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Suzi

the diagnosis

Thu May 22 23:32:29 2003

129.94.6.30

OK, I have a bit of time now (I just hope it will be enough to explain in simple terms). I am not a professional psychiatrist (God forbid, I don't want to ever be one) but I have a good insight into it, so you can consider my diagnosis about 80% accurate.

What I think that Daisuke had in ep 25 is major depression with catatonic features. (I can imagine you all now with widened eyebrows, scratching your heads and maybe grimacing and saying oh now that silly woman is talking in jargon) but rest assured my friends explanation is on its way. Whereas you all understand what depression means, catatonia is bit too uncommon.

What does catatonia mean? Well in simple terms it simply describes a state of mind shutdown from external perception while the person is apparently still alert (awake) but sort of unresponsive to external stimuli e.g pain.

Does that make sense?

In other words, the person is awake "conscious" but not responsive. It is a rare type of psychosis but is associated with high suicidal tendency.

Its clinical prestatations include:

- 1- stupor- lack of response to external stimuli e.g. speech or pain.
- 2- catalepsy- muscular rigidity, so that the limbs remain in whatever position they are placed.
- 3- extreme negativism- resistance to movement or instructions
- 4-excessive motor activity with no purpose
- 5-mutism- being unable or unwilling to speak
- 6- inappropriate postures or grimacing
- 7- echolalia- parrot like reptition of a word or a phrase just spoken by another person
- 8-echopraxia- repititive imitation of movement of another person.

Analysing ep25, Daisuke had several of the above features.

He had STUPOR (feature #1...not responding to Koji's talking to him or even to his slaps, and that is also stated in Hikaru's speech), CATALEPSY (feature #2..his body remained in the half twisted posture while Koji was yelling and slapping him without any attempt from his belf to correct this awkward position and when Koji threw him towards the bed he adopted that situation without an attempt to change it), EXTREME NEGATIVISM (feature #3..he was not following instructions), MUTISM (feature# 5...not speaking but only screaming) and ECHOLALIA (feature#7..repeating the phrase "traitor, I am a traitor" that was said to him by Naida.

He also had other psychotic features such as hallucinations (images of Grendizer, Naida with her dead brother, screaming women and frightened children).

The complications that can result from this condition (catatonia)are:

- 1- self-inflivted injury
- 2- malnutrition
- 3- exhaustion
- 4- very high temperatures.

Of course in such condition you need to restore the affected person to his own self as soon as possible so it is legitimate in some cases to use electro-convulsive therapy (electric shock to the brain) to achieve that as in Daisuke case.

(I have seen a few people in this state of catatonia coming into hospital with suicidal attempts, and it is sad beyond description)

I am sure you found the above very hard to take in so imagine how you are going to explain that to children (I mean us watching Grendizer as children).

In the arabic dialogue, Hikaru used more terms to describe his condition to Naida, but the terms she used would give me (being a doctor) the wrong impression of his condition but they were excellent in approximating to a child's mind the definition of "stupor".

She said to Naida "he is in a coma-like condition, unconscious, detached from the external world and then went on as in the italian and the french versions to talk about the treatment by the electric shock.

For me as a doctor of course when I heard the words "coma" and "unconscious" the immediate picture which would come to my mind was one similar to that of Hikaru in ep26 and 27 before the transfusion.

Initially, I thought that the use of the term "unconscious" was inappropriately used, but as I rewatched it again recently, I remembered that I saw this ep for the first time at the age of 29, whereas it was meant to be seen by children. So the description of the condition had to be simplified in order for the children to picture it in their minds.

The difference between coma and stupor is that the person who is comatosed is unconscious (i.e. in a sleep like condition) whereas that who is stupose is awake. They are both non responsive, in the comatosed it is because the brain cells are affected by an organic "physical" illness, whereas in the stuporose it is because of disturbance in the condition of the mind as a result of the imbalance of chemicals in the brain (this imbalance is also responsible for the depressive illness of the person).

I hope I have not used much jargon. I tried to simplify as much as I can (but to tell you the truth, I find psychiatry terminology jargon myself and I just call it "word salad" most of the time).

Hope it wasn't too technical and has somewhat satisfied your interest Gerdha.

If you found too technical, let me know and I'll try again.

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- [Re: the diagnosis](#) — Gerdha, Fri May 23 00:38



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Agnès

SUZI: Response to your considerations on ep. 25 (MM)

Fri May 23 06:03:19 2003

80.90.43.42

Dear Suzi,

First of all I would like to thank you for that medical explanation – it does sound most convincing. I have watched the French version of the episode, and I think that maybe there are a few things I can contribute from this side.

This is going to be rather long, as I have included both French original dialogues and their English translations. I hope you and Gerdha will enjoy this, as I hope that it will confirm the theory you emitted on Daisuke's condition. I have also tried to contribute to some of the other threads in your ongoing discussions. This is what you can expect from the following posts:

1. Procyon/Umon – the multi-talented scientist.
 - a. I am a brain-surgeon, I am!
 - b. Who needs a brain surgeon anyway?
2. Actarus/Daisuke's medical condition
 - a. A sinister role for Hikaru?
 - b. Facing facts
 - c. It is a Japanese anime, after all!

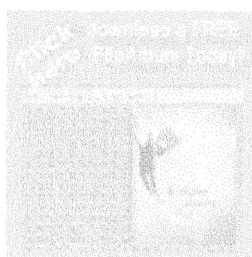
Here we go ...

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- [I am a brain-surgeon, I am!](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:04
 - [Who needs a brain-surgeon anyway?](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:07
 - [A sinister role for Hikaru?](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:08
 - [Facing facts](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:10
 - [there's a bit missing in the translation ...](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 09:13
 - [It's a Japanese anime, after all!](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:12



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Agnès

I am a brain-surgeon, I am!

Fri May 23 06:04:36 2003

80.90.43.42

1. Procyon/Umon – the multi-talented scientist.

a. I am a brain-surgeon, I am!

Here, for once, the French dialogue seems more "logical": it does not suggest that Umon did the surgery himself. This is what happens in French:

Alcor watches the (scanner?)-screen that looks suspiciously like the radar screen in the headquarters of the centre and detects a metal object in Naida's head, of which he immediately informs Professor Umon.

FD (French dialogue):

Alcor: 'Oh – Professeur! Il y a un objet en métal dans la tête d'Aphélie !'

Professor (frowning – his most popular facial expression, I should say) : 'C'est un implant. Si nous parvenons à lui extraire, elle redeviendra ce qu'elle était. Il faut tenter l'opération.'

ET (English Translation, not 'Extraterrestrial', though that would be appropriate too)

Koji: 'Oh – Professor! There is a metal object in Naïda's head!'

Professor: 'It's an implant. If we manage to extract it, she will become what she used to be. The operation must be attempted.'

COMMENT: the use of the passive voice is relevant here, as it does not involve a subject, i.e. Umon does not say 'I have to attempt the operation'.

The scene switches and you see the research center from the outside. This too is important, because you cannot see the characters involved.

FD

Unidentified voice: 'DOCTEUR, je suis très inquiet pour Actarus.'

Vénusia : 'Il est en plein délire.'

ET

Unidentified voice : 'DOCTOR, I am very worried about Daisuke.'

Hikaru: 'He is completely delirious.' (i.e. literally, 'he is in the middle of delirium')

The relevant element here is that the unidentified voice, who sounds a bit like one of Umon's assistants, addresses someone as 'doctor'. In the French version, Procyon is NEVER addressed as doctor. This does then seem to suggest that Umon enlisted the help of a specialist to perform this particular surgery.

Of course, there are no details about how they got there, whether they were flown in for the occasion etc. However, one might suggest a solution here: Umon's center is a research center, and though the narrative focuses on him, it is possible to imagine that there is indeed a team of scientists working there (other than the four assistants we are better acquainted with). Indeed, it is hard to imagine a research centre with only one specialist of one kind, as research CENTRES usually function as teams. Of course, this particular centre is concerned with the exploration of space, but Umon must have engineers working on the spazers and all his other inventions, like the ill-fated satellite in the episode where they go to the conference in Switzerland.

Similarly, one might object to the presence of doctors in such a centre. What would their use be? Well, I imagine that first of all, the centre employs quite a number of people. Furthermore, it seems quite isolated, and as accidents may happen, it might seem reasonable to employ a doctor to care for the employees. (They also seem to live there, so there must be

caterers, etc.). Doctors also appear in the narrative, to help reduce Actarus' pain for instance, or to deal with Hikaru's injuries. (The two doctors in ep. 26 and 27 may be a result of carelessness, but the centre may also have a team of doctors ... who knows?).

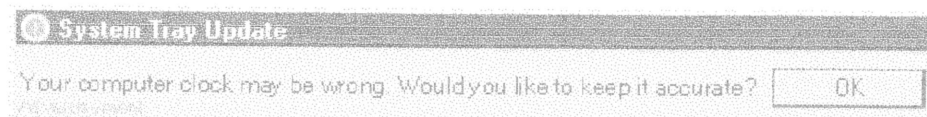
Anyway, the point is that the French version seems to suggest that a doctor rather than Umon cared for Naïda, which is possible, after all, as we are not shown the actual operation. Whether this particular doctor was a brain surgery specialist or not, is another question, and yet here again, I happened upon another suggestion.

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 - [Facing facts](#) — Agnès, Fri May 23 06:10
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Agnès
Who needs a brain-surgeon anyway?
 Fri May 23 06:07:27 2003
 80.90.43.42

b. Who needs a brain surgeon anyway?

This is not a serious suggestion, just "food for thought" because it had me wondering, and I would appreciate your professional opinion! I am quite aware of the difference between brain-surgery and drilling holes into people's skulls. :-)

I was reading the latest edition of the TLS (Times Literary Supplement – a critical review of academic books published in many fields, including among others psychology, history and even medicine, as was the case in this copy) and I happened upon an article on 'trepanation' (= 'the opening of holes in the skull' – I learned a new word! ;-)). It was reviewing a series of articles edited by Robert Arnott, Stanley Finger, and C.U.M. Smith called 'Trepanation: History, Discovery, Theory'. The article opens with a gruesome account of a lobotomy performed on a conscious patient (under local anesthetic) in the 1940s and then goes on to discuss the practice of 'trepanation' in history. This is what they say: 'As it turns out, our culture's flirtation with the practice of trepanning – opening up holes in the skull – has an extraordinary number of historical and even prehistorical events.' They go on to argue that 'the first unambiguous example was an Inca skull obtained in Peru by an American diplomat, Ephraim Squier, in 1865, and exhibited in New York and in Paris. The skull [...] is notable for a sizeable piece, oblong in shape, of missing bone. That the bone fragment was deliberately cut out is made evident by the incised lines that extend beyond the corners of the opening. That the operation was conducted on a living patient, who survived the surgery by at least some weeks, is suggested [...] by evidence of bone regrowth around its margins.' Apparently, this find encouraged scientists to look for evidence of trepanation in Europe, and many cases were 'found' all over Europe; some of these have been dated as far back as the stone ages. [TLS, No. 5224, May 16th 2003, page 4].

This may be familiar to you, but it was completely new to me, as well as absolutely not my field, which is why I would have liked to hear your opinion – if you have time. If you are interested, by the way, I send you a copy of the article.

To get back to Grendizer and Professor Umon's multiple talents, one could argue, from this, that if our ancestors in the stone age were 'able' to perform these kinds of things (I wouldn't use the word operation here, as there were probably other types of reasons for digging holes into people's heads, like 'purification from demons', for instance, as the article suggests), then an adventurous scientist like Umon or one of his doctors, might have a slight chance at success.

Of course, I am not seriously suggesting this, Suzi, it just struck me, reading that article, and I would indeed appreciate your opinion.

I would just like to add that the TLS is a serious publication. The person reviewing the book is the aptly named Andrew Scull, who is co-author of 'Undertaker of the Mind: John Monro and mad-doctoring in eighteenth-century England' (2001) and 'Customers and Patrons of the Mad-Trade: The Management of Lunacy in Eighteenth Century London' (2002), which suggests that he is a historian specialising in medical history and madness. Anyway, I thought it was worth thinking about, and I'll reiterate that I would really like to know what you think about this (not only in connection to Grendizer).

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Agnès

there's a bit missing in the translation ...

Fri May 23 09:13:26 2003

212.24.201.225

... it must have got lost when I was copy/pasting. The translation should read:

Hikaru: 'He is continuously delirious. He no longer shows any interest (absolutely no interest) in what is happening around him and he does not answer any of our questions.'

Naida looks downcast.

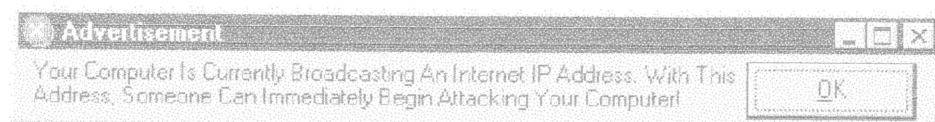
Hikaru:
'The only way to get him out of his prostration is to make him undergo an ultra-shock.'

Sorry about that, since it was the bit you really wanted!

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Agnès
A sinister role for Hikaru?
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 80.90.43.42

2. Actarus/Daisuke's medical condition

You will also note that the above dialogue refers to Actarus' state as 'delirious', which is a medical term, I believe ... ;-)

a. A sinister role for Hikaru?

The scene following Venusia's off-screen statement has Aphélie wake up. She breathes, seems to surface from unconsciousness and exclaims: 'Actarus, où est Actarus?'

DF

Alcor: 'Il est en traitement pour les blessures que vous lui avez faites.'

Aphélie: 'Comment, les blessures que je lui ai faites ? Je ne l'ai pas frappé ?'

Vénusia: 'Vous ne vous souvenez pas de ce que vous avez fait cette nuit ?'

Aphélie: 'Non, par pitié, dites le moi !'

Vénusia: 'Vous l'avez frappé, vous l'avez accusé d'avoir tué votre frère et vous avez tenté de détruire Goldorak.'

Aphélie: 'Non ! Pourquoi ai-je fait ça ?'

Procyon: 'Vous n'êtes pas responsable. Vous étiez téléguidée. Ils vous avaient implanté un céphalo-conditionneur. Et ne vous en faites pas, Actarus va bien. Il n'a pas été très sérieusement blessé. Ça ira.' (battement de tambour)

ET

Koji: 'He is undergoing medical treatment for the injuries you caused (him).'

Naida: 'What do you mean, the injuries I caused (him)? I didn't hit him, did I?'

Hikaru: 'You hit him, you accused him of killing your brother and you tried to destroy Grendizer.'

Naida: 'No! Why did I do that?'

Umon: 'You are not responsible. You were controlled remotely. They had implanted a brain conditioner into your head. And don't worry. Actarus is doing well. He was not very seriously injured. It will be ok.'

This speech is followed by Umon frowning and a very ominous drum roll. [The next scene is the one where Hikaru and Naida are facing Daisuke's cell.]

The reason I chose to include this particular scene is that it emphasises a particular aspect of the conflict between Daisuke and Naida: the combination of physical and psychological violence. Both Koji and Hikaru focus on the physical violence, Daisuke's injuries and Naida's physical violence towards him (beating), both of which Naida repeats in the form of disbelieving questions. Hikaru also emphasises the psychological (her brother's murderer) and strategic (destruction of Grendizer) aspects of Naida's actions, thus really rather ruthlessly presenting her with her own 'guilt'. Naida has just regained consciousness after her operation, and I am not sure that this is really what she needs to hear.

Umon, the scientist, defuses the situation by taking the blame away from her, but his worried expression and the drum roll at the end of the scene belie his soothing words and teach us to expect that Daisuke is not at all well. What this version does quite well, though, is to deflect the attention from the physical injuries, which as you pointed out, Suzi, are yet again strangely absent, towards the psychological injuries and implications of Naida's actions.

I have always been extremely bothered by this scene, because I think that Hikaru plays a rather sinister role here. She is accusing, blaming Naida, even more than Koji, and this very soon after Naida had undergone some serious brain surgery that allowed her to be 'herself' again. I wonder, and here I apply to you, Suzi, whether this was a very wise thing to do in medical terms. The reason it bothers me is that Hikaru thus seems 'implicated' in Naida's suicide and the love triangle (or square, if one includes Rubina) seems yet more complicated, and what is more, darker.

However, I will not enter this argument here, as my aim was to share my impressions on Actarus' medical condition from the point of view of the French version.

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[Agnès](#)

Facing facts

Fri May 23 06:10:48 2003

80.90.43.42

b. Facing facts

FD

Vénusia : 'Il délire sans arrêt. Il ne s'intéresse absolument plus à ce qui se passe autour de lui et il ne répond à aucune de nos questions.'

Aphélie looks downcast

Vénusia : 'Le seul moyen de le tirer de sa prostration, c'est de lui faire subir un ultra-choc.'

ET

Hikaru: 'He is continuously delirious. The only way to get him out of his prostration is to make him undergo an ultra-shock.' [whatever that means].

I guess that this is the bit of dialogue that you were interested in Suzi. As you see, the French do not use the word 'coma' but 'prostration'. I am not aware of what this entails exactly in medical terms, but I am quite sure that the French word implies absence of reaction but not unconsciousness. In this way, perhaps, the French version, is for once, more consistent with your medical interpretation. ;-)

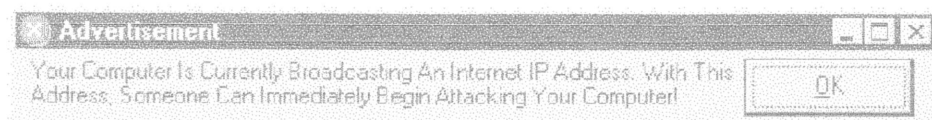
I would like to add one more, specifically Japanese element to these considerations, as you will discover in my next point.

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Agnès
It's a Japanese anime, after all!
 Fri May 23 06:12:35 2003
 80.90.43.42

c. It is a Japanese anime, after all!

The French magazine **Animeland** has recently embarked on a very interesting series of articles defining the graphical codes of manga style anime and books. These codes are used to different extents by different authors, but there is a certain consensus about their general meaning. I think it is also possible to use these graphical codes to help us determine the exact nature of Daisuke's condition.

If we go back to the actual conflict between Daisuke and Naida we can notice two types of graphical codes. When Naida accuses Daisuke of being the traitor who killed her brother, his face and his whole body seem to "freeze". Daisuke seems suspended in time. His eyes are wide open and focused on Naida in disbelief. With each blow she delivers, his gaze changes, as what she says and the violence (physical and psychological) of what she says hits home. First of all, the iris disappears, leaving the pupil of the eye empty. Then the pupil disappears also, leaving the eye empty and Daisuke breaks down physically. In graphical manga code, this is referred to as 'empty eye' and signals that one way or another, the character is no longer him or herself. In other words, the character is either driven by an extreme feeling (like extreme hatred or anger) or they have given up their control over their spirit. (*Animeland* Vol. 91, page 68) *Animeland* further describe the phenomenon as follows:

'Cela correspond à deux types de scènes : celles où un personnage agit sous le coup d'une impulsion irrésistible, notamment la colère brutale, et ne contrôle donc plus tout à fait ses actes, ainsi que celles où le personnage est dominé par une force magique, une puissance hypnotique, une drogue ou une régression psychologique passagère.'

Translation : 'This corresponds to two types of scenes : those where a character acts under an irresistible impulse, like brutal anger, and no longer completely controls his actions, and those scenes where a character is overcome by a magic force, a hypnotizing power, a drug or an intermittent psychological regression.'

Animeland further argue that this code is usually used in extreme situations, mostly in conflicts and links the condition suggested by the 'empty eye code' to a state of suspension in time and space in which consciousness is not associated to the character's action. This is what they say:

'Cette utilisation de l'œil vide nous fait accéder à la représentation d'une action atemporelle, où la représentation est de type instantanée, et dans laquelle la conscience des personnages n'est pas convoquée. C'est pour cette raison que dans ces cas-là, le personnage à l'œil vide ne dit rien et ne se voit pas accorder de bulle pour parler.'

Translation: 'This use of the empty eye allows us to access the representation of an atemporal action, where the representation is instantaneous, and where the consciousness of a character is not called upon. This is the reason why in those cases, the empty-eyed character says nothing and is not given a speech bubble to talk.'

In the case of Daisuke's medical condition, this code is interesting, because it suggests that the major trigger for his 'catatonic' state (is that something one could say?) is the psychological shock: the 'empty eyes' and associated 'suspension in time' precede his physical breakdown. It also suggests that some of the symptoms associated with the condition you described in your great analysis, Suzi, are at least in part linked to a recognized convention or code in Japanese mangas and animes.

Indeed both Daisuke and Naida seem lose control over their consciousness in this scene, as Naida, too, screams and goes empty-eyed, though in her case this looks more like demonic (one of Go Nagai's favourites) or hypnotic possession (which is the case here, in a way, as she has been conditioned). This particular element is relevant in one of the other thread of discussion related to episode 25, i.e. the thread concerning the veracity of Naida's claim that every monster is inhabited with the brain of a Fleedian citizen. Though I do not want to enter this discussion now, I do think that the empty eye code can be interesting here, as it should allow us to pinpoint the moment Naida loses control completely. Incidentally, this also corresponds to the moment in which she stops speaking and starts screaming. What we need to decide then, is whether this moment only marks her 'brutal, uncontrollable fury', and whether she was in control of what she was saying before. In my own opinion, she wasn't, as she had been conditioned, and the moment she turns into a demon, is the moment her anger is artificially activated to allow her to finish Duke Fleed off.

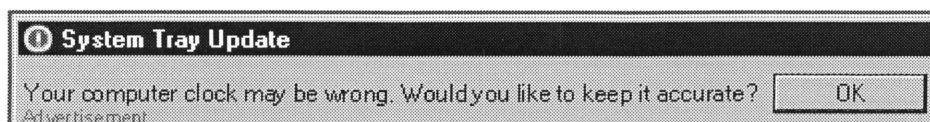
Well, this is an MM if there ever was one, but then your thread was interesting, Suzi. I do think that your 'diagnosis' is the best possible explanation to Daisuke's condition in this episode, and I think that it is exciting to find that there are 'medical elements' embedded in the graphical conventions of Japanese anime and mangas. I would like to ask your opinion on one more question though:

What triggers 'catatonic depression'? Is it a slow ongoing process that culminates in this condition? Can it be triggered by a severe physical or psychological shock, or a combination thereof? Are any of the considerations I contributed here actually plausible from your professional point of view.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I hope that you are not completely bored. Maybe we will end up in group therapy together, you, Gerdha and me (and Jerome, of course, and everybody else who was kind enough to read through all of this! Where is Jerome, by the way?)

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Suzi

My considerations on ep25, complete (MM)

Sun May 25 21:53:50 2003

210.8.232.3

Agnes, Gerdha and everyone who is interested.....

Sorry for the delay in replying to your interesting posts Agnes but I was a bit busy.

Let me start by telling you that even the French dialogue is inaccurate in describing Daisuke's illness, and I will explain.

I thought that if I were to explain why I am bothered by the absence of a significant head injury for Daisuke, I might as well take on the task of proving that Naida was lying to DF about her brother's and other Fleedian brains being inserted in Vegan monsters (after all they all do with the brain!).

I thought that the best approach to explain myself is to give you some brief information about the brain, its function and anatomy before presenting my discussion. Believe me writing this information was somewhat challenging for me, because if we were sitting face to face I could use pencils and papers to draw diagrams that will simplify the following a lot, but because this is not the case then I had to depend on my linguistic skills alone to simplify complex stuff. I hope you will understand and enjoy this mini lesson in human biology. I will also include in my posts Agnes an answer to your question about catatonia and depression.

P.S. If you are not interested in knowing the above then you can skip part A, but if you find the discussion that follows ambiguous, don't blame me, just go back and read part A. If you then don't understand part A, then shoot me (but I prefer that you ask for clarification if you have problems).

This will comprise the following sections:

A- Introduction.

B- The discussion

C- The proof

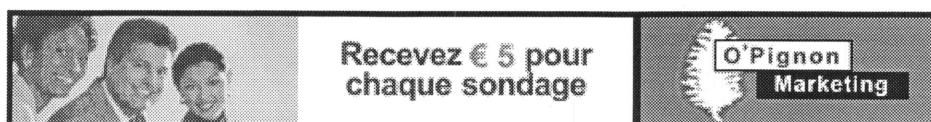
D- conclusion

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 - [part three: the proof](#) — Suzi, Sun May 25 22:08
 - [part four: conclusion](#) — Suzi, Sun May 25 22:13



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Suzi

part one: introduction

Sun May 25 22:00:04 2003

210.8.232.5

A- INTRODUCTION :

The brain is the most delicate organ (structure) in the body. The slightest insult may cause its permanent damage or even death. I have always been intrigued by its powers, the way it functions and controls every single other organ in the body, the worlds of imagination it takes you to. I have always wondered how a small electrical impulse from a specialized brain cell can make my leg move or my finger type. Of course for many it is the muscles that does this action, and that is true but without the "command" from the brain, no way you can move anything. Its cells are specialized in performing different tasks. Some are responsible for motor function, others for perception and interpretation of the body's different sensation, some shape your personality and your chemistry towards the other sex, others control sleep and dream, others thinking, memory and language. Some of its are clustered forming centres that control functions that you don't remember to do such as breathing, beating of heart, digesting your food. In other words it is like a big highly specialized computer centre connected to a big network of other smaller receptor devices that carry out its orders and brings back feedback. Such an important organ therefore should ultimately be protected. God fashioned the best protection, the skull. It is the only organ that is completely surrounded by bone, whereas the heart and the lungs are protected by the ribcage that has spaces between the ribs and sort of forms a weak point in the shield structure making the heart and the lungs somewhat vulnerable when compared to the encasement of the brain.

Despite all this protection it's the most vulnerable organ in the body to insults e.g. lack of oxygen and glucose, trauma, toxins from liver failure and kidney failure, extra pressure by fluid or blood leaking from vessels that supply it with essential nutrients, especially that there is not much space between it and the surrounding bone to allow for extra room to accommodate any more stuff. .

So what is the brain made of? Most of is fat.

How does it carry its work? Without going into much medical details brain cells carry an electrical charge which when a certain threshold is reached a small electric current shoots through the cell stimulating the release of some chemicals from its end. The chemical traverses a small space called synapse to reach the next cell and so on until it the code is reached to its desired destination to carry out the action ordered. The target organ or cell carries receptors that combine the released chemical, in a way similar to "decoding" and the required function is therefore achieved. So basically it is a very complex structure with so many specialized areas that control all the body functions, personality and emotions through a complex network of nerves, chemicals (known as neurotransmitters) and hormones.

A small summary of brain anatomy:

The brain is shaped like half a walnut, with right and left hemispheres that are connected to each other by a structure called Corpus Callosum. One of the hemispheres is dominant, i.e. it has the centre of speech and language (known as Broca's area), for right handed people and most left handed people, it is the left hemisphere that is dominant, however for the rest of left handed population it is the right hemisphere that is dominant.

The whole brain is surrounded by tough membranes for further protection, called the meninges. The meninges separate the brain from the skull bone and some blood vessels traverse this space supplying oxygen and nutrients to the brain. (I am not going to talk about the blood supply of the brain because it is very complex but it is satisfactory to know that there are some inside and outside the brain). The meninges are comprised of (from the skull inwards towards the brain) dura mater, arachnoid space and finally pia mater.

So as you can see that trying to access the brain to operate on it is pretty difficult (especially that you have to avoid injuring major blood vessels in the procedure). However one can do that by two methods depending on the area of the brain that is desired, either through the nose or by drilling a hole (s) in the skull and manipulating the meninges to reach the desired area of the brain. In the world of medicine drilling holes in the skull is known as Burr Holes (we don't normally use the word trepanation, probably because the name Burr is shorter and more memorable, I am not sure whether Burr was the name of the person who invented the device they use to perform the drilling or whether it was called after the sound of the drilling).

Access through the nose is only limited to the front parts of the brain that are towards the face or to the pituitary gland which is found at the base of the brain behind the upper part of the nose between the eyes. For all other areas Burr holes through the skull is the procedure used to access the areas of brain pathology e.g. bleeding, tumours, etc.

Trauma to the skull if strong enough can adversely affect the brain mainly through intra cranial bleeding (i.e. bleeding inside the skull) and compression of the brain.

Types of intracranial haemorrhage:

- 1- Intracerebral and cerebellar haemorrhage (bleeding within the brain itself)
- 2- Subarachnoid haemorrhage (bleeding in the space between the meninges and the brain).
- 3- Subdural and extradural haemorrhage and haematoma (bleeding between the skull bone and the meninges above or below the dura mater)

Types 1 and 2 are not caused by trauma unless the victim is involved in severe motor vehicle accident that completely smashed the skull (therefore every vessel is more or less severely damaged, so is the brain).

They mostly occur as a result of more natural reasons such as rupture of an abnormally dilated artery (aneurysm), tumour, severely high blood pressure leading to stroke, etc

Type 3 is the one that I want to talk about because it is caused by trauma to the skull.

a- Subdural haematoma (SDH):

This describes accumulation of blood in the subdural space (i.e. below dura mater, the first layer of the meninges) following rupture of a vein. It is almost always due to head injury which might be minor. The interval between the injury and the symptoms may be days, weeks or months.

Chronic and unsuspected SDH is common in the elderly and in alcohol abusers (who while drunk might hit their heads against a number of objects and sustain the injury).

Symptoms are indolent and may fluctuate starting with headache, drowsiness and confusion. Focal deficits such as unilateral paralysis or sensory loss may develop as well as epilepsy. If severe, stupor and coma may occur.

b- Extradural haemorrhage: (bleeding between the skull and the meninges above the dura mater)

This follows a linear skull vault fracture which tears a branch from a big artery that traverses this space (known as middle meningeal artery). Blood accumulates rapidly over minutes or hours in the extradural space.

The most characteristic picture of this condition is of a head injury with a brief period of unconsciousness followed by a lucid interval of recovery. The patient then develops progressive unilateral paralysis, stupor and rapid transtentorial coning (protrusion of the part of the brain that contains the breathing and conscious centres and all the nerves going to the spinal cord from the hemispheres, known as the brainstem and is located at the bottom of the brain above the spinal cord, through the meninges into the narrow hole at the base of the skull), with first an ipsilateral (same side as the bleed) dilated pupil followed by bilateral fixed dilated pupils, tetraplegia (total body paralysis) and death.

Management of the above (a or b) is a prompt CT scan or MRI of the head.

Extradural bleeding requires urgent neurosurgery, if performed early the outlook is excellent (i.e. Burr hole the skull at the site of the bleed, and gentle suction or drainage of the blood then tying the bleeding vessel). Subdural bleeding tends to stop spontaneously and therefore conservative management is allowed with serial imaging and close observations.

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Suzi

part two:discussion

Sun May 25 22:05:29 2003

210.8.232.5

B- THE DISCUSSION:

After reading the above, what kind of injury do you think that Daisuke sustained as a result of the beating, put in mind what that book said about his pupil size changes? (it is even more puzzling now, isn't it?)

OK, I will tell you what I think.

Daisuke received the first blow without anything significant except that he appeared dazed, if fact he appeared stuporose even before the first blow (sort of reactionless, more or less catatonic), some more blows followed and I saw blood splashing on the screen then he fell unconscious. My interpretation is that he had a scalp laceration, a skull fracture and extradural haemorrhage based on the mechanism of injury and the loss of consciousness that followed. Do I think that the head injury was responsible for his catatonia? The answer is no, he appeared catatonic even before the beating. In other words psychological trauma preceded physical injury. Did the injury worsen the psychosis? May be. Head injuries sometimes bring out the latent psychosis of a predisposed individual. But he was already catatonic before the injury so what could be worse?

To check my interpretation even more I showed the scene to my husband, who is a surgeon by the way and trauma is something that he deals with on a regular basis, and he confirmed my suspicion that Daisuke must have sustained an extradural haemorrhage as demonstrated by his loss of consciousness. Then I showed him the following scene of Daisuke in the cell and made him listen to Hikaru's dialogue to ask him if his behaviour (the stupor status mainly, especially that he was not paralysed) could be explained by such an injury on the head and he said not in this presentation. Daisuke appeared more psychotic than someone who is in a stupor state as a result of a head injury. And I won't tell you his comment when he saw him locked up in a cell rather than in a hospital bed following such a significant injury, leave alone when I told him they gave him ECT (electro convulsive therapy) and never showed us how the head injury was treated.

So in ep 25, we see treatment of severe depression, we learn about some kind of neurosurgical procedure done for Naida and none for Daisuke?!!!!

What about the head injury which is more life threatening than his psychosis?????

Even if we argued that he had sustained SDH which is milder and more or less has a better outcome and not as life threatening as extradural haemorrhage, the loss of consciousness and the mechanism of injury are not in its favour. Even if we assume that it was SDH only and therefore he became stuporose from the injury rather than the psychosis, then the treatment is definitely not an electric shock.

In other words this whole injury scene does not make sense when combined with the rest of the story.

Like what you said Agnes, Koji and Hikaru stressed on his physical injuries. When I saw that beating scene and heard their conversation with Naida I expected Daisuke to be gravely ill, more or less in a hospital bed with at least bandages around his head like Naida following a crucial surgical procedure. But to see him screaming and hallucinating in a cell was well beyond my imagination. Something that made me scream the all famous Australian expression of total disbelief: Far out!

As for your question of whether it was appropriate for Hikaru to tell Naida about her crime soon after her recovery; that depends on how it was said. In the Arabic version Hikaru's tone was not of blame or accusation but of compassion and sadness. But it was Koji who was a bit harsh. But I agree that in general telling a patient bad news soon after recovery from a serious operation is completely inappropriate (but we have accepted worse unrealistic events so why can't we overlook this one).

As for the unrecognized voice that called "doctor", in the Arabic version Agnes, Umon is always referred to as Doctor. I don't recall him ever being addressed differently, except by Hikaru sometimes addressing him as "uncle" and the dialogue that preceded the discovery of the device is as follows:

Koji: (in front of a screen): Doctor, there is a metal object in Naida's head.

Umon: what?

Koji: looks like something has been implanted in her head.

Umon (looking at the screen): umm if we remove that metal then she will be cured. Let us start the operation immediately.

Then we were shown a room with some Japanese characters (I am not still familiar with the meaning) and headlights like those used in an operating theatre. So I assumed that this room was the operating theatre. We then saw Daisuke's nightmare followed by him screaming, then we heard the following:

Unrecognised voice: Doctor, Daisuke is in a disturbed state.

Hikaru: Naida has regained her consciousness.

Then in the room we saw Naida waking up saying: Oh! Where is Duke? Where is Duke? Then she sees Hikaru and asks, Who are you?

Hikaru (who was apparently very concerned about Duke): I am Duke, no I am a friend of Duke.

Naida: Where is Duke now?

Koji (in an assertive sort of way): He is under treatment from the injury you caused him.

Naida (with a surprise): I hurt him! Did I hurt Duke?

Hikaru (astonished yet tender tone): Don't you remember what you did last night?

Naida (perplexed): Sorry..what have I done last night?

Hikaru (still with a tender tone): You have accused him of being a traitor and tried to explode Grendizer.

Naida(who looked down in shame and disbelief): Oh my God? Me?

Note that both Hikaru and Koji were looking at her with compassion and worry.

Dr Umon, then walked into the room carrying the device and said to Naida:

Don't blame yourself, someone else was controlling you through brain information (device). Rest assured.

Duke Fleed is not in a bad condition. The only thing is (and you hear some alarming tataton musical note)

.....

Then we see Hikaru and Naida in front of the cell:

Hikaru: as you can see, he is in a coma like status. He is unconscious, detached from the external world and is not responding to anything. What is worse is his lack of will to survive, (then she pauses in sadness and continues) This is dangerous, but it is the only way to save him.

Naida: ah what have I done?

Then Daisuke screams again and Hikaru cries Daisuke and turns away her face so that Naida would not see her tears, then Naida says:

You love Duke, don't you?

Hikaru: heh!

Naida: I think so. I love Duke too, probably more than you..

Then she ran away, and Hikaru was left alone and before trying to stop her she fell to the ground because of a quake.

Then we saw Naida running and saying: Sorry Duke for all what I have done. I truly loved you.

Then the scenes of Koji attempting to pilot Grendizer, then him going to get Daisuke and trying to bring him back to reality by slapping (slapping a person with a head injury and probably a bleed in the head?????)

then Dr Umon walked into the room and stopped him saying: Koji, there is no other solution. Let us give him the electric shock.

So as you see it is interesting that in the Arabic dialogue Hikaru did not explain the shock treatment but it was Dr Umon who mentioned it. Hikaru only talked about "something dangerous" but did not fully explain it as I thought earlier. Not only that but after Umon stopped Naida's aggression by the laser gun, and Koji asked whether she was dead or not. Umon said no and asked them to carry her to the medical centre. So yes Agnes, I agree that there is a part of this Institute acting like a medical centre not only from this ep but from others too. But how specialized is this medical centre? Performing neurosurgery not only requires skill but also special instruments by which one can drill the skull bone if necessary. So is Umon's Space Institute Medical Centre well equipped with such advanced tools? And who performed the surgery on Naida's head (and Daisuke too if he really had an extradural bleed)?

Besides, Agnes the use of the word "delirium" to describe Daisuke's mental state was also inappropriate. Delirium, also known as "toxic confusional state", is an acute or subacute condition in which impairment of consciousness is accompanied by abnormalities of perception and mood (basically it is like the state of mind of a very drunk person who is disoriented to time and place, confabulating and may be sexually inappropriate).

Delirium can be caused by:

- 1- Infection and sepsis
- 2- metabolic disturbances e.g. liver and kidney failure, lack of oxygen
- 3- some vitamin deficiencies e.g. vit B1 and B12 and others
- 4- endocrine disease e.g. hypoglycaemia (very low blood sugar levels)
- 5- intracranial causes e.g. trauma, tumour, abscess, epilepsy and subarachnoid haemorrhage (not the ones I discussed above).
- 6- Drug intoxication e.g. opiates (morphine and heroin and similar), anxiolytics (benzodiazepines like Valium and others), industrial poisons such as DDT
- 7- Drug and alcohol withdrawal states.
- 8- Postoperative states i.e. following recovery from general anaesthetic given for the operation.

As you can see psychological causes do not cause delirium, besides Daisuke was not portrayed as someone in a state of delirium.

As for the word "prostration", it is a general term simply meaning severe illness but nothing specific.

And that brings me to answer you question about catatonia Agnes. Catatonia is mostly a feature of severe Schizophrenia, but it can occur with other mental disorders including bipolar disease (mania-depression mood disorder) and major depression. Why does it happen? No one knows the answer yet but it indicates a severe form of disease and could be triggered by all the factors that you mentioned.

Whereas you Gerdha thought that Mashima knew what he was writing about, I would say probably but he was not as clever as you think. He might have displayed catatonic depression quite well, but allow to me to say that his insight into head injuries was really deficient and if there was no point in exploiting it further than showing us that Naida was trying actively to kill DF then why put it in this abrupt puzzling way? Mental disease and psychosis may result from head injuries but this is not the context that is shown in the episode. As I said earlier Daisuke was catatonic prior to the beating. And if mental illness will ensue as a result of a head trauma then it will not be immediate unless a major brain damage (mostly irreversible) has occurred in the brain part that is responsible for personality. In other words if the whole point of this episode is to stress on psychological rather than physical trauma why show such a brutal life threatening mode of injury and yet its treatment is never mentioned???

I personally think that this a really big plot hole.

Now to the final part of the discussion, the lie about the Fleedian brains.

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Suzi

part three: the proof

Sun May 25 22:08:33 2003

210.8.232.2

C- THE PROOF:

I said in an earlier post that Naida was lying to DF about Fleedian brains being incorporated into Vegan Monsters, and that I can prove it and this what I will do now.

The Lie:

Naida accused DF of being a traitor not only abandoning them in Planet Flead but also by destroying their last chance of survival which was given to them if they were desperate to survive. And that was done by Vega destroying their brains' own thinking power and replacing it by Vegan controlled thoughts and then their brains were implanted as a control device for each Vegan monster that was sent to Earth (far out again!) and that her brother's brain was in the 1st Vegan monster that was sent to Earth and therefore he was a traitor who killed his own people including her brother (far out X 100 this time!).

The discussion:

Who is the idiot who could believe such nonsense? Wouldn't the person be dead already if the brain was extracted from his body? That long introduction I wrote at the beginning was to show you how dependent the body was on the brain. Therefore that Fleedian person would already be dead before having his brain incorporated into a controlling device.

Besides, why bother going through a tedious procedure of extracting someone's brain (whole and intact) to use as controlling device, when the Vegan's have already mastered the making of good computer chip control devices? Which is more cost effective?

Besides the brain is a "living structure", to maintain its function it needs oxygen and nutrients, how did Vega maintain that for it in the Vegan monster?

The brain is a fatty structure that is it is quite sensitive to heat, so can someone tell me how would that "implanted" brain be protected against the excess heat it would be subjected to in battle from Grendizer weapons that generate heat such as Space Thunder, Hand beam and Hydrodoshers?

Then how did Vega extract these brains, sucked them through the Fleedian person's nose (yuh what a severely damaged brain it would be) or did he open the Fleedian skull to get them out? What is the point? What extra power or feature would a Fleedian brain add to his monsters? They all seemed pretty crap in front of Grendizer.

If Vega's aim from putting Fleedian brains was mainly to deter DF from fighting back, why didn't he give him this information earlier? Why didn't the Vegans tell him that earlier and break his moral so that they could win the war? Now I will hear someone saying maybe they didn't think about it. My answer would be that if they didn't think about earlier then most likely it is not true.

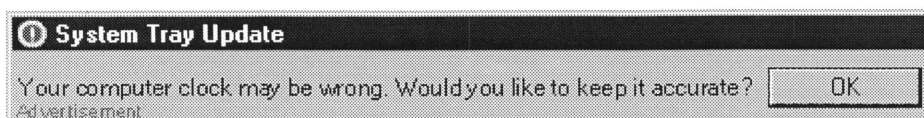
Ok you may all find my above argument not convincing, all right how about an ultimate proof from the anime itself?

Naida said that her brother's brain was in the first Vegan monster that was sent to Earth (it carried the name Jiro Jiro), wasn't this the same monster that Daisuke always recalled in his flashbacks destroying Flead? So how come Vega inserted her brother's brain in a monster that he already used before in destroying Flead? (Big lie, heh!)

Second proof, why did Naida kill herself in a suicidal mission against the Vegan monster (who according to her also carries a Fleedian brain)? Wasn't it mainly to show DF that she was lying to him and that he wasn't a traitor? Her words before her death said that she would give him the chance to destroy Vega's terrorist State and avenge Flead by her martyrdom. What does this mean, except look I will destroy this Vegan monster, it does not contain a fellow Fleedian brain so please continue fighting them to avenge us?

Final proof, apart from the French version, there was no mention whatsoever of any consecutive Vegan monster that contained a Fleedian brain after this episode right until the end.

Well, I think I had enough discussing this brain business. I hope I did not bore you though. Anyway, here is my conclusion.



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Suzi

part four: conclusion

Sun May 25 22:13:42 2003

210.8.232.5

D- THE CONCLUSION:

Like what you said Agnes, it is a Japanese anime after all, so anything is possible even if it doesn't make sense.

I just hope that I made my point clear about ep 25 and why I find it a bit too "illogocal" and "unbelievable".

Of course I have to leave all these considerations aside if I were to see it with your eyes. I hope I will be able to.

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Agnès

Thank you, Suzi for all these explanations ...

Mon May 26 03:08:38 2003

193.168.1.253

... my lay mind was able to follow your explanations quite easily (that's a tribute to you!) and to understand why to a medical doctor, the whole situation may seem utterly impossible.

Unfortunately, I do not have the time, nor the competence :-), to comment on all of this extensively, but I would like to add a couple of considerations to "close the topic" from the point of view of "humanities" and narrative techniques.

I never actually thought that Grendizer was "realistic" in its depiction of physical injuries and of death. (Yes, indeed, Suzi, why does Daisuke not wear a bandage? That even bothered my lay mind!)

Indeed, though death and suffering (physical and psychological) are an integral part of the series' narrative and thematic structure, or its message, even, the anime avoids the issue GRAPHICALLY. In other words, "death" is never depicted realistically in this anime. Some characters die in the explosion of their machine. In this case we are shown their faces screaming, just before their machine (i.e. their body, sorry) disintegrates, but this moment is suspended in time. The start of the explosion and disintegration are signalled by the light of the explosion and then the point of view shifts, and we are shown the monster exploding from the outside.

Vegan soldiers (including Zuril) are shown to "disintegrate" in a lightening-like flash. There never are any bodies. The only characters who are granted a body are characters like Alizee (not sure that she is Vegan, for this reason, in part) and Cyrus (Maria's childhood friend, who of course, comes from Flead). All the others disappear in their machines, as far as I remember, and some are strangely and unaccountably missing (Ergastul, ep. 38) or in a flash of lightening, even if they are hit by a traditional bullet (ep.25), except for ...

Rubina! To my knowledge (though you may correct me) Rubina is the only Vegan character whose body does not disappear, which is quite exceptional, really. In a sense, we/Daisuke need/needs to see her body, and to feel her "leaving this world" as you explained in a post a while ago, Suzi. However, I will keep this particular thread for TTOTC, I think (the court and prosecution will have to agree that the defence is being extremely fair here, in allowing everybody an slight inside into one of those elements that they would like to introduce in their defence of Princess Rubina!!!)

Anyway, there is a strange duality concerning death and physical suffering in Grendizer: it is always present, always implied, yet hardly ever graphically represented.

This may be one of the reasons why ep.25 is so memorable - that confrontation between Daisuke and Naida is one of the most violent, if not the most violent confrontations throughout the whole anime. It is violent physically and psychologically, and its results are violent for both characters. In many ways this scene is unique in its depiction of violence, because the characters are not protected by over-sized armour-like robots: they confront each other directly, physically, and this is significantly too. (Even in ep. 38, there is very little direct physical contact between Ergastul and Daisuke, as they fight with knives).

On the level of the narrative this violence and the cruelty that goes with it are essential: they demonstrate the power of Vega's evil empire, the ways in which war and evil pervert everything, even the kindest and most loving individuals and the purest feelings and emotions. If there is one thing that is absolutely clear after ep.25, it is that Vega's cruelty and inventiveness knows no limits.

For the scene to work it had to be violent, and violence is something that is easiest to represent in its physical form, as is the monstrosity of violence: the visual aspect of the Vegan monsters does represent their abstract monstrosity and destructive power or, in a sense, the horrible damage they can do - hence

the connection with Go Nagai's interest in anything demonic: the monsters are first mechanical and then monstrous combinations of the natural and the artificial - (i.e. King Gori, for instance).

You know, Suzi, I think that you are right when you suggest that the explanation of this strange reluctance to depict physical injuries realistically is in part due to the fact that this is a children's show. I would add, perhaps, that at a visual level, the atrocity of violence has been transposed away from its effects on the body to the monstrous aspect of the enemy (just imagine what this horrible looking enemy could DO to YOU!) To the child watching, the monsters are the most "frightening" elements in Grendizer: I remember my younger brother running to the kitchen - where my mum was - at the start of every fight. To him (he was very young at the time) the monstrosity depicted was unbearable, and it carried the message of the monstrosity of the war (and what it does to you/your body/your home) quite efficiently.

In a sense, the demonic aspect of the monsters, their difformity and the horrible appropriation of animal bodies to create killing machines, visually expresses the consequences of their actions on the human body.

This may account for Grendizer's lack of realism in its depiction of the physical harm people who "meet" these monsters are the victims of. It also suggests that though the contemporary movie industry has a tendency to be overly realistic in its description of the results of violence on the human body, this may not always be appropriate.

Indeed, cultures have developed other ways of negotiating and dealing with these ideas in a less realistic, though nevertheless powerful way. Sometimes, 'imagining the damage' can be more powerful than seeing it (you might just turn your head if it is presented graphically). In this sense, transposing the effects of the monsters to their look is quite clever, and quite efficient. In a way, it allows us to keep a certain distance (absence of confrontation with the real effects) while leaving to the imagination all the gruesome possibilities the monster's appearance allow us to conceive of. The monster, in a way, becomes a "code" of its own destructive potential and of the physical effects it may have.

This is a bit like Frankenstein's monster, whose monstrous looks signal his capacity to do monstrous damage - indeed, in the novel, he is very rarely shown "doing", but his acts of violence are retold through the double lense of his own voice (asking for understanding and chillingly abject at the same time) and Victor Frankenstein (whose "horror" at the monster, his creation and at himself, permeates the narrative at all levels).

In the case of Naida and Daisuke, the "monster" factor is taken over by Naida's "demonic transformation", which works in a similar way. (Just like Koji's destructive potential after his kidnapping by the Vegan forces were signalled by the same "yellow empty eyes" effect in an earlier episode - here again, the only way to deal with him was to counter with direct violence).

I don't know if this makes any sense to you, or to anybody else on this forum, but I think that this may be a way to account for some of the strange narrative gaps, or should we say "graphical" gaps in the narrative. I don't think that the graphical representation of the effects of violence and physical damage (coherent with medical knowledge) were ever on the agenda here. What I do think, is that the representation of psychological violence (and its effects) is rather consistent and convincing in the narrative (again, for an audience of children, of course :-)

I hope that this will allow you to reconcile some of the things we see/don't see (and which should be there) with your scientific approach.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the technique of telling of stories has an internal coherence of its own. It allows readers and audiences to understand certain ideas by using certain codes, which most people (here children) can decode and make sense of, even if these conventions seem to represent improbable or impossible occurrences to our adult and sometimes specialist eyes.

In this sense, I agree with your conclusion, Suzi, "it is a Japanese anime after all, so anything is possible, even if it doesn't make sense."

Thanks again for your explanation. You cannot imagine how exciting and valuable these are to me. It's like "a new world", or rather "a world that I do not have access to opening its doors ever so slightly ...". Thanks again.

Long live The Crazy Team!!!! (Hey, Gerdha! I've been neglecting you, but I expect you've been following this conversation anyway!!!)



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Gerdha

ep25 and narrative aspects

Mon May 26 06:22:00 2003

80.116.18.79

Ahah, did you think I would have stayed away from this thread? ^_^

Thanks Suzi for the MM about medical evidences, and of course thanks to Agnes also for her reflections. I would like to add something also from my side. Something that I could suppose will surprise the Defence Attorney ;-)

Suzi, I understand your concern about the medical strangeness in ep25. You say that Mashima underlined well the depression symptoms but not the skull damages in Daisuke, while I said he knew what he was doing. Well, let me explain better what I meant.

I think ep25 is highly symbolic. I mean, if you look at it as the usual anime episode, of course you could find little incoherencies and even plot holes. But for me ep25 has a different purpose. Of course I won't start an MM on it, at least up to the end of TTOTC if possible – eheh, I know the Court is tempting me but I MUST finish my Matrioska n°3 so I cannot embark myself in anything else for a while.

But summarising my opinion, I think the whole episode is centred around the hangar scene and the duality of feelings which both Daisuke and Naida express there. From one side, Actarus is smashed in the face by his repressed sense of guiltiness as the woman he was in love in Fleed accuses him exactly of the crime he was afraid to be guilty (=traitor); from the other side Naida is free to express her true deep hate for him. Vega has conditioned her, but she was not totally controlled (like Morusu for example), otherwise at the lake she would have killed him. So I think what she said in the hangar was lead by her true feelings, she said what she really thought about Duke Fleed's behaviour. Her unconscious part took the lead and was free to express her true hate for him. Me too believe the story of the fleedians brain was fake, but as a matter of fact she told it not under Vega's suggestion so it came from herself. Why? Because she knew Duke Fleed, she was aware of his sense of guiltiness and wanted to hurt him. And in fact she succeeded. Suzi is right to underline the scientific impossibility or useless of the usage of fleedians brains on monsters, but the fact is that Actarus believes the story and collapses in a catatonia state BEFORE she hits him (I underlined this fact in my first MM about ep72, do you remember?) instead to reply "what tale are you talking about? It's impossible!". This can mean that his depression was already on the borderline and when he heard the brains story he was not able to rationalise the information and his spirit was totally overcome by his internal ghosts. And then comes the symbolic transformation of Naida in a demon (yes, the changing of physical aspect). She really wanted to kill him, Vega's condition is only the "kick" to do what she really wanted to do.

What I want to underline is that Mashima was more interested in showing the psychological fight instead of the pure medical aspects. He could have written the script letting Naida shoot Actarus, but he instead makes her hitting him hard, giving him pain and suffer. Naida really hated Duke Fleed for abandoning herself and the fleedians on their native planet, what we see in the hangar is the visual expression of her repressed feelings. I mean, the hangar scene is the tragedy of repressed feelings from both Duke Fleed and Naida. That's why I said Mashima knew what he was doing: his goal was to tell us in a subtle way that Duke Fleed had a past, not an adamantine one, and he had a very complicated personality, more and more respect of what we could have believed up to that moment. I will never stop to underline it: Grendizer aired in 1975-77 in Japan in a typical TV scheduling for kids of 5-10 years old, labelled as the third chapter of Mazinger. Scriptwriters had to use all possible tricks to tell a different story, and ep25 is a great example of this narrative technique.

About the medical aspects of brain damages, I thank you Suzi for the explanations, they are very clearly written and I understood. Actually a medical place was for sure in Procton's Research Centre but nowhere is said that Umon himself performed the surgery on Naida. And as a matter of fact there is no timetable reference about how long it took. Personally, I think that the scenes of Naida awakening and Actarus' depression nightmares are located after a while respect of the hangar's, maybe some days later. In fact, Daisuke had to be recovered from the hangar, cured, then he awakened and started the "nightmare" phase, so Umon tried probably to calm him then decided to lock him in order to verify a possible cure. Meanwhile, a surgery was undertaken on Naida, and probably she remained unconscious for a while and then awakened when Actarus was already locked. Some time should have passed by for sure from the hangar scene. Venusia's speech seems to confirm this: she talks about Actarus' conditions in a way as she had the opportunity to observe him for a while. Otherwise, she could not be able to say "he has lost any willing to live".

I leave my considerations about Naida's suicide to Matrioska n° 3 instead, because I have a slight different interpretation of her death. I can subscribe that she would like to demonstrate the story of the fleedian brains was fake, but it's a secondary factor to me. The main reason why she kills herself is different in my opinion.

Gerdha

who is waiting to read next TTOTC step from the Defence, and is working hard to find a little free space in her agenda to dedicate to Matrioska n°3

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Suzi

Few remarks....

Mon May 26 22:32:56 2003

210.8.232.2

Ah! I cannot resist this, even though I am terribly busy.

Gerdha,

Your view of Naida is interesting but I don't agree to it. Naida truly loved DF, and true love can never change to hatred. When a woman loves a man, her expectations from him are as big as her love. If her man is not up to her expectations, then if her love was true, it will never change to hatred. She may feel bitterness but never hatred.

Naida was conditioned by Vega to believe that DF was a traitor (remember the scenes of her dream being tortured by Vega). Besides Vega has always deceived people so it is quite logical that he made her think that her brother's brain was in one of his monsters that DF destroyed so that she could hate him for killing her brother and sort of ignite some revenge feelings to justify her violence towards DF. Remember that she herself was hypnotised and unable to question the idea with logic.

Because her love was so true, she could not kill him at the lake after their kissing. She was puzzled between her love to him and that to her brother. If you remember the episode about Haishi's fiancée and how love managed to conquer Vega's hypnotism, you can understand the lake scene better.

I believe that true love is sacrifice and Naida sacrificed her life in repentance for destroying the man she truly loved and to help him realise the deceptive lies she told him under the control of Vega, so that he could regain his confidence and continue the fight against the Vegans and avenge Flead.

As for the time frame between the hangar scene and the waking of Naida after the operation, it is deduced from Hikaru's dialogue that that time frame was less than 24 hours, the hangar events happened at night and Nais woke up from the surgery probably in the afternoon of the next day (Hikaru said: don't you remember what you did last night?)

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- [Re: Few remarks....](#) — Gerdha, Tue May 27 01:20