

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
November 26, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed November 19, 1932

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WEDDING DAY WEATHER

Prof. N.N. Puckett, in his book on American negro folklore, has recorded a number of superstitions of the race concerning the significance of the weather on a wedding day or on the day following. "If it rains on your wedding night," he says, "you will shed as many tears as there are drops of rain, while rain on the day after marriage marks many sorrows for the bride. Others say that a rain on the wedding day means an untrue mate, and still others interpret rain on the wedding day to mean death for the man first, while rain on the following day indicates that the bride will die first. Bright sunshine on the wedding morn is good luck; cloudy or rainy weather, bad luck; while a 'muddy (rainy) wedding' means a slovenly wife."

Compare with these superstitions the European sayings that "happy is the bride that the sun shines on"; that a rain while returning from church signifies a life of bickering and unhappiness; and that a rain in the morning points to the groom burying the bride, while a rain in the afternoon means the opposite.

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