

Star Trek: Restores My Faith In Humanity

By Lyla Miklos

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Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek presents a vision of the future where humankind accepts diversity and oppression no longer exists. Humanity figures out, on their own, how to get it right.

Roddenberry once said, "Mankind will reach maturity on the day it learns to value diversity. . . for if we cannot learn to value the small variations among our own kind here on Earth, then God help us when we get out into space and meet the variations that are almost certainly out there."

Nichelle Nichols (Uhura) was going to quit the show after the first season until Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said to her, "You must not leave. Don't you realize how important your presence, your character is? Don't you realize this gift this man has given the world? Men and women of all races going forth in peaceful exploration, living as equals. . . For the first time, the world sees us as we should be seen, as equals, as intelligent people. . . There will always be role models for Black children; you are a role model for everyone. Remember, you are not important there in spite of your color. You are important there because of your color."

Future generations were profoundly affected by what they saw on their television sets.

At Roddenberry's memorial service Whoppi Goldberg said, "When I explained to [Gene] that this was the only vision that had black people in the future, he thought that was very bizarre. I guess he didn't realize that nobody else saw us there. . . Everywhere you go, no matter what country, they all know Star Trek. They all know that somehow, the world can actually be better, because of this one man's vision."

Every time I watch Star Trek my faith and hope in humanity is restored.

As Roddenberry said, "What Star Trek proves is that the much maligned common man and woman has an enormous hunger for brotherhood. They are ready for the twenty-third century now and they are light years ahead of their petty governments and their visionless leaders."