

Unit 11: Vegetarianism

A Matador's Decision

Keywords

appropriate	capture	crops	declare	decline
eliminate	pursue	religious	requirement	threaten

Chapter 1: Bullfighting—Part of Culture

Bullfighting is a traditional sport that has been practiced for hundreds of years, especially in countries like Spain, Mexico, and some parts of France and Portugal. In this sport, a person called a matador faces a bull in a large, open area called an arena. The goal of the matador is to show their skill by getting close to the bull and eventually defeating it. The matador uses a special, colored cloth called a “muleta” to attract the bull and perform a series of moves that show their control and skill.

The word “matador” comes from the Spanish language, and it means “killer.” The name reflects the matador’s role in the bullfight, as the event usually ends with the matador killing the bull. This moment is considered by some as a display of human skill over nature. However, it’s important to know that not everyone agrees with this view. Many people believe that bullfighting causes the animals to suffer and argue against the sport. They want to **eliminate** it.

Bullfighting has deep roots in the cultures of the countries where it is practiced. It is often associated with festivals and holidays. The matadors are usually dressed in traditional clothes that are bright and colorful, known as the “traje de luces,” which means “suit of lights.” These clothes, along with the music and the atmosphere of the arena, add to the excitement of bullfighting.

Despite its long history, bullfighting is a subject of much debate. While some see it as an important tradition, others see it as out of date. They think it is not an **appropriate** sport in today’s world. Whether you are for or against bullfighting, understanding its history and the role of the matador is key to understanding an important aspect of some cultures. Let’s discover the story of one matador who came to question the ethics of bullfighting.

Chapter 2: Jose Becomes a Matador

Jose Felipe was a famous matador. A matador is someone who fights bulls. Jose was very good at this. In Spain, where he lived, many people liked to watch bullfights. Jose became famous because he was brave and very skilled in the arena, the place where bullfights happen. One day, something very special happened during a bullfight. Jose was fighting a bull, as he had done many times. But this time, he looked into the bull’s eyes. He saw something that made him feel very different. He decided to stop fighting the bull. This moment was very important. It changed his life. Many people remember Jose because of this day. He made a big decision that was not easy. This story is about that day and what happened after.

Jose Felipe was born in Spain. He didn’t live in a big city; he lived in a small town, and he walked to school across fields filled with **crops**. Jose’s family were farmers. His father had some pigs, cows, and chickens. Sometimes the cows would escape, and Jose and his father would have to go out and **pursue** them across the fields. Then they would **capture** and bring them back to the farm.

As a young boy, Jose loved watching bullfights. In Spain, bullfights are a big tradition. People go to a big arena to watch matadors fight bulls. When Jose was little, he dreamed of being a

matador. He wanted to wear the special clothes and fight bravely. When he was 14, he decided to **pursue** a career as a matador. He quit school and went to a special school to learn to be a matador. He worked very hard to learn. As he grew older, he became very good at fighting bulls. He became a famous matador. Many people knew his name. Jose fought many bulls. He traveled to different places for bullfights. People cheered for him. They liked how he fought. He was brave and strong. He won many prizes. Jose was happy being a matador. It was his dream come true.

Chapter 3: The Big Change

But one day, everything changed for Jose. During a bullfight, something very special happened. It was at the end of the fight, and at that moment the matador must kill the bull. This is a **requirement** in bullfighting. But this time was different. As he faced the bull, he looked into its eyes. Usually, a matador looks for the right time to move. But Jose did not do this. He just looked at the bull. The bull looked back at him. It did not attack. It just stood there, looking at Jose. In the bull's eyes, Jose saw something new. He saw that the bull was scared. He saw that the bull did not want to fight. The bull's eyes looked sad. They looked like they were asking for help. Jose felt something in his heart, almost like a **religious** experience. He felt that fighting the bull was wrong.

For a moment, everything was quiet. Jose sat down in the arena. This was very unusual. People in the crowd were surprised. They did not know why he was sitting. Jose was thinking. He was feeling many things. He felt sad and sorry for the bull. Jose **declined** to continue the fight. He did not want to hurt the bull. He left the arena. Many people talked about this. Some people did not understand. But Jose knew he had made the right choice. He **declared** to himself that he would not fight bulls anymore. This day was a big turning point for Jose. It changed his life. He started to think about animals differently. He did not want to hurt them. He wanted to protect them. This was a new beginning for him.

Chapter 4: Jose Becomes a Vegetarian

After that day in the arena, Jose's life changed a lot. He stopped being a matador. People talked about what he did. Some people were surprised. They did not understand why he stopped. But Jose felt he did the right thing. Jose began to think more about animals. He thought about how they feel. He did not want to hurt them anymore. This was a big change for him. He decided to become a vegetarian. Jose did not want to eat meat because it meant hurting animals. Becoming a vegetarian was not easy. Jose had to change what he ate. He learned about new foods. He ate more vegetables, fruits, and grains. He **eliminated** meat, like beef and chicken from his table. He felt this was better for animals.

Jose also talked to people about being a vegetarian. He told them why he chose this. He said it was because of the bull's eyes. He remembered how the bull looked at him. He did not want to make animals sad or scared. He wanted to help them. Some people understood Jose. They thought he was brave to change. Other people did not agree. They thought that his behavior was not **appropriate** and that he should keep being a matador. Some people even **threatened** him. But Jose knew he made the right choice for him. He felt happier and more peaceful. He was glad to live without hurting animals.

Chapter 5: A New Life

Jose also felt different about himself. He was not fighting bulls anymore. He had to find new things to do. This was not easy. He had been a matador for a long time. It was a big part of who he was. But Jose was sure about his choice. He knew it was right for him. He felt good about not hurting animals. He wanted to live a kind life. He started to do new things. He talked to people about animals. He told them why he cared. Jose's life was very different now.

He was not famous like before. But he was happy. He was doing what he felt was right. This was important to him.

After Jose stopped being a matador, he started a new life. He wanted to help animals. He cared about them a lot. Jose became an advocate. Jose spoke for animals. He talked to people about being kind to animals. He told them why this was important. He shared his story. He talked about the bull's eyes and how they changed him. Jose wanted people to think about animals. He wanted them to care.

Jose also learned more about animal rights. Animal rights mean that animals should be treated well. They should not be hurt. Jose believed this strongly. He worked with groups that helped animals. He helped them spread their message. Sometimes, Jose talked about his old life. He said he was once a matador. But now, he was different. He chose a life of kindness. He felt this was better.

Jose's new life was not always easy. Some people did not agree with him. They argued with him. But Jose kept speaking for animals. He was strong and brave, like when he was a matador. But now, he was fighting in a different way. He was fighting for animals. Jose's story is special. He changed a lot. He went from fighting bulls to helping animals. His story shows us that one moment can change a person. Jose teaches us to think about what is right and to be brave to make changes.

Questions

1. What profession did Jose Felipe have?
 - A) Matador
 - B) Teacher
 - C) Farmer
 - D) Chef
2. In which country did Jose Felipe live?
 - A) Spain
 - B) Mexico
 - C) Portugal
 - D) Italy
3. What triggered Jose's decision to stop fighting the bull?
 - A) An injury
 - B) A crowd's cheer
 - C) Advice from a friend
 - D) The bull's eyes
4. How did the bull react when Jose looked into its eyes?
 - A) It attacked him.
 - B) It ran away.
 - C) It fell asleep.
 - D) It stood still.
5. What was the bull's reaction to Jose during their encounter in the arena?
 - A) Aggressive
 - B) Fearful
 - C) Playful
 - D) Curious

6. What did Jose feel when he looked at the bull?
A) Anger
B) Joy
C) Sadness
D) Indifference
7. Why did Jose quit being a matador?
A) He lost a fight.
B) He was injured.
C) He came to a moral realization.
D) He was forced to retire.
8. What role did Jose take up after leaving bullfighting?
A) Animal rights advocate
B) Farmer
C) Chef
D) Teacher
9. How did Jose's community react to his decision to stop bullfighting?
A) They had mixed reactions.
B) They were all against it.
C) They were all supportive.
D) They were indifferent.
10. What does the story of Jose teach us?
A) The importance of tradition
B) The dangers of bullfighting
C) The impact of a single moment
D) The value of education

Vocabulary Review

appropriate: suitable or right for a particular situation

Example: *They think it is not an **appropriate** sport in today's world.* (Chapter 1)

capture: to catch or take control of something

Example: *Then they would **capture** and bring them back to the farm.* (Chapter 2)

crops: plants that are grown in large quantities for food

Example: *He didn't live in a big city; he lived in a small town, and he walked to school across fields filled with **crops**.* (Chapter 2)

declare: to say something officially or publicly

Example: *He **declared** to himself that he would not fight bulls anymore.* (Chapter 3)

decline: to refuse to do something

Example: *Jose **declined** to continue the fight.* (Chapter 3)

eliminate: to remove or take away something

Example: *He **eliminated** meat, like beef and chicken from his table.* (Chapter 4)

pursue: to follow or chase with determination

Example: *Sometimes the cows would escape, and Jose and his father would have to go out and **pursue** them across the fields.* (Chapter 2)

religious: relating to religion or spiritual belief

Example: *Jose felt something in his heart, almost like a **religious** experience.* (Chapter 3)

requirement: something that is needed or that must be done

Example: *This is a **requirement** in bullfighting.* (Chapter 3)

threaten: To say you will cause harm or trouble if you do not get what you want

Example: *Some people even **threatened** him.* (Chapter 4)