

**John Lewis
A Dedication**

a poor “boy from Troy”*
few dare imagine your pain
Jim Crow's cruel South

scarred on Pettus Bridge
yet you held love in your heart
kept eyes on the prize

you bore troopers' blows
nonviolence stayed your creed
brutality failed

you led in Congress
Sisyphus lacked your resolve
mountaintop draws near

yes, your life mattered
millions draw strength from your strength
you changed the world, John



* Martin Luther King’s term of endearment for his young acolyte

This haiku quintet was written as the dedication in my e-book *Common Ground: Haiku, Mediation, and Police Reform*. See dandana.us/fivepalms