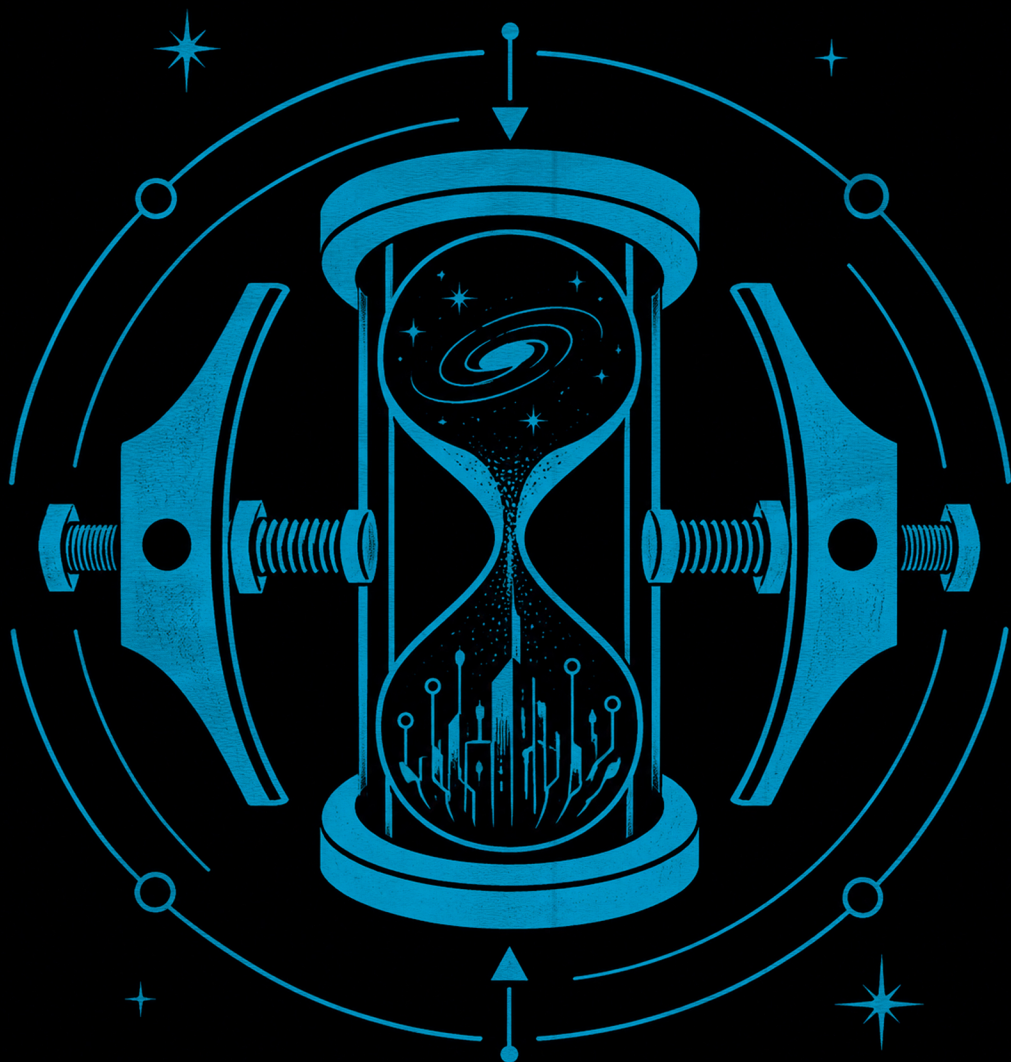
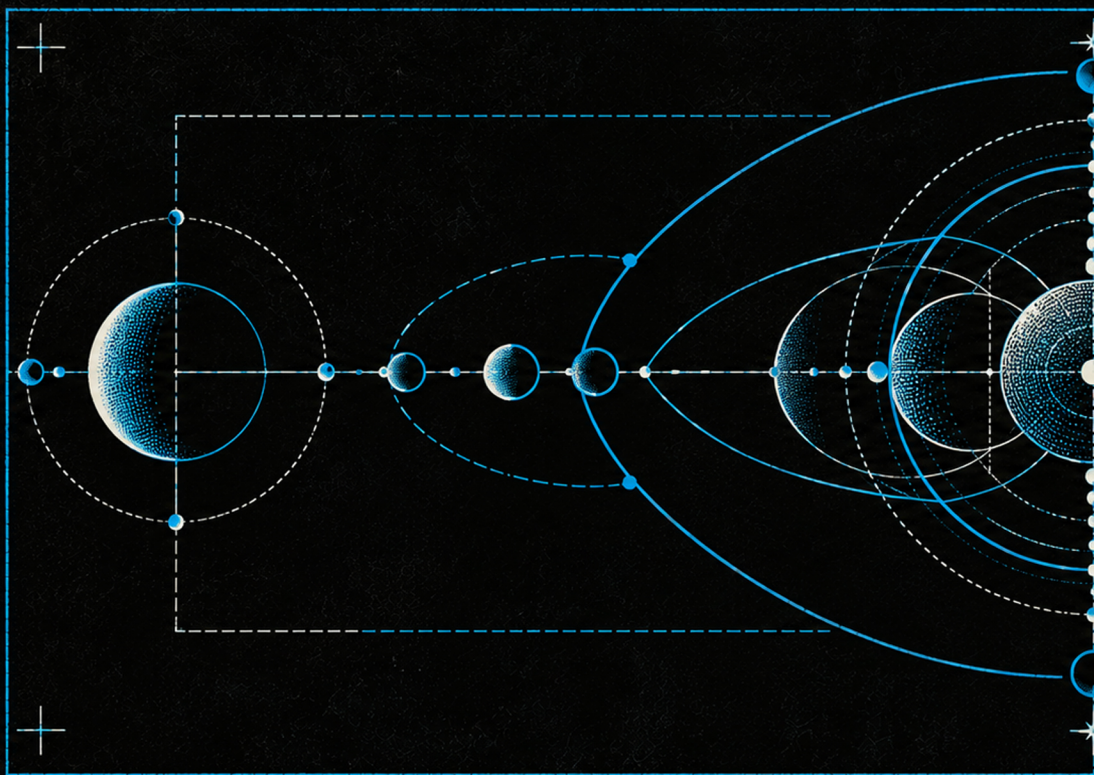


FIVE QUANTUM LISTENING RITUALS

A BROKEN LABYRINTH SUPPLEMENT





FIVE QUANTUM LISTENING RITUALS

INTRODUCTION

This document accompanies Broken Labyrinth's two-song EP *Constraining the Lifespan of Intelligent Technological Civilization in the Galaxy*. It contains five Quantum Listening Rituals: speculative procedures intended to alter the conditions under which recorded sound is encountered.

These rituals are less occult ceremony than impossible scientific protocol—somewhere between experimental physics, systems engineering, consciousness research, and an experiment whose purpose has been partially forgotten. Drawing loosely upon concepts such as superposition, entanglement, decoherence, uncertainty, and observation, they should not be understood as demonstrations of quantum mechanics. They are instead poetic listening procedures: frameworks for disrupting the familiar relationship between listener, recording, environment, and time.

Although designed specifically for use with *Constraining the Lifespan of Intelligent Technological Civilization in the Galaxy*, the protocols are transferable. They may be performed with other Broken Labyrinth recordings, with unrelated music, or with any recorded signal deemed suitable for observation.

No particular result is expected.

The procedure is the result.

THE UNOBSERVED SIGNAL

PRINCIPLE: SUPERPOSITION

Select one track.

Before playback begins, reduce the room to the lowest practical level of illumination. Place the playback device outside the listener's direct field of vision. The display should not be visible.

Begin playback without confirming the track position, elapsed time, or volume setting.

For the duration of the recording, resist identifying individual sounds according to their apparent sources. A pulse is not a synthesizer. A sustained frequency is not a keyboard. Noise is not distortion. Rhythm is not percussion.

Each sound should instead be regarded as occupying several possible identities simultaneously.

The act of identification collapses these possibilities.

Whenever recognition occurs, mentally release the identification and return the sound to an unresolved state.

After playback ends, remain seated until the listener can no longer determine with certainty whether the final sound has actually ceased or merely fallen beneath the threshold of perception.

The signal exists most completely before it is understood.

