



# **A Visual Perception of My Hearing Journey with Cochlear Implants**

Michael Seth Shipman

Two good ears were  
given to me at birth.

And for two years, I  
heard everyday sounds  
as a child does.

Then at barely two years  
of age, spinal meningitis  
took the hearing from my  
right ear and left a  
remnant of sound in my  
left ear.

What was given at birth  
was taken. For four years  
my world was silent.

Then a hearing aid  
brought my left ear back to  
the threshold of the world  
of sounds.

# PART I

Visualization of  
the perception of  
aural forms

# RIGHT EAR

My right ear lay dormant  
for fifty years, with all  
hope of awakening long  
vanquished.

Then at the same medical center where my hearing vanished, a cochlear implant kindled a timid hope of restoring balance to my ears.

A month later, the  
activation of my right ear  
started the turbulent  
journey toward a new era  
of hearing.

**Where would it lead?**



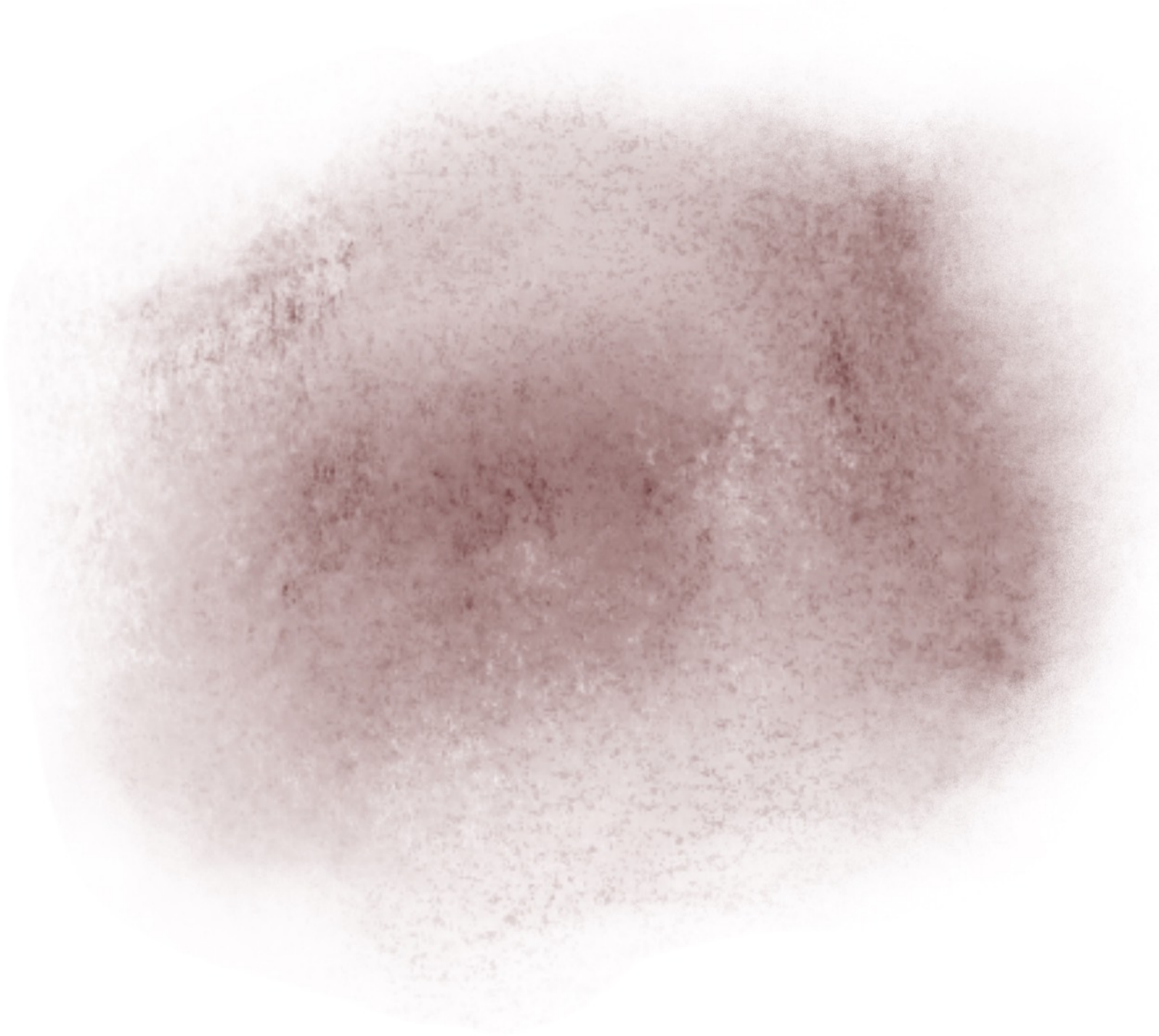
Activation Day, April 11, 2024



A month later



A year later



A close-up perception

# LEFT EAR

After forty-six years of relying on a hearing aid, I took a leap of faith.

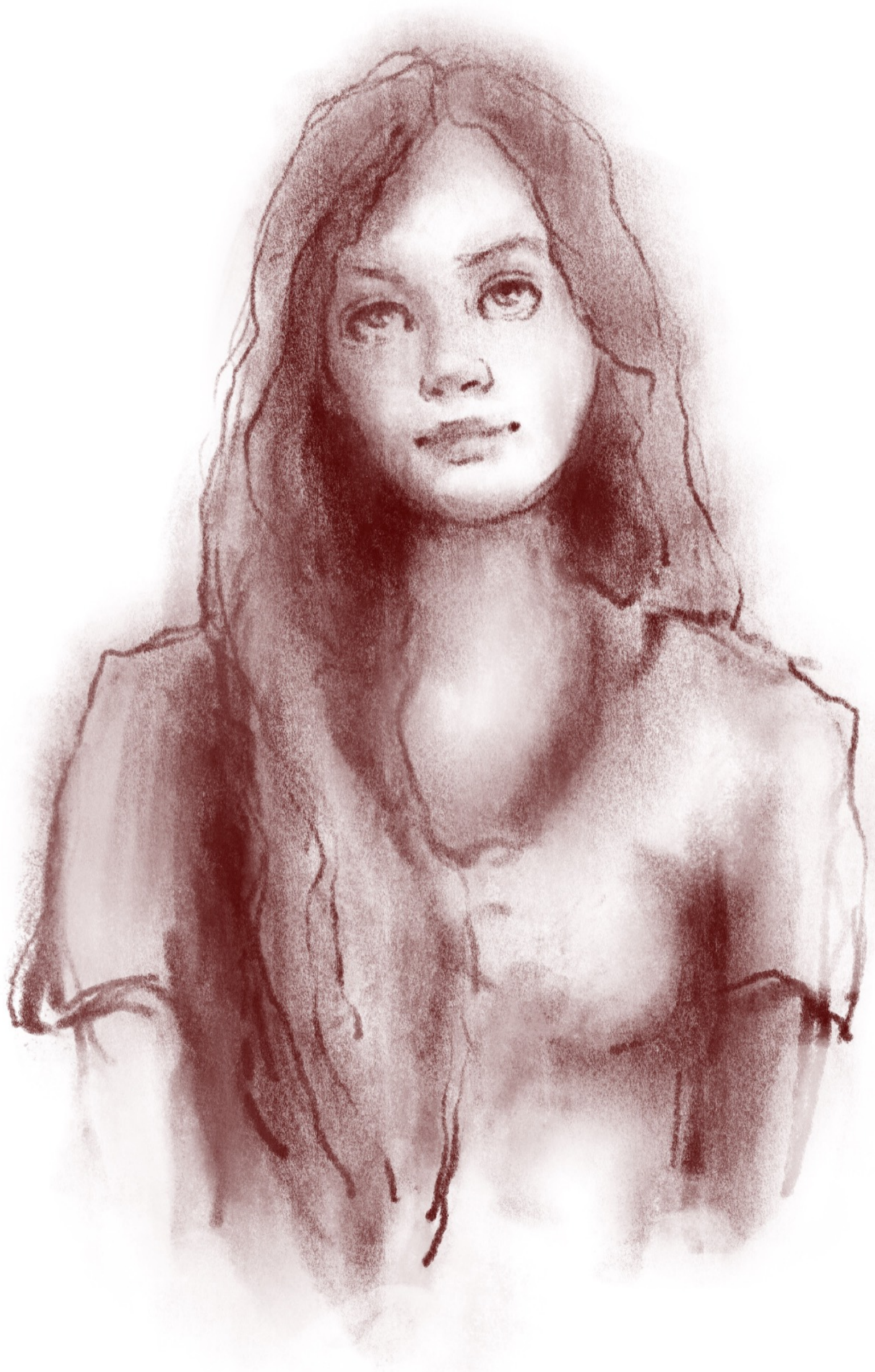
Five months after the first implant, I received a cochlear implant in my left ear.



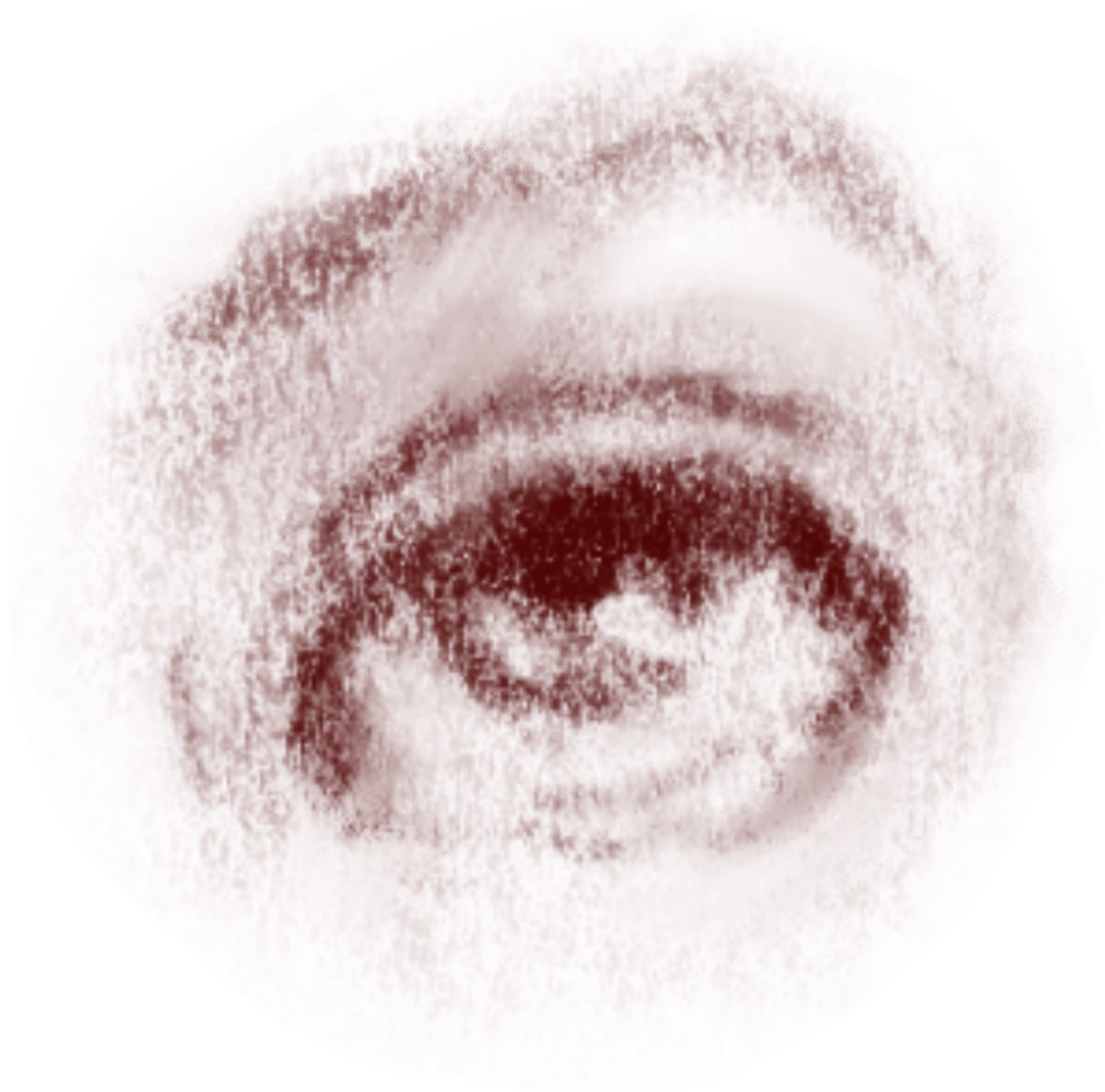
Activation Day, September 19, 2024



A month later



Seven months later



A close-up perception

# BOTH EARS

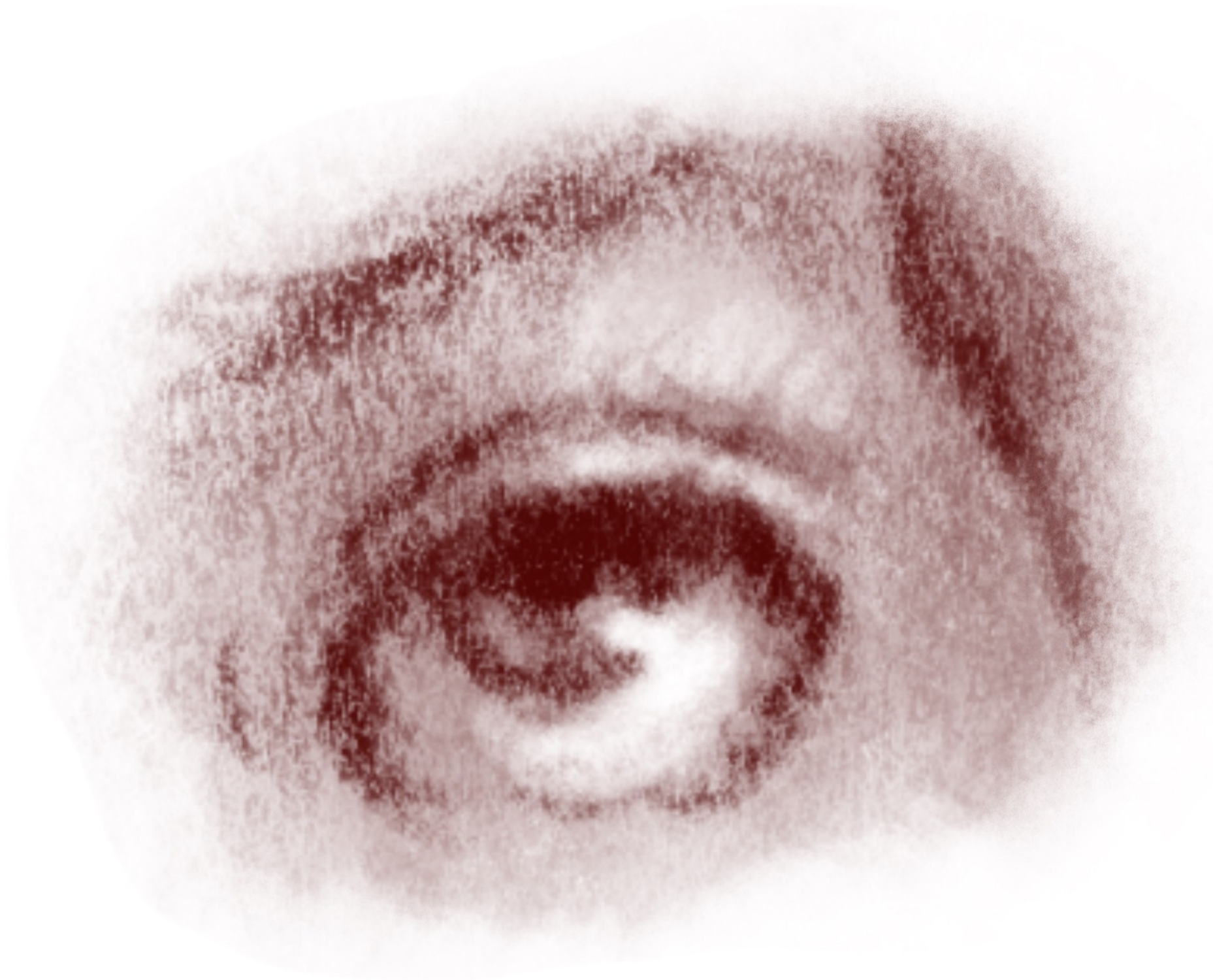
On the activation day of my left ear, a semblance of stereo hearing was strengthened.



Activation Day, September 19, 2024



Seven months later



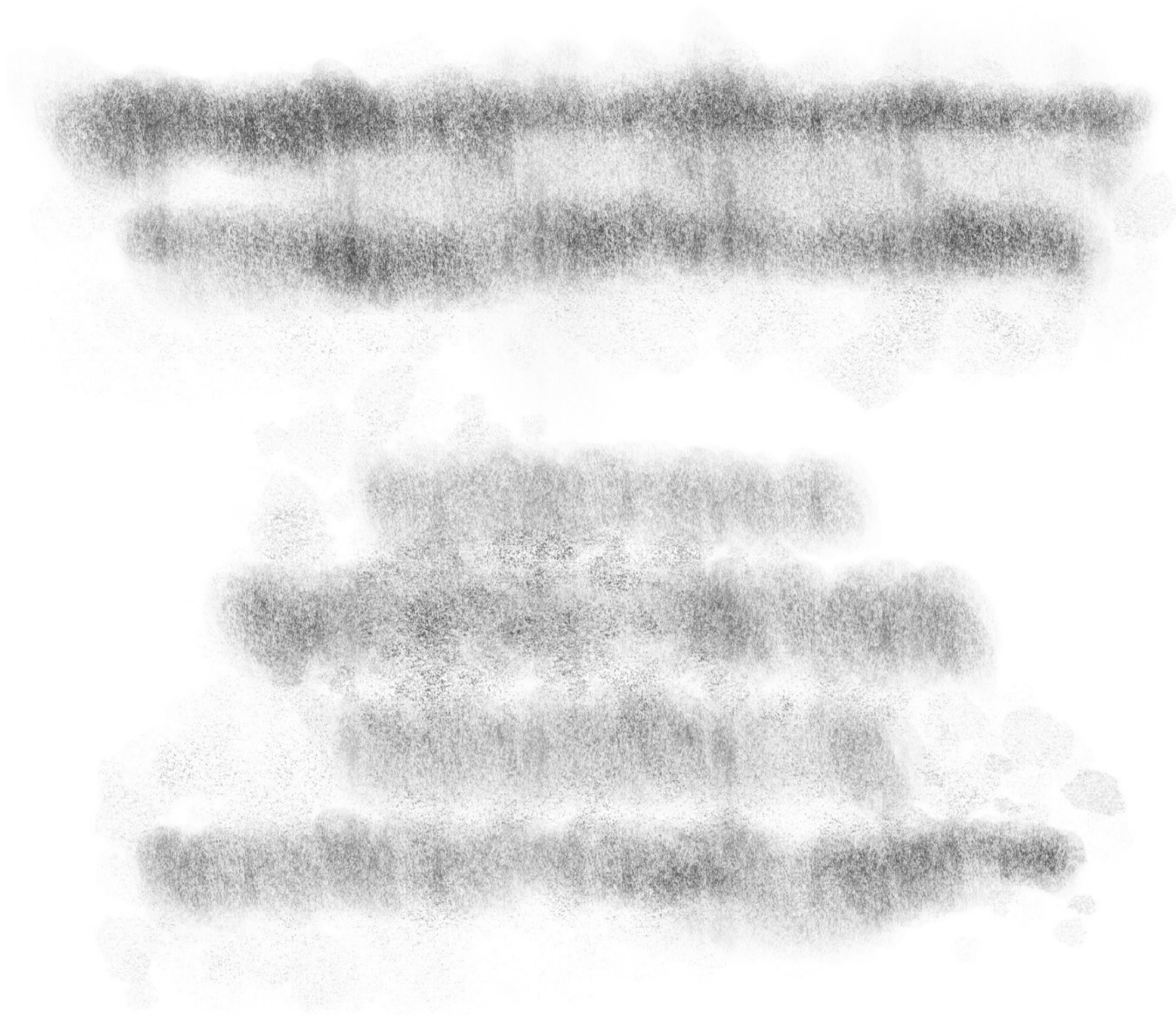
A close-up perception

# PART II

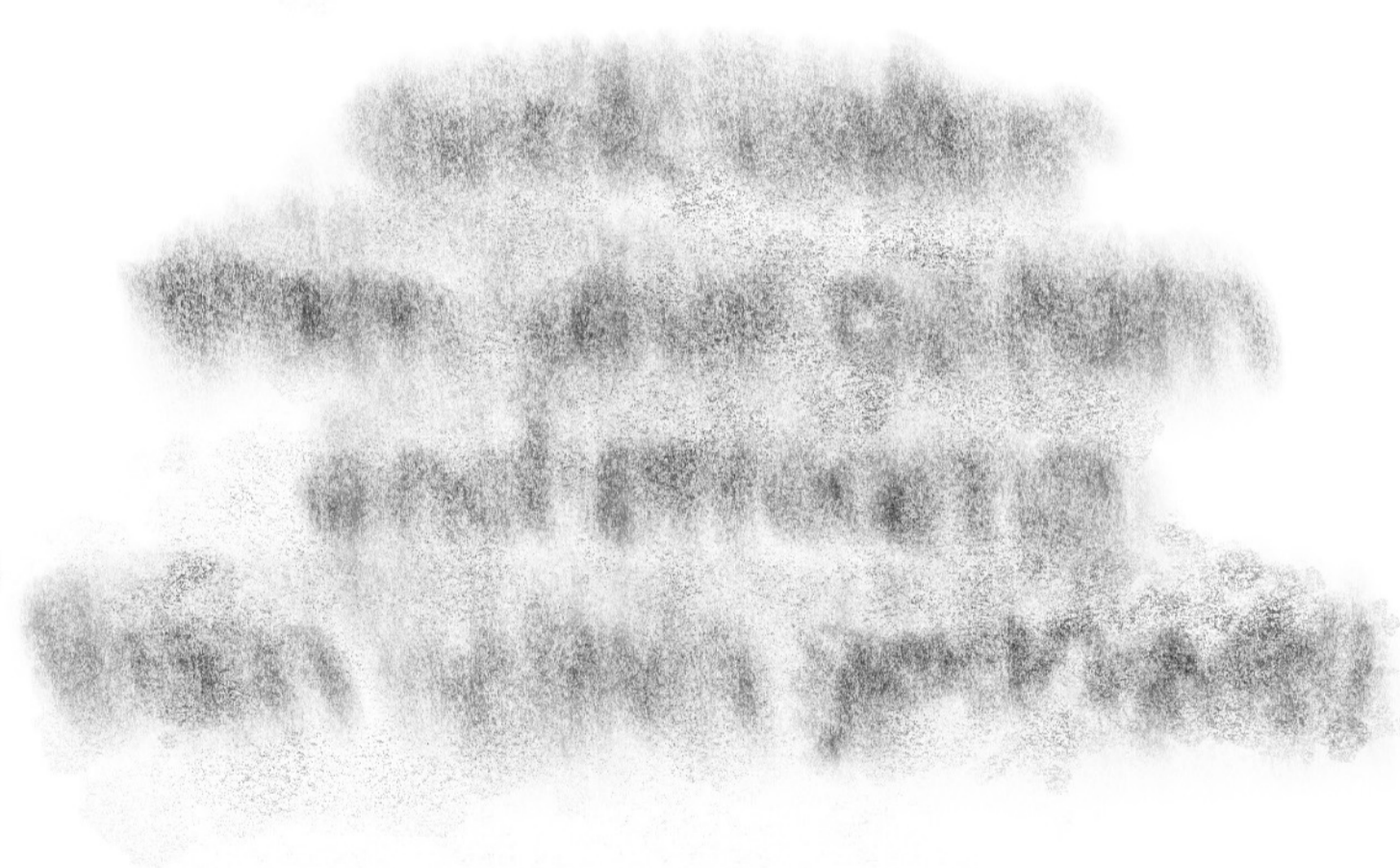
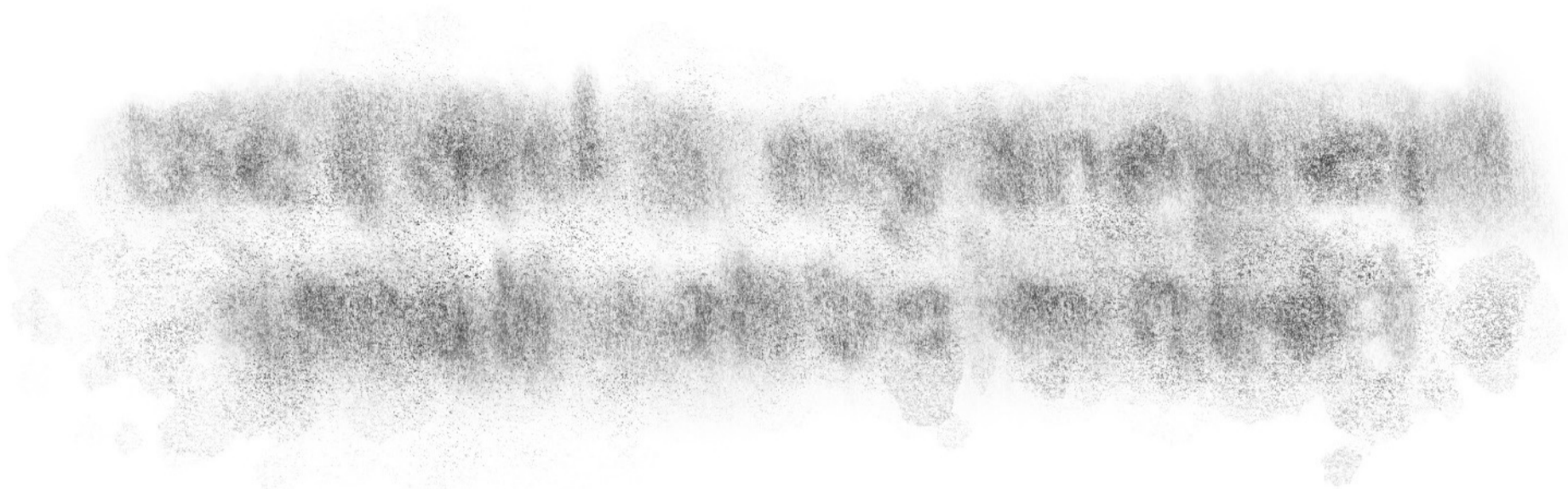
Visualization of the  
aural perception of  
words

**RIGHT EAR**

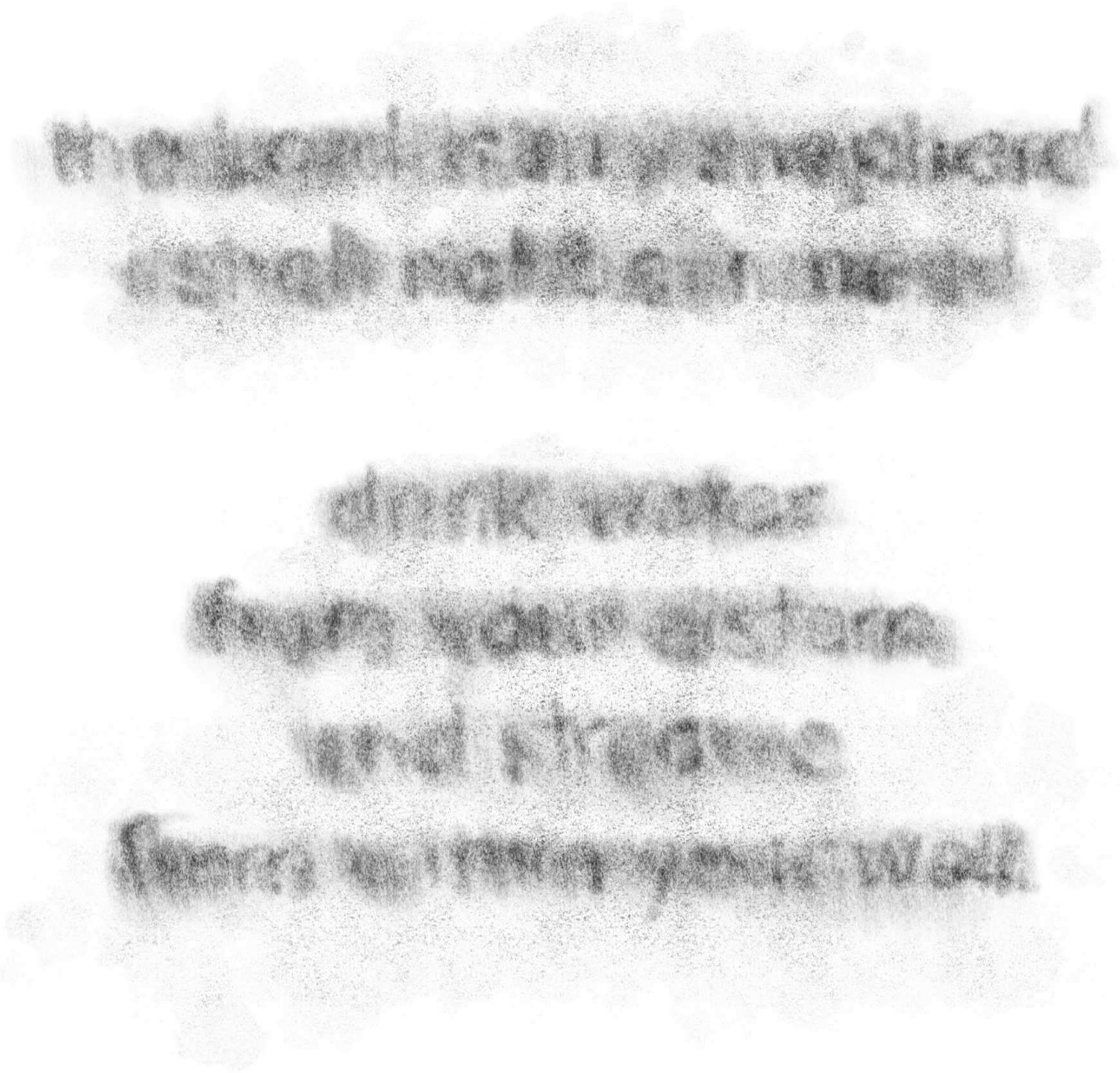
Activation Day, April 11, 2024



A day later



A week later



A month later

The Lord is my shepherd  
I shall not be in want

He maketh me  
to lie down in green  
pastures  
and he leadeth me  
beside the still waters

A year later

**LEFT EAR**

the Lord is my shepherd  
I shall not be in need

drink water  
from your cistern  
and streams  
from within your well

Activation Day, September 19, 2024

the Lord is my shepherd  
i shall not be in need

drink water  
from your cistern  
and streams  
from within your well

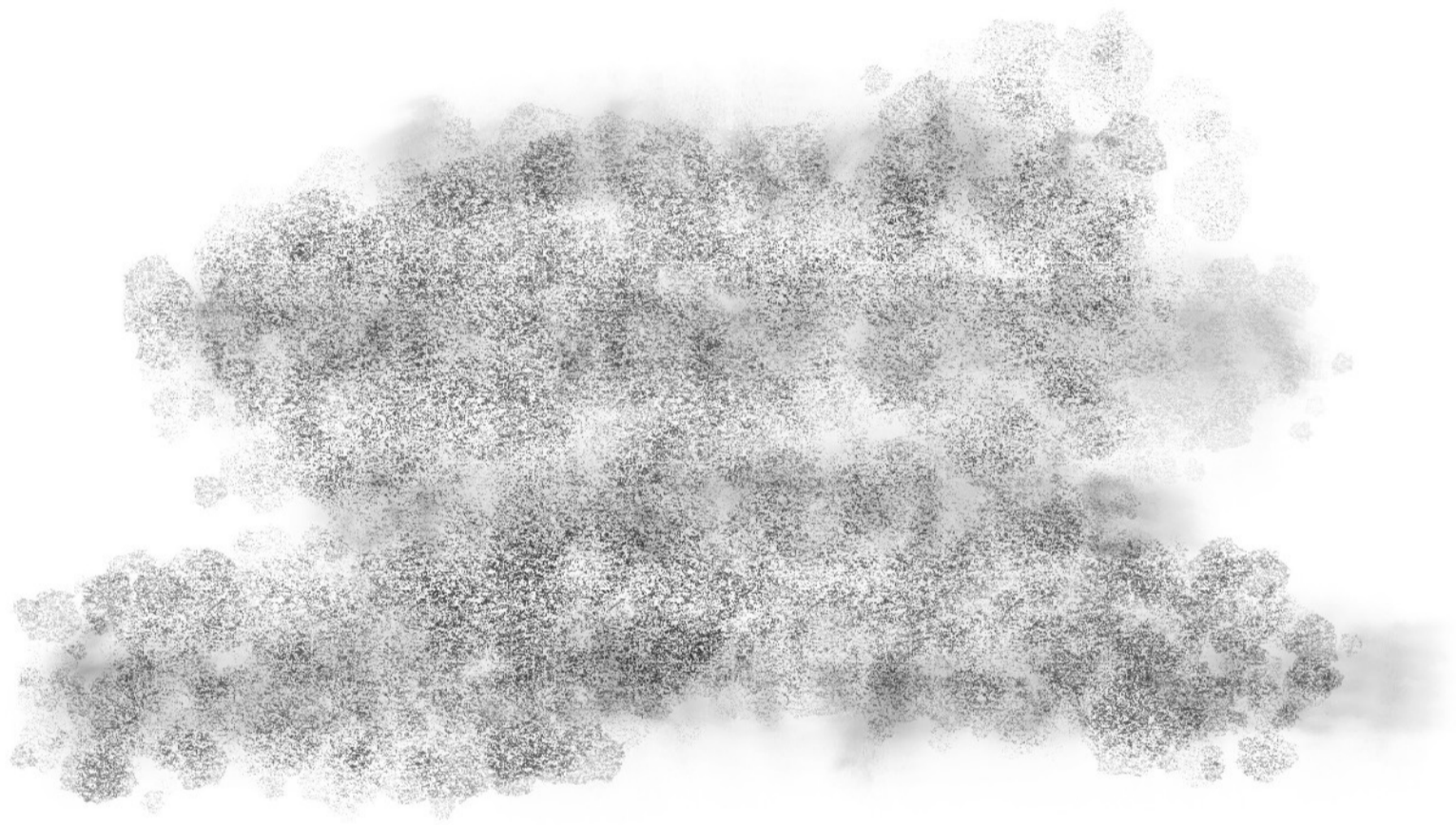
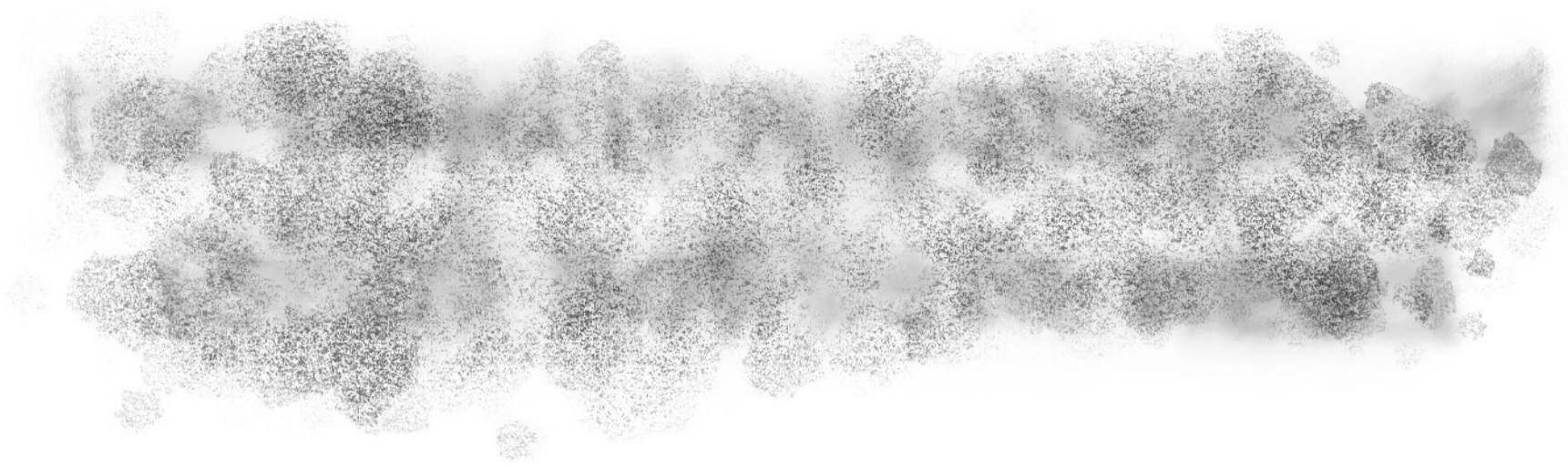
A month later

the Lord is my shepherd  
i shall not be in need

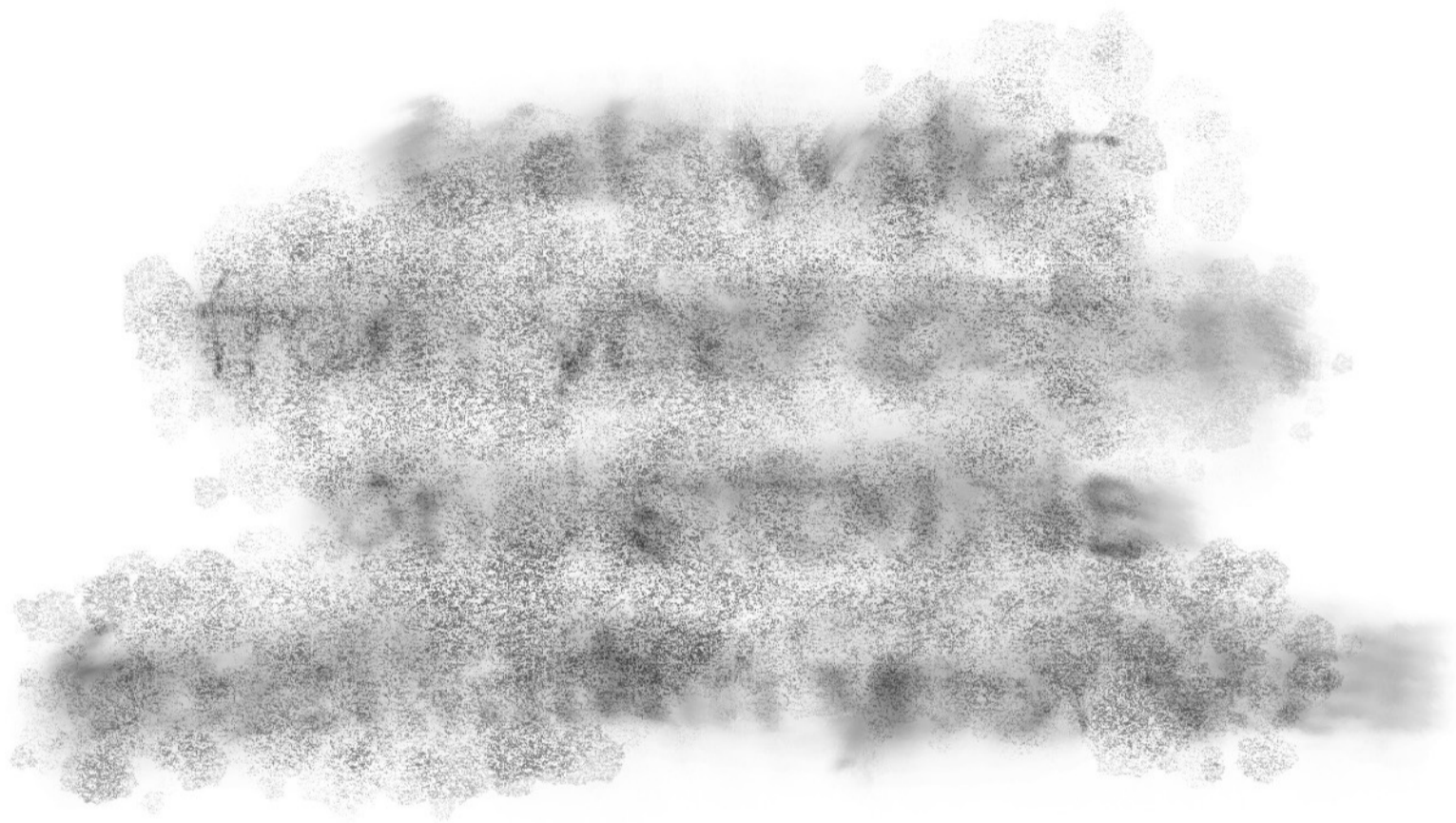
drink water  
from your cistern  
and streams  
from within your well

Seven months later

**BOTH EARS**



Activation Day, September 19, 2024



A month later

the local municipal water  
system will be in need

drink water  
from your cistern  
and streams  
from within your well

3 months later

the Lord is my shepherd  
i shall not be in need

drink water  
from your cistern  
and streams  
from within your well

Seven months later



The timid hope offered by cochlear implants has grown and strengthened and holds promise to blossom further.

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