

Check the Weather Forecast

by Joan Black

So, Noah and his three sons, Ham, Shem and Japhet, worked 24/7 and Mama Noah kept them supplied with PBJ's and Kool-Aid so that they could complete the construction of the Ark before the deluge started. Noah was very proud of the fact that they brought it in under estimate and ahead of schedule – but now was the hard part. They had to find two of each of every kind of animal and persuade them to board the Ark. The boys managed to round up all these beasties, but the puzzle was, how to get them up the gangplank without stampeding. Noah said, "Line 'em up, two by two and when I yell 'FORWARD MARCH' y'all walk alongside the column and count cadence. "1 2 3 4, hurry before it starts to pour!" Just imagine, thousands of creatures forming a procession, marching together in orderly fashion.

What a magnificent sight that was, rows and rows, all in line, stepping out smartly while Mrs. Noah and the girls stood on the sidelines clapping and cheering.

Everything went smoothly until it was the turn of the Sloths and Snails, who slowed things down while there were still dozens of animals waiting in line and the ominous clouds gathered and the heavens opened up and the rains came down and all the animals were soaked and bedraggled and smelly. It just ruined everything!

And ever since that day, whenever a celebration is held to commemorate some big event, everyone gathers to offer up a heartfelt prayer: PLEASE DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE!