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23 Lines

## Reductio Ad Numerus

I am offender #173012.

I have been reduced to a number  
and assigned a certain number of years to serve  
caged in a numbered cell on a numbered unit  
where I count the days 'til Freedom.

But the DOC uses numbers against us  
inventing Fantastic Formulas  
and Archaic Algorithms  
which generate additional numbers like a mystic lottery  
that nobody wins.

Added to my file – used to measure, redefine and dehumanize me:  
LSCMI digits, ECRC rankings, MNStar integers, Static-99R numbers, Sex Offender levels,  
MnSOST scores, Recidivism rates, Custody points, TABE tests, *etc. etc. ad naseaum.*

by Adding numbers to our files  
they Multiply our obstacles  
Divide us into bits and bytes  
and Subtract our humanness.

I have been reduced to nothing more than the sum of my crimes.  
I am much more than some mathematical equation.  
I am more than 173012.  
I am more.  
I am.  
ME.