

## More Precious than a Gem

Long ago, a wise woman lived in the mountains near a stream.

One day, a traveller came by who was very hungry. The wise woman opened her bag to share her food of nuts, berries, and seeds.

The hungry traveller saw a stone in the bag and demanded the woman to give it to him. She did so without any hesitation.

The traveller left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the gem stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

A while later he came back to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable that stone was. Would you give me something even more precious? Could you give me whatever you have within you that enabled you to give it to me so freely?"