

## URUSEI YATSURA DISC 22, EPISODES 83 - 86

### Episode 83, Story 106 : Big Battle! Ten vs. Ataru

“From Kuramae National Hall... so long, ladies and gentlemen!” - TV Announcer.  
Kuramae Hall used to be post-war Japan's premier site for sumo championships.

“Next week... TaaGaaMask vs. Tiger The Great.” - TV Caption.  
Both “TaaGaaMask” and “Tiger The Great” are a parody of “Tiger Mask,” a classic anime hero from the 70's.

“You're flying slowly because your body just isn't strong enough! Train hard with these iron clogs, which I used to train myself in the old days.” - Cherry.

“Ten, I've got a present for ya! If you don't use this harness to train your entire body you won't get a balanced result!” - Lum.

The concept of training with iron clogs comes from early sports anime and manga, such as “Kyojin no Hoshi.” These days it's mostly used as comic relief.

Ten's special training harness is a direct copy of the one that was used by Hoshi Hyuuma in “Kyojin no Hoshi!”

“Darling?! Whatcha doing?!” - Lum.

“I'll be right back! I forgot something! Tell Onsen that I've got a stomach-ache...” - Ataru.  
The road sign made with pebbles here is a tribute to Ota Dokan, a 15th century warrior who is said to have used piles of rocks as signs. Aside from being a renowned fighter, he is also known for building castles and rerouting rivers.

“This is one technique I never wanted to use... Eat this... My sure-death technique!” - Ten.  
Here, again, is a reference to the classic anime and manga series, “Kyojin no Hoshi.” Ten's close-up scene is a parody of Hoshi showing off his “sure-death technique!”

“Of course! Me and that stealthy Jariten, we're as different as chalk and cheese!” - Ataru.  
The Japanese proverbial expression, “Undei no sa” (literally “separated by as much as heaven and earth”) is used to refer to two things that are completely different yet somewhat comparable.

“Give up now?! Sure Death Technique: Terrapin from Hell!” - Ten.

“Suppon” (terrapin, or snapping turtle) is a species of turtles that is known for its sharp jaws.

### Episode 84, Story 107 : Terror! Attack of the Killer Potatoes!

“Tororo-imo,” or Tororo Potato, get its name from the gooey nature of its extract (“tororo” is based on an onomatopoeia for something that flows slowly) which is often used in Japanese dishes.

“How can I eat Yamakake if I'm afraid of Tororo potatoes?!” - Mendou.

Tororo-imo is also known as “Yama-imo” (“Mountain Potato”). “Yamakake” is simply a bowl of rice covered with Tororo sauce.

“Moroboshi...! Tororo potatoes are aesthetically unfit for Lum!” - Mendou.

One reason for Mendou's comment is that Tororo is notorious for its unattractive, lumpy and hairy appearance.

“What if the potato juice gets on her hands and she gets an itchy rash?!” - Mendou.

The juice from Tororo potatoes causes many people temporary minor skin irritation!

“Potato.” - Lum.

“Who're you calling a potato?!” - Shinobu.

Calling someone an “imo” (potato) is basically saying that s/he is old-fashioned, unintelligent, laughable or simply stupid. It is one of the most trivial insults, and is used effectively as a pun here.

“Lum! Slow down! I'm scared of speed!” - Mendou.

Here we find Mendou is not only scared of darkness and confined spaces, but also of speed!

### **Episode 85, Story 108 : Galactic Teacher CAO-2 Strikes Back!**

“Planet Uni is undergoing colonization.” - Oyuki.

“Planet Uni? Why?” - Ran.

“What could you do with a barren planet full of calcium spikes?” - Benten.

“Well, listen to this... underneath that layer of calcium they discovered complex proteins and amino acids.” - Oyuki.

“CAO-2” is used as a pun: 1) the chemical formula for calcium oxide, 2) “CAO” can be read “kao,” which means “face,” referring to CAO-2's biggest feature. “Uni” means “sea urchin,” hence the planet's characteristic spikes.

“CAO-2... A 200-year veteran of the galactic grammar school, it is a cosmic teacher, a robotic instructor made of metal!” - Narrator.

The fact that CAO-2 is shaped like a blackboard eraser brings to light a certain truth about the Japanese school system... that it was fairly common for enraged teachers to throw erasers at disobedient students!

“I can't believe we're not related!” - Onsen.

“Indeed!” - CAO-2.

Here, Onsen and CAO-2 are engaged in a very stereotypical conversation that is seen on Japanese sitcoms.

“Lum! That blackboard eraser has done nothing wrong! You must convince him to release it!” - CAO-2.

“Lum! Don't even bother listening to his nonsense!” - Ataru

CAO-2's line is a reference to a classic cops-and-robbers TV show, where officers are notorious

for relying on emotions to get hostages released.

“Lum! Open your eyes! That good-for-nothing's but an idiot, he's got no class... Forget this space bombardier beetle or whatever he is! He's ugly looking as well.” - CAO-2.

“Why, you... What... What makes me a space bombardier beetle?!” - Ataru.

“Gomimushi” (literally “garbage bug,” sometimes called “Heppirimushi,” or “farting bug”) are tiny beetles (called “bombardier beetles”) that expel an acrid secretion from the posterior end of the abdomen when provoked. Needless to say, calling someone a flatulent little bug ranks much higher, in terms of insult, than calling someone a potato!

### **Episode 86, Story 109 : Outraged! Piteous Boy Shutaro!**

“Oniisama! Oniisama, what happened to you?!” - Ryoko.

“Oniisama” is a highly polite form of addressing an older brother or brotherly figure. Referring as such to one's own brother as Ryoko does here was a common practice in the old days, especially in prestigious households; these days, it sounds anachronistic and overly dramatic!

“Gosh, Oniisama... Tell me, what's this special training? Tell me!” - Ryoko.

Careful viewers will notice the “whack!” caption!

“Yes... Ms. Ryoko was very concerned, so she tried to ask him what was going on, but the Young Master became unconscious after leaving the training room.” - Mendou's servant.

“Unconscious?” - Ataru.

“He must be undertaking some extreme training!” - Lum.

“And, so... you came to see how I'm doing?” - Mendou, with a bandage on his head.

Bandages in anime and manga are all too often used as comic relief. Notice how they pop up and disappear in a variety of situations!

“Lum... I'll show it to you, and only you... my secret, that is!” - Mendou.

“A pickled-vegetables game?” - Lum.

“Tsukemono” (also called “Oshinko”) refers to pickled vegetables that many housewives make in their homes using ceramic jars. Rarely does one encounter large jars like the ones Mendou has!

“Lame training like this won't cure your phobias! Nothing ever has!” - Ataru.

“Right. And that's a toughie...” - Shinobu.

“This is just like an octopus trap.” - Ryuunosuke.

“An octopus trap!” - Lum.

“Oh, look! He's flinching!” - Ataru.

“Leave me alone!” - Mendou

The most common octopus traps are not much more than ceramic jars with semi-open lids, hence Ryuunosuke's comment.

“Damn, that brat's so noisy!” - Ryuunosuke.

“Lum, quiet him down, OK? It'll be a pain if they find us.” - Ataru, referring to Mendou.

“Mendou” is a homonym that can mean bother/pain in the rear/trouble maker/ etc. Hence Ataru's

line is actually a pun.

“What the hell? Are they making Doburoku or something?” - Megane.

“There's nothing inside.” - Perm.

“Doburoku” (sometimes called “Moromi-zake,” or 'unrefined saké') refers to a raw, unfiltered saké, which is fairly thick and pale white in appearance; another word for a homebrew!

“Grab my hand! I...I'm being sucked in!” - Megane.

“Wh...What are you doing in there?! You'll turn into a pickle!” - Perm.

Another reference to pickled vegetables and the jars used to make them.

“Such nice weather.” - Megane.

“Yeah. Such nice weather.” - Perm.

“And also... it's supposed to be Taian today.” - Megane.

“Now that's good to know.” - Perm.

The words “Senshoo,” “Tomobiki,” “Sembu,” “Butsumetsu,” “Taian,” and “Shakkoo” are known as “Rokuyou” or “Rokki” (a six-day divination), a kind of “Rekichu,” or diary reference, in Buddhist reckoning. They refer to how “lucky” a given day will be. These names, based on Chinese prophecies, are used to determine which days will be best for important events, especially weddings. “Taian,” the luckiest day, means “great peace.” “Tomobiki,” which means “pulling friends” or “friends coming along,” is the name of the high school and area of Tokyo (fictional) where much of the series takes place. It also means a day of no winners and no losers, wherein the early morning and late afternoon are lucky, and the rest of the day is unlucky, as opposed to “Shakkoo,” which is just the opposite. People try to avoid having funerals on Tomobiki, because, as its name states, it will pull friends along, and cause them to suffer the same fate as the deceased. “Butsumetsu,” which means “the death of Buddha,” is considered the unluckiest day, and is also the name of the girls' school next to Tomobiki High. “Senshoo” means that the morning is lucky, and the afternoon is unlucky. It also means that one will be lucky with things which one is doing in a hurry. “Sembu” is the reverse: unlucky mornings, lucky afternoons, and luck in taking things easy. The joke about using these names for place names is that no one would normally even think of using them to name a place. Calling a school “Butsumetsu,” for example, connotes a feeling of extreme unluckiness; certainly not a place where one would want to send one's daughter.

“In order to do so, I've gotta earn a lot more trust!” - Ataru.

“Do it! Do a lot more! You clown!” - Little Mendou.

Mendou's fan-flipping act is a reference to clan lords and other noblemen of the yesteryears who would wave around folding-fans to indicate approval.

“You certainly look like you're having fun!” - Mendou.

“Little boy... look over there!” – Ataru

“Well?! Do you still think that I've sold my soul to the devil?!” - Ataru.

“Acchimuite hoi!” (Look over there!) is a game similar to Simon Says.