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Agnès

Re: I am still not convinced!

Mon Apr 28 05:51:52 2003

212.24.201.233

Hi everybody. I can't resist now ... you know, I am developing a "bad conscience" for not posting/answering messages on this forum (this is what I am meant to develop about work, you know :-))

I was just thinking of other reasons that might have delayed Actarus/Daisuke's introduction into Japanese society. I am not involved in any medical profession, but it seems to me that Actarus/Daisuke probably had to deal with more than mere physical injuries.

In the French version he is described as "presque mort" (nearly dead) and as having been in space for a very long time.

He might have been in a coma for a while, and near to starvation also. Presumably, his body would have had to deal with similar problems to those encountered by cosmonauts who spend a long time in space (they have to spend some time lying down after getting back to earth, don't they?). Furthermore, he is an "alien", so he might also have had additional problems adapting to specifically Terran conditions like the force of attraction of the earth, the composition of the atmosphere, which might be similar, though not exactly the same.) All of these might have slowed down his healing/recovery processes.

His organism might also have needed some time to adapt to its new viral/bacterial environment, and all in all, the scientist Procyon/Umon undeniably is might have been prudent about exposing him to all these health hazards before he had completely recovered, at least physically.

Indeed, I agree with you, Suzi, that his work at the Danbee farm is probably meant as part of a psychological therapy, and considering the sheer importance of the trauma he has undergone (basically the genocide of his people, and the destruction of his entire planet), it might have taken some time to stabilise his psychological condition enough to allow him to mix with other people; indeed, considering the series' emphasis on suicide, I would not be surprised if this was something he had to deal with too. His insistence on the idea that he has found a haven of peace and that it is possible "to learn to live and be happy again despite the horrors of the past" (witness his plea on this subject with Naida and Minao) does indeed suggest that he has more than "toyed" with the idea of suicide.

Finally, before Actarus/Daisuke could be introduced to Japanese society, he would have had to learn Japanese. I know that the language issue seems irrelevant here, as the invaders address their adversaries in Japanese in the original, but in the French version, Procyon says that "they [the invaders] have learned our language just enough to shout their orders at us" [loose translation; episode 1, I think]. Whether the original and other versions refer to this issue or not, I think that we can quite safely assume that Actarus/Daisuke and the invaders had to learn Japanese, as they did probably not speak Japanese at home :-)). [this apparent paradox of Japanese speaking aliens or English speaking Russians, for instance, is not uncommon in movies, where the audience is just meant to assume that they are speaking their alien language or Russian amongst themselves, the Russian "accent" thus signalling the assumed use of the Russian language].

I don't think that it is possible to learn a language from scratch within a couple of months (especially if there are no points of comparison and/or linguistic common ground between teacher and student; each abstract concept would have to be described concretely using metaphors, perhaps or pictures, etc. or perhaps mathematically, if both of them were scientists), and in order to pass as Umon's son, Actarus' language skills would have had to be more than just adequate. Indeed, he had to learn more than just a language,

but a host of unfamiliar things, ranging from culture to behavioural patterns, everyday items (did they have traditional telephones on Flead?) to types of food and eating habits (there is an episode where we witness him hopelessly useless at using chop sticks). His knowledge of all these things would have had to be quite developed before Umon could take the risk of introducing him to "the world" and the Makiba family.

All these factors may indeed have delayed his introduction, as some considerations related to security and safety (you would have to be absolutely sure about "the person", his characteristics and his motives, before you released an "alien" to the world, an alien you had found in the most destructive weapon you encountered in your life). This also, Daisuke as a possible threat, might have taken some time to evaluate (indeed, his persona is more ambiguous and dangerous in the manga version of the story, and he might not have been who he pretended to be).

I don't know what you will do with all of these Suzi. Indeed, I apologise for my unscientific approach to the medical issues in this post, but maybe you could provide more accurate information about these considerations.

The language issue, on the other hand, is something I always wondered about. I always tried to imagine what it would be like to communicate with somebody who shares absolutely no language feature or experience with you. How would you go about teaching each other your own language - which leads me to another favourite speculation: communicating is based on the exchange and comprehension of signs, and usually this involves both partners in the conversation. I always wondered whether Umon learned to speak Daisuke's language too in the process. Of course, this last question requires no answer, as it is not really relevant to the anime. It is just something I always wondered about ...

P.S. Suzi: I really liked your reading of the Minao episode, and a lot of what you say coincides with my own opinions about the matter. I wish I had more time to answer your post properly, and to continue TTOTC. Unfortunately, we are gearing up for the end of term (i.e. the exams) at the moment, and my students are rather more "needy" than is usually the case. I apologise again, and I hope that the prosecution, judge and jury will have patience with this poor (and rather frustrated) defense attorney.

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- [Re: I am still not convinced!](#) — Gerdha, Mon Apr 28 06:04

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Gerdha

Re: I am still not convinced!

Mon Apr 28 06:04:44 2003

80.116.18.101

Well, it seems to me superfluous to say that we are once again soulmates, Suzi. I have always been bothered by the story of Maria's kimono in ep66 too, and could not connected properly to NYE in ep2. But let me explain better what I wrote in my previous post (which I wrote "by run" during lunchtime.

It's a fact that Umon says explicitly in ep2 to Koji that he found Duke Fleed "nearly to die" circa 2 years before. So, as the action takes place at the beginning of autumn, we should suppose that Umon found Duke Fleed between summer and winter of 2 years before, leaving some space for the "circa" quote. So, considering that Duke Fleed could have been in a coma (ep 2 shows him seriously injured, but in Uchu-Enban Daisenso he is clearly unconscious, and Shozo Uehara is the scriptwriter for both the pilot movie and first 2 eps) prof. Umon could have needed some months to recover him, especially as he is not a medical doctor, Actarus is an alien and probably Procton did not rush him for this reason to an hospital. I tend to think he called a trusted somebody for help – probably the same doctor who uses the enhanced machine to decrease the damages of the radioactive injury in ep70 – but anyway he tried for sure to cure him at the Research Centre, which is not an hospital or a specialised medical institute. Of course Actarus is an alien so his recovery could have been faster than an earthling, but I believe it took months. Then Daisuke and Umon had to get to know each other, and Actarus had to decide if to stay or leave, and once he took the latter decision he had to learn at least some "basic" social lessons or information about Earth, its inhabitants and... well, agriculture and veterinary too. No one in the anime mention that he had difficulties in working at the farm so probably Daisuke presented himself as an already trained worker for farm matters. And for sure he did not worked as a farmer in Fleed.... so for me he had to be trained in some ways before starting to live at Shirakawa. Please consider Suzi that his going undercover should have been perfectly prepared, in order to avoid the risk for him to be discovered.

Summarising, I believe that Daisuke spent his first NYE on Earth sick in a bed at the Umon Centre; the second one, even if he was already working at Shirakawa, he did not felt yet enough comfortable to participate at a traditional festivity. It's possible that he avoided it for personal reasons (the recall of Fleed – the attack was in winter as we agreed) or for not feeling enough sure of his earthling undercover to take part of a similar kind of happening, which require a deep knowledge of ceremonies and particular behaviours, which could have lead people to suspect about him he would have failed something. One year later, instead, he was ready to participate to NYE traditional festivity.

About Maria, well, what I think is that the fact she lived in the city instead in the countryside could be the explanation of her lack of knowledge about traditional NYE. As far as I know, the kind of festivity displayed in the anime is very "traditional" so to speak, and city inhabitants are loosing to be accustomed to them. So it's possible that Maria did not know the particulars of the ceremony and really did not wear a kimono before. For sure, her fake grandfather was a Fleed citizen, so she could have not learned any particular about that tradition from him for sure.

Finally, you are right about the relationship between Umon and Danbei. I am afraid I expressed myself badly. What I meant is that even if they knew each other from a long time, Umon probably was not used to participate to the traditional NYE with Makibas and reprises it when Daisuke became part of his life. Traditional NYE – watching the sunrise and expressing wishes - is a typical "family" event, and I tend to think that it could have had a meaning for Umon only after Actarus arrived in his life, so allowing Procton to be part in a way of a "family" event. In fact, we see the Umons arriving together at the temple but separated from Makibas and Alcor. But let's take the relationship between Genzo and Daisuke aside for a different discussion: it's a topic which is extremely precious to me and I would like to have enough time for an appropriate MM about it.

Hope my reasoning makes sense!

^_^

Gerdha

PS: Agnes, I read your post just as I finished to wrote this one from mine. As you can see, our ideas are very similar...

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