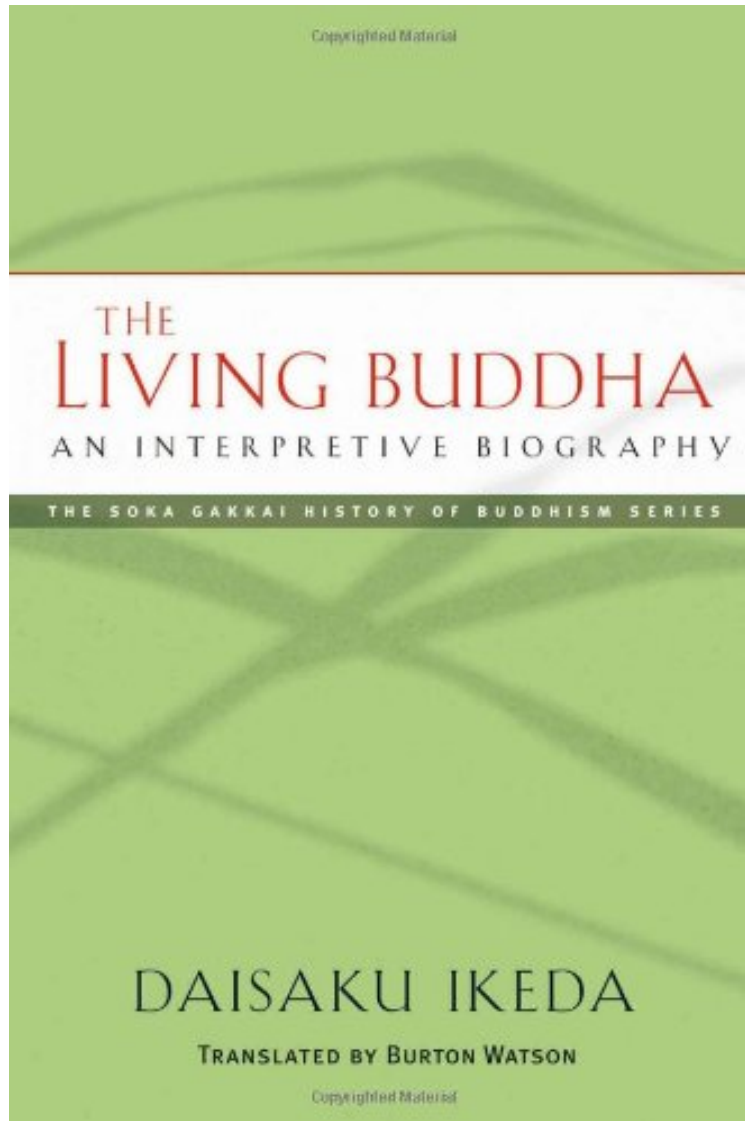


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The Living Buddha: An Interpretive Biography (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism)

Daisaku Ikeda

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Daisaku Ikeda : The Living Buddha: An Interpretive Biography (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Living Buddha: An Interpretive Biography (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly insightful biography By Swissbuddha Daisaku Ikeda, a renowned and respected religious leader, poet, author and president of Soka Gakkai International, a global Buddhist

order, gives us a very easy to understand and insightful look into one of the most important religious figures in history. This puts into plain English, the story of a man, who renounces the luxurious comforts of his royal heritage and sets out to seek the answers to the questions, "Why do some people live in great comfort and wealth, while others suffer from poverty, illness and other afflictions in their lives?" and "What can be done to help people escape this suffering?" This book portrays a man with a highly intuitive understanding of life and great compassion for the suffering of his fellow human being, while at the same time giving an outline of the history of religious evolution of ancient India. As a devout practitioner of Nichiren Buddhism and an active member of Soka Gakkai, I found this book to be an essential reading and one of the most well thought and honest interpretations of the founding and early development of Buddhism. I also have the two other books in this series, and am currently reading the second one, "Buddhism, the First Millennium".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Paul E. Great book on the life of the Buddha. Excellent translation and editing by Burton Watson.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for anyone interested in Buddhism.
By Movies Make Me Happy
The best book ever written about the life of Siddhartha Gautama. Clear, insightful, well written. Anyone interested in Buddhism should read this book.

An intimate portrayal of one of history's most important and obscure figures, the Buddha, this chronicle reveals him not as a mystic, but a warm and engaged human being that was very much the product of his turbulent times. This biographical account traces the path of Siddhartha Gautama as he walked away from the pleasure palace that had been his home and joined a growing force of wandering monks, ultimately making his way towards enlightenment beneath the bodhi tree, and spending the next 45 years sharing his insights along the banks of the Ganges. The Buddhist canon is expertly harvested to provide insight into the Buddha's inner life and to grant a better understanding of how he came to play his pivotal role as founder of one of the world's largest religions.

Language Notes
Text: English (translation)
From the Back Cover
'The Living Buddha' is a biography with a double focus. It is at once a vivid historical narrative based on what is known or can be reasonably surmised about Shakyamuni's life and times, and an inspiring account of a heroic life dedicated to helping all people free themselves from suffering.

About the Author
Daisaku Ikeda is the author and coauthor of more than 60 books on Buddhism and the founding president and leader of the Soka Gakkai International, one of the largest lay Buddhist organizations in the world. He is the recipient of the United Nations Peace Award, the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award, and the International Tolerance Award of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Burton Watson is a translator of Chinese and Japanese literature. His translations include Chuang Tzu, The Lotus Sutra, Ryokan, Saigyō, and The Vimalakirti Sutra. He received the PEN Translation Prize in 1981.