

To Flanders and Swann *The Hippopotamus*

(Chorus)

Cloud, cloud, glorious cloud
Even one droplet would make us so proud
Each raindrop's collision's
our ultimate mission
Avoid indecision -
Make rain, from a cloud!

It started with Vonnegut's laboratory tool
which made water freeze rap-id-ly.
First you refrigerate to make supercool
And then add sil-ver i-o-dide
Mix acetone burners, some aircraft and crew -
a mysterious med'cine create
A human creation
of precipitation
so ice cryst-ee-als nucleate

For clouds not so supercool the option is salt
as hy-gro-scop-ic nuc-le-i
The growth of a water drop
Is enabled to be
resistant evapor'tively
Release sodium chloride straight into the sky
In a bountiful act of largesse
Then humble drops tumble
and stumble and jumble;
Spec-tac-u-ar-ly co-a-lesce

So can mortals modify the weather above
and get Mother Nature to yield -
the secrets of cloudiness, and graupel and ice
their aqueous splendour revealed
Some questions are potent and unresolved yet
but it's not an impossible bet
Don't be a contrarian -
Become a pluvarian
Abandon yourself to the wet!