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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
says:

MOON'S RING HERALDS STORMS

The ring around the moon or sun is really a portent of stormy weather, winter or summer. The Zuni Indians were scientifically correct when they framed the adage,

"When the sun is in his house it will rain soon."

The big colorless or nearly colorless ring is due to refraction by ice crystals of the lofty cirrus clouds, the coming of which indicates the approach of a storm. They fly much faster than the rain or snow-producing body of the storm, and appear as the vanguard. The first arrivals are the thinnest and loftiest, and therefore the ring is seen, sharp, perhaps, and being farther away than it seems appears small to the eye. With the nearer approach of the storm the ring, fainter and wider, is seen in denser, lower clouds and seems larger because it is closer than it appears to be. Hence, to quote an ancient saying:

"The bigger the ring the nearer the wet".

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