

## Project summary- *The Rift*

This song represents my personal story regarding the conflict between monogamy and polyamory, two conflicting human orientations, back-dropped by fierce arguments from both sides. Two scientific positions argue how we interacted sexually in our pre-agricultural lives, and how we are meant to apply these ideas in our modern times. I use my own experiences to cast an anecdotal light on this human dichotomy, and to highlight the polarized scientific arguments accompanying these two modern mating systems.

The song build in three main sections, through the three verses: the first is an acknowledgment of my friends orientation towards polyamory, the second is a defense of my own monogamy as an engrained if not natural part of my psyche, and the third and final verse covers the transfer from our hunter gatherer days, and how it is reflected on our modern western society. The chorus of the song similarly talks about modern cases of hunter gatherer societies, and how they too can reflect on the modern standard narrative of human sexuality.

The first verse of *The Rift* is meant to clarify certain aspects of polyamorism, and to set the stage for the inherent mis-match between my friend and I. It is implied in the first line that there is a different set of values/ideas when it comes to comfort in mating systems, and that it is not solely (in my mind) a factor of western morals and ideals. The line regarding giving 100% of one's love is in reference to the idea that love is not a finite resource, as it is often portrayed in modern society[1].

In verse two, the tree is my own monogamous leanings, as my friend's breeze attempts to sway that held idea. While I came to understand her need for an open mating/pairing system, my emotional and subconscious roots were too strong to feel comfortable with such an arrangement. The 'book' referenced is the standard narrative of human sexuality, which is so commonly thought to be the natural way of humans [2], and argued against on the grounds of "Flinstonization" [1]. Beyond that, the end of this verse simply restates how it is a deep factor of nature which creates my strong convictions, over any societal pressure.

The final verse draws some of the clearest connections to the core argument of as-we-were and how-we-should-be-now. The rift between mating practices comes out of, at its roots, the advent of agricultural societies. When we moved from fiercely egalitarian societies where everything was shared in equal measure, from food to child care to sexual interactions, and individual ownership became the cultural standard, ownership of ones spouse soon followed [1]. It is argued that monogamy came out of this constructed culture, and runs against our natural tendencies for shared sexual encounters. Jealousy is a resulting component of that, as a fear of losing one's spouse. Whether this jealousy is a natural tendency [3] or an engrained fear from 10 thousand years of possession of land, livestock, and lovers [1] seems irrelevant when the emotion is nonetheless real. The quip about legislative law is in relation to the high divorce rates, and the many legal binds that exist to prevent infidelity, despite the standard narrative stating this is how we should want to behave, without the law telling us so. Yet, it remains a regular truth that people feel the need to seek sexual contact outside their committed single pair-bond. Finally, I state that it has nothing to do with paternal certainty, in my life in this modern age; simply my own desire and need for (serial) monogamy.

Throughout the song, the chorus rings out regarding modern case studies of hunter gatherer tribes. Particularly the Ache', whose lifestyles are interpreted in wholly different lights in Diamond's and Ryan/Jetha's text. The Ache have a semi-monogamous mating system, but with so many levels of what constitutes a father, it is hardly a cut and dry matter. For a tribe of under 300, there were a reported 600+ fathers- hardly the case of strict monogamy and fear for lack of paternal security. In the end, people are different, as people will be, and sometimes that creates a gap cannot be bridged by good intentions. While some tune into the narrative of our biologically evolved ancestors, for others the modern standard, to one degree or another, fits quite correctly.

1-Ryan C, Jetha' C. Sex at Dawn. New york: HarperCollins publishers, 2010.

2- Diamond, Jared. Why is sex fun? New york: basic Books, 1997.

3- Dixon, Alan F. Sexual selection and the origins of human mating systems. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

The Rift- a song written and performed by Adam Miller

Topic- The practice of monogamy vs polyamory in our modern society

verse 1-

I sense a split in the systems reached, regardless of what societies teach  
I still love you this is so... its just that I fell out and you continued to roll  
I know you've got the heart, this I believe, to give all your loving to more than me.  
But in my mind, the math aside, 100 percent  
of time can strike but a single gent.

(Chorus)

the west say the ache' they can't stay true, but look at the facts, our modern view  
so am I show off, stay at home? It appears that I am both, with a need to walk a single road.

-

so how is it were meant to be, one on one or two's and threes  
lets both be right, so differently- this rift strikes us equally

verse 2-

a light and persistent breeze persuades even tallest trees to strain their roots  
on the different chapter of a different book; were off the same page with the same long look  
my promise reflects on the word taken back,, as personal defense, I wasn't trying to attack  
the situation we have on our hands, its nature vs nature- I am who I am

(chorus)

Interlude-

we're plaids  
and stripes  
both black and whites  
But who is to say what deems us right

verse 3-

That was then, and this is now, the rift draws through like the farmers plough  
perhaps its a fear of what we've become, draw your own cause, for its jealousy now  
If this here is "how we are" then why the need for legislative law  
No search for certain paternity, just a serial need as second I would feel one short you see