

yoga

JOURNAL

BUDDHA: Vol. 1, Kapilavastu by Osamu Tezuka. Vertical; www.vertical-inc.com.

A FAMILIAR SAGA — the life and times of the Illumined One — becomes a rip-roaring tale of kings and armies, downtrodden subjects, violent clashes, and supernatural feats in this first installment of an epic eight-volume graphic novel series by Osamu Tezuka, the late “god-father” of Japanese *manga*. The art is by turns dazzlingly beautiful and comic-book outlandish; the writing (in a crisp, uncredited translation) is at once distinguished and hip. Originally published in Japan in 1987, the series is being published in English in installments: The first two volumes were released in late 2003; the remaining ones are due out this year. Tezuka’s *Buddha* is a striking and memorable confluence of ancient wisdom and contemporary popular art.

