

A Treatise
On
Shaniquáan
Chronology and
Meteorology



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By

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Premise by the author

My Esteemed reader,

As you may or may not know, the Evershroud Isles are indeed defined as much by their natural cycles as by the indomitable spirit of those who endure and thrive within them. To live here is to measure time not solely by celestial movements but by the ebb and flow of mists, the waxing of harvests, and the rhythm of the seasons. This treatise weaves a comprehensive understanding of the Berynian Calendar with a meticulous almanac of weather and climate, offering both practical guidance and an invitation to uncover the beauty and resilience that define life in the Isles.

The Berynian Calendar, a testament to the wisdom of its creators, harmonizes human endeavors with the forces of nature. It aligns our lives with the shifting tides of the land, providing a shared rhythm that governs planting, harvesting, and communal celebration. This document will explore its origins, structure, and impact on society, enriching the reader's grasp of its vital role.

The almanac that follows extends beyond mere meteorological phenomena to encompass Seasonal Events—the ways in which the Isles' inhabitants adapt to and celebrate the shifting phases of the year. By understanding the intricate dance of weather, agriculture, and culture, one gains not only practical foresight but a profound appreciation for the symbiotic relationship between the land and its people.

Through this work, I seek not only to educate but to inspire—a recognition of the unity that binds us to the land and each other. To comprehend the cycles of the Evershroud Isles is to understand ourselves, our place within the world, and the enduring legacy of those who came before.

With the utmost faith in your ability to comprehend and apply the knowledge I have herein written, and a tip of this old adventurer's hat,

Kindly,

J.M.G.

Part I: Shaniquaán Chronology

Origins of the Berynian Calendar

The precise origins of what is now called the **Berynian Calendar** are obscured by the mists of history. Its name, however, obviously refers to **Beryn**, the god of nature and tempest, whose cycles of planting, growth, and harvest resonate deeply with the people of the Evershroud Isles. The calendar's creation—or at least its widespread adoption—is attributed to the era of agricultural reform and standardization led by the **Scythés of Beryn**, a group of priests and druids devoted to the god's teachings.

This period of reform, believed to have culminated around **221 U.S.**, sought to align human activity with the rhythms of the natural world. By formalizing the reckoning of days, the Scythés ensured that planting, harvesting, and communal gatherings could occur at optimal times across the Isles. While some claim that earlier systems of timekeeping existed, the Berynian Calendar brought coherence and unity, becoming the cornerstone of daily life.

The decision to begin reckoning years from this era remains a subject of speculation among scholars. Some suggest it marks the founding of the first unified druidic circles of Beryn, while others believe it coincides with celestial phenomena interpreted as divine approval. Whatever its origins, the calendar endures as both a practical tool and a spiritual homage to the forces that sustain life in the Isles.

General Structure of the Year

The calendar year is comprised of **250 days**, divided into **ten months**, each lasting precisely **25 days**. Each month is further subdivided into **four weeks of seven days**, with an additional day concluding the month. This symmetry is practical, allowing for predictable cycles that govern both agricultural work and religious observances.

Every third year, an additional day—known as **The Nameless Day**—is added to account for the drift of celestial time. This day is not part of any month and does not belong to the formal structure of weeks. It is an anomaly, a necessary correction to our system but one that holds no deeper significance for most, save for those who treat it as an occasion for frivolity or license. But more on this later.

The Days of the Week

A week in the Evershroud Isles is comprised of seven days, each with a familiar rhythm that reflects the practicalities of life:

1. **Sunday** – A day of rest and reflection, often spent with family.
2. **Moonday** – A quiet day for planning and preparation, tied to introspection and foresight.
3. **Talsday** – A productive day focused on communal work and light labor.

4. **Midwæc** – The midpoint of the week, used for resetting priorities and making progress on ongoing tasks.
5. **Ralsday** – A structured day dedicated to trade, organization, and business dealings.
6. **Fælsday** – A hardy day for heavy labor and enduring challenges.
7. **Berynsday** – A celebration of nature and harvest, where many communities hold markets or feasts.

The Months of the Year

Each month within the calendar reflects the natural cycles of the Evershroud Isles, particularly the agricultural and seasonal realities that shape our lives. Though certain religious and regional influences have colored their interpretation, the months are universally tied to the turning of the seasons and the work required to sustain life on our mist-shrouded shores.

1. Frostmæc – The year begins with Frostmæc, a month marked by the harshest cold of the season. Livestock are brought into shelter, families huddle by the hearth, and life slows to a crawl. The granaries built during the bountiful harvests of Duskwæc and Alderen are relied upon heavily, and the ingenuity of Origen's followers is put to the test as tools and structures are maintained to endure the frost. Frostmæc is a time of survival, not celebration, and its stoic endurance is woven deeply into the cultural psyche of the Isles.

2. Fællwind – As the biting chill of Frostmæc begins to ebb, Fællwind sees the Isles enveloped in lingering mists. Farmers begin the slow process of readying their tools and fields, mending fences and preparing for the work ahead. While the land remains largely barren, the hope of spring stirs faintly. It is a month of preparation and quiet resolve, marking a transitional phase between the stillness of winter and the toil of spring.

3. Vingtide – With the thaw of the mists, Vingtide ushers in the planting season. Fields are tilled, seeds are sown, and the labor of renewal begins in earnest. This month is named for the budding grapevines that begin their slow climb, a harbinger of the fruits to come. It is a time of optimism and hard work, where the mists retreat to the coasts, and the people of the Isles embrace the promise of growth.

4. Verdant – Spring reaches its zenith in Verdant. The fields sprout with green, and the pastures grow lush. Shepherds tend their flocks, and farmers care for their crops with the knowledge that every day of growth brings them closer to sustenance. This month's name reflects the vitality of the land, a celebration of the life that flourishes in the wake

of the mists' retreat.

5. Hammerhearth – As the weather warms, Hammerhearth marks a month of industrious effort. Barns and granaries are repaired, tools are forged, and trade picks up as surplus goods flow to market. This month takes its name from the sound of hammers ringing out across the Isles, a testament to the creativity and resilience of its people. Communities thrive on cooperation, and the work of this month sets the stage for the busy season ahead.

6. Duskwang – Duskwang heralds the first fruits of the harvest. Grain is reaped, orchards are plucked, and the Isles are alive with activity. The long days are filled with work, but also with a sense of communal accomplishment. Festivals and feasts begin to appear, though they remain tempered by the knowledge that more labor lies ahead. Duskwang is a time of both reward and resolve.

7. Alderen – As summer fades, Alderen marks the first month of autumn. Stores are filled to bursting with the fruits of the harvest, and trade reaches its peak as markets bustle with activity. The focus shifts from individual toil to communal preparation, ensuring that villages and towns are ready for the long winter to come. Alderen's name evokes the strength of tradition and the bonds of community.

8. Ashveil – Ashveil is a month of cooling winds and falling leaves. The fields are cleared, the land is allowed to rest, and fires are lit in every hearth to ward off the growing chill. While the focus remains on preparation, there is an air of introspection to this month. It is a time to reflect on the year's labors and to plan for the challenges of winter. The name "Ashveil" speaks to the soft gray haze of smoke that drifts across the Isles, a quiet herald of the coming cold.

9. Stonerach – Winter begins in earnest with Stonerach. Families turn inward, focusing on preserving food, mending clothes, and fortifying their homes. It is a month of pragmatism and patience, where the lessons of the past year are put into practice. The name reflects the grounding strength of the land itself, a reminder that survival comes from working with the Isles' natural rhythms.

10. Starfall – The final month of the year is Starfall, a time of long nights and cold skies. The stars shine brightly in the clear winter air, and families gather by the fire to share stories and songs. It is a month of quiet connection, where the labors of the year give way to moments of peace. Starfall marks the end of one cycle and the anticipation of another, a fitting conclusion to the year.

The Nameless Day

Occurring once every three years, **The Nameless Day** is a well-understood yet peculiar

addition to the calendar. Falling after Starfall, this day is neither part of any month nor governed by the week. For most, it is a day of practical anarchy—a time when laws are set aside, debts are forgiven, and disputes are settled without the interference of formal governance. While it holds no grand mystery, it is treated with a degree of both caution and anticipation. Communities often organize public events, ensuring that the day's lawlessness does not spiral into chaos.

Seasonal Phases

The calendar divides the year into four natural phases, each tied to the rhythms of the land:

1. **Mist's Rise:** Frostmorn, Fellwind – A time of cold mists and preparation, where endurance is key.
2. **Sea's Clarity:** Vintide, Verdant – The mists retreat, bringing growth, planting, and trade.
3. **Clear Skies:** Hammerhearth, Duskwane – The brightest days of the year, focused on productivity and harvest.
4. **Mist's Fall:** Alderen, Ashveil, Stongrach, Starfall – The mists return, communities gather, and the year draws to a close.

The Bergnian Calendar is a reflection of the very nature of life in the Isles: pragmatic, resilient, and deeply connected to the land. By grounding its structure in the realities of the seasons and the labors of life, it provides a rhythm that sustains not only our work but also our traditions, our communities, and our hope for the future.

Part II: Almanac of Weather and Climate

Introduction

The Evershroud Isles are bound not only by their shores but by the rhythms of mist and storm that sculpt the daily lives of their inhabitants. The calendar's seasons, as they rise and fall with the mists, dictate not just the land's temperament but the habits and celebrations of those who call it home. This almanac deciphers these patterns with care, offering practical guidance for predicting and understanding the Isles' dynamic weather.

Seasonal Phases and Regional Impacts

1. Mist's Rise (Frostmørk, Føllwind)

A time of dense fogs and biting cold, Mist's Rise sees the Isles cloaked in frost and shadow. The land enters a state of stillness, broken only by the harsh winds sweeping inland. Snow drapes the central highlands, while storms roil along the coasts.

- **Conditions:**
 - Frost-laden fields and icy roads.
 - Heavy coastal squalls impede seafaring.
 - Snowfall blankets higher elevations, cutting off mountain passes.
- **Indicators:**
 - Frosted grass signals prolonged cold spells.
 - Inland migrations of seabirds foretell incoming storms.
- **Human Response (Seasonal Events):**
 - Communities light **Frost Fires**, massive bonfires intended to ward off the "spirits of stagnation" during the cold months.
 - **Household Reunions** mark this as a time of family gatherings, where traditional dishes are prepared, and tales of ancestors shared.
 - In Føllwind, **Fence Menders' Week** celebrates the quiet work of preparation, as farmers and laborers ready fields for spring.

2. Sea's Clarity (Vingtid, Verdant)

With the retreat of the mists, Sea's Clarity reveals a land in transition. The season is marked by moderate temperatures, steady rains, and fertile fields, making it a time of planting and hope.

- **Conditions:**
 - Mist rolls back to the coasts, exposing fertile valleys.

- Light rain nourishes crops; humidity rises.
- Early blooms appear in lower altitudes.
- **Indicators:**
 - Morning fog thinning into clear skies by midday.
 - Frogs' calls grow louder in wetlands, heralding spring rains.
- **Human Response (Seasonal Events):**
 - **Tiller's Feast:** A festival celebrating the first plowing of fields, featuring communal meals and offerings to Bergyn.
 - **Verdant Fairs** emerge in towns and villages, where seeds, tools, and livestock are traded.
 - Mariners host the **Return of the Tides**, where the season's first safe sea voyages are toasted with spiced cider.

3. Clear Skies (Hammerheart, Duskwand)

Clear Skies brings the brightest days of the year, where fields ripen, and the Isles buzz with productivity. This phase, dominated by harvests and trade, is both industrious and rewarding.

- **Conditions:**
 - Warm, dry weather ensures optimal growth.
 - Calm seas promote bustling maritime trade.
 - Thunderstorms occasionally break the monotony, marking midsummer.
- **Indicators:**
 - Glowing sunsets signal stable weather patterns.
 - Sudden stillness in the air often warns of an impending heatwave.
- **Human Response (Seasonal Events):**
 - **Harvest Vigils:** Night-long ceremonies are held to bless fields before the first scythes cut through crops.
 - **Trade Convoys** see merchant fleets braving the clear seas to deliver goods to Azurean and Siltan ports.
 - **Midsummer Revelries** include dances and firework displays, honoring both Origen and Talia.

4. Mist's Fall (Aldæren, Ashvæl, Stongræach, Starfall)

Mist's Fall signals the return of winter's grasp. Cooling temperatures and increasingly turbulent weather mark this season, as roads turn muddy, and communities brace for the year's end.

- **Conditions:**
 - Autumnal storms roll in from the seas, bringing torrential rains and gusty winds.
 - Mists creep inland, blurring horizons and making travel perilous.
 - Nights lengthen, while temperatures plunge rapidly.
- **Indicators:**
 - Coastal winds carrying the scent of brine often precede storms.
 - Inland bird migrations increase, signaling harsher weather ahead.
- **Human Response (Seasonal Events):**
 - **Ashvæl Warding:** Villages conduct smoke rituals using burning herbs to repel "wandering spirits" brought by the encroaching mist.
 - **Starfall Nights:** A serene tradition where families stargaze and exchange stories, marking the year's quiet conclusion.
 - **Road Closures:** The Rangers' Guild hosts public advisories and wayfaring assistance, ensuring travelers avoid dangerous paths.

Regional Weather Patterns

Northern Regions (Silt, Brine Alcazar):

- Harsh winters dominate, with unrelenting storms battering the coastline.
- Summers bring brief respites of calm seas, allowing trade to flourish.
- The **Ashen Sea's Winds** shape daily life, inspiring maritime folk tales.

Western Coast (Holgræn, Forbidden Cove):

- A temperate climate with steady rains.
- Frequent storms during Mist's Fall create treacherous waves along the rugged coast.

Central Highlands (Caldwell, Fagwood Glen):

- Pronounced seasonal shifts, with snowy winters and verdant springs.
- Summers remain mild, promoting pastoral livelihoods.

Southern Coast (Sylfæng, Hratvig):

- Mild year-round, with ideal growing conditions.
- Coastal breezes moderate temperatures even during heatwaves.

Eastern Isles (Freeport, Forgotten Wastes):

- Storm-prone and rugged, with arid patches in the Forgotten Wastes.
- Dust storms and cyclones often disrupt life, reinforcing the region's harsh reputation.

Notable Meteorological Phenomena

1. The Mists:

A defining feature of the Isles, mists influence visibility, travel, and trade. These shifting veils of moisture are not merely atmospheric but imbued with mystical properties, particularly during Mist's Rise and Fall.

2. Coastal Storms:

Spawned by the Ashen Sea and the Liminal Deep, these tempests bring both destruction and renewal, shaping the coastlines and the lives of those who dwell there.

3. Verdant Tides:

A rare and celebrated phenomenon during Vintide, where bioluminescent algae create glowing waves along the southern shores, believed to herald a bountiful harvest.

4. Storm Heralds:

Darkening horizons paired with shrieking seabirds are considered omens, prompting swift preparations for incoming tempests.

Conclusion

As I set down my quill, I find myself looking out at the mists that roll and whisper across the land, wondering how you'll take these words into your own life. The Evershroud Isles are not just a place to read about or map; they are a home, a challenge, and a constant reminder of what it means to endure and to hope.

This treatise began as an effort to understand the rhythms of our land—the way the frost settles, the rains fall, and the stars brighten even the darkest nights. Yet as I wrote, I realized this work is less about explaining the Isles and more about celebrating the way we live within them. It's about the farmers in Fellwind, patching fences with tired hands but steadfast hearts. It's about sailors watching for storm heralds on the horizon, and families sharing warmth during Starfall. It's about us.

Life here isn't easy. There's a reason every story of these Isles speaks of resilience. The mists take as much as they give, and the seasons demand more of us than many

places ever would. But in that struggle, there's something beautiful—something uniquely ours.

So, take these pages for what they are: not a lecture, not a masterpiece, but a shared understanding. Use them as a guide to prepare for the harsh winters, the planting seasons, the storms and the calm. Carry them as a reminder that wherever you stand in these Isles, from the frost-bitten highlands to the southern coasts, you are part of something much larger, much older, and much stronger than any one of us.

I hope these words find you well, and if they don't, I hope they help you find your way back to that place of hope and resolve. The Isles demand much, but they give us the tools to meet those demands if we only look—and sometimes, when we least expect it, they remind us of how to marvel.

Dedication

To Edna,

*who once taught me the language of sunlight
and the weight of silence.*

*Though the mists stole you from my path,
your name still lingers on the breeze.*