

Earth, Moon, and Sun:

A People's Lunisolar Calendar

For Mundane and Magical Purposes

Primary Units of Time

NIGHT\DAY

Nights or “moonights” are a period of time from one sunset to the next.

Honoring both the Sun and the Moon, we begin between sunset and nightfall because that is where and when first strand of moonlight appears.

It is natural for night to precede day, since dark comes before light.

Just as surely as 0 comes before 1, and the origin exists before for the beginning.

MOONTH

Begin the moonth at or near the appearance of the first moonlight, with the 1st night usually corresponding to the first possible sighting of moonlight.

Moonths are 29-30 night periods.

Count one month 29, then count the next month 30,
and continue alternating each moonth.

About every 33 years (32.69...) you will need to add an extra moonth of 30 nights.

And so on...

The average length of a moonth is 29.53059... moonights,
which is about 29 days 12 hours and 44 minutes.

Approximately 29.5 nights.

YEAR

Begin the annual count each year around the Northbound Equinox,
on the new moonlight nearest the Northbound Equinox.

Beginning on the Equinox provides more or less equal opportunity
for our global community to see the first moonlight.

Count this as the 1st moonth, then count moonths up to 12 or 13(0) each year.

1 solar year = 365.2422 days, 12 moonths = 354.3671 nights

This ~11 night difference is met by adding a 13 moonth about every ~3 years, etc.

Each year, the 12 or 13 moonths align distinctly among the seasons
and with respect to the 8 solar holydays: 2 solstices, 2 equinoxes, and 4 midseasons.

These peculiar alignments between Earth's seasons and the Moon's synodic cycles
repeat about every 18-19 (18.6) years, creating a greater rhythm across time.

GREAT MOONTH

Count each annual period in the great moonth, alternating between 18 and 19 year GMs.

Number and name each year in the great moonth,
based on the nature of these peculiar alignments.

The 1st year in this great month will be defined as the year when
the first moonlight occurs on or nearest the Northbound Equinox.

Acknowledgements

Lunisolar calendar traditions are ubiquitous throughout most world cultures, since the daily rotation of the heavens, solar seasons, and the Moon's phases are the 3 most evident cyclical phenomena in our Sky, and the most consistently evident (macroscopic) cycles on Earth.

More than anything, **this calendar represents a common culture of tracking time using the (Earth) Moon and Sun.**

That being said, the creation of this calendar has been informed by the author's digestion of multiple traditions, including Hawaii, Greek, and Hebrew moon calendar traditions, and using calculations and technology provided by western astro -logy and -nomy.

This calendar was dreamed of for many years and is now presented in this form by Kūlanānalu Sylvan Tarnas, who welcomes collaboration from the world's timekeepers.

Why a Lunisolar Calendar?

It is better to base time on something we all can see with our own eyes, rather than on something that we all accept blindly because have been told it is true.

While the subtle change of the Sun's latitude and ecliptic longitude each day is barely perceivable to the naked eye, the Moon very clearly changes shape and position each night.

People should be able to see the date in the heavens and natural world around them, not just via their computer screen or a calendar posted on their wall.

The night of the moonth should be visible in the sky to everyone.

By seeing the passage of nights, we ultimately encounter the passage of moonths. Each moonth becomes real, and it's relationship to the solar seasons a genuine consideration.

The very years themselves become familiar to the lifelong practitioner, since the annual pattern of synodic moon cycles repeats every great moonth (18-19 years).

Please ask yourself: Why do we use time?

My answer: To help us plan, organize, and navigate our lives.

So...who and what powers then organize, plan, and navigate our lives?

In this calendar, it is ourselves in relationship to the Earth, Moon, and Sun.

This calendar acknowledges not just quantities of time but also *qualities of time*. Temporal qualities are based on the effect(s) of the Sun, Moon, and Planets on the Earth.

We may endeavor to tell time, but it is really time that tells us.

We listen to our advantage, or we ignore it to our detriment.