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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE IDEA OF WEATHER

The conception of weather involves the idea of variation. Weather that remains nearly the same day after day is hardly thought of as weather at all; hence the saying in California that the state has a climate (really it has several different climates) but no weather. On the other hand in regions such as England and New England, where atmospheric conditions undergo marked and frequent changes in connection with the passage of cyclonic disturbances, weather is more impressive than climate.

Sir Napier Shaw, in his "Manual of Meteorology," calls attention to the effects of uniform atmospheric conditions on language. "The Italians and the French," he says, "who derive their language from Mediterranean experience, have the same word - 'tempo' or 'temps' - as a general term for weather and it also signifies time. The context has to be depended upon in order to comprehend the particular meaning in each case. There is apparently no Greek word for weather. 'Kairos' is said to be the word in use in modern Greek, but that again seems to have the sense of 'season' and therefore to connote climate rather than weather."

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