

Saint Youngmen

by Hikaru Nakamura · Language: EN

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Overview

Saint Young Men (Saint Oniisan) is a unique slice-of-life comedy manga by Hikaru Nakamura, chronicling the earthly vacation of Jesus Christ and Gautama Buddha in a modest apartment in Tachikawa, Tokyo. Having successfully guided humanity for millennia, the two divine figures decide to take a break from their heavenly duties to experience modern life. The series humorously explores their attempts to blend in with contemporary Japanese society, often leading to comical misunderstandings and accidental displays of their divine powers.

The narrative is episodic, focusing on their everyday adventures, from budgeting for rent and groceries to navigating public transportation, using smartphones, and visiting local attractions like amusement parks and public baths. Much of the humor stems from their distinct personalities – Jesus, the more excitable and prone to accidental miracles, and Buddha, the calmer, more introspective figure who often radiates enlightenment – as they react to the mundane aspects of human existence. The manga gently satirizes religious iconography and teachings while maintaining a respectful and endearing portrayal of its protagonists, making it a charming and thought-provoking exploration of friendship, cultural differences, and finding the sacred in the ordinary.

Key Takeaways

- Embrace the humor in everyday situations, as even divine beings find joy and confusion in the mundane.
- Recognize that true friendship can bridge vast differences in background, even between religious founders.
- Approach new cultures and technologies with an open mind, as adapting to change is a continuous journey.
- Find moments of peace and enlightenment amidst the chaos of modern life, much like Buddha's calm demeanor.
- Understand that even figures of immense importance can appreciate simple pleasures like a good meal or a quiet afternoon.
- Be mindful of how your actions, even accidental ones, can impact those around you.
- Appreciate the beauty of diverse perspectives, as Jesus and Buddha often learn from each other's unique viewpoints.

Chapter Summaries

Welcome to Tachikawa

Jesus and Buddha arrive in their humble Tokyo apartment, beginning their earthly vacation. They immediately face the challenges of modern life, such as managing their budget for rent and groceries, and trying to understand the local customs. Their initial interactions with their landlady and neighbors set the stage for their humorous attempts to blend in, often leading to minor divine mishaps.

Modern Life's Little Wonders

The duo explores various aspects of contemporary Japanese society, from using the internet and smartphones to visiting convenience stores and public baths. Jesus is often fascinated by new technologies, while Buddha finds moments of serene enlightenment in unexpected places, like a quiet park. Their reactions to everyday items and services highlight the cultural gap between their divine origins and modern human existence.

Accidental Miracles and Enlightenment

Despite their best efforts to remain inconspicuous, Jesus occasionally performs accidental miracles, like turning water into wine during a casual dinner or healing minor ailments. Similarly, Buddha sometimes radiates an aura of enlightenment that attracts animals or calms crowds. These unintentional displays of power often complicate their attempts to live a normal life, much to their own amusement and occasional embarrassment.

Disciples and Divine Visitors

Their peaceful vacation is sometimes interrupted by visits from their respective disciples or other heavenly beings. Peter, Brahma, and Shiva occasionally drop by, leading to humorous interactions as they try to keep their identities secret from human onlookers. These visits often result in comical misunderstandings about modern life and their masters' new, relaxed lifestyles.

Seasonal Celebrations and Cultural Experiences

Jesus and Buddha experience various Japanese holidays and cultural events, from cherry blossom viewing to Christmas and New Year's celebrations. They often interpret these traditions through the lens of their own religious backgrounds, leading to amusing insights and sometimes slightly off-kilter participation, further emphasizing their unique perspective on human festivities.

The Joys of Friendship

At its core, the series celebrates the deep friendship between Jesus and Buddha. They support each other through their earthly challenges, share meals, and enjoy simple pleasures together. Their banter, mutual respect, and shared experiences form the emotional heart of the manga,

showcasing a bond that transcends their divine roles and cultural origins.

Themes

- Friendship
- Cultural differences
- Modernity vs. tradition
- Humor in the mundane
- Religious understanding

Notable Quotes

- "It's like a miracle!" — Jesus often exclaims this when encountering modern conveniences or simple pleasures, sometimes ironically after performing a minor miracle himself.
- "This is truly enlightenment." — Buddha's frequent observation when he finds peace or understanding in mundane situations, such as a quiet moment in a park or a particularly good meal.
- "I'm just a normal guy." — Both Jesus and Buddha often say this, usually unconvincingly, when trying to explain away their divine attributes or avoid suspicion from others.
- "Oh, I'm sorry. I accidentally blessed it." — Jesus's common apology after inadvertently performing a minor miracle, like making food taste exceptionally good or healing a small injury.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Saint Youngmen about?

Saint Young Men is a comedy manga about Jesus Christ and Gautama Buddha taking a vacation on Earth, specifically in a Tokyo apartment. They attempt to live as normal humans, navigating modern Japanese society, budgeting, and dealing with everyday life, often leading to humorous situations due to their divine natures.

Is Saint Youngmen worth reading?

Yes, if you enjoy gentle, slice-of-life comedy with a unique premise. It's praised for its respectful yet humorous portrayal of religious figures, its charming characters, and its insightful observations on modern culture. It's a lighthearted and often heartwarming read.

How does Saint Youngmen end?

Spoiler: Saint Young Men is an ongoing manga series, so it does not have a definitive ending yet. The story continues with episodic adventures of Jesus and Buddha in Tokyo, exploring new

aspects of modern life and their friendship. The anime film and OVA adaptations cover specific arcs from the manga.

Who should read Saint Youngmen?

This manga is ideal for readers who appreciate slice-of-life comedy, cultural commentary, and stories about friendship. It's also suitable for those open to a lighthearted, respectful, and humorous take on religious figures, offering a fresh perspective on spirituality and everyday life.

How long does it take to read Saint Youngmen?

As an ongoing manga series with over 20 volumes, reading the entire published collection would take a significant amount of time, likely over 15-20 hours. A single volume can typically be read in about 45-60 minutes, depending on reading speed.