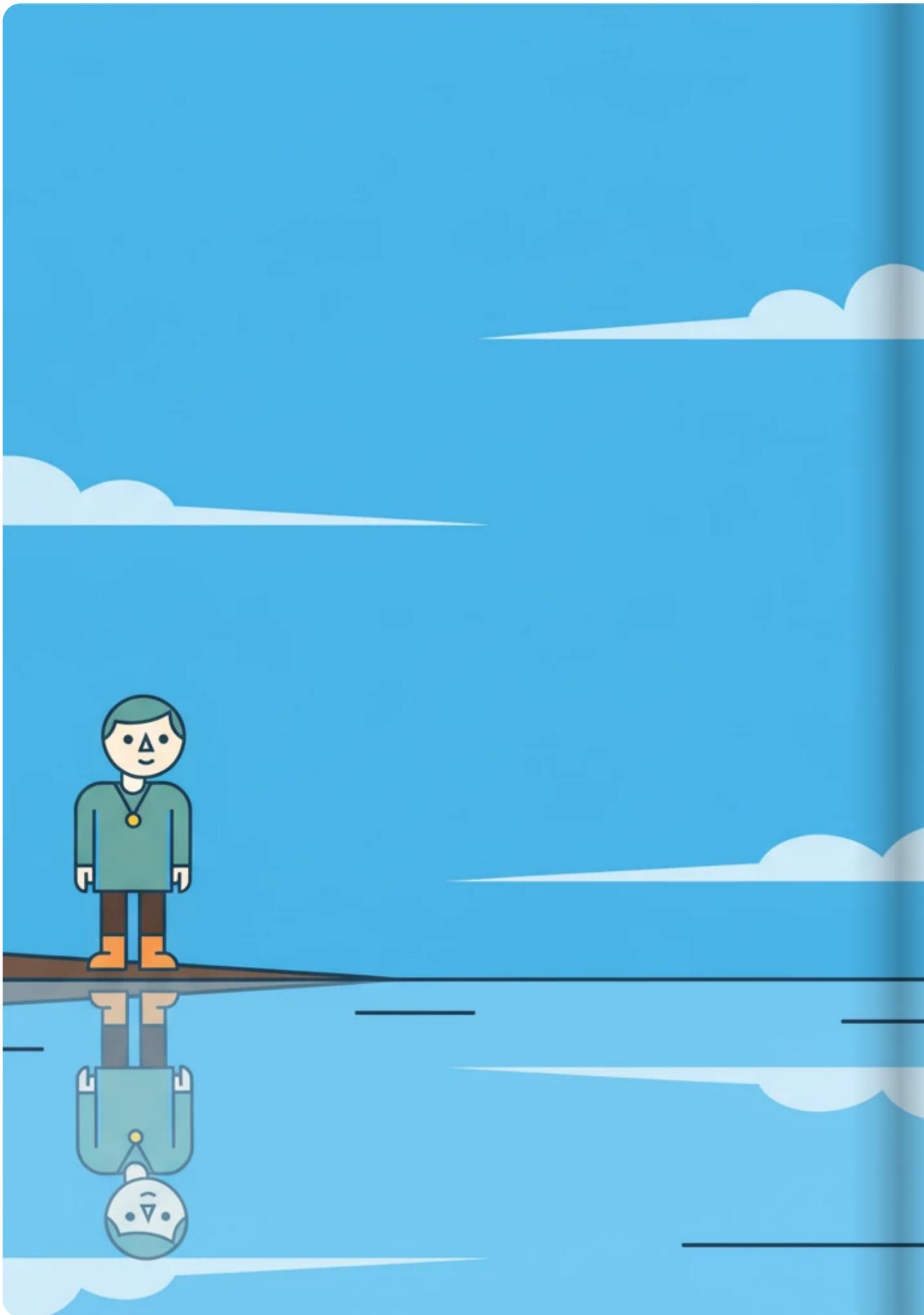




# The Shadow of Kael

Ahmed



Kael stands by a crystal-clear lake, his reflection mirroring his serious gaze. Wispy cirrus clouds drift across the vast blue sky, reflected perfectly in the water below. He contemplates his path, a silent question echoing his journey.



Kael's expression shifts, his features twisting into an arrogant, almost sinister sneer. His eyes narrow with fierce determination, declaring his unwavering resolve to become the strongest. A dark aura seems to emanate from him.



With a decisive motion, Kael snaps his sword in two, the pieces falling into the shimmering lake. He gazes at his outstretched hand, a silent vow forming on his lips to wield his own power in this world.



Kael exits the dense, geometric forest, his posture relaxed and hands casually in his pockets. His face is serene as he approaches the welcoming, blocky entrance of a bustling village.



Kael walks through the village square, briefly observing children playing a lively game, their joyful shouts echoing. His gaze then sharpens, drawn to a kind old woman seated by her doorway, mending fabric.



Kael stands before the old woman, his expression serious yet softened by a slight, respectful smile. He inclines his head slightly, asking if she knows of any nearby kingdoms and how to reach them.



The old woman looks up from her mending, her face crinkling into a warm smile as she speaks. She describes the kingdom of Eldoria, located past the Whispering Woods and Silverbrook, marked by ancient standing stones.



Kael's smile fades, replaced by a steely resolve as he reveals his true ambition. He declares his intent to erase kingdoms and grow stronger through their destruction.



The old woman's warm smile vanishes, replaced by a look of profound concern and disbelief. She gently warns Kael that true strength lies not in destruction, but in unity and the bonds shared between people.



Kael dismisses her wisdom with an arrogant grin, revealing his plan to transcend dimensions and change the cosmos. The old woman recoils in shock, her eyes wide with fear and disgust, calling him a monster.