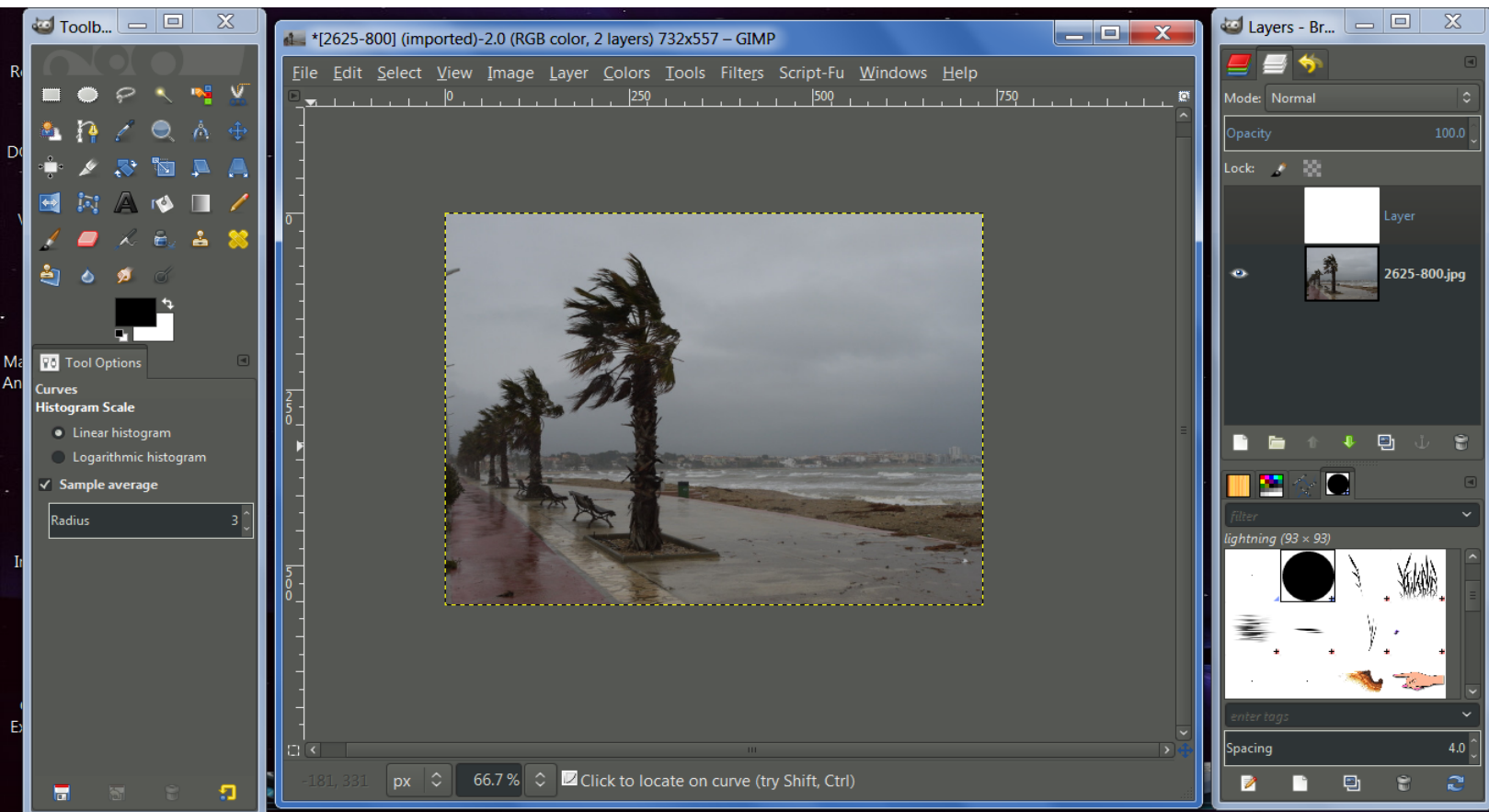


How To Create a Lightning Bolt Effect

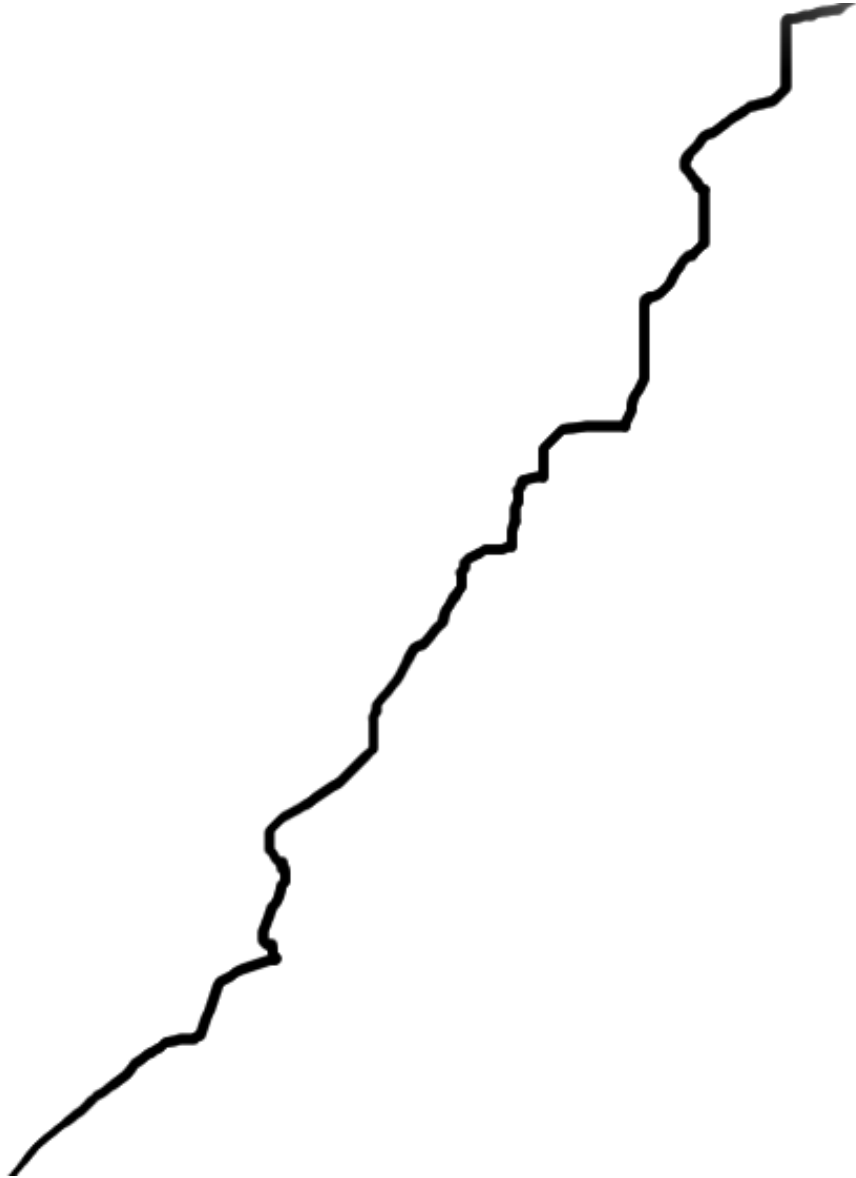
This is the image I used for my lightning bolt effect.



Open an image for your lightning bolt. Create a new layer **on top** of your image and fill it with white.

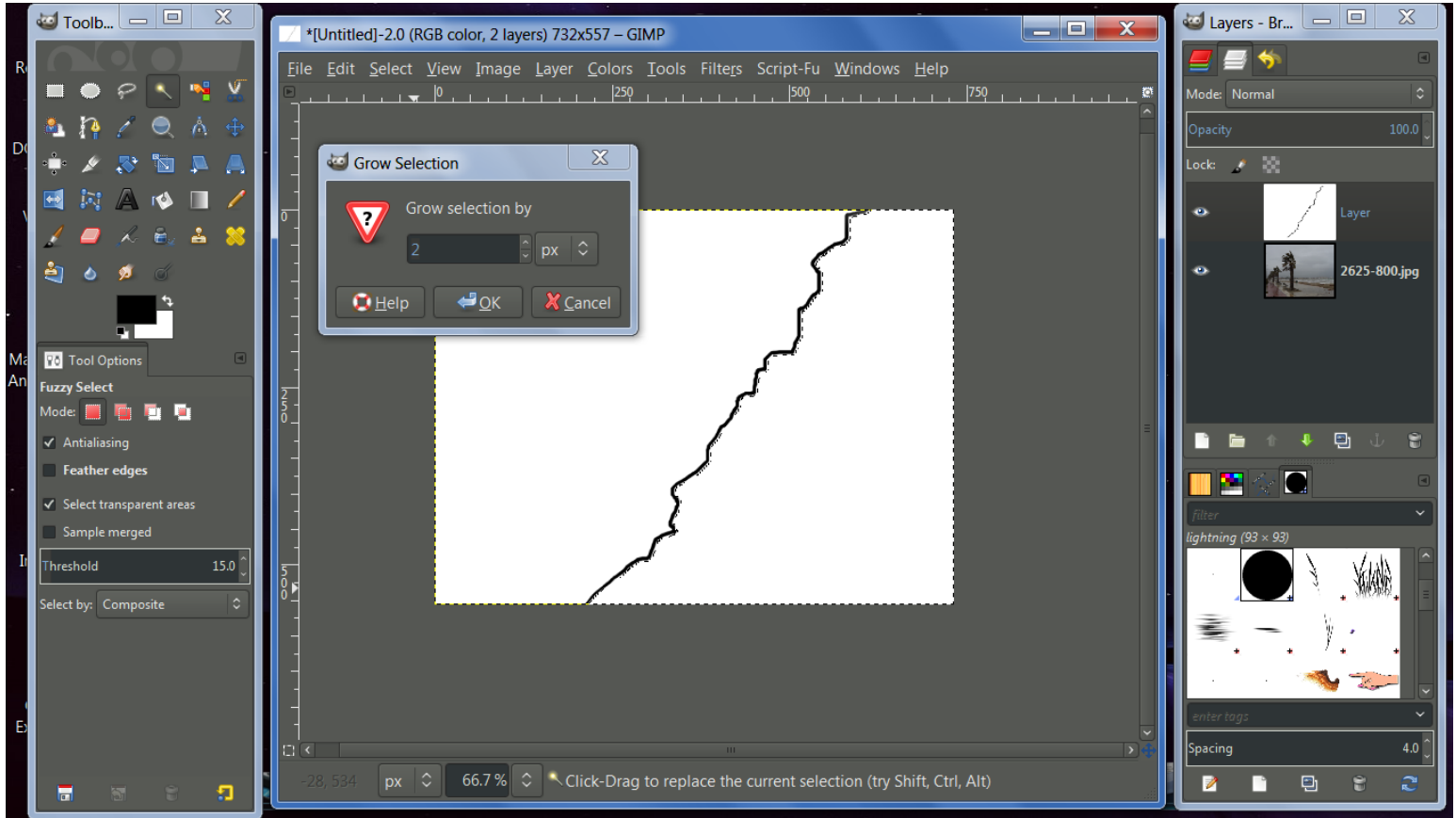
You can also just open a new white canvas/document to create your lightning bolt on.

On the top layer, using a **soft brush**, make a jagged black line similar to what is seen in the image below. Going in the direction you want your lightning bolt to follow.

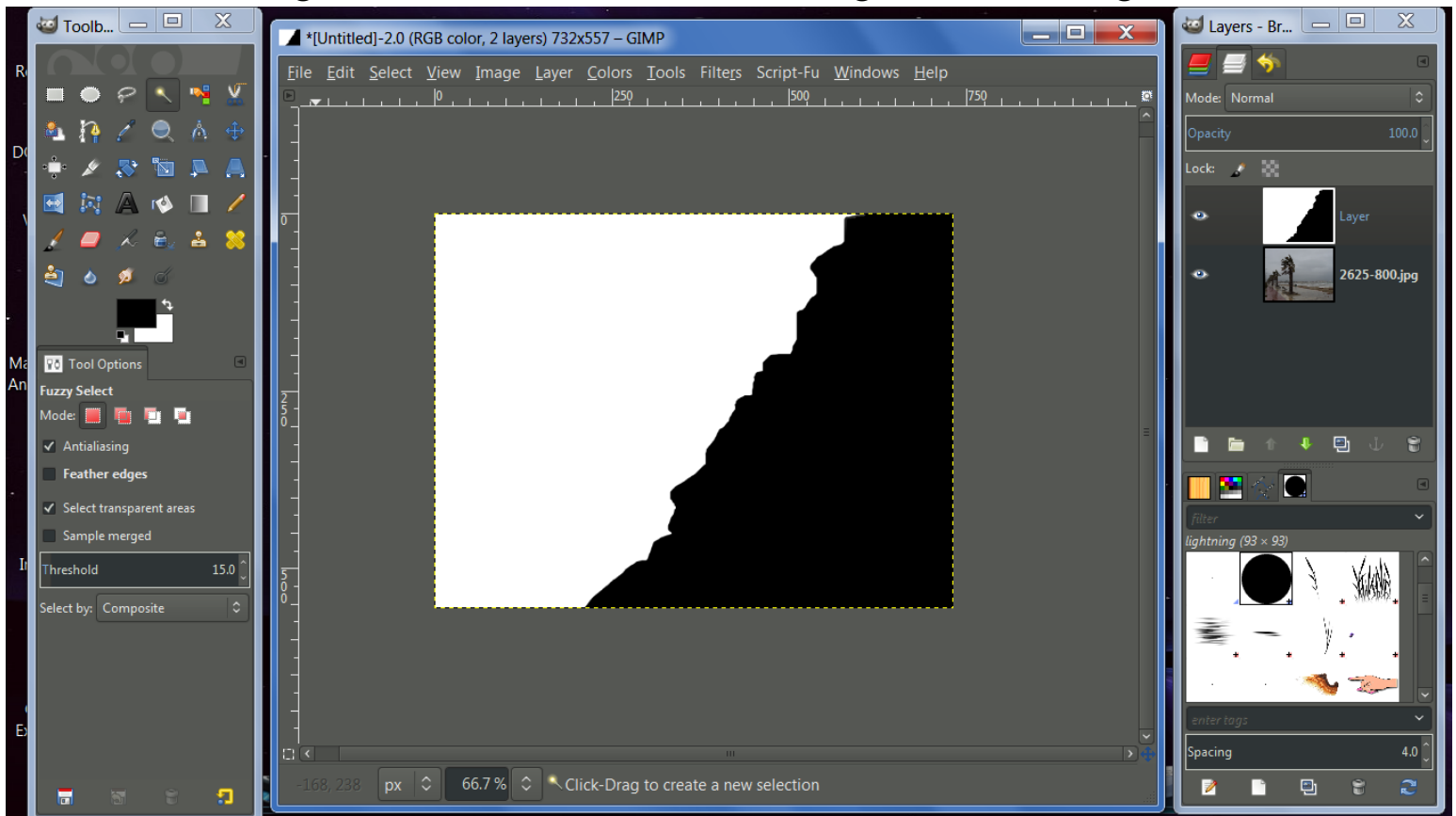


Tip: The more erratic/irregular your line is, the more dramatic the lightning bolt will be.

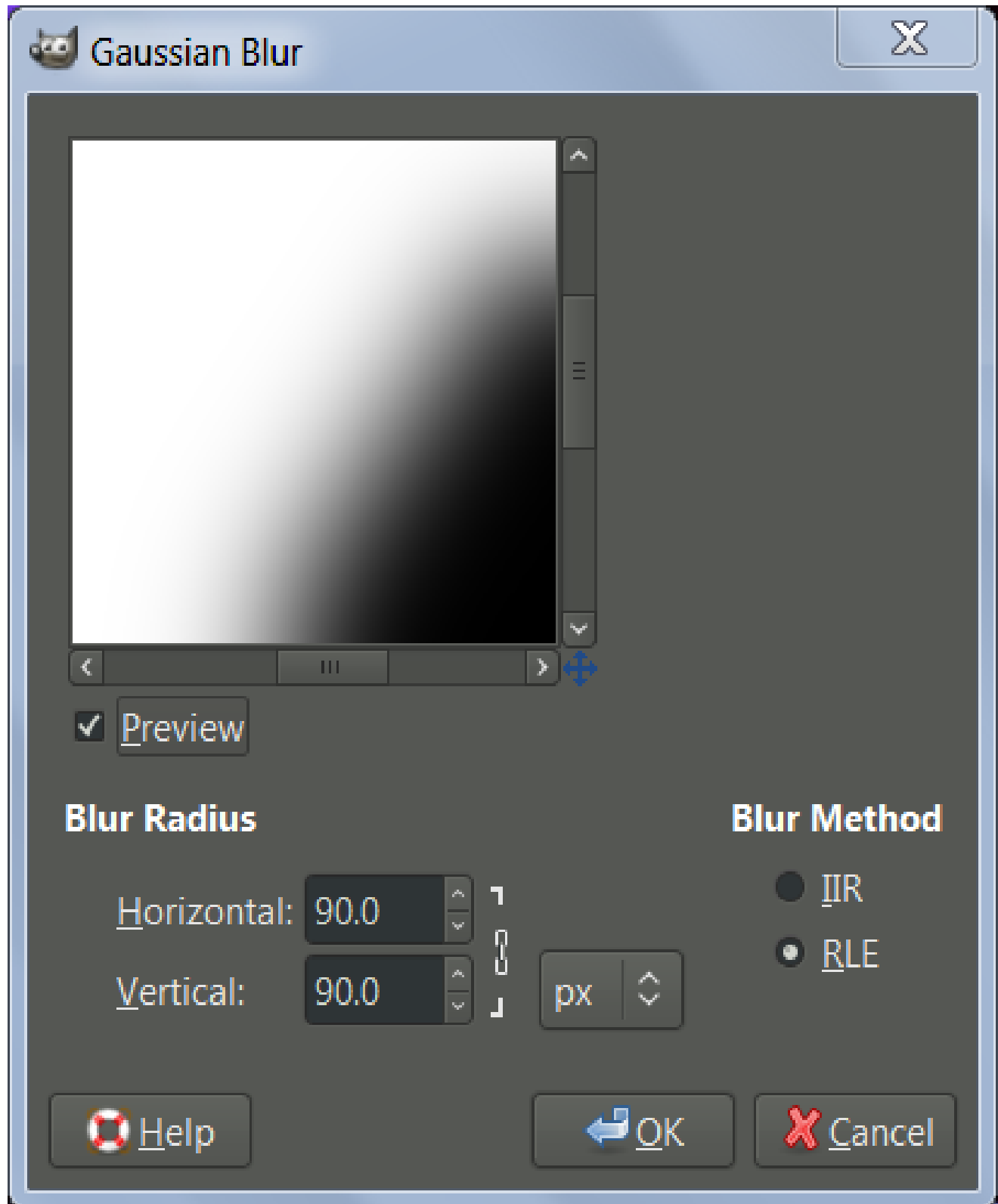
Using the **Fuzzy Select Tool**, select either side of your black line and grow the selection by 2, then fill this selection with black.



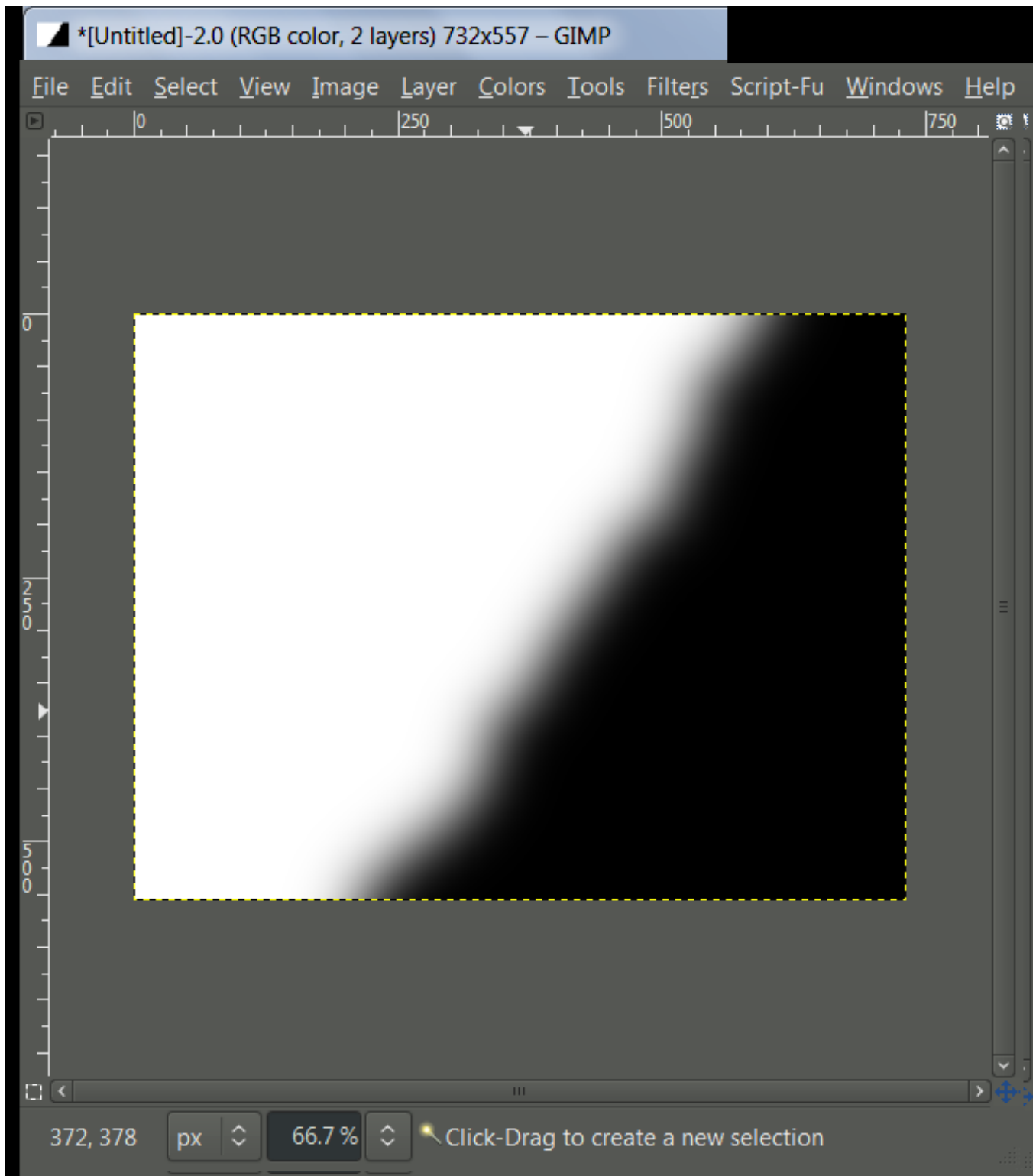
Your image should now look something like this image below...



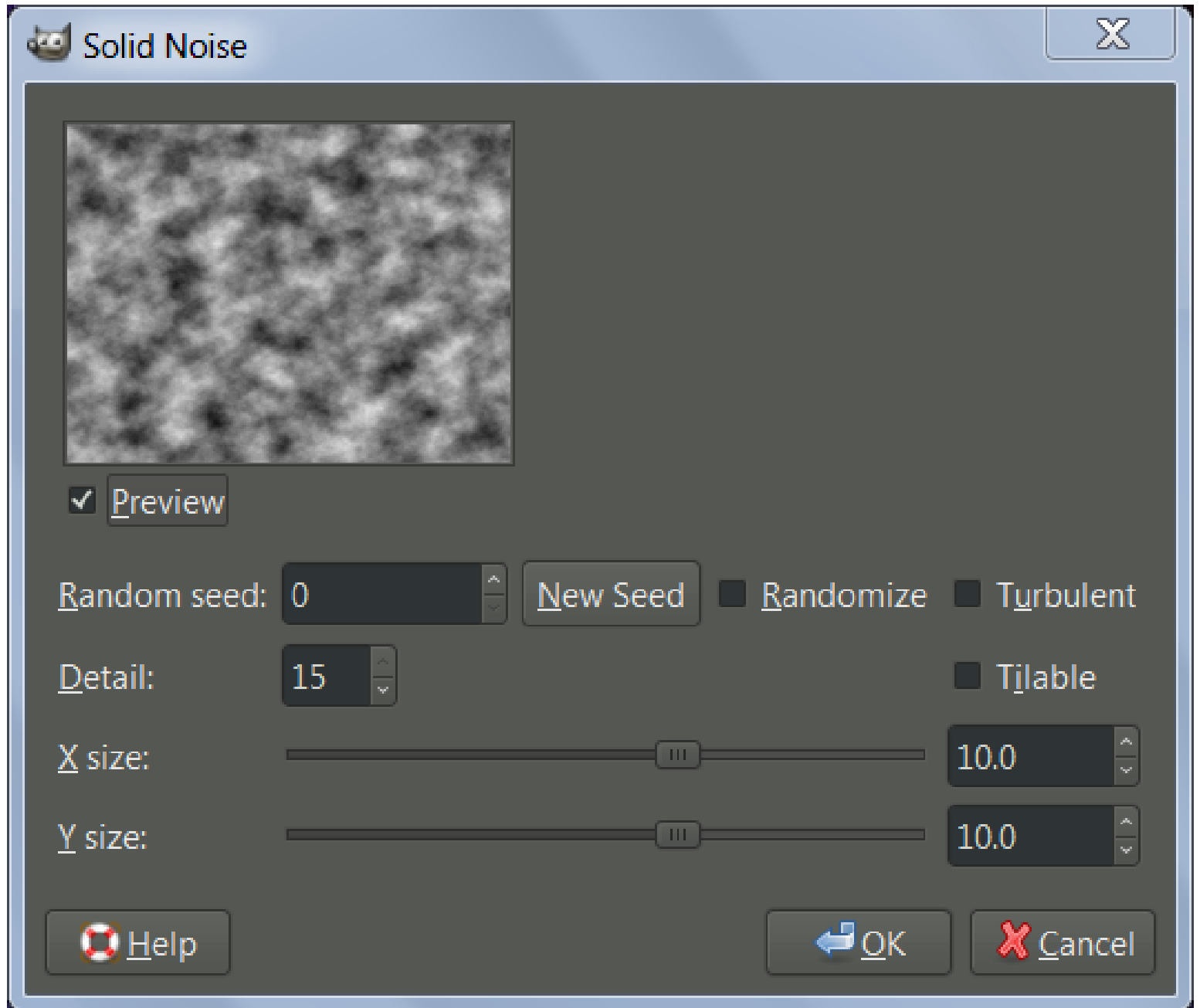
Gaussian blur the top layer by 90, as seen it the dialog below.



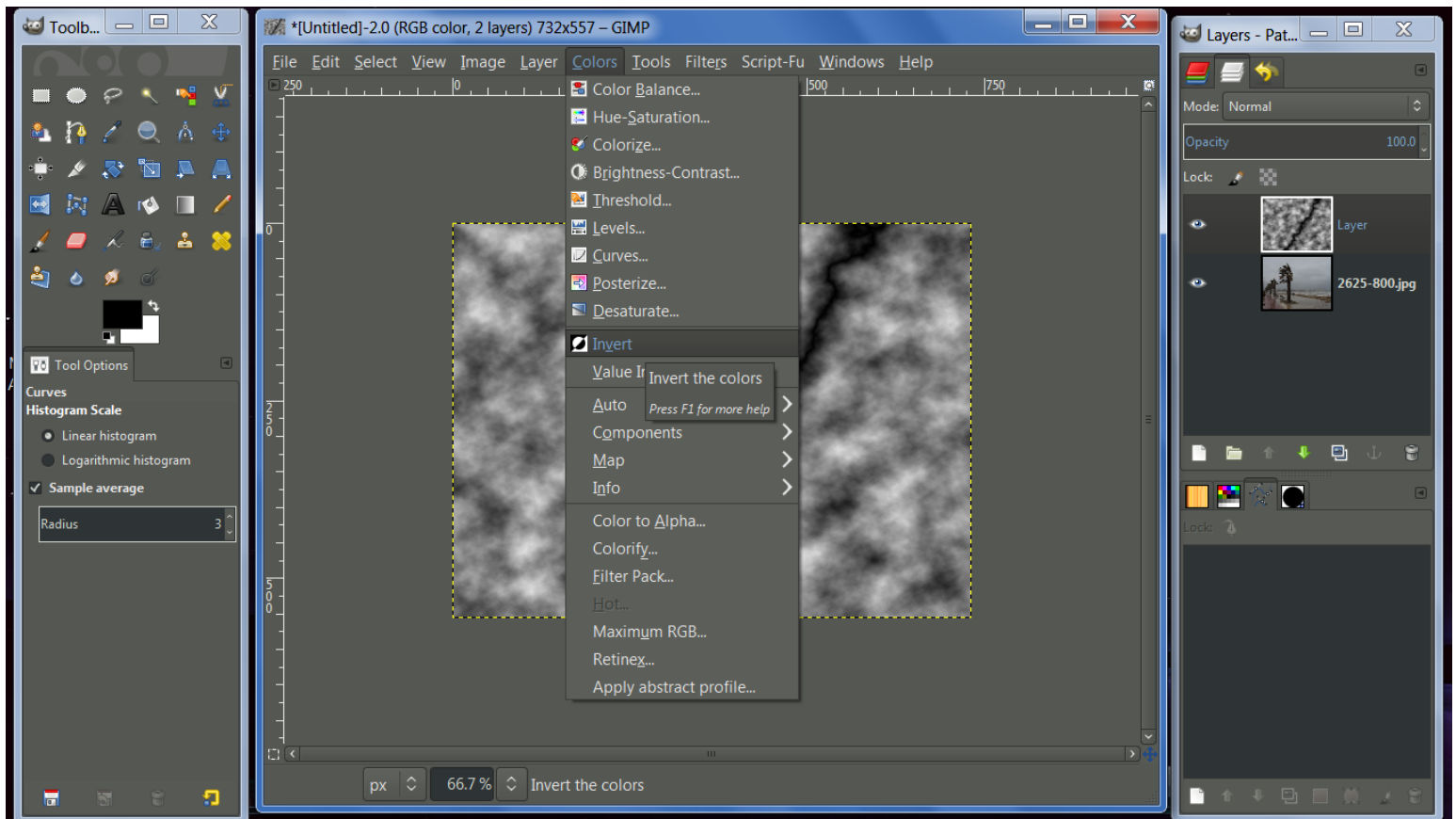
Now your top layer should look something like this...



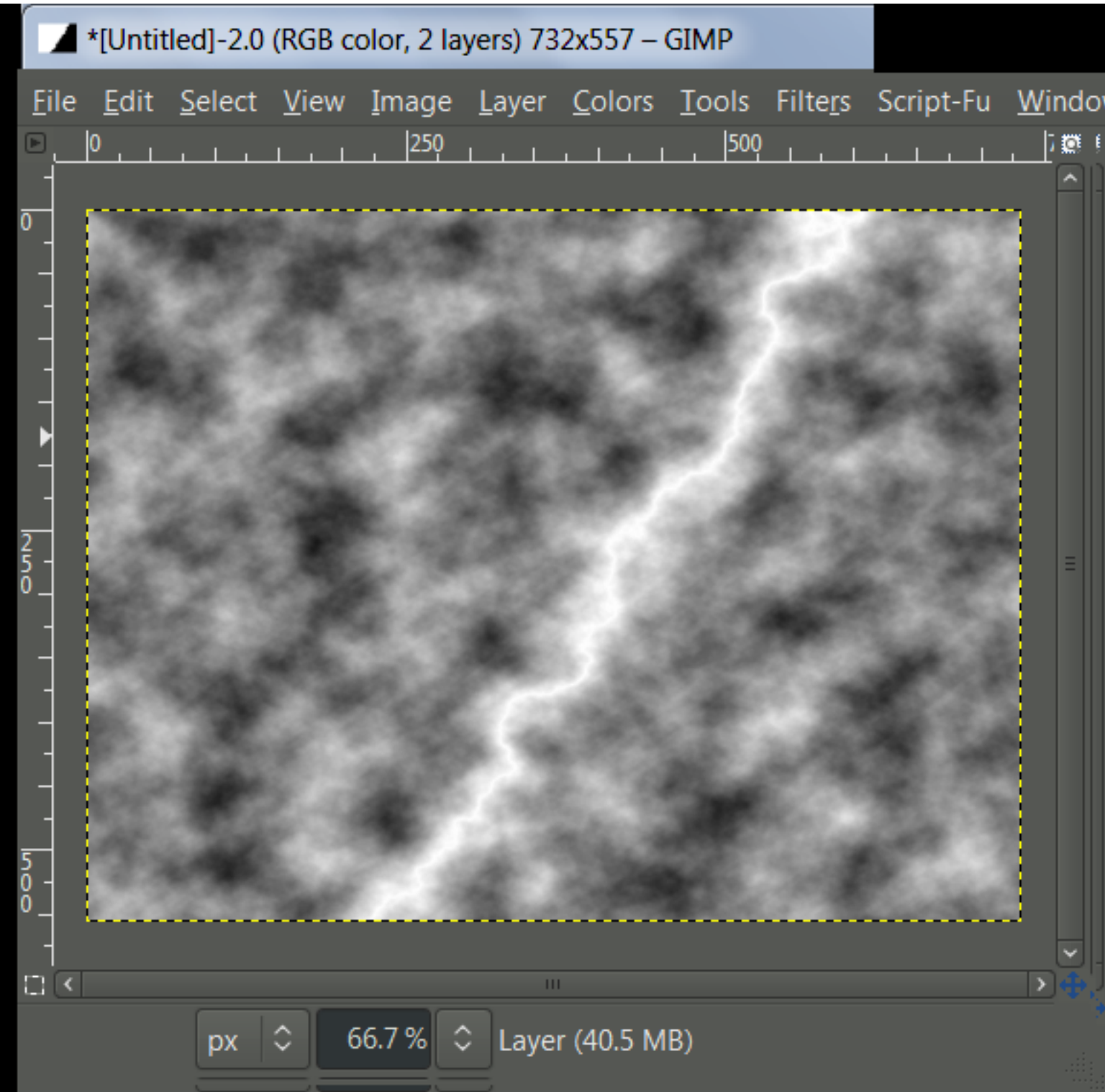
Now go to, **Filters>Render>Clouds>Difference Clouds** and apply these settings bellow to the top layer.



Then go to, **Colors>Invert** and invert the color of the top layer.

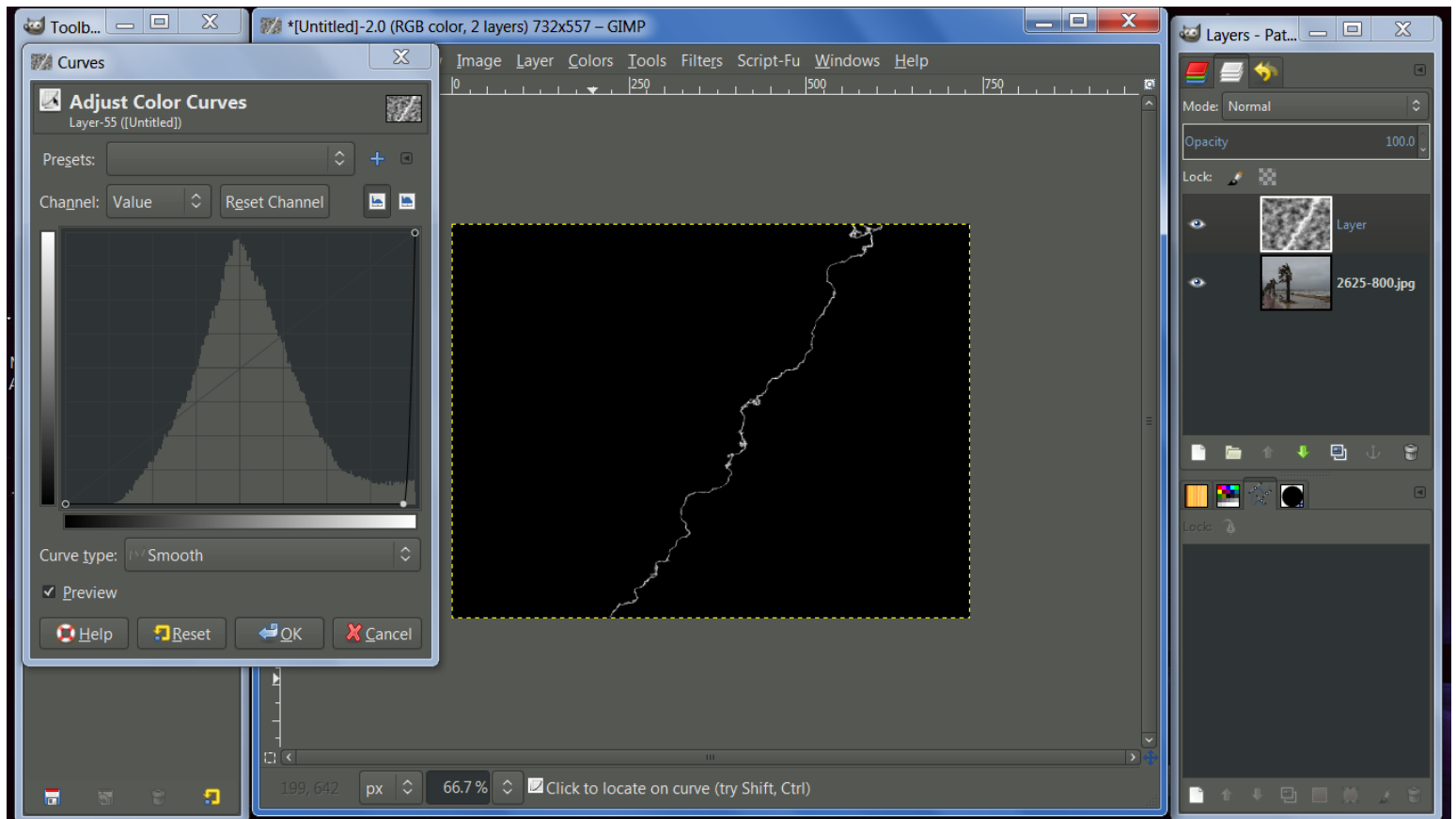


With the color inverted, your top layer should now look similar to the image below.

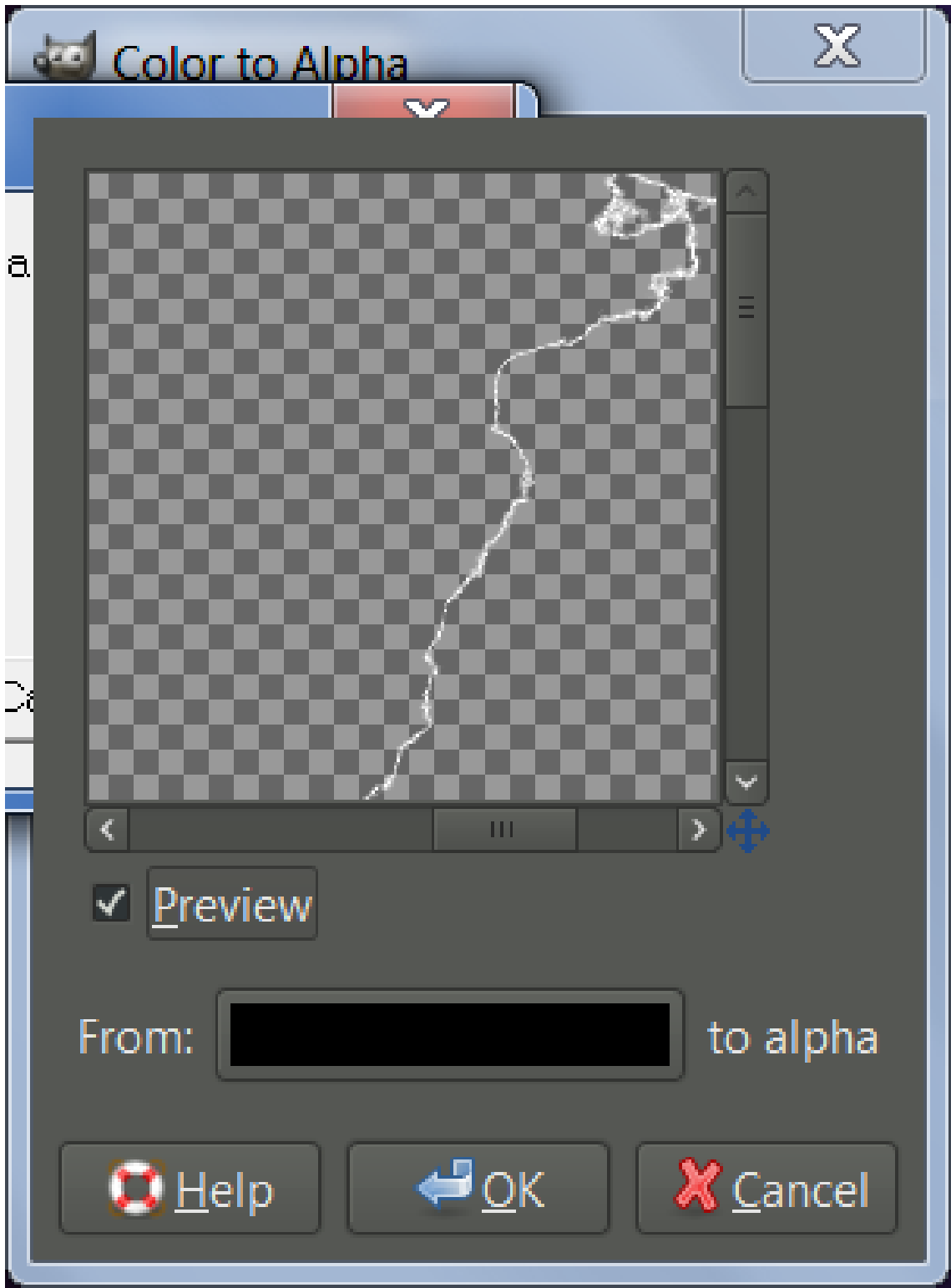


Now using, **Color>Curves**, you can adjust the curve setting to something like what you see in the curves dialog box below.

You can also experiment with this curve adjustment setting, to find what you feel looks best for your lightning bolt



Still working on the top layer. Go to, **Colors>Color to Alpha** and send the color black to alpha. Doing this will remove all the black color from the top layer. Leaving only the white of the lightning bolt behind, making what was once black transparent.



This is my final image, with the lightning bolt added.

I also removed a portion at the bottom of my lightning bolt to better fit my final image.

Along with removing some of the stray white pixels for around the lightning bolt itself.

