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Suzi

Comment on ep 25 -part II

Mon Sep 15 17:19:40 2003

210.10.183.167

Yes, even if he didn't love her, she did love him, and her love bloomed in the sky just as the title of the episode indicated.

Here is where you Gerdha and I disagree. You think that Naida didn't truly love DF whereas I do, despite her betrayal, she did love him. After all, no one can easily give their own life for someone else. If she wanted to kill herself out of disappointment that DF loved another woman, she could have done that by throwing herself off a cliff instead of exploding her self in the saucer. If she had fighting skills she might have fought the Vegans instead of this "suicide- bomb" attack, but she didn't. She wanted to take her revenge from the Vegans for making her destroy the man she loved so dearly, and also to help him see the truth and persist in his fight.

This is also where Judas and Naida differ, Judas killed himself out of despair and guilt whereas Naida sacrificed her life out of love. Naida's death was a demonstration of love not guilt, despair nor disappointment, and DF received her message of love and wrote her name in the sky for everyone to see it. He cried his loss of her and his planet Flead once more but this time he swore to never let the tragedy of Flead occur again. After all, that was her request in the message she conveyed by her tragic death.

Another thing we differ about, Gerdha, is Daisuke's feelings towards Naida back on Flead. Whereas you think that he was in love with her back on Flead, I don't think that he had any more than just feelings of deep friendship for her. That is why he didn't recall her after ep 25, because for him Naida was not a woman that he loved, she was only a very dear friend.

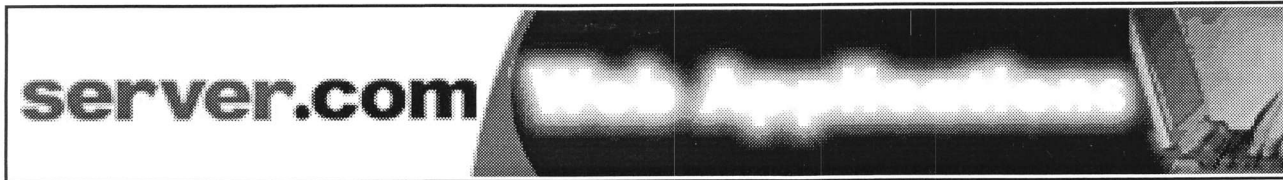
That is how I see episode 25 (excluding the medical exclamation marks! LOL!) and how I understand it. I believe that our difference in opinion could be the result of variations in the dialogues of the Arabic, Italian, and French versions, as well as life experiences.

That is all what I have time for today. Thanks for opening the door for the discussion Gerdha.

I hope to see all your comments.

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Suzi

Comments on ep25 discussion

Mon Sep 15 17:17:12 2003

210.10.183.167

Finally, I have a few moments that I can spend on another discussion, this time it is about ep 25. And yes, it is true that you Gerdha and I have different views about Naida's character but I guess we both generally agree on the principle that Daisuke was in love with Hikaru at the time Naida reappeared. I find it hard to explain myself without reflecting on the episode.

Ok, as I said earlier that the first time I saw ep 25 was two years ago. But before I saw it I knew about its existence from the fantastic website of our remarkable host, Djinspace.

Ok, I read his synopsis of the episode and saw the images he included in Aphilie section. Well, initially I thought to himself "Is this Aphilie another Rubina? and what is this nonsense about Fleedian brains in Vegan monsters business?"

When I owned the VHS of the series (Arabic) I was so curious to see this "Aphilie". Her real name turned out to be "Naida" though (ummm, I like the name Naida better than Aphilie, even though I am sure that "Aphilie" is derived from latin term "phil" which means "love/like" am I write folks?).

My first impressions after watching the episode were nothing but big question and exclamation marks (and I will not re-discuss my medical considerations). The non-medical questions I asked myself,

1. How does this episode fit into the sequence of the series? I mean it was apparent in this episode that Koji was aware of the fact that Hikaru knew Daisuke's secret whereas in ep 27, it was apparent that he had no idea about this prior to ep 27.

But I said to myself "never mind, another unexplainable plot hole, who cares?"

2. Did Daisuke really love Naida? Ok he kissed her. I guess I can accept the fact that he may have been in love with a fleedian woman back in Fleed but then how does Rubina fit in the picture? They were engaged and about to marry?! And what about Hikaru, for God's sake? Arrrrgh! Why do these authors always like to put her in these kinds of emotional struggles?

3. Did Naida really love Duke Fleed? Well, she admitted it several times throughout the episode, so she must be telling the truth but why did she inflict all this pain on DF? Ok she was brainwashed to accuse him of treason, but why did she lie? Why did she really kill herself in the end?

4. Why is it always whenever a female who appears to be in love with DF, she always gets killed in the end, except for my wonderful Hikaru?

5. Can't the authors think of better storylines around DF's character other than pretty girls "chasing him"? I had enough problems getting over Rubina, now I have to deal with this "Naida". But come on, she is not as bad as Rubina. She is definitely more tolerable. But still there was something about her that I didn't like. But what is it?

These are the questions that came up to my mind when I saw this episode for the first time. And I couldn't rest until I found satisfactory answers, so I re-watched it over and over again and again looking for clues and here is what I found.

The betrayal of Naida reminds me in a way with Judas' betrayal to Jesus. Too far fetched, do you think? Actually no it is not so far fetched, and here are the similarities or how I analysed it..

In the past Jesus had 12 disciples who all loved him including Judas. Two of the disciples betrayed him Peter, by denying any relationship with him, and Judas betrayed him with a kiss "selling" him to the Jews for 30 silver pieces.

Why did Peter betray or deny Jesus? Because he was afraid

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Ok some say he didn't really love Jesus enough, others say that Judas did not really know that the Jews wanted to kill him and he was deceived by them, and some say that Judas was disappointed in Jesus because Jesus did not reflect the image of his "Messiah". It doesn't matter which theory you adopt, the end result is the same, Jesus was betrayed by Judas who was ultimately responsible for Jesus' death along with the Jews and the Romans.

But the story does not end there. Both Peter and Judas acknowledged their mistakes. Peter sobbed in

repentance for days, Judas went back to the Jews to return their money telling them he did not realize that his master would be killed, and pleaded for Jesus.

But the Jews refused the deal. So Judas threw the money and in despair feeling so much shame and guilt, he hanged himself.

Now, we all know that Judas betrayed Jesus, but did he really love him? And if so why did he betray him and why did he kill himself?

Ok that was the story of Jesus and Judas. Let us see the story of Naida and Duke Fleed.

(According to the Arabic dialogue of the episode)

Naida and DF were friends since childhood. They grew up as a brother and sister. Unfortunately their harmony did not last long because the vicious King Vega attacked their Planet Fleed. DF has gone through terrible ordeals fighting the Vegans to repossess Grendizer, and he finally escaped to Earth thinking that his native planet was completely destroyed. Naida on the other hand, was captured by the Vegans who tortured her, and used her as a weapon against Duke Fleed. They implanted a device in her head and brainwashed her telling her that DF was a traitor who fled for his life abandoning her and his people on Fleed to a miserable fate, and therefore she should find him and take revenge. They sent her to Earth in a disguised mission which succeeded in uniting them with each other. They embraced, played and kissed but she had always harboured bad intentions. She hid a dagger in her pocket to kill him whenever the opportunity arrived but she dropped in the water when confronted with her love for him. But then her anger and hatred were already ignited against him as the Vegan device continued to work in her mind. She finally managed to demoralize him by her accusations of treason and her lie about her the Fleedian brains and her brother.

And not only that, but she beat him on the head so hard that the man miraculously escaped death. DF was as good as dead in the resultant mental state of catatonic depression.

DF's friends removed the device and "cured" her from the "hatred illness". She became ashamed of herself and what she had done to the man she loved so dearly. Tearful and guilty, she ran away to rectify the mistake. But how could she do that? How could she restore her man to his old self? She had no combat skills, and the Vegans were approaching? Yes, she decided to commit suicide by thrusting her explosive filled saucer into the Vegan troops. DF regained his consciousness and tried to stop her but she had already made up her mind. She killed herself.

Why?

Ok what is the similarity between Naida and Judas?

They both betrayed under the name of love.

They committed suicide after acknowledging their betrayal and its effect..

But there are also a lot of dissimilarities between them, of course. There are other factors too in the story of Naida that were responsible for her death. Was she also desperate for the love of a man who was not hers any more, but was in love with another woman? Or was it her love that made her commit suicide? Or was it her guilt? Or was it a way of showing the truth to him, but because she lacked combat skills she resorted to the option of a "suicide bomber" kind of thing?

Ah these are a lot of hard questions! To answer them, we have to analyse Daisuke and his attitude towards her.

We learnt from previous episodes particularly 23 that Daisuke loved Hikaru, so how did Naida fit in the picture?

Ok, let me see, Diasuke got so excited to see her and to find her well and alive, could I say he was on top of the moon? I guess that is a fair description for him.

In the centre they talked about her escape and about their cherished childhood memories. Interestingly he stated that they grew up as a brother and sister (are these his true feelings towards her, brotherly friendship??), and he never even hinted to any past romance, (and apparently neither did she).

Another thing I noted during their dialogue at the centre was that Daisuke did not feel bad or angry at the fact that Vega was torturing his own people. He only went mad when he knew that Naida's brother was assassinated by a traitor. (?????? Very strange indeed! I thought he would be equally angry for both facts). He went horse riding with Naida, and he kissed her (or they kissed each other to be more exact), and played echo giving the impression to all that they were in love. But are they truly in love?

Naida was hiding a dagger to kill him but she was overcome by his tenderness and her love to him.

Was this "kiss" scene a non-disputable evidence that Daisuke did love Naida? Ummmh, not really! There was something in that kiss scene that made me suspicious. After all, they did not talk about past "tender moments" or "romance", so why did this kiss come out of the blue all of a sudden? I mean there were no direct or indirect hints in the previous dialogues to suggest that Daisuke was in love with Naida. We know that Naida was in love with him because she said that briefly before her horrible recall of the traumatic brainwashing

Ok, I decided to concentrate on that kiss scene more, and thanks to my video-editing software I was able to analyse this scene at a fraction of a second, and here is what I found.

Naida was sitting in front of Daisuke on the horse. Daisuke pulls her from the back off the horse, they rotate to face each other, actually they lay on top of each other face to face (I guess lip to lip), and roll while kissing until they stop. Daisuke was above Naida holding her back while she surrounded his neck with her left arm (note Daisuke's right hand was behind Naida's back and not supporting Naida's head while it was up towards him, which means that Naida was moving her head actively rather than passively). Naida moved her head softly towards Daisuke kissed him then lied flat on the ground.

Daisuke did not reject or resent her kiss, actually he was happy, very happy.

Ok, my conclusion was that he might have initially started the kissing while rolling on the grass, but Naida was the one who delivered the last kiss. Yet she was hiding the dagger awaiting the opportunity to kill him (doesn't this remind you of Judas?)

Why did Daisuke kiss Naida if he wasn't really in love with her? Was he kissing her person or what she symbolized for him? What I mean is, Naida was the first Fleedian he found alive after the tragedy of Flead. She shared with him a lot of good memories on his beloved planet and also lived the tragedy of its loss. She was someone with whom he shared a lot of memories, dreams and disappointments. Her survival was a sign of hope that Planet Flead is not all lost. For him, she was a dream that has come alive, Planet Flead was still alive in her person (note that in ep 19 he was agonising over the fact that he had lost his homeland forever and couldn't even return to it) That is what Naida represented for him, Planet Flead. He couldn't return to Planet Flead, but Planet Flead came to him in the person of Naida. And that is why he kissed her, because he loved Planet Flead, his homeland, the beloved country that he could not save and subdued guilt towards it.

Yes, that is what I truly believe, Daisuke's feelings towards Naida were nothing more than deep friendship even back on Flead.

Naida on the other hand had much stronger feelings for him than just friendship. Even though she knew that he was betrothed to Rubina (back on Planet Flead) she continued to love him. Planet Flead had collapsed into the hands of the Vegans, and the marriage proposal dissolved. DF could be hers again, but was he ever hers originally? He escaped while she was tortured by the Vegans. Vega knew of her disappointment that DF left them to this fate, and therefore he played on the right string of making her believe that he betrayed her and the Fleedian population by escaping to Earth. She was programmed to kill the traitor, the one who betrayed her and let down Planet Flead. But who is this traitor? It is DF the man she loved.

She met him on Earth. She told him of what has become of Planet Flead and what was happening to its survivors. Instead of him showing anger or resentment to the Vegans, he was praising Planet Earth's beauty and inviting her to stay there with him. The look on her face at that moment was very interesting. It was a cold look with a hint of anger. She was disappointed in him, his unexpected reaction reinforced the lie that Vega had put in her mind, DF was a traitor who abandoned her and the fellow Fleadians. He didn't even show any kind of remorse for fleeing to Earth and leaving them to their sad fate, on the contrary he invited her to stay and enjoy the "paradise".

"Shame on you DF, shame on you, you don't even show sympathy for all those Fleadians that have suffered because of your cowardly escape", Naida was probably thinking at the time. When he mentioned her brother she thought of lying to him about his assassination by a traitor to demoralize him in revenge for herself and the other Fleadians.

The next morning they kissed, her love for him was revived and it protected him from her dagger (same theme of episode 16, when Hayashi's fiancé was overcome by her love and dropped the gun).

But the device kept on working on her brain reminding her of his guilt and the looming revenge, her duty towards her self and her country. She hurt him both physically and psychologically. And she succeeded in disheartening him and rendering him psychotically depressed.

The menacing device was removed from her head by DF's friends, she was back to her normal self, and could not recall her disgusting deed. She was informed about it from Hikaru and Koji. But then how could she face herself; how did she do that to the man she loved? She almost killed him.

But this is not all what Naida had to face. She had to "see" what her lies and accusations had rendered DF, he became nothing more than a hopeless dysfunctional freak but beside him stood a woman who also loved him and deeply cared for him (just like what Judas had seen what had happened to Jesus as a result of his betrayal and how he was surrounded by some faithful followers).

She saw the woman who DF didn't tell her about but apparently they were in sincere love. His kisses in the field were not for her, they were for Planet Flead. Now she understood him. Planet Flead never left DF's heart and mind. It was always in his soul. He never abandoned it. He was still fighting the Vegans not for himself only but also for Flead, Earth and the whole universe. Yes, he loved Flead just like her. She loved him but she betrayed her love because she didn't really understand him. She didn't acknowledge the fact that for him she was only a friend, a very dear friend all along, nothing more. He never had the love of a man for a woman towards her. She saw true love in Hikaru's eyes and understood that she was the one that DF loved. But she couldn't deny her own, for she too had loved him and dearly. She said to Hikaru "I love Duke too, probably more than you" (in the Arabic version).

One thing was left for her to show him her love, her true love and correct her mistake.

She had no fighting skills but she had a saucer full of lethal explosives. She was going to stop the Vegans

and avenge herself and DF, she wanted to show DF the truth about the Fleedian brains, she wanted him to believe in himself and continue to fight to avenge Planet Fleed, she wanted him to have another chance at life with the woman he loved, but she also wanted to demonstrate to him hers (in a way this reminds of Tale Of Two Cities end, in which the English hero—who I forgot his name--- sacrificed his life by replacing his beloved's husband in the death sentence so that she could live happily with the man she truly loved). Naida did not respond to DF's calls for return not because she was desperate and hopeless but because she was determined to give him a life of love and hope, a chance to defeat the Vegans and restore peace and live happily with his true love (like that hero of Tale of Two cities....oh dear! I just can't recall his name!). Yes, even if he didn't love her, she did love him, and her love bloomed in the sky just as the title of t

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- [Comment on ep 25 -part II](#) — Suzi, Mon Sep 15 17:19

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Agnès

interesting comparison, Suzi

Tue Sep 16 21:11:29 2003

195.218.30.118

I would add only this to the "Judas connection".

Though he is a traitor, he is also necessary and essential to Christian redemption. Indeed, for Christ to be able to bring redemption to mankind, he has to be betrayed, he has to suffer and die, to question all etc. Without entering into theological discussions, one might argue that the presence of a "traitor" - Judas or other - was necessary and in some way inevitable or even pre-ordained for Christian redemption to exist.

In this particular way, Judas is a tool and a religious necessity, and one might wonder to what extent he had a choice in the matter (I know theologians will explain that he did have a choice, but that would mean that somebody else would have to betray Christ instead). To some extent, Judas' identity or personality is less important than his "mission", the act he is meant to accomplish, the act that will allow everything else. His personality is important as it provides the moral tale that allows ethical questions as well as "the experience" of life as a human being Jesus needs to go through in order to redeem all of us, but in the end,

he needs this experience more than Judas himself.

To get back to ep. 25, one might argue that Naida is in a similar position. Within the story, her actions and reactions are steered from the outside (Gandal), but on another level, she is a "narrative necessity", a "necessary experience" in the evolution of Duke Fleed. This is consistent, somehow, with Gerdha's overall analysis, in which DF and Hikaru are the central characters par excellence whose evolution and growth is the main focus of the beginning of the series at least. In this sense, Naida can be read as a kind of "test" of their relationship and personal growth, which would explain why she seems to leave no lasting scar or effect on the characters. In a sense, her influence is less obviously visible than one might expect from such a memorable character.

Ironically, though the characters seem to forget all about her after her demise, she lingers in our heads and memories, engendering question after question, or to echo Gerdha, pointing at the existence of a "matrioska structure" in the narrative. Like Judas, she cannot be "deleted" from the narrative despite her own decision to leave it.

Sadly, the question of her personality and the nature of her relationship with DF becomes subsidiary in the narrative - she is defined by her act of betrayal and chosen death: like Judas for mankind, she makes redemption possible for Duke Fleed, as Suzi suggests in her analysis.

In the end, it doesn't matter whether DF loves her in the romantic sense, or in any other sense (I have my opinions, of course, but I won't discuss them here): she has to die to allow the narrative (and DF's personality) to unfold. Her confrontation with DF is cathartic as it allows him to confront his demons "in the flesh" and in the shape of an accusing Naida, as it were. This experience will allow him to concentrate on his present life (and Hikaru, if you want :-)) until the final twist reveals one last layer of his personality and confronts him with another aspect of his past: our Lovely Princess Rubina (I am the defence attorney after all!) and all she represents.

As this is getting uncomfortably close to TTOTC territory, this Defence Attorney quickly makes for the exit ...

P.S.: Though DF doesn't resurrect in the strict sense, he is "healed" and escapes certain death, and after spending some more time with his friends to complete unfinished business, he also "leaves this world" behind, albeit in an (arguably) less "final" sense than his biblical counterpart. I really don't want to set him up as a Christ-like figure, but as your analysis pointed out, Suzi, there are some striking narrative similarities. After all, he does save humankind from destruction. It looks like we have stumbled upon a recurring narrative pattern here, a pattern which is also recognisable in the kind of EPIC narratives mentioned during the TTOTC proceedings ...

(with a final demonic laugh, the Defence Attorney avoids the plates and flying saucers hurled into her direction and flees from the cafeteria) ...

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Suzi

Re: interesting comparison, Suzi

Tue Sep 16 22:05:12 2003

129.94.6.29

Thanks for the compliment Agnes, and I totally agree about your addition of Judas' essential role in Jesus' redemption of mankind and the "description" of Duke Fleed as a "Christ-like figure", but I did not want to elaborate any further because I didn't want to appear like "religious preacher" or someone who is giving a lecture in theology. You know what I mean dear Attorney General, after all Grendizer is just an anime, and religion may not interest a lot of the visitors to this forum.

And don't worry about the flying saucers, for I think I saw them also flying my way in some unnecessary comments from forum members. But I don't care, I am brave enough to stand for my points of view.

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Stéphane Dumas

Does Pollux/Moros could fit there too?

Wed Sep 17 09:52:26 2003

24.201.149.63

Very good text you writed Suzi

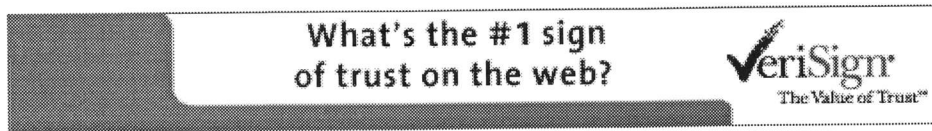
I wondered if Pollux/Moros (episode 71) could fit in this category? He was brainwashed by Vega as well to kill Actarus/Duke Flead, but DF bring him back to his sense. And discovered what Vega had planned to him, decided to make an suicide-attack on the Vegan base without knowing than Vega had put a bomb on his spaceship just in case...

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- [Ah! well.....](#) — Suzi, Wed Sep 17 14:31

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Suzi

Ah! well....

Wed Sep 17 14:31:18 2003

210.10.173.238

Ummh, no Stephane, I don't think that Morros could be resembled to Naida (and Judas) in betrayal to DF, even though he was brainwashed by the Vegans.

The difference is that Morros confronted DF from the start, and DF was aware of his bad intentions, whereas Naida didn't. She concealed her real intentions and appeared so much "in love", in a way that no one would suspect that wanted to kill DF, just like Judas who kissed Jesus pretending that he loved him whereas in actual fact he was planning to hand over to the Jews.

Naida and Morros however could resemble each other in the fact that they both after regaining their sense wanted to avenge the Vegans for using them as a weapon against DF (Naida's love and Morros' best friend) and avenge their planets.

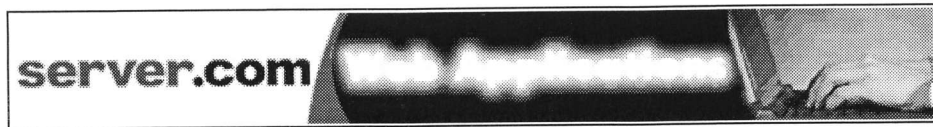
The other difference is that Naida intentionally exploded herself (suicide-bomber like action), whereas Morros was not intending to suicide, he was planning to go the Moon Base and fight the Vegans despite his very small chances of success (he may have suspected that Vega had implanted an explosive device in his saucer but was still willing to take the risk).

Anyway, thanks for your compliment and for sharing your thoughts.

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Gerdha

Re: Ah! well....

Wed Sep 17 17:50:42 2003

57.67.17.3

Morus never intended to suicide himself. He wanted to return to the Moon Base and kill personally King Vega. He was not aware of the auto-destruction device Vega planted in the monster, and when it was switched on by Vega from the Moon Base he desperately launched the rays to the moon. This is what happens in the Japapanese version of ep71. There is no possible comparison with Naida, who deliberately killed herself despite all the tentatives of Duke Fleed to convince her not to do such a thing.

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