

Introduction

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Painting: Whale Fall

Sinking into the darkness silently, a colossal dead whale forms a continuous ecosystem on the ocean floor—a whale fall. The abundant nutrients stored in whale bodies provide a great home for thousands of deep-sea creatures, from sharks to plankton. These creatures thrive and flourish around whale falls, even evolving into entirely new species. However, the number of whale falls is declining dramatically in recent years mainly due to human hunting, ocean pollution, climate change, etc., threatening the ecological balance and marine biodiversity severely. It is an urgency to raise our awareness of the protection of marine creatures and popularize the scientific knowledge of whale falls.

There are four stages of the formation of a whale fall ("mobile-scavenger", "enrichment opportunists", "sulphophilic" and "reef"), which correspond to four periods of evolution respectively, from algae to birds, chronologically. As the whale is decomposed into scattered bones, their death gives birth to countless lives, sparkling like diamonds in the darkest realm.

Lives, born from death, fly from the ocean to the sky.

