

EDITORIAL

Winter is not winter-ing anymore like winter should. Or, by the time this gets published, winter is winter-ing like never before and I'm probably looking like a fool to you. Whatever it is, summer isn't that far away.

In terms of the weather itself, summer doesn't excite me too much. Apart from the fruits and festivities that this particular time of the year brings, it has nothing much going on. There's also the fact that the scorching hot weather will welcome hours of loadshedding with it. Are you all ready for that? I'm certainly not.

Imagine coming back home from your classes or work looking forward to a relaxing evening followed by a good night's sleep and suddenly, the power goes out. Ruins the whole mood, doesn't it?

Of course, everything has a flipside to it and the seasons are no different. The best we can do when that time comes is look forward to all the good things summer has to offer while trying to tolerate the rest.

– Faisal Bin Iqbal, Sub-editor & Digital Coordinator, SHOUT



A

There She Goes
Taio Cruz

...Baby One More
Britney Spears

right here
keshi

Mirrors
Justin Timberlake

B

Is There Someone Else?
The Weeknd

Hit The Lights
Metallica

Abar
Black

Selfish Soul
Sudan Archives

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PLAYWATCH

ANIME



One Piece is an ideal embodiment of freedom in anime

MYNUL KARIM

Numerous anime incorporate themes of fights, struggles, and the glory of freedom in their stories with great success, but very few do it as sublimely as *One Piece*.

One Piece has become one of the most coveted and decorated anime and manga series of all time. One of the central themes of the series is freedom and independence. This is exemplified by the character of Monkey D. Luffy and his crew, the Straw Hat Pirates, who have their individual grand ambitions and are determined to fulfil them against all odds.

Luffy, in particular, is a strong advocate for freedom and independence. He is determined to forge his own path and follow his own rules, even if it means going against the norms of society. He is willing to do whatever it takes to achieve his dream and not let anyone else dictate his actions.

This determination and commitment to freedom are also seen in the other members of the Straw Hat Pirates. Each of them has their own reasons for wanting to become pirates, but they all share a common goal of achieving true freedom and independence. They are willing to put their lives on the line to defend their beliefs and protect their crewmates.

Throughout the series, the Straw Hat Pirates encounter many other characters seeking liberty. Some of these characters are pirates like themselves, while others are civilians oppressed by powerful forces. In every case, the Straw Hat Pirates are willing to help those fighting against oppression, even if it means risking their own lives.

The series also explores the concept of freedom and independence on a larger scale. The history of *One Piece* is shaped by power struggles, suppression, and denial of freedom. The world is divided into different nations, each with its own government and rules. Some of these nations are free and open, while others are oppressive and tyrannical. This is further compounded by the strong grasp the World Government, one of the series' main antagonistic factions, holds over these nations and the general masses, which often renders them void of free will.

The Straw Hat Pirates often find themselves at odds with the governments of these nations and sometimes the World Government directly, as they seek to defend the freedom of their own crew and those oppressed by the authorities. In doing so, they often challenge the established order and risk the wrath of the powerful forces that seek to maintain their control.

Even though their actions are driven by their will to progress and aid the oppressed, their actions coincide with the historical prophecies of sovereignty, thus forming a connection of the crew with the narrative of the lore.

Overall, the themes of freedom and independence are vital to the story of *One Piece*. They not only play a crucial role in shaping the actions and motivations of the characters but are also pivotal in advancing the storyline. Through their struggles and triumphs, the Straw Hat Pirates and the other characters in the series showcase the importance of freedom and independence and the lengths that people will go to for achieving them.