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DES 117

Zen Garden

Creative Brief

Feelings of being **meditative** and **angry** were the two moods I chose to pursue in these CSS stylesheets. My chosen emotions were intentionally opposite from one another in efforts for a compelling contrast between them. Differences in color schematics and typography of each stylesheet are central to its intended mood, while the text and whitespace layout between the two is similar albeit with tailored adjustments.

Since nature is often associated with health and well-being, typically seen as the tangible, cumulative end results of meditation, shades of green largely dominate the colors of my related stylesheet – most apparent in the subtle horizontal gradient background, intended to evoke for the user a pleasant abstracted visual effect reminiscent of scented mist or fog. In terms of functionality the darker regions of gradient background frame the white text, expanding outward horizontally and fading into lighter areas beyond where the centered text is laid out such that legibility is not compromised. All text displayed is transformed to be lowercase, much of which is rendered in a lighter font weight than default, aligned with a notion of health and well being as delicate states of being that can be easily disrupted and would clash with loud, aggressive typefaces.

Red is the color that I most associate with feelings of anger, and as such, it dominates the palette of my second stylesheet. As the emotional inverse of being meditative, many of the visual elements were likewise switched to the opposite of what was presented in the meditative stylesheet. For example, most text displayed is in Impact - a bold, dense font that feels heavy and emphatic, in contrast to lighter font weights. Also, most text is black, intended for high contrast on the red background and easily legibility. The gradient background’s purpose here is more functional than decorative – serving as a visual delineator of the page’s height, signaling to the user while scrolling downwards that they are approaching towards the terminal end of the page.

*Note: styles.css is just a duplicate of style1.css (meditative) for linking to the HTML document without modifying the source code as per assignment description.*