

THE PASSAGE OF TIME

All islands of the Moonshaes use a standard calendar, known as the Calendar of Harptos. It is created by the wizard Harptos of Kaalinth, although most people associate the word "Harptos" with the calendar.

The calendar is split into twelve months, each lasting three tendays (or thirty days).

There are an additional five days that fell between months, bringing the total number of days in most years to 365.

Each year of 365 (24 hour) days is divided into 12 months of 30 days, and each month is split into 3 "tendays".

A tenday is also, though less commonly, called a ride, and consists of ten days.

- The days do not have names, but are instead referred to by number: first-day, second-day, and so on.
- If precision is required, the number of the day and the number of the tenday are used, as in, "the fourth day of the first tenday of Flamerule".
- Days of the month are typically written as the numerical date followed by the month name, for example, "15 Hammer" or "15th Hammer".
- Informally or poetically this could be spoken or written as "the 15th of Deepwinter".
- Five special days fall between the months, which serve as holidays to mark the passing of the seasons. (listed below)

A Moonshavian day is generally split up into 8, 3-hour segments of time:

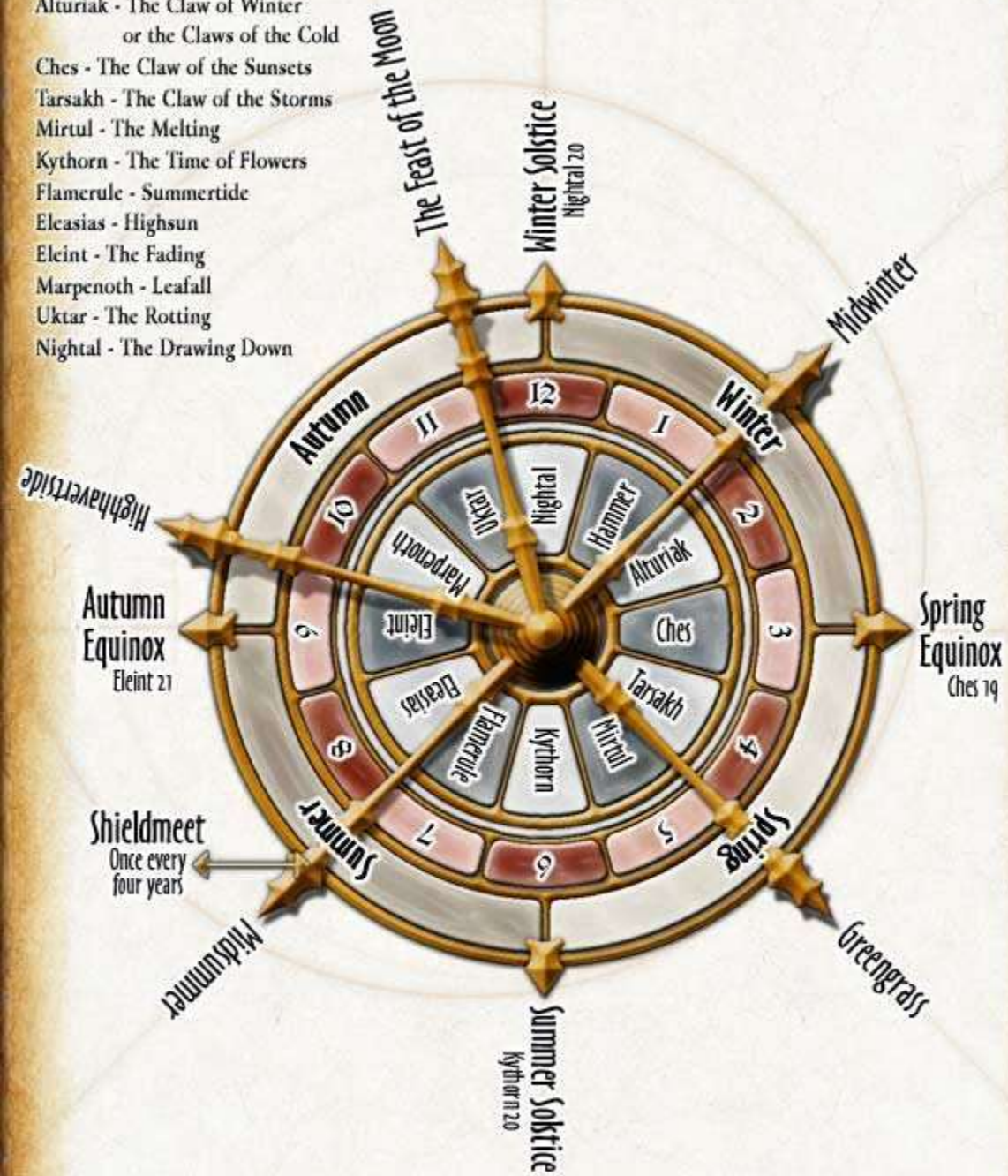
- First Sun (Dawn)
- Morning
- High Sun (Noon)
- Afternoon
- Sun's End (Dusk)
- Evening
- Midnight
- Night's End

The names of the months and festivals used in Faerūn are as follows:

Month	Common Name	Holiday	Sign
Hammer	("Deepwinter")		<i>Badger</i>
Midwinter			<i>Boar</i>
Alturiak	("The Claw of Winter")		<i>Spider</i>
Ches	("The Claw of Sunsets")	Spring Equinox (19 Ches)	<i>Serpent</i>
Tarsakh	("The Claw of Storms")		<i>Panther</i>
Greengrass			<i>Elk</i>
Mirtul	("The Melting")		<i>Fox</i>
Kythorn	("The Time of Flowers")	Summer Solstice (20 Kythorn)	<i>Moth</i>
Flamerule	("Summertide")		<i>Salamander</i>
Midsummer			<i>Albatross</i>
Shieldmeet			<i>Owl</i>
Eleasis	("Highsun")		
Eleint	("The Fading")	Autumn Equinox (21 Eleint)	<i>Eagle</i>
Highharvestide			<i>Raven</i>
Marpenoth	("Leafall")		<i>Praying Mantis</i>
Uktar	("The Rotting")		<i>Falcon</i>
Feast of the Moon			<i>Wolf</i>
Nightal	("The Drawing Down")	Winter Solstice (20 Nightal)	<i>Bear</i>

Calendar of Harptos

- Hammer - Deepwinter
- Alturiak - The Claw of Winter
or the Claws of the Cold
- Ches - The Claw of the Sunsets
- Tarsakh - The Claw of the Storms
- Mirtul - The Melting
- Kythorn - The Time of Flowers
- Flamerule - Summertide
- Eleasias - Highsun
- Elcint - The Fading
- Marpenoth - Leafall
- Uktar - The Rotting
- Nightal - The Drawing Down



THE CALENDAR OF HARPTOS

More information on the festivals used in Faerūn are as follows:

Midwinter

- Midwinter (also known as Deadwinter Day) is a festival to mark the midpoint of winter in the Calendar of Harptos. It occurs on a special day between Hammer 30 and Alturiak 1. Amongst nobles and monarchs, it is known as Midwinter and is traditionally used to make or renew alliances, although the common people called it Deadwinter Day, a reference to the cold and hard times that remained before the spring.
- On Midwinter Day the Red Fellowship of the Deity known as the Red Knight observes the Retreat. This solemn ceremony consists of an assembly wherein the clergy discuss the previous year's campaigns. Strategies are discussed, battles analyzed, and the accumulated lore integrated into the church's teachings.
- The holiest day of the year for the Church of Shevarash is Midwinter Night, during which the Dark Court Slaughter is remembered. Inductions into the ranks of the clergy occur at this time. Each new cleric screams vows of vengeance into the night air and swears neither to laugh nor smile until the Spider Queen and her followers are no more.

Greengrass

- Greengrass is a festival to welcome in the first day of spring in the Calendar of Harptos. It occurs annually on a special day between Tarsakh 30 and Mirtul 1. Traditionally, the wealthier people brought out flowers to give to the less wealthy, who either wore them or spread them on the ground to encourage the deities to usher in the summer.

Midsummer

- Midsummer is a festival that celebrates love and music through feast. It occurs between Flamerule 30 and Eleasis 1 on the Calendar of Harptos. It is a time when love advances, and it is said the deities themselves take a hand to ensure good weather. If bad weather is experienced on this night it is considered an extremely bad omen.

Shieldmeet

- Shieldmeet is the equivalent of a leap year day in the Calendar of Harptos, occurring once every three or four years (occurring only on years that end in 3, 6, or 9), adding a day after the festival of Midsummer and before Eleasis 1. Traditionally the day is used for fairs, bazaars, musical and theatrical performances, and tournaments of skill and magical ability. Nobles usually hold court to hear the petitions of their people and to make or renew trade pacts, alliances, and agreements.
- Shieldmeet is known as Cinnaelos'Cor (also seen as Cinnaeloscor), "the Day of Corellon's Peace" in elvish and marks the end of an aeloulaev and the beginning of a new one in the elven Arysalmalyn calendar.

Highharvestide

- Highharvestide is an annual festival in the Calendar of Harptos, taking place between 30 Eleint and 1 Marpenoth. It is traditionally a feast to celebrate the harvest and the abundance of food, but also the time when those wishing to travel left on their journeys before winter set in.
- Preparations for the feast start as early as a tenday before, while preparing, cooking, and preserving the harvest for the cold winter months. Tradition varies from community to community, but examples of festive activity include food-related contests; races and challenges of skill and strength; receiving homemade sweets from the local clergy; and priests blessing larders, wine cellars, grain bins, and food preserves.
- This day is often an important anniversary to various governments. Often, taxes and tithes came due, rulers hold "open courts" to hear the concerns of their citizens, oaths are publicly renewed, troops receive marching orders to new duty stations, and guilds meet to confer on prices and rate changes for goods and services.
- According to tradition, dwarves only drink water and elves drink only dew on this day.
- It is said that children born on this day are favored by Tymora to have lifelong good luck but be smitten with wanderlust. Another legend is that human females born on this day had control over their reproductive system (i.e., got pregnant only when they wanted to) by force of will alone, and that they could instantly sense when they had been poisoned, either by ingestion or being bitten by a venomous creature for example.

Feast of the Moon

- The Feast of the Moon, or Moonfest, is an annual festival in the Calendar of Harptos, occurring between the final night of Uktar and the first day of Nightal. It is the last great festival of the calendar year.
- The day traditionally marks the onset of winter. It is also a time to celebrate and honor the ancestors and the respected dead. On this day, folk bless their ancestors' graves and perform the Ritual of Remembrance. People also gather to tell stories of the deeds of their ancestors and of the gods until deep into the night. This is a time to hear of past heroes, great treasures, and lost cities.
- In Faerūn, battles are typically fought between harvest-time and the coming of winter. This means that most of the fighting usually occurs in the month of Uktar. The timing of the Feast of the Moon—after recently slain soldiers join the ranks of the dead—is thus practical, if sadly ironic.
- The Heralds of Faerūn have a number of special duties on the Feast of the Moon. Prime among these is to perform the Bloodsong ceremony, at which a Herald publicly recites the genealogies of each noble family in the area. In this way, the Heralds reaffirm a noble family's traditional authority and status, as well as the respect accorded to them.
- Priests of a number of deities of various pantheons hold rites, ceremonies, and festivals on the Feast of the Moon. Many, though not all, focus on remembering the dead in one way or another.