



Suzi

The riddle of ep9- another clue

Wed Apr 9 23:47:02 2003

210.8.232.2

Dear Court Members (and all those interested in TTOTC),

I know that you are all wondering about what I want to prove in episode 9 (I know you are all shaking your heads thinking that I am mad but please bear with me).

Since time is precious to all, I thought of giving you another clue to help you solve the mystery faster.

So if you have watched ep 9 or is going to watch it, please answer the following questions (post your answers here please) then I will collect the evidence and explain it to you.

1- What is the nature of the relationship between Daisuke/Actarus and Minao/Euridie? Is it friendship, love or empathy? Explain your answer.

2- Based on your answer to the above question, do you think that Duke Fleed's reaction to Minao's death is justifiable? Explain your answer.

3- Do you notice any similarities between ep9 and ep72? Elaborate.

Well, I am looking forward to seeing your answers.

(I hope you enjoy the game)

A bientot!

Suzi

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scene in the anime. Meaningfully enough, we observe the scene through Mineo's eyes, and her attention is fixed in particular towards Daisuke dancing with Hikaru. Actarus is relaxed, they smile to each other, and then Mineo leave the company to go to sleep. Later, when Mineo decides to leave for good Earth, one of the recalls that let her take the resolution is exactly Actarus dancing and smiling to Venusia. I am not meaning Mineo is in love for Daisuke, but that she feels she cannot kill a man who saved her life, offered her a second chance and is clearly happy and probably beginning to have a link with a woman. I would say that it's like Mineo does not want to negate him a future.

Is Actarus' reaction to her death justifiable? But yes, of course. Mineo is the first character who dies for saving his life (she is killed because she could not accomplish her task). The first chance to change destiny has turned up unfeasible, and Daisuke is forced to face the tragic reality: even if he's living on Earth and wants to have a new life there, he is Duke Freed, and people surrounding him have to face this fact too with all the due and tragic consequences. Gorman willing to kill him in ep7 did not show him the reality the same way. So Actarus cries in pain holding a died Mineo in his arms (yes, Malaspina makes him cry at the end of the episode, unlike Gall).

And here lays the similarity with ep72: I won't repeat here what I wrote in my AoP, but it's clear to me that Rubina's death represents for Actarus' something terrible but totally unrelated to love feelings. It would require another number of MMs to explain how I see Actarus' character (as a matter of fact I think a psychoanalyst would find the analysis of Daisuke Umon personality very interesting and stimulating) as it would involve amongst others my theory about the reason of the attack to Planet Freed plus many other topics. But summarising, Actarus's story throughout Grendizer is for me mainly the tragic story of a man fighting for 72 episodes against his ghosts and guiltiness feelings. And Rubina's death is just the "icing on the cake" so to speak, while Mineo is the first meeting his soul has with his "dark side" since the beginning of the war.

I hope the Jury President is satisfied by this First Addendum to AoP; actually it has been difficult to stay strict to the topic and this poor busy Prosecutor had for more a short time to elaborate this script so I have left aside some further considerations, but I hope to have given anyway an overview of my ideas and approach. Actually there are so many things deserving a deeper discussion... and more time available...

Thanks for the attention,
Gerdha, Prosecutor General in TTOTC
:-))))))

PS1: I warmly welcome Mr. Cunningham as a Jury member, thanking him very much for his precious mini-MM, and hoping for his further contributions on both TTOTC and more discussions (you are now part of TCT, you cannot escape anymore, LOL!!!)

PS2: I would like to inform the Defence Attorney, The Judge and all Jury members – plus the public, of course – that Paul Drake Sr and Jr have come back from their long investigation bringing me the definitive proof that I was right in my AoP guessing a connection between ep25 and ep72: given the official information in Grendizer's Artbook, not only the director of animation of the episodes (Shingo Araki) is mutual, but also the episode director and the scriptwriter of both eps are the same. I will ask my stepsister about the translation of the kanji of their names, but they are the same persons for sure ^_^ (oops sorry, I could not avoid an – evil - smile....).

PS3: as I was working for MP today, I ended up watching ep72 once again but keeping it mute in order to stay concentrate only on its visual aspects. And going back to the roots of this trial (Agnes' original post about soap bubbles at ep72 lake scene) I have noticed something very interesting... dear Defence Attorney, am I allowed to add a new Addendum to my AoP about the lake scene, even if it would arrive later respect of your AoD? As a matter of fact I never replied properly to your original post, and after nearly 6 months now it's maybe time to come full circle.

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Jérôme

I'm ready!!

Sun Apr 13 18:49:39 2003

212.198.0.96

Hi Suzi,

Well I eventually had the time yesterday to watch episode 9. 1st I was surprised by the way it's drawn! Indeed the characters are almost all the time drawn from below, as if the camera was on the waist. It gives a strange impression!

I haven't read any otehr post not to be influenced! and here are my answers!

1)The ralationship bw Actarus and Euridie is indeed ambiguous! I would say that he felt a strong bond towards her because she was protecteing her planet from invasion and had no choice. Then it would be empathy as far as I'm concerned. But indeed when she died he cried and somehow was really affected by her death although they had hardly known each other. (The party scene is hilarious!!! by the way!)

2) One must accept the fact that Actarus is a sensible man who dares to express his feelings! So he cried and was deeply affected by Euridie's death. Indeed this appears a bit extreme for he didn't know her before. Thsi is for sure because he was stunned when he discovered that she was a girl piloting the Anterak! The bond he had must be the result of a same experience shared : being obliged by Vega to fight! He was moved by the fact that a girl shouldn't wear any army gear/outfit. It's not her place! This is related to what we've already discussed on this forum about Daisuke's attitude towards Venusia when she wants to join the patrouille des Aigles!

THerefore I may say that although a bit too much, Actarus' reaction can be understood : he 's at the beginning of his fight with Vega, he realizes that the fight will be a long one and that he'll lose a lot in the process, hence his mood so often grim and sad even hard toward Alcor!

3) Now that you mentioned it, the scene is really similar. Except for the end, Actarus runs in the field of flowers and cries which is not what he does here. Here it's an oath he makes : to fight and to protect Concordia (planet never mentioned after that!). Maybe Concordia is a meta^phore for the Earth as well because how could he have defended Concordia whan he could not reach the moon base!!! This would be completely insane and impossible. In Ep 72, it is the end, the oath has been completed somehow and it's a war of attrition going on. This endless war has caused too many sorrows and to much bitterness, that's the last straw on a camel's back (Vegalia's death)! So the line has to drawn here and he decided afterwards to fight back and to attack, not to be defensive any longer!

I would compare the story line with the lww : War of movement at forst (Vega attacks, Goldorak has difficulties, ep 9 the set is clearly defined we know all the characters!) Then war of position in the trenches in a way : defensive strategy with several parts (esp. with the submarine base) eventually again a war of movement starting with ep 70 if my recollection is correct when the submarine base is destroyed, Goldorak attacks!

Well I hope my answers will provide some new possibilities to elaborate on this thread...

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Suzi

TTOTC- the answer to the riddle of ep9

Tue Apr 22 20:13:48 2003

210.8.232.2

Dear Court Members,

Thank you for allowing me to speak about the evidence I found in episode 9.

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who contributed to this game either by only watching the ep, or by watching and sparing the time to post their opinions.

Looking at your posts Bernard, Gerdha and Jerome I noticed that while you all gave too much attention to answer the first questions, you did not elaborate on the third as much. Not that I am disappointed, on the contrary I am pleased that you did not notice what I noticed, otherwise I wouldn't have anything to say or to add.

Secondly, I would like to apologise in advance for the gruesome details that you might see towards the end of the post. But forgive me, I am so much trapped in my profession which exposes me daily to traumatic events and gives me deeper insight into "human" things physical and psychological. After all, if it were not for my profession I would have not noticed the evidence that I am presenting in front of you today.

Seeing something with a child's eyes is completely different than seeing the same thing with an adult's eyes. I certainly prefer the former, but I can't avoid the latter. I think that we all enjoy analyzing Grendizer because we are trying to know ourselves better and acknowledge why we grew up to be what we are.

I guess what I'm simply trying to say is seeing ep9 as a child had a completely different impact on me than when I saw it again recently with that mature attitude I developed through the years.

The first time I saw this episode I was 8-9 years old and that was before watching either ep 25 or 72. To be honest I never saw ep 25 as a child (I have only seen it for the first time in 2001) and that was not because it wasn't aired on TV but because I just happened to miss it every time it was aired.

Anyway, back to ep 9. When I saw it for the first time, I didn't know whether I really liked it or not and that was not because of the story but because of the way Minao was depicted. She truly reminded me of Caput Medusa with her hairstyle (and to share a secret with you, I have always given nicknames for most of the Vegan characters and Caput Medusa is the nickname I gave to Minao). I nearly passed out when Danbee admired her beauty seeing her for the first time coming out of the room wearing Hikaru's dress. As a child I said "Yakh! who could admire someone who looked like Caput Medusa?", but now I could see much more in Minao than the ugly Caput Medusa (even though I still call her that way sometimes). Like all of you, even as a child I never felt that Daisuke had any love feelings for Minao. His feelings were more of empathy and kindness developing slightly into friendship. And she on the other hand had feelings of gratefulness for his kindness and mercy, nothing more.

The Arabic title of this episode "Overcome the impermissible/forbidden anger" (which is similar to the Japanese "overcome the unforgivable anger") has also puzzled me for years, as I was always trying to find out what and where is this anger in the episode, and finally I could proudly say that I found it and I fully understand where it was coming from (of course Dear Court, I will explain).

To answer my questions, I have to do a bit of episode and character analysis of both Minao and Daisuke. I'll start with Minao because she is easier and shorter.

Minao, a citizen of Planet Ruby reported herself for duty to the Vegan officials in an attempt to save her

planet from complete destruction. The negotiated deal was to go on a suicide mission destroying both Grendizer (with Duke Fleed inside) and herself. The sword given to her by Gandal was a token of the treaty agreed between the two.

But instead of seeing an eager soldier, we see a hesitant woman who is shocked by the request to kill herself in a suicidal mission, and in a way was trying to negotiate an alternate deal. This clearly indicated that she was not a suicidal type of character, but a normal person who enjoyed the pleasures of life and was not ready to give them away in a crazy suicidal mission. But it is her patriotism and loyalty to her country that made her give in to Gandal's request, hoping that by sacrificing her own life, many others on her planet could be saved.

Still hesitant and anxious, and fearful of death, she flew out to accomplish the mission, which failed because of the electromagnetic waves discharged by Grendizer.

To her relief, a slim opportunity arose for her to kill Duke Fleed without killing herself when her saucer crashed and Duke came to investigate. Injured and frail, Koji easily overpowered her and dissolved her hope.

Hours later she woke up to find herself in a cozy room and a comfortable bed surrounded by both Daisuke and Koji. Realising that they were earthlings and that she was their POW, wondering what these people would do to her and expecting the worst, she demanded them to end her life. Unexpectedly, she was met with kindness and an invitation to stay and live with them peacefully.

Any person in that situation would not only be grateful but deeply indebted for the one who offered him/her a second opportunity, and Minao was no exception. After all she did not have to die, and how scary are the thoughts of imminent death. Therefore she developed deep gratitude to Daisuke.

Following a normal instinctive behaviour, she was curious to find more about her "saviour". At the party, as Gerdha indicated, she was following him with her eyes. She saw a normal man dancing with a girl, perhaps she noticed the glow of love in their eyes, and maybe she even remembered what she herself would have had on her planet if it wasn't for the bloody war with the Vegans and....yes remembering her planet she remembered her mission "to kill Duke Fleed so that her planet could survive", and remembering Duke Fleed she noticed the resemblance between Daisuke and Duke Fleed.

For a moment she felt immense guilt that she was sitting there enjoying a party while the destiny of many fellow Rubians hung on a thread and she was the only one who could make a difference, a huge difference to their future.

Answering the call of duty, she rushed out of the party to her semi-damaged saucer. Maybe she was hoping to return to her planet unnoticed by the Vegans, where she would find another way to save her planet. Unexpectedly, she found Blaki desperately trying to contact her. Hesitantly, she answered his call, and reported herself to duty admitting that she was chasing someone closely resembling Duke Fleed.

Resting on the rock, her face showed mixed expressions of agony, confusion, anxiety, and disappointment of yet another lost opportunity of an escape from a dreadful fate.

Confronted by Daisuke and his bravery in admitting that he was Duke Fleed rather than conceal this fact to save himself, she was thrown into a state of panic and confusion.

She had to kill him to save her planet, that was her mission, but he was the man who saved her and gave her hope and another opportunity to live, he was the one that she was deeply indebted to. He was a good man, he had family and friends who love him (for sure she too had family and friends that she would have loved to stay with but for their sake she accepted this crazy mission). Who was she to rid him of all that? After all, what was his sin? He had every opportunity to kill her and did not even think of doing it, so why would she kill him?

Overcome by her reasoning, she collapsed into his arms revealing her true self. She could not kill, neither him nor anyone else (I apologise for referring to bit of the dialogue in this sentence).

So the real Minao, who volunteered to go in a suicidal mission to save her planet never had the guts to kill or hurt anyone, but it was desperation and the hope for freedom that made her do that. She thought she could make a difference. She too wanted to lead a happy peaceful life with her family and friends but the Vegans ripped her of that and now she was stranded in another planet obliged to commit what she had always dreaded.

Like a drowning person holding onto a straw, she accepted Daisuke's offer of staying with him on Earth safely for the rest of her life. But her conscience was never rested. She loved her country, she loved her people and she would not let them down even if it meant doing what she abhorred the most, killing, and killing who, but Daisuke the kind person, the new friend, the new hope.

She attacked him with a knife but because of her hesitance and his alertness, she failed yet another time.

But now that she had attempted murdering him, she could no longer stay or live with him. She had shattered every slim chance of redemption and the only thing left for now was to return to her planet and share the same ill fate of her fellow citizens.

Intercepted by Blaki, who accused her of being a traitor and attempted killing her, she tried to escape. Unpredictably, she found Duke Fleed, the one whom she tried to kill, by her side supporting her and not only that but avenging her murder too. Falling down in the shot saucer she remembered the happy and the sad moments they had together. Overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude and guilt, acknowledging her unavoidable fate, her saucer crashed into the ocean. In Daisuke's arms she took her last breath and her last words and thoughts were about Planet Ruby. Her native planet that she failed to secure its safety, and perhaps her betrayal would cause its destruction by the Vegans.

This is Minao. A peaceful woman, who wanted to live happily and enjoy the pleasures of life but unfortunately found her self trapped and compelled to do the one thing that was truly against her nature under the name of patriotism. A happy life ended tragically hoping for a better future for the only thing that she deeply loved and cared for, her country. Truly, she deserves to be saluted, and she was sincerely worth every tear that dropped from Daisuke's eyes. To tell you the truth, when I saw this episode for the first time as a child I cried.

I deeply apologise Miss Minao for calling you Caput Medusa, but I think that a woman of your courage and character deserves a better design than the one you were given. Don't you agree?

Now, it is time to discuss to the complicated part, Daisuke.

Oh! What would I say about him? I know we all have our views, some of us like him and some don't, but here I will talk about MY own interpretation of his character i.e. the way I see and perceive Daisuke Umon as I know him from the Arabic version.

In the first episode we were presented with ambiguity around his character. In the second episode we found out who he really was, a fugitive prince who lost his parents, his country and now his identity. Even though we know he was a crown prince, he never acted like one. What I have noticed is that he always avoided any reference to this fact, unlike his sister who snapped opportunities to remind us all that she was a princess and that she has extra powers.

In the third episode we see more of his persona in his internal conflicts, his nightmares, his fear, his insecurity, his self-blame, his isolation and his sadness. And we also see a sweet girl who felt for him, and noticing his sadness and isolation she extended an invitation for him to join the party and dance with her. But he declined it, probably because he did not really feel that he could fit in the picture and that was not because he was a prince and they were lay people (or commoners), but essentially because he did not completely recover from his post traumatic depression.

He knew he was an alien but those who lived with him didn't. He had to keep his identity secret otherwise he would lose the safety haven he found on Earth with these kind people. I was just thinking what was the real reason behind hiding his true identity? Was it really fear of being killed by the Vegans, or was it fear of being rejected by Earthlings who might freak out when they learn that he was an alien (just like what Hikaru did in ep23)?

I personally believe that perhaps on his initial arrival to Earth the real reason behind giving him a new identity and trying to fit him into a society that he did not originally belong to as if he were one of them, was to spare him another psychological trauma of being treated like a freak or even a guinea pig by some keen scientists and intelligence officials.

But then comes the question how easily did he adapt to this new environment or society? How easy was it for him to act "ordinarily" when he was actually "extraordinary"? How easy was it to relate to aliens, complete strangers, who had no idea about life in other planets? How easy was it to feel that he really "belonged" to this new family?

The impression I got from his character evolvement throughout the series is that it was quite hard and that he didn't really "feel fit and truly belonging" until quite sometime. But I think in the two years he lived on Earth before the arrival of the Vegans, he did a pretty good job even in his failure to overcome his memories about his miserable past.

In fact no one can forget one's past, it is the past which shapes one's present and perhaps future too. It is one's past that makes the one the person that exists today, and Daisuke Umon was no exception.

He was a prince who had everything that anyone could ever wish for, but now he lost it all. I don't think that even as a prince, he cared for status, money or power (even though he was a control freak sometimes

especially in the battlefield but that was completely understandable). His attitudes never reflected that. I think what mattered to him the most was to be loved and appreciated for his true self not for the status or the power he had. And that was what he found on Earth, people who loved him for his own self, not feared him and treated him like a prince.

Knowing that he had a relatively short time to live before the deadly arm wound took the best out of him, he cherished life and treasured living things. Unable to fully overcome depression and fit perfectly into his new environment, he occasionally drifted into isolation and melancholy remembering his past. As if that was not hard enough, now the Vegans came to remind him again and again of his "alienness".

In ep 4, we see him remembering happy things about his native planet, the warm sandy beaches and the hot sun, and for the first time we hear him laugh. Oh, yes, he laughed while eating the fish with Koji on the island. He laughed at the happy memories of his past just like what every one of us would do.

In the same episode, we also see him beginning to connect with an earthling in a friendship bond. For the two years he lived on Earth previously, he had no friend of his age to bond with. No one to talk to or confide in, in other words no "buddy", but now he had someone. Now he was beginning to fit more into this new society. It is true that if one, especially a migrant into a new land, had no real friend in a society to bond with, one would find it very hard to adapt and fit into the new environment, and definitely he was no exception. I truly believe that his friendship to Koji helped him a lot, especially in acknowledging the fact that he had to combat the Vegans whether he liked or not.

In ep 5, we see him reflecting and agonizing over this fact especially that he felt partly responsible for the arrival of the Vegans. We also see him in this episode understand his relationship with his adoptive father and the others better. He was learning more about himself, his feelings towards everyone around him, his father, Danbee, Hikaru, Koji, and the others. Are they all worth risking his life for them? Are they worth the life of the prince (and yes at that moment his pride surfaced)? After all why should he do that? Koji had been stubborn and obstinate, Banta acted most of the time like an empty headed fool, Danbee had always enjoyed insulting him, but then he was just a father begging him to rescue his children's lives, and who were his children but Hikaru and Goro who without knowing the hidden facts had always tried to cheer him up.

Yes, they were all worth his life,

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Suzi

TTOTC- the answer to the riddle of ep9 -part2

Tue Apr 22 20:19:57 2003

210.8.232.3

Yes, they were all worth his life, Koji, Banta, Hikaru, Goro, Danbee and Prof Umon. After a long internal conflict, he declared that even his death was not defeat but rather victory.

Seeing the parental joy and love of Danbee when he saw his children return safely made him realize how lucky he was to have a father like Prof Umon. I tend to think that it was perhaps at that particular moment that he fully accepted being fathered by Prof Umon, a thing that he perhaps could not fully accept before (refer to ep 1). After all, it is very hard to allow any one to replace one's real father, leave alone a good one.

In ep 6, we see him take the initiative of doing whatever possible to save his friends. He was beginning to do what he should do without hesitance. A trend that we continued to see in ep 7 where he and Koji finally acknowledged the feelings they had for each other despite their rivalry. They declared their loyalty and love to each other fighting a strong foe. Now they knew they were real buddies. It was in ep 7 that Daisuke finally felt "fit in the picture", now he felt that he truly belonged to Earth, now he was ready to accept Hikaru's invitation to dance. He finally solved his internal conflict of "to be or not to be", he knew his true role and was now ready to do it whatever the price, even if it was his own life. Because now he knew that he a friend to lean on, a friend who without hesitance risked his life for his, a friend who he could truly depend on. Koji for him was "the friend in need was the friend indeed", and what would life be without such a friend?

In ep 8, we see more emphasis on this growing friendship as well as more information about the characteristics of the others (I am not going to discuss that here). Then comes episode 9. And what do we see in ep 9?

As some of you have indicated that this episode began with a new twist, or a new plan to the war on both sides. The Vegans had summoned a non-Vegan ally to go on a suicide mission to destroy Grendizer and Duke Fleed, rather than a real combat, and therefore Minao's saucer was not equipped with lethal weapons that could be fired towards an enemy. Whereas Daisuke and Koji decided to capture the pilot of the next coming Vegan saucer to find more information about Vegan war strategies and forces. So in a way this episode was original in its plot compared to previous ones (similar to ep 72 which was somewhat different to the others).

But then what do we learn about Daisuke's persona in ep 9?

In the beginning of the episode he still had feelings of guilt and self-blame that he might be responsible for this war, and therefore he wanted to do something effective enough to end it quickly, so he devised this plan of capturing the enemy alive. It was obvious that now he wanted to do something more than just fight the enemy in battle that might be won or lost (compare that to ep72).

When Minao's saucer initially crashed, he rushed to get the pilot fast. To his surprise the pilot was a woman not a man. He never expected a female to fight such a bloody war leave alone go on a suicide mission. I think that his expectations did not stem from his perception that women were weak and incapable of fighting or doing anything as properly as men, but because his perception of women was that they were beautiful delicate sensitive creatures that ought to be protected and cared for rather than be exploited and subjugated to such atrocities (perhaps that somehow contributed to his antagonism for Hikaru to join the war, leave alone his love feelings towards her).

And that was why he decided to protect Minao, note at that stage he did not know which planet she came from, and even if he assumed that she was from Planet Ruby from her physical appearance then seeing her adamant on killing him would not by chance made him know her exact stance in the battle, whether she was a true ally for the Vegans or someone forced by them to fight.

He only found out the truth about Minao when she was rambling in her sleep. It was then that we could all see expressions of empathy on his face. She was a non-Vegan, her native planet destroyed like his by the evil Vegan forces, and she like him was forced to fight (or actually kill herself) to liberate her country. She

identity from her (hey, what do you think, guys?). In other words, why would one care about hurting someone else's feelings if one had no feelings for the other person concerned?

Although I am tempted to elaborate more on this episode but I would not do that here, because it is not the episode in question and if I continue I will deviate from the subject. But in short, from this episode I inferred that Daisuke had so much affection for Hikaru that he did not yet acknowledge and that he was perplexed by his emotions towards her.

In episode 24, he was more comfortable with Hikaru after she knew his true identity. After all, she did not reject him as he initially feared but on the contrary she helped protect him from Whiter the assassin (Signal 2 as I used to call him after the toothpaste I used to brush my teeth with, after all he looks so much like a toothpaste, doesn't he?!).

In fact Daisuke was more than just "comfortable", he was happy that she was by his side and he was worried about her safety and this for me reflected nothing but "love is in the air" even in a subtle way.

In ep 25, Daisuke was confronted by a person from his past, a very special one, Naida. What exactly was the nature of his relationship to Naida?

Gerdha indicated that the Italian dialogue stressed that it was love. However the other versions indicated that while it was certainly love from Naida's side, it was a bit ambiguous from Daisuke's side of whether it was current love, old love or just very deep friendship. I have a theory about this episode but I will not discuss it now. What I deduced from this episode was that whatever his feelings were towards Naida they were definitely deeper and stronger than his feelings towards Rubina. That was evident in the way he greeted her (a very big warm hug unlike the cold stiff hostile greeting to Rubina), the soft way he spoke with her, it was even noticeable that he was more comfortable being around her than with Rubina. He took Naida for a horse ride and a trip to the lake and played echo whereas he appeared so ashamed to declare his relationship with Rubina to his friends.

That, really made me wonder why his reaction to Naida's death did not reflect as much devastation as that of Minoa (for whom he had only empathy and kindness) and Rubina (his supposedly betrothed fiancé)? In fact his sadness for Naida's death was very deep, yet absolutely rational. I have been puzzled by this until I realized something..... I wonder if you have noticed that too?

Minoa and Rubina were the only two who died in Daisuke's arms (or at least there was some kind of physical contact between his body and theirs at the moment of death). All the others he "watched" their death (Naida, Yara, Goss, Kerika-it was Maria who held her when she died, the Commando children, Morros).

So what? You might say.

I will answer that by sharing a small experience of mine (and by all means it was horrible but it was my best clue to the mystery).

Last year I was doing a night shift from 10pm to 8:30 am, covering the surgical wards. One of the nurses paged me to tell me that while she was checking the regular observation on a patient who became unconscious e.g. blood pressure, pulse, temperature, she could not detect a pulse strong enough to check blood pressure, but the patient was still breathing. The patient was admitted with a huge aortic aneurysm (i.e. an abnormal dilatation of the aorta that was pending rupture) and it needed surgical correction but because he was unfit for surgery in view of a bad heart condition, the operation was not performed. Of course I dropped whatever I was doing and rushed to see the patient who was unconscious. First I felt his wrist to find pulse but I could not detect a satisfactory beat, so I reached for his neck trying to find pulse in his carotid, and I felt one single beat and nothing after. I looked at him and noticed that he had stopped breathing so I loudly told the nurse "Call the cardiac arrest team" and rushed to start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on a patient who was twice my size. In about a minute, the cardiac arrest team arrived and tried to bring him back to life but after 5 minutes of resuscitation with no response we decided to pull out as we knew that the most probable cause of his death was rupture of the aortic aneurysm, and the aorta for those of you who don't know it, it is the biggest artery in the body and emerges straight from the heart and from which other smaller arteries branch to supply the body with blood.

I was so shaken by the experience. At that time I remember that I left the patient's room with frozen tears in my eyes. I felt so detached from reality with all these crazy thoughts of the "why"s of life and death, yet I remained composed until we finished the paper work of documenting the event but after that I locked myself in the toilet and gave it a very good cry for 10 minutes or so. But why was I crying for God's sake? I asked myself. This was a hospital, people live and die in this place everyday for all sorts of reasons. It was not the first time that I attended such a critical situation. It was not the first time that I saw failure of CPR. It was not the first time that I saw someone die. I might feel unhappy about the death of any patient but I don't cry. After all I had not even seen this patient alive or attended him before to establish rapport that would at least justify my reaction. In other words I was crying for the death of a complete stranger that I did not even get the chance to know his name. Wasn't this crazy? But then I realized that I was merely traumatized by

the shocking experience of “physically feeling” rather “seeing” someone’s death. I felt his last beat, I felt “the disappearance of life” from his body. I felt his death. And that is exactly what Daisuke did when he carried Minao’s body at her death and when he was holding Rubina’s hands when she took her last breath.

Sharing a somewhat similar experience made me understand why his reaction was so irrational. It is by all means quite traumatizing especially for a sensitive emotional person like Daisuke, leave alone the guiltiness he felt for causing both their deaths.

There was also something else that was not shown to us by the designers,

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TTOTC- the answer to the riddle of ep9 -part3

Tue Apr 22 20:23:26 2003

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There was also something else that was not shown to us by the designers, probably because it is inappropriate to portray it in a children's show, and that would certainly make us understand his reaction better. We were not shown the bodily injuries inflicted on both Mino and Rubina as result of the explosions that caused their death.

Analysing the mechanism of injury, knowing that they never used seatbelts, (have you noticed that too? Isn't strange that people with such advanced technologies never used seatbelts?), I would say that if they had not lost body parts (Rubina's case in particular) then at least they would have had severe burns, compound fractures, deep lethal wounds, critical head injuries and blood covering their bodies. That sounds awful, I know, but forgive me for being so realistic in portraying the real picture but I think it is important for us to understand why his reaction was so irrational.

Whereas for a person like Saddam, seeing people in such condition would not even make him blink an eye, a person who is emotional and sensitive like Daisuke would scream his life out seeing that.

Adding that to what you said about the psychological trauma he experienced seeing all these people die directly and indirectly because of him, then certainly Rubina's death was the straw that broke the camel's back (as Jerome indicated) and that would in turn explain his reaction in ep72.

I agree with Gerdha that Daisuke in ep 72 was not crying because he lost the woman he loved, I don't think that he loved Rubina in the first place, but he cried because of the same feelings that he had at Mino's death.

Another innocent person lost her life trying to save him, even though he initially doubted her real intentions and therefore he felt immense guilt for her death. Like his oath after Mino's death, his stance on the cliff edge and the solemn expression on his face in ep72 reflected deep determination to take decisive actions to end this bloody war for good. The moment he made the oath in ep9, and that moment at the cliff in ep72 were both at sunrise, an indication of a new era, a new prospect to the war, a decision turning point.

To summarise the similarities I realized between both episodes.

- Both ep 9 and ep 72 had somewhat different plots to the rest of the series.
- Both Mino and Rubina had something to do with Planet Ruby (?? Was it intentional by the scriptwriters or coincidental?)
- Both wanted to do something to save their people and end the war (Mino wanted to save her planet by going on a suicide mission to kill Duke Fleed, whereas Rubina wanted to marry Duke Fleed so that her people could go and live on Planet Fleed rather than go through a devastating war to seize Planet Earth to live on it)
- Both had missed opportunities
- Both had strong feelings for Daisuke (deep gratitude in Mino's case, love in Rubina's) → *minao*
- Both were killed by a Vegan official (Blaki in Mino's case, and Zuril in Rubina's case)
- Both died with horrific body injuries
- Both died at sunrise
- Both were in some kind of physical contact with Daisuke in their last minutes
- For both their deaths, Daisuke reacted irrationally
- Both deaths were turning points in his decision-making and his approach to the war

A major difference I noticed however is that while Duke Fleed did not try and hold Mino's saucer to prevent it from crashing after it was shot by Blaki, he held Rubina's saucer and defended it against Zuril's attack.

But I don't think that he did that because he loved Rubina, or that he was becoming suicidal and did not mind dying to end the war.

I think he did that because he simply learnt from his mistakes and became more experienced in the war

and realised that if a crash was prevented then there might be a good chance that the person inside the saucer could at least have had better chances of survival. Note, he many times prevented Koji's TFO and Double spacer from crashing using the same technique i.e. holding the craft with the arms of Grendizer.

OK, I think you are all bored to death now. But I hope I made my point clear and forgive me for the gruesome details I included in my post (I know I will be banned for it).

That is all what I wanted to say about ep 9 and ep72, and I hope to see your comments.

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