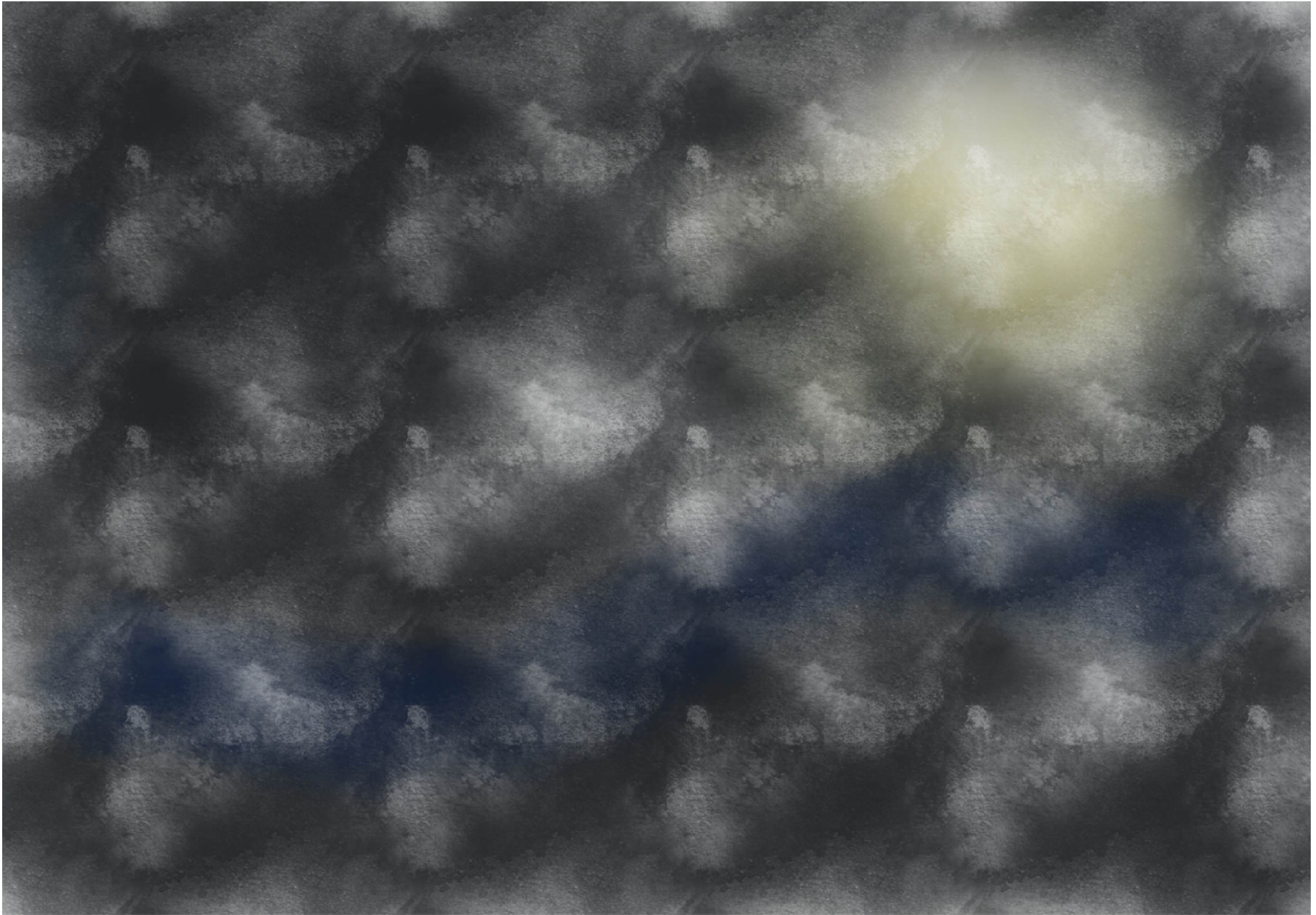
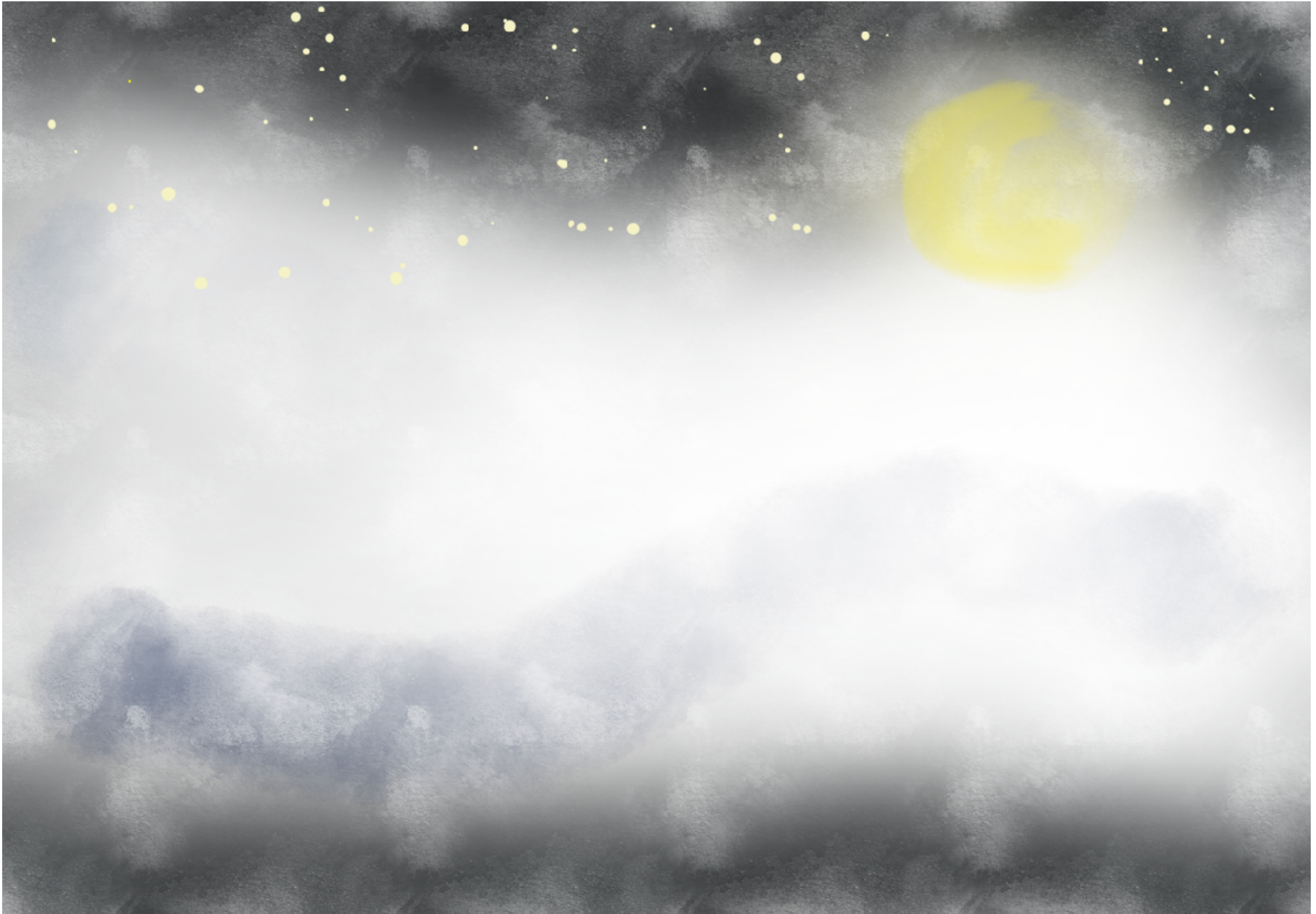


The old story goes that before the heavens and the earth were, the world was unlivable. Darkness hung over an ageless ocean that was so deep it had no bottom. It had no form or shape yet, only possibilities—exciting and scary.

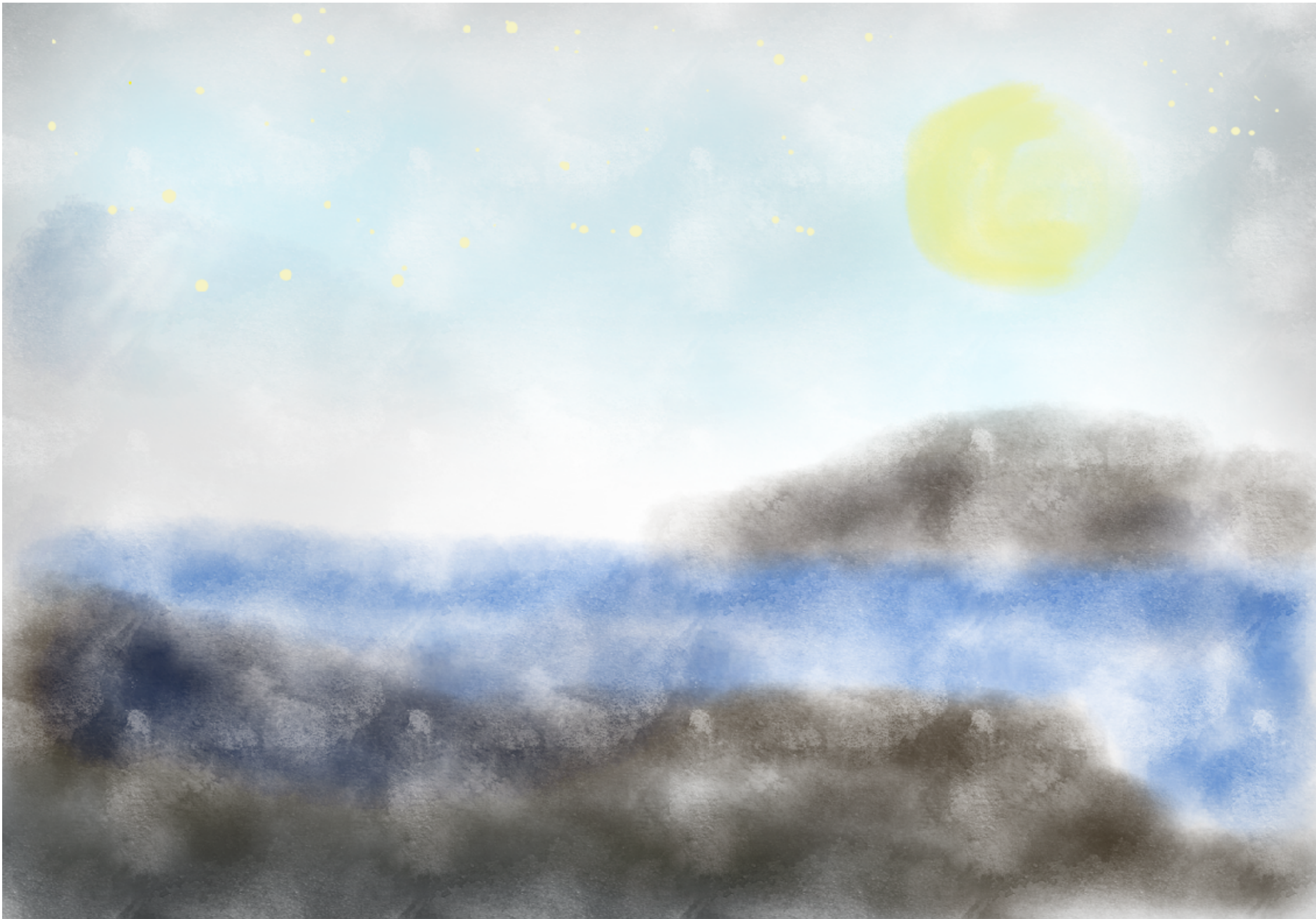
There was also the breath of the God who is many and one moving over the face of the deep. Perhaps God was considering the possibilities. Perhaps God was whispering to it.



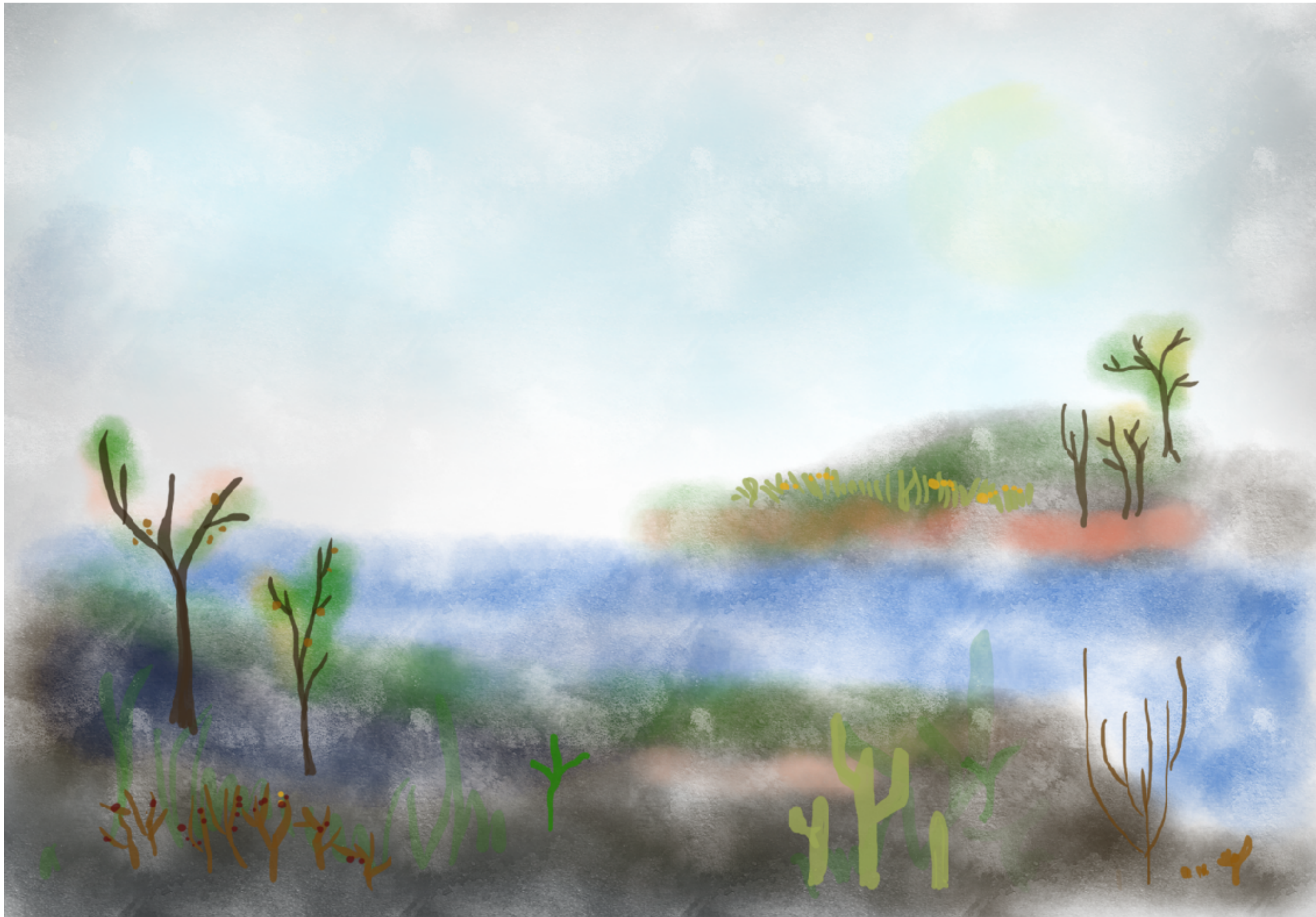
Then God and the world began to become. The breath of God became words of invitation. God said, "Let the light be!" And light came forth. God saw that it was good.



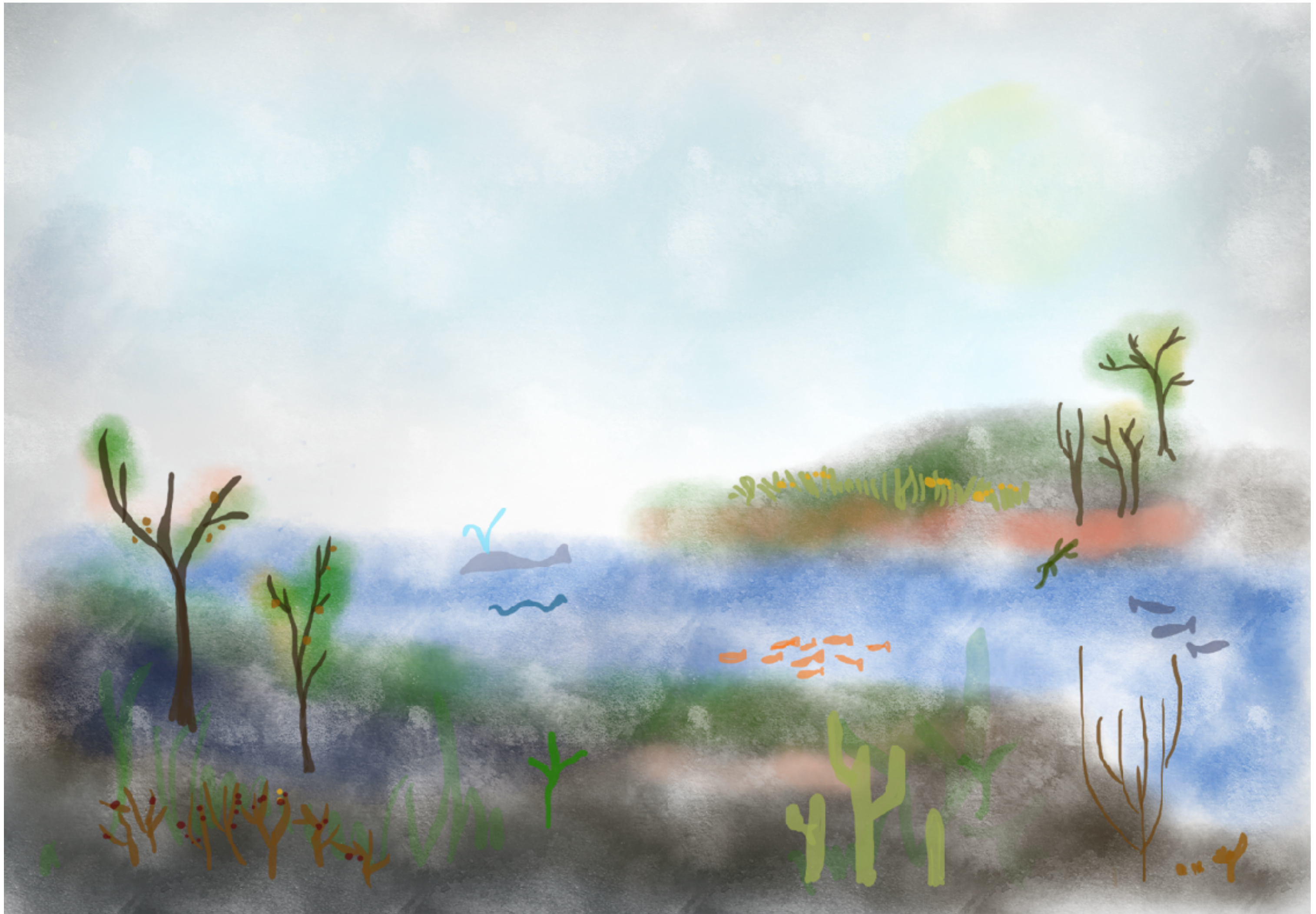
God continued to speak invitations, "Let there be open space for air." So the waters moved and created open space. God called it 'sky' and saw that it was good. God then called forth the sun, the moon, and the stars to keep time: days, months, and seasons. God saw that it was good.



Then God called to the waters under the sky, "Let's flow to one place so there may be dry ground." And the waters flowed and created dry ground.



Then God called to the ground, “how about plants?” And the ground—of course, with the help from light, water, air, the sun, the moon, and the stars—began to sprout all kinds of plants and trees. Plants had seeds inside so they could continue to create more plants. God saw that it was good.



God kept calling to waters and the sky and the ground to bring forth life, and they did, together. The waters began to bring forth sea creatures of all kinds,



the sky began to fill with birds of all colors, shapes, and sizes,



and the ground began to create animals that move on the earth: insects, reptiles, furry creatures, and even humans in every color, shape, and size.

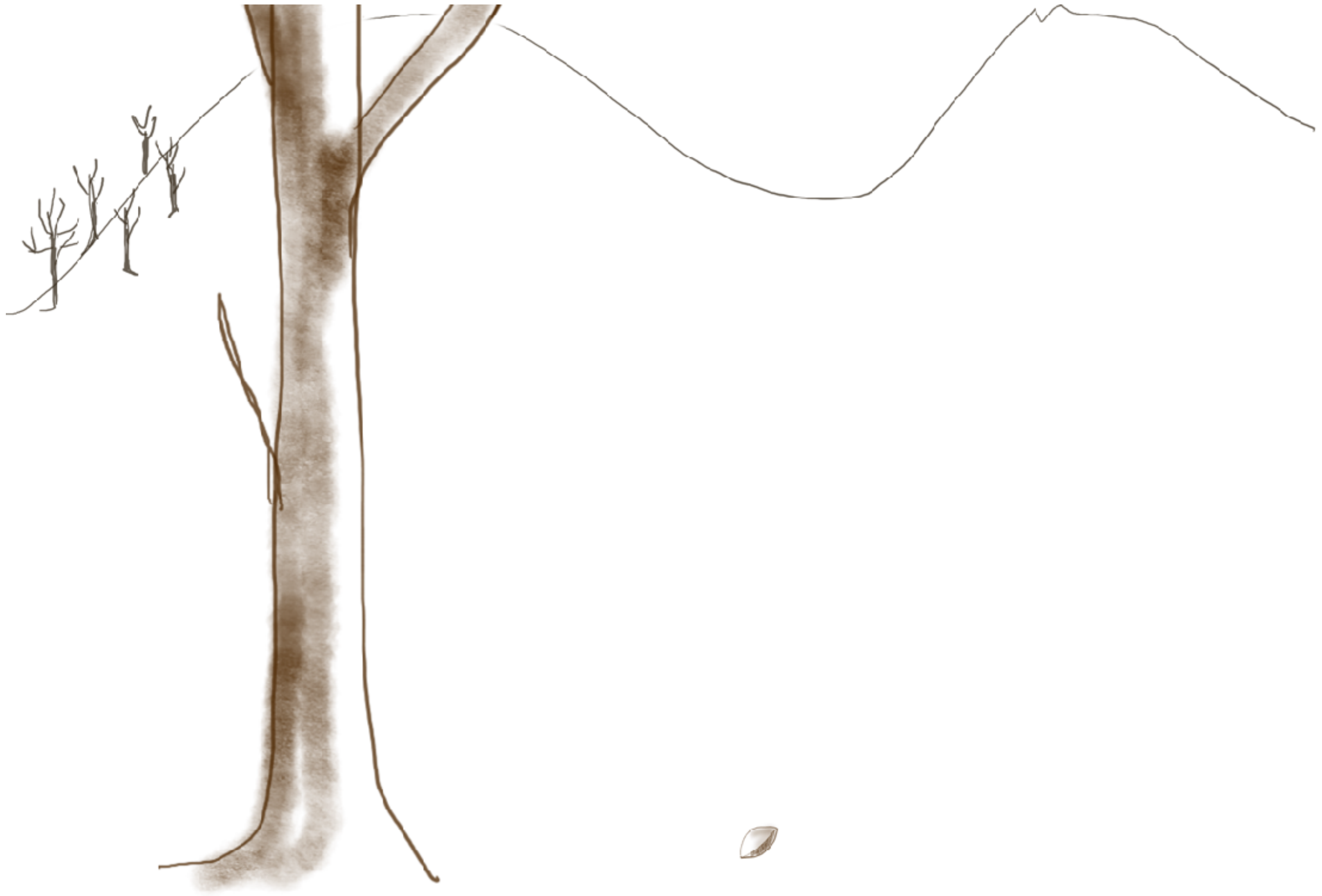
God saw it all and said it was very very good.

So with God calling and the world answering, God and the world became,
And keep becoming even now. God is still calling to every being in the world, and they
answer and become new every moment.

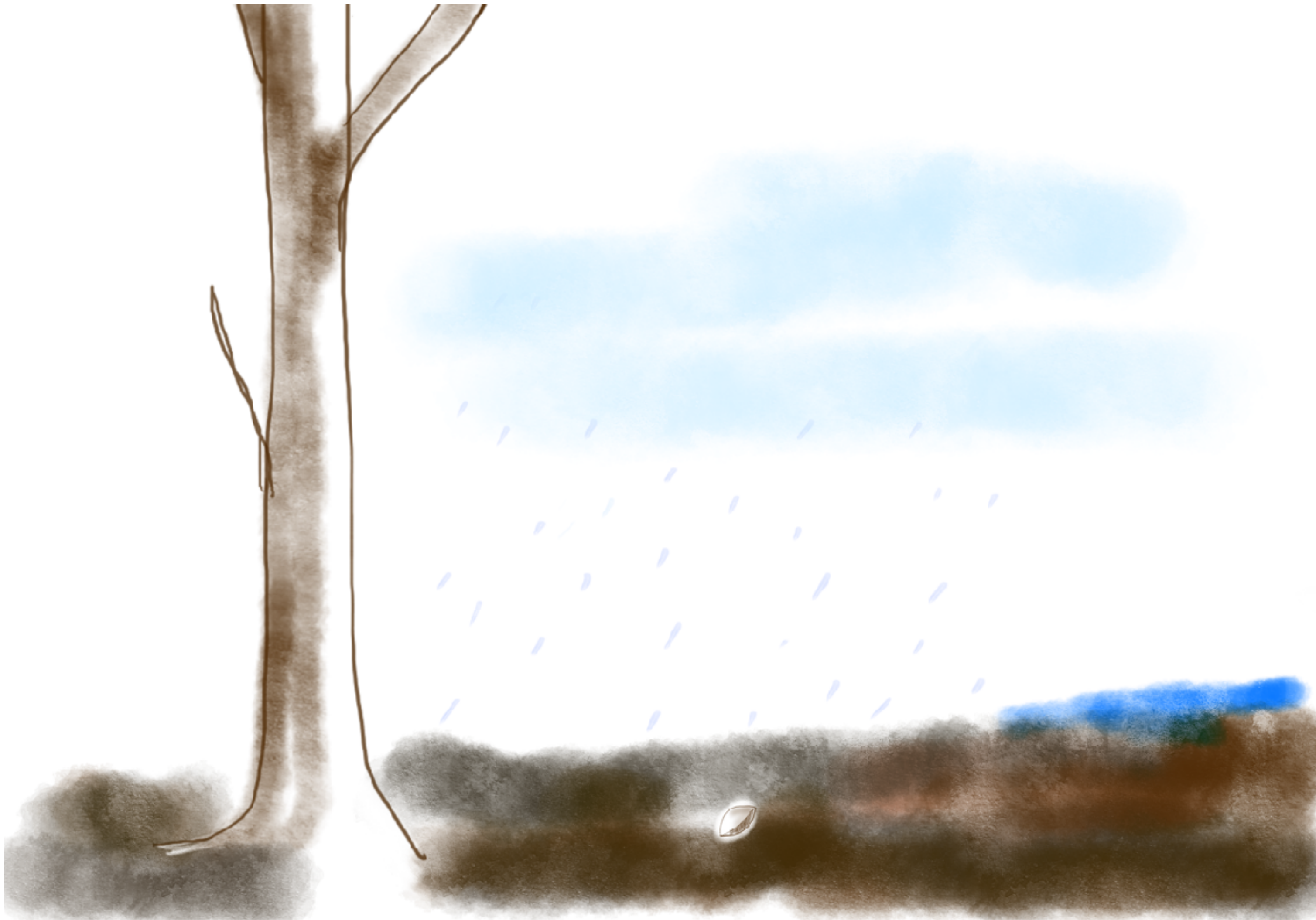
Every moment, God is calling to the world what it can be,
Calling to every being, calling to you and me, what we can be,
And we answer, according to our choices.

We are like seed in the story.

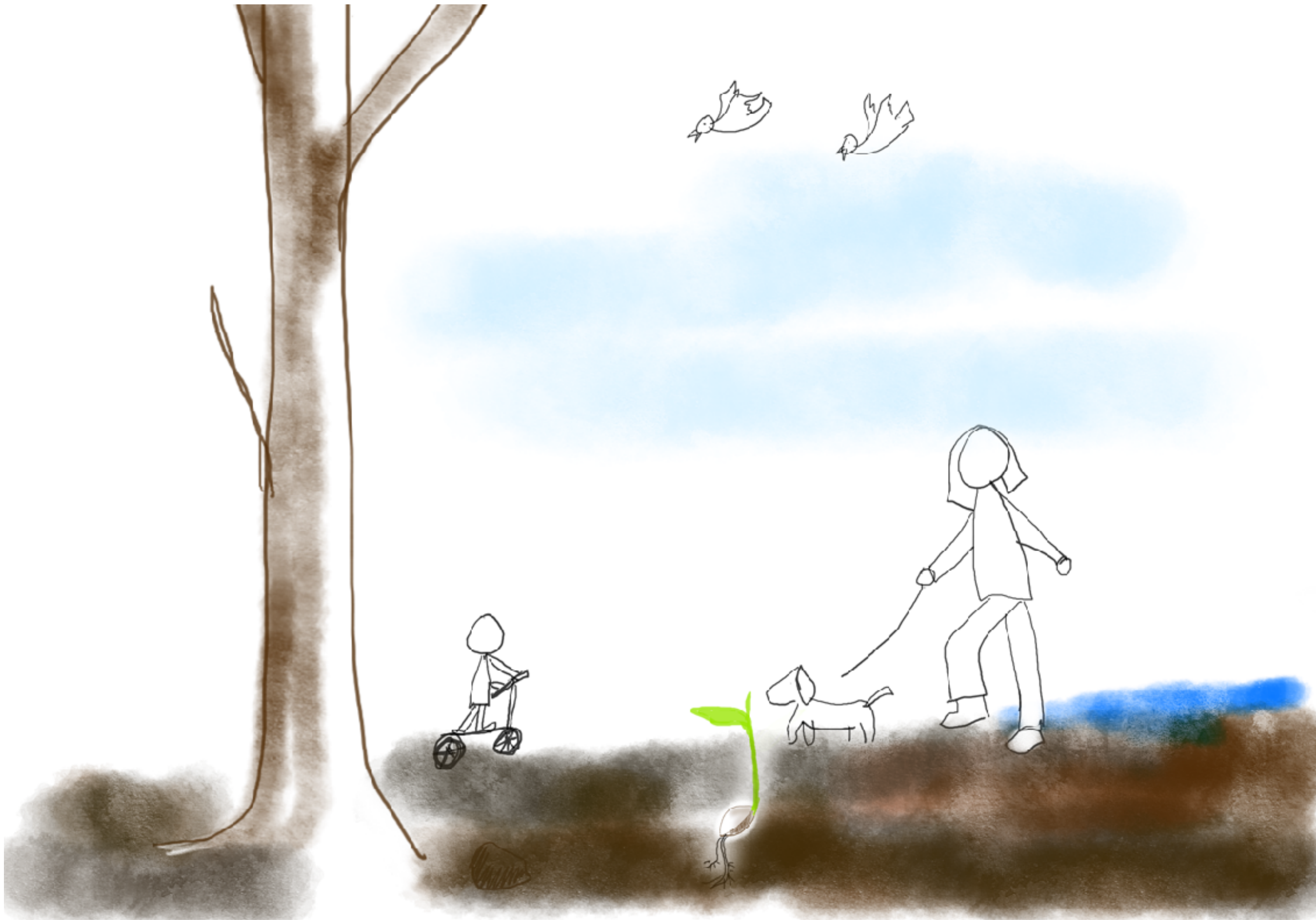




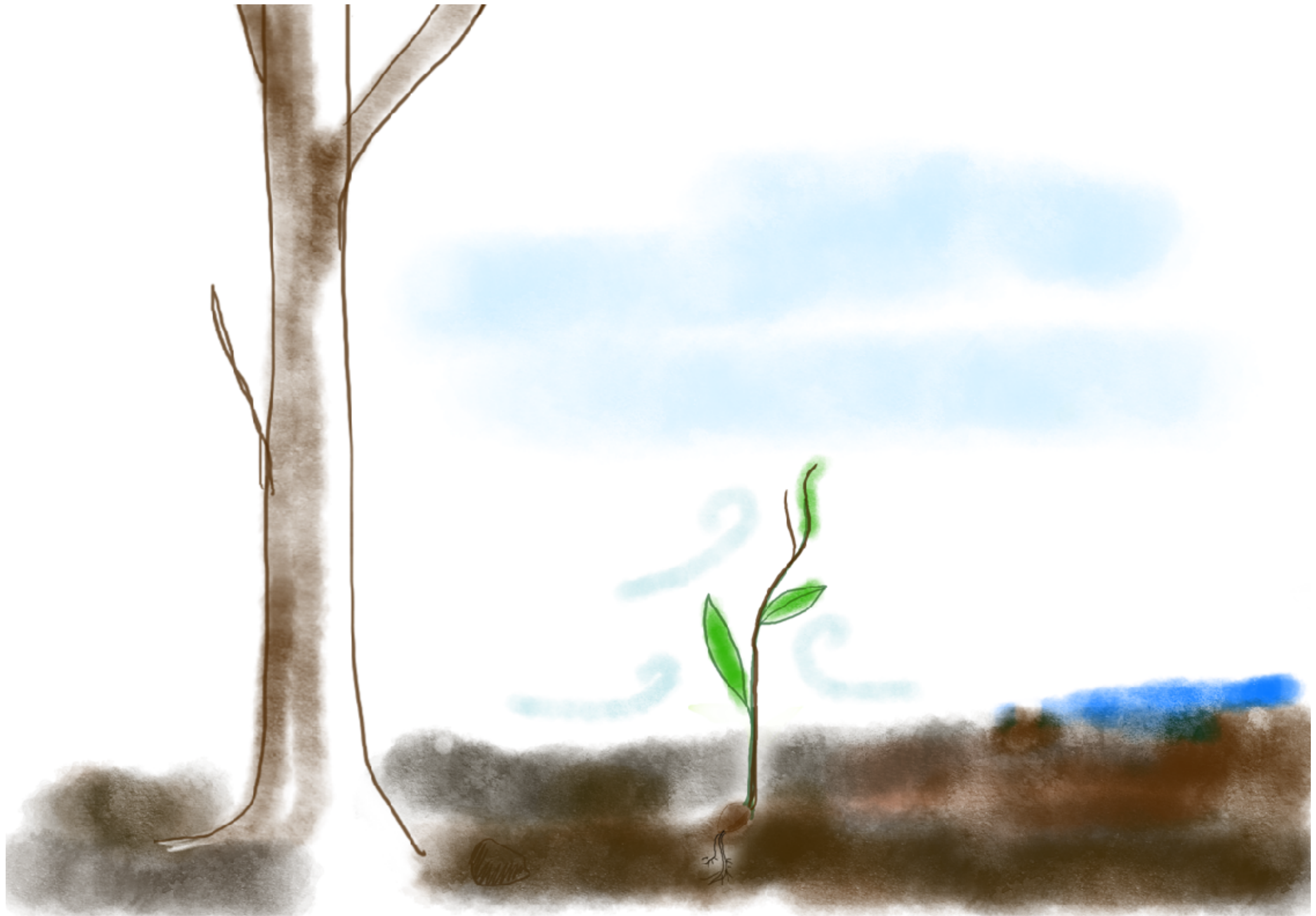
Seed carries its past inside of them—from the memories of its parent even to the very distant memories of when the world first started to become.



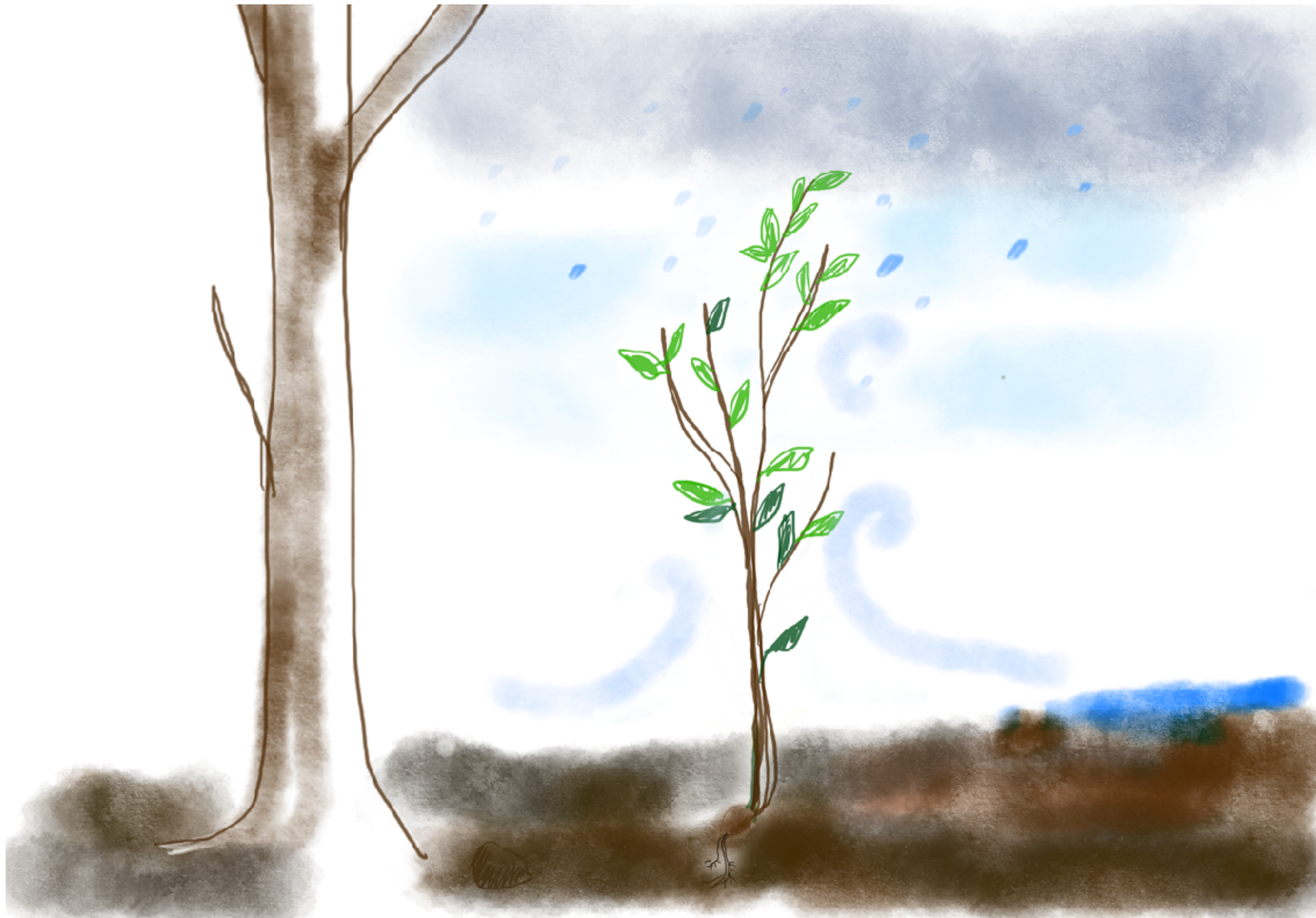
And seed takes in the world:
the soil; the air;
water from the nearby river and water from the rain from the cloud that was formed on
the other side of the world;



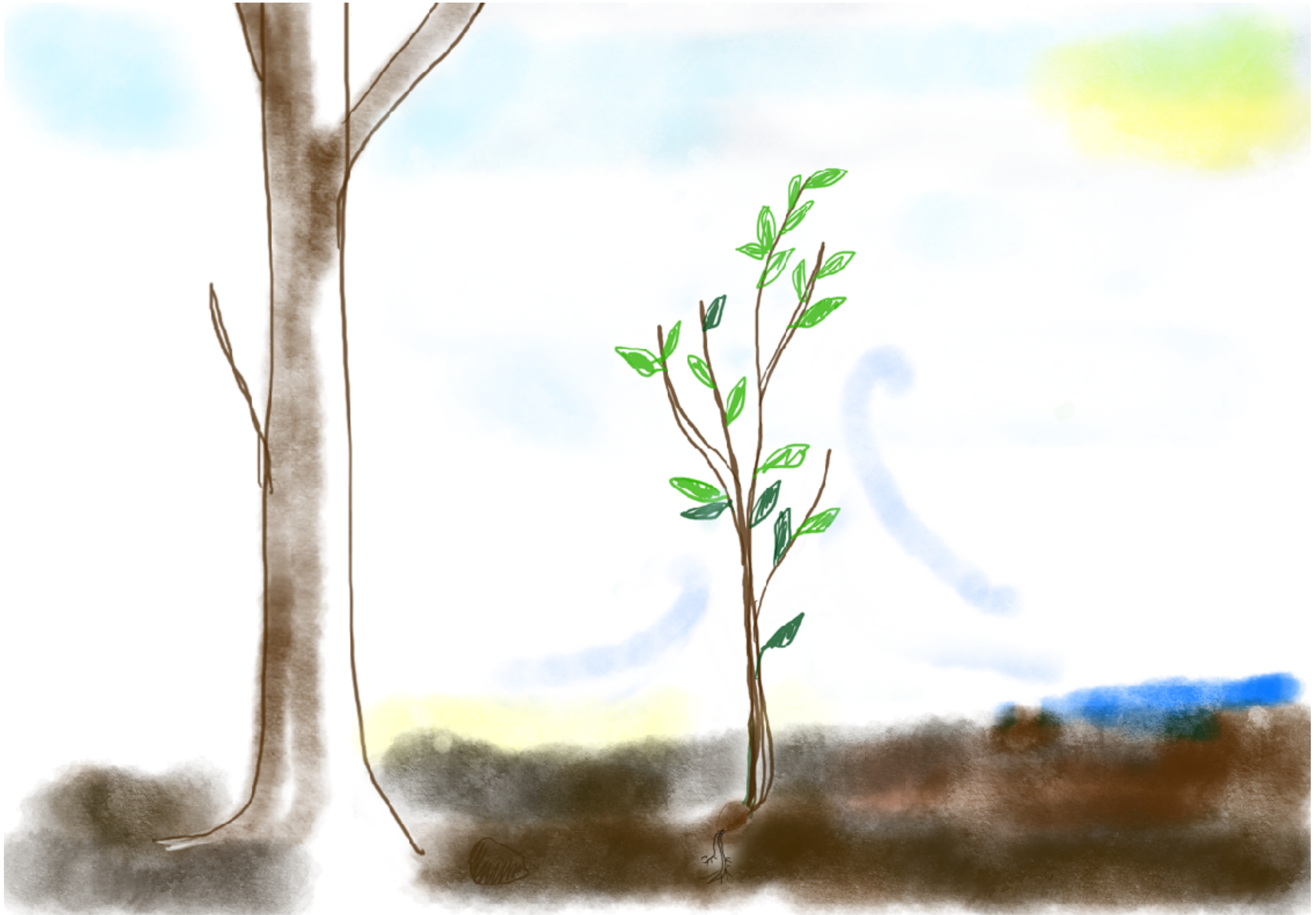
the birds that sing; the dogs and the people who walk by;
the rocks in the soil that don't move; the roots of other trees;
other seeds nearby. The whole universe.



And God who is many and one calls to the seed to grow and become.
And it grows and becomes; it's the gift to the world, gift to God.



Like a seed, we, too, become new every moment, out of our past and with the whole world around us. Every moment God loves us and calls to us, "grow and create! Love and be loved!"



As we become new every moment, the world becomes new with us.
God and the world and every being in it always creating becoming loving together...