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Suzi

Gerdha, a small question about production order

Fri May 16 22:48:05 2003

210.8.232.5

Hi Gerdha,

I was wondering if ep 26 and 27 were produced before ep25.

Reason being is that the dialogues in ep25 clearly indicated that Hikaru knew Daisuke's true identity and Koji was aware of this. Whereas in ep27 he was quite surprised that Hikaru knew that Daisuke was really Duke Fleed.

Is that another plot hole or an overlooked error?

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[Bernard Cunningham](#)

Indeed...

Sat May 17 02:06:58 2003

24.226.240.216

Before you mentionned it, it was clear that Alcor didn't know about Venusia's knowing of the Actarus-Prince duality beofre episode 27. and then watching episode 25 it is clear that he sees her knowing, right at the end of the episode.

My guess is either episodes were produced in disorder, or it was an error of the writers again.

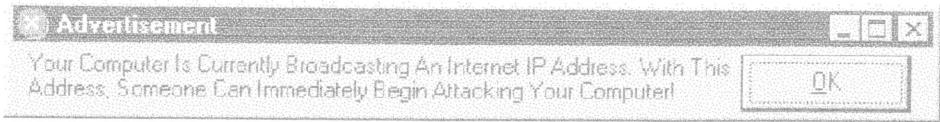
WhaT'S your take on this, Gherda dear???

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Gerdha
it's a plot hole, but...
Sat May 17 04:05:30 2003
80.116.19.34

According to The Roman Album, the only cases of inverted production order are eps 15-16 (= 16-15) and 19-20 (=20-19).

I noticed the plot hole too, but probably Mitsuru Mashima and Shozo Uheara wrote the scripts of their episodes at the same time without coordinating about when and how Koji would have get the big news. Grendizer had not a long preparation (less than 3 months between Uchu-Enban Daisenso release and the start of the airing), it's very likely that different developing teams worked quickly in parallel, so some plot holes are perfectly understandable.

But anyway it was Mashima to do the mistake: Uheara is responsible also for ep23, so he was the one who took care of the turning point in the story (Venusia knowing Actarus' secret identity) and clearly knew how to develop that arc. Mashima started to work on Grendizer on ep22, and ep25 was only his second episode.

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Suzi
in fact
Sat May 17 10:15:46 2003
210.8.232.5

I am glad you noticed it too, Bernard,
In fact, watching ep25 in arabic, and japanese (unlike the french where the name Actarus was given to identify Daisuke both on Earth and Fleed) Hikaru introduced herself to Naida as a friend of Duke Fleed in front of Koji and he showed no expressions of surprise.
Then in the hangar of Grendizer when Koji attempted to ride it and Hikaru said to him that only Daisuke could ride Grendizer Koji still did not express any sign of surprise, which would indicate that he already knew before the arrival of Naida that Hikaru knew Daisuke's true identity.
Seeing all that, watching ep 27 with that surprise expression on Koji made me really wonder.....????
But thanks Gerdha for confirming my suspicions(a plot hole indeed).

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- [Again...MM \(miniMM that is\)](#) — Bernard Cunningham, Sun May 18 00:58

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Bernard Cunningham

Again... MM (mini MM that is)

Sun May 18 00:58:57 2003

24.226.240.216

I didn't even recall that part on the Grendizer launch ramp... Again, Alcor deosn't even flinch.

Indeed, it is a humongous hole in the plot-(o)zone...

In French too, Hikaru prentsents herself as "a friend of Daisuke"...

Note: In French, all the terrans refers to "Actarus"(a sign of familiarity perhaps). Even so if Actarus is indeed his real first name (from his planet, i mean)the Enemy Vegans never refer to him as Actarus, always Prince d'Euphor (for they do not know his real first name)

But in the first 23 episodes, sometimes, they call him "Actarus" more by mistakes of scripters than anything else. In episode 24, Sogradyh says: "So, Actarus is really Duke Fleed. I'll kill you!!!" That quote really confirmed my suspicions...

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Gerdha
Grendizer construction
Sun May 18 04:49:19 2003
80.116.19.62

Well, it's not how I take it. Grendizer was built by Fleedians for sure, it's stated not only in italian ep2 but also in japanese books about Grendizer and the original manga written by Nagai. Japanese books even tell that Fleedians owned Grendizer from years at the moment of the attack of Vega. What can be disputed for me is only the role of Vegans in its construction (a joint venture? no role at all?). Personally I think they did not have any role at all, Nagai's manga does not talk about Vega involvement and I have not seen this reference in other books (but I have not had the opportunity to analyse them deeply up to now so I cannot exclude it completely). As a matter of fact, if you think about it, the whole background story of the anime is more and more logical if Grendizer was constructed and owned by Fleedians only and Vega's goal in both the arranged engagement and the attack was to get possession of that incredible weapon. It explains a lot of things, including why Vega destroyed completely Fleed instead to simply conquer it and was not able to reply its technology at any stage.

So I don't find any substantial contradiction between ep25 and ep2. Ep25 only gives some more details about what it's generically stated in ep2 by Procton (italian version). Furthermore, if you read between the lines, Actarus explains also in ep25 at the hangar why Vega did not kill him in Fleed but simply took him prisoner (the glass jail designed in ep2). If he was the only one who could drive Grendizer, to kill him would have been not useful for Vega; the king probably thought to condition his brain (like Naida or Morusu) in order to use Grendizer as a weapon to conquer the universe.

The mistake of Mashima about Alcor knowing about Venusia being aware of Actarus' real identity is a "venial sin" due very likely to a lack of coordination with Uheara. The deep meaning of ep25 is what counts for me, the fact that Alcor knew or not about Venusia's knowledge has no importance at all to me. Actually, that scene is very strange anyway: it's the only time in the whole anime where Alcor expresses a desire to drive Grendizer. It's really a mistake of Mashima, who was new to the developing team. And this seems to confirm another theory of mine about the production story of Grendizer I already expressed a long time ago: it had very different phases, because the goal of the authors changed during the time. The introduction of Mashima and Tamura as scriptwriters changed dramatically the mood of the story and they could not be hired for a casualty for sure.

Ciao to all,
Gerdha

PS: also in italian version Actarus (=Daisuke Umon) is the name of Grendizer's driver for earthlings only. They always call him Actarus everytime even during battles. Any other character (Vegans, various officials, Naida, Morusu,...) call him Goldrake (=Duke Fleed) along the whole anime. In ep25, Venusia calls him in fact Goldrake when Naida wakes up to introduce herself to her ("Don't worry, I am friend, I am friend of Goldrake"), but when he screams in the jail for the nightmare she calls him "Actarus" with tears in her eyes. With interesting consequences in the following of the episode....

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Suzi

Re: Grendizer construction

Sun May 18 11:31:57 2003

203.10.55.11

First of all Gerdha, I don't remember that glass prison in ep2 but I promise to rewatch it again tonight when I return home. Besides I was never under the impression that Duke Fleed was captured as POW at the time of the Fleedian war, and that he tried to escape their prison.

Secondly, if you deeply analyse the episodes prior to ep 25 you will notice that the Vegans had a lot to do with the construction of Grendizer.

In ep11, they knew that Grendizer uses some kind of photonic (solar)energy as fuel, that is why they planned that attack at the time of the eclipse.

The plans they used in ep 8 and 13 also indicated some insight into its construction.

In ep 15 (which was not aired in Italy), Yara under the hypnotism of Vega follows the orders of Gandal or Blaki (I can't accurately remember) and commands his soldiers to throw Duke Fleed in the melting lava. In this episode, the Vegans had captured both Grendizer and Duke Fleed, and decided to kill Duke Fleed. So if he were the only one who was able to drive Grendizer why would they want to kill him?

Same in the episode where Koji and DF were captured by Blaki who was about to kill them both on the top of the snowy mountain after he seized Grendizer. If DF were the only person who could pilot Grendizer why would the Vegans sacrifice his life?

You see it makes no sense to me then hearing that dialogue in ep25 that DF is the only one who could pilot Grendizer and that Naida should have known that before attempting to approach it. This information is a bit out of line when you gather evidence from other episodes. Therefore I believe that Mashima was really out of track of what happened in the previous episodes.

But to put my mind at rest, I formulated a theory. What I think has happened is that probably with the help of Dr Umon he introduced a code of identification in Grendizer after the series of attacks in which the Vegans seized him and Grendizer so that even if they ended up killing him they would not be able to use Grendizer. He might have trusted Naida with this secret after he met her on Earth may be when they were together by the lake side.

Lastly, Gerdha, it matters to me a lot when Koji knew that Hikaru was aware of Daisuke's real identity because it reflects how intimate he and Daisuke were and how much they confided in each other.

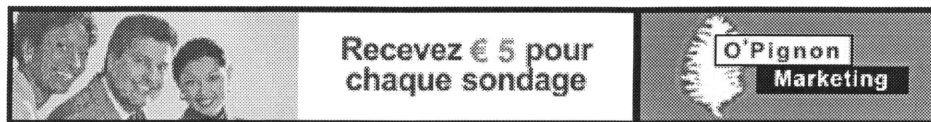
Whatever the manga and the Japanese books say, what was shown on TV was ambiguous and inconsistent, sort of some times does not make sense.

Just another quick question was Mashima responsible for ep49 or someone else?

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Gerdha

Re: Grendizer construction

Sun May 18 21:54:40 2003

57.67.17.3

Sorry for being very quick – I must use lunch time otherwise I would not have time available up to tomorrow.

The glass prison in ep2 is shown very briefly (less than one second) during Umon's speech to Koji in ep2 about DF's story. DF is wearing a yellow suit, the glass prison is behind him in Grendizer's hangar and you can notice it's broken so we have to assume that he was took prisoner and escaped taking Grendizer. I would not worry about the change of dress, I can agree the invasion of Fleed lasted some days so the fact his suit is different from other recalls does not bother me.

About the fact that Vegans knew SOMETHING about Grendizer's functionalities could mean that they participated to its construction (joint venture) or even ordered it to Fleedians (so its requirements came from Vegans so that's why they knew some details) but Fleed refused to release it to Vegans in the end. But Vegans could have known something about it even without having participated to its construction in any way. For sure Fleed and Vega had relationships, Grendizer was not a secret, the fact that it worked at solar energy or whatever other (see previous discussions in this forum on the topic) is the type of technical detail which can be known easily if you have scientific exchanges or even diplomatic relationships (sorry for introduce here my working skills, but you can trust me on this). For sure Vega was never able to REPRODUCE it (leave alone the mess of ep58 please) which have no sense if they would have participated to its construction. And the story of the arranged wedding and the attack to Fleed would have had even less sense if Vega was able to build another Grendizer. If Vega knew its construction plans and needed Fleedian technology or resources only for building it, to destroy the planet would have been another senseless choice. For me, Vega destroyed Fleed because he wanted to be sure that no other Grendizer could ever be made. And did not kill Duke Fleed but only took him as a prisoner to use him to drive the robot. The fact that DF was the only one since the beginning of the story allowed to drive Grendizer explains also why King Vega wanted him to marry Rubina, and why the fact that his daughter unexpectedly fell in love for him was such an issue and forced Vega to change the original plan.

Why Procton would have needed to insert a specific code to allow Daisuke only to drive it if it did not existed before? I don't find any reason in it. At contrary, it would have been a stupid choice: if Daisuke would have died or was sick, Umon would have introduced with his own hands something which could have resulted in the robot unavailability – not a wise decision for sure. And on the other side, if ep25 is wrong and it was really Procton who introduced the coding, why he never took it away then? It's clear that the identification code existed for real, as nobody never suggests at any stage of the story the hypothesis of a possible different driver, even after the arrival of Maria. When Actarus is sick, the robot cannot be used, fullstop. If Umon was the responsible of the introduction of the identification code, he would have logically removed it after ep30. But as this did not happen, and clearly nobody could drive Grendizer instead of Duke Fleed, is clear that the identification code existed and was introduced by Fleedians. So both ep2 and ep25 are coherent. Naida knew about the code identification because DF shared with her the news on Fleed; it was not a secret as Vegans knew them, otherwise they would have killed him during the attack instead taking him simply as a prisoner.

But Duke Fleed alive would have been useful only before he escaped with Grendizer from Fleed. After that moment, he would have been more dangerous alive, so that's why during the anime in lot of eps Vegans try to kill him (even if in a couple of occasion they try to convince him to surrender). Due to the identification code, once he was dead Grendizer would have been useless. To took him as a prisoner once again would have been a high risk – he could have escape again. After all the cerebral condition could be removed or expire, so given the situation to kill him was an obvious and logical choice for Vegans.

About the relationship between Koji and Daisuke, I understand what you mean. I personally think that

Actarus did not feel he could confide totally in Alcor for a long part of the story, and only after ep36 he overcomes his doubts. Clearly Daisuke confided more on Hikaru than Koji... (you know I need a day of 48 to finish my Matrioska n°3 SSMM, right ^_^)

Finally, if you want to check other Mashima's episodes, please see the pdf table on Nagaifans site. It's there to allow every Grendizer fan to have fun with production notes analysis ^_^
<http://www.nagaifans.it/Goldrake/Episodi/Episodi.htm>

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Suzi

OK! but...

Mon May 19 00:17:13 2003

210.8.232.2

OK Gerdha,

as I promised, I rewatched ep 2 and that glass prison you referred to I always perceived it as a glass lift not a prison. First it is too small to be a prison and the Vegans are definitely not stupid to put a dangerous person like Daisuke in a glass prison. Gee they would be the dumbest creatures in the universe, if they did that.

What I always understood by that scene is that DF used this lift to reach the hangar of Grendizer and as soon as he arrived he smashed the glass doors attacking the Vegan soldiers before they shot him.

I am not convinced by the theory of Umon introducing the code either but I am trying to find an explanation to fit the episodes together. For sure if the Vegans knew that DF was the only one who could pilot Grendizer, why would they want to kill him as in episode 15 and 20 and render Grendizer unuseable by them? What is the point of killing the only person who can make that robot functional? It certainly doesn't make sense.

Besides in ep 15, did you see how close the Vegan soldiers were to Grendizer, yet no Space thunder beam fired automatically at them as what happened with Koji in ep 25?

I agree with you that exchange of information between countries regards weaponry is possible especially in an alliance, but still knowing the weak points of Grendizer is not something to be shared with a prospective enemy. What I mean, the Vegan Official known by the name Zegra in ep 35 knew for sure that there were deadly seconds between the transfer of DF seat from the saucer cabinet to the robot cabinet and he used this in his attack and he almost succeeded in destroying Grendizer!

What I am trying to say is that this ep25 is full of plot holes and does seem to be out of track with the previous and the following ones.

The biggest plot hole in this ep25 is even more frustrating than the above (excluding the medical crap in the episode of course- which made half my life that I spent in the medical career go down the drain in minutes). Daisuke and Naida remember their childhood in Fleed. They talk about Naida's brother and no mention of Maria, LOL!

Who was the director of the show? Even if there were any doubts about the introduction of Maria, this ep absolutely confirms that she was a last minute insert.

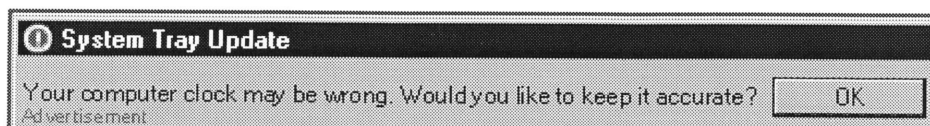
You know, I wonder if ep25 was a last minute insert too!

Bernard, won't you join the discussion? What do you think? Was it you or Stephane Dumas who also suggested an identification code introduced by Umon for Grendizer?

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Gerdha

Re: OK! but...

Mon May 19 02:34:36 2003

57.67.17.3

Blessed coffee breaks, LOL! Sorry for the cut&paste, it's easier for the answer.

"I rewatched ep 2 and that glass prison you referred to I always perceived it as a glass lift not a prison" It can be disputed. I mean, if a glass thing is not good as a prison, I would suppose it would be dangerous even as a lift or anything else. I would not use a glass lift even for money, I can tell you, LOL!!!

"why would they want to kill him as in episode 15 and 20 and render Grendizer unuseable by them?" Because AFTER the conquest of Flead from a strategic point of view it was better to kill DF even with the consequence of rendering Grendizer useless instead of having him alive. It's a logical reasoning. Having DF alive was the worst thing, because also he was becoming a symbol of resistance against Vega. In ep72 in fact it's said that Rubi population started the revolution because they got to know DF was alive and was fighting against Vega. There is nothing worse for a dictatorship than the demonstration of a possible active resistance.

"I agree with you that exchange of information between countries regards weaponry is possible especially in an alliance, but still knowing the weak points of Grendizer is not something to be shared with a prospective enemy"

We don't know how long lasted the engagement with Rubina. If the King of Flead was favourable to the wedding (like Zuril said) it's very possible that deep scientific information was exchanged between the parties. I don't see any plot hole in this, really. And I find logical that Fleadians introduced a usage limit for the robot, allowing only their Prince to drive it. It's a normal safety protection for dangerous product (sorry, I cannot help a reference to my field ^_^). Sorry for being very technical, but knowing a product architecture does not mean to be able to manufacture it. It's a complete different problem. Trust me on this. ^_^

"What I am trying to say is that this ep25 is full of plot holes and does seem to be out of track with the previous and the following ones."

At contrary, I believe that - apart for the mistake about Alcor - ep25 is one of the best scripts of the whole anime, and is a real turnment point for it, even from a production perspective. It's full of insights about the background story, and ep72 is its natural following.

"Daisuke and Naida remember their childhood in Flead. They talk about Naida's brother and no mention of Maria, LOL!"

Please read my past MM about Maria introduction (or ask Stephane about it, he loves the topic LOL!!!) to have a possible explanation about this.

"Who was the director of the show?"

Again, my table at Nagaifans site shows the list of directors for each episode. Lots of directors have been involved in the production of the anime, while instead the team of scriptwriters was more or less stable.

"You know, I wonder if ep25 was a last minute insert too"

I don't think so. I think that ep25 was instead prepared for a specific purpose. Hiring Mashima was not a casualty for me. But I could be wrong. Actually I have to verify a propedeutic information before answering surely to this question, and I am seeking for a specific info I miss on the matter from some weeks. As soon as I find it, I will post here for sure.

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Agnès

alternatively ...

Mon May 19 09:28:50 2003

80.90.43.48

[and yes, I am still alive, but too busy - forgive the understatement - to be very active on this forum].

... alternatively, Actarus could also "disenable" the device when it is in his interest. Indeed, the episodes where the Vegans get their hands on Grendizer, are also episodes where Actarus gives himself up to save - guess who? - Alcor of course. In that sense, it was part of his plan to allow them to approach Grendizer in those instances, though perhaps not to pilot it. Indeed, in the episode in which Actarus and Alcor are to be crucified (the one where Hydargos attempts to decrease the distance between the earth and the moon), nobody flies Grendizer, but they are planning to tow it off with big metal chains (or is my memory playing tricks on me).

This is going to sound rather crazy, but I was always under the impression that there was a special connection between Grendizer and Actarus, that somehow the robot was linked to his psyche (telepathically - I know, there is no palpable evidence, more of a gap, or "something missing") and that it knew what he wanted it to do (have you ever wondered about how he controls it and makes it perform these wonderful movements with very very basic commands?). As I said, it was only an impression, but perhaps it was created by this gap between the robot's capacities and abilities and the apparent simplicity of its commands (not only the vocal ones, but the "technical design" - sorry not my field). Actarus also talks to Grendizer sometimes, in a way that suggests more than a robot.

[By the way, the Vegans too seem to have developed a very personal hatred against it (usually one doesn't develop hatred or feelings for machines), and their primary aim seems to be to "destroy" Grendizer, even though some episodes suggest that they would also like to capture it.]

This theory might allow us to overcome some of the difficulties you were discussing, might it not? Sorry if I can't be more thorough, but work is waiting ... maybe some other time.

B. wrote: "P.S. It may have been really cool to watch Koji try his luck with the Grendizer, don't you think???"

I can help with that if you want ... :-)

ps: re TTOTC - I should be less busy in a couple of weeks time (hopefully). Of course I have not forgotten about the Prosecutors questions, but to do them justice, I need a little more time. Humblest apologies ...

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 - [more reflections](#) — Gerdha, Mon May 19 09:52
 - [I beg to differ ^~](#) — Bernie, Mon May 19 10:13
 - [engineering details ^ ^](#) — Gerdha, Mon May 19 10:55
 - [Don't get me wrong, Gherda](#) — Bernie Baby, Mon May 19 11:29
 - [fleedian binary code \(LOL!\)](#) — Gerdha, Mon May 19 17:50



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Bernie Baby

Don't get me wrong, Gherda

Mon May 19 11:29:42 2003

24.226.240.216

In my last post, i meant to say that the Grendizer's A.I. might have designed the fail-safe, after analyzing communications between the Research Center's main computer, and Grendizer's driver i.e. Duke Fleed.

The fact that Fleedians have devised the fail-safe makes sense, but why wasn't it ACTIVE??? It could be because Procyon mentionned it might be a good thing for Grendizer to have one, and Duke Fleed mentionning "Oh, Grendizer's got that, i just never turned it on". I get this image in my head of Duke pointing his car-keychain towards Grendizer, and Grendizer goes "beep-beep". lol

Indeed, solely from the point of view of episode 15, it could be a plot hole...

My, aren't we having fun today, huh???

Regards, Bernie

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Suzi

ok it is a discussion

Mon May 19 23:44:59 2003

210.8.232.3

Ok Gerdha it is a discussion ^_^,

- sorry I was in a rush this morning and that irritating pager never stopped ringing so I probably did not choose the right word.

"wanted purposely to introduce to justify the fact that, from ep30 on, nobody could drive Grendizer when Actarus was sick for the poisoning injury."

Gerdha, I think all the fans took it foregranted that DF was the only one who could drive Grendizer, injury or no injury. We all know that his injury was introduced to create more suspense and drama. Besides the first hint about Daisuke right arm injury was in ep 11 (and you can review previous posts between Stephane Dumas, Bernard and myself about that). So certainly the injury was forcasted much earlier than ep 15. Therefore saying they used the ID code to confirm that no one else could drive Grendizer despite his injury seems a bit distant.

"They chose to introduce the topic in ep25 instead of another episode because it was the best way to link the ID code to Flead and justify the fact that neither Umon nor Daisuke could switch it off."

Why? How were the Vegans going to remove it if they captured Grendizer and killed DF? My limited information in this field tells me that any code can be changed if you have the skill to do so. Besides DF knew the inside machinery of Grendizer very well. You can see that in ep13when he went inside Grendizer machinery to fix his arm.

In ep 37, he introduced a special radar channel to detect the vegans even if the main radar in the Istitute was stuffed. He helped Umon device the photonic telescope he used in ep38 to see the photons in the sky. DF apparently had very good insight and experience with computing and engineering so why can't he change the code if need be?

Maybe he is the one who introduced the code after seizing Grendizer from the Vegans to prevent them from using it if they killed him later.

After a lot of thinking I formed a theory that could simply explain this ID code business. This is what I think, DF himself introduced this code after stealing Grendizer from the Vegans, not the Fleadian scientists (who planned or built it). Flashbacks in ep 2 and the dialogue with Naida in ep 25 indicate that he fought the Vegans with it in several battles before coming to Earth.

He probably did not reactivate the code except after ep 24 when he realised how cleverly the Vegans (in the person of Whiter/Sogradi) could infiltrate the Science Institute and easily find Grendizer. I personally think that he told Umon and Hikaru and maybe Koji too about this ID code business, but Koji being impulsive and stubborn might have forgotten or underestimated this fact in the anger and the panic of the situation and decided to drive it himself not believing Daisuke (as usual).

DF must have certainly told Naida this fact sometime in ep25, probably while showing her around the Institute, otherwise how would she easily find the Grendizer's hangar unless she knew where it was beforehand, and waited exactly for the time of the security check to enter it.

That is the explanation that I am finally satisfied with and sort of makes sense to me (at least).

What do you think Gerdha, Bernard, Agnes and everyone who listened to this discussion?

PS. I still think that it was a glass lift in ep2 not a glass prison, after all no dialogue in any version indicated that DF was taken POW by the Vegans during the war on Flead.

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Agnès

a soapbubble solution with echoes of TTOTC - AAAH!

Tue May 20 00:35:56 2003

193.168.1.253

Thanks Suzi, for being glad that I am still alive :-)))

Your comment is interesting, I think, and I will respond to it quickly, though be no means exhaustively. I apologise in advance for any incoherences, but as it answers some of Gerdha's questions, I think that she will probably appreciate "logical holes" in my argument!!! If you want, you can read some of this as an indirect contribution to TTOTC. :-))

I think that the technical plot error you recognise can be connected, in my interpretation (special connection between Actarus/Daisuke and Grendizer), with the evolution of DF throughout the narrative (part of which was expressed in my argument about epic heros in reply to Gerdha's AoP) and to the overall preoccupation of the anime with suicide. Suicide is one of the most recurrent leitmotifs in Grendizer, and it is approached in many different ways (cf. discussion of this topic earlier on this forum).

My reply to Gerdha's AoP involved the idea that Actarus' evolution as an epic hero - read "as a person" as we are out of court :-)) - was intricately and directly linked to his recovery of his will to live. This is important, I think. From a character with latent suicidal tendencies, Actarus evolves into a much stronger type of character who becomes focused on surviving in order to save the planet that has saved him. In this context, one can read the "awakening" of his wound as the element marking the moment he becomes strong enough to survive psychologically, though not physically. (--> TTOTC)

I will try to explain what I mean. Throughout the series, survival is an issue with him. At the beginning, he gives the impression of not caring very much either way, and he would be ready to die to save Minao's planet from destruction, even if he knows that her planet would in all likelihood not be saved and Earth would remain helpless. In a sense, this is paradoxical - one of the ambiguous elements in his character we have talked about so often on this forum. In some strange way, then, he seems, at this stage, to welcome death - and though he would not kill himself, he does not seem to mind too much if somebody else does. In the first third of the anime, his "recklessness" regarding his own life is a recurring pattern: he nearly dies to save a young horse (trying to get penicilin despite very adverse weather conditions and an interfering Hydargos/Blacki :-)), and he does not hesitate to put his own life on the line to save Alcor (the crucifixion episode mentioned above). Even Alcor seems to think that this is quite unreasonable, but Actarus/Daisuke asks him to trust him. Indeed, in this situation, he will do everything he can to survive, since his main goal would be to save Alcor.

In the case of Minao he seems strangely passive. He doesn't argue with her, doesn't tell her that his death would not save her planet and that she is being used and abused by Vega and his generals. This is something he would be quite aware of, since he knows his enemy. In the end, he does none of this but leaves the choice to her.

This is problematic, I think, but perhaps on the surface only: Minao is on the verge of losing everything he has already lost and it is in his power to allow her to avoid that loss and the terrible mixture of pain and guilt that has entered his own life.

In this situation, Actarus/Daisuke does not think with his head alone. He thinks with all his being, past and present, and the future that lies ahead seems both unrelenting and too hard to bear. This is significant too, in my opinion, as it can also help to understand the apparent paradox you point out in my interpretation of engineering problems in Grendizer in relation to ep.15. In this episode, Actarus/Daisuke is presented with a very similar psychological situation. Eudyx/Yara (?) too is about to lose everything, his mother especially, and he applies to Actarus/Daisuke's compassion. For the second time, Actarus is now facing somebody who is about to go through what he has already gone through. (Hercule Poirot would approve of this, by the way, Gerdha, as the two situations are "psychologically" akin :-))) And yet again, Actarus is ready to

sacrifice his life "recklessly" for the sake of an honourable adversary who is, in his perception, "just like him". Ironically, Eudyx has no power to save his mother, as she is already dead, which in a tragic way echoes Actarus' own predicament and confrontation with his own guilt: in a way, his planet was "already destroyed" the moment Vega decided that this would be the case, though neither Actarus nor Eudyx are aware of this fact until it is far too late.

In my interpretation of the timeline in Grendizer and especially in Actarus/Daisuke's personal recovery and evolution, the deciding element in his (ongoing) psychological recovery (I wouldn't want to suggest that it was completed "completely") is a double realisation: the realisation that he could not be guilty of or responsible for the destruction of his planet and the genocide of his people, because it was never in his power to protect them, just as he cannot "protect" Venusia/Hikaru. Gerdha countered that his wound in fact symbolises his unresolved guilt complex (something like that, sorry Gerdha, I don't have the time to go and check), but in my opinion it is possible to "read" the wound differently.

Physically, Actarus/Daisuke is still vulnerable, as the wound suggests and increasingly emphasises, but psychologically, he has recovered his will to survive. Indeed, the realisation that he may die sooner than nature originally planned is heightened by the escalating conflict and the psychological tension resulting of it. He can no longer be reckless with his life, as too much depends on it, on him, and this is what the wound brings home to him and symbolises in his life.

Later narratives focusing on suicide scenarios seem to confirm this idea. I am thinking of two particular instances here, where Actarus is again forced into a situation where he has to confront aspects of his own fate in a confrontation with another person. One of them is the episode with the commando of young Vegan boys. Again, he surrenders, but not completely, and his attitude in this particular situation is very different: he seems more "in charge", more the rational person involved in a conflict he has not chosen to be a part of, and he argues with them. There is no sense of recklessness here: Actarus/Daisuke fights and argues for his life, while trying to save the boys and Earth at the same time. In mood and tone, this episode is very different from the earlier ones involving similar themes. The boys too, have already lost their friends, but believe that they are saving Earth (nice little inversion here).

The second episode I would like to mention in this connection is the one involving Horos/Zuril and his son. Both these characters are in danger of losing everything that matters to them (each other), and Actarus implores Horos' son to let go and stay alive for his father's sake, but again, though he doesn't want to kill him, he is no longer ready to give up his own life to prevent the separation between father and son (I'll admit that they are his enemies, but usually, this does not matter that much to him, and he is still able to see them as "people" or persons).

To get back to your original comment, Suzi, and to connect it to this whole argument, my reading of Grendizer's strange inactivity in ep.15 would imply that Grendizer, when in the presence of its master, only reacts if this master wants it to. In my opinion, Actarus/Daisuke is still in his "I don't care about my own life" phase at this stage, and his encounter with Eudyx has reawakened his old demons, thus in a sense canceling his active will to survive. When Alcor appears, Actarus/Daisuke reacts, to "save Alcor" yet again (this is becoming a reflex, by now) and also because, though he might not actively wish to survive, he does not actively wish to die either. (This is a very significant aspect of his character, in my opinion. It is also responsible for much of its ambiguity).

This might explain why Grendizer does not intervene "by itself" in this particular situation. I am quite sure (though I have not seen this episode for a while) that none of the Vegans actually manage to enter it or that they even try to. They have just captured it. So if part of Actarus/Daisuke's plan was to allow others to capture Grendizer in order to "save" Eudyx's mother, and save him from undergoing the same fate and experience he has, then he would have to allow Vegans to approach Grendizer (though not to enter it, necessarily). He may also be able to prevent Grendizer from attacking telepathically, but he may not be able to activate it completely without physical interference. This I really don't know.

The link, as I perceived it (again this is very personal and I have no evidence, really, but the existence of a gap in the coherence of the anime), would be more of a psychological link (unconscious, rather than conscious), which would explain why Grendizer allows itself to be made captive because it is the wish of its master on the one hand, but doesn't act "by itself" to save its master, because this particular wish does not exist at this particular moment. Actarus, at this particular moment, does not especially wish to live, and though he appears rational, he is quite resigned to his fate. This is not always the case - indeed, in most battles DF actively tries to survive, but in this particular situation, a situation where he encounters somebody who is in many ways an other, earlier version of himself, his whole being concentrates on this "other self". One could say perhaps that he concentrates or transfers his wish to survive, his active wish to survive onto that other person, this "other self" that may have a slight chance to avoid the fate his own present self has gone through.

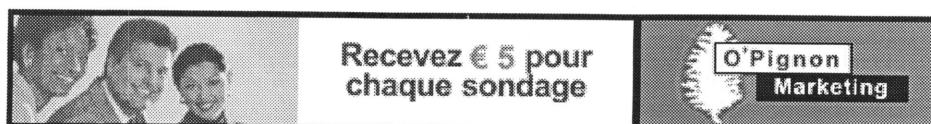
This is then transferred to Grendizer ... who in accordance with its master's state of mind, does not (re)act.

[pause]

I am aware that this is a strange mixture of reply/soap bubble and TTOTC argumentation, and I hope that the court and the readers will forgive me. Please don't send for the psychiatrists immediately. I am quite sane, I assure you. And to prove it, I'll stop my coffee break *RIGHT NOW* and go back to work, which in a way will be easier to face, now, after this bout of temporary insanity!

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Agnès

erratum: read before "soapbubble"

Tue May 20 02:42:24 2003

193.168.1.253

I have not seen this ep.15 for quite a while, and I realise that I may have used a shortcut between Eudyx's forced threat to destroy earth with his earthquake devise and his attempt to save his mother. Indeed, I do not remember quite how much he tells Actarus/Daisuke, but it is quite safe to assume that Actarus realises that Eudyx is being blackmailed into fighting him. Just to make sure the argument below makes sense ...

ciao, ciao,

Agnes.

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Gerdha

ID codes, soap bubbles, TTOTC, and maybe more...

Tue May 20 21:59:36 2003

80.116.18.101

I have decided to start a new thread as the original one is dangerously approaching to the end of the page... and I am willing instead to continue this amazing (crazy ^_^) discussion.

I was waiting for you Agnes, something told me I would have seen someday other soap bubbles polluting here. ;-) After all your last bubbles were about ep72 and the lake scene so many months ago... and just as you are going to give justice to my AoPs, I will try (hopelessly maybe) to render justice to your original post too soon I hope. But I am digressing now... sorry...

Guess what, Agnes, I agree nearly totally with you. Curiously, I never had a problem thinking to the psychic connection between Grendizer and Duke Fleed since I watched it first. Actually, it was the first thing that came to my mind at the hangar scene in 1978: I thought that Grendizer reacted to Naida to defend itself and in a way his master too from an enemy (Aphelie WAS an enemy in that moment). I interpreted at that time Actarus' words as if only him was able to transmit to Grendizer the information about who was a "friend" or not, so that's why he was the only one who could drive it and it was needed his presence close to the robot to avoid its reaction. I was less than 12 years old and this is what I thought. I did not know anything about software, and so on, and honestly I tend to think that my innocent heart was right then. Exactly as with ep72: it was my unconscious part that felt the deja-vu sensation and that there should have been another explanation to the end of the ep then; rediscovering that feeling was what lead me to understanding ep72 after 25 years.

You see Agnes, I was personally playing here with theories just as you like these days. You should be happy for this ;-) I agree with you about ep15: when I said in another post yesterday that Tara was not the usual enemy I had in mind exactly what you explained. Grendizer did not reacted because Actarus did not want it. After all the Vegans did not do anything special with it. And they never even try in the whole anime. For example in ep20 Hydargos captures Actarus but he does not try to drive away Grendizer, I think because he knew he could have not do. The few times Vegans capture the robot are forced to try to take it away with chains or similar. That's also why a second driver is never trained and even Maria is never considered as a possibility. This explains also the troubled relationship DF has towards the robot, especially at the beginning of the anime.

The special connection between DF and Grendizer is subtle described in the anime as more than mechanical. Yes, we are never told explicetely about a psychic connection, but this a way of storytelling (letting the viewer understand happenings by tricks) that is Grendizer's typical. I have already told many times why I think so, and I won't repeat it here.

Why I did not talk about my beliefs about the psychic connection before? Well, I tried to find another rational explanation. And lots of them can exist, I could agree with Suzi, with Bernie, and even with myself (LOL). A world of serious and realistic theories, but actually I must admit they don't "fit" in my soul completely. I thank you Agnes for having let resurface my very first impression. My childhood heart is now beating again and feels at "home". As crazy as it might be, I feel the right answer is the psychic connection between the robot and Duke Fleed. Naida should have known about Grendizer ability to react against an enemy since they lived in Fleed, because the robot was built by Fleedians as a defence weapon to be driven by their prince only (it is a bit epic, right? ;-))

I have been always surprised by Maria's special mind power. So the princess had them, together with some other women in Fleed. Can we believe that Duke Fleed did not own any special power? Well, from a "literature" ;-)) storytelling perspective it cannot be at all. One of the questions which bothered me at Phenicia's arrival was: why underlining her special mind powers only at ep50? The story of ep50 is centred around them (another plot trick, we are lead to think at surface that the episode's aim is to talk about the tentative to kill Alcor). I could not find an answer and thought to a plot hole due to the strange story of

Maria's addition to the anime. But when a couple of weeks ago I discovered that Tatsuo Tamura is the scriptwriter of both ep49 and ep50 I thought I could be wrong. Tamura is one of the best scriptwriters for the anime, and was hired together with Mashima to enhance the "adult" turnment of the story. So why he wrote such a simple ep like ep50 too, adding that particular about Maria which is posed there and is not later reprised anymore? Thanks to you, Agnes, this morning I have closed the circle.

Duke Flead's psychic connection with Grendizer IS Duke Flead's special power. A very special power. A power who only him owns in the whole universe. Maria was not the only one fleedian having special reading mind abilities, his brother had instead an unique ability. An incredible responsibility, a special mission in life, a goal (to save his planet) he could not be maybe psychologically ready to undertake when he was the Prince of Flead. Suzi wonders why Daisuke and Naida talk about their happy teenage life in Flead instead of their love in the living room. Well, I think it's because THAT was the Prince of Flead. A young rich beautiful charmed prince, in love for a distant relative and with – likely – not a high awareness of his real responsibilities. That's why maybe his father thought that Vega's proposal to engage Rubina with Duke Flead was acceptable: his son was not ready to accept his mission, and to save Flead there was no another way that an alliance with Vega though the marriage. On the other side, Vega wanted to be sure Grendizer would have never been used against him, and linking his only possible driver to his realm was a perfect solution. But something went wrong, and Vega decided to attack Flead. Duke Flead was late to take Grendizer (he was with Morusu away from the capital, left his own spacer to his friend to let him escape so probably he took a while to come back to the city) and the destruction of the planet was not remediable when finally he succeeded to take possession of the robot. We know the rest of the story, and also my opinion about the essence of Daisuke Umon's personality from my AoPs posts. I am really happy that the Defence Attorney agrees about his latent suicidal tendencies, it's an extremely important particular and the prove that Grendizer IS a creature of Go Nagai. It perfectly matches with his approach to stories. Some particulars of Duke Flead's personality are already included in Uchu-Enban Daisenso, but Grendizer develops the story deeper and deeper. That's why I get angry when I read the usual statement that Ufo Robot Grendizer is the "third chapter of Mazinger saga". Please someone tell me what this story has to do with Mazinger (and one day I will post my opinion about Mr. Koji Kabuto in Grendizer too....).

About what you, Agnes, wrote in your latest soap bubble post, I would like to clarify a little misunderstanding. I never said that Actarus' attitude towards life and his struggling with his sense of guiltiness had no evolution in the anime. I did not explained deeply that part maybe, I was focusing in demonstrating the existence of the sense of guiltiness itself and I did not wrote about its story, so to speak. Summarising, I believe that Naida's suicide is what took him away from his own desire to kill himself, but overcoming a high sense of guiltiness is not a simple process. It has ups and downs, stops and restarts, tears and laughs, and is anyway long. The poisoning injury had a deep symbolic meaning for Actarus, so that's why he is never shown as angry towards destiny for the perspective to die for an injury taken in Flead. But I wrote in my original SSMM about ep72 (and also in AoP if I recall correctly) that Actarus decided to spend his last days to help his friends to survive, to fight against Vega. I never said the poisoning injury had a resignation effect to his soul, but that he took it with resignation. It's different. Of course he fights for his own life, and helps Procton to develop a tool to lower the pain. Daisuke's wonderful japanese speech to the moon in ep71 is a perfect example of what we BOTH think, Agnes. And when in my Addendum to AoP I said that in ep71 life gives a new opportunity to Daisuke Umon while ep72 gives it to Duke Flead I meant exactly what I literally wrote. Daisuke Umon and Duke Flead: Grendizer is after all the story of the struggle between the two "faces" of the personal story of a unique character.

What we don't see as the same way, Agnes, is the topic of Hikaru's protection and if Actarus overcome totally his sense of guiltiness before ep72 or not. The key to TTOTC is there. I am here waiting to see your nice soap bubbles polluting again in this forum destroying my AoP conclusions, dear Defence Attorney ;-)

but I won't resign without fighting, mind you. I have still Matrioska n°3 analysis to share with this forum...

^_^

Gerdha

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Suzi

Re: ID codes, soap bubbles, TTOTC, and maybe more...

Tue May 20 23:08:39 2003

210.8.232.5

I too have always thought that there was a psychic connection between DF and Grendizer, and I never doubted the fact that DF had special mind powers, almost stronger than his sister's.

I always believe that every human has his/her own mind powers with variable extent. In other words we all have a sixth sense that sort of guides and directs us. The difference only lies in how much we are aware of it and how do we make use of it.

We have all experienced deja-vu phenomonems, had dreams about future events and they happened, some people are gifted with scientifically unexplainable powers of healing, extraordinary will and ability to defeat advanced deadly disease with and without medications. And when you come to analyse it by logic, there is no explanation. Afterall, all the scientific knowledge that we have nowadays about the functions and the capabilities of the human brain is only a drop from a big ocean.

I loved Grendizer more than any other children's show because it is a clever, intelligent story which somehow does not underestimate children's intelligence (except in a few occassions).

I thought too of this mind-link that you and Agnes talked about, and believe it or not I also thought of it as an explanation of the ID code in ep25. But my brain is programmed to look for logical answers before accepting a fact as scientifically unexplainable and labelling it as "psychic". In my work field if someone presented with behavioural or thought disturbance, I have to do a long list of tests and examinations to exclude an organic treatable cause (by medications or surgery) before I could safely say that it is psychiatric or mental in nature and refer the patient to a psychiatrist to treat him/her.

That doesn't mean that there is a distinct line between the two, the brain controls all the body yet it is also affected by whatever the body is subjected to. It is a complex relationship, hard to explain and everyday new dicoveries are added.

So forgive me if my approach to the ID code was so much based on logic and facts, in a way ruining the nostalgia of the "psychic powers" and "mind link". But unlike many of my colleagues I am quite accommodating to such theories, so whatever any one says is welcome. It doesn't have to be right or wrong, what matters is wether it is "acceptable" as a good explanation to an event or not. And of course this depends on the person judging the idea, his mentality, beliefs, education, cultural background and experience, and whether he/she finds it "logical" for him/her.

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