

What is “Enlightenment”?

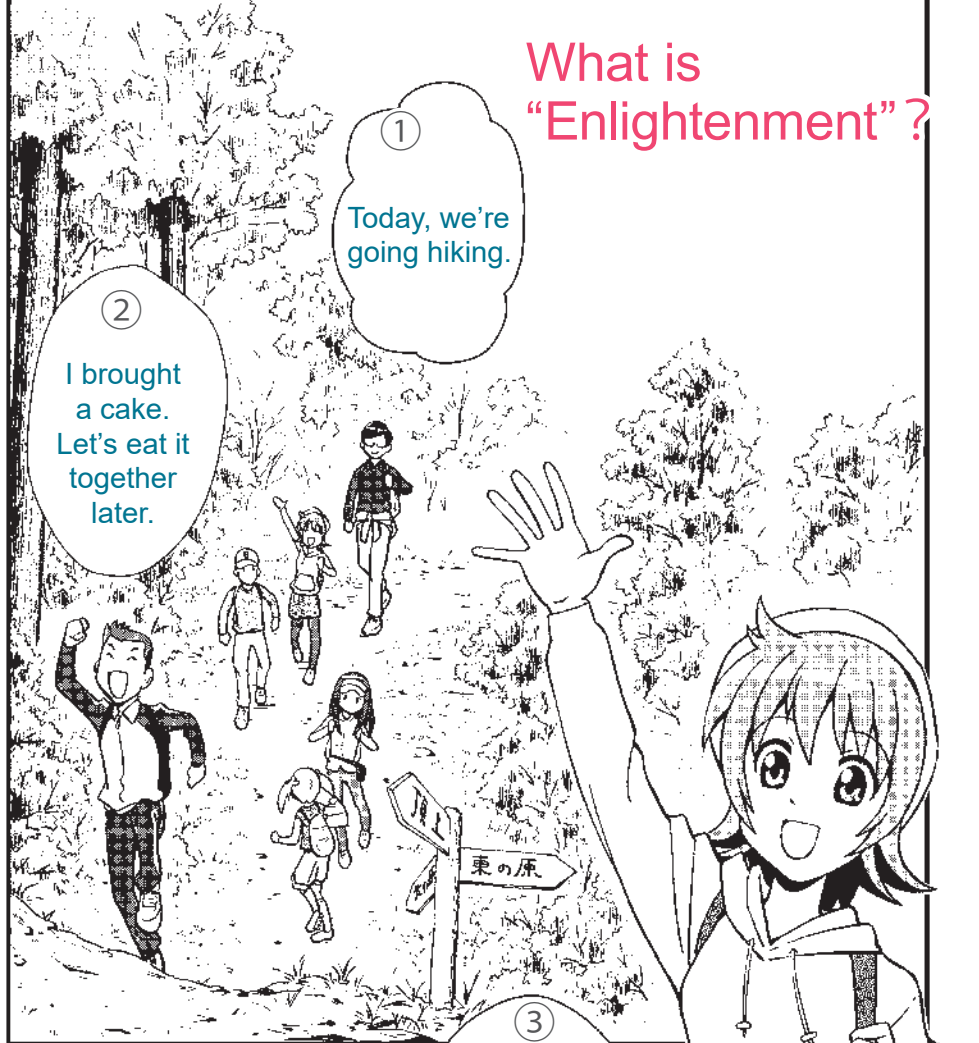
1

①

Today, we're
going hiking.

②

I brought
a cake.
Let's eat it
together
later.



③

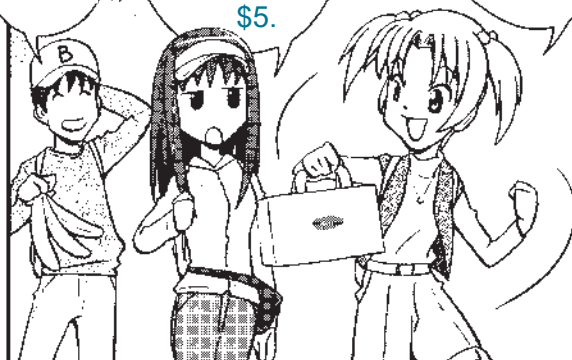
It's really
delicious! You
won't find it in
a sweets
shop.

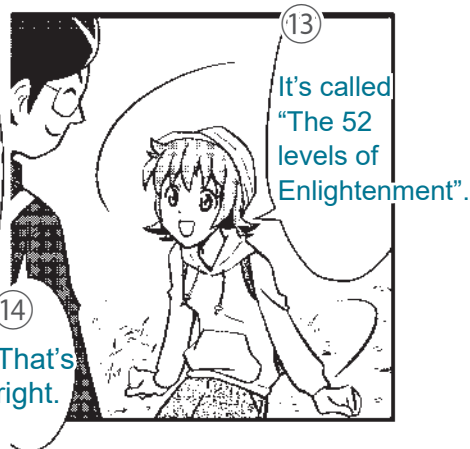
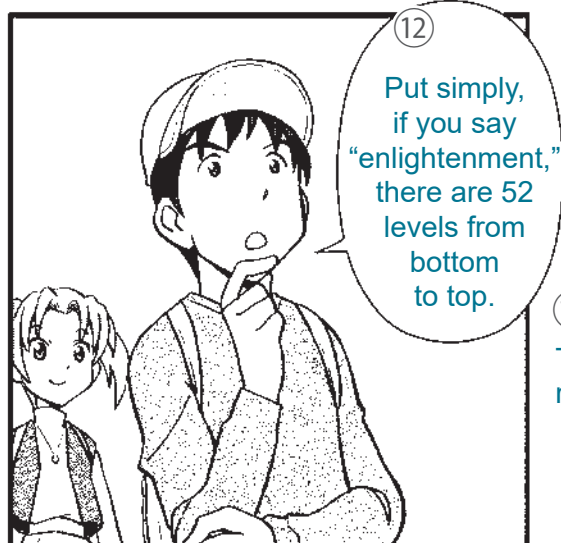
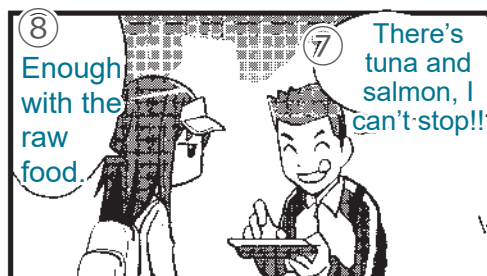
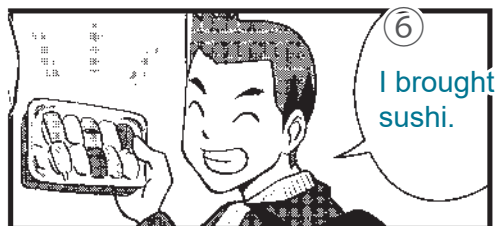
⑤

Do bananas
count as
snacks?

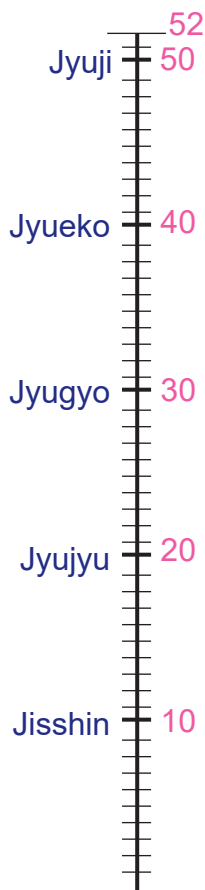
④

We were
told to bring
some snacks
worth about
\$5.





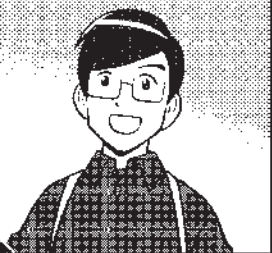
Enlightenment of a Buddha



52 Levels of Enlightenment

15

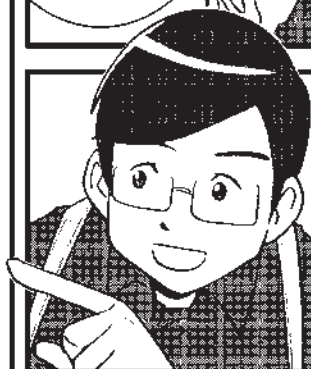
Each level of enlightenment has its own name.



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For example, level 10 is called the Tenth Faith, and level 20 is the Tenth Dwelling.



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We also learnt that the 52nd level is the highest level and is called the Enlightenment of a Buddha.

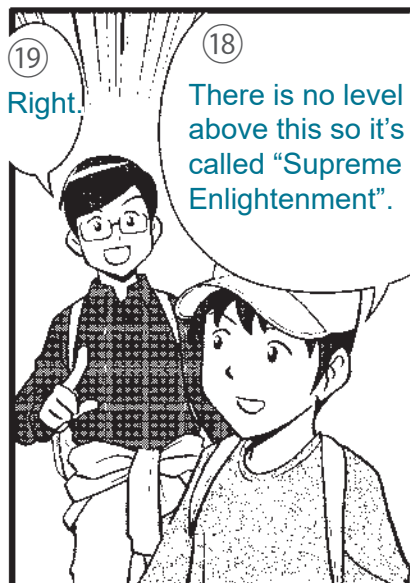


19

Right.

18

There is no level above this so it's called "Supreme Enlightenment".

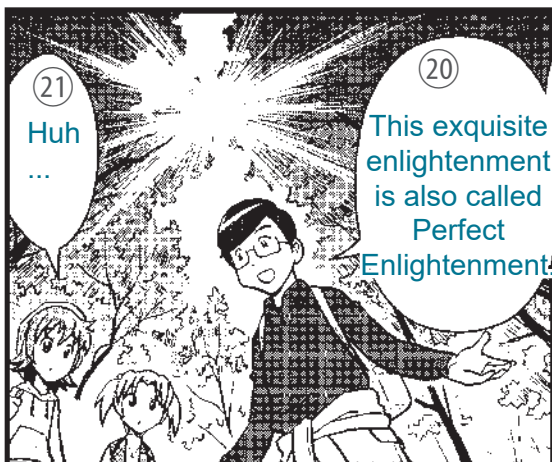


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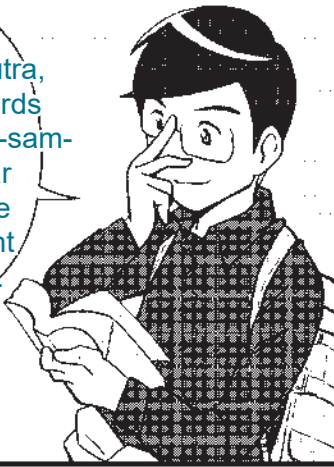
Huh ...

20

This exquisite enlightenment is also called Perfect Enlightenment.



22 In the Amida Sutra, the Sanskrit words "anuttara-samyak-sambodhi" appear and mean the Enlightenment of a Buddha.

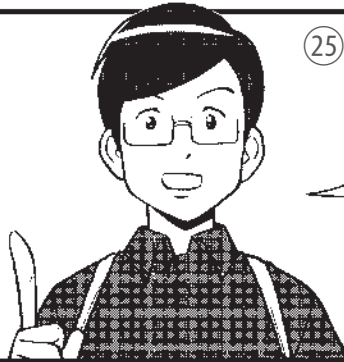
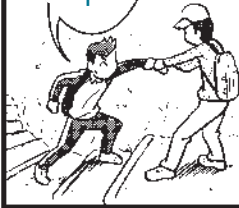


23 Then what about the 51st level?

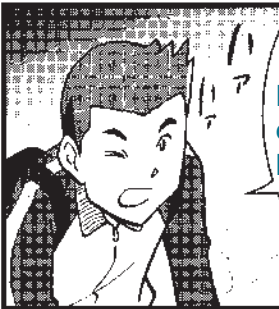


24 Ah, yes.

26 Just one ... more step.



25 The 51st level is only one level from the Enlightenment of a Buddha and it's virtually equal, so it's called Equivalent Enlightenment.

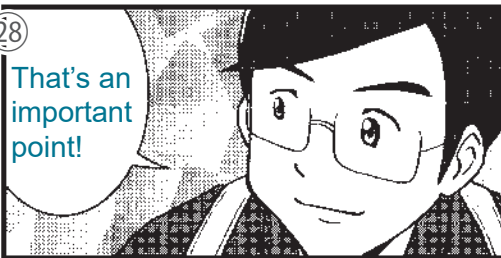


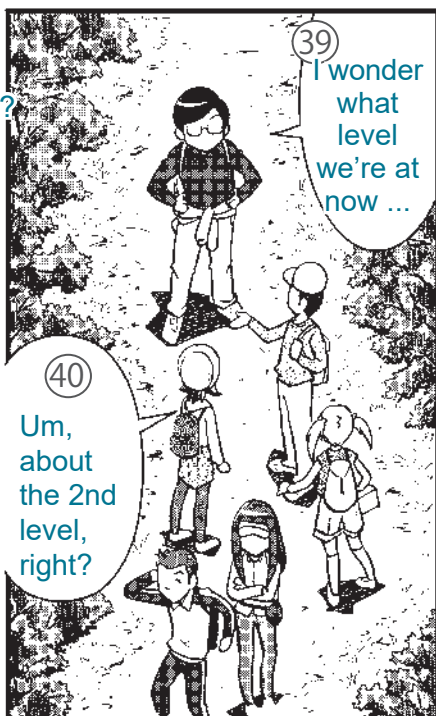
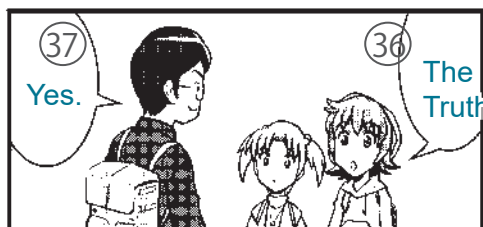
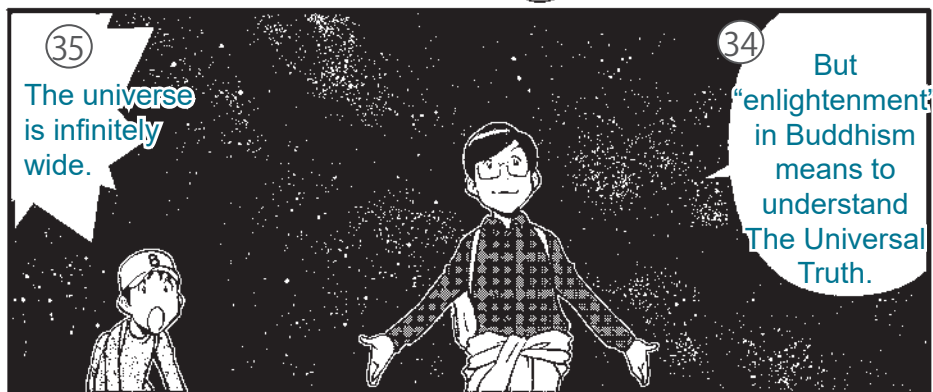
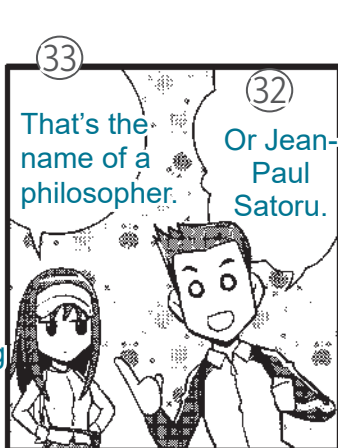
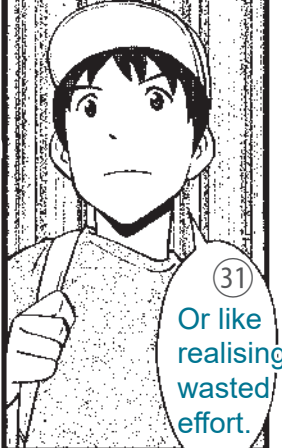
27 But what exactly does it mean to be "enlightened"?

29 Generally, the word "enlightenment" is used to mean that you clearly understand something, you feel something, or sensed something.



28 That's an important point!





Just a little further to the summit.

41 From the 2nd level, you can't see the surrounding scenery at all.

42 Then from the 3rd and 4th levels, the more your climb, the more you can see.

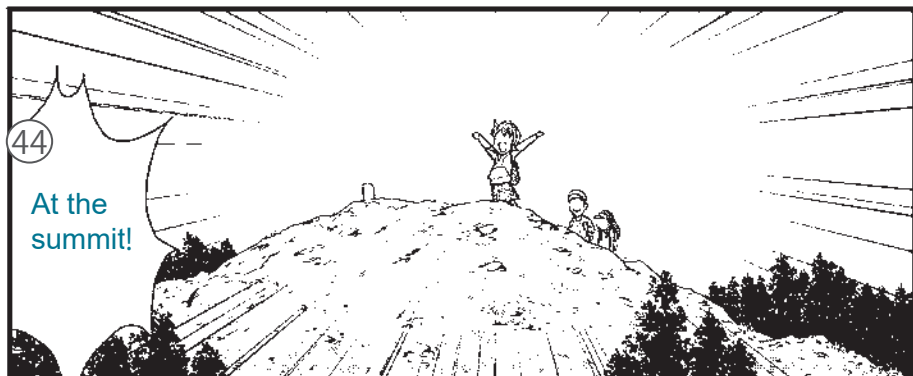
Yes, I can see a lot more of the scenery now.

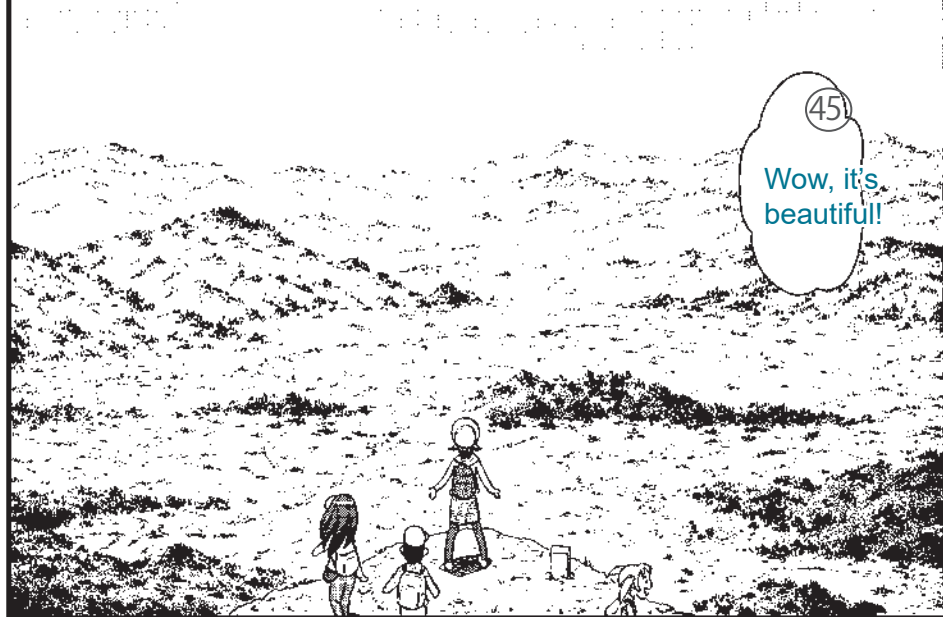
43 Then finally you reach the summit. You can see out over everything.

I still can't see anything.

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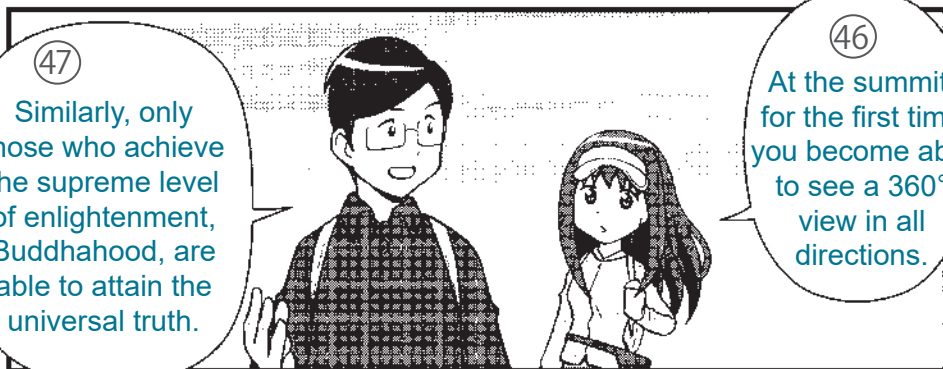
At the summit!





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Wow, it's beautiful!



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Similarly, only those who achieve the supreme level of enlightenment, Buddhahood, are able to attain the universal truth.

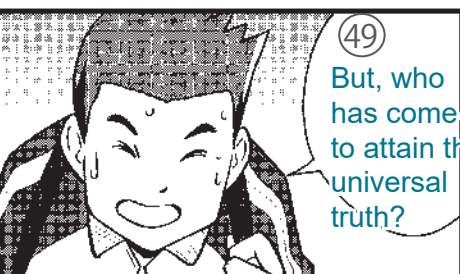
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At the summit, for the first time you become able to see a 360° view in all directions.



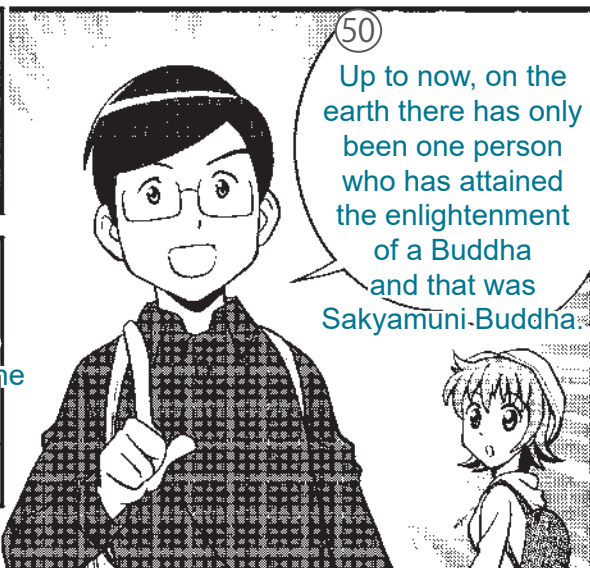
48

I see ...



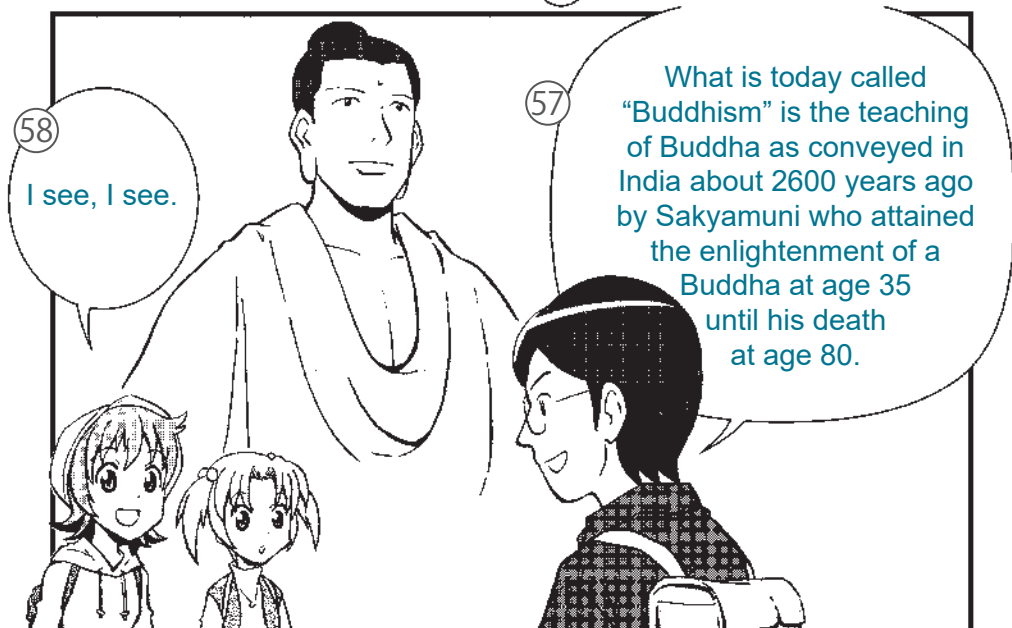
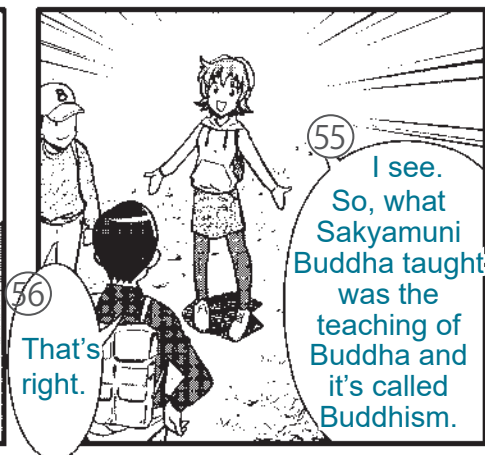
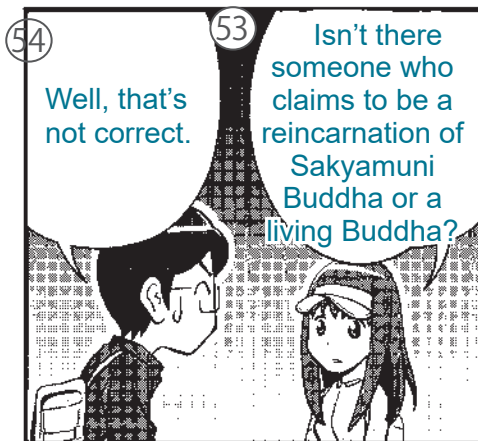
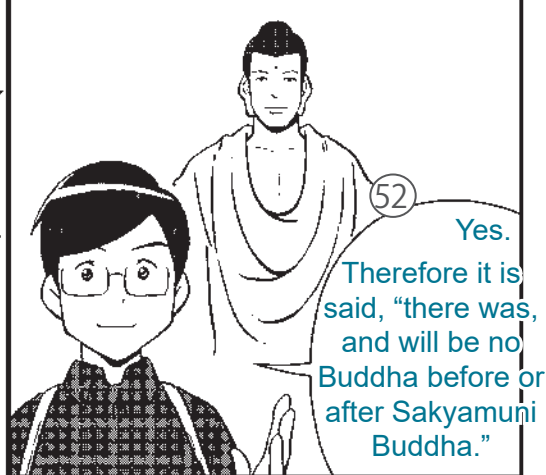
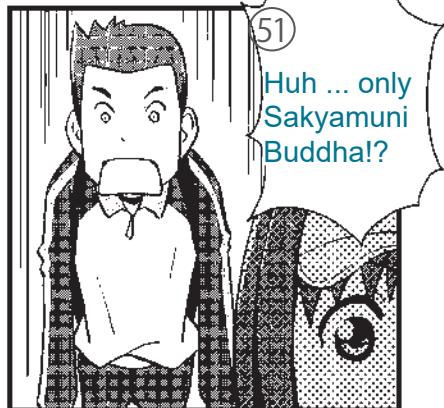
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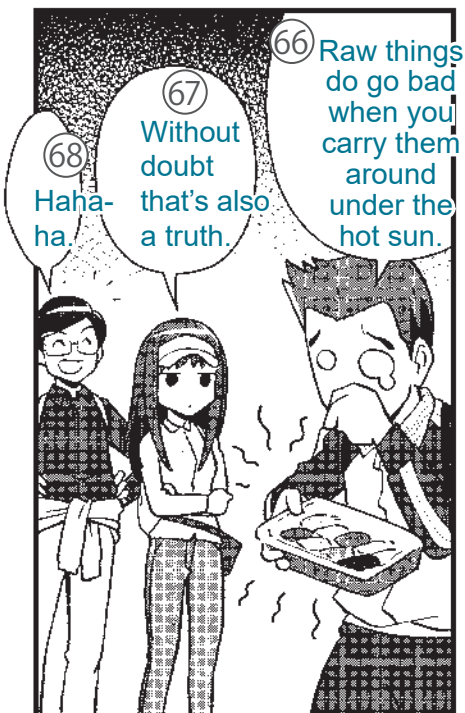
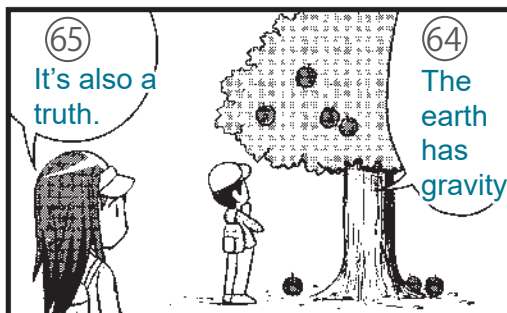
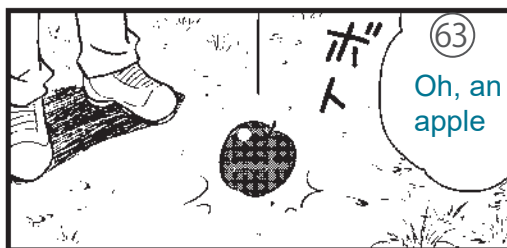
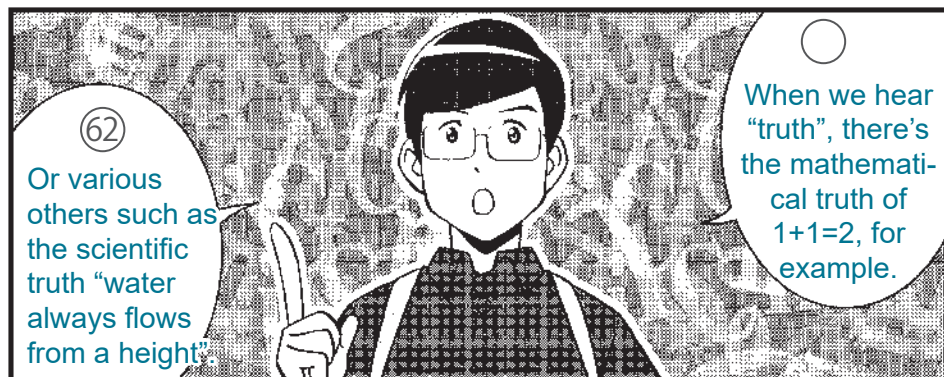
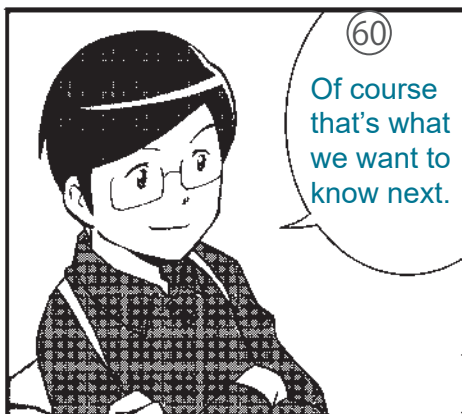
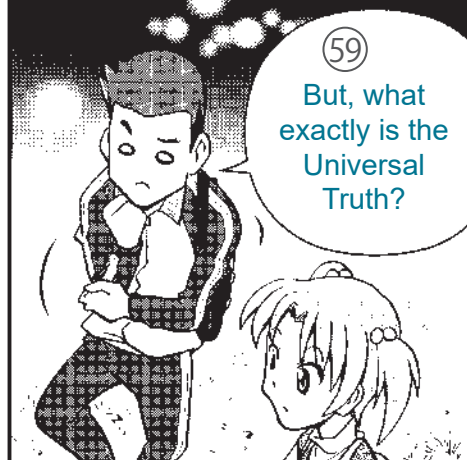
But, who has come to attain the universal truth?

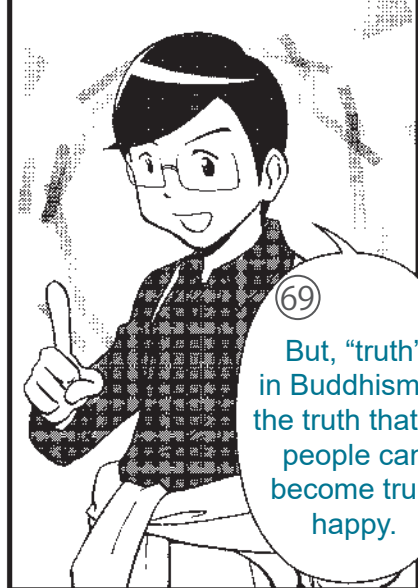


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Up to now, on the earth there has only been one person who has attained the enlightenment of a Buddha and that was Sakyamuni-Buddha.







69

But, "truth" in Buddhism is the truth that all people can become truly happy.

71

I want to be happy.

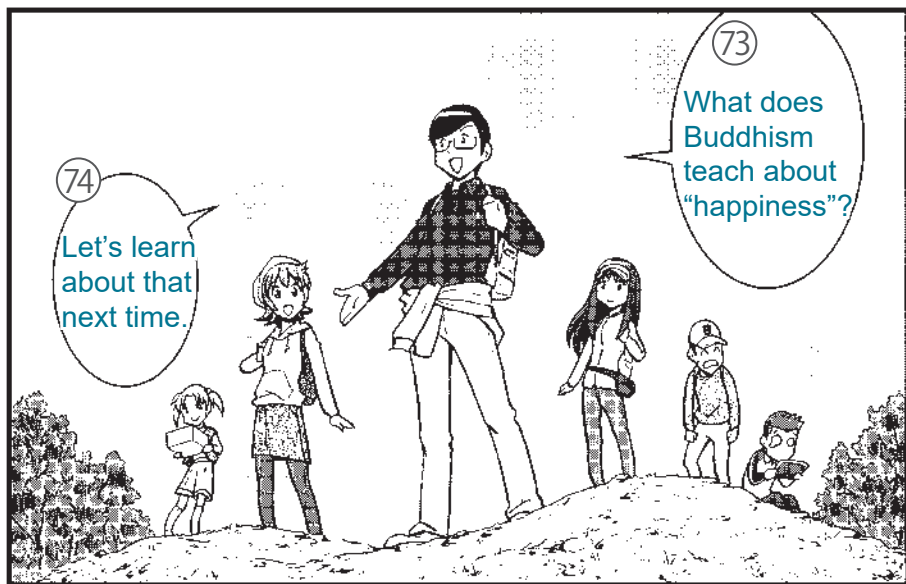
70

True happiness!?



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Yes, we all live seeking happiness.

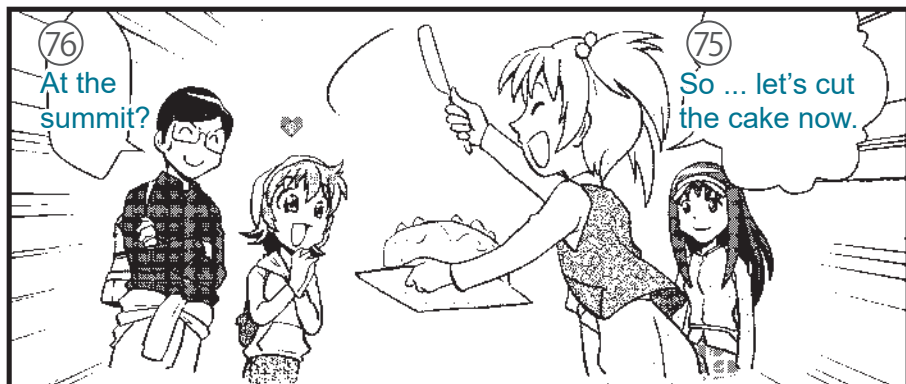


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Let's learn about that next time.

73

What does Buddhism teach about "happiness"?



76

At the summit?

75

So ... let's cut the cake now.