

The Lamb and the Turnips

Narrator: Once, there were two brothers. In fact, they were the first brothers ever!

Cain: Good morning, Abel!

Abel: Good morning, Cain!

Narrator: And usually, they got along pretty well. ... Mostly.

Abel: Did you see my new sheep? Isn't she great?

Sheep: BAA!!!

Cain: Whoah, she's awfully loud!

Sheep: Munch, munch, munch.

Cain: And she's eating my roses! Stop it!

Sheep: Burp.

Abel: Oh man, I'm so sorry, Cain! That was my fault. I'll help you plant some more.

Narrator: And then one day, they both decided they'd bring God a present.

Abel: God is so kind to us! We should thank him.

Cain: Huh, yeah, I guess so. I guess I'll give him ... cabbages.

Abel: Cabbages?

Cain: Yeah, what?

Abel: Nobody likes cabbage. Not even *you* like cabbage.

Cain: Well what are *you* going to give him?

Abel: I guess ... I guess I'll – I'll give him my favorite sheep.

Cain: What, like kill it?

Sheep: Baa???

Abel: Yeah. It's my favorite, but God deserves it.

Cain: But killing things isn't *nice*! I thought we were celebrating God's kindness!

Abel: We are. He's been so kind, just to put up with us this long. Don't you remember how mom and dad did the *one thing* he said not to do? And they passed their bad habits on to us. I even let my sheep eat your roses! We haven't done any better than they did, and we don't even obey *them* perfectly! Our gift can't just ignore that. If we're going to thank God for his kindness, we do that by showing we're sorry.

Cain: Whatever. I think God will be fine with some vegetables. He's very kind, after all.

Abel: OK, but – just pick something besides cabbages, OK?

Narrator: So Cain brought some of his vegetables, but Abel brought the very best sheep from his flock.

Abel: Bye, Fluffy.

(The sheep dies dramatically.)

Narrator: And God was happy with Abel's offering, but not with Cain's.

Cain: That's not fair! God should like my turnips!

Abel: Turnips?

Cain: *(defensively)* What?

Abel: You brought turnips?

Cain: Yeah, what?

Abel: Nothing.

Cain: Turnips are great! They're all ... turnip-y, and ... covered in dirt, and ... OK, *I* don't like them but that's no reason God shouldn't! What, is my present not good enough for him?

Abel: Of course it's not! What present could be good enough for the God who made everything?

Cain: Whatever, *your* present got accepted.

Abel: Because my present wasn't trying to prove how great and kind *I* am. I killed the lamb to show there's *nothing* good I can give to God, except a heart that sees how great and kind *he* is.

Cain: Well *I* see that my turnips are pretty great too. In fact, you should see them. Let's go out to the field.

Abel: OK!

Cain: *Here's* a turnip!

Abel: Ow!

Cain: And *here's* a turnip!

Abel: Ow!

Cain: And *there's* a turnip!

(Abel dies, hit by one too many turnips. From the ground, we hear the voice of the sheep.)

Sheep: Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

God: Hey Cain, where's your brother?

Cain: What brother? Oh, *my* brother? He's, um, he's ... I don't know! Is it my job to keep track of him all the time?

God: Cain, your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground.

Cain: Why does it sound like a sheep?

God: I mean, he kind of smelled like a sheep too. And you killed him like a sheep. But you didn't kill him to show you were sorry for being wrong. You killed him because you didn't like *hearing* you were wrong. You're going to need to leave now.

Cain: But that's not fair! The first person who finds me will kill me! ... Oh wait, I guess that *is* fair.

God: It *would* be fair. But I'm also kind. I'm going to put a mark on you, Cain. It will let people know that if they hurt you, they'll have *me* to deal with.

Cain: Like the way you're dealing with me? You're just ... going to be kind to them?

God: Let me worry about that. But Cain: your brother was right. There's nothing you can do to make up for this.

Cain: I know.

God: That's why *I'm* going to provide a lamb someday. A lamb that will make up for *everything* wrong, and make all of it good enough.

Cain: That's a big lamb.

God: You have no idea. But for now, you need some snacks for the road. Here: have some turnips.