

Hi everybody ... Glad to read you finally get to "meet" Eudix and Pollux, Gerdha. I'm not quite sure about the planet Eudix is from, but I do not think that he is from Stykades/Vega (he looks more like Eurydie, who is from a planet called Concordia). This, however, is not the purpose of this message.

Indeed, I was thinking about the charming soap bubbles I was polluting this Forum with last week, and more precisely with the idea that the scene from ep.72 I talked about was indeed designed to prepare the viewer for the imminent departure of Actarus and Phenicia/Maria.

Here is what I wrote:

"To end on a more positive note, I should perhaps mention the only episode of this kind that is not (immediately) followed by tragedy and destruction – the conversation between Phenicia and Actarus in ep.72, where they talk about the seasons and lakes on Euphor. Of course, the narrative is preparing the audience for the encounter between Actarus and Vegalia, but this particular moment is a genuine moment of peace. They are brought back to their present reality not by enemies or by a horrible event, but by the arrival of Alcor and Venusia. Venusia's poignant reaction to Actarus' explanation that they were talking about their own planet and her realisation that they would like to go back also teaches us, subliminally, that this is becoming a real possibility. In this scene, there is no destruction – the focus firmly remains the relationship between the different characters and on the natural world (Actarus observes a line of ants as they cross a dead branch – a symbol perhaps for crossing borders and their impending, though yet unexpected departure?).

Indeed, of all the "soap bubbles" we encounter in the series, this seems to be the only one that is allowed to escape into the sky "unharmred". In that sense, perhaps, it prefigures a future of a different nature for the heroes whose destiny we have been so closely involved in for 72 episodes. In a sense it also indicates that they will also escape us."

(I know, I know, quoting oneself is not a very elegant thing to do – I just wanted to prevent you from having to look through the other thread again to find the bit I was referring to :-))

It just struck me that the whole episode is like a bridge between the past, the present and the future. Indeed, we are given a lot of essential information in this episode. First of all, we learn that Actarus was engaged, and that although this seems to have been an "arranged marriage" (the French version hints that Actarus' father was hoping that a marriage between Actarus and Vegalia would allow peace to persevere in the universe), this was by no means an engagement without love. Indeed, the present allows us to see that the attachment between Actarus and Vegalia must have been very strong, since it managed to survive eight years of war and bereavement.

It also allows us to see the GS from another point of view. I found him very human in this episode, very much a father in the "pater familias" sense of the world. He loves his daughter, does not want to share with anybody else (especially not another man), lies to her to protect her and uses/abuses her to reach his goals (she is promised to Horos/Zuril, on condition that he rid the world of Actarus). It seems that like many parents, or "traditional" fathers, to be more precise, the GS is very reluctant/unable to relinquish his control over his daughter's life and destiny. In this particular way, his attitude as a father is mirrored in his attitude as a statesman: he knows best and has exclusive control over his child's/people's destiny (in a sense, even, in true pater familias fashion, he has the right of life and death over his daughter/people). I won't go into a feminist analysis of the

patriarchal implications of this particular aspect of his character (I'm sure you can imagine what I would say ;-)), but in a sense it is relevant to a better understanding of his character: if I can say that the GS is neurotically and helplessly patriarchal, it does make his character so much more human, doesn't it? After all, there are quite a few of those running about on this very planet ... ;-))) (I hope you know I'm joking ...)

Significantly, this side of his character explains why he is so obsessed with getting rid of Actarus. In an essential way, Actarus is more than an enemy – he is also and above all a rival for his daughter's love. I love the scene where he "refuses" to answer Vegalia's questions and pleas to allow people from Ruby more freedom and to reconstruct his realm on Euphor with the help of the planet's prince ... at that moment, he looks completely helpless and powerless, as only a father can be when confronted by a grown-up and critical daughter, whom he secretly knows to be right.

I think that this confrontation between Vegalia and her father, and the relationship it implies between him and Actarus throws the whole story into a completely different light: the GS is no longer just a demon, he becomes a "human" in the sense that Gerdha used the term as meaning "any living being in this universe" that has to come to terms with its own nature and its transience. (One could even argue, here that this excessive need for control is a way of dealing with one's own transience, as it were, but that I think is another thread ...). The war opposing his army to the rest of the universe becomes a war like any other war, and the dichotomy between good and evil that has continuously been challenged throughout the series, is finally revealed as illusory: indeed, with the revelation of the "human side" of the last bastion of evil, King Vega himself, the demonisation of the enemy is finally exposed as false, necessary though it is in times of war.

It looks like this is turning into an MM, and also, significantly, away from the primary aim of this particular post. My main objective was to initiate a discussion of this episode as a bridge or essential turning point in the narrative, in the sense that it announces the possibility of departure of our friends.

Indeed, if one considers the images of the natural world here, both Earth and Euphor are present visually in the episode. Earth is always in the present, and feels very much like a summer day, where time is slow and warm and comfortable. (I always thought that it would be nice to watch the scene where Actarus and Phenicia discuss the seasons on their planet with Vivaldi's 'Four Season's: Summer' in the background.)

Euphor is present too, though, visually, semantically and symbolically, in a way that it had never been present before. First of all in the past, in Actarus' and Phenicia's memories, and secondly in the present: indeed, the photograph Vegalia takes of Euphor and subsequently shows Actarus, first allows him to believe that a return is possible. Cosmographically (is that the "cosmic" equivalent for "geographically", I wonder), both planets coexist as real possibilities for the first time in the narrative. In that connection, one has to consider Vegalia's attempt at finding a "peaceful" solution to the conflict, which again has multilayered consequences. It signals the first real possibility of peace, on the one hand, but it also, most significantly, contributes to the de-demonisation of Vega and his people.

In a sense both universes, and both possibilities, exist, for a short moment, as parallel universes, and interestingly, the link between the two is symbolised visually in the little

soap bubble I mentioned before.

"Indeed, both incidents (Actarus/Phenicia and Actarus/Vegalia) take place near/on a lake. (In a sense the scene is reminiscent of Proust's "petite Madeleine" ... oh no, another Proustian moment!!!), and the connection is made through an association of impressions and location in the mind/memory. Similarly, though the Actarus/Venusia scene is rooted in the past, it is brought up again by both characters and confirms the emotional link between them that is both tied to time and place (Actarus observes that he can no longer feel the same, as his parents, people and planet have been destroyed by Vegalia's father) and independent of time and place, in the sense that their love seems to transcend everything that has happened to them."

Interestingly, geography/cosmography brings them together again: Vegalia's response to Actarus' observation, her revelation that Euphor's ozone layer has been regenerating allows him to overcome his misgivings or his rejection (?) of her. This can be read as another instance of Actarus having to overcome his own limits – in a sense he pushes on the boundaries of his personality, of what he can and cannot forgive/love/forget in this scene. (This may also explain the lack of passion in the last confrontation between the two adversaries in ep.73/74. They are both exhausted, and they share at least one common pain ...)

In a sense, this particular theme is prefigured in my little soap bubble. This is what I said last time: "Actarus observes a line of ants as they cross a dead branch – a symbol perhaps for crossing borders and their impending, though yet unexpected departure?"

This detail can, of course, be read in many different ways, and indeed one could look at it as one additional element in the story's focus on "environmental concerns". Visually, however, the "crossing" is present, and the dead branch is also highly suggestive (traditional interpretations would involve the idea of war as futile, or the regenerative cycles of nature), but it is only in connection with Venusia's reaction that its full meaning becomes "explicit": indeed, Venusia realises that her friends miss their planet, their people, their former lives, indeed their world. She says as much, and then bends down, gather a piece of grass, folds it into a boat shape, and "lets it go" on the lake, where it drifts away from her. Boats drifting away are always symbols of departure and separation, often even of final separation (the classical reference here springs to mind, but it is not the only one: King Arthur's body is sent back to Avalon on a boat, and in India, funeral pyres are often allowed to drift away on a river). Symbolically, this signifies that one has to let a loved person/soul go, no matter how unbearable this may seem. Venusia's action here does foreshadow Vegalia's death scene where Actarus will have to let Vegalia go, and when Venusia herself, realises, for the second time in this episode that he does not belong to her, and that perhaps he never has.

This has been going on and on, and again I have strayed from my primary purpose, which was to suggest that this episode is a bridge, a crossing of boundaries, between many different elements in the narrative: past and present, war and peace, life and death, planets at opposite sides of the universe, presence and absence. I know that some of you will think that I am overdoing the over-interpretation business here, extrapolating all of this from two lakes, a line of ants and a grass boat, but I do think that these are very potent symbols. In a sense, this is the only explanation I could find to Venusia's melancholy in the lake scene and to her "letting go of the boat". To those who may object to this

interpretation, as of course is your right and duty ;-))), I would say that traditional Japanese theatre and art is highly symbolic, and that to understand what is happening on stage, one has to be able to "read" every single gesture, expression or item in its intended meaning.

Thanks for reading all of this ... you asked for it, Jerome (you should never had said you liked my "soap bubbles"!)

Ciao,

@+
Agnes

GERDHA'S THERAPY ON EP 72 – PART 1

Ok here I am. I knew this day would have arrived – I mean discussing episode 72 here – but this awareness has been of no help up to now, as somewhat it's still anyway difficult for me to type on my keyboard about it. I am the only one on this Forum who has seen the Italian version, and I feel so alone in believing it tells a different story from the French edition. But I HAVE to overcome the writing block in a way or another, because how could I be part of a Grendizer Forum refusing to discuss about ep 72 for the fear of misunderstandings? So I have decided to apply a sort of FUNNY therapy on myself and do something different than a pure reply to Agnes' post of some days ago. And even if this is going to be anyway a Monstrogoth Message (friendly named MM), I hope no one will be extremely bored reading a bit fictional story about me and my love&hate relationship with ep72. If it isn't so, I apologise in advance for your waste of time. In my excuse, I admit that for me this has been the most challenging English work of my life.

Love to all,
Gerdha

It was a Friday evening at beginning of January 1980. I knew very well that the Goldrake serie was nearly to finish, and rumours about how it was going to end were being spread everywhere by "well informed sources" telling the most different (scaring) versions. So I was nervous and excited all the day, waiting only for 19.10 to arrive. TV Guide announced for that day a Goldrake episode named "Il Comandante Markus" (= ep71) and gave also – strangely - a little summary about it: a dearest friend of Actarus arrives on Earth to kill him. Guess my surprise when the episode title shown on the TV screen was instead "Rivoluzione Nello Spazio" (=ep72). But I had no time to be disappointed, as more surprises were going to come.

Zuril rushes in the main room of Vega forces base to advise his King that a revolution is sorted out on Planet Ruby; his Master seems not to be worried as his daughter Rubina is there and could stop the revolution. Vega has a daughter? Uhm, interesting indeed; we never get the news of her existence before but it's OK anyway. But Zuril is still worried as she has abandoned Planet Ruby to come to the Moon Base. Well, I would have liked to see the episode about Actarus friend but this one is so well designed that could be a pleasure anyway. I mean, what could go wrong if finally a revolution has started somewhere in the Vega Empire?

A red-haired girl is flying through the space and sees Planet Fleed returning to life, so she takes a picture of it. Pardon? Planet Fleed is returning to life? And how the hell did it happen? Since when nuclear damages are repaired in a few years? Then she has an argument with his father because he did not tell her that Duke Fleed is still alive. Urgh, I have a bad feeling, why Vega's daughter is interested in Duke Fleed? Then Vega and Zuril chat a bit and I am told that she is coming to the Moon Base as she has discovered that Duke Fleed is still alive and this is a big problem as she still loves him after 8 years.

Pardon again??? What's up with this guy, for God's sake, another girl fallen in love with him – okay, shame on me, I am 13 and I am virtually in love with him too, so I have the right to say nothing on the matter actually.

But it's only the beginning. In a few seconds Vega and Zuril inform me that it was such a mistake to send her to Fleed 8 years ago and they would have to better consider the risk of her falling in love for Duke Fleed; in fact the King of Fleed wanted them to get married in order to save peace between the two planets. WHAT???? Someone please tell me it's a big joke, another engagement? Didn't we meet Actarus' girlfriend Naida on ep25? What's this story???? (a little side note: soap operas were still to arrive in Italy at that time). So poor Actarus had to engage with Vega's daughter to save his planet, but what's the role of Aphelie then? Did maybe my faultless Actarus have two engagements going on simultaneously? Well, it's good anyway to discover that this so advanced Planet Fleed realm was in the end no different than our middle-age countries. A little revenge for my Planet Earth.

At this point King Vega has an idea: he leaves any decision about Rubina up to Zuril, who does not understand the meaning of the sentence and asks for clarification. Well, King Vega is available to give Rubina to Zuril as a wife and he completely trusts him. Actually, if Duke Fleed is dead it would not be so difficult to conquer Rubina's heart – it's Zuril's thought as he talks to Gandal when Vegalia arrives. Poor Zuril has tried for 44 episodes to kill Actarus without succeeding but let's try again. For more, I am only 13 years old but this men attitudes are already very disturbing (guess how it is now ...), what the hell are they thinking?

Luckily the scene changes and I see Actarus playing guitar on a lake shore and looking to a group of ants walking in ordered single file on a dead branch while Maria is jumping in the water. Have I said before I am virtually in love with him? My dear, he's designed so well and beautifully. It's a pity my parents does not allow me to hang a poster of him on my bedroom wall. But all in all I am lucky to be allowed to see this episode as they hate this cartoon with a passion. The image of a young Rubina spread on Actarus' memory for a second; he has such a serious expression in the scene... Well, obviously it's a new type of plot device to introduce a new character in the episode, these Japanese cartoons are full of surprises really. Uh, Phenicia is once again talking about Planet Fleed. Snort, this girl is so petulant, always the same topic, today is about seasons timing differences with planet Earth. Okay, I have to shut up, I always think younger sisters (like mine) are petulant so I am not objective now.. Alcor and Venusia arrives and he asks what they are talking about as they have such a dreamy expression. Maria – finally – is embarrassed in answering they were talking about Planet Fleed. Venusia (has she ever been so sweet designed previously?) looks to Actarus then creates a grass boat saying "it's your birth place. Would you have nostalgia for it?" and lets it flow on the lake water. It's all so quiet, I have the same feeling like a tempest is going to arrive. Of course, I know already that Planet Fleed is coming to life again....

Soon I am transferred in the Moon Base, where Rubina is looking to a Japan map and asks to her father whether Duke Fleed lives in that island. King Vega does not want to talk about him, and asks what news Vegalia can give him

about the Ruby revolution. Finally someone recalls this episode is named "Rivoluzione Nello Spazio". Rubina answers that Ruby population wants peace but will continue to fight if Vega won't allow them to be independent, then takes the opportunity to ask her father to end the war with Earth. Vega replies that it's not possible as after Stykades destruction they have no more a place where to live and so they must absolutely conquer Earth. With a sweet voice Rubina suggests they could transfer to live on Planet Flead. Vega replies that it's impossible as it's a dead planet. With even a sweeter voice Vegalia informs him that Planet Flead is coming back to life, so they could transfer there and reconstruct it; she will meet Duke Flead in order to try to convince him (to accept such a thing I suppose). What an unselfish and genial girl really. She should be the princess of an Empire and she's acting instead on a full personal purpose basis instead. Really our middle-age realms were more serious. King Vega has an hesitation but soon refuses to allow his daughter to go on the Earth for the negotiation, as he thinks that no peace is possible and they must conquer Earth and defeat Goldrake absolutely. Rubina thinks it's an absurd decision, but her father repeats he refuses to give her his authorisation for the negotiation. Interesting conscience struggle, actually I am not so sure about who is right and who is wrong here from a political point of view even if Rubina's proposal could seem more logical. But anyway Vegalia's own goal is very far from being political so I surprise myself in supporting more King Vega than her.

Rubina runs away without listening to her father who screams her to stop. She meets Zuril outside the base who tries to convince her to not go, so she arrogantly orders him to move away but he refuses as he's authorised to act by his king in person. Rubina then menaces to shoot him so he's forced to leave her flying to Earth, while Gandal runs to the main room to advise his King. This girl is very annoying, but luckily she will probably die at the end of the episode (after the airing of 69 eps I have learned to know something about Japanese animes) so I should not worry much. King Vega is upset by Zuril's behaviour, but the Science Ministry has an idea: he will follow Rubina and kill Duke Flead when they meet. Well, Zuril is right, as the proverb goes "in war and love all is allowed". Vega cannot accept his daughter is used as a device, but Zuril guarantees him that she will be no harmed so finally a reluctant Vega approves the plan. What a surprise, the monster has a heart and worries for the daughter's life. Uhm, this episode could be more interesting than expected; have I to worry for real?

The Patrouille Des Aigles exits to verify the nature of the two space objectives appeared on the radar: Actarus flies towards the UFO and Alcor, Venusia & Maria towards the meteor. Actarus is quicker so he finds Vegalia's spacecraft soon and launches Lame Rotanti to destroy it. Unluckily he fails, maybe the second try would be better. But there won't be a second try....

END OF PART 1 – TO BE CONTINUED...

GERDHA'S THERAPY ON EP 72 - PART 2

A female scream breaks the screen (wow, what a rhyme!). Vegalia is calling Duke Fleed but he doesn't recognise her and asks who she is. I am hoping he launches *Lame Rotanti* again but the red-haired girl prevents him presenting herself as "princess Rubina". Actarus is very surprised but seems to feel no enthusiasm for the news, even when they look at each other flying in parallel for a bit and she cries for joy - unlike him. Umpft, how many girls crying for Actarus have we already seen in this serie? Venusia is the only one with a bit of dignity and self respect, I wanna be like her when I grow up. Rubina communicates she is not arrived on Earth to fight but because she needs to speak with him about a very important matter. My beloved prince-without-a - name has at this point an interesting thought (which I fully support for instance): he could shoot her in the back of the spacecraft as she is unharmed at the moment, but then changes his mind and accepts to follow Vegalia because if she trusts him he could maybe try to trust her. I am bit disappointed by this man, but you know, he's such a sweetie this episode I can forgive him to delay killing the daughter of Vega. The designer of this episode is absolute genial and I'd like to kiss him for gratitude.

Vegalia is running through a flowered grass calling loudly Duke Fleed, who seems not to feel any hurry to join her. What a difference with ep25! In fact Actarus stops her rush asking for a prove about her identity. She answers that one day in Fleed he took her to a boat trip and told her she was beautiful like a flower. Duke Fleed recalls the episode and the dialogue: R: "Goldrake, lo sai perchè mio padre mi ha mandato qui, sul pianeta Fleed?" "Duke Fleed, do you know why my father has sent me here on Planet Fleed?" D: "Ma cosa c'entra tuo padre con noi due?" "What does your father has to do with us?" R: "Mio padre vorrebbe che tu mi sposassi. Mi sposeresti?" "My father would like you to marry me. Would you marry me?" D: "Non si possono imporre certe cose" "It's not right to impose such a thing" R: "Oh, io non ti piaccio? Goldrake, ti prego, dimmelo" "Oh, you don't like me?, Please, Duke Fleed, tell me" D: "Oh, io non volevo dire questo, credimi Rubina" "Oh, I did not mean it, believe me Rubina" R: "Allora dimmi, che cosa provi per me?" "So please tell me, what do you feel for me?" Duke Fleed answers without looking at her and with hesitant voice: "You are beautiful like a flower" I have chills on my spine. What an embarrassing dialogue, he didn't loved her at all but tried to be polite anyway as it was an imposed wedding to save his planet. Well, I still have to place Naida in the timeline but I will solve this problem later.

Actarus admits he recalls the episode but so much time has passed by. Rubina makes a step forward to him but he stops her again because the man she knew in Fleed is dead and now he is her worst enemy. Rubina is in denial for this affirmation, but rightly Actarus reminds her that his parents have been killed by Vega forces, so she must admit that after listening to his words she cannot do anything else than asking for his forgiveness. But Actarus has not ended to complain, as he adds that Euphor have been destroyed and is now a dead planet. Argh, no, don't let her talk about her discovery. What a pity he cannot listen to me, she takes of course the opportunity to give him the (bad) good news about Fleed coming back to life and to show him the picture she's

taken previously. What an incredible surprise for Actarus, the nuclear "fog" around the planet has disappeared. This is an impossible dream coming true in Actarus' own words. He turns his face to look at the sky and Rubina decides it's time to talk about her main topic: if the war continues not only Vega but also Planet Earth will be destroyed, and there is only a way to stop the fight and convince her father about it: they must get married. Actarus is still under shock for the news about Flead but has anyway the spirit to ask in disbelieving "we must get married?" without stopping to look at the sky and avoiding to share a single eyesight with the girl. Rubina implore Actarus to go with her to Euphor then embraces him. Oh my God, what the hell is he thinking? Why does he not smash her in the face and instead a tear falls from his left eye while he is looking at the sky?

Have I ever tell I love Zuril? Well, if contrary I can tell it now. I love Zuril. In fact he arrives just in time to end Rubina's attempt and let Actarus escape from her accusing also the girl to have organised a trap. Vegalia cries in denial, then starts a fight with her own Science Minister (one day I will meet on the net a nice guy called Jerome who will explain me why some kinds of military organisations fail ;-)) ; finally Alcor jumps on stage too to help. Okay, the princess tentative has failed so I can relax.

Uh, why is Actarus at the balcony of the space centre looking at the sky? Argh, I have a terrible feeling. Alcor, Venusia and Maria arrives to talk with him, but they have difficulties in getting any word out of his mouth. Finally, after a bit of negotiation, he informs the Patrouille that the enemy whom he was talking to was Princess Rubina, so surprising his sister who knows her as King Vega's daughter. Of course Alcor, who is hardly fighting from 2 years against Vega forces, is angry and asks why Actarus did not captured her, and the simple reply he gets is "I'm sorry". You are right dear prince, you should have to be sorry, but next time you will use Lame Rotanti properly for sure, won't you? Actarus turns to come back to the building with a distressed expression so Alcor runs to him offering their support as he has the impression that something happened to his friend that completely turned him upside down, but without again getting any reply from Actarus. Just in that moment Procton calls Actarus urgently in the control room as a Vega spacecraft is sending a message to him. The whole team runs there: they can see Rubina's spacer on the screen and listen to her voice which asks Duke Flead to fly again to her because it has never been her meaning to trap him and she will wait for him until he arrives. Yeah, right; maybe her trap was different from Zuril's one but it was a trap anyway. Wait wait princess, of course Duke Flead is not so stupid to forget Zuril is hiding somewhere and the woman who is after all blackmailing him is Vega's daughter. Or not?

END OF PART 2 – TO BE CONTINUED...

GERDHA'S THERAPY ON EP 72 - PART 3

This episode is getting me anxious, I am sitting on the edge of the sofa wondering what will happen now. I see Alcor asleep when a soft rumour wakes him up. He turns and sees Actarus dressing up (!!!!! Kudos to the designer once more!) so he asks if he has decided to go to the meeting anyway. Actarus confirms his intention and Alcor makes him notice that Procton has suggested him the exact contrary. Actarus, without looking directly to Alcor, starts the following dialogue (A=Actarus K=Alcor/Koji) A: "adesso basta, io voglio credere a Rubina" "Stop now, I want to believe to Rubina" K: "dimmi perchè hai fiducia in lei. La conosci bene?" "Tell me why you trust her. Do you know her deeply?" A: "Alcor, se non fosse scoppiata la guerra tra Flead e Vega, Rubina ed io..." "Alcor, if the war between Flead and Vega would have not started, Rubina and me...(leaving the sentence suspended) K:"capisco, capisco perchè sei sconvolto. Vai pure. Racconterò che dormivo e non mi sono accorto che te ne andavi" "I understand, I understand why you are upset. You can let go. I will tell everybody I was sleeping and didn't realised you have gone" A:"Ti ringrazio, Alcor" "Thank you very much Alcor" K:"ma fai attenzione, potrebbe essere una trappola" "but pay attention, it could be a trap" A: "D'accordo" "Okay" Then Actarus exits and Alcor turns back to sleep. But he immediately sits on the bed commenting at loud voice "maledizione, come si fa a dormire in certi momenti?" "dammit, how is it possible to sleep in such moments?" I am looking at the TV in disbelief. What's going on now? Is Actarus attempting a suicide? Oh, yes, he's now going to repair the damage of the morning and wants to capture Vega's daughter. Great plan, I totally agree.

I have to suppose that Alcor has awaken Venusia and Maria as the trio is driving now to the centre (so they were sleeping at the ranch? Interesting) and see Goldrake flying over them. Venusia comments that Actarus has already left the hangar so Alcor adds that they must hurry. Okay Alcor, next time you will lock your friend in the room instead to try to give him wise advises. Sometime a friend is allowed to be rude. Take this lesson for the future, right?

Goldrake is approaching the spacecraft of Rubina when Zuril traps him in an electronic grid. See I told you so, it was so obvious. Don't complain with anybody but you Actarus. Uh, you are telling Rubina she has betrayed you and you were such a fool to trust her? Well, I disagree with you this time, she was the stupid who not paid attention to the place where Zuril have hidden his spacecraft. Nevermind, of course the princess will save you ordering Zuril to stop the device. But Zuril seems to not care at all of his princess orders, and even asks her to move away. This woman is really a charismatic leader. I still don't understand why Actarus has gone to the meeting but I have no time to think; Rubina is hit by a ray from Zuril's spacecraft trying to interposing her spacer in front of Goldrake. I hate myself for this and would like to disappear for the shame, but it was time, I expected this would have happened in some ways.

Goldrake holds Rubina's spacer, while Vegalia screams to Duke Flead to pay attention to Zuril, whose spacecraft is exactly behind him; she even asks him

to let her go so he could be free to escape from the Science Minister, but he does not want to leave her in order to avoid the craft to fall. Finally the three other Eagles arrive and start to fight against Zuril, while Vegalia uses his army against him too. I am starting to feel a bit of compassion for the princess, but I feel more worried for Zuril. He is going to escape safely to the moon in the end, right?

Goldrake lays Vegalia's spacer on the grass, then uses my beloved Alabarda Spaziale to damage definitively Zuril's spacecraft, which crashes on fire. I presume Zuril is going to escape as usually happens in episodes (like Hydargos many many episodes ago) so I don't pay much attention to the fact that I don't see him anymore around. And on the other side the scene has already changed. Duke Fleed is carrying an injured Rubina out of her spacer and lays her on the flowers. Maria wants to reach them, but Alcor holds her; she asks him to let her go but he shakes his head and refuses to leave Phenicia. I am starting to think about King Vega's reaction if Rubina would die, but once again I have no spare time to think, because the tempest I felt arriving at the lake scene is here rumbling.

Rubina takes Duke Fleed hands and the tempest reveals to be instead a hurricane. R: "Ascoltami. La base delle forze di Vega è al centro dell'altra faccia della Luna" "Listen to me. The main base of Vega forces is located in the middle of the dark side of the moon". Eeeehhh??? My God, what's she doing now? She's betraying her father??? I can't believe it. A: "Perché mi dici questo Rubina?" "Why are you telling me this, Rubina?" R: "Perché voglio che tu abbia fiducia in me" "Because I want you to have faith in me" But Vegalia, also your father had faith in you. And you are betraying not also your family but all your people too. Actarus starts to appear moved – for the first time in the episode, face it – A: "Devi credermi, mi dispiace di aver dubitato di te. Ti prego perdonami. Ma ora non ti lascerò più, sai?" "Please believe me, I am sorry for having doubted about you. Please, forgive me. But you know, now I will never leave you" ?????????? Pardon? What does it mean? Oh no, no, you don't mean THAT Actarus, do you? Surprisingly, Rubina seems to not care about his words. R: "Goldrake, ti rivolgo una preghiera" "Duke Fleed, I have a wish to ask for" A: "Dimmi" "Tell me" R: "Quando la vita ritornerà su Fleed, voglio che tu chiami il primo fiore che vedrai sbocciare con il mio nome" "When Fleed will come back to life, I want you to call the first flower you will see opening with my name" A: "Sì, te lo prometto" "Yes, I will" She smiles R: "Mi hai reso felice. E ogni primavera io fiorirò e tornerò da te" "You made me so happy. And every spring I will flower and I will come back to you" Well, I am starting to be moved too. She is nearly to die, I have pity of her. Actarus behaviour is anyway strange, I don't understand him. But I have still something unexpected to see.

Actarus has a broken voice "No, no, tu non devi morire. Torneremo insieme sul nostro pianeta" "Non mi lasciare Rubina" "No, no, you should not die. We will come back to our planet together". I am petrified. WTF does it mean? This episode is wonderful but disturbing too. I don't understand the reason of this change of attitude of Actarus, it does have any sense at all. Unless the screenwriter is mad I am missing something.

Venusia is near Goldrake and is watching the scene; she can't see Actarus face as she is instead in front of Rubina but she can listen to his words. Opposite to her there are Alcor and Maria side by side. I cannot breath nearly. Venusia turns back and holds herself to Goldrake with a painful expression. Oh no Venusia, no. There must be an explanation, Actarus cannot say this words to Vegalia for real. It's a total contradiction to all what happened in this episode up to now, and even in the whole anime, it does have no sense at all. Remember what he told you in episode 37, and how he acted from that point on. Why are you worried? You have defeated Aphelie, you can defeat Vegalia too. Or maybe this time the problem is different? Are you seeing also a "ghost" acting on the scene now?

Rubina is nearly to die. R: "Goldrake, io non morirò. Diventerò un fiore rosso e starò sempre vicino a te" "Duke Fleed, I won't die. I am becoming a red flower and I will stay forever near you" She closes her eyes, exactly in the moment when Zuril reappears injured but with a gun on his hand ready to shoot Actarus. But Alcor turns just in time to see the scene and is able to shoot the Science Minister first screaming to his friend to pay attention. And Zuril falls on his back with a loud "ouch!" behind Actarus. Oh no, no, no, Zuril is dead???? My beloved Zuril is gone for good? This episode SUCKS! Well, no, it doesn't sucks, actually it's wonderful, but it's giving me a heart attack for sure. How many minutes this torture has still to go on? I want to be still alive for dinner!

Well, it's not enough yet. I have still something astonishing to see. Actarus starts to cry. Well, there's nothing strange in it after all. Then takes some flowers and let them flow to cover Rubina. Okay, a bit out of character but nevermind. Then cries as loudly as possible in desperation, with a guttural sound that hits me so unexpectedly that I nearly fall from the sofa. My God, Romano Malaspina should win a prize for this. But I don't understand anyway, there's something wrong in the scene. Actarus now is going circle erratically, then runs through the flowered grass crying and reaches a precipice to scream once Rubina's name. Why I have this strange feeling, why I am not feeling comfortable watching this? What ghost is there together with Actarus and that only Venusia seems to be able to see?

Finally, the daylight arrives. Actarus is watching the sun rising, standing on the precipice but without a single tear in the eye and a strong expression. Oh, great, finally my beloved Actarus is back again!!! Maybe this episode has been better than expected all in all. I can go to dinner now. But I realise that my legs are shaking and nearly cannot support me standing up. I must reflect over this episode, I hate to not understand something. I must talk with somebody about it soon.

END OF PART 3 – TO BE CONTINUED...

GERDHA'S THERAPY ON EP 72 - PART 4

The phone rings as soon as I have switched off TV: it's my best friend who would like to know what I think about the episode. We discuss for a long time, and the same happens the following day with all our friends (I am 13, Grendizer is a great topic for chatting), always with the same result: for sure Actarus didn't love Rubina, maybe he felt some sort of affection for her but not love at all, but we are not able to agree about the timeline of the lovestory with Naida and mostly about his behaviour when Rubina dies. I watch the last two episodes the following days, and I am very annoyed by the end of the story – at least they are all alive and kicking despite all the bad rumours I have heard during last weeks, but something is wrong anyway. I feel a bit delusional.

Years passes by, robot animes disappears from italian TV, I grow up remembering all the emotions but without hope to clarify my doubts about ep72.

Suddenly, in 1990, a local TV starts to air Goldrake serie again. Dammit, it airs during lunch time and I am at work. Grrrr, I must ask somebody for help. My best friend is once more by my side as she owns a VCR: whoooo, I can see Grendizer again! I wait anxiously for ep72 in particular, I HAVE to understand it. My best friend has nicknamed me "The Why Girl" for a reason...Finally the big day arrives, I can rewatch "Rivoluzione Nello Spazio" after 10 years! But something still bothers me. I result in convincing myself for good that Actarus and Vegalia engagement in Flead was totally imposed and without love from his side, so solving the problem of the two girlfriends. But still there are Actarus behaviour in Vegalia's death scene and the consequential Venusia issue to be solved, plus the very final scene of the episode to be explained. And I cannot still understand; I am sure I am missing some crucial point and I am not able to find the right perspective. There must be an explanation, but I cannot find it. Well, maybe one day I will solve the enigma.

Further years passes, life goes on with its issues and I end up in never rewatching my VHS about Goldrake; as a matter of fact I nearly forget to own them. They are closed in a bag, and it's like I have closed a door in my mind and spirit too.

It's summer 2002. I have found my bag of Goldrake VHS and started to rewatch the episodes so reopening that closed door in my soul again. Amazing experience, I like this anime even more now than when I was a child. I must be totally crazy. Here is episode 72, dammit, I have really a love&hate relationship with it. Let's see if this time I am able to find the answer to the issues I left suspended. As probably I am totally insane for real, I could even play with the frame-by-frame tool in certain moment to be sure not to waste anything: this time I really want to find the explanation I am searching for. And yes, suddenly I have an idea, finally to me the mystery could have been solved. Venusia was right, there could have been really a "ghost" acting in the episode too. The screenwriter was not mad, he was a genius; now not only ep72 but even the whole serie could be totally coherent in itself. At least for

me. Well, I am satisfied, even if I will probably take my ideas for myself forever.

Some weeks later I am surfing Internet and discover a forum about Goldorak. I have found around the web these recent months also some fanfictions from a couple of great guys from Canada and I enjoyed so much reading them. What a surprise, these guys are posting on this same forum! Incredible coincidence, this place should be very interesting indeed. And it really is. Pandora's Box is opened, and maybe one day I will end up discussing with people there about episode 72. I know they have seen a different story from mine, but a nice girl from Luxembourg will convince me that only exchanging ideas we could maybe get the nearest as possible to the truth.

Well, after a total time of more than 16 hours of typing divided between lunch time, coffee breaks and spare minutes between various commitments it seems the therapy has been successful; finally I have overcome the writing block about episode 72. Like Mulder to Scully in "Closure" after he finally met Samantha' ghost, I can smile too and say: "I am free".

My dear friends, it was really challenging but enjoying for me writing this MM. I could have skipped some little scenes (maybe purposely, I must leave something apart for other MMs, eh eh) but the story and the main Italian dialogues should be all here. Now I can finally start writing SERIOUS posts about episode 72 without any more fear of major misunderstandings.

Uh, what do you think, could I start to write fanfictions too? ;-)

Love to all once again,
Gerdha

::-)))

Internet	Internet Marketing
Web Hosting	Web Site Promotion
Affiliate Programs	DSL
E-commerce	Domain Registration

Agnès
16 hours ...
Sun Dec 15 10:12:17 2002
212.24.201.206

... and I stayed up especially to read this!!! I really enjoyed it Gerdha, but I have to think before I answer properly. So just a few very short comments (keeping MMs for later - I have to get up in about 4 hours)...

From what I read, the Italian and French dialogues seem nearly identical (!) at least in translation (and in my memory, which is pretty good where Grendizer is concerned ... :-)), with one notable exception, which I won't keep until tomorrow (I'm not that mean, you know)

Alcor: Qu'est qu'il y a entre Vegalia et toi (more or less)
Actarus (word for word): "S'il n'y avait pas eu cette maudite guerre, nous aurions peut-être pu nous marier ..."

This is an important detail, because it suggests that they wanted to get married (though the issue of the arranged marriage is also brought up, but not by Actarus, and there is no coercion; the initiator of the marriage idea seems to be the King of Euphor according to Vega ... I don't quite know what he told Végalia ...)

Later, when Actarus asks Vegalia why she is telling him the location of the moon HQ, and she says "because I want you to trust me", his reply is (Hold on to your sofa, Gerdha!!!):

"Mais J'AI confiance en toi. C'est pour ça que je suis venu au rendez-vous que tu m'as donné ..." (and he has a very soft voice ... like the one he has when he talks to Venusia in Goldorak's hand after she has saved him ... don't know the episode, but it is the same voice)

(You are going to end up hating me ... sorry)

ooh, ooh, oh, this is gonna be fun ... I'll answer all (or should I say some of) this in more detail when I get a chance, but thanks again - it was certainly worth the wait. I wonder why Végalia was never such a big issue for me (though I would not necessarily see the two of them getting married ;-)). Perhaps it is due to the fact that I was only 7 or 8 when I first saw this episode ...

One last question: I never understood why Phénicia wanted to run towards Végalia and her brother too at the end - I was never quite sure as to whether she wanted to stand by her brother, or whether she actually remembered (and perhaps even liked) Végalia too. (not joking)

(Please, Gerdha, don't throw stones at me ... I am a "Why Girls" too, in my own way)

Well, I hope you sleep well after your "special therapy" ... Sweet dreams,

Agnès.

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Gerdha

I knew about it

Sun Dec 15 19:44:55 2002

151.26.152.95

Hi Agnes, thanks for reading my therapy. I a bit sick today so I don't know if I will be able to connect more, but I just wanted you to know that I knew about that particular differences in French dialogues and that's why I wrote my message transcribing the italian dialogues word by word. I am aware about how French are convinced about Actarus being in love with Vegalia, and that's why I tried to avoid the discussion about ep 72, because I have noticed that it's a sort of "sensitive" topic here. But actually it's true that this is an extremely important episode, so I can hide no more my opinion.

But I think that - if we (I mean me, you and all the others) would like to discuss about ep72 we could agree an agenda. Really, like for meetings. Because there are so many topics in this episode that we would end otherwise in writing only an endless list of MM, so transforming this Forum in a private chat, which it's personally something I would not like to happen. What do you think about this idea of mine?

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