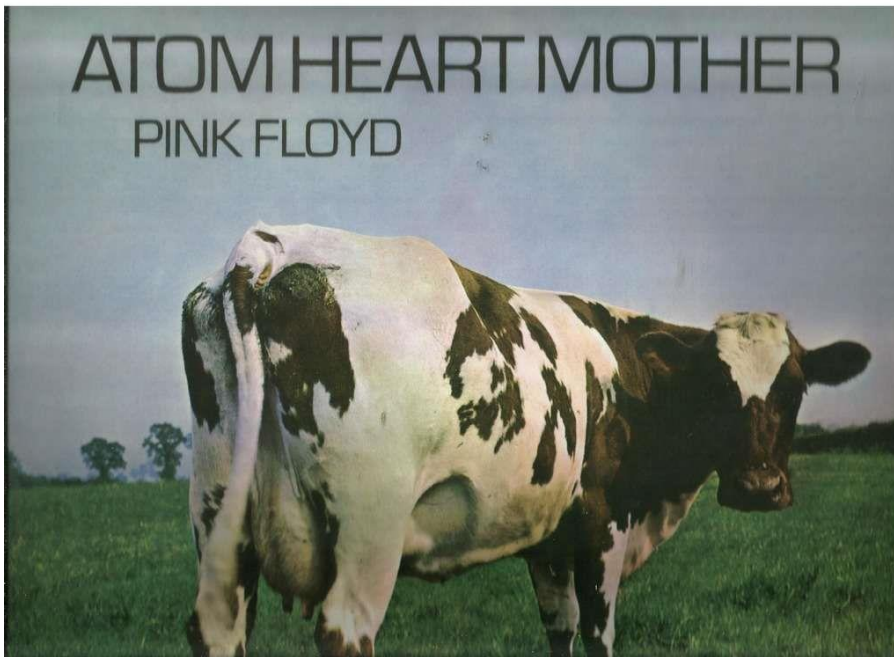


IF. MEANING



Song composed and sung by Roger Waters. It is one of the first songs written entirely by the bassist. The words are inspired by Rudyard Kipling's poem "If". The writer addresses the book to his son John, it is not easy to understand who Waters is addressing. Maybe his old friend Syd Barrett, his band or who knows who else. Syd Barrett had been kicked out of the band just the year before for

his drug addiction. With this song Waters speaks to him for the first time. The words would match. Syd was always "gone", on hallucinogens ("If I were a swan, I'd be gone"), he was always late for rehearsals ("If I were a train, I'd be late"). He had problems relating to others ("If I were the moon, I'd be cool") and following the rules ("If I were a rule, I would bend for you"). And Roger seems to look inside himself and tell himself that if he had been good he would have listened to him more and would have understood the spaces between friends.

Every Pink Floyd fan knows the role of Syd Barrett throughout their career. First leader, then muse.

A very introspective and extremely personal song, whose words may have changed meaning over the years.