

## **Stuart J. Krantz**

### **The Meaning of a Number**

It's a far cry from twenty-five, when a woman's soft supple skin and a wink defines the purpose of a young man's sense of being.

What is it about youth that creates envy?

Is it the fearful dread of mountaintop power and meaning that fills one's bones with density

And lifts younger generations up to a sky filled with possibilities?

It's a far cry from thirty-five, when a woman's passionate early commitments enlighten a man to the fiery emotions of tension and resolution

Like a tree rooting in a drought infested desert after an atmospheric river.

Oh, what a glorious and tenuous calm when aloneness is replaced by oneness!

It's a far cry from forty-five, when a woman has added to our population,

And a man raises his head in pride and honor seeking desperately to cry out and shed the pains of his youthful isolation.

Fifty-five is not about what she says or does, says the man.

The symbols are clear – that sense of knowing “sanctity,” and the roots that carry the man to a peaceful calm amid uncertain terrain.

**Stuart J. Krantz** lives and works in San Diego, California. He enjoys reading poetry, and is inspired by nature, as well as his wonderful family.