

"I hope it's going to be clear that it's about one person. It's set up on purpose a little bit vague to sound like it might be a relationship between two people, and almost a love song, in a sense.

But that became such a cliché, certainly through the eighties, of the modern, sensitive man, and it was wrong in many ways.

I draw upon my research, if you like, on this, everywhere from Carl Jung to Camille Paglia, about what the modern man was supposed to be, and to many people in the eighties, the modern man was supposed to be a woman. And, you know, to be sensitive and nurturing and all, and to completely lose the masculine side of the character, the animus.

So, in reading about that and thinking about that, and observing, certainly, people around me and how they behave and how they pretended they really were, it became a bit of an act, of men pretending to be more sensitive than they actually were, and sometimes women pretending to be more aggressive than they actually were, so it was basically pleading for a balance of that.

I feel that yes, men do have a large female component to their characters, as it can only be. It's natural. As counterparts, we are both duplicates and opposites. The Oxford dictionary definition of the word includes both of those things. That's definitely true of genders as well.

In the song, I was trying to get at the idea that you can be both strong and sensitive, you can be both ambitious and soft, really, but not to deny either and to keep them in balance. So, the dominance and submission metaphor had to come into play, but I used it, again, of a person dominating himself.

In this case, because he's a man, he's dominating his softer side. But at the same time, he has to dominate his "A" words, the aggression, the ambition, and the traditional biological male things which, in spite of all modern sociological changes, we are, in the last 20 or 30 years of sexual revolution, trying to change tens of thousands of years of human evolution, really, of men as the hunter and woman as the nurturer. So, those things have to be recognized. And yes, we can change them. We've changed a lot of things. We used to be comfortable with slavery and call ourselves Christians. That's changed now.

There are definitely changes we can make in acting more civilized. But at the same time, it's foolish to deny that which courses through our veins. The song really tries to reconcile that very complicated, and also very topical thing."

Neil Peart, Rockline interview [circa 1993?]