

URUSEI YATSURA
DISC 25, EPISODES 95 – 98

Episode 95, Story 118 : Lum's Classic Tales of Japan

"It's so little. It's been so little these few years. These guys must be the reason why my share of the otoshidama is so puny!" - Ataru.

"Otoshidama" refers to monetary gifts given to children on New Year's Day.

"I'm a kid! Obviously, you've gotta take me with you!" - Ten.

"Mediator! 'Tis a good thing that nobody got hurt, thanks to my appearance." - Cherry.

Here Cherry is offering himself as a mediator in this heated argument between Ten and Ataru.

But "Katami!" can also mean "half of the body," which makes the close-up shot of half-baked Cherry a visual pun.

"Good children ought to take a nap, in order to grow." - Cherry.

Yet another traditional aphorism.

"Once upon a time, in a place somewhere, an old man and woman lived together." - Cherry.

"Do you think us kids can stomach stories like that these days?!" - Ten.

Cherry's line is how almost all Japanese traditional fairy tales begin. Ten's reaction reflects this.

"I'll go wash clothes in the river. Dear, cook some glue for me." - Lum.

Women washing clothes in the river is yet another typical scenario in traditional tales.

"A sparrow dwelled in their house, and the three lived joyfully." - Cherry.

"M...My tongue is in danger!" - Ten.

"The old man snipped the Sparrow's tongue, so that he wouldn't ever be able to eat the glue again." - Cherry.

The story refers to one of the classic children's tales, in which a sparrow is punished by an old grumpy man for eating glue. When a kindhearted neighbor (or the man's wife - there are many variations of this story) takes care of the injured sparrow, it rewards the savior handsomely.

Seeing this, the grumpy man repeats the same process over again, only this time he puts on a disguise and takes care of the injured sparrow. When he expects some reward, he is given nothing but things he dislikes.

This particular episode has references to many children's tales. Here is another:

"For a peach that's found in the river, it's quite small, wouldn't you say?" - Ataru.

"Giant peaches only exist in fairy tales." - Lum.

The Story of Momotaro, the Peach Boy, begins with a woman finding a giant peach floating in the river.

"But then, he was born from a peach, so I'd think naming him 'Peach Boy' would be better." - Lum.

“In that case, let's compromise and name him 'Issun-Momota.’” - Ataru.

Two of the classic children's tales referred to in this episode are “Issun-boshi” (“10-cm boy”) and “Momotaro” (“Peach Boy”).

Episode 96, Story 119 : Spotlight - The Bra of Dreams

“Shinobu, wanna go get some anmitsu on the way back?” - Shinobu's friend.

“I can't. I'm on cleaning detail today.” - Shinobu.

Anmitsu is a dessert food, a mixture of jelly and fruits topped by a heavy dollop of syrup and sometimes ice cream as well.

Shinobu's cleaning duty refers to the fact that most schools require students to stay after school to do most of the cleaning around the classroom.

“You bastard! Do you not see these?!” - Ryuunosuke.

“Those boo-boos? The wrappings will cure them!” - Mr. Fujinami.

“These are boobs, not boo-boos!” - Ryuunosuke.

Sometimes the jokes are even funnier after they are translated, and here is another example! There's no pun in the original Japanese, and anytime we get a chance to do a pun as lame as this (in particular when it's a literal translation), we simply can't resist.

Episode 97, Story 120: Challenge! Benten vs. The Girl Trio

“As long as the Giant Computer S.A.L.T. No.1 is on our side, we're invincible!” - Sugar.

To complement the “Spice Girls,” we have a saline machine...

“Space vector A-H-O? That's where we'll be able to maximize our superpsychic abilities, but where our sempai will be at an enormous disadvantage!” - Pepper.

“Aho” literally means “idiot,” “dimwit,” etc.

“Accelerator Device ON!” - Ataru.

This line is a reference to the classic anime series, “Cyborg 009”. The device allows almost-instantaneous spatial movement.