

# Get it together, WWE

**SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM**

'The Attitude Era' was the most successful period in wrestling history, this particular era hooked a lot of people to become wrestling fans. Even we Bangladeshis probably started our wrestling journey when BTV used to air months-old reruns of Raw and Smackdown during the Attitude Era.

Why was it so successful? The answer is freedom. Freedom for wrestlers to be whatever they wanted to be. While I have some issues with the Attitude Era, I have to give credit where it's due. During that time, talents were nurtured and honed to be the stars that they are now. It was all about grooming new talented wrestlers and letting them loose. Some of the iconic characters were just the exaggerated personalities of the wrestlers and WWE supported that. Wrestlers had a lot of control over themselves, what they said on the mic, their attitudes and gestures, it felt natural.

What happens when you take all this away and instead force wrestlers to be who they're not and say things that you've written on a script? You get failures.

Remember Rocky Maivia? Remember The Rock? Same guy. The first character was a goody two-shoes, with a great wrestling lineage. Everyone hated it. Then he turned into The Rock, one of the most iconic wrestlers ever. The former was a soulless character; the latter was full of life. Why the stark difference? Well, Rocky was concocted by the higher-ups and was forced down our throats. The Rock was the result of a wrestler being set free.

It seems like WWE forgot everything that made them successful. Everything is controlled now, from what the wrestlers say to the commentary. It feels so robotic at times. They forgot about the whole cultivating new talent thing and depend on the old guys to sell tickets. Wrestlers can hardly go off-script and they micromanage so much that certain words cannot be even uttered.



Why should they even care? There's no WCW that might attack, all the other promotions are peanuts compared to them. No competition, no desire to improve. They know, no matter what, wrestling fans have to watch them.

Furthermore, Vince decided that two hours wasn't enough of this torture, he made it three hours long.

We even have the new Rocky Maivia, Roman Reigns, the current WWE champion. Incidentally, he also has a great lineage, he's related to The Rock. Most normal people don't have a great lineage, so how do they expect us to relate to him? WWE tells us the odds are stacked against him, he has to fight everyone, one vs. all. Really? Should we forget his lineage backing him? Should

we forget he has two cousins that come to his rescue all the time or The Rock helping him occasionally? One vs. all. Right.

I really hope he follows The Rock's footsteps and turns into The Roman, but I know that will never happen; it might have been possible in a different era, but not today, and that's just sad.

Daniel Bryan was an amazing wrestler who was famous in NJPW and ROH. What did WWE do with him? Make him a jobber, of course! He lost to Sheamus at Wrestlemania XXVIII in 18 seconds. WWE had no intention of making this guy a star but the fans had other plans. They rebelled and demanded to give Daniel an opportunity and WWE surrendered. We got to see one of the best technical wrestlers be himself for the first time. He had a beautiful storyline (props to WWE) and won at Wrestlemania XXX. Surely, everyone thought he would continue soaring high but in the next Royal Rumble he was thrown out after a few minutes. Great WWE, you really know what the fans want.

Currently, WWE has the best wrestlers from all over the world – the best from NJPW, ROH and TNA are now in WWE. My question is, why are most of them in the mid-card? Where are the Triple Threats and Fatal 4-Ways? Why don't they, at least, produce a good storyline for them? Don't even get me started on the creative team.

There are a lot of things WWE does right, but even then I can't watch three hours of bland storylines and promos. I can't watch three hours of someone reading off a script with no emotions. I definitely can't watch talented wrestlers getting no chance and mediocre wrestlers getting all the spotlight.

*Shoaib Ahmed Sayam doesn't need coffee because he stays up all night anyway, doing the things he should be doing during the day. Send him John Cena memes at [facebook.com/ooribabamama](https://www.facebook.com/ooribabamama)*

