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Rosa Parks  
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A Moment of Silence  
A Poem by Rodney Coates, PhD  
Guest Commentator

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*A moment of Silence*

For she sat down  
so that we could stand up  
She endured the indignation

## A Moment of Silence for Rosa Parks

of a prison cell  
So that we could cross  
over into a different space  
She pointed the way of  
struggle through self-sacrifice  
So that we could  
weather the storm of the ongoing fight.  
She taught us that simple humility  
could withstand the onslaught of hate  
So that we could march through the doors,  
climb the mountains of despair and frustration.  
She passed over to the other side,  
with grace and dignity  
So now, dear Mother \*Ms. Rosa Parks\*  
we declare a moment of silence, respect, and gratitude.

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