

“You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. [...]”

Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself.”

John Lewis (1940-2020)

Civil Rights leader and congressman;
adapted from *Across That Bridge: A Vision
for Change and the Future of America*

GOOD TROUBLE

March,
But, know why and
To where you are marching
Protest,
But, know why and
For what you are protesting
Speak out,
But, know why and
About what you are speaking
Many march
But, may not be marching in the right direction
Many protest
But, some protest may be riotous and non-productive

Many speak
But, their words may misrepresent your intent
Troubling, yes, but troubles are not new
There were necessary troubles behind us
There will be necessary troubles in front of us
There are necessary troubles in the now and present
Necessary anxiety
Necessary disorder
Necessary unrest

Necessary to remain problematic
Not in disruptive ways
But, in ways valiant and warrior
Problematic for those
Viewing our troubles as inconsequential
There will always be trouble
Some necessary, some unnecessary
Be on the side of trouble
GOOD and NECESSARY TROUBLE!

from "LIVING WITH TEXTURE!" ©2021 Y.B Taylor

In June 2018, John Lewis tweeted, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."