

Name: Date:

Class: ECS

**Do Now:** *Fill out the chart below using the notes made on the anchor chart next to the cabinet:*

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| Hinduism | Theravada Buddhism | Mahayana Buddhism | Jainism |
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**The Envious Buffalo**

***A Jataka Story from The Fables of India, retold by Joseph Gaer***

*People around the world have always used stories to teach important lessons. The Jataka stories from India teach such lessons. They are part of Buddhism’s sacred writings. Many of the Jataka stories are fables, like this one. A fable is a brief story with few characters. It teaches a simple lesson about life called a moral.*

On a small farm in southern India there lived a water buffalo named Big Red Bubalas with his younger brother named Little Red Bubalus. These two brothers did all the hard work on the farm. They plowed and they harrowed; they seeded; and they brought in the harvest for their owner. In between the crops they worked the water wheel which irrigated the farm and the garden; and they turned the pump to supply water for the house and pigpen.

When the crop was in, Big Red Bubalus and Little Red Bubalus were harnessed again to turn the grindstone which milled the flour for the family.

Yet for all their labors they were rarely rewarded. They were seldom allowed to bathe in the stream, which they loved to do. And all they were given to eat was grass and straw, or chaff when the grain was husked.

This same farmer owned a pig who did nothing but eat and wallow in the water pumped up for him by the buffaloes. Yet the hog was fed on rice and millet and was well taken care of by the farmer and his family.

Little Red Bubalus complained to his brother; “We, who do all the hard work, are treated shabbily and our master gives us next to nothing to eat. Most of the time we have to go out into the pasture to find our own food. Yet this lazy pig is fed all the time and never does any work.”

“Envy him not, little brother,” said Big Red Bubalus (who was the Bodisat in the form of a buffalo). And he would say no more.

Again and again the younger buffalo would complain; and each time the older buffalo merely said;

“Envy not the pig.”

One day the farmer’s only daughter was engaged to be married. And as the wedding day drew near, the hog was slaughtered and roasted for the wedding feast.

Then Big Red Bubalus said to Little Red Bubalus: “Now do you see why a pig is not to be envied?”

And Little Red Bubalus replied: “Yes, now I understand. It is better to feed on straw and chaff, and to live out our lives, than to be fattened on rice only to end up on a roasting spit.”

**Exit Ticket:** What is the Theme/Lesson of this fable?

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