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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE MOON AND THE WEATHER

One of the commonest of weather superstitions is that a change in the moon will bring a change in the weather. A change in the moon is relied on to break a drought or end a protracted rain. Actually, however, the moon's influence on the 82 times greater earth and its atmosphere is very slight indeed; and weather changes are as likely to occur in between changes in the moon as during them. Hence,

The moon and the weather
May change together,
But a change in the moon
Does not change the weather.

Similarly we must dismiss the belief in a "wet" and "dry" moon as an astronomical absurdity. According to tradition, if the horns of the new moon tip steeply, it is a "wet" moon, because it will not "hold water", and we may expect a rainy month. But if the horns point upward it is a "dry" moon, which will "hold water and keep rain from the earth", so the saying goes. Others say: when the horns are tipped steeply it is a dry moon, because it is empty and can hold no water; but when they point upward it is a wet moon, for it can hold water.

"Pay your money, and take your choice".

Either belief could have no foundation save a few coincidences which may have started the saying. The moon itself, is, of course, extraordinarily dry; and even if it were all water could never pour any of it on the earth.

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