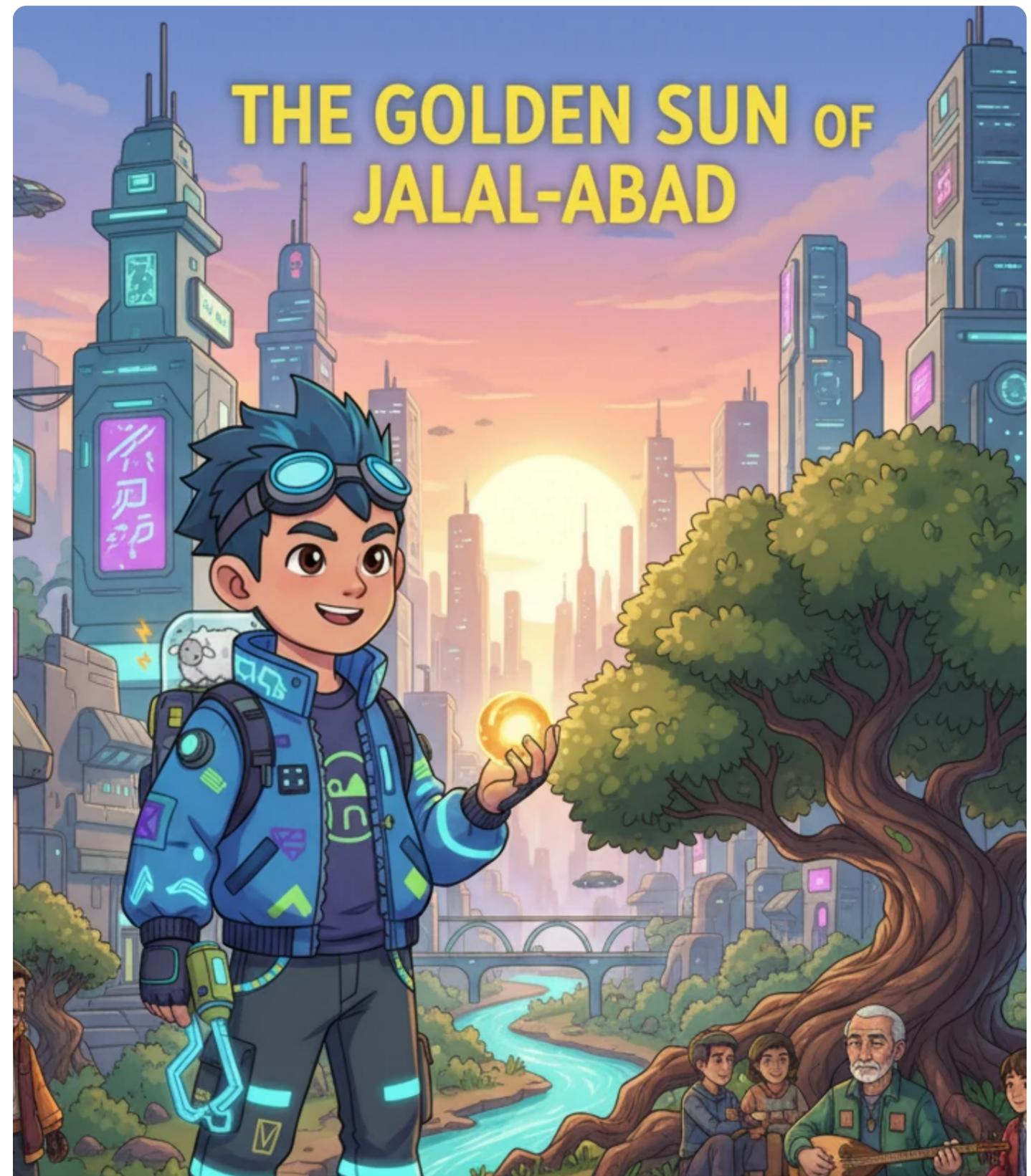


THE GOLDEN SUN OF JALAL-ABAD



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HOPIX



Young Aibek wakes up to the first rays of sun gilding the rooftops of his beloved city, Jalal-Abad. From his window, the majestic mountains surrounding the valley promise a new day full of discovery and wonder.



The boy heads to the famous resort park, where healing mineral springs bubble up from deep within the earth. The air here is crisp and fresh, and ancient trees whisper stories of times when these waters gave strength to legendary warriors.



At the bustling and colorful central bazaar, Aibek is surrounded by the rich aromas of spices and freshly baked lepeszka bread. Smiling vendors offer him tastes of sweet dried apricots and juicy melons grown under the warm southern sun.



Aibek walks toward the edge of the city where lush gardens transition into the rolling foothills. Here, he enters the legendary walnut forests, the largest of their kind in the world, feeling like a small explorer in a vast sea of green.



Under the shade of a massive, ancient plane tree, Aibek meets an elder playing the komuz instrument. The melodic strings echo through the park, telling tales of mountain winds and wild horses galloping across the high pastures.



Midday finds the boy by a sparkling central fountain, where cool water splashes provide a refreshing break from the summer heat. The laughter of children and the chirping of birds create a joyful symphony in this hospitable corner of the world.



Aibek stops at a local teahouse to enjoy the famous Jalal-Abad plov, served steaming hot and fragrant on a colorful ceramic plate. Sharing a table with neighbors, he listens to stories that remind him the city's greatest wealth is its kind and open-hearted people.



The boy climbs the Ayub-Tau hill to see the city from a bird's-eye view. Below him lies a tapestry of homes, gardens, and minarets nestled in greenery under an endless, brilliant blue sky.



As twilight falls, the city lights up with thousands of twinkling lamps, creating an atmosphere of pure magic. Aibek strolls along the main avenue, watching families enjoy the peaceful and cozy evening together.



Walking home, Aibek looks up at the stars, which seem close enough to touch in the clear mountain air. He falls asleep with a smile, knowing that tomorrow his beautiful Jalal-Abad will welcome him with more wonders.