SPRING AWAKENINGS!

The signs of spring are beginning to show but, with spring, we also get showers. Do you know why "April showers bring May flowers?" The following story tells how Mother Nature wakes up the flowers, trees, bushes and lawns.

In the winter, trees, shrubs, grass and flowers hibernate; they're dormant. When spring arrives, the ground thaws, and the rain falls. Sometimes spring showers can be troublesome – like when they cause a baseball game to be called off or your clothes get soaked as you run in and out of houses – but spring showers are a wonderful thing because they help plants grow!

The mighty winds in the spring are Mother Nature's way of waking the plants up. The winds shake them, and the water soaks the ground, loosening soil and making it easier for roots and seeds to grow. Think of thunder as the fist of nature pounding the ground and saying, "Wake up!" to the buds.

Did you know that even lightning helps plants grow? A flash of lightning gives off enough electric energy and heat to make oxygen and nitrogen combine into nitrates that help plants grow. The nitrogen mixes with the rain to fertilize the plants. That's why gardens seem so refreshed and green right after thunderstorms.

So this year, embrace spring as a symbol of new beginnings and fresh starts. Cheer on the thunder, and pound your fist along with it as you shout, "Wake up!" Something to Think About

The four seasons are sometimes compared to the seasons of life. Spring is the beginning of new and wonderful things – a new baby, a wedding, a new job, etc. Think of the thunder as that "lightning bolt" that strikes when it's time to "come out of hibernation" and blossom!

Words of Wisdom

"Earth teach me to forget myself—*as melted snow forgets its life.*" "Earth teach me resignation—*as the leaves which die in the fall.*" "Earth teach me courage—*as the tree which stands all alone.*" "Earth teach me regeneration—*as the seed which rises in the spring.*"

- William Alexander

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He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him.

He is not an interruption of our work. He is the purpose of it.

He is not an outsider of our business. He is part of it.

We are not doing him a favour by serving him. He is doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to do so."



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