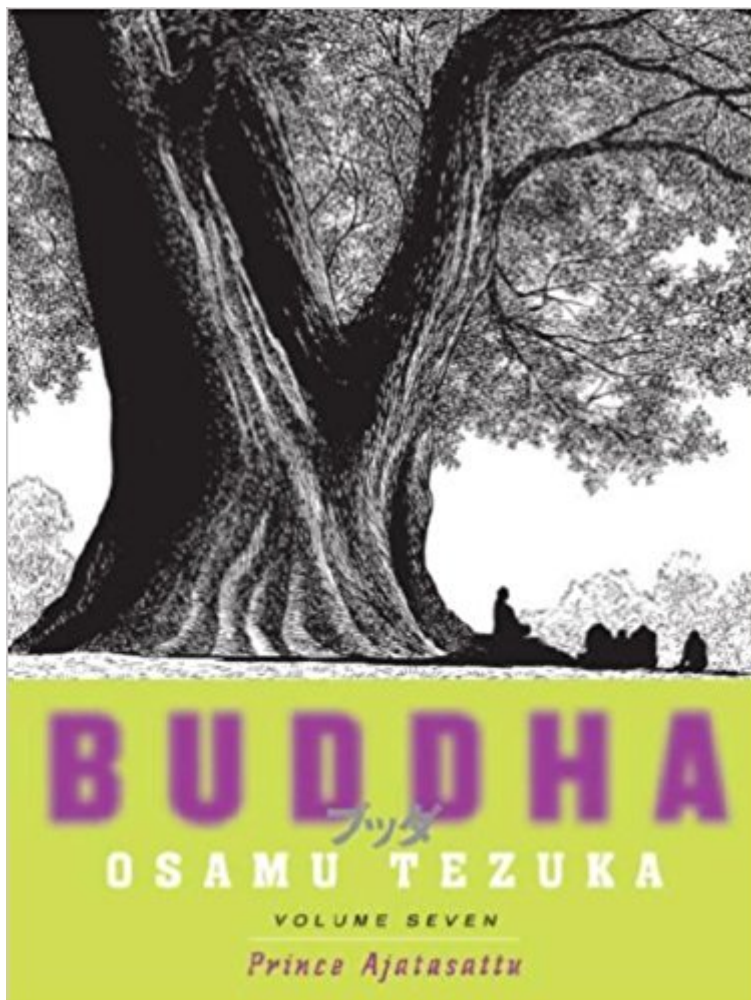


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Buddha, Vol. 7: Prince Ajatasattu



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." -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 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.

This comic changed my life. I was circling the toilet bowl of life about to just end it when this book fell into my lap. I now have reason to live.

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.

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.

This volume is very good, in that it's mostly small fables that help illustrate the teachings of Buddhism. Buddha returns to Magadha with his followers, and are given land to meditate and worship on. Prince Ajatasattu, whom this book is named, does not like Buddha and tries to kill him, an action with great consequences for all. Ananda struggles to find redemption for his murderous past. And Devadatta proves to be less holy-minded than he has led others to believe. After much time Buddha relives he's been ideal in his work. And heads to his former kingdom, to spread his

teachings and confront Prince Crystal. Like other volumes, the art work and storytelling is wonderful.

maybe my favourite, the most powerful scene in the series is when the buddha and his servant wade through a river for a long time. a log floats by that they can lean on, but its covered in large spiders. the servant is ready to strike them off, but the buddha says no, its okay, well walk on. leave the log alone.

After traveling with the Buddha and the vast cast of characters throughout the series, the Buddha himself returns home only to find that he has become an international celebrity. Tezuka continues to craft his manga masterpiece and place the final setup for the conclusion of this beautifully crafted comic book series. The Buddha enlightens and entertains. Enjoy!

Enjoyable and attractive reading. Buddha goes from the easy life with a huge following to traveling on various quests while engaging challenges, sick or crazy people for him to deal with as well as whole nations of people in trouble (or wanting to give Buddha trouble).

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