



HYDROLOGIC OPTICS

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From a planetary point of view the ocean's single most important aspect is neither its depth nor its volume but its surface: the largest and most homogeneous environment on the planet.

Ferren MacIntyre
The Top Millimeter of the Ocean
Scientific American, May 1974
p. 62-77

We are now descending toward our watery world with its star directly behind us. From this great height the disk of the planet is still featureless and its clouds suffuse it with a marbled blue-white glow. Directly below us on the ocean surface, as seen through the scattered clouds, is a dazzling reflection of the planet's sun. I marvel at the enormous extent of this reflected pattern and its marked oval shape running in a northeast-southwest direction. This means strong trade winds over the ocean and the neighboring coastline. As we descend, the crew's spirit visibly rises. It's good to be home again.

Karl Ostheimer

The Ages of Arkadia