

utiti77

Yes, it's true, we're kinda evil...

Wed Jun 11 00:08:02 2003

213.11.54.156

>>I am really shocked by what you both said and I am sorry if the language in my post annoyed you.<<

Maybe *we* should apologize to you, Suzi. But I can tell you it's not the first time someone brings this up. It's been a common subject of discussion on the French mailing list Goldochat back when I was posting there three years ago... And I've heard it tons of times in conversations with fans, even when I was a kid. Nothing as raunchy as what I was suggesting of course, but oftentimes we would go "Man, *how* are they gonna do it ?? They're brother and sister after all..." (Of course we had forgotten the possibility of other Fleedians being alive somewhere in the universe, but hey, cut us some slack, we were young and brainless)

Sorry to bring Ota on the subject again, but since *his* version was very much a continuation of the heavily Greek-Mythos-influenced Mazinger Z, the incest theme would not have sounded that off-topic with him at the helm : in his manga, Flead is obviously linked to ancient Greek civilizations, and in Greek Mythology, a lot of Gods and Goddesses would marry although they were siblings.

... Too bad he wasn't in charge of the anime !!
(Hold your horses ! I'm just teasing you, Gerdha and Suzi...)

Jéjé

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Suzi

Great apologies Judge Jerome.

Fri Jun 13 11:59:24 2003

210.8.232.2

First, I am glad you are still around your Honour Judge Jerome. (your prolonged absence made me think that you might have truly resigned, but I am happy now and relieved that the Jury will not be abandoned in TTOTC).

Jerome, if you read my reply to Gerdha and Je "no need for apologies" you can see that I very well know about marriages between brothers and sisters in history, and I have given an example from ancient Egypt, (by the way, I know a lot about European history too, so I am not a complete idiot when it comes to history, in fact I know a lot about ancient history, European History, Islamic history and Christian history).

Besides, until today consanguineous marriage between first cousins still happens in middle eastern countries, and in many it is a cultural tradition, and of course the genetic abnormalities that result from such marriages are very significant and alarming for health care workers. Many health education programs have been organised to make people aware of these problems and sort of aim to break the "unhealthy" tradition of first cousin marriages, which are mostly arranged in the first place. But it is very hard to break tradition.

What I am trying to say, Jerome, is hardly ever an arab Grendizer fan thought of "incest" theme to ep 74. Is it because of cultural differences or differences in the dialogue of ep 74? I don't know. But we can find out.

You said that DF did not invite his friends to visit them in Fleed with CosmoSpacer. As far as I remeber Maria in ep 73 invited Koji to visit them in Fleed with the CosmoSpacer, or didn't she?

What the arabic dialogue said in ep 74 at the end as far as I remeber but I will check again, is that they are going to "rebuild" not "repopulate" Fleed? Does the word "rebuild" give you a different impression than "repopulate"?

You see if I heard the word "repopulate" in the dialogue, for sure I would have some incest thoughts just like you guys, even for as short as a split of a second. But I didn't because this word was not used. The word used was "rebuild". Does that make sense to you?

Besides, looking at the whole concept of Fleed coming back to life and DF thought wrongly at first that he was the only survivor are very good clues that there other Fleedian survivors. Did you ever wonder how the harmful radiations vanished so quickly from Fleed and not from other Planets? Did not you think that there might be some genius Fleedian survivors behind it?

Well, that is my answer to your answer. I am sorry if my descriptive term of "dirty-minded thoughts" has annoyed you too. Great apologies your Honour.

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Gerdha
rebuilding Flead
Fri Jun 13 17:54:15 2003
80.116.18.201

I agree totally with Suzi. I admit I thought to the "incest" thing as a teen, but I discharged it immediately because it had no sense from a storytelling perspective. We knew about fleedians survivors, so even if not esplicitely said by nobody at the end of ep74, that was the only logical explanation to the reason why DF&M decide to go back to Flead. I was of course surprised by the fact that DF & M leave alone, and actually still remained with this big questionmark up to when I started to interest myself to production notes (but this is another story).

Actarus leaves because after ep72 he knows that his planet has come back to life and he feels the responsibility to help his population to have a future there again. He is the King of Flead, the news he is alive is spreading around (ep 72 again), desperate people survived as slaves for years need his presence – the man who defeated Vega – as a psychological help to rebuild their native place. Duke Flead is a man, but also a symbol too now, and after the last scene of ep72 Daisuke has no more guiltiness feelings towards his population (ooppss, why does TTOTC resumes everywhere anytime??? LOLI). To rebuild is in fact the word used by Umon: I confirm the italian version is consistent with arabic. Pay attention: we don't know how many time has passed by from the final battle to the goodbye scene. It's true that it seems summer like the beginning of the ep, but from some hints I tend to think that it takes place months if not a year later.

About the reason why DF&M leave alone - which is the REAL problem of ep74 - I have a theory which lays on production notes. If you look deeply at the end of ep74, you could notice that the design style is a bit different from the rest of the ep....

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Jérôme

hadn't seen or read it your other post...

Fri Jun 13 18:41:56 2003

212.198.0.96

Hi Suzi,

Sorry for my absence but I've had a hectic and stressful month of May. It's almost over and it's quieting down now.

I never ever considered you "a complete idiot" as you wrote it playfully as far as history is concerned. No NO NO. On the contrary, I must say that this forum has surprised me in many ways. The content of many posts is highly interesting and shows intelligence, culture and reasoning qualities that I couldn't have suspected to find in a forum dedicated to Grendizer. Even if for some we might be considered a bit looney or crazy, this recreation (for it is one, isn't it?) is far from being dull and stupid. And we share a lot here and that's what a forum is for!!

You're right when you wrote that in ep 73, Maria asked Alcor to come and see her. But the last episode has always annoyed me and that's why somehow we didn't understand the same things. Of course the word repopulate is not used nor should we assume that the Fleedian siblings were about to mate! But it is somehow strange that utiti and I thought the same thing, and I'm sure many more understood it that way or at least imagined it. The reason I find for myself is as follows :

1) We were young and somehow affected, touched by the parallel love affairs that were developing (Maria/Alcor; Venusia/DF), but they somehow never reached their climax (not a single kiss, just hints... Maria seeing Alcor half naked in bed, Venusia crying on the side of her ship while DF is with Vegalia...). If I may use a bold comparison, in Candy Candy, although she couldn't really realize her love both with the prince and with Terry, the viewer somehow had the explanations for that. OK It was a romantic anime, but we had our explanations and the tears and the romance with it. With Grendizer : NOTHING!

2) Since we were young and innocent, LOL, but nevertheless expecting something more....mature in the characters' developments, we had to imagine something to fill in the gaps with what we had in front of us : the television empty after the end of the anime! The ending was quick in a way. I remember being sad, even crying although I wouldn't admit it or show it. A world had ended for me when I saw the last episode of Grendizer. We mustn't forget that the anime was aired every week, meaning that we had to wait 7 days before watching the next one. This gives ample time for speculation and imagination. It's a complete different approach than the one we have today. We have the VHS (even if their quality is not perfect, mine are showing signs of near destruction...) and we analyze the anime, we dissect it. We couldn't at the time. We were in it, living it, not witnessing it. That's why we had somehow to reach the plausible conclusion : since they both left their true love on Earth and even if the latter could come and visit them on Fleed, it meant that they upheld their positions as Prince and princess, now Queen and king of Fleed (both parents are dead!) as the most important and put their duty on the forefront of their lives. Therefore it is plausible that, not only they would rebuild the planet, with the help of other Fleedians possibly, but that somehow they might become husband and wife.

I leave you with those considerations...I have to clean my apartment!!! more prosaic occupation I guess!

^_^

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Agnes
If I may barge in ...
Fri Jun 13 19:13:07 2003
212.24.201.111

... just very briefly (work, even on a sunny Saturday).

As Jerome has indicated, the French version does not state "repopulate" but "reconstruct". I think Phenicia says something like "on va pouvoir tout reconstruire" (paraphrase, not quotation), and since we're talking about impressions, the "incest issue" never crossed my mind at the time (I was very young, still :-)) nor later (I was probably "too old" when I saw the anime the second time round :-)).

The first time I encountered this interpretation was on a mailing list like this forum, along side "jokes" about Actarus and Alcor fighting about who was going to f**k Venusia behind some bushes. Needless to say, I didn't like this very much at all. Both Venusia and Phenicia were objectified, and somehow I found these "discussions" more than "offensive": I perceived both girls as being framed in a "raped" position (and perhaps a little, myself with them).

Sounds "prudish", I know, but it was unpleasant, and I discarded the idea without thinking of any possible historical interpretations - mea culpa :-)))

To contribute more constructively though, I never doubted that Actarus and Phenicia/DF and Maria were going to round up survivors from Fleed and perhaps from other planets and "rebuild" a new society on the now regenerated planet Fleed.

I agree with what you say about DF's symbolic value, Gerdha, and I think that even before he managed to overcome his enemy, DF was marked out as a hope for everybody else, including races other than Terrans and Fleedians. To forray into TTOTC territory, the French version suggests that the citizens of Ruby started rebelling because they heard rumours that DF was still alive. Is this true of other versions also?

If so, the question as to whether DF and M are going back to "repopulate" Fleed may be relegated to where it belongs: prepubescent concerns and questions that we somehow/sometimes all shared in some way, and which as adults we turn into "jokes", laughing at our former "innocent" selves. :-))

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Gerdha
finding reasons to ep74 ending
Fri Jun 13 21:38:25 2003
80.116.19.178

Wow, what a day, TCT (old & new members!) are all together again at the coffee machine! Ah, how such interesting persons one can meet in these Court corridors... ^_^

Yes, Agnes, in the italian edition too Ruby population started the revolution because they get news that Duke Fleed was still alive (it's not said explicetely, but I think it's clear also "alive and fighting"). I stated the symbolic value thinking also to that particular.

Uh, this forum is better than those mailing list, don't you think? ;-))) Next time a stupid "joke" like that surfaces in a mailing list, please inform me, I will be glad to participate in it adding my prudish opinion too. You know what I mean, right? ;-)

Jerome, I understand what you say. I have no shame to confess I cried for anger at the end of ep74, I was more than upset from that final. I heard rumours for weeks about the ending, and the most recurring one was that DF would have died killing Vega. Well, at first I found the real final worse than that hypothesis. Why leaving alone if Cosmospecial was built exactly to allow earthlings to fly in the deep space? I bang my head on the wall for 25 years, together with all Grendizer fans I know. Ep74 final has no sense giving what is said in ep73, why giving the lie to itself after 30 minutes of airing? Why, why, why?

This is the real big question of ep74 for me, and I found to myself an answer only few months ago knowing a bit more production notes. The scriptwriter of both ep73 and ep74 is the same (the great Tamura), so the contradiction has really no sense at all. But I noticed that the goodbye scene seems to be designed from a different team respect to the rest of the episode (see the different style). So an idea spread to my mind.

I think the end of ep74 was another - and last - matter of disagreement between Toei and Authors, so it suffered for a last minute change. And once again, Koji Kabuto could be the reason of the struggle. Toei could not allow Koji Kabuto to leave Earth, in order to allow more Mazinger series to be done in the future. But from a storytelling perspective, Hikaru leaving alone Earth and Koji remaining in Japan would have been not good. Both or nobody should have left Earth. Duke Fleed SHOULD have come back definitely to Fleed, not only because this storyline had been built throughout the whole anime up to the "big bang" of ep72, but because the Grendizer story should have come back really where it started: Uchu Enban Daisenso. From ep1 to ep74: coming full circle, from UED beginning to UED ending. Of course the reason why DF leaves Earth in UED is different from Grendizer, but the concept is anyway there: he have to fly away with his robot. Maria should have gone with her brother because the recurring theme of her character had always been her nostalgia and desire to visit her native place. And Grendizer had room only for two persons.

This is maybe where the (in)famous rumour about the kiss between Daisuke and Hikaru comes from: unless Garreau is mad, I believe it's possible that a different ending could have been originally devised (and Nagai maybe referred to it talking about "tender love scenes"). I am talking about planning, I don't think a similar scene has never seen the light, but it could have been a proposal. As a matter of fact, Koji and Hikaru flying to Fleed with Cosmospecial was the ending subtle prepared in ep73, it's very clear from a storytelling perspective. So something must have happened during the developing phase of ep74 in my opinion. Probably the Authors accepted the final thinking to a possible sequel, but as Nagai stopped working with Toei for good after a few months due to the Gaiking copyright issue, we are still waiting for Duke Fleed's comeback to Earth. (on this last matter, I read an interesting interview to Federico Colpi a couple of weeks ago, I will try to find the link again).

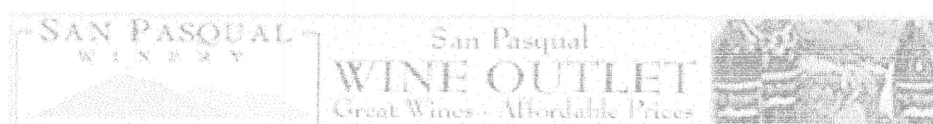
I point out THIS IS ONLY A (crazy ^_^) THEORY OF MINE, I have no proves of it. But as you know, I believe Grendizer is a giant puzzle, and I love playing to try to reconstruct it. Hope this makes sense for somebody else than me. ^_^

Gerdha
:-))))

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Suzi

No hard feelings, Jerome, but

Fri Jun 13 23:59:15 2003

210.8.232.5

"Queen and king of Fleed (both parents are dead!) as the most important and put their duty on the forefront of their lives. Therefore it is plausible that, not only they would rebuild the planet, with the help of other Fleedians possibly, " I can't resist commenting on this. As far as I understand Monarchy, DF will become King because he is the heir to the throne, his sister Maria will remain a princess, 2nd in line unless he produces kids of his own. Isn't that how English, Japanese, Jordanian monarchy works? Therefore Maria will not become Queen unless her brother has died before having a child of his own.

"but that somehow they might become husband and wife."

I refrain from commenting on that, for me marriage is a very sacred relationship, it entails love, respect, understanding, support, commitment and fidelity.

We all know that DF loves Hikaru, and Maria loves Koji, so can you please explain to me how do expect their marriage to be successful with producing scandals in their newly growing environment?

Secondly DF's personality is not immoral or lusty, I can't imagine how you guys thought of him doing that.

I can understand that as teens, most of the boys were in love with Maria, and for many too she was their dream girl, and maybe they reflected their own personal desires in their perception of ep 74, focusing only on who is going to be the one close to her overlooking the fact that there might be others alive or that even Koji himself might go to Fleed one dayOk! this a crazy thought and I can't elaborate any further but my question is when you guys thought of this were you subconsciously projecting your own desires?

I guess I have gone too far and I better stop before I offend anymore people.

I did not like the ending of the anime either. I thought it was abrupt and unexplainably hasty. And I cried too, but for reasons other than yours.

As a child I heard my friends talk about the ending as they saw it on an airing period that I missed. Even though I knew the end years before I saw it, I cried and I was disappointed in a way, but I understood that DF had to return with his sister to fulfill their duties on Fleed just as they did on Earth. And as for why Hikaru and Koji remained on Earth, I have a very good explanation for that other than production notes. Mine is based on psychoanalysis of the characters and their roles.

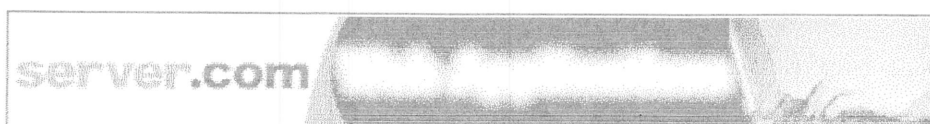
I may share it with you one day.....

Well, I've to go to bed now. I didn't exactly have great days lately and I am getting tired.

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Jérôme
my mistake..
Sat Jun 14 00:21:25 2003
212.198.0.96

Maria surely remains a princess!! sorry. it was the morning and I wasn't quite awake!!!! I had in mind the fact that she somehow would marry her brother!! And in those arranged marriages, love has nothing to do! that's somehow the porplem, it always has. It was only a question of lineage and family business.

PLEASE be sure that I do not endorse those points of view : I just merely tried to be the devil's attorney as I mentionned it. Maybe indeed and your point is made, we were subconsciously in love with Maria therefore we cound't allow her to be involved with Koji therefore being with her brother was somehow a more convenient escape to our fantasies??? Possibly maybe...

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Suzi
Please don't be the Devil's attorney! Jerome
Sat Jun 14 15:54:46 2003
210.8.232.5

Ok Jerome,
I am really getting tired of this discussion but there is another point that I want to make.
In all the Japanese cartoons I've watched there was a strong emphasis on the brotherhood of the heros, in its utter meaning of brotherly love, care and friendship. Incest themes were never there, the emphasis was always on "brotherly" relationship in its purest forms. Ai-Zenberg is another good example of this brotherly relationship and its ending is very similar to Grendizer.
Incest between siblings might have occurred in Royal European families, but has it ever occurred in Japanese Royal families?
After all Grendizer is originally Japanese, and the authors were Japanese, and any writer would somehow reflect his/her culture in their work.
Besides, I don't think that arranged sibling marriages existed in the monarchy of Flead. There was not a single hint in the anime, DF was going to marry Rubina, remember (an arranged marriage to a Foreign princess), so how could there be an arranged marriage between him and his sister?

Please Jerome don't be the Devil's attorney, evil never wins, if we defend it we are only going to ruin ourselves.
You and the others might have been influenced by your history, culture and fanatasies in interpreting ep74, but you have to remember Grendizer is Japanese.

There is nothing wrong with him leaving with his sister to Flead, this this expected outcome after the defeat of Vega and acknowledgement that Flead was still alive and habitable. Yes, we hoped that they would either stay on Earth with their loved ones or take them to Flead with them.
But Grendizer like many other Japanese cartoons had an open end with a very realistic theme. The time was not right for DF to take Hikaru and Koji with them. He had to go to Flead first, see what have become of it. He had to establish his kingdom first, rebuild his country with his people, ensuring survival and protection for them before thinking of his own pleasures by being with the woman he loves. When he's done that then he will return to bring Koji and Hikaru to stay with them.
Come on guys, think, what were you going to do if you were in his shoes? Drag your most beloved friends to the unknown, without calculating the risks? Yes, he knew that Flead was still alive, but did he know what was really there? Were there Vegans on his planet? How bad was the radiation there? etc..
He has been very cautious about their safety during the years of war, and certainly he is not that reckless to do something like that.
I personally think that as disappointing as the end might seem it is the most logical thing in the whole anime, and is greatly compliant with DF's caring responsible personality.

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Gerdha
a little comment on ep74 ending
Sat Jun 14 20:31:56 2003
151.26.155.233

I agree with your vision about ep74 ending completely, Suzi; my hint about production notes was a sort of "parallel explanation" to understand why, anyway, we are not told EXPLCITELY what you say.

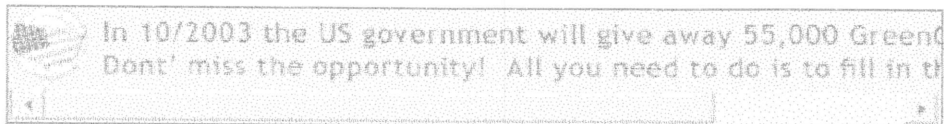
You have to admit, Suzi, that after having taken care of the story for long (74 episodes: second place still for the longest robotic anime in history) suddenly the narrative approach goes "fast and furious" without any apparent real need. It would have required at least an episode more to tell properly the story of the goodbyes, and it would have been amazing. Instead, in 5 minutes we see Vega's death and the "au-revoir" scene. It's strange to say the least, it's totally unusual for the Grendizer scriptwriting and Tamura is for more a great storyteller. I think really something happened in the production phase that forced the developing team to change their plans and imagine a different final.

I don't say that the final we have seen is not consistent, your theory is mine and makes sense. But the way it is portrayed is out of Grendizer style, and it should have been instead a climax moment for the serie! That's why I suppose (and there are hints I am right) a serious motivation behind this strange storytelling choice. The need to reconcile UED with Toei need to have Koji Kabuto available for more stories seems to me a rational explanation. The open ending was made clearly to allow a sequel, that Nagai's resign from Toei contract never made reality (actually, according to Colpi, a couple of project have been devised also recently, but never saw the light for various problems).

About Venusia & Mizar image at the end, well.... ah, it's so good to find a soulmate across the globe, Suzi!!! Yeah, the last image of Grendizer is a tribute to Daisuke & Hikaru's love. Please note Duke Fleed moved recalling Hikaru. Why Mizar is there too? Because the image is the same of ep73 (recycling process already known) and anyway it is another example of the masquerade approach we have seen throughout the whole anime.

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jérôme
It was merely a rhetorical attempt
Sat Jun 14 21:32:36 2003
212.198.0.96

I didn't want to trigger so many issues here. It was just a way of explaining some impressions and feelings that we might have felt because of plot holes or flaws or lacks in the anime. It doesn't mean that somehow we/I do endorse that at all as I said it.

What you say is completely consistent and convincing yet We were all confused by the ending of the anime. Hence the issues raised may sometimes bring controversy.

That's all I wanted to say.
Peace

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Suzi
Re: End of story
Sun Jun 15 21:12:56 2003
210.8.232.5

>>>DF and Maria are aliens. Aliens, as in : biologically different
I thought you said that the manga said they were from Greek origin, and Greeks belong to Homo sapiens species, i.e. humans, or don't they?

>>>>We don't *know* if consanguinity is an issue for Fleedians.

If it was not mentioned or hinted for in the anime, then it did not exist.

>>>>The idea came to us, we quickly dismissed it before we finally came up with the notion that maybe there are others
Fleedians lost in space somewhere to come and join DF and Maria.

If you have really dismissed this idea you would have not put it in a public forum,^_^!

>>>>It allows you to be sure you're not imposing your own vision to others.

As far as I remember Utiti77, you were the one who imposed your vision of the "incest" concept when you assumed that everyone thought like you. And as you can see, there are people like me and Agnes, who did not even consider these thoughts for a split of a second. So who is the one who is imposing his vision?

>>>>It's just a cartoon, not a "how to lead your life" guidebook.

Your way of life reflects how you interpret everything including movies and cartoons.

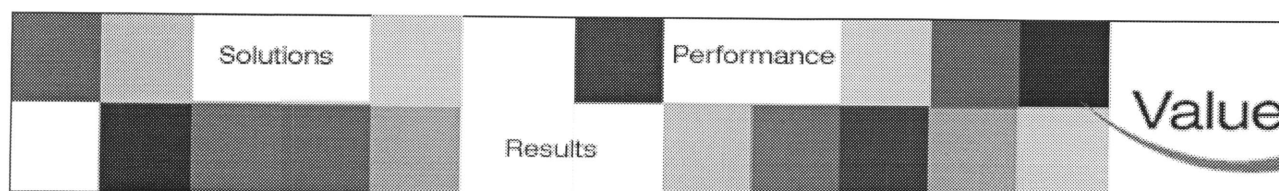
No hard feelings, Utiti77, you are entitled to believe what you want. I am not judging or criticising you or others, everyone has his/her own way of life.

This is a forum for discussions so when when you present something for discussion, please present it with strong convincing proof, and don't generalise your eccentric thoughts as being the common belief of all viewers, because not everyone thinks like you!

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 - [Amen to that, and Peace ! \(NM\) \(nm\)](#) — utiti77, Tue Jun 17 02:49



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utiti77

Why can't we just all get along ?

Mon Jun 16 20:32:46 2003

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>>If it was not mentioned or hinted for in the anime, then it did not exist.<<

That's a way of seeing things. Thank God there are sometimes people who let their minds wander a bit to expand on existing material, or else we'd have only Uchu Enban Dai Sensô to talk about instead of a 74-episode series.

>>If you have really dismissed this idea you would have not put it in a public forum,^_!<<

Why not ? You can learn a lot from past mistakes. And I don't even consider it a mistake, just a silly joke.

>>As far as I remember Utiti77, you were the one who imposed your vision of the "incest" concept when you assumed that everyone thought like you. And as you can see, there are people like me and Agnes, who did not even consider these thoughts for a split of a second. So who is the one who is imposing his vision?<<

I did not impose anything. I exposed a theory, and it just so happens that I was not the only one here on this forum to have thought of that. Last time I checked, there was me, Gerdha and the other Jérôme. On the other hand, you *might* have overreacted to something that was not originally designed to shock you, even though it did.

>>Your way of life reflects how you interpret everything including movies and cartoons.<<

But the way you interpret movies and cartoons doesn't necessarily reflect your way of life. Thank God ! I've watched countless splatter movies as a teenager, but I've never harmed anyone in my life, thank you very much.

>>This a forum for discussions so when when you present something for discussion, please present it with strong convincing proof, and don't generalise your eccentric thoughts as being the common belief of all viewers, because not everyone thinks like you! <<

This would work fine if we were discussing rocket science or some purely scientific matter. But we're talking about something totally subjective, a work of art, a fantasy story (and fantasy stories are the ones with the largest number of different possible interpretations). Each and every interpretation is eccentric, bizarre, unique. I have the greatest deal of respect for Gerdha's vision of Actarus and his relationship with Rubina and Alize. I have a lot to learn from it. But it is definitely not my vision. So what ? I won't get my panties in a bunch because she disagrees with me. This is not the point. This is about exchanging information and points of view, not trying to come up with some super-explanation that would work for everyone, because it simply isn't possible.

And that's what annoys me the most with this whole "discussion", Suzi : you're getting all worked up about a detail, something which is not even a serious theory, but some stupid joke some French kids (including me, yes) came up with when they saw the last episode of Grendizer decades ago. It's no big deal, really. That's what I was trying to say in that last post : it's no big deal.

Next time, I'll just post this sentence : "It's no big deal". That might make things a bit less complicated.

Love,