Copycat Case (Part 1)



(This document will go over the Copycat Case of the Demon Detective Neuro Nougami manga and anime, one of Neuro's first real challenges as a detective.)

Source: Demon Detective Neuro Nougami (Chapter 18-22; Episode 7)

Summary

In chapter 18, someone by the same of "X" is brutally mutilating people and stuffing them in boxes with the same mass and volume as the victims. However, during the 10 years he's been active, even when taking extreme precautions such as watching the victim's comings and goings, no one has even caught a glimpse of his shadow. According to Yako (in the manga), he is also a thief that went on a worldwide rampage, responsible for billions of dollars in damages. In the anime, Neuro studied a year's worth of information about Phantom Thief Sai. He also leaves no evidence as told by Yako.

Motive

X, being unable to remember his true identity, goes around killing people throughout the series to see their insides as he feels he may be able to find a similar part he may be related to. He goes around killing several people ranging from tabloid paparazzis to politicians, hoping that their status and behavior may be related to his real identity.

Akira Horiguchi

Akira Horiguchi was a deranged fan of X/Sai who tried to imitate his murders by practicing on pets. He admired X and wanted to reach his level of infamy. When asked by his father about what he is doing on his midnight walks, he changes the subject. When followed by his father, he manages to lose him. He even has an escape route planned for if he gets caught, and decided to have a substitute pretending to be him reading a book at a convenience store, as well as replacing the store's camera with a wireless one in order to monitor his substitute, as deduced by Neuro in the manga and Sasazuka in the anime. This was a level of misdirection that was able to stump Neuro at first, who claimed to have solved all the mysteries of the Demon World, as well as being able to solve complex crimes in a short period of time, such as solving the murder of Yako's father within 30 minutes. He also left no fingerprints or other forms of evidence at the scene of the crime.

Shapeshifting

X has the power to shapeshift into any person he wants by manipulating his mutated cells, with the only reason he was found out was because Neuro could notice his response to conversations, the change in physical response to the forced conditions in his body, and the vibrations of his cells. In the manga, he pretended to be Akira's grandmother for 6 years, with Akira and his family believing his disguise the entire time. In the anime however, he was inspector Tsutsui Souta the whole time, so he could dispose of any evidence left behind at the crime scene. X claims to have "innumerable faces", and that he could have been talking normally to anyone in the room before with them noticing.