

A Perfect Circle's song "Magdalena" is a dark metaphor comparing an irrational emotional state with religious undertones. A Perfect Circle is known for both dark themes and religious themes in the content of their lyrics. This song's main theme is about strong desire for a woman he can not have. He compares her to Mary Magdalena, a biblical character tied to Jesus. For whatever reason he can not be with her regardless of the fact that he knows she is bad for him.

He begins by stating that he is "overcome by your moving temple." In the bible the body is referred to as a temple. He furthers this metaphor of worshipping her body by saying "overcome by this holiest of altars." To emphasize why he feels the way he does he states that she is "so pure, so rare to witness such an earthly goddess." As you see he compares her to a couple different figures that are worshipped. That worship leads to an irrational state of mind.

His worship of her is so great that he admits that he has "lost my self control." In this section he begins to compare her to Mary Magdalena. She was rumored to be a prostitute who Jesus had convinced to reform. She was apparently one of his followers and many other speculations are made that she may have been involved with him romantically. The line "beyond compelled to throw this dollar down before your holiest of altars" is a comparison to her being a prostitute, like Mary Magdalena. The price however is not in a monetary form. He states that he is willing to "sell my soul, my self esteem a dollar at a time." His worship of her is so great that he would sell her his soul and with each attempt a bit of his self esteem.

His emotional state is so desperate that he is willing to give up his soul and self esteem not just to be with her, but to know what it would be like to be with her. He claims that all he really wants is "one kiss, one taste of you my Magdalena." This is where he makes a firm connection between her and Mary Magdalena by calling her "my" Magdalena. He continues to further emphasize his desperately irrational state of emotions by committing an act of blasphemy by his continued worship of her. He states he would "bear witness to this place", which is another reference to her body as a temple. The next line "this prayer so long forgotten", I believe is a statement of how his prayers go unanswered despite his devotion.

He then goes on repeating a lot of the same dialogue from before, but ends by calling her "my Black Madonna." Madonna is the term used to reference the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. To call this woman a Black Madonna is an interesting twist of how he feels she is pure and worthy of worship yet filled with a malicious intent that did this to him on purpose. This is his final statement of how much he worships her yet despises her and considers her evil for what she has done to his soul and his self esteem.

A Perfect Circle's "Magdalena" is a dark and edgy song that touches on a variety of issues from love to religion. It has an interesting way of intertwining the two into a strange metaphor. It is a metaphor that describes the sometimes irrational foundation of human emotions. As you can see it is a story of how a man has fallen for a woman who he knows is bad for him and he can not be with. His desires have led him to an irrational state of mind. This story is told in a way only A Perfect Circle could do.