The Goethe Wall Barometer

This historical meteorological instrument is named after the famous German poet and natural scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. After his death in 1832 a similar instrument was found in the study of his house in Weimar. Replicas of this functional wall ornament have been called Goethe Barometers ever since.

The original barometer belonging to Goethe can still be seen today in the National Goethe Museum in Weimar. The experienced artisans of the Lauscha Glass Factory have produced this replica using elaborate manual techniques. They use a special glass formula called “Forest Glass” that was already produced in the Thuringian Forest when Goethe was alive. Forest Glass has a slight green tinge and a fine texture. It was predominantly used for the production of scientific instruments.

Your new Goethe Wall Barometer was made by hand in the Lauscha Glass Factory. Colour variations, small bubbles, and streaks are characteristic features of hand blown glass.

Instructions for use:

The barometer is a sealed glass vessel with a long open spout and a glass ring on the top so it can be hung on the wall. On one hand it is a decorative wall ornament and on the other a functional scientific instrument that helps predict the weather of the next few days.
On a day with average air pressure, fill the barometer about halfway with boiled or distilled water. This helps to avoid limescale stains inside the glass. The water level inside the spout and the glass should be approximately the same. You can use the enclosed dye tablet to colour the water, which increases the visibility of the water level in the spout.
Make sure you don’t overfill the barometer to avoid water stains on your furniture or carpet when the air pressure drops very low.
To ensure accurate pressure readings, hang the barometer in a place with constant temperature (not over a radiator or in direct sunshine): temperature changes will change the volume of the enclosed air bubble, which will influence the water level in the spout as well.

A weather change is usually connected with a change in air pressure. This change in air pressure will be clearly indicated by your new Goethe Barometer.
The higher the air pressure rises, the lower the water level in the spout will be, as the water will be pushed back into the glass (against the pressure of the enclosed air bubble). Rising air pressure usually indicates the onset of fair weather.
A drop in air pressure is usually an indication of bad weather or a storm. In this case the water level in the spout will rise. The speed with which this happens is also valuable information: the faster the water level rises, the more violent the storm will be!

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