

# The Wind And The Weathervane: Reflections Of Occultism In The Atmosphere And Weather Patterns

*By Malvin Artley*

When two people meet and strike up a conversation, one of the first subjects discussed invariably is that of the weather. Most people call this idle conversation and many would call it an unconscious compulsion in conversation, but the fact remains that the weather is talked about and thought about. Weather has been a fascination to the mind of man for untold ages. Despite modern science, we still cannot predict it. It is a source of awe and wonder, a source of amusement and a source of annoyance. People have used everything from the corns on their feet to the newest supercomputers to forecast weather, and both have equally about the same success rate. So the annoying truth remains that we still cannot second-guess Mother Nature.

Just what is it that causes weather patterns? Science would tell us that the atmosphere is a giant heat engine, albeit a very complex one, and that through the interactions of sunlight, atmospheric gases, land and sea masses, the complex system we call weather is formed. This is the view of mechanistic science. It is also one of the main reasons we fail so often to predict the weather, as we shall see. On the one hand, if we view the Earth as a living being, which it is, then a very different picture emerges. In this case, we see the atmosphere not simply as a giant engine, but also as a reflection of the mental body of our planetary Logos. Thus, weather patterns become reflections of thought processes on a planetary scale conditioned both by man and by planetary factors.

We can claim this through the Law of Correspondence. In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, we find the following statement: "...it will be apparent that the astral vehicles of the

different planetary Logos differ. This difference is necessarily dependent upon their cosmic astral life which directly affects the systemic astral, or the physical liquid sub-plane of the cosmic physical...each (differentiation of matter) is acted upon directly from the corresponding cosmic plane. The condition of the various physical planets will some day be found to be dependent upon this fact."<sup>1</sup>

The weather, as has been mentioned, is a complex interaction between these three states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas), but what we are concerning ourselves with most is the atmosphere, which is almost entirely gaseous. The solid and liquid portions of the earth play their part in the weather largely through the action of heat which causes the air to move through convection currents. We will see later that all three systems are interdependent and can profoundly affect each other, as is the case with man and his three vehicles, but the atmosphere is the major conditioning factor of the three. Earth's atmosphere plays several vital roles in the planetary life process. As we know, we need air to breathe. Though only comprising about 21% of air, oxygen is the most important gas. Not only does it give us life, but it is a direct reflection of prana and thus gives us the power to move forward or evolve through time. The earth is full of oxygen. For the most part, it is locked up in rocks and water. People little realize that oxygen, aside from being the biggest portion of water, is one of the most common constituents of minerals in the form of oxides or silicates. Our bodies are 60% oxygen by weight. Hence we can see why breathing practices would have such a profound effect upon us. Oxygen is present in the atmosphere directly as the

result of plant life. Without plants, we (and animals) could not eat, nor could we breathe. We find that plants have a profound role to play in the planetary life cycle. It is small wonder that the plant kingdom is the most highly developed along its line.

The atmosphere also has the function of filtering or modifying what comes through it. It protects us from debris falling on us from space. Bodies in space with no atmosphere bear testament to this fact as their surfaces are pock-marked with meteorite holes. Most meteors (thankfully) are burned up in the atmosphere before reaching ground. This is by action of heat first and then by chemically combining with atmospheric gases. These gases also filter out harmful portions of cosmic radiation, mostly from the sun. Again this is due largely to oxygen in the form of ozone - a gas we have heard much about lately. The sky is blue as a result of the sun's refraction through these gases, also suffusing our planet with that lovely second ray light. This is no coincidence. The Logos, or any other being, attracts those elements that resonate most to energy He expresses.

Through the action of wind, the atmosphere keeps the planet regulated in many ways such as temperature, moisture (through rainfall), and through purifying by removal of noxious agents and "stale air." It carries seeds from plants and birds, which also carry seeds, so we are insured of a consistent cover of verdure. It occasionally purges areas of the planetary surface through cataclysmic storms. The wind has always had a place in the mystical life of man, everything from the gentle, cooling breeze to the ominous "winds of change." Indeed, we can see that the atmosphere is the intermediary between the sun and earth and this regulates life on the surface of the planet.

With a little thought, we can easily see how these statements correspond to the mental body. It is the mind that gives us our life in a personality sense and regulates it. Mind is the reflection of spiritual will in the three worlds. The monad (oxygen) is equated with the breath

of life. There is a subtle correspondence between the Monad, prana and oxygen. The Monad gives the power to move forward in an evolutionary sense and is the reason for our existence. The mind modifies whatever it contacts. "The modifications of the mind are five-fold and are subject to pleasure or pain; are painful or not painful."<sup>2</sup> The mind enables us to avoid painful situations in our early development and to process or modify higher impressions at a later stage, suiting these impressions to our need.

The mind reflects (or should reflect) the ray of our soul. The causal body exists in mental matter. The mind is a great purging influence, bringing our astral bodies into rhythmic control by the application of fire (heat). It insures us of "verdure" or growth through service (plant kingdom) by conveying "seeds" or thought forms onto the astral plane where they are clothed in astral matter and work out through desire. This is white magic. By resonating to causal levels, it conveys to us the "winds of change" or the Plan so that we can adjust our lives accordingly. Man's conquest of the air was a great event because it signified the mass movement of humanity onto the mental plane, although there is still a strong astral component. Is there still a doubt in our minds as to the correspondence of mind and atmosphere or a gaseous substance?

The differing layers of the atmosphere are also suggestive. The densest layer of the atmosphere extends upward to a height of between 8 to 12 kilometers (km). This is called the troposphere (turning or changing sphere). This is the level of cloud formation. The next level extends from 12 km to approximately 55 km and is known as the stratosphere (upper sphere/sheet-like sphere). The layer from 55 km up to approximately 87 km is known as the mesosphere (middle sphere). Ionization of gas molecules occurs due to absorbed solar energy at this point. The layer above that is termed the thermosphere, or ionosphere, as the temperature rises sharply due to increased absorption of ultraviolet radiation. This is composed entirely of ionized atoms in the lower

layers and free electrons in the upper layers. This is the layer that reflects radio waves. The ionosphere extends upward to a height of approximately 300 km.

Individually considered, with the troposphere, we have the sphere of life on the earth. Here we can see the action of water, because clouds are simply condensed water droplets or ice crystals of a certain range of sizes. This would correspond to the level of kama-manas or the point at which astral matter begins to merge with mental matter somewhere in the range of akasha and the most concrete levels of mental matter. This is also where precipitation takes place, and this is most revealing from the standpoint of white magic because there is an analogy between the way terrestrial precipitation forms and the way the precipitation of thought proceeds.

Water vapor exists first as an invisible gas in the atmosphere. The astral body is invisible unless something acts on it. Water vapor is born upward into the atmosphere after evaporation by air currents or wind. It is this interaction that is at the root of most weather patterns. By analogy, the mind directs and moves astral substance (moisture) through the action of thought (wind or air currents). It is only by an act of fixation that water droplets form. These droplets do not form on their own, though, but must form around a nucleus called a condensation nucleus. These nuclei are formed primarily by the action of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and sea salt from sea water. Sometimes dust particles also form these nuclei. Here we can see a dualistic action. On the one hand can be seen the reflexive action of the mental plane to physical and astral stimulus. This would correspond to man's early development when the mental life is completely subjugated to the physical and astral life. These nuclei are formed as a result of combustion and decay processes at ground level in the case of the gases mentioned and the action of sea water on the astral level.

On the other hand, these particles cannot result except through the action of ultraviolet

light from the sun (Monad/soul) acting on the constituent parts - in short, it takes the action of heat to form these nuclei and, as we know, without the sun there is no heat. Here can be seen the dynamic interplay between the soul and its vehicles with mind as the intermediary and directing force. These condensation nuclei are conveyed on the winds (mind currents), held suspended in the air (mental matter), fixed by the action of light as heat (soul) and precipitated on the astral and physical levels in the form of rain or snow (desire to act). So it takes a seed thought or nucleus before astral matter can condense and create the needed form. This is basic occultism confirmed in physical matter. Further, without rain (or desire), there is no life as we know.

Clouds could form a study in themselves. There are ten basic types of clouds with many different subdivisions. At some point in our lives, we have all gazed into the clouds to see what shapes come to our imaginations. It may be of interest to note that there is a little known psychic art called sky scrying. The devas are the basis of all form and at certain times of the year, such as the equinoctial and solstice points, the air devas shape the clouds to reflect the world unconscious. Those with etheric vision are able to see molded sculptures, faces and scenes in the clouds, particularly at these times. These times are periods when the lunar and solar lights unite forming a screen to activate soul memory. In short, we can see the emotions of man reflected in the sky at the change of seasons. We read: "Men take for granted those sky sculptured forms as being coincidental shapes, or often think them to be chimeras of their own imagination. However, one still retaining something of the mystic in his nature knows these mirrored images to be a promise of his own expanded consciousness uniting him with the Mind and Will of God."<sup>3</sup> There is a direct correspondence between the level of the atmosphere in which clouds form and the level of akasha on the astral plane. Thus we can see a dim reflection of the akashic records and therefore a record of the emotional life of man

in the clouds.

As to some further musings on clouds, reference is often made to the "rain cloud of knowable things," the precipitation of knowledge, how things "cloud our vision," just to name a few. From the foregoing discussion of how precipitation forms, there is ready reference to the "raincloud of knowable things" and the precipitation of knowledge. As to things "clouding our vision," we know that form veils life and light, and that "storms of emotion" block the higher light from our physical plane expressions. The injunction is ever given to render the astral body as a clear ovoid, empty of all emotions save the highest so that the pure light of spirit can be reflected. Clouds block the sun from our sight. The aura of man is often seen as a cloudy mess rather than a radiant sphere, owing to his astral life. Again, we can see the beautiful reflection of occult truth in nature.

Moving on to the stratosphere, we find only two types of clouds that form in this area. These are known as nacreous (mother-of-pearl) and noctilucent (translucent and colored) clouds, both of which are very thin and wispy. The sun can be seen through them. They are not clouds that cause precipitation but could be looked on as the beginnings of thought forms. It would be of interest to see what sorts of images appear etherically in these clouds. They must be of a more refined quality than images seen in tropospheric clouds. Nacreous clouds are found in the middle stratosphere while noctilucent clouds are found in the upper level, almost in the mesosphere. The stratosphere and troposphere would seem to correspond with the concrete levels of the mental plane.

Above the stratosphere begins the mesosphere. This is the level at which the air becomes ionized due to solar radiation. The composition of atmospheric gases remains fairly constant from the troposphere through the mesosphere at a level just above the stratosphere. This is the protective layer of gas that shields us from most of the harmful solar radiation. By analogy, it may be that this

corresponds to the separation between concrete and formless levels of mental matter. This separation must be bridged if the disciple is to dwell in causal consciousness and is done so as the antahkarana is built. For the average man, this layer or separation acts as a shield protecting him from cosmic energies that would otherwise cause serious psychic disorder or dissolution.

This is mirrored in the world today with the depletion of the ozone layer. Man, through his lack of stewardship and overpowering desire for progress and comfort, is punching large holes in the ozone and permitting cosmic energies to impinge on him with great force. The most obvious result of this is the destruction of plant species and the explosion of skin cancer. The vehicles on the planet are simply not ready to handle this type of energy. But looking at the other side of the issue, there is today a tremendous stimulation going on within certain units of humanity. The door between causal and concrete levels has been opened somewhat for those ready to receive illumination. This increased ultraviolet light will also have a profound effect on ray seven Egos by rapidly enhancing the growth of etheric vision. But for the mass of humanity, the results of ozone depletion are quite destructive. We can only wonder if the Hierarchy has seized this opportunity to stimulate humanity. Man must recognize his mistake and rectify this situation somewhat, though, unless he wants widespread destruction on a planetary scale.

In the thermosphere, complete ionization of atoms takes place. This would be analogous to the formless or causal levels of mental matter. This is a region that is composed solely of electrons in the higher layers and this is due entirely to sunlight. There is nothing that would define a form here at all. But solar flares activate this region and give us the wondrous displays of aurora activity around the magnetic poles of the earth. Upon seeing on causal levels with the inner eye, people find the feature that stands out most prominently about it is that there are no features. What is seen are

waves of color, the colors changing in relation to the thought impinging on the matter. Ions themselves can be looked on as a sort of causal state in matter. There are any number of combinations into which these ions can enter. What results depends entirely upon what is contacted. Is it not much the same way in the minds of men? Energy is impersonal and goes where it is directed, either consciously or unconsciously.

We have examined the varying layers of the atmosphere to give some sense of continuity as to what really causes weather patterns. As stated before, the weather is almost entirely a phenomenon of the troposphere, but it is greatly affected by the levels above, as we would expect. Weather is directly a function of heat through the action of light or solar radiation. The mental plane is the plane of fire, as we know, and the atmosphere regulates the heat that reaches the surface of the Earth. The more light we receive, the warmer we are. The more soul light we receive, the more vital we are - to a point.

Weather is a combination of several factors: wind, temperature, precipitation and cloud cover. Upon examination of certain weather patterns, many things about the thought and emotional life of the Logos and humanity can be revealed. Weather patterns also conform to astrological factors, as readers of the Farmer's Almanac know. But we also know that astrological energies profoundly affect the thoughts and moods of humanity.

## **Rainfall**

There are several types of rainfall. These range from a gentle drizzle to a raging monsoon. For this consideration, we will examine normal rainfall. Next to sunlight, rain is the most important factor for the sustaining of life on land. After a rainfall, the air is clear, purified and things seem renewed. Some have equated rainfall with an excess of emotion, but this would seem to be a misnomer. Actually, with rain, we have an

analogy to the healthy enacting of mental impulse, the "grounding out" of thought forms. With the coming of rain, all of nature enters into renewed activity. Plants grow taller and greener, animal life can satisfy its thirst, and part of the crystallized crust is eroded, becoming fertilizer or food for higher life forms. The stage is set for a new cycle.

People generally have negative feelings about rain. This is due sometimes to an organic disturbance caused by the change in air pressure preceding rainfall. More often, though, it is simply viewed as an annoyance. The gray rain clouds are suggestive of fear or depression that must be swept away. Strange that when we were children, we used to like playing in the rain if our parents would let us. Even so, we like the way things feel after a rain. If we could take the child's view and learn to play in the rain again, we may be surprised at the cleansing and invigorating effect it would have on us. The ethers are purged by rain. The rainbow at the end of a rain shower represents the promise of new thoughts and renewed action in all departments of human endeavor, as all colors are shown in it.

## **Snow and Sleet**

Frozen precipitation is a result of a more crystallized state of thought. In cold weather, we stay inside more, our emotions are somewhat darker, life seems to close in on us. We feel unable to put our thoughts into action, or fail to do so, and the thought becomes crystallized and stagnant. Snow in meditations or dreams is a symbol of this. It represents our holding on to ideas or emotions too long. After a snow, nature is quiet. There is an eerie sort of stillness that settles onto the land. People feel this in their lower centers, often as a sense of longing or foreboding. Nothing seems to move; everything is stationary, locked in place. It is difficult for small animals, especially, after a snow because food is more difficult to find. The myriad snowflakes, of which no two are alike, testify to the manifold, unused thoughts of man. But snow also locks us in

place temporarily, giving us a space to think, and goading us into new lines of thought. Sleet is much like snow, though a more extreme case.

## **Thunderstorms**

Storms are an expression of unresolved or overheated astral force. Any storm is an effort by nature to purge the region it passes through of stagnated, unused emotional force. The astral plane has been called the great battleground, so one can see this relationship. Thunderstorms are particularly fierce and fearsome to the mind of man. The dark gray-black clouds seem to portend of impending doom or disaster and generate a state of fear or depression in us. There are elementals that appear only during the times of storms to work out this great purging force under the direction of the air devas. These can be terrifying entities to anyone with etheric vision. Torrential rains give testament to the release of pent-up thought being unleashed upon the land (physical plane).

The flash of lightning and the ensuing thunder clap can be terrifying, also, especially to children and animals. Lightning is very suggestive, though, as it hints of the symbolism of the intuition. Mechanically speaking, a bolt of lightning begins in the mid level of the clouds and descends as a leader, descending a short distance, stopping, going further, stopping until finally reaching a point some 50 meters above ground. This yields the characteristic lightning bolt pattern and is called a "stepped leader." At that point, there is another leader that rises from the ground to meet the one from the clouds, forming a short circuit. This causes the immediate discharge of a tremendous electrical current from the cloud to the ground. The entire cloud becomes involved as the totality of the charge is sent to the ground state in one instantaneous jolt.

The occult symbolism here is exquisite. As the soul seeks a response from its vehicles, it send out "feelers" or leaders. The cloud (soul through the astral body) traverses over land

(personality) seeking out areas of high charge density (avenues of expression). When a response from the personality is evoked (or the personality invokes soul light), then the force is released with a brilliant intensity that all can see. This is the flash of the intuitive insight, with the report of thunder signaling the magical use of sound to work out the insight. A storm can be a great creative event as anyone who has gone through a personal "storm" can attest.

## **Hail**

Hail is simply a worst case scenario of snow or sleet. It can range in size from the diameter of a pea to almost 5". Hail, however, always occurs with thunderstorms. So there is a great crystallization of thought but also a tremendous effort to effect its release. These storms are often very destructive and can wipe out entire localities in one swoop. This bears witness to the often monumental resistance to change by man. No one is left unscathed after a severe hailstorm. Property, life and limb can be, and often are, lost as a result. How often has the stubborn resistance to change ruined the lives of people then again, how often has cathartic or violent release changed lives for the better?

## **Tornadoes**

Tornadoes always occur coincident with hail-forming thunderstorms. This is one of the most fearsome storms known and has tremendous power, even if only for a short time. The vortex is a common occurrence in nature, but there is no better illustration of the power of the vortex both as a symbol or as a medium than tornadoes or hurricanes. This is the soul through the agent of mind sweeping away any and all obstacles to progress. The land (personality) is stripped of all impediment. All crystallized patterns (structure or thought forms) are removed. All debris is removed by the high winds (mental currents). The fact that life may be lost is not a

consideration because situations have reached such a state that no other means will do. The only choices are to move (comply) or die. Interestingly, 70% of all tornadoes occur in the United States. Can we draw any conclusions about the ray six personality of that country and how there may be some over-crystallized astral and mental matters there? Is this not also a measure of the tenacity with which the American people hold onto ideals and thought patterns? Most tornadoes occur in the midwest, one of the most conservative areas of that country.

## Hurricanes and Cyclones

These are simply magnified "ocean tornadoes" and the effect is essentially the same, though the force is tremendously increased. This is the atmosphere in its most cataclysmic aspect. These storms are spawned in equatorial regions with warm water. There is frequently associated a high astral content with the equatorial or tropical regions of the planet. Some of the most densely populated areas of the world are in these regions, also, so it is small wonder that these storms are generated and wreak havoc in these areas. Occasionally they will veer off and strike more temperate regions. This may be the working out of astral karma between the two areas involved, but, again, the U.S. also receives its share of hurricanes.

## Drought

Up until now, we have been considering precipitation, so we must also consider the opposite case - lack of moisture. As it is with people, so the land must go through periods of aridness. Drought can be compared to a lack of vibrancy or buoyancy in the emotions. The light of day continually beats down on the land, drying up and driving away the moisture. The experience of the mental plane can be a sobering experience to someone trying to subdue and use the astral body. In people, this corresponds to times when the Vision is seen

clearly but the personality balks at moving forward either through fear or a feeling of inadequacy. So it is with populations. The emotional life feels shut down, life loses its zest and drive and takes on a quality of inertia that is difficult to break out of. There are no new impulses to work, no great inspirations to spur the person forward. All the person can do is to work through the situation mentally the best he/she can and wait for fresh impulse.

Droughts occur in areas where rising air usually prevails but is prevented from doing so because of sinking air that inhibits cloud and precipitation formation. The symbolism holds true again. In the "drought stricken" individual, there is usually a prevailing inversion or imposition of thought that prevents adequate flow of force between physical and mental levels which causes a "locking" effect on the emotions. It is usually temporary and happens often in the lives of those on the Path, especially in the earlier phases, but if persisted in will cause a loss of life or the experience of the "desert." Deserts are areas where drought conditions are the norm rather than the exception. Viewing the underlying thought currents of populations in drought-stricken areas would prove most revealing.

Summarizing weather patterns somewhat, we can draw the following conclusions:

- \*\* the type of weather pattern reflects the mental nature of the affected population. The wind reflects mental force or currents.
- \*\* the type of precipitation reflects prevailing astral patterns, and also the thought behind. This is also true of air currents and temperature.
- \*\* clouds reflect the moods of men and show somewhat of his dream or wish nature.
- \*\* storms are great purging influences, the type of storm reflecting the type of blocked astral or mental matter.
- \*\* the atmosphere is a great reflective sphere, reflecting both man and Logos and being equally as complex.
- \*\* man can see somewhat the mental state of the Logos reflected in atmospheric conditions.

With these points in mind, we have observed that weather patterns in general have been unusual in recent years. Storms have been on the increase, temperatures have gone to extremes when they should be moderate and droughts have been more pronounced. Although meteorologists claim this happens periodically, we cannot help but feel a profound difference in the thought and astral currents of humanity. We are told that our Logos is undergoing an initiation with all its attendant trials, so these changing patterns are reflected in his vehicles.<sup>8</sup> Even with that, we are told to expect even more violent upheavals in the years to come. The prophecies suggest that volcanic activities will increase and weather patterns will become more severe. Volcanoes produce nitrogen and nitrogen dioxide that forms condensation nuclei. We can look for rainfall to increase in the years to come.

Mankind is in the period of the fifth root race at this time with its intended development of mental faculties. Therefore, atmospheric conditions reflect these developments. The explosive growth of technology and industry has taken its toll on the atmosphere and consequently our health as well. The act of working to curb the tide of air pollution also denotes man's own concern with his mental state. The media gives us daily evidence of this with reports of moral developments, changing attitudes, environmental concerns, and the whole host of man's mentations. In fact, modern media is borne through the air, which also marks it as a mental development. We are in the "information age" with its increasing synthesis of thought and the promise of future

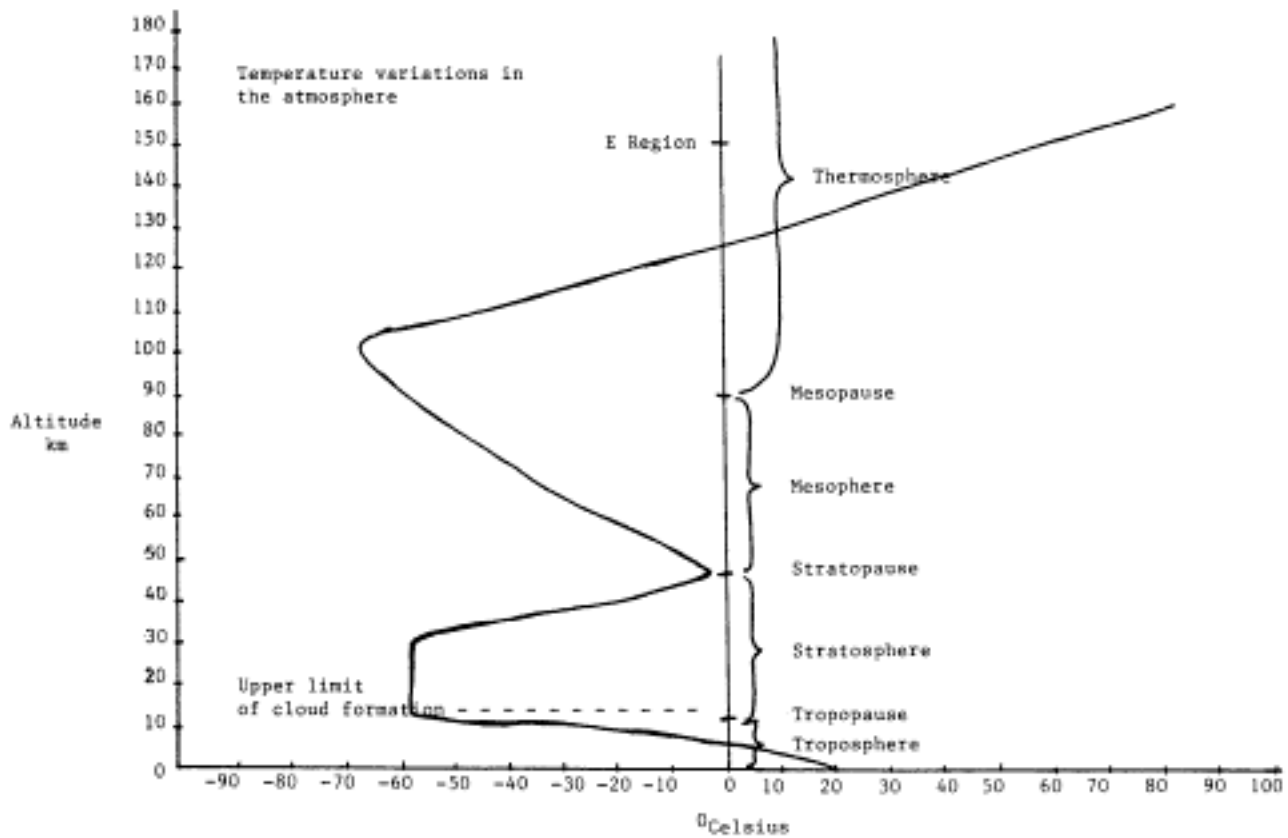
telepathic interplay among people.

We have even been seeking ways of controlling weather. We "seed" clouds to produce rain, we introduce plant life into water and onto land to stem evaporation and erosion and we even introduce artificial weather with snow machines on ski slopes and the like. This is reflective of man's endeavor to control his individual and collective astral body. The astral body is the chief arena of work for the mass of psychologists of this time. If this is done successfully, it will usher in the growth of the higher psychism, first in small and then ever-larger groups. It is said that when the bulk of humanity unfolds this higher psychism, that all sorts of interesting atmospheric electrical phenomena will develop.<sup>9</sup> There is already increasing electricity in the air. Thunderstorms are growing slowly in frequency and force. We can only guess at what these "interesting phenomena" will be.

In closing, we can see somewhat why we have not been able to second-guess Mother Nature when it comes to weather. If we fail to understand our own selves, how can we ever hope to understand the changes in nature around us?

So the next time the weather man gives a forecast that turns out to be wrong, reflect on the astral and mental states of man and see how they compare to prevailing weather. You may be surprised. Nature can be looked on as a succession of symbols reflecting the countless lives behind phenomena. In the future, if you feel "under the weather," or you see a storm or a rainbow, look into the heavens and try to find your inner life reflected there





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