

No Price Is Too High

In their book *Soul Food*, Jack Kornfield and Christina Feldman recount a little story about a family with two kids, a girl and a boy. The daughter, who was eight years old, became seriously ill with a life-threatening blood disease. She kept getting weaker and desperately needed a blood transfusion. Her parents went to the media, searching the whole country for a suitable donor. But because she had a very rare blood type, they couldn't find a single match.

Finally, a doctor had an idea: Why not test the girl's six-year-old brother? As it turned out, the little boy had the same blood type! Relieved, the parents took the six-year-old aside to explain the situation and ask him if he would donate his blood. It was very, very important, they told him, because it was the only way to save his sister's life. Knowing how helpful he usually was, they couldn't imagine anything other than an instant, cheerful yes. But to their complete surprise, the six-year-old did not agree right away. Instead, he asked if he could think about it.

The little boy left his parents anxious and uncertain for several days. Finally, he came to his mom and told her his decision: "Okay, I thought it over. I'll do it!" His mom gave him a big hug and immediately called the hospital to set up the donation.

A short while later, the little boy was lying on a bed in the hospital room. He was being so brave as they put in the IV and hooked him up to the equipment. As he watched drops of blood flowing through a plastic tube into the container, he looked at his mother and said, "Mommy, am I going to die now?" The boy had believed he would have to give his life to save his sister. That was why he had to think about it.

Jack Kornfield and Christina Feldman, *Soul Food* (HarperOne, 1996), 90–91.



REFLECT

Read the story about the little boy. It says something about the depth of devotion that is required of us when we choose love.