star Trek: The Next Generation actor Wil Wheaton reviewed the episode for the Huffington Post after the end of the series, describing John de Lancie in his role of Q as "brilliant casting and masterful acting", and thought that overall the episode was reminiscent of the original series and had some good points. However he thought the script had the characters lecturing the viewer on occasion based on the idea that ultimate power will lead to corruption. He gave the episode a score of B-.

The first home media release of "Hide and Q" was on VHS cassette was on July 1, 1992. The episode was later included on the Star Trek: The Next Generation season one DVD box set, released in March 2002, and in the Star Trek: Q DVD box set from the fan collection series of sets. It was released as part of the season one Blu-ray set on July 24, 2012.