A ROUND JOURNEY FOR CHILDREN AND GROWN-UP FOLKS: BY JENNIE M. DAY

The Cloud cities in Cloudland were crowded one day with many Raindrop families. There were Mamma and Papa Raindrop and all the little Raindrops cuddled closely together, Uncle John Raindrop and his family, Jeremiah Raindrop and his maiden sister, and many others too numerous to mention. The air was filled with suppressed excitement. Those who looked below could see that the earth was dark. Once in a while a watchman appeared with his lantern and the light flashed out. As the moments flew by, the crowds increased and the Raindrops rolled and tumbled over each other in glee, making a great noise. A little girl on the earth ran frightened from the window, but her mother said: “It is only the raindrops having a holiday. By and by they will come to visit us.”

The Cloud cities became more and more crowded. The watchman with his lantern found it hard to get through the streets, but room was made for him and his light blazed out often. As soon as he passed, the Raindrops became very gay and noisy; they rolled and tumbled and laughed and the uproar was great.

Larger and larger grew the Cloud cities until it seemed that Cloudland could hold no more. Then the jolly Raindrops shouted with one voice:

“Come, let us visit the earth! Let us dance on the roofs of the houses and on the window-panes! Let us fall on the people and the trees and the flowers! Come!”

And down they went, one after the other, sometimes in groups, sometimes singly, pushing, splashing, laughing! It was a merry party.

The little girl clapped her hands and said: “What a fine drink my flowers are getting!”

The farmer leaped for joy as he thought of his fields, parched and dry.

Now it happened that Mr. and Mrs. Round Raindrop and all their children and grandchildren formed one joyous company and landed in the same spot. They sank into the ground and traveled along in the darkness for a short time. They then came bubbling out together and ran merrily down the hillside, singing as they went:

“Tumble out into the light,
   Darkness is behind;
Don’t we make a pretty sight
   As we turn and wind?”

Presently, they found themselves plunged into the midst of a great, noisy throng. The little Raindrops shook with fear, but
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Grandpa Raindrop smiled and said: "Listen." And they did listen, and what do you think they heard? A million voices joined in one melody, and before they knew it they were singing with the others. And these were the words they sang:

"Ha! ha! ha! ho! ho! ho!
This is fun indeed!
None but jolly raindrops know
How to make such speed!
Feet and legs and hands and arms
Molded in one ball!
Nothing breaks us, nothing harms,
Even when we fall!"

On and on and on, running, tumbling, plunging down grade, going more quietly on the level, never stopping for rest; always busy, happy and useful; this large part of the Raindrop family finally glided into a great body of water and found themselves surrounded by so many second and third and fourth and fifth and sixth and even seventh cousins, and so many degrees of aunts and uncles, that they were quite bewildered.

And then the song continued:

"First we made the dimpling brook,
Then the smiling creek;
Then the laughing river shook
Till his sides were weak.
Under bridges, over dams:
Oh, what a commotion!
Now the Raindrop family lands
In the arms of Ocean."

One day they were having a gay time playing with the wind when they looked up and saw the jolly face of the sun and heard him say:

"Little Raindrops, come home! I am lonely without you. See! I send you golden ladders on which to climb. Come!"

And there were the ladders sure enough!
As the Raindrops thought of their beautiful home in the blue sky, they cried:

"We are weary of wandering, dear sun. We will come!"

And then they began their merry march up the golden ladders, and the people on the earth looked and said:

"The sun is drawing water."

And soon the Cloud cities in Cloudland were again filled with the happy family of Raindrops.