

KIMAGURE ORANGE ROAD DISC 4, EPISODES 13 – 16

Episode 13 – Everybody is Looking! Hikaru's Super Transformation. (06/29/87)

"Hikaru's made a debut, in Jr. High! Maybe I should try it too!"

This is in reference to the myriad of top idol stars of the 80's who became overnight sensations. They were often labeled as "average junior/senior high school students" without much exceptional talents but were made celebrities because of their looks or personalities.

"Wanna drink?"

Viewers might note how most beverage cans in anime are so skinny. In Japan, this size (250 ml or approximately 8 oz) is standard.

"Does she think it's okay to come to school wearing those clothes?!"

Most junior and senior high schools in Japan have strict dress codes. The uniforms such as those in KOR are the most traditional ones: boys are outfitted with fairly tight-fitting, dark (usually black, sometimes navy) suits, while girls wear the so-called "seiraa-fuku" ("sailor dress"). Some schools also require hats to be worn, others might require boys to shave their heads or girls to keep their hair within a certain length. Note that the "furyoo" ("delinquent") students are typically seen wearing oversized or unbuttoned uniforms --- e.g., guys with 50's greased hairdo wearing sunglasses and pants several sizes too big are most likely furyoo or a member of some gang!

To address dress code and other related issues that were frowned upon by most students, many magnet schools that popped up during the 80's offered such alternatives as uniforms designed by top fashion moguls. While grade schools and colleges generally have no dress code, it is very rare to find junior or senior high schools that do not employ them!

"Hatta's Melon Bread... It's got an Oh-So-Cutesy texture... It's exceptional!"

"Melon Pan" is a typical snack food, a round piece of pastry with a somewhat moist outer coating. They retail for about 100 Yen each. While some actually incorporate cantaloupe extracts, most do not, because melon products (and melons themselves) are outrageously expensive in Japan.

"Pako" is a semi-nonsense word which is sometimes used as baby talk to mean "to munch," but in most cases it has not much meaning beyond its 'cute sounding' function. It also gives Pac Man his name.

"With contemporary trends in mind..." - Kurumi

Kurumi is talking like a typical fashion show MC. Also in this sequence, what Jingoro ends up looking like is a cross between some of the most famous professional wrestlers and pet celebrities of the day.

"How dare you... when you're still in Jr. High! You'd better be accepting responsibility for this!" - Yuusaku

In this scene, Yuusaku thinks that Kyosuke has made Hikaru pregnant. In the 80's, there were

many teenage TV dramas that dealt with this theme, and what Yuusaku says here are very stock lines from such shows.

Episode 14 – A Foreboding Dream! Madoka and Kyosuke Breaking Up at Last! (07/06/87)

“You're such a coward... you're the worst! We can't... We can't see each other anymore!”

The Tanabata festival is celebrated on July 7th. It is based on a Chinese legend of “Prince Hikoboshi” (also known as “Kengyuu” or a herdsman, represented by the constellation Altair) and “Princess Orihime” (“Weaving girl/princess,” constellation Lyra) [note that there are many readings of these two figures]. The two constellations seem to come together on that night in the sky. The story goes that Orihime's father, the master of the heavens, allowed the two to see each other only once a year on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month.

On this day, people make wishes on pieces of paper that are hung on trees somewhat like Christmas decorations.

Visual Joke: When Madoka and Kyosuke are alone, you can see some wish-tags that contain messages such as “Kane ga hoshii” (“I want money”), “Hoshii Hoshii Hoshii” (“I want it! I want it! I want it!”), and “Onna hoshii” (“I want women”). They were added by some of the staff animators.

“Strong! The Era of Women Has Arrived New Female Pro Wrestlers.”

Female professional wrestlers became instant celebrities in the late 70's. The “Beauty Pair” tag-team, for example, was an inspiration for “Dirty Pair,” the anime characters who first made their debut in “Crusher Joe.” The 80's saw many female wrestler celebrities, who were often seen more on TV variety shows (sitcoms, quiz shows, etc.) than in the ring.

“Right? “Rikidozan!” - Kasuga Takashi

Rikidozan was a celebrated sumo wrestler who traveled to United States to study professional wrestling. He became an wrestling superstar in the 50's.

“I promise I'll support you!” - Komatsu

“I'll be your groupie!” - Hatta

Basically, another idol star reference. Like every sport team, every idol star always had at least one “Ooendan” (Cheerleading Squad). Unlike American cheerleaders, ooendan usually consist of men.

“Allow me to be an idol star for a moment!”

“Oh, my love will ride the southern wind. Oh, the Blue Wind... come hither, then go run onto the island...” - Hikaru

An idol star reference. The words actually come from a song by one of the biggest idol-stars of the 80's, Matsuda Seiko, who also released records in the US under the name of “Seiko.” The song titled “Aoi Sangoshoo” (Blue Coral Reef) was her debut single in 1980, which made her an instant superstar, and is a standard karaoke classic. Hikaru's hairstyle is actually based on a famous one Seiko had during the early part of the 80's (and was imitated by girls all over Japan).

During that period, which its survivors would love to forget, all the idol stars had pretty much the same hairdo.

"I said, it's upside-down!" - Hikaru

"Well, I was just thinking that it'd be more artistic upside-down!" - Kyosuke

Art aficionados will recognize this as a reference to Georg Baselitz, one of the fathers of the German Neo-Expressionists, who became an international sensation in the early 80's with his 'upside-down' paintings. We told you these liner notes are educational.

Episode 15 – Madoka’s Ultimate Decision! Putting a Period to the Love Triangle. (07/13/87)

"Will you swear it to 'Hell's Judge?'"

"Enma-Sama" refers to an entity in Buddhism. According to legend, Enma was once a divine figure in the heavens who judged souls upon their entering the realm of the afterlife, but eventually became the judge of hell.

Episode 16 – Well, Do You Believe it or Not? Madoka Saw a UFO. (07/20/87)

"...the 'UFO' was flown by Kurumi."

In Japan, "UFO" is virtually synonymous with "spaceship", so UFO's are actually "identified flying objects!"

"Our agile camerawork! Our high-energy curiosity! And the shameless resolve to barge into other people's business! With these three talents in harmony, we make excellent reporters!" - Hatta and Komatsu

In presenting a material or product, the typical sales pitch harps on its three most desirable features in order to convince the target audience. "Sanbyooshi sorotte!" or "three features in perfect harmony!," the pitch usually goes. In other words, Hatta and Komatsu are attempting to blatantly promote themselves in this scene.

"What?! Yuusaku, you don't believe in the existence of UFO's?! And, you claim to be a Newtype?!"

During the mid-80's, a political commentator came up with a term "shinjinrui," which could be rendered "New Generation/Type/Human Race/Species." Similar to the label "Generation X," it referred to young people who grew up during the Bubble Economy Era Japan, who were engrossed in lifestyles of overspending and extravagance that "their elders find so bizarre as to suggest another species." (Joseph J. Tobin, "Re-Made in Japan," Yale Univ. Press, 1992) Often, these young adults would be obsessed with expensive collecting (often of useless objects) and other hobbies which were looked down upon by their elders. Anime Otaku would, of course, be a particularly reprehensible subspecies of shinjinrui.

What Hikaru meant here, and how Yuusaku reacted, work as a pun. Yuusaku thinks that Hikaru

actually meant that he was not a human being! And finally, to make the pun more bizarre, we couldn't resist turning it into a reference to a certain other anime series!

“Get lots of exercise, take care not to have any accidents and make your summer vacation a meaningful experience.” - Principal

In just about every school that has an assembly ground, the principal speaks to the students on a regular basis, as in this scene. It is, in fact, a too-typical scene. This speech here also is a stock one.

“All right! Let's step on it! Okutama or bust!”

Okutama is a tourist resort in western Tokyo.