

## The Other Highwaymen

*Highwayman*, by Jimmy Webb (c1977), became the eponym for the outlaw country group that consisted of Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson, who collectively represent a large share of the world's total coolness. The song narrates the life (and death) of four men, or one man passing through four lifetimes. It has an incredibly catchy bounce to it, and there is a pattern on Youtube of writing new verses for the song. This caught my attention, since the base level of discourse on Youtube is garbled monosyllabic insults, and even a basic AABBC rhyme scheme seems like critical theory by comparison. Some of the new verses have to do with real people (Jesus, Archimedes, etc.) Others are more autobiographical, including my favorite line here: "no client of mine ever knew what bleeds were". Some are funny, some are heartbreaking, some don't really seem to grasp the rhyme scheme after all. All in all, I think Webb would be proud....

I was a garbage man, I rode the dank streets of L.A.  
I was on my route when I got jumped by some essay.  
I hit him with a greasy bash of trash.  
He sent his pitbull, and it bit me in my ass.  
I fell ill to rabies but I will not pass, I'll be around and around,...

I was the son of god, born of a virgin.  
Healed the sick and poor, and did miracles some more.  
Then the romans came, and said who should we do in  
Oh yeah this guys into sin.  
They hung me on the cross,  
They really showed me who was boss.  
But after 3 days i came back again and again and again

I was a coal miner,  
Beneath the earth I did thrive,  
Shovel and pickax by my side,  
I lived in a small Appalachian town,  
Every day we would go down,  
When the earth came down, they said that I was killed,  
But I am living still

I was a coffee plant,  
making caffeine in my beans,  
somebody canned me by their means  
Now I sit in a cupboard waiting to be brewed,  
I hope my caffeine is so strong, the drinker will be screwed.  
And when I'm drunken my power will be desired,  
I hope it makes them wired,  
And I will make them wired, and wired and wired and wired .....and wired.....

I Flew a Star ship  
And it was called the Enterprise  
With Captain Kirk here by my side  
and then was taken over by Jean- Luc Picard  
The loss of Kirk as captain hit me very hard..  
And when i left the ship, they said that i was killed,  
But i'm living still

I write the music,  
For an all American band  
On the stage we made our stand  
Playing songs across this great land of the free  
And what they'll say on that dark day they bury me  
Is that the music was his God given domain  
And he will remain...

I was a gangsta man,  
Out in compton I did ride,  
With blow and pistol by my side,  
Many a young lads lost their money to my trade,  
Many a ni\*\*\*s shed their life blood on my blade,  
The bastards shot my in my arm and in my thigh,  
But I am still alive...

I was an intel man,  
Tradecraft and cunning by my side.  
No global laws did I abide.  
I worked the angles of a target like a pawn.  
Traveled the world chasing sun-up's early dawn.  
And then I got caught up behind an enemy's line...  
Stuck in the sand I lost my head beneath a blind,  
But I'll be back again, and again, and again, and again and again...

I was a paladin, WoW's holy powers at my side.  
I was fightin kobolds when a tauren jumped me from behind.  
He used pyroblast and I never had a chance.  
I tried to fight back but I had unequiped my lance  
He stalked my tombstone so I couldnt resurrect,  
But I will be back, i always will be back, and back, and back...

I am a stoner, with a big bong by my siiiide.  
In a hot boxed car I ride.  
Plenty of swerving as the smoke clouds fill my eyes,  
Better get off this road before some-body dies.  
Just as that thought came up I heard an awful sound,  
I'm going to jail now.... but I'll always be around, and around and around

I was a senator  
I said the gays were really crude  
They'd made our pop culture so lewd  
I ran for president, I really thought I might  
Get to the white house with the voters from the right  
Than Dan Savage turned my last name into frothy fecal lube  
Man I hate that dude, I hate that dude, hate that dude...

I am a woman I gave love  
But no one gave love back  
My heart did die one long night  
So long ago time stood still  
But my heart did live to love  
I will back again and again and again

I was a logger. Deep in the mighty forests I did work  
The law of the woods I did abide  
Many a tall tree fell to my saw  
Along a patch in the northwoods  
A tree took a wrong turn, crushed my body in the earth  
My body forever lost beneath that tree  
But I am living still

I was a graphic designer, I set up postcards and brochures  
No client of mine even knew what bleeds were  
I'd try to set up some nice business cards  
But everyone used vistaprint like retards  
I tried to make sure that my clients' marketing looked good  
But comic sans and papyrus was all they understood

I was a teacher, drawing circles in the sand.  
Best minds of Greece learning at my side.  
Killed when the Romans invaded my land.  
Today it is a wheelchair that I ride.  
With Gravity and Spacetime as my friends.  
But the work never ends,  
And I look to the day when I can do this again, and again, and again

I was a viking man, I set sail with the tide  
Across the ocean riding high  
I carved my name with the blow of axe and sword  
Many a year I spent away from home at war  
I caught an arrow from atop a fortress gate  
But I will remain, I always will remain.

I was a sadistic man to the rifle I did abide.  
Love and hate in my heart do collide.  
I'll always be around to my marine brothers I will always love and abide.  
But until death i will love my sadistic side.  
My peom to my fallen friends i love u

I was an army man,  
In a hummer I did ride,  
With grenade and pistol at my side.  
A many insurgent died through my iron sights.  
Many a loved ones worried through the nights.  
A sniper got me once we where inbound,  
But i am still around, ill always be around and around and around and around and around...

I was an demoman...  
In Cp-Dustbowl I did ride,  
Sword and chargin'targe by my side...  
Many a young Scout lost his baseball on my blade...  
Many a Soldier sheld his health on my grenades.  
A RED spy backstabbed me at the first control point.  
But I'm stil around, I'll always be around, and around, and around...

I was a driving man,  
Across the backroads i did ride,  
With blunts and bottles by my side,  
I saw a fat man ride down the highway on a bike,  
And into the gaurdrail he did ride,  
He is still alive,  
But I laughed so hard I died,  
But I'll always be alive,  
Yes ill always smoke and ride and get high and ride and get high

I was an administrator,  
I shuffled paper in an office in the city,  
I scanned a thousand pieces of paper in a day,  
I Processed memos and calculated pay,  
They say i died from an infected paper cut,  
In a coffin made from recycled paper i was shut,  
But now I haunt the office slut.

I was a lonely child,  
Living with not a sibling was I,  
Every day I played with no-one at my side,  
Many a day I would watch across my pond,  
Why had the gods treated me so very wrong?  
My brother fell in and drowned when he was just five,  
But he is still alive.

I am a Youtube man  
I have lived against the grain.  
Through troubled times I have survived.  
Unlike my brothers who have fallen by the way.  
Some came home and they will never be the same.  
I am a Veteran, I did join of my free will' and I am standing still...  
And i will... and I will... and I will...

I was a hockey fan  
In the streets of canada  
And we lost the stanley cup  
So I went mental on the streets and burned some cars  
I got burned and never woke back up  
But I'll be back again and again and again ..

I made some famous youtube vids.  
Ran out of ideas, and quickly hit the skids.  
Folks ask me, "What's the deal with Chocolate Rain?"  
But I can not explain.  
And I remain.. I remain.. I remain