

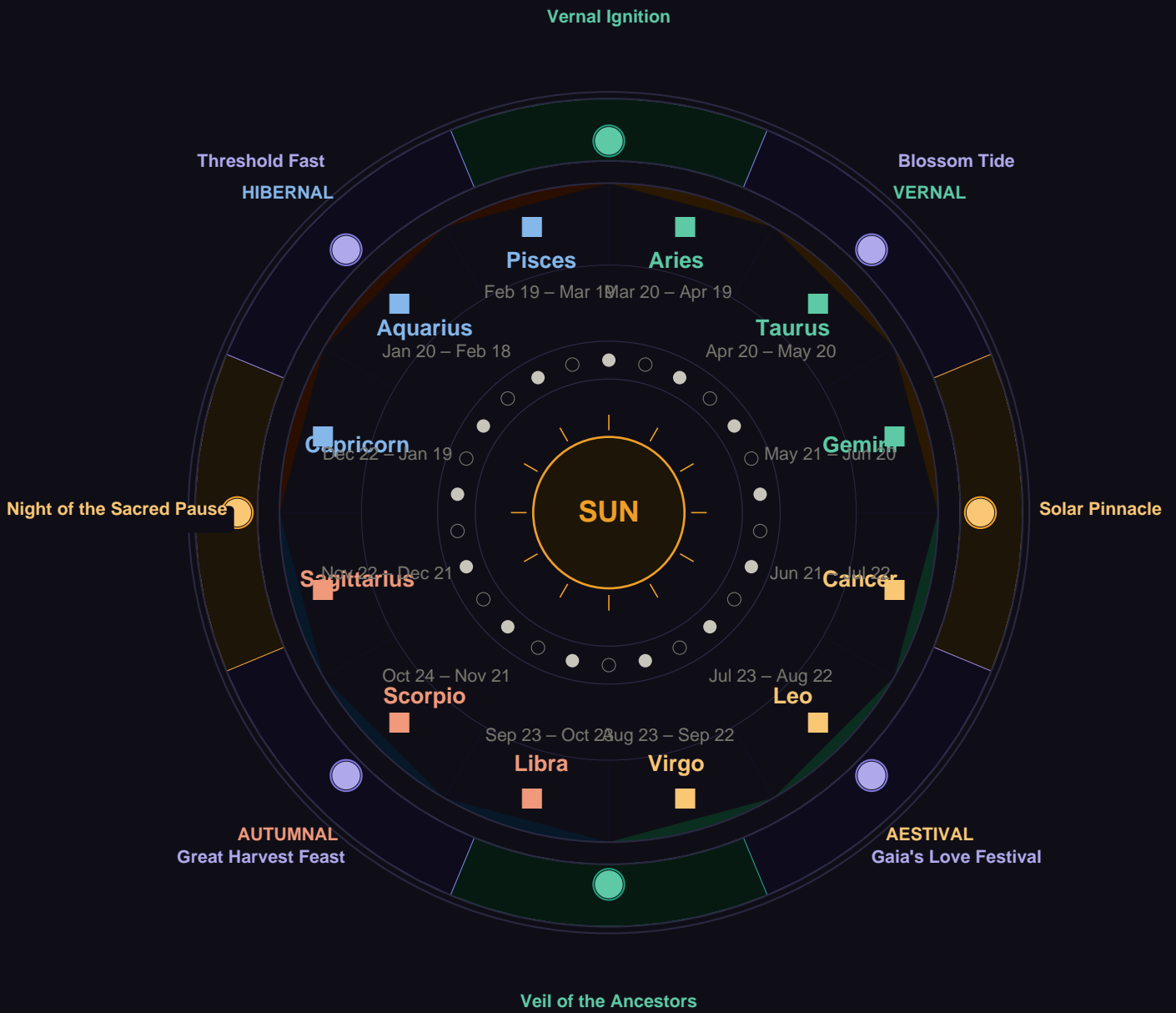


THE GOLDEN ROAD

Reference Guide

For the Earth, for our Hearts, for The One

The Wheel of the Year · Glossary of Terms



The Twelve Solara Months

Aries

Fire · Cardinal · Mars

Mar 20 – Apr 19

30 days

The year ignites. Aries opens on the Vernal Equinox — the Solara New Year. The cardinal fire of Aries drives pure initiative and new beginning. The Sacred Fire is lit, seeds are blessed, the Threshold Fast breaks, and the community erupts in communal celebration. Courage, boldness, and the will to begin are the medicines of this month.

Gemini

Air · Mutable · Mercury

May 21 – Jun 20

31 days

The air quickens with ideas and conversation. Gemini is the month of trade, travel, letters, and the meeting of minds. The mutable air of Gemini gathers the intelligence of spring and asks: what do we know, and what do we do with it? Community stories, debates, and the exchange of skills characterize this final spring month before the Summer Solstice threshold.

Leo

Fire · Fixed · Sun

Jul 23 – Aug 22

31 days

The Sun rules its own month. Leo is the height of midsummer — the fixed fire of Leo sustains the season's peak with creativity, pride, and the generous warmth of the heart. Community leaders are honored. Artists are celebrated. The Solar Crown Games and the Great Bonfire mark the community's collective vitality. Nothing held back; the fullness of life is met with the fullness of human joy.

Libra

Air · Cardinal · Venus

Sep 23 – Oct 23

31 days

The Autumnal Equinox opens Libra — day and night in perfect balance, and then the darkness grows. The cardinal air of Libra initiates autumn with questions of justice, covenant, and the weighing of what has been. Disputes are settled. Partnerships are forged. The Veil of the Ancestors ceremony marks the thinning of the boundary between the living and the dead.

Sagittarius

Fire · Mutable · Jupiter

Nov 22 – Dec 21

30 days

The arrow flies toward the solstice. The mutable fire of Sagittarius expands outward even as the days contract — philosophy, exploration, the longing for meaning. The Great Wanderers' Feast welcomes scholars and storytellers. The Night of Far Fires burns in defiance of the growing dark. The year's accumulated wisdom is spoken into the long nights before the solstice threshold.

Aquarius

Air · Fixed · Uranus / Saturn

Jan 20 – Feb 18

30 days

Light slowly returns and the community turns visionary. The fixed air of Aquarius holds the community's collective intelligence — innovation, brotherhood, the long view of those who plan for seven generations. Starwatchers map the heavens. The Day of the Commons gathers the whole community to plan the year ahead. The gathering light is met with communal imagination.

Taurus

Earth · Fixed · Venus

Apr 20 – May 20

31 days

The Earth deepens and sweetens. Taurus is the month of deliberate, patient growth — the fixed earth of Taurus ensuring that what was seeded in Aries takes root. Venus draws attention to beauty, pleasure, and sacred sensory experience. Crafts flourish. Gardens thicken. Nothing is rushed here; the body relearns the pleasure of slowness.

Cancer

Water · Cardinal · Moon

Jun 21 – Jul 22

32 days

The Summer Solstice opens Cancer — the longest day, the Sun at its absolute peak, and then the inward turn. Ruled by the Moon, the cardinal water of Cancer initiates the emotional depth of summer. Family, memory, home, and the tending of hearth come forward. The outer blaze of the solstice ceremony gives way to the intimacy of the inner fire.

Virgo

Earth · Mutable · Mercury

Aug 23 – Sep 22

31 days

Summer turns toward its own harvest. Virgo is the craftworker's month — the mutable earth of Virgo applies discernment to abundance: what has ripened, what has not, what must be tended and what released. Grain is harvested, stores assessed. The Day of Craft honors the skilled maker. The Harvest Vigil gives thanks. The Autumnal threshold approaches.

Scorpio

Water · Fixed · Pluto / Mars

Oct 24 – Nov 21

29 days

The veil thins further. The fixed water of Scorpio plunges into the underworld — transformation, mystery, and the shadow material that autumn's darkness reveals. This is the month of shadow work, the reckoning with endings, and the honoring of what must die for new life to become possible. The community turns inward with courage, not fear.

Capricorn

Earth · Cardinal · Saturn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

29 days

The Winter Solstice opens Capricorn — the longest night, the Sun at its nadir, and then the slow, steady return of light. The cardinal earth of Capricorn initiates winter with discipline, ambition, and the long endurance required to hold ground in darkness. The Night of the Sacred Pause — candlelit, intimate, solitary — is this month's great ceremony. Vows are renewed. Plans are laid.

Pisces

Water · Mutable · Neptune / Jupiter

Feb 19 – Mar 19

29 days

The year dissolves into itself. The mutable water of Pisces carries the dreams, grief, beauty, and accumulated mystery of the full solar cycle. The Threshold Fast begins. Reflection, forgiveness, and sacred dreaming characterize this final month. The Night of Dreamweavers honors the interior life. The Year's Ending Rite releases the old year. The Day Out of Time approaches.

The Eight Sacred Celebrations



Vernal Ignition

March 20 — Vernal Equinox & Solara New Year

Equinox

"The sacred year begins. Light conquers darkness."

The most festive and communal celebration of the Solara year. After 40 days of the Threshold Fast, the community erupts. The Sacred Fire is kindled at dawn by friction — one flame from which all community hearths are re-lit, symbolizing the shared origin of all life. Seeds blessed. Old patterns burned. Spoken intentions sealed. The new year erupts in procession, music, feast, and the communal joy of a fast broken and a year newly ignited.

SACRED PRACTICES

- Lighting of the Sacred Fire at dawn
- Seed blessing and planting intentions
- Release of the old year into the flame
- Communal feast and procession
- Breaking of the 40-day Threshold Fast



Blossom Tide

~May 5 — Spring-Summer Solar Cross Day

Solar Cross Day

"Honoring the waters of the Earth and the return of bloom."

The midpoint between the Vernal Ignition and the Summer Solstice. Communities gather at the nearest body of water — river, lake, spring, or sea — at dawn. Flower garlands are woven and cast as offerings onto the current. Water is blessed with song and used to anoint the face, hands, and heart. This is a tender, joyful day rooted in gratitude for the water that sustains all life and the miracle of a world that blooms again.

SACRED PRACTICES

- Dawn gathering at water
- Flower garland offerings to the river or lake
- Water blessing and communal anointing
- Flower crowns and earth adornment
- Gratitude sitting near water



Solar Pinnacle

June 21 — Summer Solstice

Solstice

"The Sun at its peak. Passion, fire, and radiant glory."

The pinnacle of the Solara year — the Sun at its absolute height, the days longest, and life at its most abundant. An all-night bonfire vigil burns from sunset to dawn: dancing, music, storytelling, and the full expression of human vitality under the midsummer sky. Sunflowers and herbs are cast into the Sacred Fire as prayers. At dawn, the gathered community faces east together in a collective solar salutation. To greet the solstice dawn is a blessing of vitality for the year ahead.

SACRED PRACTICES

- All-night bonfire vigil from sunset to dawn
- Fire and flower offerings to the Sun
- Collective solar salutation at dawn
- Midsummer feast and communal celebration
- Swimming, music, and full expression of joy



Gaia's Love Festival

~August 7 — Summer-Autumn Solar Cross Day

Solar Cross Day

"Honoring the Earth Mother. Devotion, love, and community."

At the midpoint between the Summer Solstice and the Autumnal Equinox, the Earth is heavy with fruit and the heat of summer softens into abundance. Communities gather to build earth altars — on bare soil, using stones, fruits, seeds, and flowers. Each person places something personal on the altar as an act of devotion. Devotional dancing circles the altar for hours — worship, not performance. Participants walk barefoot on bare earth in conscious communion with the body of the Earth Mother.

SACRED PRACTICES

- Building of earth altars on bare soil
- Devotional dancing and singing in worship
- Open expression of love and gratitude for community
- Barefoot earth walking in conscious awareness
- Personal offerings of devotion returned to the Earth

The Eight Sacred Celebrations — continued

EQ

Veil of the Ancestors

September 23 — Autumnal Equinox

Equinox

"The veil is thin. We honor those who came before."

At the Autumnal Equinox, day and night reach balance and then the darkness grows. This is Samhain — the Day of the Dead — in the Solara tradition. The ancestors draw close. Ancestor altars are built with photographs, objects, and foods of the dead. Participants dress in costume and sacred disguise to honor the dead and blur the boundary between the living and the unseen. Carved jack-o'-lanterns and lanterns guard the thresholds. A night vigil sits consciously with mortality, meeting death as the completion that gives life its meaning.

SACRED PRACTICES

- Ancestor altars with photographs and offerings
- Dressing in costume and sacred disguise
- Carved lanterns at thresholds for protection
- Night vigil and contemplation of mortality
- Spoken names of the dead by candlelight

XD

Great Harvest Feast

–November 7 — Autumn-Winter Solar Cross Day

Solar Cross Day

"Gratitude for abundance. Feasting before the long dark."

The midpoint between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice is the Great Harvest Feast — a gathering of family, friends, and community to give thanks for a bountiful year. The harvest is in, the stores are full, and before the darkness of winter descends, there is one great communal celebration of gratitude and abundance. No seat is left empty. A circle of spoken thanks precedes the meal. The day after, the community turns to practical winter preparation.

SACRED PRACTICES

- The great communal feast of the harvest
- Circle of spoken gratitude before eating
- Welcoming of strangers — no one eats alone
- Communal meal shared with all
- Winter preparation beginning the day after

SO

Night of the Sacred Pause

December 22 — Winter Solstice

Solstice

"Rest. Reflection. Embrace the dark. The Sun is reborn."

The most inward and sacred night of the Solara year. The Sun stands at its lowest point — the longest night — and the world pauses. This is not a festival of spectacle but of stillness. Close family and intimate friends gather by candlelight only — no electricity, no screens — and sit with the darkness: the darkness outside, and the inner darkness that winter invites us to explore. Dreams are honored. Silence is welcomed. The single candle flame in the dark window is a promise: the light will return. It always does.

SACRED PRACTICES

- Candlelit vigil — no electricity or screens
- Sitting consciously with inner and outer darkness
- Sacred rest and deep sleep honored
- Intimate gathering of close family and chosen family
- Journaling and inner reflection by candlelight

XD

Threshold Fast

–February 3 — Winter-Spring Solar Cross Day (begins 40 days before Vernal Ignition)

Solar Cross Day

"A 40-day inner reset. Body and mind purified for spring."

Beginning at the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox, the Threshold Fast is a 40-day collective practice of purification and inner reset. The community enters together and emerges together on the morning of the Vernal Ignition. For 40 days: no sweets, no spices, no psychoactive substances of any kind. One meal at noon, daily. The intention is not punishment but preparation — to arrive at the new solar year with a clear body, a quieted mind, and an open spirit ready to receive the fire.

SACRED PRACTICES

- One meal at noon daily for 40 days
- No sweets, spices, or psychoactive substances
- Daily journaling and inner inquiry
- Community accountability and mutual support
- Breaking the fast together at the Vernal Ignition

Key Terms of the Golden Road Lineage

Ceremony

Calendar

Role

Practice

Medicine

A

- **Aestival Quarter**
The summer quarter spanning Cancer, Leo, and Virgo (Jun 21–Sep 22). Color: gold.
- **Anno Solarae (AS)**
The epoch of the Solara Calendar — 'year of the Sun.' Year 1 AS begins March 20, 2026 CE.
- **Aquarius**
Month 11 (Jan 20–Feb 18). Aquarius. Hibernial quarter. Innovation, community, vision.
- **Aries**
Month 1 (Mar 20–Apr 19). Aries. Vernal quarter. The year begins with the Vernal Ignition on this month's first day.
- **Autumnal Equinox**
September 23. The Veil of the Ancestors ceremony. Beginning of the Autumnal Quarter and Libra.

B

- **Birthday Honoring**
Annual ceremony of witnessing an individual on their solar return. Community speaks; the individual reflects.
- **Blood Moon**
A total lunar eclipse — the moon appears red from refracted Earth light. The primary ancestral ceremony moment of the year.
- **Blossom Tide**
Spring-Summer solar cross day (~May 5). Gratitude for water and the return of flowers, held at a body of water at dawn.
- **Brotherhood**
The community of men who have passed through the Vision Quest. Holds council and transmits masculine wisdom.

C

- **Cancer**
Month 4 (Jun 21–Jul 22). Cancer. Aestival quarter. Opens on the Summer Solstice. Nurturing, memory, home.
- **Capricorn**
Month 10 (Dec 22–Jan 19). Capricorn. Hibernial quarter. Opens on the Winter Solstice. Discipline, ambition, endurance.
- **Council keeper**
Facilitator of a council circle. Holds the form and protocols without participating as a speaker.
- **Croning Ceremony**
Elder transition ceremony for women at menopause (ages 50–70). Passage into the age of wisdom, freedom, and personal power.
- **Curandero / Curandera**
A trained Amazonian or Andean healing practitioner authorized to work with ayahuasca or huachuma. Must be lineage-trained.

D

- **Day Out of Time**
March 19 — a liminal day belonging to no month, placed between Pisces and Aries. A sacred pause of inner preparation.
- **Death & Dying Ceremony**
Communal rite of passage for the passing of a community member. Includes vigil, Sacred Fire of passing, and communal grief.
- **Dieta**
Strict dietary and behavioral restrictions undertaken before or during Amazonian medicine work. Transmitted by the teacher.
- **Divine Partnership Ceremony**
Sacred union ceremony — a spiritual covenant between two souls, witnessed by community, governed by no state.

E

- **Elder**
A community member who has passed through the Saging or Croning ceremony. Wisdom-keeper, council guide, and story-transmitter.

Key Terms (continued)

F

- **Fire keeper**
The person who tends the Sacred Fire throughout a ceremony. Does not sleep or leave their post. One of the most sacred ceremonial roles.
- **First Blood Ceremony**
Coming-of-age ceremony for women at first menstruation. A women-only circle welcoming the young woman into womanhood.
- **Full Moon Ceremony**
Monthly ceremony at the peak of the lunar cycle. Sacred Fire, circle of illumination, and conscious release.

G

- **Gaia's Love Festival**
Summer-Autumn solar cross day (~Aug 7). Devotion to the Earth Mother — dancing, worship, communal love, barefoot earth-walking.
- **Gemini**
Month 3 (May 21–Jun 20). Gemini. Vernal quarter. Communication, curiosity, duality.
- **Gifting Ceremony**
Ceremony of full adult emergence at age 33 or later. Transition from personal development to full community contribution.
- **Great Harvest Feast**
Autumn-Winter solar cross day (~Nov 7). Communal feast of gratitude before the descent into winter.

H

- **Hanbleceyapi**
The Lakota Vision Quest — 'crying for a vision.' Four-day dry fast in a sacred prayer circle. Requires Lakota lineage authorization.
- **Hibernal Quarter**
The winter quarter spanning Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces (Dec 22–Mar 19). Color: blue.
- **Home Blessing Ceremony**
Ceremony for entering a new home — acknowledging what came before, clearing space, blessing the threshold, planting intentions.

I

- **Icaro**
Healing songs used by ayahuasca curanderos. The primary healing technology of ayahuasca ceremony — learned through apprenticeship.
- **Inipi**
The Lakota sweat lodge — 'to live again.' Purification through heated stones, steam, prayer, and song. Requires Lakota lineage authorization.

L

- **Leo**
Month 5 (Jul 23–Aug 22). Leo. Aestival quarter. Creativity, pride, leadership.
- **Libra**
Month 7 (Sep 23–Oct 23). Libra. Autumnal quarter. Opens on the Autumnal Equinox. Balance, justice, partnership.
- **Lineage**
A chain of transmission — the living relationship between teachers and students across generations.
- **Lunar cycle**
The ~29.5-day Moon cycle from new to full and back. Roughly 13 per solar year. Full and new moons each carry ceremony.
- **Lunar Eclipse Ceremony**
Ceremony during a blood moon. Ancestral shadow council, Sacred Fire of the ancestors, opening of sealed solar eclipse intentions.

M

- **Mesa**
The ceremonial altar of Andean curanderismo, used particularly in huachuma ceremony. Accumulated through the practitioner's lineage.

Key Terms (continued)

N

- **Name keeper**
Community member designated at a child's Naming Ceremony to hold and speak the child's sacred name at all major ceremonies.
- **New Moon Ceremony**
Monthly ceremony at the dark of the lunar cycle. Opens in near-darkness with inner inventory, intention seeding, and the Lighting of the New Flame.
- **Nganga**
A Bwiti-trained ceremonial expert from Central or West Africa. The proper facilitator for iboga and ibogaine ceremonies.
- **Night of the Sacred Pause**
The Winter Solstice ceremony (Dec 22). A candlelit vigil of stillness, inner darkness, and intimate gathering.

P

- **Pisces**
Month 12 (Feb 19–Mar 19). Pisces. Hibernial quarter. Dreams, dissolution, compassion. Final month before the Day Out of Time.
- **Planting & Harvest Ceremony**
Two ceremonies aligned with the growing season — seed blessing in Aries and harvest gratitude in Virgo.

R

- **Reconciliation Ceremony**
Sacred container held by a neutral elder for honest repair — or dignified ending — of fractured relationships or community ruptures.
- **Roadman**
The authorized ceremonial leader of the Native American Church's peyote ceremony. The only person with authority to facilitate a peyote ceremony.

S

- **Sacred Fire**
A fire lit with ceremonial intention and tended continuously throughout a ceremony. The primary tether to the spirit world in all ceremonies where it is present.
- **Sacred Severance**
Ceremony when a Divine Partnership dissolves — the energetic cord is physically cut, vows returned, both people released with dignity.
- **Saging Ceremony**
Elder transition ceremony for men around age 60. Passage from brotherhood into the role of elder, wisdom keeper, and guide to younger men.
- **Sagittarius**
Month 9 (Nov 22–Dec 21). Sagittarius. Autumnal quarter. Exploration, philosophy, freedom.
- **Scorpio**
Month 8 (Oct 24–Nov 21). Scorpio. Autumnal quarter. Transformation, depth, mysteries.
- **Solar cross day**
One of four midpoints between a solstice and equinox. The Blossom Tide, Gaia's Love Festival, Great Harvest Feast, and Threshold Fast.
- **Solar Eclipse Ceremony**
Ceremony during a solar eclipse. Totality itself is the ceremony — silence only. Includes pre-eclipse intention vigil; intentions sealed until the lunar eclipse.
- **Solar Pinnacle**
The Summer Solstice ceremony (Jun 21). All-night bonfire, feast, dancing, and a collective solar salutation at dawn.
- **Solara Calendar**
A solar year of 12 months aligned to the Sun's astronomical transit through the zodiac constellations. Begins on the Vernal Equinox. Epoch: Anno Solarae.
- **Spirit Walker Ceremony**
Coming-of-age ceremony for two spirit and genderqueer individuals at age 21. Full community ceremony of reverence, between-worlds vigil, and bestowal of spirit name.
- **Summer Solstice**
June 21. The Solar Pinnacle. The Sun at its peak. Beginning of Cancer.

Key Terms (continued)

T

- **Talking piece**
The sacred object held by the speaker in council. Only the person holding it may speak — the foundational council protocol.
- **Taurus**
Month 2 (Apr 20–May 20). Taurus. Vernal quarter. Patience, abundance, sensory pleasure.
- **Temazcal**
The Mesoamerican sweat lodge — used in Aztec, Maya, and other Central and South American traditions. Purification and rebirth through steam and prayer.
- **Threshold Fast**
40-day communal purification beginning at the Winter-Spring solar cross day (~Feb 3). No sweets, spices, or psychoactives; one meal at noon.
- **Turtle Island**
The indigenous name for the North American continent — used when referring to the peoples and ceremonies of the Plains nations.

V

- **Veil of the Ancestors**
The Autumnal Equinox ceremony (Sep 23). Samhain / Day of the Dead — honoring the ancestors when the veil is thinnest.
- **Vernal Equinox**
March 20. The beginning of the Solara year. The occasion of the Vernal Ignition ceremony.
- **Vernal Ignition**
The Vernal Equinox ceremony and Solara New Year (Mar 20). The most festive and communal celebration — Sacred Fire lit, seeds blessed, the fast broken.
- **Vernal Quarter**
The spring quarter spanning Aries, Taurus, and Gemini (Mar 20–Jun 20). Color: teal.
- **Virgo**
Month 6 (Aug 23–Sep 22). Virgo. Aestival quarter. Craft, discernment, service.
- **Vision Quest**
Four-day solo dry fast in nature. Coming-of-age ceremony for men (ages 15–17) and an ongoing deepening practice for adults. Sacred Fire tended throughout.

W

- **Wisdom keeper**
A person authorized within an indigenous or ceremonial lineage to transmit its teachings and facilitate its ceremonies. Cannot be self-appointed.
- **Wiwanyag Wachipi**
The Lakota Sun Dance — 'they dance gazing at the Sun.' Four-day dry fast with continuous daylight dancing around a sacred tree. Requires Plains nations authorization.