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The Imperishable Sacrifice on Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne's *Thicker than Water*

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Abstract

This article underlines the perspective of sacrifice in a flash fiction of Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne entitled Thicker Than Water. Sacrifice is a gift for a better view of the future as it is in line with the short story that shows a sacrifice of a brother to his beloved sister who needs to be blood donated because her blood is thinner than ordinary blood. Through qualitative method in explorative approach, this paper points to the relation between Bataille's theory and Barbour & Osborne's short story. In analysis, Barbour & Osborn's short story shows the sacrifice and sincerity of an older brother who had to donate a lot of blood and even hold the pain for the sake of his younger sister in order to save her from dying. In conclusion, sacrifice in this story is engaged with sincerity in which all goodness of one's self is given to the other.

Keywords: Georges Bataille, George Randolph Osborne, Ralph Henry Barbour, Sacrifice, Thicker than Water

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INTRODUCTION

Sacrifice can be understood as the act of giving up something for a greater good or purposes to another person that actually has no obligation to do so (Knez, et al. 2010; Vosgerau, et al., 2010). Sincerity, on the other hand, refers to the quality of being honest, truthful, and genuine in one's intentions and actions. Both have different definitions, but in psychology, sacrifice and sincerity may refer to behaviors and traits that contribute to positive mental health outcomes and prosocial behavior. Both of them support each other in which any sacrifice is based on sincerity and vice versa (Knez, et al. 2010; Vosgerau, et al., 2010). Both of them may also separate people from worldly attachment and become decisive in the formation of much better personalities.

Published in 1916, *Thicker Than Water* is Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne's short story that shows an abnormal case in the operating room. There is a girl who gets in an accident, a stove-pipe falls and gashes an artery in her neck, and makes her bleed almost to death, so the girl needs to be blood transfused (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Weddle, 2017). However, her blood is thinner than water. Whereas, she needs a blood transfusion immediately. Luckily, her brother quickly is there, he is standing patiently in the waiting-room, with his healthy skin and the anxiety in his eyes. After the tension and all the pain that the boy goes through, finally the transfusion process is successful and well managed, so the sister named Nell survives thanks to her big brother that has saved her (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019).

Then, how is sacrifice and sincerity depicted in Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne's *Thicker Than Water*? This paper shows the role of an older sibling which is related to sacrifice and sincerity. The boy was willing to endure for an hour to donate blood to his sister, Nell. Moreover, in the end, he felt no regret for sacrificing his pain and time for his little sister.

There is another research that has been done by another researcher, that research is untitled *A Subversive Theory of sacrifice* as analyzed in 2017. It speaks about sacrifice which has similarity to this research. It also shows differences in objects differentiated from current analysis (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Weddle, 2017). Sacrifice can finally only be achieved through vulnerability that opens every individual to the violence of intimacy, the breaking down of personal and national barriers that block any return to the state of original unity. For Georges Bataille, sacrifice is the primal gesture of

the sovereign self, declaring itself free from all systems that determine individual worth in terms of productive value (Giovanis & Ozdamar, 2022; Weddle, 2017).

METHOD

By using qualitative method, certain concepts and written data are analyzed to answer the question in this paper. Written through description, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne's *Thicker Than Water* and sacrifice and sincerity point of view by David Weddle alongside with literary concepts and psychological ideas. Online and offline scripts are derived from books and journals to understand shown matters. The data analysis includes obtaining sources, reading sources carefully, comparing with other issues, quoting into paper, and writing down in reference lists. The research data comes from both Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne's and George Bataille's & David Weddle's arguments. Each of them is read then broken down into its every particular element. The discourses of the short story are mainly included to pinpoint significance of sacrifice and sincerity through the premises and logics used in Bataille's ideas. Here, the short story is the object written by Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne, while Bataille's idea is a tool to analyze.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Noble Love to Give to Sibling in *Thicker than Water*

One famous quote about sacrifice for family is from an author named Michael J. Fox who said, "*Family is not an important thing. It is everything.*" This quote suggests that family is the most important aspect of life and that any sacrifices made for the betterment of one's family are worth it in the end (Knez, et al. 2010; Vosgerau, et al., 2010). It emphasizes the idea that one's family is the foundation of their life and that they should be prioritized above all else.

Thicker Than Water is a flash fiction story written by Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne in 1916. This story is written that the bond between family members is a powerful force that can both bring people together (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Fahmani, et al., 2023). The story reminds everyone that family relationships are complex and can be fraught with challenges, but that they are ultimately worth fighting for. The love for the family and siblings is also shown in the flash fiction as follows.

Data 1

"*and about the neck wet, red-stained bandages were bound. "A queer case," said the surgeon.*" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The use of the word "queer" suggests that the situation is peculiar or unusual in some way, which could mean that the cause of the injury is not obvious or that the injury is particularly severe. The fact that the surgeon refers to it as a "queer case" indicates that there may be some uncertainty or unpredictability involved in the situation (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Swann Jr, 2014). The use of the word "wet" to describe the bandages could also suggest that the injury is still actively bleeding, which could add to the sense of urgency and tension in the situation.

Data 2

"*She's bleeding to death. Blood's supposed to be thicker than water, but hers isn't, poor girl.*" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

From this quote, it seems that a girl is bleeding to death and the person saying it is expressing their sympathy for her. In this line, the person is saying that the girl's blood is not thick enough to save her. This is a sad and desperate situation as the girl's life seems to be in danger and there may be nothing anyone can do to save her (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Swann Jr, 2010). The person, who is the narrator, says that the girl's blood is not usual at all. It must be thicker than water but it is not. It could no longer bring in oxygen for the girl.

Data 3

"*See him, Nurse. Tell him the facts. Say his brother will die unless he'll give some blood to her. Or wait!*" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

This line is a dramatic scene in which the man's sister is in a critical condition that needs a blood transfusion to survive. The urgency of the situation is emphasized by the nurse's direct instruction to "tell him the fact", as well as the biological connection between the two siblings

(Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Swann Jr, 2010). The tension in the quote comes from the uncertainty of the man's response. It is unclear whether he will agree to donate. If he will, his action will save his sister's life. If he chooses to wait, it could bring more dangerous consequences to the sister. There is also added emotional strain of the man potentially having to confront his own fears or feelings of discomfort around blood donation, while his sister's life hangs on the edge (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019).

In that year, it is uncommon for people to do blood donation and even transfusion. It is quite rare and somehow clinically impossible. There is no single exact point of hygiene that could justify this action. However, this flash fiction tells people to always think of life by taking any kind of risk (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Swann Jr, 2014). It could also be said that this fiction is a way to justify the medical actions to deal with any blood donation. The main idea should be about saving life, which is the most important ethical code in the medical sense.

Data 4

"The boy was standing stolidly in the waiting-room, only the pallor of his healthy skin and the anxiety of his clear eyes hinting at the strain." (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

This quote describes a boy who is standing calmly in a waiting room, but there are two details that suggest that he is under some sort of strain. First, his healthy skin looks pale, which could indicate that he is under stress or his body is tense. Second, his clear eyes show anxiety, indicating that he might be going through a difficult time. This situation emphasizes the potential for something bad or stressful to happen (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Impett & Gordon, 2008). The boy's appearance suggests that he is waiting for something, and his anxiety implies that he is not particularly looking forward to it. The implication of this tension is that the situation is uncertain and perhaps not under the boy's control, adding to the potential stress he may be experiencing (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Impett & Gordon, 2008).

Data 5

"Doctor Burroughs says it's her one chance," he ended. (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The tension in this situation is the sense of urgency and high stakes involved. The character's one chance implies that there is a significant amount of pressure to succeed, and that failure is not an option. Additionally, the fact that the recommended course of action is coming from a doctor suggests that the problem is medical in nature, adding another layer of tension and concern for the character's wellbeing. There may also be a sense of uncertainty about whether the recommended course of action will work, adding to the tension (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Impett & Gordon, 2008). Overall, the quote emphasizes the gravity of the situation and the importance of the one chance that the character has to overcome it.

Data 6

"The boy drew in his breath and paled visibly." (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

This quote refers to a physiological reaction of a boy in response to a particularly stressful or startling situation. Drawing in his breath is a natural response to distress, as it helps the body prepare for action or dealing with a threat. The tension in this situation is likely one of anticipation or dread, as the boy's physical reaction suggests that he is about to confront a challenging situation that he may not be prepared to handle (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Impett & Gordon, 2008). This tension creates a sense of suspense and anticipation in the reader, who wants to know what will happen next and how the boy will cope with the situation.

Data 7

"You mean Nell'll die if someone don't swap his blood for hers?" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The conversation tells that the brother expresses his shock at the severity of the situation by asking if Nell will die if she does not get a blood transfusion. The response is confirming that yes, without proper medical intervention, Nell's life is in danger. The tension emphasized in this situation is the life-threatening condition of Nell, and the urgency to find a solution that can help to save her life (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). It is a very critical and stressful situation, and the brothers are faced with the overwhelming pressure to act quickly to ensure that Nell receives the medical care she needs to survive.

Data 8

"Well, quit beefin'," interrupted the other roughly. "I'm here, ain't I?" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The quote "Well, quit beefin'" suggests that one person is complaining or arguing about something, and the other person is telling them to stop. The phrase "beefin'" is slang for complaining or arguing. The person who interrupts is speaking roughly, which can imply that they are becoming impatient or annoyed with the other person's complaints. The tension in this situation is between the two people, as one is complaining and the other is getting frustrated with their behavior (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). This tension could escalate if the two arguing persons do not find a way to work out their disagreement or come to a resolution.

Data 9

"When he entered the operating room the boy gave a low cry of pain, bent over the form on the table, and pressed his lips to the white forehead. When he looked up his eyes were filled with tears." (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

This quote depicts a very emotional and intense scene where a boy enters an operating room, witnesses a form on the table, and becomes emotional as he kisses the forehead of the person on the table. The child then looks up with tears in his eyes which shows the intensity of the situation. The tension indicates the emotional state of the boy and the unknown fate of the person lying on the table (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). It is evident from the boy's reaction that the person is close to him and that he is feeling an immense amount of pain and uncertainty about what is really happening. The quote leaves the reader with a sense of empathies and suspense as the fate of the person on the table is not known yet.

Data 10

"You're a brave lad," he said cheerfully to the boy. (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The phrase "cheerfully" implies that the speaker is pleased with the boy's actions. It is possible that the boy has done something that requires bravery. The speaker was just impressed by the boy's action (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). The scene is shown after the brother donates the blood to the sister. The doctor and the nurse congratulate him for doing a good job. It is quite rare at that time, but the brother proves his love by doing what he must do, that is to save his beloved sister.

Data 11

"Your sacrifice has won!" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

The use of the word "sacrifice" is interesting, as it implies that the boy has given up something of value or put himself in harm's way for the sake of achieving a goal. The author suggests that his bravery paid off. Overall, the tension in this situation is likely one of uncertainty and risk, which is ultimately resolved by the boy's bravery and sacrifice (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). The brother has given his blood which is quite trivial for him but is so crucial for the life of his sister. It is shown that sacrifice is not about giving the best since the most important thing is to whom the sacrifice is given (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019).

Data 12

"You'll be all right tomorrow. But I'm deeply sorry you've suffered as you must have suffered the past hour. You were braver than any of us suspected!" (Barbour and Osborne, 1916)

In this line, it conveys a sense of relief and admiration for the patient's bravery. The surgeon's reassurance and apology acknowledge the patient's suffering and courage during the ordeal. The tension emphasized in this situation is the emotional and physical stress experienced by the patient, as well as the emotional burden carried by the surgeon in witnessing the patient's suffering (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Stich, et al., 2010). The quote reflects the complex emotional dynamics involved in surgical care, where patients' suffering and resilience, as well as the emotional experiences of the medical team.

Sacrifice and Its Continuance

Sacrifice involves how desired effect (like a benefit or gain) is only made possible because of the sacrifice, which involves losing or destroying something else (the offering). So, the act of sacrifice is a trade-off between gaining something new, but at the cost of losing something else (Annasai, et al., 2023; Oktafiani, et al., 2023). People may engage in self-sacrifice for various reasons, including a highly empathic personality. Being extremely sensitive to the pain of others and the feeling of

preventing or seeing someone from suffering also add the background of this benevolent action. Here are some perspectives on characteristics of sacrifice:

The first one is yielding one's own interest for the higher purpose. Sacrifice can involve putting the needs of something or someone else above any interest, such as a cause or family (Knez, et al. 2010; Vosgerau, et al., 2010). Sacrifice is not always easy, but it is a noble and honorable act that can transform lives and aspire change. It is quite understood that great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and never the result of selfishness. Yielding one's own interest for a higher purpose involves making informed decisions that prioritized long-term goals and contributions over immediate gains (Knez, et al. 2010; Vosgerau, et al., 2010).

Then, the sacrifice may involve losses of things that people should expect in ordinary life to give up in order to pursue other things that they want, or to enable something that matters to other people (Tessman, 2018; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). Sometimes, pursuing goals or helping others achieve theirs, sacrifices need to be made. These sacrifices could mean giving up things that are important to people or that they are used to having in ordinary lives. However, people make these sacrifices so that they can pursue something that they want or to help other people achieve something that is meaningful to them (Annasai, et al., 2023; Oktafiani, et al., 2023). Ultimately, the idea is that the benefits of these sacrifices will outweigh what people give up in the short term.

The second one is that sacrifice has the intention to fill others' succorance. Having the intention to feel others succorance involves a strong desire to help and support others, even at the cost of personal sacrifice. This intention should always be present, regardless of one's external actions or material resources (Everett, et al., 2016; Staub, 2013). In psychology, Henry Murray develops a theory of personality organized in terms of motives and needs. One of the needs he identifies is succorance, which refers to the desire to seek protection or sympathy.

Succorance is a term that refers to dependence, especially a dependence on or an active seeking for nurturant care (Kovary, 2018; Staub, 2013). It can also be defined as the act of seeking out affectionate care and social support. Murray refers to his depression as a source of "misery and melancholy". He suggests people to mask it in everyday behavior by adopting an ebullient, cheerful, and outgoing manner by indicating succorance as an intention to ask for other people's help (Annasai, et al., 2023; Oktafiani, et al., 2023). The main idea is to release people from harm by realizing sacrifice. By stating so, sacrifice also indicates that it releases any difficulty from other people as well.

The third one relies on the appreciation of one's ability to help others. Expressing appreciation for one's ability to help others, especially in the context of sacrifice, is a powerful way to acknowledge the selflessness and dedication of an individual (Kovary, 2018; Staub, 2013). People can convey gratitude by recognizing the sacrifices made and the impact of their actions. It is important to acknowledge the specific sacrifices made, whether it is time, personal health, or other aspects of life, and express genuine gratitude for these selfless acts (Annasai, et al., 2023; Oktafiani, et al., 2023).

Human existence is fighting suffering and people's suffering knows no boundaries, meaning that when they do suffer, they cannot help but carry it with them everywhere (Kanov, 2021; Sarimi, et al., 2023). Kanov points out that humans are inherently susceptible to suffering in various forms throughout their lives. This suffering is not only limited to one area of life, but has an impact on all aspects. Suffering is like a heavy burden, wherever people go (Kovary, 2018; Staub, 2013). This implies that the impact of suffering is far-reaching and has a significant impact on daily lives.

Therefore, to maintain well-being, it is important to acknowledge and address the suffering being experienced (Everett, et al., 2016; Staub, 2013). Only in this way can people hope to find relief from the burden of suffering and move forward in a positive direction. In this sense, sacrifice also helps people to build a sense of trust and good reputation among others (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015). When people make sacrifices for others, they show that they can be relied on by others, which can improve their ethical reputation and expand social networks of realizing goodness every time.

The fourth one is about realizing personal and real deeds towards the particular experience of others. People need to highlight the importance of considering alternatives when evaluating someone's goodness (Everett, et al., 2016; Staub, 2013). People do not just evaluate an action in isolation; they take into account the options available to the individual concerned. For example, if someone chooses to help someone, people may view them as kind, but if they are the only person willing to provide

assistance, anyone may view their helping behavior as less impressive than if there were many other options available to them (Righetti, et al, 2020a; Schubert, 2012).

It is also suggested that people consider situational factors when evaluating kindness. For example, people might consider whether someone was forced to help us or whether they voluntarily chose to do so. Likewise, anyone might consider whether someone intentionally hurt someone or whether their actions were unintentional (Cooper, 2020; Sarmi, et al., 2023). These contextual factors help them understand the motivations behind someone's behavior and can influence how they evaluate them. Kindness is a complex concept influenced by a variety of individual and situational factors. By considering alternatives and contextual factors, people can gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be kind and how people evaluate acts of kindness in others' daily lives (Cooper, 2020; Morin, 2022).

The fifth one includes giving up something for the sake of other people to advance. Sacrifice can be understood as the act of giving up something of importance in order for something else to come forth (Florczak, 2004; Helin & Lindström, 2003). On this basis, the suffering that accompanies sacrifice represents a form of dying in which there is a possibility for a new life, that is, reconciliation (Everett & Kahane, 2020; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). A sacrifice will always result in something else that will be useful to another.

When a sacrifice occurs, that is where a moral will arise gradually and will reach its peak when people have the same mindset and views. When a person gives her/himself for the betterment of others, it can be called a sacrifice (Cooper, 2020; Morin, 2022). This sacrifice will provide a way for others to move forward, and achieve what they want. In advance, sacrifice also increases feelings of empathy, solidarity and togetherness which can produce closer relationships, mutual trust and strengthen social ties in society (Kovary, 2018; Staub, 2013). Therefore, realizing sacrifice will also mend goodwill among living creatures and flourishing kindness as well in advance.

The sixth is about showing compassion as a realization of altruism. Some people are more concerned about the interests of others because it can make themselves feel meritorious. There is a saying "making others happy is my way to heal", but sometimes people do not have this side when this person is once let down. The nature of social beings should help each other (Everett & Kahane, 2020; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). Happiness in oneself can be achieved in various ways, making others happy, helping others, and sharing with each other.

Altruism is defined as two different concepts, as a helping behavior, and as motivation (Ryff & Singer, 2008; Lishner & Stocks, 2016). This helping behavior is a small movement that can help people, starting with this little thing can change a norm that exists in the surrounding environment. When the norms around the norms change gradually, then the level of awareness in the surrounding environment will be very high. As a motivation, altruism can change the view of someone around. When this perspective changes, there will be no more hesitation in helping others (Righetti, et al, 2020a; Schubert, 2012). Altruism is the belief in selfless concern for the well-being of others. Sometimes it is doubt that makes a person not want to help others, which causes a feeling of the opposite between wanting to help or refusing to help.

The seventh one is about selflessness and empathy in which people are willing to put others before themselves. They understand the pain and suffering of others and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to alleviate it (Kovary, 2018; Staub, 2013). Indeed, both ideas are based on strong moral and ethical beliefs. People with strong moral and ethical beliefs may be willing to sacrifice their lives for a cause they believe in. They see it as their duty to stand up for what is right, even if it means risking their own lives (Righetti, et al, 2020a; Schubert, 2012). The senses are indicated as philosophical behaviors that are shown in how goodness must always be realized in real life.

Selflessness and empathy are also why people sacrifice for the sake of love and devotion. Nothing in the world can win against love. People will do anything for love including devoting life to the one or the ones that they love (Righetti, et al, 2020a; Schubert, 2012). The love and devotion a person has for someone else can drive them to sacrifice their own life. The act of sacrifice can also increase feelings of happiness and self-satisfaction because it can also be considered a kindness. It also tends to have higher levels of happiness than people who only focus on their own interests (Everett & Kahane, 2020; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). In this sense, happiness and self-satisfaction are not egotistical, but always intended for the ones that people love.

Sacrifice and Its Cruciality in *Thicker than Water*

Flash fiction *Thicker Than Water* by Ralph Henry Barbour & George Randolph Osborne is a heart breaking short story (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019). The main focus of this analysis is on the concept of sacrifice for the main character in this narrative. The story emphasizes the aspect of suffering experienced by the main character which he receives from his sacrifice to keep his younger sister alive. In the context of the sacrifice theory, this character fights to the last drop of blood so that the character's only family does not die (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019). The brother's motivation for his sacrifice in the story is his love for his sister. He is willing to offer his own blood to save her life because he could never bear the thought of losing her. The moment he learns that there is a chance to save his sister, he never hesitates to volunteer and put himself through the pain of donating blood. The love and affection he has for his sister makes him a hero in that moment (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Moeller & D'Ambrosio, 2019).

The sacrifice made by the brother in the story is significant in several ways. It highlights the strong bond between siblings, particularly the love and devotion of a brother towards his sister. The brother's willingness to suffer physical pain and put his life at risk to save his sister's life shows the depths of his love, loyalty and selflessness (Righetti, et al, 2020b; Schubert, 2012). The sacrifice also underscores the importance of human connections, relationships and community. The girl, who is brought to the hospital after an accident, has no one to turn to in her moment of need. She is a stranger in a city and does not have any relatives or friends nearby.

What the brother does also indicates noble value for the greater good. These values are often associated with selflessness, courage, integrity, and compassion. By sacrificing for the reflection of noble values, individuals can contribute to the betterment of others (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015). Their actions and sacrifices can inspire others to follow their lead and strive for similar values. This is also the brother's commitment to a higher cause and to make a positive impact on his beloved sister.

The desperate search for a suitable blood donor shows the value of human connections, compassion and kindness. In a large and impersonal city, where people often feel alone and isolated, this story reminds everyone of the power of empathy, solidarity and generosity towards fellow human beings (Righetti, et al, 2020b; Schubert, 2012). Furthermore, the fact that the boy does not fully understand the potential risks of the procedure also highlights the power and influence of persuasion. The surgeon's desperation and urgency to save the girl's life leads him to persuade the brother without fully explaining the possible consequences. This can be seen as a metaphor for how persuasive arguments can serve as a powerful tool to convince people to make certain decisions without fully comprehending the risks or consequences of their actions (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015). The brother put his sister's needs above his own and made a conscious decision to donate his own blood, which involved physical pain and possible risks, to save her life. He yields his own interest and comfort for the higher purpose of helping his sister, which shows his selflessness and devotion to his family (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015).

Moreover, the surgeon and the nurse in the story also prioritize the patient's well-being over their own. The surgeon's commitment to saving the girl's life is demonstrated by his willingness to sacrifice his own personal time and the nurse's urgency in finding a suitable blood donor (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015). The sacrifice made by the brother and the medical staff in the story highlights the importance of prioritizing the needs of others over one's own interests, particularly in situations where lives are at stake. The aspect of having the intention to fill others' succorance is relatable to the sacrifice made by the brother in the story. The brother's strong desire to help and support his sister, even at the cost of personal sacrifice, exemplifies the concept of succorance (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; DeSteno, 2015). He feels a need to provide protection and care to his sister, which motivated him to volunteer for the blood transfusions.

Data 3 shows how the brother is faced with a difficult decision of potentially sacrificing his own comfort or fears around blood donation in order to enable something that matters to other people, namely his sister's survival. This decision reflects the idea that sacrifice can involve giving up certain things we may want or desire in order to prioritize the needs of others, especially in times of crisis. (Ryff & Singer, 2008; Tessman, 2018). It also highlights the tension between individual desires and moral obligations to help those in need, as the brother must weigh his own potential discomfort

against the potential loss of his sister's life. It also illustrates the complex moral calculations and difficult decisions individuals may face when grappling with questions of sacrifice and obligation to others (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Giovanis & Ozdamar, 2022; Liang, et al., 2001).

Data 6 indicates that the potential need for a blood transfusion suggests that there is a mismatch between the blood types of the siblings, and in this situation, the only way to save Nell's life is for someone to donate their blood to her. This act of sacrifice could potentially be life-threatening to the donor, but the characters are willing to take that risk to save Nell's life. This tension emphasizes the idea that sacrificing one's own well-being or safety for the sake of others is a noble and heroic act (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Calista, et al., 2024; Giovanis & Ozdamar, 2022). Moreover, the conversation highlights how the characters are willing to act quickly to ensure that Nell has the best chance of survival, even if it means taking on personal risk or discomfort.

Data 9 emphasizes that it highlights the intensity of emotions and suffering that can arise in difficult situations. The boy in the quote is likely facing a significant amount of suffering due to the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the person on the table. The act of kissing the forehead can be seen as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifices made by the person on the table to help others (Barbour and Osborne, 1916; Calista, et al., 2024; Giovanis & Ozdamar, 2022). It also shows the impact of the selfless acts made by this person on the boy and further emphasizes the significance of acknowledging and appreciating such sacrifices.

CONCLUSION

Thicker Than Water is a noteworthy story that highlights the power of sacrifice, love, and the importance of human connections in people's lives. The protagonist's willingness to donate blood to save his sister's life shows the depths of his love, loyalty, and selflessness. The sacrifice made by the brother in the story emphasizes the strong bond between siblings and underscores the importance of prioritizing the needs of others over one's own interests, especially in life and death situations. Furthermore, this story reminds everyone of the power of empathy, solidarity, and compassion towards one another in a large and sometimes impersonal world. By illustrating the concept of succorance, the brother's strong desire to protect and care for his sister provides a positive example for readers to follow. Ultimately, the sacrifice made by the protagonist in *Thicker Than Water* serves as a written proof to the power of love and the human spirit, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

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