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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER SCIENCE IN ANCIENT INDIA

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Authority on Meteorology

The fact that the Hindus of the 4th century B.C. maintained measurements of rainfall in different parts of India and had developed a system of cloud classification was made known to the western world through an article published some years ago in the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts. A work of that early period by a celebrated statesman named Chanakya contains rainfall statistics, describes alleged means of predicting rainfall from planetary observations, and says as to varieties of cloud:

"Three are the clouds that continuously rain for seven days; 80 are they that pour minute drops; and 60 are they that appear with the sunshine."

This would indicate that the ancient Hindus classified the clouds much more minutely than we do today.

Recently there has come to light the existence of another early Hindu work -- of unknown date but said to be of "hoary Vedic age" -- which also shows that much attention was paid to meteorology by ancient Indian scholars. The work is entitled "On the Origin of Rain." In it the author, one Angiras, mentions 12 kinds of clouds and tells how they are formed. He describes 12 different kinds of rain, 8 kinds of hail, 64 kinds of lightning, 32 kinds of thunder, and 21 kinds of thunderbolt!

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