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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

POLYNESIAN WIND LORE

In Polynesian mythology the winds are the children of Raka. "To each child," says J. C. Andersen, in a recent book, "is allotted a hole at the edge of the horizon, through which he blows at pleasure. The various holes from which the winds blow were as well known to the Polynesians as are the points of the compass to the mariner; and the number of holes is the same as the number of named points -- thirty-two."

For purposes of priestly exorcism, says the same writer, the vault of the sky was represented by a calabash, in which a series of small holes was made to correspond to the various wind-holes at the edge of the horizon. "The holes were all stopped with cloth; and should the wind be unfavorable for an expedition, the chief priest began his incantation by removing the plug from the aperture through which the unfavorable wind was blowing. Rebuking this wind, he stopped up the hole and advanced by all the intermediate holes, removing plug after plug until he reached the one desired. This was left open, as an indication to the children of Raka that a steady wind was desired from that quarter. As he would have a good knowledge of the ordinary course of the winds and the various indications of change, the invocation usually resulted in the coming of the wind desired."

Mr. Andersen mentions the Polynesian belief that the approach of a hurricane is indicated by a sign expressed in the saying, "Kua taviriviri te kao o te maika"-- meaning "Twisted is the core of the banana." This twisting is said to take place some weeks before the hurricane arrives and to be accompanied, providentially, by an unusually luxuriant growth of the fruit.

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