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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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IS THE RAIN OVER?

One way to tell whether the end of a storm is approaching is to compare the direction of motion of the upper and lower clouds. When the rear side of a "low" is passing by, a cool, drier current from the west, northwest, or north usually underruns the higher moist southerly winds. When it is clearing, then, the lower clouds typically move from a direction west or north of, or to the right of, the upper clouds.

On dark mornings it is sometimes said:

"If to clear 'tis going to do,
It will clear 'twixt twelve and two."

Of course, it may clear before twelve; however, there is some truth in this Proverb, for if the midday sun cannot shine through the clouds they are probably so thick as to continue during the later cooling hours of the day.

Another saying:

"Open and shet
Sign of more wet"

is typical of humid days with recurring convectional showers and without high clouds.

(Tomorrow: Fog Contains Little Water)

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