

STORY OF A FRUSTRATED RAINDROP

Ronald was a raindrop. He had a very easy life just drifting around in a cloud, but he was not satisfied. Ronald was neurotic, and demanded a purpose in life. He wanted to do things. One day Ronald said to his mother, "Isn't there anything useful for a raindrop to do? I'm tired of drifting around in this cloud."

"You should complain--your father spend his whole life in a fog," the mother retorted.

But, this did not console Ronald. He griped so much about the futility of his life in a cloud that the other raindrops got tired of hearing it. However, Ronald was very persistent, and made many inspiring speeches to other young raindrops. Ronald organized the United Rainmakers' Local No. 1. One day he said to his followers, "Let's make like rain."

So all the little raindrops in United Rainmakers' Local No. 1 departed from the cloud and went hurtling down to earth. Ronald was thrilled. As he dropped toward the earth, he thought how fine it would be to fall upon the sure ground and make the plants grow. Splat! Ronald hit the ground. It was a steep slope and Ronald somersaulted right down to the bottom of it. Many other little raindrops tumbled down the hill to join him. They all collected in a little hollow.

Ronald lay there in the hollow for what seemed to him a very long time. He did not mind. Ronald was very complacent, thinking of all the good he would do. At last some green stuff began to grow in the hollow, but it was not grass. It was algae. Ronald only knew that he had made something grow, and then he was very complacent indeed. After a while a man came along and surveyed the hollow where Ronald was ensconced. Ronald waited eagerly to hear the man's grateful words.

"Damn' water always lays in that hole," the man said, and he did not sound grateful at all. He seemed very annoyed.

Ronald felt rather small. Hour after hour he kept feeling smaller and smaller, until--pouf!--he evaporated. This was not the end of Ronald. After evaporating he was reincarnated into a raindrop again. In view of his past accomplishments, you might think that Ronald would have been satisfied to stay up in the cloud. But, Ronald was a very determined little do-gooder so he organized United Rainmakers' Local No. 2.

Once more the raindrops hurtled down to the earth. Ronald landed upon a slope and somer--but he never finished the somersault because he dropped over the edge of a little hole in the hill, and tumbled down into a cavity which was about an inch across and four inches deep. The soil inside the hole was loose and soft, and Ronald just relaxed and spread right out. A thirsty root espied him.

"Howdy, stranger. Mighty good to see you," the root greeted Ronald. The thirsty root sucked up to Ronald, and at last sucked him up completely. After a time a man approached, and Ronald heard him say, "That aerified turf sure does green up quickly after a shower."

"Curses!" Ronald muttered. "There he goes giving all the credit to the Aerifier."

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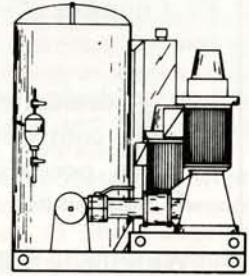
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