

## Series 1 | Episode 06 – The Middle Earth Paradigm

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**Scene 1 - Apartment Building, Foyer**

**Scene 2 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment**

**Scene 3 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment**

**Scene 4 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment Building, Hallway**

**Scene 5 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment**

**Scene 6 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment**

### Scene 1 - Apartment Building Foyer

(Howard, Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon enter the building donned in paintball gear marred by various colored paintball splats.)

**Rajesh:** Okay, if no-one else will say it, I will. We really suck at paintball.

**Howard:** (climbing staircase) That was absolutely humiliating.

**Leonard:** Oh, come on. Some battles you win, some battles you lose.

**Howard:** Yes, but you don't have to lose to Kyle Bernstein's Bar-Mitzvah party.

**Leonard:** I think we have to acknowledge, those were some fairly savage pre-adolescent Jews.

**Sheldon:** No, we were annihilated by our own incompetence and the inability of *some people* to follow the chain of command--

**Leonard:** Sheldon, let it go.

**Sheldon:** No, I want to talk about the fact that Wolowitz shot me in the back.

**Howard:** I shot you for good reason. You were leading us into disaster!

**Sheldon:** I was giving clear, concise orders.

**Leonard:** You hid behind a tree yelling, "Get the kid in the yarmulke! Get the kid in the yarmulke!"

**Penny:** (coming down stairs) Oh, hey guys!

**Sheldon:** Hello.

**Leonard:** Oh hey, Penny.

**Howard:** (saluting) Morning ma'am.

**Penny:** So, how was paintball? Did you have fun?

**Sheldon:** Sure! If you consider being fragged by your own troops fun. (to Howard) You clear space on your calendar, there will be an inquiry.

**Penny:** Okay. Um-hey, I'm having a party on Saturday so if you guys are around you should come by.

**Leonard:** A party?

**Penny:** Yeah.

**Howard:** A boy-girl party?

**Penny:** Well, there will be boys and there will be girls, and it is a party, so .... It'll just be a bunch of my friends. We'll have some beer, do a little dancing--

**Sheldon:** (to Leonard) Dancing?

**Leonard:** Yeah. I don't know, Penny.

Sheldon: The thing is, we're not--

**Leonard:** We're really more of a--

**Sheldon:** No.

**Leonard:** But thanks! Thanks for thinking of us.

**Penny:** Are you sure? Come on, it's Halloween.

**Sheldon:** A Halloween party?

**Howard:** As in ... costumes?

**Penny:** Well, yeah.

**Leonard:** Is there a theme?

**Penny:** Um ... yeah, Halloween.

**Sheldon:** Yes, but are the costumes random or genre specific?

**Penny:** As usual, I'm not following.

**Leonard:** He's asking if we can come as anyone from ... science-fiction, fantasy ...

**Penny:** Sure.

**Sheldon:** What about comic-books?--

**Penny:** Fine--

**Sheldon:** Anime?--

**Penny:** Of course--

**Sheldon:** TV? Film? D&D, manga, Greek gods, Roman Gods, Norse Gods--

**Penny:** (flustered) Anything you want, okay? (patting Sheldon on cheek) Any costume you want. Bye.

(Penny leaves down the stairs. The men swagger in the hall for a moment.)

**Howard:** (excitedly) Gentlemen, to the sewing machines.

[Series Title Sequence]

## Scene 2 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Someone knocks at the door.)

**Leonard:** (from his bedroom) I'll get it!

(Leonard enters the living room wearing a custom made costume of The Flash. He smiles broadly as he opens the door. Howard leaps through the doorway wearing the exact same costume. They sulk at one another.)

**Leonard:** Oh, no!

(Sheldon enters the room. He too wears the exact same costume.)

**Sheldon:** Oh no!

**Rajesh:** (from hallway) Make way for the fastest man alive.

(Rajesh enters, wearing ... another duplicate The Flash costume.)

**Rajesh:** Oh no!

**Sheldon:** See, this is why I wanted to have a costume meeting.

**Leonard:** We all have other costumes. We can change.

**Rajesh:** Or, we could walk right behind each other all night and look like one person going really fast.

(The others stare at Rajesh who waits for them to confirm his idea as brilliant.)

**Howard:** No. No! No, it's a boy-girl party. This Flash runs solo.

**Leonard:** Okay, how about this ... nobody gets to be The Flash. We all change. Agreed?

**The others in unison:** (moping) Agreed.

**Leonard:** I call Frodo!

**The others in unison:** Damn!

### Scene 3 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Leonard sits on a chair adjust his Hobbit feet while Howard smoothes the stockings of his Robin Hood outfit from the couch. Rajesh knocks and then enters the apartment wearing a Thor outfit.)

**Rajesh:** Hey! S-sorry I'm late but my hammer got stuck in the door on the bus.

**Leonard:** You went with Thor?

**Rajesh:** (offended) What? Just because I'm Indian I can't be a Norse God? No-no-no, Raj has to be an Indian God. That's racism. I mean, look at Wolowitz. He's not English, but he's dressed like Peter Pan. (Sheldon enters wearing a black and white striped body suit) Sheldon is neither sound nor light, but he's obviously the Doppler Effect.

(Sheldon pauses to let the others absorb his magnificent outfit.)

**Howard:** (disturbed) I'm not Peter Pan, I'm Robin Hood.

**Rajesh:** Really? Because I saw Peter Pan and you're dressed exactly like Cathy Rigby. She was a little bigger than you but it's basically the same look, man.

**Leonard:** Hey Sheldon, there's something I want to talk to you about before we go to the party.

**Sheldon:** I don't care if anybody gets it. I'm going as the Doppler Effect.

**Leonard:** No, it's not--

**Sheldon:** If I have to, I can demonstrate. Nnnnyyooowww!

**Leonard:** Terrific. Um ... this party is my first chance for Penny to see me in the context of her social group and, I need you not to embarrass me tonight.

**Sheldon:** Well, what exactly do you mean by embarrass you?

**Leonard:** For example ... tonight no one needs to know that my middle name is Leakey.

**Sheldon:** Well, there's nothing embarrassing about that. Your father worked with Louis Leakey, a great anthropologist. It had nothing to do with your bed wetting.

**Leonard:** All I'm saying is that this party is the perfect opportunity for Penny to see me as a member of her peer group. A potential close friend and, perhaps more. (adjusting his Hobbit ears) I don't want to look like a dork.

#### Scene 4 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment Building, Hallway

(Howard, Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon approach and knock on Penny's door.)

**Howard:** Just a heads up fellows, if anyone gets lucky I've got a dozen condoms in my quiver.

(Penny opens the door and greets the men. She is not in costume.)

**Penny:** Oh, hey guys.

**Leonard:** Hey, sorry we're late.

**Penny:** Late? It's seven oh' five.

**Sheldon:** And you said the party starts at seven.

**Penny:** Well, yeah, when you start a party at seven, no-one shows up at, you know, seven.

**Sheldon:** It's seven oh' five.

**Penny:** Yes. Yes it is. Okay. Well-um, come on in.

**Howard:** What, are all the girls in the bathroom?

**Penny:** Probably, but in their own homes.

**Sheldon:** So what time does the costume parade start?

**Penny:** The ... p-parade?

**Sheldon:** Yeah, so the judges can give out the prizes for best costume. Y'know, most frightening, most authentic, most accurate visual representation of a scientific principle.

(Sheldon places his hands on his hips and smiles, attempting to impress Penny with his science-centered costume.)

**Penny:** (upset) Oh Sheldon, I'm sorry but there aren't going to be any parades or judges or prizes.

**Sheldon:** (upset) This party is just going to suck.

**Penny:** No! Come on, it's going to be fun and you all look great. I mean, look at you! Thor and- and oh ... (to Howard) Peter Pan ... that's so cute!

**Leonard:** Actually, Penny, he's Robi--

**Howard:** I'm Peter Pan! And I've got a handful of pixie dust with your name on it.

**Penny:** (frowning) No you don't. (quietly to Howard and Leonard) Oh, hey, what's Sheldon supposed to be?

**Leonard:** Oh, he's the Doppler Effect.

**Sheldon:** (smiling) Yes. It's the apparent change in the frequency of a wave caused by relative motion between the source of the wave and the observer.

(Sheldon swaggers in apparent delight with himself.)

**Penny:** (feigning) Oh! Sure, I see it now! The Doppler Effect. Alright, I've got to shower. You guys um ... make yourselves comfortable.

**Leonard:** Okay.

**Sheldon:** (to Leonard) See? People get it.

(The men seat themselves and settle in. Time advances and the men sit in the same spot while a party now surges around them.)

**Rajesh:** (eating) Humph. By Odin's beard, this is good Chex Mix.

**Howard:** No thanks, peanuts, I can't afford to swell up in these tights.

**Sheldon:** I'm confused. If there's no costume parade, what are we doing here?

**Leonard:** We're socializing. Meeting new people.

**Sheldon:** Telepathically?

**Penny:** (socializing in background) Oh hey! When did you get here? Hi!

**Rajesh:** Penny is wearing the worst Catwoman costume I have ever seen, and that includes Halle Berry's.

**Leonard:** She's not Catwoman. She's just a generic cat.

**Sheldon:** And that's the kind of sloppy costuming which results from a lack of rules and competition.

**Howard:** Hey guys, check out the sexy nurse. I believe it's time for me to turn my head and cough.

**Rajesh:** What is your move?

**Howard:** I'm going to use the mirror technique. She brushes her hair back, I brush my hair back. She shrugs, I shrug. Subconsciously she's thinking we're in sync, we belong together.

**Leonard:** Where do you get this stuff?

**Howard:** You know, psychology journals, internet research. And there's this great show on VH1 about how to pick up girls.

**Rajesh:** (anguished) Oh, if only I had his confidence. I have such difficulty speaking to women. Or around women. Or at times, even effeminate men.

**Howard:** (to Nurse) If that's a working stethoscope, maybe you'd like to hear my heart skip a beat?

**Nurse:** No thanks.

**Howard:** No seriously, you can. I have transient idiopathic arrhythmia.

(The nurse costumed woman crosses her arms, and Howard mimics her.)

**Leonard:** (anxious) I want to get to know Penny's friends, I just ... I don't know how to talk to these people.

**Sheldon:** Well, I actually might be able to help.

**Leonard:** How so?

**Sheldon:** Like Jane Goodall observing the apes, I initially saw their interactions as confusing and unstructured, but patterns emerge. They have their own language, if you will.

**Leonard:** Go on.

**Sheldon:** Well, it seems that the newcomer approaches the existing group with the greeting, "How wasted am I?" Which is met with an approving chorus of "Dude."

**Leonard:** Then what happens?

**Sheldon:** That's as far as I've gotten.

**Leonard:** (standing up) This is ridiculous. I'm jumping in.

**Sheldon:** Good luck.

**Leonard:** No, you're coming with me.

**Sheldon:** Oh, I hardly think so.

**Leonard:** (nudging Sheldon) Come on.

**Sheldon:** Aren't you afraid I'll embarrass you?

**Leonard:** Yes, but I need a wing-man.

**Sheldon:** Alright, but if we're going to use flight metaphors I'm much more suited to being the guy from the FAA, analyzing wreckage.

**Go-Go Girl:** (bumping into Leonard) Oh, Hi!

**Leonard:** Hi.

**Sheldon:** Hello.

**Go-Go Girl:** (to Sheldon) So, what are you supposed to be?

**Sheldon:** Me? I'll give you a hint. Nnnyoowwn!

**Go-Go Girl:** A choo-choo train?

**Sheldon:** Close! Nnnnyyyyoowwnnn!

**Go-Go Girl:** A brain damaged choo-choo train?

(A woman in a Butterfly costume staggers and sits on the couch next to Rajesh.)

**Butterfly Girl:** How wasted am I?

(Rajesh appears uncertain, but then shrugs and smiles to the woman.)

(Time advances slightly and Leonard and Sheldon now engage a woman wearing a skimpy gold costume.)

**Sheldon:** Nnnnyyyyoowww!

**Gold Girl:** (confounded) I still don't get it.

**Sheldon:** I'm the Doppler Effect.

**Gold Girl:** Okay, if that is some sort of learning disability I think it's very insensitive.

(The woman walks away leaving Sheldon in shock.)

**Leonard:** Why don't you just tell people you're a zebra?

**Sheldon:** Well, why don't you just tell people you're one of the seven dwarves.

**Leonard:** Because I'm Frodo.

**Sheldon:** Yes, well, I'm the Doppler Effect.

**Leonard:** Oh no.

**Sheldon:** What?

**Leonard:** That's Penny's ex-boyfriend.

(Kurt stands in the doorway wearing a caveman costume.)

**Sheldon:** What do you suppose he's doing here? Besides disrupting the local gravity field.

**Leonard:** If he were any bigger, he'd have moons orbiting him.

**Sheldon:** Oh, snap. So I guess we'll be leaving now.

**Leonard:** Why should we leave? For all we know, he crashed the party and Penny doesn't even want him here.

(As they watch, Penny and Kurt hug.)

**Sheldon:** You have a backup hypothesis?

**Leonard:** Maybe they just want to be friends?

**Sheldon:** Or maybe she wants to be friends, and he wants something more.

**Leonard:** Then he and I are on equal ground.

**Sheldon:** Yes, but you're much closer to it than he is.

**Leonard:** Look, if this was 15,000 years ago, by virtue of his size and strength Kurt would be entitled to his choice of female partners.

**Sheldon:** And male partners, animal partners, large primordial eggplants--pretty much whatever tickled his fancy.

**Leonard:** Yes, but our society has undergone a paradigm shift. In the information age, Sheldon, you and I are the alpha males. We shouldn't have to back down.

**Sheldon:** True. Why don't you text him that and see if he backs down?

**Leonard:** No. (summoning courage) I'm going to assert my dominance face to face.

**Sheldon:** Face to face? Are you going to wait for him to sit down or are you going to stand on a coffee table?

**Leonard:** Hello Penny. Hello Kurt.

**Penny:** Oh, hey guys. You having a good time?

**Sheldon:** Given the reaction to my costume, this party is a scathing indictment of the American education system.

**Kurt:** What, you're a zebra, right?

**Sheldon:** (to Leonard) Yet another child left behind.

**Kurt:** (to Leonard) And what are you supposed to be, an Elf?

**Leonard:** No, I'm a Hobbit.

**Kurt:** What's the difference?

**Leonard:** A Hobbit is a mortal Halfling inhabitant of Middle Earth, whereas an Elf is an immortal tall warrior.

**Kurt:** So why the hell would you want to be a Hobbit?

**Sheldon:** Because he is neither tall nor immortal, and none of us could be The Flash.

**Kurt:** Well, whatever. Why don't you go hop off on a quest, I'm talking to Penny here.

**Leonard:** I think we're all talking to Penny here.

**Sheldon:** I'm not. No offence.

**Kurt:** Okay, maybe you didn't hear me. Go away.

**Penny:** Alright Kurt, be nice.

**Kurt:** Aw, I am being nice. (rubbing Leonard's head) Right little buddy?

**Penny:** Kurt!

**Leonard:** Okay. I understand your impulse to try to physically intimidate me. You can't compete with me on an intellectual level and so you're driven to animalistic puffery.

**Kurt:** Calling me a puffy animal?

**Penny:** Of course not. No, he's not, you're not. Right Leonard?

**Leonard:** No, I said animalistic. Of course we're all animals but some of us have climbed a little higher on the evolutionary tree.

**Sheldon:** (to Leonard) If he understands that, you're in trouble.

**Kurt:** So what, I'm un-evolved?

**Sheldon:** (to Leonard) You're in trouble.

**Kurt:** You know, you use a lot of big words for such a little dwarf.

**Penny:** Okay! Kurt, please!

**Leonard:** No, Penny, it's okay. I can handle this. I'm not a dwarf. I'm a Hobbit. *A Hobbit*. Are misfiring neurons in your hippocampus preventing the conversion from short-term to long-term memory?

**Kurt:** Okay, now you're starting to make me mad.

**Leonard:** A Homo habilis discovering his opposable thumbs says what?

**Kurt:** What?

(Sheldon chuckles while Leonard juts his chin and smirks.)

**Leonard:** Think I've made my point.

**Kurt:** Yeah? How about I make a point out of your pointy little head.

**Sheldon:** Let me remind you, while my moral support is absolute, in a physical confrontation I will be less than useless.

**Leonard:** There's not going to be a confrontation. In fact I doubt if he can even spell confrontation.

(Kurt grabs Leonard and hefts him into the air.)

**Kurt:** C! O! N! ... (shaking head) ... Frontation!

**Penny:** Kurt, put him down this instant.

**Kurt:** He started it.

**Penny:** I don't care, I'm finishing it! Put him down!

**Kurt:** Fine. (tosses Leonard away) You're one lucky little leprechaun.

**Sheldon:** He's a Hobbit! I've got your back.

**Penny:** Leonard, are you okay.

**Leonard:** Yeah-no, I'm fine. It's good, it's a good party. Thanks for having us, it's just getting a little late so ...

**Penny:** (upset) Okay, alright. Well, thank you for coming.

**Sheldon:** Happy Halloween.

(Leonard and Sheldon leave Penny's apartment and cross the hall to their own.)

**Sheldon:** If it's any consolation, I thought that Homo habilis line really put him in his place.

### Scene 5 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Leonard sulks on the couch while Sheldon brings him something to drink.)

**Leonard:** What's that?

**Sheldon:** Tea. When people are upset the cultural convention is to bring them hot beverages.

(Leonard accepts the tea and Sheldon pats him on the shoulder.)

**Sheldon:** There-there. You want to talk about it?

**Leonard:** No.

**Sheldon:** Good. There-there was really all I had.

**Leonard:** Good night Sheldon.

**Sheldon:** Good night Leonard.

(Sheldon leaves to his bedroom. Shortly after, Penny knocks and enters the apartment.)

**Penny:** Hey Leonard?

**Leonard:** Hi Penny.

**Penny:** Hey, I just wanted to make sure you're okay.

**Leonard:** I'm fine.

**Penny:** I am ... so sorry about what happened.

**Leonard:** Well, it's not your fault.

**Penny:** Yes it is. That's why I broke up with him. He always does stuff like that.

**Leonard:** So why was he at your party?

**Penny:** (sighing) Well, I ran into him last week and, he was just, all apologetic about how he's changed. (sobbing) He was just going on and on and-and I believed him, and I'm an idiot because I always believe guys like that and ... I can't go back to my party because he's there and I know you don't want to hear this and I'm upset and I'm really drunk and I just want to ...

(Penny drives her face into Leonard's shoulder and starts to cry.)

**Leonard:** (patting her shoulder) There-there.

**Penny:** God, what is wrong with me?

**Leonard:** Nothing, you're perfect.

**Penny:** Ach! I'm not perfect.

**Leonard:** Yes you are.

**Penny:** You really think so don't you?

(He nods and she quickly kisses him.)

**Leonard:** Penny?

**Penny:** Yeah?

**Leonard:** How much have you had to drink tonight?

**Penny:** Just ... a lot.

**Leonard:** Are you sure that your being drunk and your being angry with Kurt doesn't have something to do with what's going on here?

**Penny:** It might. (sighs) Boy, you're really smart.

**Leonard:** (frustrated) Yeah, I'm a frickin' genius.

**Penny:** Leonard, you are so great. Why can't all guys be like you?

**Leonard:** Because if all guys were like me the human race couldn't survive.

**Penny:** I should probably go.

**Leonard:** Prolly.

(Penny walks to the doorway with Leonard.)

**Penny:** Thank you.

(Penny grasps his face and kisses him sweetly. Kurt steps out in the background and glares at Leonard.)

**Leonard:** That's right, you saw what you saw. That's how we roll in the Shire.

(Leonard closes the door and hastily adjusts the locks.)

## Scene 6 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Someone knocks at the front door.)

**Sheldon:** Coming!

(Sheldon undoes the locks and opens the door.)

**Howard:** Hey, have you seen Koothrapali?

**Sheldon:** (annoyed) He's not here. Maybe the Avenger summoned him.

**Howard:** He's not the Marvel comic story, he's the original Norse God.

**Sheldon:** Thank you for the clarification.

**Howard:** Supposed to give him a ride home.

**Sheldon:** Well I'm sure he'll be fine. He has his hammer.

(The scene quickly changes to an unknown room where Rajesh's hammer rests against a bed. On the bed, the butterfly costumed woman who earlier sat next to Rajesh at the party rolls off Rajesh in the bed.)

**Butterfly Girl:** (breathing heavily) Wow! I have to say, you are an amazing man. You're gentle, and passionate, and my God! You are such a good listener!

(Rajesh smiles happily and places his hands behind his head, relaxing into the pillow.)

[End Credits Roll]