

The True Origins of William Shakespeare and *Hamlet*

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Star Trek VI

**In Star Trek VI *Undiscovered Country*,
Chancellor Gorkon said to Captain Spock:**

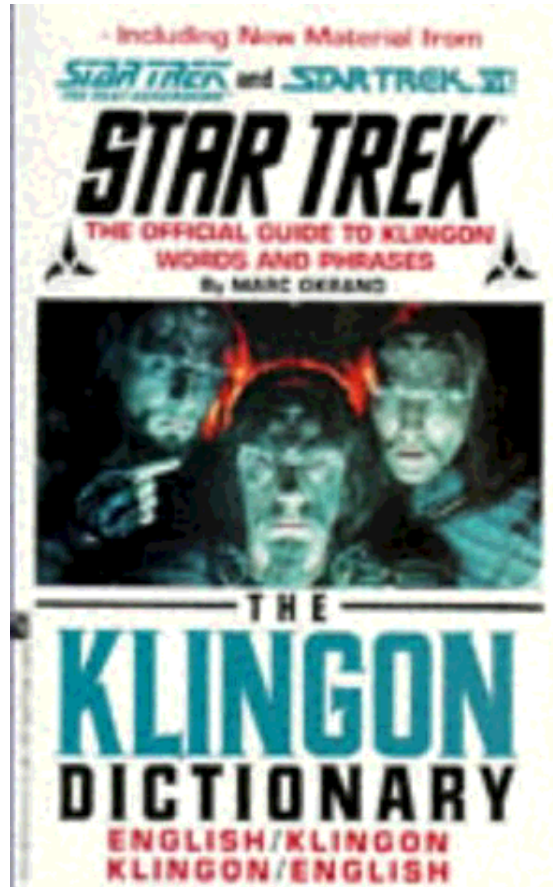
**“... you have never experienced Shakespeare
until you have read him in the original
Klingon.”**

To be or not to be?

Klingon *Hamlet* is problematic because the Klingon language does not have a “to be” verb (like Hebrew!).

One says equivalent of “Warrior, I.” to mean “I am a warrior.”

Klingon Dictionary



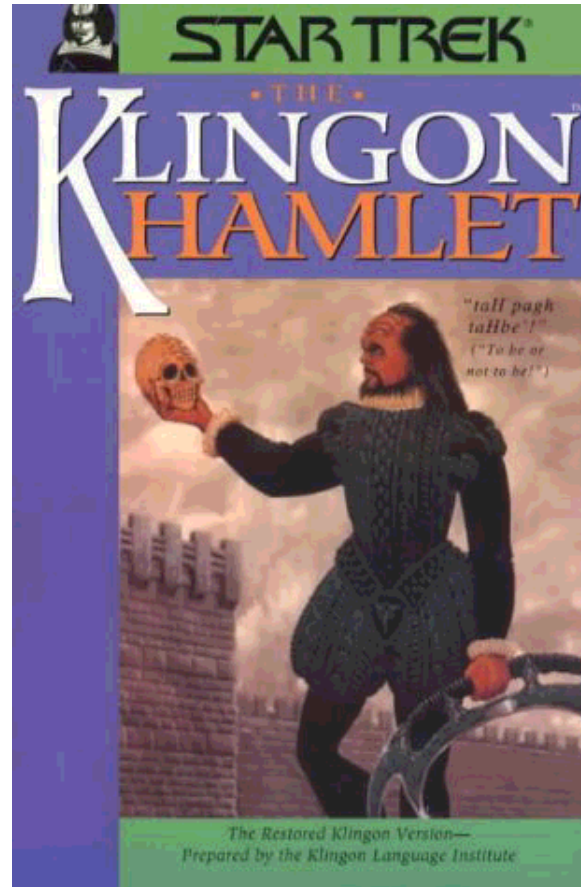
So how does one say Hamlet's famous question, "To be or not to be?" in Klingon?

"taH pagh taHbe'?"

The Essence of Being Klingon

Note that *Hamlet*, dealing with the political assassination of the head of a state and a family and restoring a family's honor by revenge is quintessentially Klingon in flavor.

Reconstructed Klingon *Hamlet*



Shakespeare a Klingon?

But, how did it happen that all these years, we here on Earth thought that *Hamlet* was written in the 17th century in English by one English human named William Shakespeare and not by a Klingon in Klingon?

A Massive Delusion?

The Introduction to the book, written by a Terran working at the Klingon Bureau of External Relations, claims that a massive, fraudulent rewriting of history is responsible for Terrans believing that an 17th century English human named William Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet* in English from his imagination.

Nonsense!

But this is pure utter poppycock.

The historical records of Shakespeare's existence in the 17th century and of continual showings of *Hamlet* since the 17th century are too pervasive.

No massive hoax like that suggested by the Introduction could have succeeded.

A Different Theory

I offer, in the grand tradition of scientific, historical, and forensic investigation, an alternative theory of how the original Klingon works of the Klingon Wil'yam Shex'pir were translated into 17th century English and came to be known as the works of a 17th century Englishman named William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare *is* a Klingon

The theory offered here is that William Shakespeare was actually a 23rd century (by Earth reckoning) Klingon named Wil'yam Shex'pir who was surgically altered to look human. He went back in time to 17th century England and proceeded to translate the Klingon plays, he had written himself, into English.

More Plausible Theory

This history is more plausible than that of the book's introduction because it fits known facts from *Star Trek* canon and other writings, and it does not require belief in a massive *perfect* rewriting of Earth history, leaving no trace of the original history.

Early and Late Kirk

It is necessary to define two terms:

EK: James T. Kirk during his captaincy of the 5-year mission of the U.S.S. *Enterprise*, NCC 1701.

LK: James T. Kirk during his admiralty and subsequent demotion to captain, occurring after completion of the 5-year mission of the EK.

Klingons Can Travel in Time

As documented in Hambly's *Star Trek: Ishmael*, 23rd century Klingons, contemporary with the EK, are capable of time travel.

Changing History

Whenever time travel results in changing history, those who did not travel in time remember only the new history. The original history simply no longer exists.

Only perpetrators of the change are able to remember the old history and observe the differences, as documented in *Trials and Tribble-ations*.

Traditional Shakespeare



Plastic Surgery or Baldness

This traditional, historical picture of William Shakespeare shows someone with an extremely high forehead, long thought to be the result of male-pattern baldness.

How could a Klingon, who normally has a bumpy forehead end up appearing totally human with a smooth forehead?

We know from Star Trek history of at least two possibilities

First Possibility

Wil'yam Shex'pir could be a descendent of the victims of the aborted attempt to produced super, augmented Klingons that is documented in the *Star Trek Enterprise* episodes *Affliction* and *Divergence*.

These super augments were created accidentally by altering the normal Klingon DNA with DNA taken from embryos of human augments created by Dr. Arik Soong.

Second Possibility

This forehead could easily have resulted from plastic surgery to smoothen the normal Klingon bumpy forehead, which is the source of the epithet “turtle head”, flung by some xenophobic Terrans to refer to Klingons.

Compare Pictures

Compare this traditional picture of William Shakespeare with the portrait of Wil'yam Shex'pir painted by the famous Klingon painter, yaHel DawiD, showing Shex'pir's bumpy forehead.

Shex'pir, the Klingon



Plastic Surgery?

How the face of William Shakespeare could be achieved by plastic surgery is very clear!

We know of at least one Klingon altered this way by plastic surgery.

The Klingon spy Arne Darvin from the *ST:OS* episode *The Trouble with Tribbles* and the *ST:DS9* episode *Trials and Tribble-ations*, underwent this surgery to pass as a human and infiltrate Star Fleet headquarters.

Shame over Plastic Surgery

In either case, there would be considerable shame among Klingons about these Klingons that looked like those hated, cowardly humans!

Indeed, in *Trials and Tribble-ations*, when O'Brian saw surgically altered Klingons for the first time and asked his Klingon crewmate, Worf, if they were the result of some kind of genetic engineering, Worf replied with a growl, "We do *not* discuss it with outsiders!".

A Klingon Writer?!?

Recall how important being a warrior was during the Klingon society of the EK years.

A Klingon such as Wil'yam Shex'pir,

- with literary talent,**
- with no desire to be a warrior,**
- only writing about being a warrior,**
- and not being a warrior,**

would have been shunned and ostracized, if not eliminated altogether.

Change in Klingon Views

Only later, during LK years, did Klingons come to accept and even appreciate Shex'pir and his writing.

However by then, the genetically altered Klingon soldiers had probably died off.

One never saw a smooth-foreheaded Klingon in the LK period.

Double Shame

Clearly, LK-era and later Klingons would be ashamed of both

- **the genetically altered Klingons and**
- **the Klingon society's past disdain for literary talent.**

They would thus resort to disinformation at the Bureau of External Relations, feeding revised history to the human Terrans writers in their employ.

Shex'pir's Self-Exile

My theory suggests that Wil'yam Shex'pir was a contemporary of the EK. The literary Shex'pir found Klingon society so inhospitable that he had the plastic surgery, not to be a spy or even a smooth-headed soldier, but to be able leave the Klingon homeworld, Qonos, and blend into Terran society.

Shex'pir in Elizabethan England

Shex'pir traveled in time to Earth's 17th century.

There he

- **brushed up on the English (Federation Standard) he had learned,**
- **created and assumed the identity of William Shakespeare, and**
- **began translating to English the works that he had written in Klingon.**

Why 17th Century England?

Why choose England in the 17th century?

England was almost the only place on Earth in which a variation of Federation Standard, which he knew, was spoken, and he would not have to learn a new language entirely from scratch.

Why 17th Century England?

In the 17th century, it was easy to come into existence as an adult without anyone caring to or being able to prove that he did not exist before.

It was easy to get forged birth certificates accepted. (Recall Geoffrey Chaucer's other occupation.)

William Shakespeare

Once established as William Shakespeare, Wil'yam Shex'pir began to translate his own works into English and to release them one by one to a wildly approving Elizabethan audience.

Conclusion

So this is my theory as to how it came to be that William Shakespeare was actually a 23rd century Klingon named Wil'yam Shex'pir who was surgically altered to look human and that he went back in time to 17th century England and proceeded to translate the Klingon plays, he had written himself, into English.