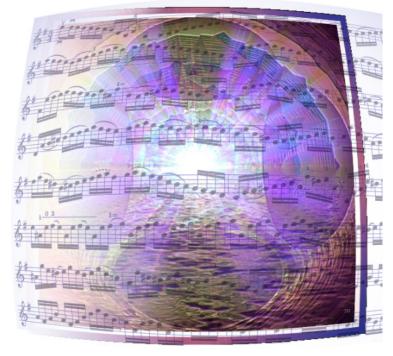
Ocean@Dawn:

Ontological Reflections at the Water's Edge



Soo: (squinting dramatically at the horizon while looking at a projected artwork) This artwork is an enigma. Does it depict a glorious dawn or a dramatic sunset?

Jules: (with a phosphor-cool voice without looking up from her aptop computer) Oh, my Dear Philyra, does it even matter? Either way, it's light kissing water. The mechanics are identical; time simply pirouettes in a choreography of illusion.

Philyra: (laughing, palms open, half-mocking, half-pleading) See, I was hoping for a simple answer, but it seems too much philosophy strangles common sense! Once we embark o philosophic tenets, everything gets messy and our footprints dissolve.

Andrei: (arms crossed, staring blankly at the image, tone stripped of inflection) Civilizations, too, are subject to optics and ontological debate. Doesn't it seem that our civilization is approaching its sunset? The light's fading in America, even if we don rose-colored glasses the eclipse is unmistakable.

Elijah: (with a resigned sigh as her shoulders sag) As I was saying, too much philosophy is the death of common sense. Common sense is often strangled in the cradle of rhetorical embellishment and overly intellectual sophistry.

T Newfields

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