

Why it isn't Q in Tapestry

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Q that ever arrogant, obnoxious and omniscient alien appeared to make two appearances in Star Trek: The Next Generation's sixth season – True Q and Tapestry. But did he? I call into question whether it truly was Q in Tapestry. Here's why . . .

Every episode that has had Q in it has had the letter Q in its title – Hide and Q, Q Who?, Deja Q, Q-Pid, True Q, Q-Less (DS9 episode) and even the novel Q-In-Law. The only exception to this rule is Encounter at Farpoint. I feel this episode doesn't really count. It was the pilot episode and at the time I don't believe the creators of the show knew that Q would be such a frequent visitor. Tapestry not only doesn't have a Q in the title there isn't even a Q in the word tapestry. This is the first piece of evidence.

Q is very naïve and ignorant of human sexual needs, motivations and wants. Remember Deja Q – “Oh Riker! You weren't so stolid before the beard!” Let's also recall how Q “helped” Picard with his romantic life in Q-Pid. Q didn't have a clue as to how to remedy Vash and Picard's lovers quarrel. Remember how Q chided Amanda in True Q about her affections towards Riker – “You're attracted to him! How repulsive! How do you stand all that hair all over his face?” In the DS9 episode Q-Less, Q didn't even know how to identify his affections for Vash, let alone express them. In Peter David's novel Q-In-Law, Q uses everyone's romantic and loving feelings and emotions for his own morbid amusement. The evidence is overwhelming. Q doesn't understand love, mocks people who are in love, and sees love as repugnant and distasteful. So why does Q immediately clue into Picard's wistful feelings of regret towards Ensign Marta Botanitis? Q appears almost sympathetic and understanding of Picard's sexuality, even if it is in a rather distant manner. This is totally out of character for Q. Q would never say to anyone – “Well she's quite attractive [too bad you didn't take a chance when there still was time]”. This is the second piece of evidence.

Q is nasty. Q is mean. Q is cruel. Q is immature. Q is arrogant. Most of all Q doesn't give two hoots about anyone, but himself. So why on Earth would he teach Picard a life lesson? Would Q even care? No, he wouldn't. The lesson that Q teaches Picard is also totally beyond Q's comprehension. The complex idea that Q portrays – learn and grow from the mistakes of your youth – is way out of Q's ballpark. Q certainly never applied this concept to himself. Q doesn't deal with human emotions on such a complex and subtle level. Q is much more blunt and brash. Q put quite simply just isn't behaving like Q. This is the third piece of evidence.

Putting all the pieces of evidence together one finds it pretty self evident what conclusions to draw. Tapestry lacks a Q in its title. Q demonstrates an understanding of

human sexuality. Q actually displays wisdom and empathy towards Picard. These points all lead to very un-Q-like behaviour.

So if it wasn't Q, who or what was it? It could be one of two things. Picard had one really elaborate delusion or another alien force is at work. To stay in the realm of Science Fiction, perhaps as Picard rapidly lost almost all consciousness he entered another dimension or realm who's life forms can show mere mortals their life and mistakes (remember Sisko trapped in the wormhole in the pilot episode of DS9). Picard could have entered a kind of purgatory of time-line changes that can go either way. Star Trek is full of those – The Guardian of Forever, Sarpedion's library and Yesterday's Enterprise. Whatever it was in Tapestry, it's clear that it wasn't Q.