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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

TWILIGHT

The color changes which occur over large portions of the sky, especially the eastern and western skies in fair weather, as the sun sinks to the horizon and below it are due to the varying effects of the atmosphere on the last rays of the setting sun. These phenomena vary greatly, but usually occur somewhat as follows, especially in clear weather.

A grayish-blue arch rises above the eastern horizon, which is merely the shadow cast by the earth. On it rests a purplish arch, which gradually merges westward into the blue of the sky, and fades away as the shadow arch rises.

A whitish, yellowish or even bronze glow encircles the sun as it approaches the western horizon, the upper part remaining visible for 20 minutes after sundown. Just before sundown a bright segment rests on the western horizon, the lower portion of which often is red and the upper yellowish. A purplish glow covers much of the western sky, which disappears as the sun sinks a few degrees below the horizon, and is succeeded by a faint purple glow which covers the whole sky and gradually disappears. At dawn the same phenomena are seen, but in reverse order.

(Tomorrow: When Stars Begin to Huddle.)

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