

The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath (Revisited)

a modern adaptation of the H.P. Lovecraft novella
by David J. Keffer

In this version of a story originally written by H.P. Lovecraft in 1927, a father and his young son travel together through the Dreamlands in search of Unknown Kadath, not to recapture the happiness of a lost youth (as was the case in the original story) but rather to find the path by which the son can avoid the traps that have led his father far from happiness.

In the Dreamlands, fantastic dreams are a form of currency, traded for goods and gaining one admittance through city gates. The father initially relies on descriptions of imaginary cities taken from literary sources as his currency. However, upon losing the book, the father must describe cities from his own experience in order to enlist the aid of various individuals that they meet along their journey to Unknown Kadath.

This retelling works on three levels. First, it is a fantasy novel describing the extent to which a father will go to prepare his young son to find happiness in the world that awaits him. Second, it is a contemplation of cities and the manner in which travel enlightens us about others and ourselves. Finally, this novel is an honest celebration of the dream-cycle of Lovecraft, which showed him in a contemplative light, outside the typical Cthulhu-inspired horror for which he is more widely known.



About the Author

David Keffer is a professor at the University of Tennessee and an autodidact in the realm of world literature. He has currently published 8 novels and 3 illustrated stories at the Poison Pie Publishing House.

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