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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MORE NEGRO WEATHER FOLKLORE

The rich store of weather folklore contained in Professor Puckett's "Folk Beliefs of the Southern Negro" mentions various signs derived from the falling of rain during sunshine. According to some darkies this means that rain will fall at the same time the following day. Some interpret it to indicate that the devil is whipping his wife around the stump with a frying-pan.

"Some say," continues Professor Puckett, "that you must stick a pin in the ground and place your ear close to the pin to hear this whipping going on, or else kneel down and stick a needle in the wall, then get up and pull the needle out with your mouth. You can then hear the devil's wife 'hollering.' Or, simpler still, you can simply cross a knife and fork and go behind the door to see this dastardly deed being done."

Very similar beliefs prevalent in Europe are recorded in Lean's "Col-lectanea"; viz., that rain will occur about the same time the next day, and that the devil is beating his wife behind the door with a shoulder of mutton.

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