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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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PAINTED RAINBOWS

The ethereal beauty of the rainbow has never, I believe, been successfully painted. Here is one manifestation of Nature -- and there are others -- that is vastly more beautiful in a first-rate photograph than in any painting.

Some years ago the British photographer G. A. Clarke took at Aberdeen, Scotland, a picture of a double rainbow that stands unrivaled. It has been reproduced in several books, including Clarke's book "Clouds," W. J. Humphreys' book "Fogs and Clouds" and my own book "The Realm of the Air." Here are some of the best known paintings containing rainbows, which you may compare, if you like, with Clarke's masterpiece:

- Turner. "Brougham Castle" (in the Rivers of England series)
- Millet. "Rainbow" (Louvre)
- Thoma. "Rainbow"
- Rubens. "Harvest Landscape" (Munich Gallery)
- " " "Harvest Landscape" (Wallace Collection)
- " " "Landscape with a Rainbow" (Hermitage, St. Petersburg)
- " " "Shipwreck of Aeneas" (Berlin Gallery)
- Schwind. "Rainbow"
- John Martin. "I Have Set My Bow in the Clouds"
- Thoma. "Progress of the Gods to Valhalla"
- Church. "The Aegean Sea" (Metropolitan Museum, New York)

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