

URUSEI YATSURA DISC 18, EPISODES 67 - 70

Episode 67, Story 90: "Found: The Valley of Peaches in the Camp-from-Hell!"

It is an Anime tradition that the culinary skill of strange female characters often redefines the term "dreadful." Lum is no exception, and may well be the worst offender in this regard.

Note the continuity error: the hare is in Ataru's hands, and then suddenly he is on the ground.

Rainbowman: Rainbowman was the hero of a popular live-action special effects SF show, one of the many in the same genre as "Power Rangers." As recounted in the theme song Rainbowman trains in the mountains of India, thus the reference by Ataru.

The Legend of Momotaro ("Peach Boy") tells of an old childless couple, Ojisan and Obaasan, who found a large peach drifting down a stream one day, when Obaasan went to do her laundry. When they opened it, out sprang Momotaro. When he grew up, he went to hunt the Oni, who had stolen all the wealth of the people years before. Along the way, he met a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant, all of whom joined him when he gave them one of his "Nippon-ichi no kibidango" (Steamed shiratamako flour with white sugar on top; they taste like rice-cakes). When they reached Oni-ga-shima ("Oni Island") in the Inland Sea, a great battle took place, and Momotaro took all the treasures back to the people from whom they had been stolen. He also ensured that Ojiichan and Obaachan would be well taken care of in their old(er) age.

Tougenkyou is apparently where Momotaro got put in the peach in the first place.

'Is it the famous "Peach Boy picked a peck of pickled peaches" peach?': The original phrase "Sumomo mo momo mo momo no uchi" is a tongue twister. It just means "Pickled peaches, peaches... they are all peaches."

The sword, Peach-Petal: The name of the sword, "Momotaro-maru," literally means "a valued object of Momotaro's."

Ataru's number is of course 4, considered to be very unlucky since it can be pronounced the same as "death" in Japanese.

Episode 68, Story 91: "The Groom's Name is Ryuunosuke "

All the gifts the Tengu bring are traditional engagement gifts.

"That bouncy feeling..." is a parody of a detergent commercial.

The Sex Change Cannon (Improved Version): Fans of Uchuu-senkan Yamato (aka Star Blazers) know that the Yamato's most powerful weapon was the so-called "Wave-Motion Cannon," a giant

particle-accelerator-like device that was capable of releasing an enormous burst of particle plasma. Charging the cannon was a long, drawn-out process. In "Yamato", the charging sequence was always shown in great detail (can you say "reusing footage?" We knew you could...).

Multiple exposure effect: Ryuunosuke and her father seem to blur because they move so fast. This effect, "Electronic Acceleration," was first used in the anime/manga "Cyborg 009." Cyborg 009 & Co. were able to engage in this mode, where they moved at speeds so fast that they were unable to be seen by ordinary people.

Episode 69, Story 92: "A Message in a Bottle: Seaside Spookiness!"

Kasu & Booze are terms from the card game of Hanafuda, which Lum and Shinobu are playing. See the volume 6 liner notes for more details on the game.

Episode 70, Story 93: "The Sensational Debut of Mizunokouji Ton!"

Koushien Stadium is very prestigious baseball stadium where annual high school tournaments take place. It's the ultimate goal for aspiring players, and the process to get there is highly selective. Winners will certainly be called heroes in their hometowns, and may even be scouted by many professional teams who shop around for their future members there. On the other hand, losers are known to pack home a bagful of treasured Koushien dirt!

"Hey, kids! Unhand that turtle!" is yet another reference to the legend of Urashima Taro. In the legend, Taro finds a sea turtle that had washed up on a beach, and was being tormented by some cruel children. He rescued the turtle, and in return, the turtle took him to Dragon Palace, where he was wined and dined by the Princess of the Palace. When Taro decided to leave, the Princess gave him a box as a going-away present, with a warning that he must never open it. After returning to the land, Taro discovered that over 100 years had passed, even though he had only been away a few days. He finds that all his friends have aged and died, and that his village has changed so much as to be unrecognizable. Finally, Taro opens the box, and the gas that was contained within released him from the magic that had retarded his aging, swiftly turning him into an extremely old man.

Dominance and Submission: "Shiyuu" can mean 2 things in different context: 1) male & female 2) victory. Tobimaro is talking about the latter, but while trying to make sure that he's not talking about the former, he himself gets it mixed up. Needless to say, this is an Excedrin headache for translators, but we think our version comes close to preserving the puns.

Mizonokouji Tobimaro's family name is a play on "Mizuno," a famous sporting goods company.

Buke & Kuge: During the Kamakura Era, there were two opposing groups of people. Buke were the soldiers, and the Kuge were mostly bureaucrats. Mendou's family are Buke, and

Mizunokouji's are Kuge, and the rivalry is still going strong!

Tobimaro's training: This is all yet another parody of "Kyojin no Hoshi", a serious anime/manga drama from the late 60's/early 70's. Its main character, Hoshi Hyuuma, is a boy who trains hard, pushed by his No-Mercy father, to become the pitcher for Yomiuri Giants (the most popular team in Japanese Baseball).

Hyuuma's father was perhaps the least lenient man in the entire universe, as well as a semi-alcoholic, who'd beat his son into training hard for baseball. Tobimaro is portrayed as a Hoshi Hyuuma-like character here. The "in" drawing-style of that era made the eyes 'sparkle' to dramatize many characters, although it eventually became so passé that newer non-serious anime/manga made mockery out of it. Thus the outrageous sparkles in Tobimaro's eyes.

The entire baseball game is a parody of every sports-related anime show ever done, past, present and future.

The burly sportscaster is a caricature of Nagashima Shigeo, "Mr. Baseball," one of the most popular Japanese baseball stars of all time.