



Coast Range Chronicles 32: “Asymmetric Violence”

by

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The cobblestone point is so perfectly symmetrical that it’s hard to fathom it was born of, and maintained by, asymmetric violence. The curvature—a geometric arc lacking the quirks common to nature—seems designed by a benevolent engineer. Flawless waves refract around this elegant collection of rocks.

The climate is semi-arid. Storms are infrequent but intense. This is not a region of steady rain and flowing streams, but of dry arroyos that turn quickly to raging cloudburst torrents ripping sediment from the bed and dumping it at the coast before drying up like they’d never flowed at all.

Swell hits the point from all directions. Tide, wind, and current are constantly changing. The adjacent sandy beach erodes in winter and returns in summer. Even the cobbles that form the point move and change. Yet the point retains its geometric curve: a cobble moves, another takes its place.

The violence is perfect.