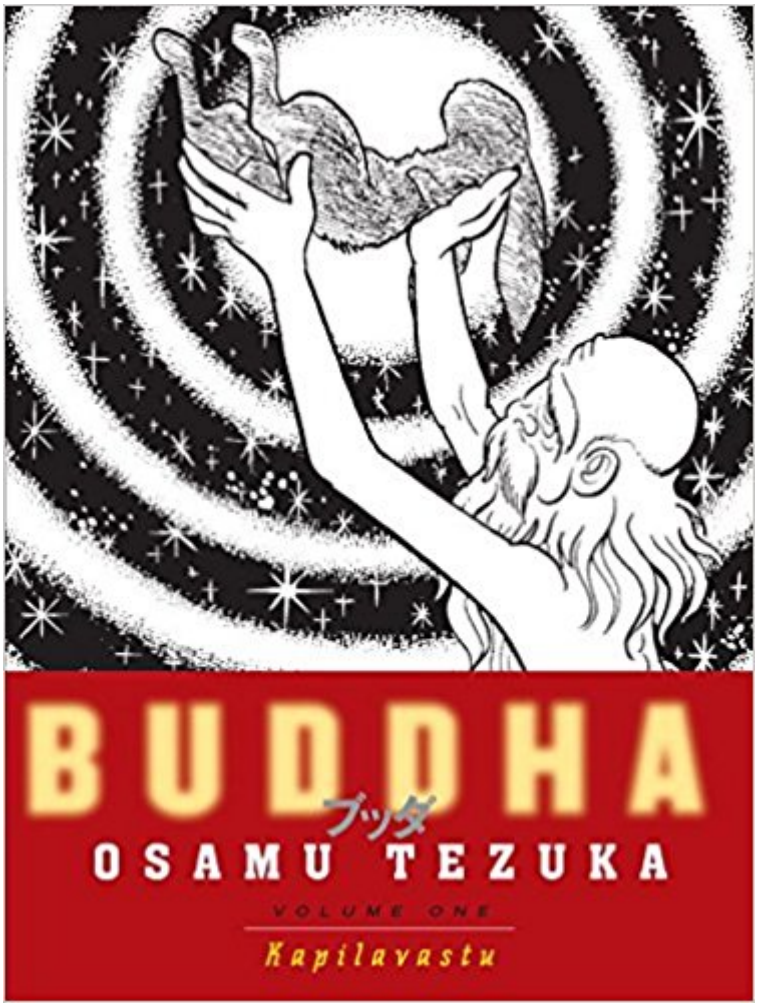
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Buddha, Vol. 1: Kapilavastu



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Synopsis

Osamu TezukaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vaunted storytelling genius, consummate skill at visual expression, and warm humanity blossom fully in his eight-volume epic of SiddharthaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life and times. Tezuka evidences his profound grasp of the subject by contextualizing the BuddhaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ideas; the emphasis is on movement, action, emotion, and conflict as the prince Siddhartha runs away from home, travels across India, and questions Hindu practices such as ascetic self-mutilation and caste oppression. Rather than recommend resignation and impassivity, TezukaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Buddha predicates enlightenment upon recognizing the interconnectedness of life, having compassion for the suffering, and ordering oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life sensibly. Philosophical segments are threaded into interpersonal situations with ground-breaking visual dynamism by an artist who makes sure never to lose his readersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ attention.Tezuka himself was a humanist rather than a Buddhist, and his magnum opus is not an attempt at propaganda. Hermann HesseÃ¢â ¬â„¢s novel or BertolucciÃ¢â ¬â„¢s film is comparable in this regard; in fact, TezukaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s approach is slightly irreverent in that it incorporates something that Western commentators often eschew, namely, humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tezuka, the master of Japanese comics, mixes his own characters with history as deftly as he transfers the most profound, complex emotions onto extremely cartoony characters, and his work defies easy categorization. In Buddha, originally serialized in the 1970s and one of his last works,

he lavishly retells the life of Siddhartha, who isn't even born until page 268. Instead, Tezuka introduces Chapra, a slave who attempts to escape his fate by posing as the son of a general; Tatta, a crazed wild child pariah who communes with animals; Chapra's slave mother, who stands by him no matter what; and Naradatta, a monk attempting to discover the meaning of strange portents of the Buddha's birth. Throughout the book, the characters engage in fresh and unexpected adventures, escapes and reverses, as they play out Tezuka's philosophical concern with overcoming fate and the uselessness of violence. Despite episodes of extreme brutality and broad humor, the core of the story revolves around various set pieces, as when Tatta sacrifices himself to a snake to save Naradatta and Chapra's mom. After a moment of intense emotion, the scene is upended by the arrival of a bandit who mocks their attempts at keeping their karmic slates clean. "Why were you all fussing over some stupid trade? Why not just kill the snake and eat it?" The answer unfolds over succeeding volumes. Heavily influenced by Walt Disney, Tezuka's often cute characters may take some getting used to, but his storytelling is strong and clean. Appearing in handsome packages designed by Chip Kidd, this is a stunning achievement. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Infused with humor and history, the epic of Siddhartha is perhaps Osamu Tezuka's crowning acheivement and illustrates why, without irony, Tezuka is referred to as 'The King of Japanese Comics'." - LA Weekly"Buddha is one of Tezuka's true masterpieces. We're lucky to have this excellent new edition in English." - Scott McCloud, author of Understanding Comics"In handsome volumes designed by Chip Kidd, the Vertical books present Tezuka at his best." - National Post"Buddha is an engrossing tale. The armchair philosopher, the devout Buddhist, the casual manga fan - this book satisfies all with its tale of humanism through sequential art, and definitely earns its place on a bibliophile's bookshelf." -Anime Insider"This is one of the greatest acheivements of the comics medium, a masterpiece by one of the greats." -Artbomb.net"In Tezuka's world, the exquisite collapses into the goofy in a New York minute, the goofy into the melodramatic, the melodramatic into the brutal, and the brutal into the sincerely touching. The suprising result is a work wholly unique and downright fun." -Time Out NY"Tezuka's Buddha is a striking and memorable confluence of ancient wisdom and contemporary popular art." -Yoga Journal

Many people are most familiar with Tezuka through his 1960's anime TV shows, Astro Boy or Kimba, the White Lion as those are the works that received the widest world distribution. Those

shows were inventive with strong references to Disney but also a jarring sense of anarchy. Many of Tezuka's manga stories are the same plus he frequently breaks the fourth wall especially during scenes of high drama with goofy comic slapstick or having his characters tear up the comic panels to express rage. What I found amazing was that unlike others authors Tezuka didn't feel that he needed to change his style when tackling the story of Buddha and this takes some getting used to. In later volumes Tezuka actually puts himself into the story questioning the liberties he's taking.After I got past the anachronisms (characters referring to modern products) and the attempts to use modern idiom (example: the use of the phrase "my peeps"), it was hard to put the book down. In fact I read a volume a day. Tezuka draws the way he feels like and that means that the characters range from classic semi-realistic manga to Japanese comic style to pure Disney (especially the crocodiles) all against realistically drawn backgrounds. The female characters are almost always drawn half-naked, just like Indian sculpture and paintings from that period. It may be a little hard for the Western senses to have semi-naked women involved with serious religious discussion but that's our problem not the story. The dialog is in the percussive manga style but the ideas of Buddhism are there and you can follow the road of Buddha's conflicts as he reaches his final philosophy.

I have just finished reading the complete series for the third time. I am always amazed how Tezuka managed to make a book about Buddha which is funny, touching and without pandering for religious groups. It is just the amazing journey of a man to find within himself the promise of peace and self preservation.Tezuka has made the book very witty, and even adlibs here and there with funny characters. If you want to add some variety to your reading, this final series by the brilliant master of drawing, scripting and framing, Osamu Tezuka is strongly recommended.Just read it for fun, without too much of an expectation, or looking to find flaws in the book, since it is linked to a man that becomes enlightened and starts a religion. Tezuka does not proselytize. He was at the end of his life, when writing this series, so he could care less. The series is fresh, and has some innocence to it, a quality that is so hard to find these days... I am sorry if the review sounds very one-dimensional, but I had never read anything by Tezuka, and this series was one of the best comic book series I have ever read.

Not that much about Buddha. Lots of filler about other people and beings.

Top notch artist. Inspiring story. Great comic book that has the ability to reach into the depth and pull something profound out of something ordinary. I found mgself reading and rereading simply

because I wasn't sure how Tezuka had pulled the rabbit out of the hat.Not so much a historical account as it is an in-depth look at Buddhist principles and beliefs. Tezuka doesn't focus so much on the life of Buddha, but rather on the people, places and drama that surrounds Siddharta as he struggles gaining, accepting, and teaching enlightenment.I highly recommend this series for anyone interested in either comics or Buddhism.

We've been reading the eight volumes from beginning to end in our Tezuka fever. Buddha certainly feels like a major work and I would recommend it both as a dedicated approach to the figure of Buddha and as classic of storytelling. But Buddha is most importantly enjoyable to see Tezuka developing some of his most irreverent and personal jokes, interwoven in story.However, given the subject it lacks the sensationalist and gripping (if repetitive) taste of some of his one mammoth serialized volumes such as MV or the Ode to Kirihito. Buddha is published in English in 8 volumes and things really take shape towards volume 3 or 4, and become quite amazing in terms of the medium towards the final part. If you are not in for the full ride I'd probably recommend other works from him.

I am Buddhist, so I may have a biased opinion about this series. I honestly am not a big comic book/manga fan, but this series caught my interest. I ended up buying the whole 8 book series and very much enjoyed reading them. These books are not for young children, as there is definitely adult themes, language and drawings of violence and sex in them. These books are not for people looking for serious Buddhist dialogue either, but they are fun and a new and interesting way to view the life of the Buddha. I originally got them for myself and will keep them to share with my children when they get in the mid to late teens. They are worth a read and I recommend them to all interested in the Buddha's life, but from a fresh and not so serious point of view.

interesting read from Osamu Tezka.

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