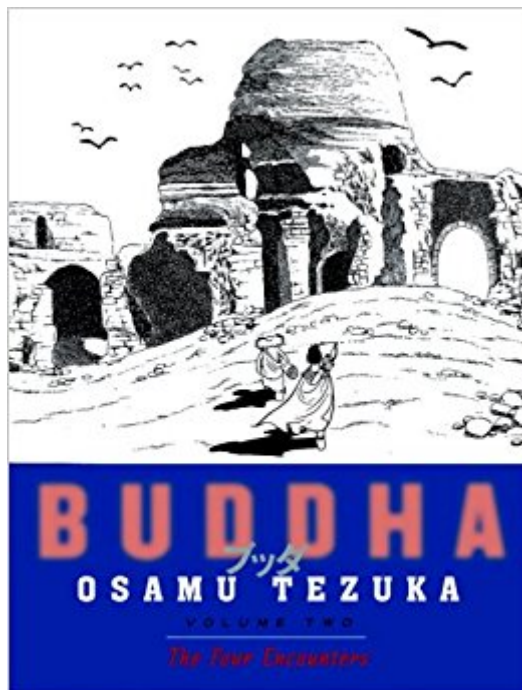


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# Buddha, Vol. 2: The Four Encounters



## 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.

Bottom Line First Osamu Tezuka's Buddha (book 2), THE Four Encounters, Paperback edition On the chance you are coming to these 8 book series via book two, this is not a religious teaching text. This is a lax graphic novelization of a history. So far not much on the religion of the young Prince Siddhartha, the man who will with enlightenment become Buddha, founder of Buddhism. The introduction of highly anachronistic terms is more noticeable and less excusable than was present in book one. Overall I found the story less compelling and with the introduction of only a few new characters, the remaining older characters were not handled in such a way as to create more interest. The major new character is the Prince and there is much about him to capture the reader's imagination. Recommendation, Book 2 has all the artwork that made w Book 1 beautiful. Book 1 was the better of the two books and on that basis and for the reader wanting the continuity of storyline I am recommending this installment. I will be getting book 3 and hope that this one is the bridge to better things. At the end of Book one I had been deeply effected by the ending and very interested in the future story line. In short, eager for book 2. The Four Encounters Delivered as a work of visual art. Country scenes are beautiful and the level of detail in the over-all artistry is more than value for the cost. Tezuka is considered an originator of Manga. However many

the other claimants; Tezuka and his team are artists. Given casual nudity and innumerable perky ice cream scoop breasted the women, there is little here that is aimed to prurient interests or even mildly erotic. The amount of violence remains high even if human costs are on a different scale. No mass deaths by locusts, but famine and individual deaths and suffering continue. Historically and thematically appropriate. For example, few too many dear are killed. My personal bottom line is that Book 1 left me caring about these people. My overall letdown with book 2 will not keep me from reading book 3.

Serious philosophy in graphic novels can be entertaining and fun! It is humorous and light-hearted yet serious and gripping in this eight-volume set of graphic novels by Osamu Tezuka. Tezuka is referred to as the father of manga, or Japanese comics. We are not fans of manga, but these graphics novels/comics are beautifully done. The books are a wonderful way to introduce the life of Buddha and his path to peace and meditation to young people who shrink from these ideas. The message and wisdom is timeless. The novels take the reader from Buddha's birth to his enlightenment and death. Fictional characters that spout contemporary statements add to the fun. They in no way diminish the serious issues of caste, war, poverty, and slavery. The characters are incredibly human and likeable. Women, though, are scantily clothed and many readers may feel that Tezuka is irreverent in his approach. If you can get past that initial reaction, you may be well rewarded. As these are graphic novels/comics, the tone is not as respectful as religious books. We found this approach of making Buddha and all the other characters so human in every way rather appealing. If the Buddha could do this, there is hope for all of us! In comic form, the text has to be succinct and precise. We get the message in a few sentences, with the drawings often conveying more than words. We found these beautifully bound novels (the spines line up to show the aging faces of Buddha through his lifetime) riveting and hope you enjoy them as well. This is a delightfully different way of coming to know the Buddha. You may find yourself reading these novels over and over again!

Wonderful book. Delivered as described and on time.

This is an incredible series from an incredible author!! I would encourage anyone who is interested in learning about Buddha in a serious but fun way to read this series.

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.

More of the story of young Sidhartha struggling with his posh prince place in a strongly caste system, and his fear of death and suffering. An 'enlightened' Sidartha fights against the caste system, which is paramount to treason, and slowly learns his true place in all things.

The first graphic novel in the series was supremely weird and intriguing. This second one is much better and follows the Buddha's childhood as a prince and the famous stories where he sees a sick person and an old, dead person outside the walls of his protected life. This being a manga treatment, there is lots of nudity as well as epic battles with elephants and much bloodshed. But, damn, if it isn't profound. I especially was moved by the love story where his girlfriend gets her eyes jabbed out with a hot poker. This is not your typical story of the Buddha. Great artwork. Bechdel test: fail. Grade: A-

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