

THE CALENDAR OF TOU

ERA NAMES AND MONTHS

The year in Tou is named after the currently reigning Emperor. Each Emperor or Empress gives his era of reign a kind of motto as a name. The current year at the time of the game is Tenkei 19 - Tenkei means "Heavenly Oracle".

The year is divided into 12 months, each month consists of 5 weeks of 6 days, i.e. 30 days. The year begins roughly with our January.

The names of the months are:

Month of love (Mutsuki) - because this is when the family comes together for the New Year

New life (Yayoi) - because everything starts to sprout

Flower month (Uzuki) in which the cherries and plums bloom

Clothing exchange month (Kisaragi) in which you change from winter to summer clothing

Rice planting month (Satsuki) - as the name suggests, the month for rice planting

Water month (Minazuki) in which the rice fields are under water and it rains a lot

Month of scholarship (Fumizuki) in which the monks retreat to the monasteries

Month without gods (Kamina) in which the gods meet for a festival in a heavenly spa and spirits and ancestors walk on earth. The families traditionally prepare a small welcome party for their ancestors

Leaf month (Hazuki) In which the leaves start to change color and the gods returning home are welcomed into the shrines

Long month (Nagatsuki), which sometimes has additional days. The harvest moon festival takes place at the beginning.

Frost month (Shimotsuki) is cold and unpleasant.

Month of hurrying priests (Shiwasu) in which the priests should prepare the New Year and everything should be finished up in order not to carry old debts and burdens into the next year.

We are in the Long Month at the time of the game.

THE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

The week in Tou has six days, each of which has special horoscopic significance as happy and unfortunate days for certain projects.

The days are:

Early Up (Sensho) - happiness in the morning but not in the afternoon. Good to start something new.

Encounter (Tomobiki) - Happiness all day except noon, a good day for making friends and doing things together. Bad day for funerals.

Late rising (Senbu) - unhappy until noon, happiness from the afternoon. Important things should be postponed to the afternoon

Day of Four (Butsumetsu) - misfortune all day long, illness and misfortune that starts on this day lasts especially long

Peace (Taian) - Happiness all day, best day for weddings and other important events

Red Day (Shakko) - misfortune all day except noon, especially people handling knives and other sharp things or fire should beware.

During the game the days are Taian / Peace, Shakku / Red, Sensho / Early, Tomobiki / Encounter
So Tenkei 19, long month, first day of peace, first red day, second early up, second day of encounter

FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The following festivals are held all over Tou. There are also celebrations for local shrine deities, anniversaries and special local harvest festivals.

New Year: At the New Year, the ghosts of the old year are driven out - priests and laity masked as demons are hunted symbolically, thrown with water, salt and beans or even shot at with arrows. For this, cleaning is done everywhere and old talismans are burned at the shrines.

Cherry and plum blossoms attract many admirers in spring and give occasion for celebrations.

Firefly festivals: are held in summer. Often associated with lantern festivals and fireworks.

Month without gods: the gods are bidden farewell as they come together for a festival in heaven this month. After that, the ancestors and ghosts walk on earth - families come together to commemorate them and to show them the way back to the afterlife with lights at the end of the month. At the beginning of the leaf month, the gods are welcomed again.

Knot Festival: A festival in honor of the weaver princess, in the middle of the leaf month. The best time to make connections.

Harvest moon festivals and viewing autumn leaves are held all trough autumn and herald winter.