

## **World Religions**

### **Buddhist Teachings: The Jataka Tales**

*Last night you read about the teachings of the Buddha (the Enlightened One.) Today you will read one of the Jataka Tales. The Jataka Tales are part of the canon of sacred Buddhist literature. This collection of some 550 anecdotes and fables depicts earlier incarnations -- sometimes as an animal, sometimes as a human -- of the being who would become Siddhartha Gautama, the future Buddha. They are morality tales, and each of the lives of the Buddha told in these stories carries along with it a lesson. As you read through the story, make notes about examples you see of each of the following. (Hint: you will not necessarily find examples of all of these in the story you read.)*

Samsara

Dharma

Karma

Four Noble Truths (note which one)

Eight-fold path (note which one)