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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INSIDES OF A CYCLONE

A cyclone at sea is commonly quite different from the milder cyclone or low we usually experience. The following colorful description of the interior of a tropical cyclone at sea are excerpts from an article by Prof. W. M. Davis.

"The wind increases to a gale, the waves rise on the sea, the dark clouds approach, thickening as they come, and rain begins to fall from them. The roaring wind increases to full hurricane strength, the low scud clouds fly before its blasts, the lightning flashes, the rain descends in drenching torrents, cooling the sultry air.

"After a time the wind suddenly weakens to a calm in the eye of the storm; falling from its greatest violence to an almost perfect repose in fifteen minutes or less. The rain ceases, even the clouds may break away, showing the blue sky by day and the stars by night; but the waves roll and toss, and in even more dreaded form than in their regular heaving before the hurricane.

"As the hurricane on the further side of the central calm approaches the observer, its moaning can be heard in the distance, rising to a portentous roar as it comes near, and then breaking suddenly with as great fury as the hurricane which died away before, but its direction is now the reverse of that of the winds by which the calm was preceded. All the elements of the cyclone now reappear; the blasts of the wind beat up the waves to their greatest height, the clouds hang low and heavy over the darkened sea, the rain falls again in torrents; and then as the storm gradually moves away, all these signs of its activity weaken."

(Tomorrow: Thunderstorm Weather)

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