



*Alexander at Issus*  
*A Reflection of Conquest and Destiny*

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### Excerpt

As the sun rises over the Cilician Gates, I stand witness to a pale light shining upon the path that lies ahead. It feels as though the land beneath my feet is alive, holding in its breath waiting for something to release it. This stillness is broken by the clatter of boots on stone, shouted orders, and the clanging of armour as the men prepare themselves. I see my men who stand ready, with ferocity in their hearts and a wild glint in their eyes. I feel their hunger for victory and their faith in me which is as steadfast as their shields. In this moment, I know I cannot falter—not now, nor ever.

### About the Author

Pavan is an astrophysics student at the University of Waterloo and a research assistant at the Institute for Quantum Computing.

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