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Bas

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

☐ Suzi

☐ Posté le 15/07/2004 12:07:09

Something has been always bothering me in ep 63, why did Daisuke slap Kerica and force her to take the sedatives?

Can someone explain this "weird" behaviour? It is quite a change of attitude from ep 9 with Mineo, isn't it?

There is something in this episode which I can't quite understand, the above behaviour seems to be "imposed" on his gentle kind nature, so what was its real purpose and why wasn't it replaced with a more "friendlier" manner?

I wonder if anyone has answer or an explanation.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Dantus

Messages postés : 203

☐ Dantus

☐ Posté le 15/07/2004 19:03:46

I've just rewatched this episode and I'm so sad ! Sob !!!

The french version contains many errors but I'll give you what I thought while seeing it.

Mineo was one of the first opponent Duke Fleed met, his hatred was less important because he had spent some peaceful years on earth.

Mineo came from Concordia and not directly from Stykhades (Vega motherland planet) like Kerica.

Another explanation is that he fell in love with her (ah what a heart breaker !) and he had a very machist dominating attitude with her to show her that he is the strongest (even if he was impressed by Kerica's powers and abilities)!

That sounds totally silly for me hitting a women is one of the worst thing a man can do ! Duke Flead shall be ashamed but there are so many men doing like him every day in the world (not only in Japan) !

I thought that Duke Flead was in love because he got so upset when her aircraft crashed after being hit by Zume zume. He overreacted using an innovative and violent fighting technique with his double chop, his repulsive ray and his projected fists.

Maria appreciated a lot Kerica even if she was an ennemy, that might be also a sign !

That was a so sad episode, Kerica was so cute and so nice she didn't deserve that ! I don't know who I hate the most Duke Flead for failing to protect her (and for this miserable attitude he had with her) or my boss for sending her to a so dangerous mission !

Regrets eternels



--Message édité par dantus le 2004-07-15 22:18:39--

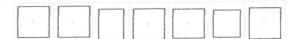
Traître de Minos !

DJinspace Administrateur

Messages postés : 80

DJinspace

Posté le 15/07/2004 22:01:15



Je partage ton interrogation Suzi, j'ai toujours trouvé le geste d'Actarus déplacé, en opposition avec sa personnalité calme et réfléchie... Un héros qui donne une telle claque à une femme, ça m'a toujours choqué Le scénariste de cet épisode était peut-être misogyne

DJinspace, webmaster de Goldorak & Disneyland Park

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

Suzi

Posté le 16/07/2004 05:17:04



No Dantus, I don't think that Daisuke fell in love with Kerica. His venegence reaction for her death is very similar to that of Mineo unless you are implying that he fell in love with Mineo too. He also reacted angrily to the death of the commando children in ep 59. I think that his vengence reaction to the death of his friends/ or the people he likes is "natural" for him and is not necessarily because of "love" .

Maria and Kerica got along very well because one of them lost her brother and the other has a brother whose life is always at stake. Kerica was sympathetic towards Maria because she didn't want to kill her brother and deprive her of him like herself. Maria was kind and nice to Kerica from the start unlike her brother.

Nevertheless I agree with you that it is a disgraceful thing what Daisuke did and unfortunately it happens everyday all over the world. Putting that in a children's show only deepens the problem as it sets a role model for them while you are trying to teach them the opposite.

But like DJ I can't undersatnd this "imposing" violent behaviour that doesn't fit with the rest of his gentle symapthetic kind character. And certainly like you DJ, I would raise many questions about Mashima's personality.

Mashima wrote ep 63 as well as ep 70, and in both Daisuke slaps a

woman, Kerica in ep 63 and Maria in ep 70. Actually Koji too in ep 70 slaps Maria in the cave. Whereas both slaps to Maria in ep 70 were understandable, and that portrayed by Uehara in ep 23 to Hikaru was also understandable and was indeed followed by a regretful facial expression and remorse, that of ep 63 to Kerica is unjustifiable and poses a lot of question marks.

Hey I just remebered, Daisuke did slap Mirana the little girl of ep 12 (also written by Uehara) to bring her back to reality, didn't he? And Uehara wrote ep 34 too where Gauss frankly assaulted Hikaru. All these situations were understandable except that of ep 63. I still can't expalin it!

But then what is the matter with these scriptwriters? They seem to be fond of this theme.

--Message edité par suzi le 2004-07-16 08:25:39--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

Agnès

Posté le 16/07/2004 13:42:31

hmm - yes, I've wondered about this too. (for years, as it seems so out of character).

These are my conclusions :

If you think about it, Duke Fleed must be able to switch between his usual peaceful behaviour (which is generally perceived as his most basic character trait) and his aggressive self; in other words he has to be able to switch between farm help and warrior at every moment. After all, it is part of his "job description" and his ability to switch between the two is the quality that allows him to be both efficient as a warrior and compassionate as an adversary (well I wanted to say "human being" ... but then again, he is not "human" in the strict sense of the word).

The "shocking" element is perhaps that he slaps a "defenseless woman"; in this situation, Kirika is rather defenseless, scared and closed to panicking, and the "medication" is necessary for her. Duke Fleed used the same technique on Hikaru when she found out about his real nature (again a rather shocking moment), and quite regularly to stop Koji from getting mixed up in battles he can't possibly win.

So in fact, this is a recurring trait, or technique, if you like, but we are only shocked when it is used on women (if that isn't cultural conditioning?!?).

However, Duke Fleed doesn't just change from compassion to aggression, he often does this switch the other way round too, especially when faced with an honourable enemy. In many ways, this is his "defining quality", that which makes him what he is and that which draws the line between the "bloodthirsty warrior" he could have been (considering what he has lost ... imagine DF played by Sly Stallone "Rambo-style") and the "civilised" and compassionate warrior he actually is.

Hmmm ... could Grendizer be read as a warning, as statement about war and what it does to people and the necessity to hold on to our better (more civilised) feelings no matter how terrible the situation is? I wonder

Dantus Messages postés : 203 	Live long and prosper ... ☐ Posté le 16/07/2004 22:04:13 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I think Daisuke behaviour is completely exaggerated about theses pills ! If Kerica didn't want to take thoses pills, nevermind ! He didn't have to force her, even if she is a prisoner ! She can't be healed against her will and besides I think she was scared because she thought it was drugs to make her even weaker to make her talking ! Even if she was only a scientist, she was a brave soldier . Anyway slapping or punching somebody is a very bad action and it's even worse on a weaker person ! Daisuke certainly weighs 30-40 kilograms more than Kerica, it's completely outstanding to hit someone that is so weaker than you ! And especially if the one you're hitting is a woman ! What about attentiveness ("la galanterie") ? What about this male's pride to protect women ? If you can hit a woman, why not hitting a teenager or a kid ? (Of course, Daisuke can hit Koji, he's got an empty iron head !) To get back to the subject, I think that if Daisuke didn't fell in love with Kerica, he at least feel attracted to her ! Without Maria intervention, Kerica would have frozen Duke Fleed ! I think Duke Fleed was impressed but wanted to show her who's the strongest ! A typical machist attitude, that most of the time, hide a desire to dominate the woman. So if it's not love, it is in my opinion a true desire ! I think that Daisuke has failed many times to protect women ! think about Mineo, Naida, Kerica and Rubina ! Ok Mineo and Naida decided to suicide but Kerica and Rubina didn't and anyway Naida decided so because Daisuke had a neurasthenic crisis ! I won't trust Duke Fleed on this matter, I won't trust him to protect anyone in fact ! Now choose your hero ! PS : I've noticed that Kerica was named Kirida in japanese version.
Suzi Messages postés : 268 I am not an alien but I am unique 	Traître de Minos ! ☐ Posté le 17/07/2004 01:38:54 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I totally agree with Dantus that Daisuke didn't have to force Kerica to take the pills. You can't force a treatment on someone (unless they are mentally ill), besides Kerica didn't really need to have any sedative at that stage. If you ask me the way he presented these capsules to her, made them look like a poisonous substance not sedatives, and why give someone who just woke up a sedative to make them go back to sleep again? The whole situation is not plausible and really doesn't have any sense. But the only way I can explain this violent behaviour is because he was expressing his frustration and the anger at the way she attacked him earlier with the several mirages that deluded him, and that without Maria's help he would have been dead meat. A natural frustration of the ego of a male warrior who was almost defeated by a female warrior, don't you think? I don't think it has anything to do with love or attraction, it is all about superiority and domination. Anyway, I agree with you Dantus that it is never right or justifiable to hit someone weaker than you. Two males fighting like Daisuke and

Koji, that is a natural testosterone effect that occurs among all the animal species, but a male inflicting violence on a female without a reason.... I really have to look hard to confirm its existence in animal species other than humans.

Citation :

I think that Daisuke has failed many times to protect women ! I think about Mineo, Naida, Kerica and Rubina ! Ok Mineo and Naida decided to suicide but Kerica and Rubina didn't and anyway Naida decided so because Daisuke had a neurasthenic crisis ! I won't trust Duke Fleed on this matter, I won't trust him to protect anyone in fact !

Dantus, you are starting a whole new subject by that statement, but let me correct you Mineo didn't want to suicide, her saucer was damaged by Blacki as a punishment for treason, and its crashing on earth killed her. Naida suicided for much more complex reasons than just the catatonic mental status she caused on Daisuke; as for Rubina I don't think that he was really willing to protect her until she sacrificed her life for him i.e. after her ship was hit by Zuril's killer beam, not any second before that. As for Kerica, she too was in a mentally disordered state when she boarded her ship and imagined that she was heading to the burning planet to resurrect it whereas in actual fact she was falling into Zum Zum rays (you know I wonder if the sedatives she took earlier had a hallucinogenic effect on her. LOL! ^_^!)

One last word, dear Minister Dantus , earthling women don't need the protection of an alien like Duke Fleed, they can certainly and bravely look after themselves. All these women that you mentioned, Mineo, kerica, Naida and Rubina were aliens, and perhaps that is why they were deluded that Duke Fleed (who is an alien like them) could protect them. But he miserably failed them and certainly wasn't up to the job.

Look at Hikaru for example, she saved Duke Fleed's life many times, she is my heroine.  Viva Hikaru!

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Dantus

Messages postés : 203



 Posté le 17/07/2004 09:49:38



Well maybe it's one difference with french version ! In our version, Mineo decided to get back to black moon camp. Blacky intercept her, ask her if she had killed Duke Fleed ? She answered no and Blacky said to her that her punishment will be death for treason ! And weirdly, Mineo thanks Blacky for that ! That's why I think Mineo decided to suicide because she knew what will happen if she got back to Vega's army ! For Naida, in french version she confess to Hiraku that she is even more in love with Duke Fleed than her and feeling responsible for his catatonic state. She decided to destroy the approaching vegan fleet by exploding her own saucer. But Duke Fleed went out of his catatonic crisis one minute after she left, that was a quite cruel fact !

Réponse :

One last word, dear Minister Dantus , earthling women don't need the protection of an alien like Duke Fleed, they can certainly and bravely look after themselves. All these women that you mentioned, Mineo, Kerica, Naida and Rubina were aliens, and perhaps that is why they were deluded that Duke Fleed (who is an alien like them) could protect them. But he miserably failed them and certainly wasn't up to the job.

Look at Hikaru for example, she saved Duke Fleed's life many times, she is my heroine. Viva Hikaru!

What remains to earthling's men pride so ? ☐

I agree that women can be brave and look after themselves but I've seen what happens when a brave woman dares to face a brutal man ! That drives me upset and I can become brutal myself to defend her, no matter what she said or even did ! I think that a true man mustn't hit a woman even if she hits you !

Traître de Minos !

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 17/07/2004 10:33:55

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Hmm, I agree with you guys that slapping a woman (or anybody else, for that matter ... let's not be sexist here) is wrong. It is not something I condone.

However, I think that Daisuke is shown using violence in situations where violence is not necessarily appropriate rather consistently throughout the anime. IMHO, this hints at a "darker" side of his character, a side that the French version has efficiently glossed over whenever possible (i.e. whenever his darker side is expressed through dialogue ... there is, of course, a little bit more of a problem with the graphic medium ☐).

I get the feeling that Daisuke/Duke Fleed has had to "learn" self-control, like most of us, and that this struggle to control himself, to "force" himself to use Grendizer to protect Earth, or to avoid his "physical superiority" to impose his will on other people (usually the people he cares about ...) is a recurrent feature of both his character and the anime's plot. In situations of stress (in the French version, it's usually 'emotional stress' ☐), he doesn't always manage to do that. This, to me is one of the basic aspects of his character, at least that is what I tried to say in my previous post.

As for the reasons of Naida's suicide, Dantus ... well that is one major controversy TCT went through on the various versions of this forum ... ah, yes, we've discussed nearly all the women except Kirika ... interesting that this discussion should start now. I'll have to think some more before I come up with a clear interpretation on this issue, so please guys, bear with me.

One thing, though, is clear, and that is that Kirika's murder (the golgoth) is given one of the most violent, if not the most violent demise of any of Duke Fleed's adversaries. That, in itself is both interesting and significant, don't you think? ☐

ok, got to walk my dog now. Hope I don't meet with another golgoth today. ☐
Ciao, ciao,

Agnès.

--Message édité par agnès le 2004-07-17 10:37:50--

Live long and prosper ...

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

 Suzi

☐ Posté le 18/07/2004 06:42:07



Réponse :

Dantus a dit :

What remains to earthling's men pride so ? ☐
I agree that women can be brave and look after themselves but I've seen what happens when a brave women dares to face a brutal men ! That drives me upset and I can become brutal myself to defend her, no matter what she said or even did ! I think that a true man mustn't hit a woman even if she hits you !

Oh don't misunderstand me Minister Dantus, I said earthling women don't need an alien like Duke Fleed to protect them, but I never denied their need for earthling men. I am not a feminist, I believe in equality, respect and fairness for both genders and that each has an important role to play in the life of others; and men and women are interdependant on one another and can't survive without each other. More than that I truly believe that there are certain things that only men can do and others that only women can do.

I am sorry if my earlier ambiguous statement has hurt your pride. I really didn't mean to. I deeply respect you and all the male friends here.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

 Suzi

☐ Posté le 18/07/2004 07:10:00



Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Hmm, I agree with you guys that slapping a woman (or anybody else, for that matter ... let's not be sexist here) is wrong. It is not something I condone.

However, I think that Daisuke is shown using violence in situations where violence is not necessarily appropriate rather consistently throughout the anime. IMHO, this hints at a "darker" side of his character, a side that the French version has efficiently glossed over whenever possible (i.e. whenever his darker side is expressed through dialogue ... there is, of course, a little bit more of a problem with the graphic medium ☐).

Well, Agnes, I think that this "darkness" in DF charcter you are referring to is actually a reflection of the darkness of the scriptwriters persona.

We all learn self control throughout our life, but there are certain things that many of us would never do because we know that they

are wrong or inappropriate. In which american cartoon that is dedicated for children persay, did you see a man slapping a woman for no reason and forcing her to take some capsules even without a glass of water? In american cartoons if this behaviour was to be portrayed then it would be delivered by the bad guys not the good heroes.

Where was that warm welcome they showed to Mineo in ep 9, and the great hospitality they gave to Gauss in ep 34?

If you really want my opinion, this whole ep 63 is incomprehensible. Maria while pledging for her brother's life from Kerica, asked her not to ruin her friendly relationship with him.

?? what friendly relationship, for God's sake was she talking about? He slapped her and was very rude to her, so exactly what friendship was Maria talking about, or is this how friendships are made "Japanese style"?

I don't find that Diasuke has used violence inappropriately except in this ep 63 and with Mirana in ep 12, I could still understand his aggression towards Hikaru in ep 23 and I can forgive him for it because he expressed remorse and regret.

It is true that I occasionally found him rude, insolent and arrogant but what he did to Kerica in ep 63 isn't him, and doesn't fit with the rest of his character, and this whole scene in ep 63 was totally unnecessary. In fact the whole of ep 63 could have been done much better, but this is what we have and this is what we can only discuss.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-18 07:19:09--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 18/07/2004 13:55:55

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

I am not a feminist, I believe in equality, respect and fairness for both genders and that each has an important role to play in the life of others; and men and women are interdependant on one another and can't survive without each other.

But Suzi, really, this is what "feminism" is or aims for! That, and understanding the role of gender in identity formation and social structures. At least as I understand it. ☐

Live long and prosper ...

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

☐ Posté le 18/07/2004 14:10:35

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

We all learn self control throughout our life, but there are certain things that many of us would never do because we know that they are wrong or inappropriate.

✕ Agnès

This is the kind of thing we usually disagree about, isn't it? In my own experience, we often end up doing exactly what we condemned in others, thus adding shades of grey to our moral sensibilities. At least, many people do. To some extent it is what makes us human, this capacity to learn not from other's but our own mistakes (sometimes condemned in others). I don't think that we are always in control either ...

I know we disagree on this, Suzi, but it would be hypocritical for me to say something else. You are the idealist of this forum, after all, is we found out a while ago ... ☐

Réponse :

In which american cartoon that is dedicated for children persay, did you see a man slapping a woman for no reason and forcing her to take some capsules even without a glass of water? In american cartoons if this behaviour was to be portrayed then it would be delivered by the bad guys not the good heroes.

American cartoons have the habit of displacing certain types of tension (racial, gender etc.) from humans to animals - yet the humour of many American cartoons relies on the failure of a particular (animal) character and the violence done to it. This of course, is another discussion, but in my opinion *Grendizer* is more honest about our darker impulses than your regular American cartoon. (Although this is no longer true for newer "animated stories" like the X-men or Batman ...)

Réponse :

If you really want my opinion, this whole ep 63 is incomprehensible. Maria while pledging for her brother's life from Kerica, asked her not to ruin her friendly relationship with him.
???????????????????????????????? what friendly relationship, for God's sake was she talking about?

That, I agree with!

Réponse :

He slapped her and was very rude to her, so exactly what friendship was Maria talking about, or is this how friendships are made "Japanese style"?

This is hard, Suzi. I don't know. I assumed that Kirika came from a culture in which she was used to being dominated, and that Duke Fleed knew that establishing his position as dominant would shock her listening or "reason". It certainly looks like that a little.

She does think, in the French version, that Daisuke is the man who saved her, so she must consider his action as "positive".

I have to go now, but I can continue this discussion later if you want.

ciao, ciao!

Live long and prosper ...

Dantus

Messages postés : 203

 Dantus

 Posté le 18/07/2004 16:58:41

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

But Suzi, really, this is what "feminism" is or aims for! That, and understanding the role of gender in identity formation and social structures. At least as I understand it. 

There are many kinds of "feminism" ! Some see it like a sexist corporatism that want to promote woman at any cost, and others see it like a new project for a society rejecting violence and intimidation between genders. The second one can be considered as a new kind of humanism movement !

But I'm going away from the initial subject, i'm going to call "les chiennes de garde" association to take care of Duke Flead's case ! When I think to all the scenes censored in the whole serie I wonder why they didn't do it for this unneeded and awfull scene ?

Traître de Minos !

Agnès

Messages postés : 95

I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

 Posté le 18/07/2004 17:13:20

Réponse :

Dantus a dit :

There are many kinds of "feminism" ! Some see it like a sexist corporatism that want to promote woman at any cost, and others see it like a new project for a society rejecting violence and intimidation between genders. The second one can be considered as a new kind of humanism movement !

Yes indeed, Dantus, there are many kinds of "feminism", and the term is often abused or willfully misunderstood by some people. How reductive of me, really, to extrapolate from my own brand of "feminism" ... sorry about that.

Réponse :

But I'm going away from the initial subject, i'm going to call "les chiennes de garde" association to take care of Duke Flead's case ! When I think to all the scenes censored in the whole serie I wonder why they didn't do it for this unneeded and awfull scene ?

As for the "chiennes de garde" ... well, I'm sure that some of them would be quite "chuffed" with "Actarus" ... not sure that this will solve any of your problems. (see how some *feminists* react to say ... Robbie Williams, for instance ☐)

As for the scene which you call "unneeded and awful" - well, I'm not sure that it should be left out. I do think that it fits Duke Fleed's character to some extent, and that it is designed to shock both characters and viewers, which in turn may lead to some interesting speculations. Why shock either? Why in this way? Why show this aspect of "our" hero. (I know you have other heroes ☐)

Nor am I surprised that the French version kept a scene that could be read as sexist - in fact it has made certain things more "sexist", and blatantly so! (Thinking of "Actarus and Venusia" as opposed to "Daisuke and Hikaru" ... ask Gerdha about this when she gets back! ☐)

Again, I lack time to enter this discussion properly, but it's certainly worth thinking about ...

frustration ☐

--Message édité par agnès le 2004-07-18 17:14:06--

Live long and prosper ...

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

☐ Suzi

☐ Posté le 19/07/2004 11:22:23



Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

This is the kind of thing we usually disagree about, isn't it? In my own experience, we often end up doing exactly what we condemned in others, thus adding shades of grey to our moral sensibilities. At least, many people do. To some extent it is what makes us human, this capacity to learn not from other's but our own mistakes (sometimes condemned in others). I don't think that we are always in control either ...

I know we disagree on this, Suzi, but it would be hypocritical for me to say something else. You are the idealist of this forum, after all, is we found out a while ago ... ☐

Ok I agree Agnes, we may disagree; but before I condemn an action I try and find reasons for it, and if the reason doesn't justify the action then I may "condemn" it as you say. Even condemnation isn't the right word.... I basically try and understand "why" a certain behaviour is done (I wouldn't have started this discussion if I didn't want to understand why Daisuke's behaviour towards Kerica was aggressive and inappropriate).

People are different, and depending on how you were brought up then there are certain things that you will never do, and others that you will do all the time. It depends on the person's personality, cultural and religious beliefs, and morality in the end. I am not denying the presence of grey tones, but the darkness of the grey

varies from person to another; not everyone ends up doing what one's sees wrong in someone else's behaviour, and some do even worse.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

American cartoons have the habit of displacing certain types of tension (racial, gender etc.) from humans to animals - yet the humour of many American cartoons relies on the failure of a particular (animal) character and the violence done to it. This of course, is another discussion, but in my opinion *Grendizer* is more honest about our darker impulses than your regular American cartoon. (Although this is no longer true for newer "animated stories" like the X-men or Batman ...)[\cit]

That, I agree with because I was referring to the newer American cartoons as you indicated.

[cit]Agnès a dit :

This is hard, Suzi. I don't know. I assumed that Kirika came from a culture in which she was used to being dominated, and that Duke Fleed knew that establishing his position as dominant would shock her listening or "reason". It certainly looks like that a little.

She does think, in the French version, that Daisuke is the man who saved her, so she must consider his action as "positive".

Agnes, if these capsules were really tranquilizers or sedatives, don't you think that it would have been more appropriate if they were given by Dr Umon? He even offered them without a glass of water, how often do you swallow capsules or tablets dry without water? Why Daisuke present them to her with an angry look? If you are trying to help someone you ceratinly should have a more friendly attitude. I am not sure about this dominating culture you are referring too. I think Kerica comes from the same culture as Lady Gandal, and if you ask me Lady Gandal dominates others and is hardly "dominated" except of course in the last episode.

Besides, Daisuke saved her from what Agnes????????????? Maria injured her with her laser gun to stop her from attacking her brother. I recall that she also thought that he saved her in the arabic version but until today I don't understabd who saved who and from what exactly? For not leaving her to freeze in the snow, I suppose?

As I said I can't understand this episode or its necessity in the storyline of the series. And until I get more ideas...well

About "Feminism", Dantus explained what I wanted to say.

--Message edité par suzi le 2004-07-19 11:29:03--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

☐ Posté le 19/07/2004 13:48:38



Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

 Agnès

Ok I agree Agnes, we may disagree; but before I condemn an action I try and find reasons for it, and if the reason doesn't justify the action then I may "condemn" it as you say. Even condemnation isn't the right word.... I basically try and understand "why" a certain behaviour is done (I wouldn't have started this discussion if I didn't want to understand why Daisuke's behaviour towards Kerica was aggressive and inappropriate).

People are different, and depending on how you were brought up then there are certain things that you will never do, and others that you will do all the time. It depends on the person's personality, cultural and religious beliefs, and morality in the end. I am not denying the presence of grey tones, but the darkness of the grey varies from person to another; not everyone ends up doing what one's sees wrong in someone else's behaviour, and some do even worse.

In general, I agree with what you say, Suzi, I have always done, but I would like to take up some of the points you made, for the sake of discussion, of course , but also because I think that we consistently misunderstand each other in these kinds of discussion.

I don't want to generalise things, Suzi, but I don't believe that people are always led by better motives or that they follow their moral values all the time. I'm not saying they never do, just that there might be situations in which they might not be able to control their behaviour or in which they might choose to disregard the moral values that usually shape their lives. You are right, this is influenced by culture and context, but neither culture nor context are homogenous. They might have homogenising and normative functions, but norms are always negotiated between individuals and other people, and sometimes even themselves.

And this, for me is the crucial element here: I don't believe that our characters or identities are "fixed" and I think that we often have to struggle with ourselves to be the person we want to be. And sometimes we don't manage to be this person. That is one way of looking at Daisuke's actions in this episode. I hope that this makes more sense, Suzi.

This being said, we are still left with a problem of interpretation in this instance. How does DF's reaction make sense? Indeed, we are confronted with a behaviour in our "hero" which is, as you say, inappropriate and hard to understand. This leaves two choices:

a) we reject the whole scene/episode as a strange mistake made by the people in charge of the project, scripts and storylines. Considering the quality of the episode, and who worked on it, I find this hard to believe. Just my opinion, of course.

But this would also mean rejecting the elements of the character that we don't like or disagree with. If Duke Fleed were a "real" person, he would have right to his own self, and canceling out part of his personality because we don't like it would be perceived as "not right". This is true also of literary or fictional characters, I think, because one of the main purposes of fiction is to confront us with situations in which we cannot react coolly, according to our "usual" values, but are forced to make the effort of understanding where another person (fictional or real) might be coming from. I think that

we all agree that this is what this discussion is about - as you said, Suzi, you started this discussion because you want to "understand".

b) we accept it as an element that is part of a larger concept and that shows another side of the hero's character. In a way, this scene, its apparent paradoxes, forces us to confront our views and opinions we had formed of our hero up to this point.

This is one of the reasons that prevents me from dismissing the scene or saying that it's just a freak episode. The fact that we do not always understand DF's behaviour, and in this case may be shocked by it, often makes him a more interesting (or "deeper") character.

Again, we may try to find answers, and there are different elements we can look at. I'd like to suggest a few (in Part 2 of this message ☐)

Live long and prosper ...

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

☐ Agnès

☐ Posté le 19/07/2004 14:47:14

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I agree that it is hard to see the necessity for this scene at the level of storytelling. Yet when you consider the episode in its entirety it is really rather interesting.

To start with, there is no way Duke Fleed or any of his friends can consider Kirika a "helpless woman". Before she tells them, just before dying, they know nothing about her background, her brother, her fate, etc. We perceive her as "decent" because the story allowed us to see some of her doubts and dilemmas, the promise she made to her brother, the way she is manipulated by King Vega.

This is not the case for Duke Fleed. On the contrary, for him, she is primarily an enemy, a woman who has frozen parts of the landscape, and thereby killed quite a lot of living beings (we only see animals die, but we can imagine that people in the area might have suffered the same fate.) The point is, really, that Kirika went through with her experiment regardless of human or any other form of life.

She attacks and tries to kill Duke Fleed and Maria. She certainly does not have any scruples about ending other people's lives. Yet Duke, Maria and their friends take her home, they don't leave her to die in the freezing cold she herself has created, but offer her a bed and a place to stay. This is rather generous, don't you think? And perhaps a way of "saving" or sparing her. They did not have to let her live, and Kirika is aware of this. She was shown more clemency than she expected, and perhaps would have shown herself.

So yes, I can understand why she would have felt she was "saved" by Daisuke, whom she doesn't recognise as Duke Fleed until Maria tells her (FV). She lost consciousness in a very dangerous situation, and awakes in a bed surrounded by people who seem to care about whether she lives or dies.

In many ways, this reflects and reinforces Duke Fleed's ethical attitudes and the values that set him apart throughout the anime. No matter how tough the battle is, he is always able to feel compassion and respect for his enemies. This is the Daisuke we know and love.

We are given what we expected of the character, the narrative, all the patterns we have come to rely on are nicely replayed, only to be removed rather shockingly a second later. Duke Flead behaves in a way that we don't recognise as part of his character.

The effect is rather striking (in fact it is a bit like a slap in the face ☐) and forces us to re-evaluate the character of Daisuke, to think back, perhaps, and see whether we can find any other situations that might support this "new" element. Thinking about it, we did (Koji, Hikaru, as argued previously.) This still seems to be the most gratuitously violent of all these situations, but it is by no means completely isolated. Again, we are invited to try and make sense of this character and some of his "not so nice" sides.

Looked at in connection with the rest of the episode, two things seem to be particularly striking. First of all, the struggle between Duke Flead and Kirika is articulated around violence and power.

Kirika tries to kill him, in part because she believes that this will allow her to create a new planet where people will live in peace. (Interesting this, because it shows that good (peace for everybody) and honourable (keeping a promise made to a dying brother) motivations may sometimes lead to evil actions. Duke Flead in turn "rescues" her and slaps her, ostentatiously to stop her from panicking or to make her take the medication.

The balance of power has shifted between them, and it shifts again when Duke Flead is taken prisoner by a Kirika bent on killing him. The conflict, and the vicious cycle of violence between them is resolved with the intervention of Maria, and her appeal to brotherly love. Love and loss are things they can both relate to, and this allows Kirika to see the similarities as well as the distance that separates them.

Perhaps we could read it like this: there is a real struggle between two basically decent but fallible individuals, and what is at stake, on the metaphorical level, is an idea, a realisation about what war and dictatorship does to people, the ways in which violence perverts and corrupts even the most honourable people. On the other hand, it establishes love and respect of others as the mending power in situations where all seems lost.

And this, I think, is also the explanation for Duke Flead's "fury" at the end of the episode. Kirika's death embodies the consequences of war and violence, the fact that once the vicious circle of war and violence has started there will be victims.

In conclusion, one might say that the characters were used in the service of "a greater cause", and that the aim of the episode is to pass on a moral message by drawing on the flaws of characters we are meant to identify with and admire (one of which we have been encouraged to identify with for 62 episodes).

Réponse :

Agnes, if these capsules were really tranquilizers or sedatives, don't you think that it would have been more appropriate if they were given by Dr Umon? He even offered them without a glass of water, how often do you swallow capsules or tablets dry without water? Why Daisuke present them to her with an angry look? If you are trying to

help someone you ceratinly should have a more friendly attitude.

I don't know about the pills, but I think some of what I said above might explain some of this. The episode is built around two couples of siblings, one which was separated and reunited as by miracle, and another that was recently separated at the beginning of the story and reunited in death at the end. I suppose that the struggle between Duke Flead and Kirika is meant to highlight this contrast, the ways in which one can be "reunited" and the gratitude we should feel for every minute we can spend with our loved ones.

Considering the way in which the story is told, one has to wonder whether the story is about characters or an idea,

Réponse :

I am not sure about this dominating culture you are referring too. I think Kerica comes from the same culture as Lady Gandal, and if you ask me Lady Gandal dominates others and is hardly "dominated" except of course in the last episode.

Vegan society is highly hierarchical, no?

Réponse :

Besides, Daisuke saved her from what Agnes??????????????
Maria injured her with her laser gun to stop her from attacking her brother. I recall that she also thought that he saved her in the arabic version but until today I don't understabd who saved who and from what exactly? For not leaving her to freeze in the snow, I suppose?

Well, yes, Suzi. I suppose so. Kirika doesn't know who Daisuke is until Maria tells her. So she was saved from freezing to death.

Live long and prosper ...

Dantus

Messages postés : 203

 Dantus

☐ Posté le 19/07/2004 22:42:52



I think that there must be two ways to explain this shocking behaviour and the whole incoherence of the episode.

First it's is a volunteer choice by scenarist to make an episode that is less manichean. Don't forget that Grendizer's cartoon was much more designed for an occidental public than others Go Nagai's cartoons. Don't forget that that Grendizer's manga is much darker than the cartoon. I think it may be seen as a return of an asian ying-yang way of thinking where good and evil are mixed.

On a second way, it might be seen with a more character oriented view but you've got to admit that it's quite difficult to understand at first sight ! Think about it, did you understand it when you've seen it the first time ?

I think it might be a mix of these two solutions in a ying-yang way !

Traître de Minos !

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 19/07/2004 23:36:21

Interesting. Would you consider that for things to be well, the ying and the yang must balance each other out. If one or the other becomes too influential, the result is chaos, as is the case in this episode. Is that how you would understand this?

Live long and prosper ...

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forum

 **Goldorak**

 **Explanation**
required!

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Bas

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

☐ Suzi

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 03:20:02

Impressive analysis Agnes, I understand like what you said that the story is about the contrast of 2 brother+ sister couples. I am still not sure about this "capsule" bit.

Kerica woke up from deep sleep, a kind of coma, I would say, people like that are not usually given sedatives straightaway. Besides why send Dr Umon, Koji and Hikaru out of the room before giving them to her? Where was Daisuke keeping them, in his pocket, I suppose? Actually these capsules were not given to alleviate her panic, because her panic could be have been easily alleviated by reassurance and comforting which isn't hard to do.

These capsules were given to send her back to sleep so that he and Koji would have more time to investigate the frozen village and look for her hidden ship searching for clues without her interrupting them. It is not a gesture of kindness, and she had every right to refuse taking them; he forced her to take them in a pathetic way. I may understand his reasons for doing such a thing but I don't support it, in other words I "condemn" his behaviour.

You said that they knew nothing about her before she told them in the end....but I thought that she was speaking while unconscious and that is how Maria knew that she was called Kerica.

I am sure they were not completely in the dark about other things. They may have not known that she had a brother, but they certainly knew other things.

Yes, he didn't leave her to freeze in the cold but he also saved Gauss from the river, so it is not something new for him to do.

One last thing, that hallucinogenic state that Kerica was in the end, what was its cause? Why did it happen at that particular time, and everyone just watched her fall into Zum Zum beams without any attempt to "physically" stop her? You see what I mean by "saving

who and from what exactly". Yes, she was saved from the freezing cold, but not from the Vegan monster. Wouldn't it have been more appropriate if either Maria or Hikaru took her inside one of their spacers, and even back to the Centre when she got wounded? In many episodes e.g. ep 57 not all the team is needed in combat, so one less member really wouldn't have been a problem, they weren't doing much anyway.

The guilt they felt towards her tragic death, as each of them was responsible particularly Maria who left her injured and alone beside her ship, was the cause of the fury in their revenge from the monster. If you really want to know who is really responsible for Kerica's death, then you don't really need to wonder too much. It is very obvious! Maria took the responsibility of looking after her when she got injured, while Hikaru excused herself to join the fight. Yet our lovely Fleedian princess foolishly left her critically injured alone by her ship; how appropriate is that from our caring sympathetic princess?

I guess that explains the deep sadness she felt at Kerica's death and funeral, simply because she was feeling terribly guilty and more or less responsible.

But really, what a "saving"?

In the end I am not surprised by Maria's behaviour because she did an even more foolish thing to her grandfather which lead to his death. She simply didn't even think about calling an ambulance or take him to hospital for treatment of his severe head injury. Even when Koji hit the house of the baby in ep 65, all what she cared about was that the baby would survive but didn't care about the handicap that he might suffer as a result of such injury.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-20 08:07:23--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

☒ Agnès

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 08:21:59



Réponse :

Dantus a dit :

On a second way, it might be seen with a more character oriented view but you've got to admit that it's quite difficult to understand at first sight ! Think about it, did you understand it when you've seen it the first time ?

Well, I have to admit that it had me puzzled for a while (still does, in a way). But thanks to this forum, things always make more sense in the end.

Have you noticed that the episodes that keep us wondering often seem to be "Araki episodes"? 25, 72 ...
I've been thinking about this, and my "newest" conclusion is that these episodes work as "allegories". The **Merriam Webster Online Dictionary** defines allegory as

"1 : the expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions

of truths or generalizations about human existence; also : an instance (as in a story or painting) of such expression
2 : a symbolic representation : EMBLEM"

This seems to be an accurate description of what happens in Araki episodes: they all seem to be about something else, beyond the characters and storylines, they all carry messages and an unspeakable sadness about the terrible wastes of war. And they keep puzzling us, because the allegory and the visual symbolism don't allow us to come to a common conclusion ...

Rather special, don't you think?

--Message édité par agnes le 2004-07-20 08:23:14--

Live long and prosper ...

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 09:13:48

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Interesting considerations, Suzi. I have wondered about some of this too, though perhaps not with the same kind of medical knowledge. ☐

It is possible that they gave Kirika the capsules because they wanted time to investigate her ship and its technology, as you suggest. That is fair enough, I suppose. It doesn't necessarily mean that the capsules were harmful and not meant to help her. It might also provide yet another explanation for Daisuke's behaviour: Kirika's invention is obviously some kind of prototype (they've never encountered that before) and the Vegans will obviously want to get it back. So there was not much time, I suppose, and Kirika was still a danger.

Interestingly, she is not treated as a prisoner of war. She is not locked up in a cell, and I do think that the people at the centre genuinely want her to survive. She does speak in her sleep, but I expect that the information they could get of her that way would be incomplete and confused. I suppose they could probably see that she is a tortured person struggling with a moral dilemma of her own. Perhaps that is the reason they did not lock her up. I am speculating a lot, I know, but this seems to be their basic approach in "dealing with visiting aliens": win their trust through decency, and they'll come round in the end. ☐

As for her hallucinations at the end, I had always assumed that they were due to her injuries. She is given pills, and as you point out, the reason and manner of this is open to interpretation, but there are no other elements that support the view that the pills she was given were anything other than sleeping pills. They don't seem to be torturing her, nor do they give her anything to find out about opening the door of her craft.

They try to use persuasion, but it interestingly doesn't work. The only time Kirika does as she is told is when Daisuke uses violence to make her do so. It is her reaction that I find interesting: she just gives in. She doesn't fight back, she doesn't protest, she doesn't try to spit out these tablets given to her by an alien race that she can't trust. She just acknowledges the apparent superiority other and obeys, as if she was used to this, as if this was the only form of interaction she knew outside her loving relationship with her brother. You see, it seems to me that Kirika is just used to obey when confronted with somebody in a more powerful position. Her reaction looks as if it was the only reaction she has been conditioned to have.

And it seems to me that Duke Fleed enters this logic of violence knowingly and purposely. The puzzling thing about what he does here, is that it doesn't seem to happen out of anger, or loss of control, that he doesn't lose his cool, but that he uses her code, speaks "her language" if you like, because it is the only language she is able to understand at that stage. (the language of violence and impermeable hierarchies).

Subsequently, they try to teach her another language (that of love and respect), but it takes Maria's intervention and compassion for Kirika to finally realise this. Indeed, as soon as she feels herself in a position of power, all her submissiveness disappears, and she is ready to use her position of power quite ruthlessly.

Except that she has been "infected" by her interaction with this new kind of people, and she hesitates. You could say that she is learning a "new language" or an alternative form of social interaction in which the power of individual is less important than the relationships of respect between individuals.

I am not sure that this makes sense, Suzi, or that I have articulated my impressions correctly, but it seems interesting to me that throughout the narrative, Kirika is given freedom to choose, to think what she wants and do what she wants. There are no physical limits to her freedom. The only time she is not allowed to decide for herself is the moment she is given the pills. In this instance, Daisuke seems to act completely out of character. He uses violence, but apparently he does thought without much anger. Other than that, he leaves Kirika to free to act, but also free to make up or change her own mind. Don't you think that this is the puzzling part?

I have many interpretations for this little instance, as you can see.

As for your discussion of Kirika's death and the other character's guilt, it is possible of course, to see it that way. I am quite sure that they feel some guilt. But then again, I am not sure that they can be condemned quite so easily. To the end, they gave Kirika the freedom to choose. She knew that if she wanted this, she had made new friends who would offer her a new life. It was her choice to enter the battle, though I agree with you that she was suffering from hallucinations, and that these influenced her decision to enter the battle. In a sense, you could say also that her own obsessions led to her death, just as they had led her to cause the death of other beings by trying out her new invention.

Perhaps the other characters ought to have stayed with her. But then they were involved in a dangerous battle, and they might have thought that their contribution to this battle was essential. I suppose it is a matter of prioritising, if I can say this crassly. So, can they be seen as "guilty" of Kirika's death? Perhaps, to some extent. But certainly not directly.

You know, I think that here again the allegorical subtext is given precedence over character and story. Opposing the discourses of power and oppression, we have the discourses of love/respect and free choice. Freedom of choice, respect for others involve a kind of responsibility towards oneself and others which is absent from more dictatorial systems of human interaction.

Freedom and respect outside strict hierarchical structures is

something that is not easy, but that we can learn, and in the end, the whole episode can perhaps be read as that: a discussion of the necessity and the difficulties of shifting from a highly hierarchical society to a form of society in which your place in the hierarchy is less important than the way you behave towards other people. As a dilemma, this might perhaps have been especially to Japanese society in the 1970s.

Hmmm ... I hope this makes some kind of sense! ☐

Live long and prosper ...

David

Messages postés : 348
Métamorphose!

☐ David

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 15:31:15

Le retour des bons vieux MM ("Monstrogoth Messages" pour les non initiés).... ☐



Dantus

Messages postés : 203

☐ Dantus

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 22:30:46

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Interesting. Would you consider that for things to be well, the ying and the yang must balance each other out. If one or the other becomes too influential, the result is chaos, as is the case in this episode. Is that how you would understand this?



Not exactly, I don't think that Grendizer is so "ying-yang" oriented, it's more manichean but this episode seems to be an exception. In this episode (like some others but not the majority) at the end we can't consider Kerida (at least with the french dialogue, but that seems weird !) as a deeply bad character and we can't consider Duke Fleed as a perfect hero !

But most of Grendizer's episodes are like "les inconnus" sketch : "Je suis le méchant et je veux tuer la gentille ah ah ah !"

Traître de Minos !

Dantus

Messages postés : 203

☐ Dantus

☐ Posté le 20/07/2004 22:31:32

Réponse :

David a dit :

Le retour des bons vieux MM ("Monstrogoth Messages" pour les non initiés).... ☐



Ah moi dés qu'on évoque le monstrogoth ☐

Traître de Minos !

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

☐ Posté le 21/07/2004 10:47:27



I am not an alien but I am unique

 Suzi

Citation :

Agnès a dit:

It is possible that they gave Kirika the capsules because they wanted time to investigate her ship and its technology, as you suggest. That is fair enough, I suppose. It doesn't necessarily mean that the capsules were harmful and not meant to help her

If there is no real indication for them, then they are really useless, and frequent use usually leads to dependence and addiction. This is not the case in Kerica's situation but I really doubt that Kerica really needed them in the first place particularly after waking up from a coma. The way they were offered by Daisuke wasn't the kind of "helpful", it was a demand. How can they "help" her? She wasn't aggressive or agitated, she was only scared, I guess anyone in her shoes would be afraid, no?

Citation :

Agnès a dit:

It might also provide yet another explanation for Daisuke's behaviour: Kirika's invention is obviously some kind of prototype (they've never encountered that before) and the Vegans will obviously want to get it back. So there was not much time, I suppose, and Kirika was still a danger.

To my understanding Agnes, the freezing beams were also used by the Vegan saucer monster of ep 12, so these freezing beams are not a "prototype". I believe that Kerica and her brother worked on further development of existing technology to make it more powerful and able to freeze planets not only small things.

Vega had already implemented the newly improved technology that Kerica devised in Zum Zum the Vega- Ju, so really Vega wouldn't need to retrieve anything quickly, he only wanted Grendizer and DF annihilated.

Kerica was weak, and frightened so what exact danger did she pose? Friendly approach could have won her trust, if the characters introduced themselves appropriately like what they did to Mineo, because she would discover that Daisuke and Maria were brother and sister and would mellow.

Citation :

Agnès a dit:

Interestingly, she is not treated as a prisoner of war. She is not locked up in a cell, and I do think that the people at the centre genuinely want her to survive. She does speak in her sleep, but I expect that the information they could get of her that way would be incomplete and confused. I suppose they could probably see that she is a tortured person struggling with a moral dilemma of her own. Perhaps that is the reason they did not lock her up. I am speculating a lot, I know, but this seems to be their basic approach in "dealing with visiting aliens": win their trust through decency, and they'll come round in the end.

They never locked up any visiting or captured aliens, Agnes, and yes I agree that this is their strategy. It was never their strategy to hit

them unnecessarily either!

Citation :

Agnès a dit:

As for her hallucinations at the end, I had always assumed that they were due to her injuries. She is given pills, and as you point out, the reason and manner of this is open to interpretation, but there are no other elements that support the view that the pills she was given were anything other than sleeping pills. They don't seem to be torturing her, nor do they give her anything to find out about opening the door of her craft.

Apparently Kerica was vulnerable to have hallucinations from the slightest thing looks of it, as not everyone talks so much during their sleep. It is not usual for someone to hallucinate or become delirious from an injury unless it is badly infected (and there wasn't enough time for her to brew an infection), had a head injury (which she didn't) or has lost a lot of blood or fluid that her brain has become affected (I am not sure that that has happened either).

And yes, Agnes, sedatives or sleeping pills as you call them can cause hallucinations in some individuals.

Here is a list of the side effects of some commonly used sedatives:

1- Diazepam (Commercially known as Valium):

Diazepam is a benzodiazepine with CNS depressant properties and a somewhat flatter dose-response slope than the sedative-hypnotic drugs. [Metabolism studies in animals and man have indicated that oral diazepam is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract.

Peak blood levels are reached within 1-2 hours after administration.

The acute half-life is 6-8 hours with a slower decline thereafter, possibly due to tissue storage.

Adverse Effects

The most common adverse effects reported are drowsiness and ataxia. Other reactions noted less frequently are fatigue, dizziness, nausea, blurred vision, diplopia, vertigo, headache, slurred speech, tremors, hypoactivity, dysarthria, euphoria, impairment of memory, confusion, depression, incontinence or urinary retention, constipation, skin rash, generalized exfoliative dermatitis, hypotension, changes in libido.

The more serious adverse reactions occasionally reported are leukopenia, jaundice, hypersensitivity and paradoxical reactions.

Paradoxical reactions such as hyperexcited states, anxiety, excitement, hallucinations, increased muscle spasticity, insomnia, rage, as well as sleep disturbances and stimulation, have been reported; should these occur, the drug should be discontinued.

Minor changes in EEG patterns have been observed in patients on diazepam therapy. These changes consist of low to moderate voltage fast activity, 20 to 30 cycles/second and are of no known significance.

2- Lorazepam (also known as Ativan)

Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine with CNS depressant, anxiolytic and sedative properties. Peak serum concentrations of free lorazepam after oral administration are reached in 1 to 6 hours. Peak concentrations are reached in 60 to 90 minutes after i.m.

administration and in 60 minutes after sublingual administration. The serum half-life of lorazepam is approximately 12 to 15 hours while the half-life of the conjugate is 16 to 20 hours. Ninety-five percent of

the drug was excreted within 120 hours, 88% in the urine and 6.6% in the stool.

Adverse Effects

Drowsiness is the most frequently reported adverse effect. Other reported adverse effects are dizziness, weakness, fatigue and lethargy, disorientation, ataxia, anterograde amnesia, nausea, change in appetite, change in weight, depression, blurred vision and diplopia, psychomotor agitation, sleep disturbance, vomiting, sexual disturbance, headache, skin rashes, gastrointestinal, ear, nose and throat, musculoskeletal and respiratory disturbances.

Release of hostility and other paradoxical effects, such as irritability and excitability have occurred with benzodiazepines. In addition, hypotension, mental confusion, slurred speech, oversedation and abnormal liver and kidney function tests and hematocrit values have been reported with these drugs.

So as you can see that these medications can cause hallucinations, and it depends on how they are metabolised in the body, and of course individual variability comes into account.

By the way, I tried to simplify medical terminology, if however you find any jargon that you would like clarification for please don't hesitate to ask.

Whereas Valium is more commonly used than Ativan, and it comes in both tablet and capsule forms, Ativan comes in tablets that melt under the tongue so you don't need to swallow it with water, that is why I included it in my differential. [/i]

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

They try to use persuasion, but it interestingly doesn't work. The only time Kirika does as she is told is when Daisuke uses violence to make her do so. It is her reaction that I find interesting: she just gives in. She doesn't fight back, she doesn't protest, she doesn't try to spit out these tablets given to her by an alien race that she can't trust. She just acknowledges the apparent superiority other and obeys, as if she was used to this, as if this was the only form of interaction she knew outside her loving relationship with her brother. You see, it seems to me that Kirika is just used to obey when confronted with somebody in a more powerful position. Her reaction looks as if it was the only reaction she has been conditioned to have.

If you were in her shoes and someone assaulted you like that while you are still recovering, and is still shocked by what happened to you, would you fight back and risk further assault?

And what if these tablets melted already in your mouth, they would be instantly absorbed. I don't think that she was conditioned to be overpowered and physically assaulted to obey.

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

And it seems to me that Duke Freed enters this logic of violence knowingly and purposely. The puzzling thing about what he does here, is that it doesn't seem to happen out of anger, or loss of control, that he doesn't lose his cool, but that he uses her code, speaks "her language" if you like, because it is the only language she is able to understand at that stage. (the language of violence and impermeable hierarchies).

Agnes, if you look at the visual effects you would notice that Daisuke had a threatening look on his face from the minute he sent everyone out which has gradually changed into a hateful angry look, so how can you say that he didn't lose his cool. He was ok prior to sending them out of the room. I don't think that this is the "only" language that Kerica understands.

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

Subsequently, they try to teach her another language (that of love and respect), but it takes Maria's intervention and compassion for Kirika to finally realise this. Indeed, as soon as she feels herself in a position of power, all her submissiveness disappears, and she is ready to use her position of power quite ruthlessly.

Wouldn't anyone who has been unfairly assaulted do the same?

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

Except that she has been "infected" by her interaction with this new kind of people, and she hesitates. You could say that she is learning a "new language" or an alternative form of social interaction in which the power of individual is less important than the relationships of respect between individuals.

I am not sure that this makes sense, Suzi, or that I have articulated my impressions correctly, but it seems interesting to me that throughout the narrative, Kirika is given freedom to choose, to think what she wants and do what she wants. There are no physical limits to her freedom. The only time she is not allowed to decide for herself is the moment she is given the pills. In this instance, Daisuke seems to act completely out of character. He uses violence, but apparently he does thought without much anger. Other than that, he leaves Kirika to free to act, but also free to make up or change her own mind. Don't you think that this is the puzzling part?

I disagree with you on that because Kerica wasn't given any choice. She was forced to take the capsules, threatened and dragged by Maria and Hikaru to unlock the door of her ship, and was manipulated into making a decision about whether to kill DF or not. Even the shooting of the beam from her ring wasn't really hers. The only decision she willingly made was to board her ship while hallucinating.

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

As for your discussion of Kirika's death and the other character's guilt, it is possible of course, to see it that way. I am quite sure that they feel some guilt. But then again, I am not sure that they can be condemned quite so easily. To the end, they gave Kirika the freedom to choose. She knew that if she wanted this, she had made new friends who would offer her a new life. It was her choice to enter the battle, though I agree with you that she was suffering from hallucinations, and that these influenced her decision to enter the

battle. In a sense, you could say also that her own obsessions led to her death, just as they had led her to cause the death of other beings by trying out her new invention.

Perhaps the other characters ought to have stayed with her. But then they were involved in a dangerous battle, and they might have thought that their contribution to this battle was essential. I suppose it is a matter of prioritising, if I can say this crassly. So, can they be seen as "guilty" of Kirika's death? Perhaps, to some extent. But certainly not directly.

I am not "condemning" them, I am simply highlighting some overlooked facts. Directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, they were responsible for her death.

I think I have written a long enough MM so I will stop now as I have been in front of this screen for almost an hour now!

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-21 13:11:30--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
 "Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Dantus

Messages postés : 203



☐ Posté le 21/07/2004 23:25:15



Agnès and Suzy, i am deeply impressed by the precision and the pertinence of your analysis. You must be highly degreed in psychology for giving us such an excellent work ?

Vega inc shall employ you in order to dismount the "perfect hero"'s picture Duke Flead wanted to give on earth ! Your work would be strongly appreciated by Vega himself. Suzi I won't ask you to give a better picture of Rubina of course, but will you appreciate to be the principal impressario of our science minister Zurill ? I know you appreciate him, and I'm sure he'll appreciate you !

And for you Agnès I thought about Gandal which has also a complex two-sided personality (in fact it's more visible for him/her ☐) . He strongly need to give a better picture of him to every one on earth !

PS : Perhaps i'll need an impressario myself, or maybe a good psychanalist ☐ ☐

--Message édité par dantus le 2004-07-21 23:30:49--

Traître de Minos !

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique



☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 01:40:29



Réponse :

Dantus a dit :

Agnès and Suzy, i am deeply impressed by the precision and the pertinence of your analysis. You must be highly degreed in psychology for giving us such an excellent work ?

..... Suzi I won't ask you to give a better picture of Rubina of course, but will you appreciate to be the principal impressario of our science minister Zurill ? I know you appreciate him, and I'm sure he'll appreciate you !

PS : Perhaps i'll need an impressario myself, or maybe a good psychanalist ☐

Thanks for the complement Dantus, and yes I do have a degree that is much higher than just "psychology". In fact psychology was a small part of that degree, but it is not the degree that gave me this insight, it is the life and work experience that did. For real life teaches more than a million books, and if you know how to apply your knowledge correctly, you reap your rewards.

I work with people and for people, from womb to tomb, and I see them in all situations, sick, happy, distressed, worried, misjudged, prejudiced, arrogant, confused, angry, abusive, nice, demanding, alive, dead, etc... And I do meet all kinds of personalities, so that is how I acquired this "insight" and "psycho-analysis talent" as you may call it.

Life has taught me that there are two sides to each coin and a usually neglected uninteresting circumferencial surface, i.e. to every event/story there are different interpretations depending on which side you are looking at it and whether you notice the minor details.

Anyway enough of these "wise reflections", and yes I can accept your offer provided that I don't have to do anything with Rubina.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
 "Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
 I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 08:36:53

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Suzi, thanks for these explanations and considerations. I'll need to think about some of these before I post a proper reply. (work, work, work ...) Anyway, I hope that your eyes and brain weren't too exhausted by sitting in front of the screen for over an hour (!). I know the intensity involved in writing MMs!!! ☐

Dantus, thanks for the compliments. I will certainly consider your job offer ... of course, it all depends on the wages you are prepared to pay! ☐

Just wait until Gerdha gets back ... you'll then find TCT working at full power and the amount of words we come up with can be quite impressive sometimes.

Live long and prosper ...

Agnès

Messages postés : 95
 I'm still an alien! :-)

 Agnès

☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 08:41:20

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

I do have a degree that is much higher than just "psychology". In fact psychology was a small part of that degree, but it is not the degree that gave me this insight, it is the life and work experience that did. For real life teaches more than a million books, and if you know how to apply your knowledge correctly, you reap your rewards.

That is so true, Suzi, and though we don't have the same kind of degree at all (☐), my job requires a certain understanding of the human psyche as well. Even then, what you need more than any books, as you say, are open ears, open eyes, an open mind and

sometimes also an open heart. ☐ Now if that isn't clichéed will have to find a new definition for the concept!

Live long and prosper ...

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

☐ Suzi

☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 10:52:33



Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Suzi, thanks for these explanations and considerations. I'll need to think about some of these before I post a proper reply. (work, work, work ...) Anyway, I hope that your eyes and brain weren't too exhausted by sitting in front of the screen for over an hour (!). I know the intensity involved in writing MMs!!! ☐

Thanks for your concerns Agnes, I did feel somewhat "drained" yesterday particularly after a long day of work, but I am 100% now. I truly understand the time you need, and I am happy to wait for any further input from your side on the matter.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Just wait until Gerdha gets back ... you'll then find TCT working at full power and the amount of words we come up with can be quite impressive sometimes.

That is very true indeed. In fact we do miss Gerdha in this discussion, but I am sure that when she returns, she will join it and then everyone will see the TGT again in its full glory! ☐

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Even then, what you need more than any books, as you say, are open ears, open eyes, an open mind and sometimes also an open heart.

This is absolutely true, and I totally agree. Well expressed, mate, well expressed! ☐

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 95

I'm still an alien! :-)

☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 18:22:59



Thanks Suzi, for all the medical details, which offer some interesting possibilities, I think, especially if we consider the fact that Kirika is alien, and that she might react differently all together (the mind bogles!).

Just a few reactions to some other things you write.

 Agnès

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

The way they were offered by Daisuke wasn't the kind of "helpful", it was a demand. How can they "help" her? She wasn't aggressive or agitated, she was only scared, I guess anyone in her shoes would be afraid, no?

I do agree that she has all reason to be afraid, and even though she isn't aggressive, she does come across as agitated. Not entirely without reason, as you suggest. Do you think that she might also be "in shock" - not because of the fight, but because of the realisation of where she is. How would you treat this usually (in movies people "in shock" are always given some kind of sedative, but that's movies ...)

Réponse :

To my understanding Agnes, the freezing beams were also used by the Vegan saucer monster of ep 12, so these freezing beams are not a "prototype". I believe that Kerica and her brother worked on further development of existing technology to make it more powerful and able to freeze planets not only small things. Vega had already implemented the newly improved technology that Kerica devised in Zum Zum the Vega- Ju, so really Vega wouldn't need to retrieve anything quickly, he only wanted Grendizer and DF annihilated.

I don't know about this, as it seems presented as something new (perhaps a new, more effective technology), and King Vega is very keen on the results of Kirika's research. She does seem to be the only one who can actually produce this. That seems to be the crucial point in terms of plot and character interaction. (Brothers & sisters, King Vega's blackmail of Kirika) ... I do agree it's puzzling, but they do seem to need her.

Anyway, this wouldn't be the first incoherence we have discussed. ☐

Réponse :

Kerica was weak, and frightened so what exact danger did she pose? Friendly approach could have won her trust, if the characters introduced themselves appropriately like what they did to Mineo, because she would discover that Daisuke and Maria were brother and sister and would mellow.

The troubling thing about this episode is that they do win her trust this way, despite the initial violence, don't you think?

Réponse :

Apparently Kerica was vulnerable to have hallucinations from the slightest thing looks of it, as not everyone talks so much during their sleep. It is not usual for someone to hallucinate or become delirious from an injury unless it is badly infected (and there wasn't enough time for her to brew an infection), had a head injury (which she didn't) or has lost a lot of blood or fluid that her brain has become affected (I am not sure that that has happened either). And yes, Agnes, sedatives or sleeping pills as you call them can cause hallucinations in some individuals.

Thanks for that information. I didn't know about the time frames involved. Again, I suppose that she could have been even more affected because the medicine was not adapted to her organism.

Just one question: what about the whole period of time in which she is perfectly lucid (i.e. before being injured). Could there be such an interval between the initial effect of the sedative and some of its adverse effects? Is that what is meant by "peak blood levels"? (forgive my ignorance, but I am genuinely interested).

Réponse :

If you were in her shoes and someone assaulted you like that while you are still recovering, and is still shocked by what happened to you, would you fight back and risk further assault?

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

And it seems to me that Duke Flead enters this logic of violence knowingly and purposely. The puzzling thing about what he does here, is that it doesn't seem to happen out of anger, or loss of control, that he doesn't lose his cool, but that he uses her code, speaks "her language" if you like, because it is the only language she is able to understand at that stage. (the language of violence and impermeable hierarchies).

Agnes, if you look at the visual effects you would notice that Daisuke had a threatening look on his face from the minute he sent everyone out which has gradually changed into a hateful angry look, so how can you say that he didn't lose his cool. He was ok prior to sending them out of the room. I don't think that this is the "only" language that Kerica understands.

This is a difficult part of our discussion, and I'm afraid that I didn't express myself very well.

In her situation, and given her background, Kirika might have expected much worse treatment than a slap in the face, and I think that she does expect worse. Duke Flead knows this, and I think that he exploits him. In fact it is the scene you describe, his gradual shift from friendly to threatening behaviour that led me to this conclusion.

The "language" I was referring to is not what we usually think of as language (sequences of sound producing meaning), but other forms of codes and behaviours that can produce meaning, like for instance the "body language" you describe in Duke.

He is not usually this way, and he seems to do this consciously, to communicate certain things to Kirika ("Now, just don't forget the kind of position you are in") and obtain a certain effect (submission? fear? the time to go and explore her craft???)

In fact, his behaviour (body language, etc.) towards Kirika is similar to that of King Vega at that moment. That is what made me think he was drawing on her cultural codes, or as I put it earlier using "the language of violence and impermeable hierarchies".

I hope this makes more sense, Suzi.

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

Citation :

Agnès a dit :

Subsequently, they try to teach her another language (that of love and respect), but it takes Maria's intervention and compassion for Kirika to finally realise this. Indeed, as soon as she feels herself in a position of power, all her submissiveness disappears, and she is ready to use her position of power quite ruthlessly.

Wouldn't anyone who has been unfairly assaulted do the same?

Was she really assaulted this unfairly? She is the one who started the cycle of violence, and though I personally think that violence should not be used or perpetuated, the people whom she tried to kill may feel themselves justified in thinking otherwise.

I don't think that this is the case, i.e. I don't think that Duke or Maria feel that they are entitled to use violence against her because she tried to kill them, but I think that Duke does this on purpose and with a precise goal in mind.

I do think, though, that had she known who Daisuke is, Kirika herself would have thought him justified in his violence or revenge against her. Indeed, it might have been more comprehensible to her than his compassion and "help". Duke Fleed uses this too, I think, which again suggests that his behaviour here is not "natural" but strategic.

Does this make more sense? For me, this is one way of explaining his puzzling behaviour at one specific point in time. Before and after, he is his usual self, which leads to your following point.

[quote]Agnès a dit :

Réponse :

I disagree with you on that because Kerica wasn't given any choice. She was forced to take the capsules, threatened and dragged by Maria and Hikaru to unlock the door of her ship, and was manipulated into making a decision about whether to kill DF or not. Even the shooting of the beam from her ring wasn't really hers. The only decision she willingly made was to board her ship while hallucinating.

Hmm, yes and no. She wasn't allowed to choose whether to take the medication, for whatever reason (and I still haven't chosen one !!!), but she is left free to choose whether to trust or distrust these people who have walked into her life. She was manipulated, yes, by King Vega, mainly, but Maria and Hikaru just ask her to open her spacecraft. They don't lie to her but appeal to her "better self", to the part of her that is capable of love in order to save Duke Fleed.

In these circumstances, their behaviour is fair enough. Yes they "drag" her to the spacecraft and ask her to open it, but that action is justified, don't you think?

What I meant by freedom here is not only "physical" freedom, but "freedom of thought". They don't tell her what to think or what to do except when it affects them directly.

Réponse :

I am not "condemning" them, I am simply highlighting some overlooked facts. Directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, they were responsible for her death.

I am aware that you are not condemning DF and his friends, Suzi, though I wouldn't go as far as saying that they are solely responsible for her death. She was injured but lucid, when Maria left her, and I'm not sure that they could foresee that Kirika would board the spacecraft and attack the golgoth, which eventually led to her death. They may have been "irresponsible", but that doesn't make them automatically responsible for Kirika's death. Just my own opinion of course.

Well, I hope some of what I said makes a little more sense. Thanks again, Suzi, for the medical details, and I hope you won't mind answering the additional questions in this message. ☐

--Message édité par agnès le 2004-07-22 18:25:24--

Live long and prosper ...

Dantus

Messages postés : 203

☐ Posté le 22/07/2004 22:20:19

**Réponse :**

Agnès a dit :

Thanks Suzi, for all the medical details, which offer some interesting possibilities, I think, especially if we consider the fact that Kirika is alien, and that she might react differently all together (the mind bogles!).

 Dantus

Just a few reactions to some other things you write.

I do agree that she has all reason to be afraid, and even though she isn't aggressive, she does come across as agitated. Not entirely without reason, as you suggest. Do you think that she might also be "in shock" - not because of the fight, but because of the realisation of where she is. How would you treat this usually (in movies people "in shock" are always given some kind of sedative, but that's movies ...)

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Anyway, this wouldn't be the first incoherence we have discussed.

The troubling thing about this episode is that they do win her trust this way, despite the initial violence, don't you think?

Thanks for that information. I didn't know about the time frames involved. Again, I suppose that she could have been even more affected because the medicine was not adapted to her organism.

Just one question: what about the whole period of time in which she is perfectly lucid (i.e. before being injured). Could there be such an interval between the initial effect of the sedative and some of its adverse effects? Is that what is meant by "peak blood levels"? (forgive my ignorance, but I am genuinely interested).

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Well, I hope some of what I said makes a little more sense. Thanks again, Suzi, for the medical details, and I hope you won't mind answering the additional questions in this message. ☐

Don't you think that Daisuke/Duke Fleed scorn and hate Kerida for what she did to him and for what she is : a vegan girl. Mineo wasn't a vegan girl (her haircut, her round face showed him she wasn't coming from Vega original planet). But Kirida is a typical vegan girl with great eyes, voluminous long hair, elfic ears, a cute face, quite

slim (I'm in love !! ☐ ☐). I think he said to his friends to leave to

hide himself because he doesn't want to be seen doing that. His sister that do not have all the dark remembers of Flead's destruction isn't able to hate so much Kerida. Finally, I don't see it like a typical male issue but as a hatred towards someone that is on the wrong side of war !

But what about Duke Flead's over-reaction at the end then ? Well I think that just before, Kerida hesitated a lot when she was aiming Duke Flead and finally decided to surrender even if she was able to kill Maria and Duke Flead together. Think about it, Koji and Hiraku, couldn't stop her if they decided so, it's only Maria's arguing that stopped Kerida. So Duke Flead saw that even vegan adults can think by themselves and refuse to obey to King Vega. He already noticed that young vegans in episode 59 can do so, but before he had only see deeply convinced vegans. I think that characters like Lara (Eudix in french), Gauss or Haruk didn't come from King Vega's planet so they were not so much influenced by vegan information. Perhaps that's why Duke Flead respected them.

I don't pretend that this solution is truth but I think that it makes a quite coherent explanation of this episode even when considering the others before and after. And even if I don't forgive Duke Flead to have slapped Kerida, I've got a less negative opinion of him.

Now I am in front of a big problem, if I'm coherent with what I said, I must consider that King Vega my boss, is the only responsible for Kerida's death ! That's horrible !

I shall surrender to Duke Flead then, despite the threat to be slapped (or punched because a slap for me, from him would be even more injurious (for my pride, I mean) !) or forced to take hallucinogen sedative pills without any glass of water !

I wonder what King Vega would say about my desertion ?

--Message édité par dantus le 2004-07-22 22:24:34--

Traître de Minos !

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique



☐ Posté le 23/07/2004 09:52:02



Well Agnes, as I am short of time now, I will quickly explain to you what peak values mean, and when I have more time I will address the rest of your post.

Peak values as you may have concluded is the maximum amount of active drug detected in the blood after administration. This of course takes time and varies with the way the drug is metabolised and how it is administered. Intravenous injections is usually the quickest mode to deliver a drug and reach peak values faster. Oral is the slowest and certainly depends on the metabolic pathway whether it bypasses the liver or not.

Whereas drug levels maybe detected in the plasma within a few minutes of administration, it may take hours to reach peak values. When the peak value is reached that is when you notice the maximum desired effects of the drug. Of course the body then tries to clear the drug and its metabolites and that takes time too. Side effects are mostly either due to the drug itself or the resultant metabolites, so there is no particular time frame for side effects to happen. It may happen immediately, or take minutes, hours or days depending on the drug, the dose, the co-morbidity of the person and taking the medication and his/her genetic make-up which controls

the way his/her body metabolises and reacts to the drug, and that is why some drugs didn't suit everyone, and not all discovered side effects happen to everyone taking the medication. So in Kerica's, the sedatives are highly questionable for inducing her hallucination, particularly that she is alien as you pointed out, and perhaps her injury has facilitated this effect. But before I finish this post, I just wanted to tell you that regardless of whether Kerica developed a hallucinogenic state or not, it was inappropriate to be left critically wounded in her chest alone. I couldn't decide whether her injury was deep enough to effect the deeper structures in her chest e.g. lungs, major vessels, etc, but she certainly wasn't a candidate for neglect, and the person who took the responsibility to help her to safety should have kept a good eye on her, and not left her alone, as the wounds may have bled extensively and may have ultimately died anyway. Well I have to go now but I will reply to the rest when I have more time.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
 "Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Suzi

Messages postés : 268

I am not an alien but I am unique

 Suzi

 Posté le 23/07/2004 11:14:41



Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Thanks Suzi, for all the medical details, which offer some interesting possibilities, I think, especially if we consider the fact that Kirika is alien, and that she might react differently all together (the mind boggles!).

Just a few reactions to some other things you write.

I do agree that she has all reason to be afraid, and even though she isn't aggressive, she does come across as agitated. Not entirely without reason, as you suggest. Do you think that she might also be "in shock" - not because of the fight, but because of the realisation of where she is. How would you treat this usually (in movies people "in shock" are always given some kind of sedative, but that's movies ...)

As you said, it is only in movies.! ^__^

We do sedate agitated and severely anxious patients but certainly we don't hit them to force them to take the medication.

People with anxiety disorders are certainly candidates for sedation, and those suffering alcohol or illegal drug withdrawal symptoms are candidates too because they do become agitated and aggressive. If you ask me Kerica wasn't the kind that I would say was a candidate for sedation. Apparently we understand "agitation" differently. My perception of Kerica's "shock" as you call it is completely natural to happen, proper orientation and explanation certainly would have helped her better than the sedatives. By the way, sedatives don't solve a problem, they are a temporary solution, and therefore you don't resort to them unless you have to.

For hospital patients, you may prescribe sleeping pills at night to help them sleep in a "noisy" environment. And yes hospitals at night for ward patients could be a busy bee hive. Nurses come in and out checking on some, and fluid pumps beeping and so on.

In brief, for Kerica's "shock" I wouldn't have given her any sedatives

particularly that she wasn't aggressive or "agitated", and just reassurance and explanation might have been satisfactory. If not then I would think of other options but certainly sedatives would be very last option, and I would only consider it if she becomes agitated or aggressive.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

I don't know about this, as it seems presented as something new (perhaps a new, more effective technology), and King Vega is very keen on the results of Kirika's research. She does seem to be the only one who can actually produce this. That seems to be the crucial point in terms of plot and character interaction. (Brothers & sisters, King Vega's blackmail of Kirika) ... I do agree it's puzzling, but they do seem to need her.

Anyway, this wouldn't be the first incoherence we have discussed.

I wondered about that too but the monster saucer of ep 12 had freezing rays too, so what was the exact fuss about Kerica's invention? Probably because she and her brother were improving it, or maybe it was her brother who invented the original freezing beams that were used in ep 12.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

The troubling thing about this episode is that they do win her trust this way, despite the initial violence, don't you think?

They only won her trust when she learnt that Daisuke and Maria were brother and sister, and not by the violence.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

This is a difficult part of our discussion, and I'm afraid that I didn't express myself very well.

In her situation, and given her background, Kirika might have expected much worse treatment than a slap in the face, and I think that she does expect worse. Duke Fleed knows this, and I think that he exploits him. In fact it is the scene you describe, his gradual shift from friendly to threatening behaviour that led me to this conclusion. The "language" I was referring to is not what we usually think of as language (sequences of sound producing meaning), but other forms of codes and behaviours that can produce meaning, like for instance the "body language" you describe in Duke.

He is not usually this way, and he seems to do this consciously, to communicate certain things to Kirika ("Now, just don't forget the

kind of position you are in") and obtain a certain effect (submission? fear? the time to go and explore her craft???)

In fact, his behaviour (body language, etc.) towards Kirika is similar to that of King Vega at that moment. That is what made me think he was drawing on her cultural codes, or as I put it earlier using "the language of violence and impermeable hierarchies".

I hope this makes more sense, Suzi.

I did understand very well when I wrote my last previous post what you meant by *her* language, Agnes.

For Kerica, continuing her brother's project was of more moral value than anything. Vega, being an expert in psychological manipulation, threatened to remove her from the project and hand it over to another scientist, but he certainly wasn't as aggressive as Daisuke. Someone, in her status, a respectable scientist in the Vegan Empire entrusted with a highly regarded and needed invention, why would she expect such kind of "violent language"? Why would that be her "only" cultural code?

To my understanding Agnes, females who are overpowered and identify with such codes of culture, wouldn't be high achievers, as they always feel inferior and suffer a lot of psychological problems that hinders their progress.

Kerica as you notice was very confident and "ruthless" at some stage as you indicated, so I truly wouldn't classify her as woman who identifies with such "violent cultural codes". She argued with Vega before giving in. That proves to me that she wasn't that kind of person.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

Was she really assaulted this unfairly? She is the one who started the cycle of violence, and though I personally think that violence should not be used or perpetuated, the people whom she tried to kill may feel themselves justified in thinking otherwise.

You do bring up an ethical dilemma. As a medical professional, my code of ethics is to treat all sick patients equally even if one of them killed my father. You are certainly presenting a moral issue like the prisoners abuse scandals in Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghareeb prisons.

What I meant by unfairly assaulted was that she was a helpless patient not the ruthless killer, and therefore at that particular point in time aggression towards her was unfair.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

I don't think that this is the case, i.e. I don't think that Duke or Maria feel that they are entitled to use violence against her because she tried to kill them, but I think that Duke does this on purpose and

with a precise goal in mind.

I do think, though, that had she known who Daisuke is, Kirika herself would have thought him justified in his violence or revenge against her. Indeed, it might have been more comprehensible to her than his compassion and "help". Duke Fleed uses this too, I think, which again suggests that his behaviour here is not "natural" but strategic.

Does this make more sense? For me, this is one way of explaining his puzzling behaviour at one specific point in time. Before and after, he is his usual self, which leads to your following point.

In a way, Agnes, I find that Dantus point that Kerica was a Vegan, and maybe that is what perpetuated Daisuke's aggression towards her is certainly worth noting. But his attitude towards the Vegan children was very different, isn't because they were children? As for the description of his aggression as strategic, ummm...I don't really agree.

He was noraml after she ingested the capsules because he achieved his goal of making her submit to his will.

Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

.....
but Maria and Hikaru just ask her to open her spacecraft. In these circumstances, their behaviour is fair enough. Yes they "drag" her to the spacecraft and ask her to open it, but that action is justified, don't you think?

What I meant by freedom here is not only "physical" freedom, but "freedom of thought". They don't tell her what to think or what to do except when it affects them directly.

they woke her from sleep threatening her with their guns to come with them to open the ship door. Later when she didn't shoot DF, they showed her the friendly invitation to a different life. But yes, their action is justified, but my point was that she wasn't given much choice whether physical or intellectual/emotional prior to that from anyone whether from Vega or from them.

Well, I hope that has clarified the rest of your points of discussion, Agnes.

And Dantus, don't worry, we will protect you if desert Vega, and won't let DF show any aggression towards you. In fact he may think that being friendly and cooperative with you is better than aggression, after all you are not a female that he can easily beat or force her to take capsules against her will. ☐ Size and physique do matter, don't they?

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-23 11:25:06--

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-23 11:25:06--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
 "Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Dantus

Messages postés : 214



Posté le 23/07/2004 20:38:32



Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

And Dantus, don't worry, we will protect you if desert Vega, and won't let DF show any aggression towards you. In fact he may think that being friendly and cooperative with you is better than aggression, after all you are not a female that he can easily beat or force her to take capsules against her will. ☺ Size and physique do matter, don't they?

Yes Suzi Size does matter as long as I'm quite taller and heavier than Daisuke (about 12 cm and roughly 30 kilos !) I think in an open barefist fight, I would win easily. Anyway that's not the way I want to deal with him !

I will resign from my minister job and stay hidden on earth.
 I swear to end Monstrogoth construction and help Duke Flead and Genzo Umon to repair and improve Grendizer.

Alizée for ever !

Suzi

Messages postés : 275

I am not an alien but I am unique



Posté le 27/07/2004 12:19:05



Réponse :

Agnès a dit :

I am aware that you are not condemning DF and his friends, Suzi, though I wouldn't go as far as saying that they are solely responsible for her death. She was injured but lucid, when Maria left her, and I'm not sure that they could foresee that Kirika would board the spacecraft and attack the golgoth, which eventually led to her death. They may have been "irresponsible", but that doesn't make them automatically responsible for Kirika's death. Just my own opinion of course.

Dear Agnes, while re-reading our discussion, I noticed that I forgot to address this point.

But let us say for example someone has been involved in an accident; a car accident, a bomb explosion or a collapsed building persay. And this person got wounded, and the rescue workers got him out to safety but didn't call an ambulance or take him to hospital for assessment and treatment of his injuries. Few hours later this person died. Then who do you blame for his death?

Yes, we can't say for sure and there is no guarantee that taking him to hospital and giving him proper treatment could save his life but at least you could say that he was given a fair go and everything possible to save his life was done.

I guess in this situation you can't solely blame the accident for his death, the rescue workers do take some of the blame, don't they?

Well, I hope I have clarified my point in holding Maria partly responsible for Kerica's death. And really no offence Maria's fans, but the truth is the truth.....unfortunately it hurts sometimes.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-27 12:21:25--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
 "Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Dantus

Messages postés : 214



Posté le 27/07/2004 21:19:08



Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

Dear Agnes, while re-reading our discussion, I noticed that I forgot to address this point.

But let us say for example someone has been involved in an accident; a car accident, a bomb explosion or a collapsed building persay. And this person got wounded, and the rescue workers got him out to safety but didn't call an ambulance or take him to hospital for assessment and treatment of his injuries. Few hours later this person died. Then who do you blame for his death? Yes, we can't say for sure and there is no guarantee that taking him to hospital and giving him proper treatment could save his life but at least you could say that he was given a fair go and everything possible to save his life was done. I guess in this situation you can't solely blame the accident for his death, the rescue workers do take some of the blame, don't they?

Well, I hope I have clarified my point in holding Maria partly responsible for Kerica's death. And really no offence Maria's fans, but the truth is the truth.....unfortunately it hurts sometimes.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-27 12:21:25--

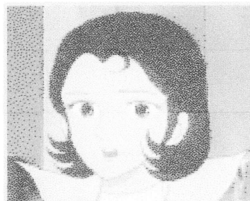
Well I won't blame Maria or Hiraku for going to battle this monstrogoth instead of staying with someone that they still consider as an ennemy. I think that even if they tried to heal her, they considered themselves as warriors not as nurses ! So they followed the way they had chosen and Kerica died as a wounded warrior on a battle field ! The only ones to blame are King Vega for making her becoming a warrior and me for giving King Vega the technology to build Zume Zume !

Alizée for ever !

Suzi

Messages postés : 275

I am not an alien but I am unique



Posté le 28/07/2004 10:21:39



Réponse :

Dantus a dit :

Well I won't blame Maria or Hiraku for going to battle this monstrogoth instead of staying with someone that they still consider as an ennemy.

Well Dantus, I don't think that after Kerica abandoned shooting DF, she was considered as *the* enemy any more. Hikaru invited her to come with them as now she had nowhere else to go because she would be considered a traitor by Vega.

Réponse :**Dantus a dit :**

I think that even if they tried to heal her, they considered themselves as warriors not as nurses !

Dantus, if you recall the events correctly, Hikaru hesitated to go to battle while Kerica was wounded, but Maria reassured her that she would take care of Kerica, so Hikaru left to help DF and Koji combat Zume Zume. Maria took on the responsibility of looking after her. Usually, that means to either stay with her and nurse her or take her to a place where appropriate medical attention could be given. She did neither, she just took her beside her ship and left her there....I don't think that this is appropriate especially that she willingly took on the responsibility of looking after her. If she didn't see herself as a nurse and preferred to be a warrior instead then she should have left that job to a more reliable person.

Réponse :**Dantus a dit :**

.....and Kerica died as a wounded warrior on a battle field !

Yes she died of battle related injuries, but she was also a victim of negligence. She could have been saved if she were taken back to the centre after her initial injury.

Réponse :**Dantus a dit :**

The only ones to blame are King Vega for making her becoming a warrior and me for giving King Vega the technology to build Zume Zume !

I don't think that these are the only ones to blame for Kerica's death. Yes Vega forced to go to war, and she was injured, and later killed by Zume Zume, but on the other hand if she weren't given the sedatives by DF earlier she wouldn't have developed the hallucinogenic state that caused her to fall into Zume Zume's freezing rays thinking that they were the burning planet; and if Maria didn't leave her alone by her ship instead of taking her back to the centre when she got initially wounded.

You know I think ep 63 is good in shocking us that our "nice" and "responsible" heroes aren't really "saints". In other words they are perfect humans who do make mistakes too, sometimes fatal and they regret it too even if it is late.

It is good in making us sympathise with a Vegan warrior , and look at the Vegans as victims of war too, and not only as oppressors who deserve death and annihilation. In a way, it shows us the other side of the coin, the side that we perhaps don't really like to see or acknowledge...that in a war all sides are victims and perpetrators at the same time.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

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Goldorak



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répondre

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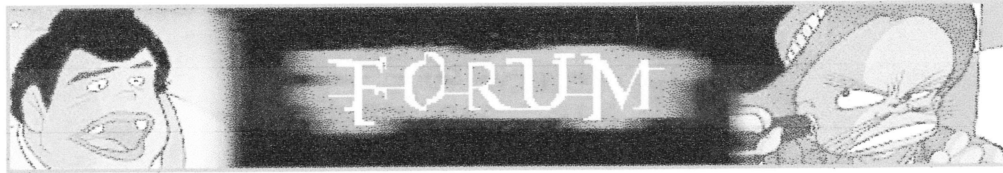
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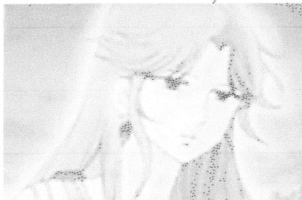
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Auteur :

Sujet: Explanation required!

Bas

AgnèsMessages postés : 97
I'm still an alien! :-)

Posté le 28/07/2004 11:49:44

**Réponse :**

Suzi a dit:

You know I think ep 63 is good in shocking us that our "nice" and "responsible" heroes aren't really "saints". In other words they are perfect humans who do make mistakes too, sometimes fatal and they regret it too even if it is late.

It is good in making us sympathise with a Vegan warrior , and look at the Vegans as victims of war too, and not only as oppressors who deserve death and annihilation. In a way, it shows us the other side of the coin, the side that we perhaps don't really like to see or acknowledge...that in a war all sides are victims and perpetrators at the same time.

We seem to agree on this Suzi. 😊

To my mind, this is one of the most interesting effects of episode 63.

As for your point about rescuing injured people, I'd just like to make two remarks.

1. I think that your analysis of Kirika's hallucinations as induced by the drugs she was given is plausible and even possible. However, I am not sure that the episode itself makes this point quite as strongly as you put it, i.e. I'm not sure that the average child will make the link. Again, I am quite happy to accept this reading, but for it to be the "only" possible interpretation, it would have to be a little more obvious.

Of course, our appreciation of Duke Flead's responsibility will be

affected by this one point, and it is therefore quite an essential question.

What I like about this episode is that it doesn't give us an easy "ready-for-consumption" interpretation. It remains ambiguous, like most Araki episodes, thereby inviting uncertainty and discussion.

2. I think that you are right to highlight Maria's responsibility in this episode. She is partly responsible in the sense that she accepts a task (caring for an injured person) and then decides to take care of another task instead. She also seems most affected by Kirika's death in the end, whereas the other characters are more "pragmatic" about it.

Don't you think that there is another underlying theme here in addition to the other subtext we have highlighted in our discussion?

In an essential way, the episode focuses on Maria. She brings about reconciliation through her understanding of loss (loss is something she has experienced, and knows about), but she also leaves an injured person unattended to join the active war effort.

From Maria's point of view, this is not unreasonable. Kirika was not hallucinating when she left her in what she thinks was a "safe" place. She might have considered that her help was needed more urgently elsewhere. Her decision, perhaps the best she can take, has dramatic consequences as you pointed out Suzi. Again, Maria's sadness and pain seems stronger and more raw than that of the other characters. This may be due to her share of responsibility in Kirika's death, but as Suzi pointed out, Duke Fleed also shares some of this. Yet his reaction is not as strong as his sister's.

If this episode is about taking decisions and living with the consequences for many different characters, then Maria's reaction suggests that this is something she is not yet used to. In many ways, this episode is about Maria growing up: she has experienced loss (her family, her world, her brother), but she was a child when this happened. She has not yet experienced loss as an "adult" or as a result of her own actions (in episode 49, she will presumably have obeyed her "grandfather" 😊).

In a sense, Maria learns that loss is not always something that "happens" to you: it is something that you can sometimes prevent (she "saves" her brother, whom she doesn't want to lose again) or cause (she doesn't look after Kirika properly when she had elected to take care of this task). The issue of "loss" and "responsibility" is resolved by Kirika's final revelation about her brother and her loss: she was not responsible for the loss of her brother; in other words, she is an "innocent victim" in that particular aspect of her life. In fact, she is an "innocent victim" in the same sense Duke and Maria usually are, whereas the usual victims are responsible for her loss.

The usual patterns are inverted here, and our heroes are perceived as fallible "human" beings as you pointed out Suzi. Maria still has to learn what Duke's behaviour suggests he already knows: nobody is "perfect" and the decisions we take can lead to evil consequences, no matter what our intentions were. We can't be the "good ones" all the time.

The structure of the episode invites us to identify with Kirika before she even meets our heroes and allows them to like or dislike her. We

like her and know that she is not an "evil" person, even if she is on the "wrong" side. As a result we want our heroes to like her and treat her well as well. However, the contrary happens, and this incites us to think and re-evaluate our position, the things we take for granted, our definitions of "good" and "evil".

"Inside" the story, two characters seem to realise this for the first time: Kirika and Maria. It is their empathy, their capacity to identify with and "feel" the emotions of other people, that invite the viewer to do the same, to try and understand other, or different characters and people.

In many ways, Maria, who is often so annoying, is the central consciousness of the episode. She is young and inexperienced, but, this episode suggests, she is also learning. Towards the end of the series, this seems to be Maria's main function. Annoying she may be, but she is the one who sees things with inexperienced eyes, from the same point of view as the children discovering some of the issues posed in *Grendizer* for the first time.

After Hikaru and Koji, this role is finally transferred to Maria.

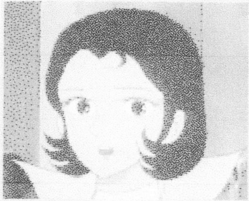
--Message édité par agnes le 2004-07-28 14:11:35--

Live long and prosper ...

Suzi

Messages postés : 275

I am not an alien but I am unique



Posté le 29/07/2004 02:28:54



Well, Agnes, you have expressed all what I wanted to say, and even better.

Anyway, about your point about the sleeping pills and the hallucinations.... you know the first time I saw this episode as a child I was about 13 and it was in french. It was on a VHS that I had purchased from a supermarket, and as you can guess my french at that time was very very modest, so I didn't know what kind of pills they were. But when Kerica (or Alizee as she was called in the french version) started hallucinating I wondered what was really happening and whether it had to do anything with the pills that she was given earlier.

I didn't have the medical knowledge I have now, and I can't say that I understood that episode completely at that time because of language barriers, but it had always bothered me. The whole narrative of that episode was very ambiguous to me.

And when I saw it in arabic years later, it was more of a shock than anything 😞. Somehow, I was petrified by behaviour of the characters (Daisuke's assault to Kerica to force her to take the pills.....ok don't laugh, but when I saw it in french as a child I thought that she said something rude to Daisuke that is why he slapped her! 😞), the ambiguous dialogue in the ship when Maria was begging for her brother's life on the basis of their "friendship" (what friendship was she exactly referring to? 🤔), Maria leaving Kerica critically injured and going away, and then she expressed deep sadness and remorse after her death.....You know it reminded me of an Egyptian saying " He murdered the victim and walked in his funeral". I thought how well fitted was this episode to that saying 😞.

I can't say that it was listed in my favourite episodes (it still isn't). I never liked to watch it again, but now I am looking at it with a more mature attitude and I am beginning to understand it from an adult perspective, not that my youthful intuitions about it have changed,

but rather enlightened and matured.

In a way yes, Agnes, I agree that Mashima's (he is the scriptwriter, not Araki) episodes always make us tickle our heads in wonder and throw our "natural" expectations into chaos (in a way, his episodes remind me of Roald Dahl's "Tales of the Unexpected" 😊 and perhaps that is what makes them special and thought provoking.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-29 02:38:37--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

Agnès

Messages postés : 97
I'm still an alien! :-)



Posté le 30/07/2004 11:29:13



Thanks Suzi. 😊

Can't stop myself from making a few more remarks (short this time, so don't worry 😊)

Réponse :

Suzi a dit :

[snip] But when Kerica (or Alizee as she was called in the french version) started hallucinating I wondered what was really happening and whether it had to do anything with the pills that she was given earlier.

I didn't have the medical knowledge I have now, and I can't say that I understood that episode completely at that time because of language barriers, but it had always bothered me. The whole narrative of that episode was very ambiguous to me.

Ambiguous it is, I agree, though I doubt that you were an "average child" (sorry if this is too personal). What I mean is that you seem to have wondered, at a very early age, about the "hows and whys" of the *Grendizer* storylines. I doubt that this was the main preoccupation of most *Grendizer* viewers 😊

Well, I guess that's why we founded "TGT" and "TCT" ... strange people with crazy ideas and unusual points of view!!!

Thanks for allowing us to be "ourselves" on this forum, DJinspace ... I feel that we don't thank you often enough ...

Réponse :

ok don't laugh, but when I saw it in french as a child I thought that she said something rude to Daisuke that is why he slapped her!



Ha ha ha ... (sorry, had to. Although, it does certainly look like that. I always wondered whether something had been "lost in translation" ...)

Réponse :

In a way yes, Agnes, I agree that Mashima's (he is the scriptwriter, not Araki) episodes always make us tickle our heads in wonder and

throw our "natural" expectations into chaos (in a way, his episodes remind me of Roald Dahl's "Tales of the Unexpected" 😊 and perhaps that is what makes them special and thought provoking.

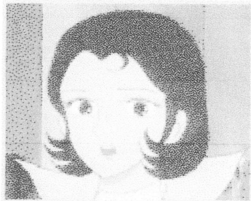
Hmm, yes, I am aware that Araki isn't the scriptwriter here. I guess I was referring to the visual quality, which is emphasised in these episodes. Indeed, these episodes seem to be imbued with extra visual significance, i.e. what we see carries at least as much meaning and ambiguity as what we hear, if not more ... that's why I remember them as "Araki episodes". Not very exact of me, I agree. Sorry about that! 😊

Live long and prosper ...

Suzi

Messages postés : 275

I am not an alien but I am unique



Posté le 30/07/2004 15:07:03



Réponse :

Agnes à dit:

..... though I doubt that you were an "average child" (sorry if this is too personal). What I mean is that you seem to have wondered, at a very early age, about the "hows and whys" of the *Grendizer* storylines. I doubt that this was the main preoccupation of most *Grendizer* viewers 😊

Thanks Agnes, for reminding me that I wasn't an "average child".



Yes, perhaps you are right, all my friends who watched *Grendizer* as children all what they cared for was the battle and combat manoeuvres.

Well, I guess that if I wasn't an average child then certainly I am not an average adult..... aaah! why do I have to be so odd?! 🤖🤖🤖

Réponse :

Well, I guess that's why we founded "TGT" and "TCT" ... strange people with crazy ideas and unusual points of view!!

Ah, what a relief! Am I not glad that I am not the only odd one here! I guess that birds of feather flock together.

I am certainly very pleased and honoured to be part of these TGT &

TCT teams. 🤖🤖🤖🤖🤖🤖

Réponse :

Thanks for allowing us to be "ourselves" on this forum, DJinspace ... I feel that we don't thank you often enough ...

OH! Oui, DJ mille merci pour ce forum formidable. 🤖🤖🤖

Réponse :

Ha ha ha ... (sorry, had to. Although, it does certainly look like that. I always wondered whether something had been "lost in translation" ...)

☺ Yes, I know it is funny, and it is hard not to laugh at our naive perceptions as children (don't worry I forgive you). Sometimes I do wish that I could still see things through children's eyes. Unfortunately time only goes forwards not backwards, but I guess we can dearly cherish these precious innocent memories however old we become.

--Message édité par suzi le 2004-07-30 15:13:16--

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.".....Marie Curie
"Patience achieves more than strength or fury"....La Fontaine

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AceBoard Forum v 5.2

Design : Florent Guerlain

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