

From Here to There and Back Again: Some Notes From the Journey

By Jim Carlton

A Stranger's Eyes

He connected only an instant,
wondering if it was just the
haunting look in her dark blue eyes
that attracted him to her?

Or maybe the inexplicable
something beyond her eyes,
beyond even her body,
he thought he recognized?

Had he met her somewhere before?
Perhaps they had known each
other intimately, he thought.
But where in the world would that have been?

He felt a desire to embrace her
as he might a newly found lost love,
or perhaps just a casual friend,
who'd been away a long time.

As she turned to walk away
their eyes met again for another instant.
He was certain he knew her
so he thought he would speak.

She turned around abruptly.
Her back now toward him,
no blue eyes to connect with this time
as she walked away rapidly.

Then his sanity seemed to return.
He did not know her, he realized,
as she moved further and further away,
blending into the crowd at the San Francisco Airport.

Bio

Jim Carlton has participated in the Veteran's Writers Group in Lincoln, Nebraska, since its inception in 2014.

Jim is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served onboard the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga, which was involved in Naval combat operations off the coast of Vietnam and in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War.

Jim is retired and lives in Lincoln with his wife and dog, Maggie. He has written these poems over a span of years. They have all been presented at the VA Writer's Group and have been edited and rewritten based on feedback and suggestions from the group.