

Chapter 1

Prelude

The father put down the newspaper. It had been raining for the last two hours. The rain finally stopped, and the sky looked clear. After all this raining, the negative ions in the atmosphere would have increased, and the air would feel fresh. The father suggested the family of four should go for a stroll. There was a park just about fifteen minutes walk from their house.

The mother got their three-year-old son and five-year-old daughter dressed. They arrived at the park, and rambled along the path leading to the playground. Not exactly watching where she was going, the daughter stepped one foot into a puddle of water. Both her sock and the shoe got wet. She refused to walk any further. Even with some persuasion, she declined to walk. The father pondered what action should he be taking. Shall I carry her all the way back home? I may get a backache or a hernia. Maybe I shall run home and get the car. Or, maybe, I should force her to continue walking. Which path should I choose to solve this problem?

Take a minute to think what you would suggest. And before we find out how the father is going to cope with the situation, let's see what exactly the scientific method is all about.