

# Suncrest — July: Aelthar, the Zenith Flame

Suncrest is the Hallowmere name for the month of July.

It is the seventh month of the year, when the sun reaches its greatest strength and the land stands beneath the full weight of summer. The days are long, the air is heavy, fields strain toward ripening, and shadows grow shorter beneath the high light.

Suncrest is associated with Aelthar, the Zenith Flame.

Aelthar is the deity of high sun, revealed truth, endurance, trial, clarity, and the fire that leaves nothing hidden. Where Aureth is honored with the dawn and the first brave rise of light, Aelthar belongs to the sun at its highest point. His flame does not gently awaken the world. It tests it.

In Hallowmere, Suncrest is often seen as a month of exposure. What was hidden in shadow may be forced into sight. Weaknesses in walls, crops, vows, bodies, and hearts may reveal themselves beneath the heat. Lies become harder to keep. Rot becomes harder to ignore. Even old wounds may ache more sharply beneath Aelthar's gaze.

Those who honor Aelthar during Suncrest often do so at midday, when the sun is highest. Some stand in silence beneath the open sky. Others burn written confessions, broken promises, or false records, believing the Zenith Flame carries away what cannot survive the truth. In certain regions, trials of honesty, endurance, or public judgment are held during this month, not as punishment alone, but as purification.

Suncrest is also a month of strength. Farmers labor through the heat. Travelers rise early and rest under shade. Watchmen keep their posts despite the glare. Sworn orders may use this month to test discipline, believing that anyone can make a vow in darkness, but only the worthy can carry it beneath full light.

Yet Aelthar's fire is not only harsh. It is clarifying. It burns away deception so that what remains may stand cleaner, stronger, and more certain. Those who endure Suncrest often emerge with fewer illusions, but greater understanding.

Suncrest reminds the people of Hallowmere that light is not always comfort. Sometimes it is judgment. Sometimes it is mercy. Sometimes it is the flame that reveals what must finally be faced.