

LITERARY DEFORESTATION:

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT COMMERCIALISM & PUBLISHING

In the forests of literature
there are so many trees!
Each is a work of art
& part of a broader tapestry.

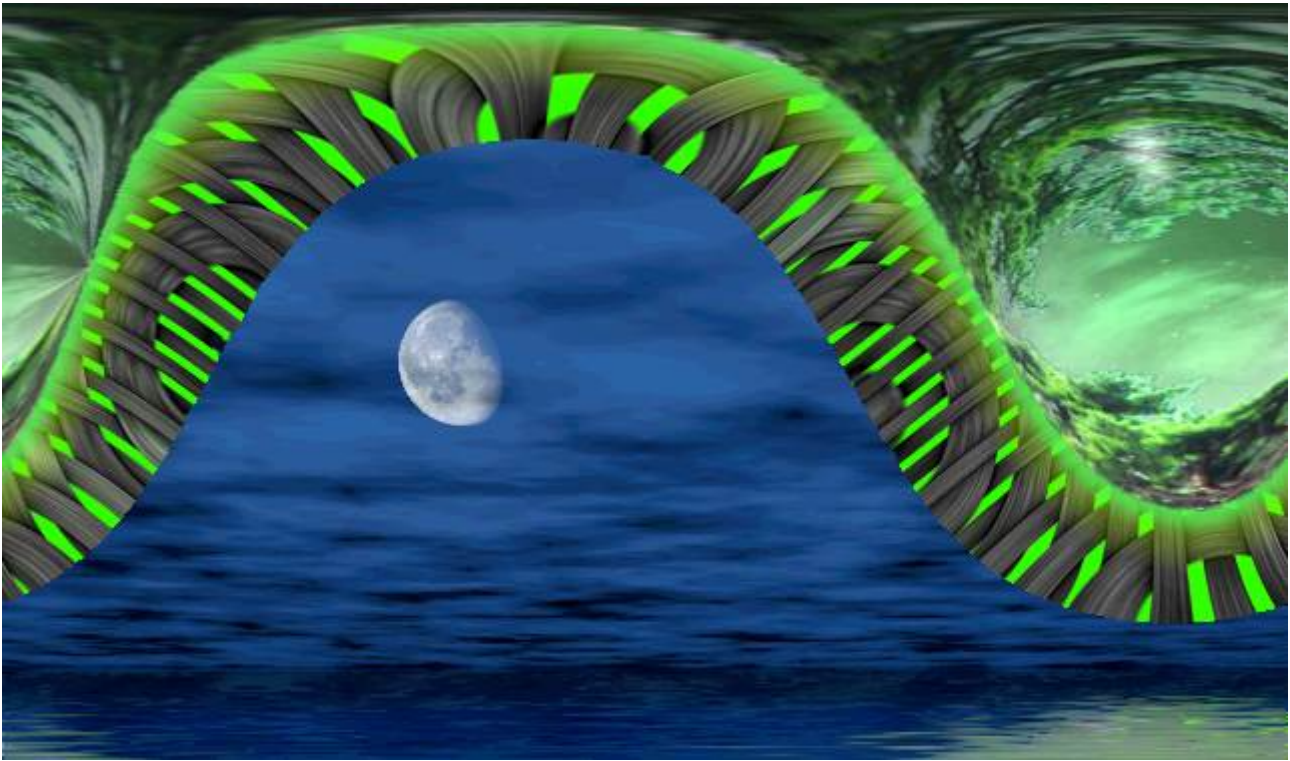
Some literary works are like cedars
towering in the heights.
Others resemble dwarf bonsai
unnoticed by passers by.

Some become magnificent ferns
with verdant canopies.
Others display gaudy fronds
unfurling mysteriously.

All these, however, share a common fate:
in societies where everything is justified by profit,
the chain saws of commercialism
& bulldozers of industry never wait.

Each piece of literature is a commodity
for a market shelf.

What doesn't sell soon disappears:
words fade quickly without pelf.



Juanita: What good are such lamentations?

Jack: Yeah. Isn't it naive to expect commercialism to disappear?

Shu: Don't be poisoned by cynicism. Ideas that seem naive at first often change history.

Jack: Ha! Who said "history" is a single story? I think of it as a collection of stories that often change.

- T Newfields [Nitta Hirou / Huáng Yuèwǔ]

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