

# THE MICHAEL VLATKOVICH QUARTET (4 TUNES / ONE PLAYLIST)

(I. no candy for the wagon full of devils)

1.

no candy / none  
for the wagon / full  
of devils / first  
they must eat / each  
other / down to the  
last rib / and  
knucklebone / sucking  
marrow / gnawing  
gristle / until  
the wagon / quiets  
but / for the champing  
teeth / then  
o then / will I  
toss sweets / for the  
whiskered ones / to  
gorge / among the  
scoured / phalanges  
then use / the wrappers  
to line / their nests

2.

no candy / for  
the devils / pulled  
behind / for they  
must be / bitter  
and / bite-ready

spoil / a devil  
and their / horns  
poke / your pillow  
and their / arrow-  
tip tails / slide  
between / your legs

3.

no candy / devils  
your brain / must  
flare / for other  
rewards / thrilling  
to blood / beading  
from scratch / from  
goose-bump / cringe  
at whispered / filth  
these / you must  
clamor for / and  
if / good  
I will / deliver

4.

no candy / no  
no devils / no  
once full / your wagon  
is now / empty

(II. wishing for 2 at 5/3)

(5)

(3)

certain signatures (time) invite  
gossip, the whispers of jealous  
observers, a sure sign of their  
success . why is it that envy  
fails to inspire em- ulation?  
when you see shining, surge like tides.  
even if you break to nothing,  
you will leave a wrack line behind.

(III. the static equilibrium of the values of savagery)

they teach you be nice as if that would tip  
the balance, but we, the pummeled, know,  
from the feel of gravel against our cheek,  
from the coppery taste of our split lips, that  
nice is the underside of a jackboot, the sucker  
punch of a snicker. far better to be behind  
the blow, to be the muscle clamping muzzle,  
to achieve the immovable stance of the one  
holding the billy club (all things being equal).

(IV. you're too dimensional, )

regular, convex,  
constructed by congruent  
polygonal faces  
with the same  
number meeting  
at each vertex

when i would have  
you be a rushing  
vortex, narrowing  
to a point smaller  
than the head  
of the smallest pin,  
into which i  
could disappear



