The Farmer and His Sheep

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Once upon a time there was a farmer. He grew crops and worked hard on his field every day but once a year everyone from his family were required to make a sacrifice. Being a farmer, the best of his crops did not make acceptable sacrifices and so his religious obligations could not be met.

The farmer was determined to fulfill his religious duties though and went to his brother the sheep herder. He asked his sheep herder brother to spare him one sheep. With reluctance the sheep herder said yes and out of the large amount of sheep the brother owned, he gave the farmer the smallest, sickliest sheep of the bunch.

The farmer took that sheep and nursed it, fed it, and loved it. He carried it out with him to the field as he worked. He watched it play among the flowers in the meadows. At the end of the day, when the sheep was full eating from the crops of the field and tired from enjoying its self, the farmer carried the sheep home and layed it in a comfortable bed made out for it.

Then, as a year passed both men came to offer their sacrifice. The sheep herder gave the best of his flock. He had not much worry for he had many fine sheep and loosing the best sheep would not affect his life in any significant way. The farmer on the other hand had grown close to his sheep. It was now a joyful part of his daily life.

This sheep had become more than just an animal, or a pet. To the farmer it was an object of treasure and love, as dear to him as a friend, and the farmer did not have many friends for he rarely could be found away from his field. Yet the time of year was at hand. The farmer sacrificed his sheep.

​He learned what it was to sacrifice and to him and the obligations of his religion meant more than any life commitment. For this the farmer was blessed and his crops yielded ten fold. But the best of his crops would not be accepted as a sacrifice. And so once again, he petitioned his brother for a sheep, and being given the worst of the flock, cared for the beast with his whole being. The farmer kept his faith for all his life and became a very wealthy and happy man, eventually marrying and having two sons of his own. The end.