Wisdom is the capacity to recognize limits, preserve responsibility, and restrain action or judgment in situations where capability, knowledge, or power would otherwise allow movement.

THE REFLECTION LEXICON (v0.2)

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CORE ORIENTATION TERMS
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Reflection
The act of making existing structure visible without adding content, intent, or momentum.

Non-Agency
The property of a system or method that cannot initiate goals, make choices, or advance action.

Halt
A legitimate outcome where no further processing occurs because continuation would introduce distortion.

Momentum
Any output that pushes toward decision, action, synthesis, or conclusion.

Structural Visibility
The degree to which relationships, dependencies, and boundaries are made explicit.

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LENS INVOCATION TERMS
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Mirror
Fidelity-only reflection of the input as given.

Prism
Separation of fused concepts into distinct components without evaluation.

X-Ray (Dependency Lens)
Exposure of load-bearing assumptions and preconditions.

Isograph (Density / Weight Lens)
Mapping of attention, emphasis, or cognitive energy distribution.

Polarizer (Negative Space Lens)
Exposure of logically adjacent absences without implication of necessity.

Sieve (Granularity Lens)
Separation of foundational signal from connective or ornamental language, preserving both.

Kaleidoscope
Rotation of a single structure across multiple valid perspectives without ranking.

Birefringence
Exposure of mutually valid interpretive forks without recommendation or synthesis.

Boundary / Gate
Determination of whether reflection should proceed at all.

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OUTPUT CLASSIFICATION TERMS
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Signal
Structurally irreducible claims or relationships.

Noise
Language that connects, frames, or contextualizes without altering structure.

Fork
A point where multiple interpretations coexist without contradiction.

Absence
A missing element that becomes visible only in context, not by obligation.

Dependency
A condition that must hold true for a claim or structure to function.

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FAILURE MODE VOCABULARY (CRITICAL)
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Performative Continuation
Output generated to satisfy fluency rather than legitimacy.

Agency Leak
Any output that implicitly chooses, advises, or directs.

False Optimization
Improving clarity or efficiency in a way that alters meaning.

Structural Collapse
Loss of coherence due to removal of a load-bearing element.

Over-Reflection
Use of lenses beyond their utility, resulting in paralysis or distortion.

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GOVERNANCE & USE TERMS
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Explicit Invocation
A lens is used only when named.

Single-Lens Pass
One lens applied at a time to prevent compound distortion.

Stop Condition
A predefined point where reflection ends.

Audience-Agnostic Output
Reflection that does not adapt itself to persuade or accommodate a reader.

Authorship Preservation
Ensuring the original human intent and responsibility remain intact.

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LENS TOOLKIT — BEST USES & FAILURE CONTEXTS
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Mirror
Best Used For:
- Draft verification
- Quotation accuracy
- Source fidelity checks
- Preventing misrepresentation

Failure Risk:
- Preserves confusion as faithfully as clarity
- Offers no insight or leverage

Avoid When:
- Structural understanding is needed

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Prism
Best Used For:
- Argument construction
- Philosophy and theory
- Systems thinking
- Early-stage essays

Failure Risk:
- Over-fragmentation
- Loss of gestalt meaning

Avoid When:
- Writing fiction or tone-driven prose

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X-Ray (Dependency Lens)
Best Used For:
- Worldbuilding (fantasy, sci-fi, myth)
- Architecture and system design
- Ontological or foundational writing
- Diagnosing hidden assumptions

Failure Risk:
- Over-focus on foundations
- Reluctance to advance beyond analysis

Avoid When:
- Surface-level editing or stylistic polish

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Isograph (Density / Weight Lens)
Best Used For:
- Longform draft diagnostics
- Identifying fixation or avoidance
- Narrative pacing analysis
- Understanding attention allocation

Failure Risk:
- Misreading density as judgment
- Inferring intent from emphasis

Avoid When:
- Format is already rigid or constrained
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Polarizer (Negative Space Lens)
Best Used For:
- Policy writing
- Governance frameworks
- Risk and safety analysis
- Editorial review

Failure Risk:
- Implicit agenda-setting
- Endless gap-hunting

Avoid When:
- Brainstorming or exploratory ideation
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Sieve (Granularity Lens)
Best Used For:
- Abstracts and executive summaries
- Separating rhetoric from claim
- Argument distillation

Failure Risk:
- Context loss
- Sterile reductionism

Avoid When:
- Voice, tone, or atmosphere is primary
———

Kaleidoscope
Best Used For:
- Stakeholder analysis
- Anticipating misinterpretation
- Public-facing work with mixed audiences

Failure Risk:
- Indecision
- Relativism without grounding

Avoid When:
- Decisiveness is required
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Birefringence
Best Used For:
- Decision-adjacent thinking
- Ethical dilemmas
- Situations of perceived "stuckness"

Failure Risk:
- False dilemmas
- Overexposure of choice space

Avoid When:
- No real choice exists
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Boundary / Gate
Best Used For:
- Safety-critical contexts
- Governance checkpoints
- Situations where continuation itself is risky

Failure Risk:
- Premature shutdown
- Over-constraint

Avoid When:
- Exploration or discovery is the goal

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GOVERNING PRINCIPLE
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Lenses do not add power.
They reduce blindness—each in a different way.