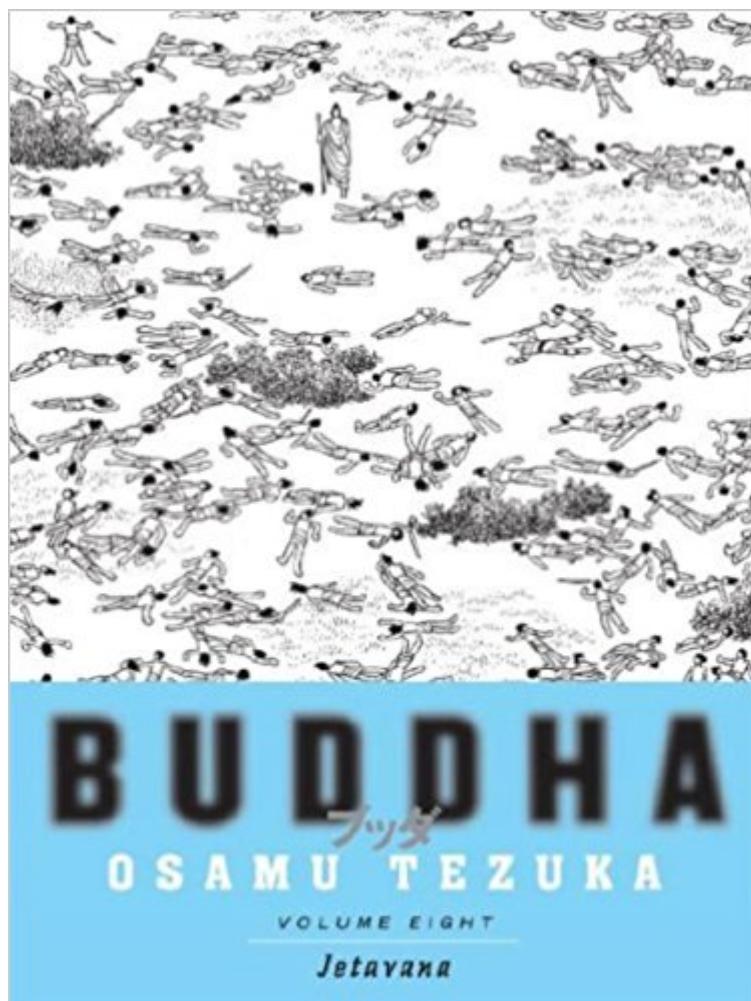


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Buddha, Vol. 8: Jetavana



Synopsis

Osamu Tezuka's vaunted storytelling genius, consummate skill at visual expression, and warm humanity blossom fully in his eight-volume epic of Siddhartha's life and times. Tezuka evidences his profound grasp of the subject by contextualizing the Buddha'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, Tezuka's Buddha predicates enlightenment upon recognizing the interconnectedness of life, having compassion for the suffering, and ordering one'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 readers' attention. Tezuka himself was a humanist rather than a Buddhist, and his magnum opus is not an attempt at propaganda. Hermann Hesse's novel or Bertolucci's film is comparable in this regard; in fact, Tezuka'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

"Infused with humor and history, the epic of Siddhartha is perhaps Osamu Tezuka's crowning achievement 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 achievements of the comics medium, a masterpiece by one of the greats." -Ardbomb.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 surprising 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

Osamu Tezuka (1928-89) is the godfather of Japanese manga comics. He originally intended to become a doctor and earned his degree before turning to what was then a medium for children. His many early masterpieces include the series known in the U.S. as Astro Boy. With his sweeping vision, deftly intertwined plots, feel for the workings of power, and indefatigable commitment to human dignity, Tezuka elevated manga to an art form. The later Tezuka, when he authored Buddha, often had in mind the mature readership that manga gained in the sixties and that had only grown ever since. The Kurosawa of Japanese pop culture, Osamu Tezuka is a twentieth century classic.

A famed old-school Disney-loving Japanese Manga artist re-interprets the story of Buddha's life. Funny and educational. This is the eighth and last volume, the most serious of the set.

awesome product!

I have read the Japanese version of this and bought English sets for my boyfriend. We are super happy, everybody should have a set in their house.

I picked up one of these books at our local library and fell in love with the story. After purchasing the complete set, I am glad I went into the library that day.

Great condition thx

I have enjoyed each of the 8 volumes of this work. I am not always moved by comics, but this form and the way it is handled is wonderful. I would recommend this set to everyone who is interested in

Buddha and the spiritual practice of meditation.

Compare to previous volumes, this volume covers way too much ground and literally is pretty much jumping from places to places. I gave 5 stars for previous volumes but cannot on this one. Also the ending was a bit funny. It was very solemn at the end so it was a bit hard to read. I think what's cool about the whole series is the light-hearted portray of the characters and their stories, especially with the dark humor. I feel the author could stick to this style until the end. Out of respect for Buddha, the ending took a different tone, which was a bit incoherent IMHO. Maybe some stupid and funny attempts by Anand to save/prolong the series, and end with Anand's own enlightenment as a continuation of Buddha's teaching. That would be a much cool ending I think:-). Overall I enjoyed the reading so very much. Thank you for this great piece of work. Buddha would be smiling if he sees this.

This is the final volume of Tezuka's 'Buddha'. It is one of the smallest of the books, and often feels rushed. Devadatta's plot to usurp Buddha's followers begins. The final fates of Tatta and Naradatta are decided. In order to ease their suffering Buddha teaches two Kings to forgive their fathers. Before dying, Buddha realizes the real thing he must teach the world. This book wraps up all of the story lines, and leaves us with the teachings of a great man.

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