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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ROTATION

It is questionable whether all planets rotate with respect to the sun. At any rate we can be thankful that ours does. It is ^{as} necessary for the earth to turn as for a chicken on a spit. Imagine what would happen to our weather if the earth should stop spinning around on its axis! The side towards the sun would become intolerably hot, the dark side intolerably cold. Life would only be possible in the twilight zones between, and these border regions would presumably be extremely stormy because of the great temperature contrast between the dark and light hemispheres.

The impossible ancient and mediaeval earth which stood still while the sun went around it would have weather quite different from ours. All the great wind systems of the earth are influenced by its rotation. In the northern hemisphere every wind is turned to the right and in the southern hemisphere to the left. If the earth did not rotate we probably should not have violently rotating storms such as tornadoes and tropical cyclones.

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