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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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EARLY CLOUD CLASSIFICATIONS

No classifications of the clouds are found in the works of the Greek or Roman philosophers, but several systems of classification appear to have been employed in oriental lands at a very early period. A Japanese meteorologist, Dr. Fujiwhara, tells us that in his country "there existed systematized knowledge of clouds in ancient ages, which was nearly lost under the flood of useful knowledge of occidental science in the Meiji era."

In India, where rainfall was formerly a life-and-death matter to a great part of the population, clouds have always been of absorbing interest as rain-bringers, and hence careful attention was given to them by the ancient Hindu scholars. A Sanskrit manuscript preserved at Bombay, written by one Angiras, who is supposed to have flourished some time between 1500 and 1000 B.C., mentions twelve varieties of clouds known to the author. A more remarkable enumeration occurs in a Hindu work of the Fourth century B.C., which says: "Three are the clouds that continuously rain for seven days; eighty are they that pour minute drops; and sixty are they that appear in the sunshine." No modern student of clouds has yet ventured to carry the subdivision of these objects quite so far.

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