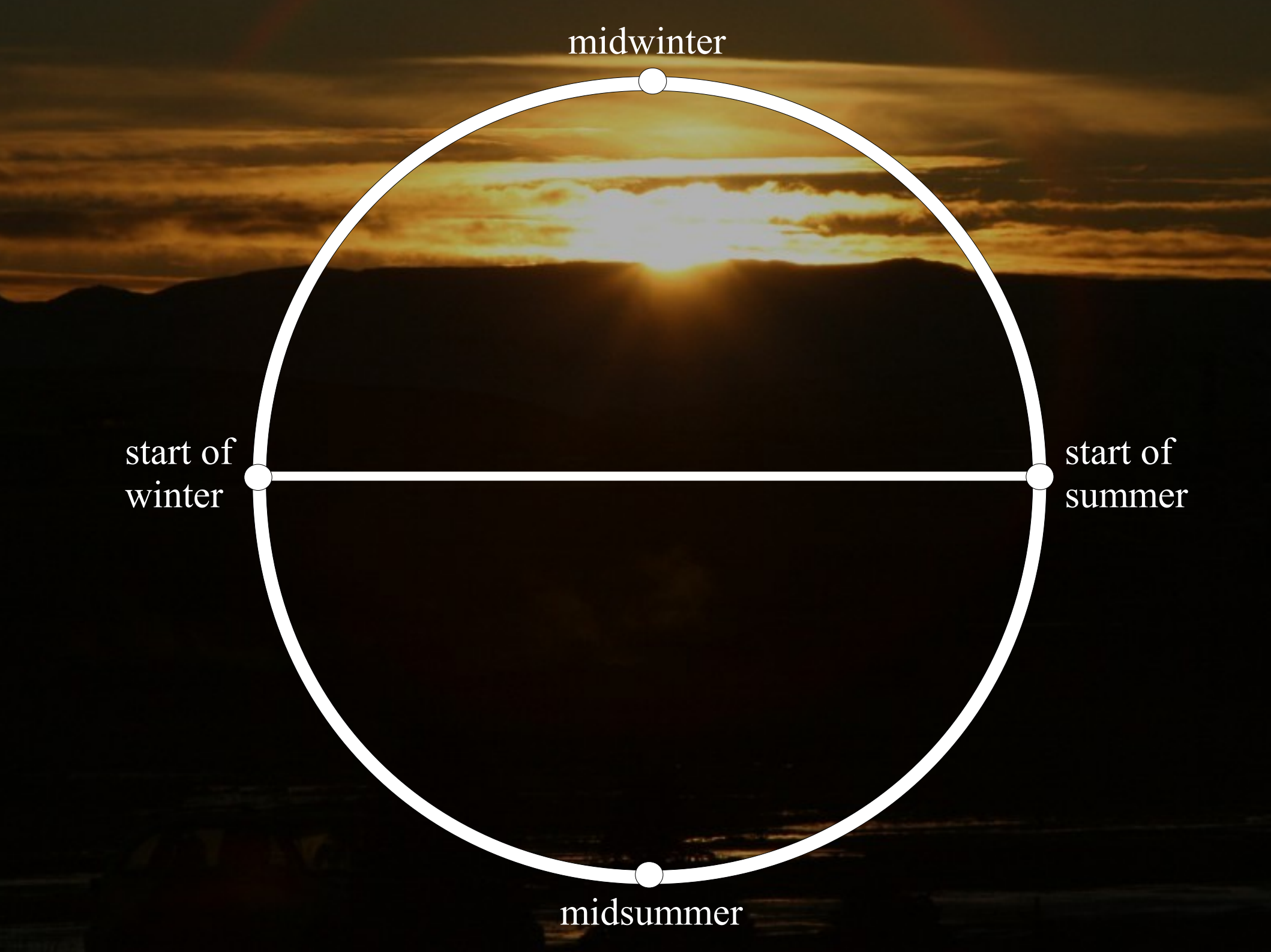




# **‘t Is the Season to be Scary**

**Seasonality of the Supernatural in the Sagas of Icelanders**

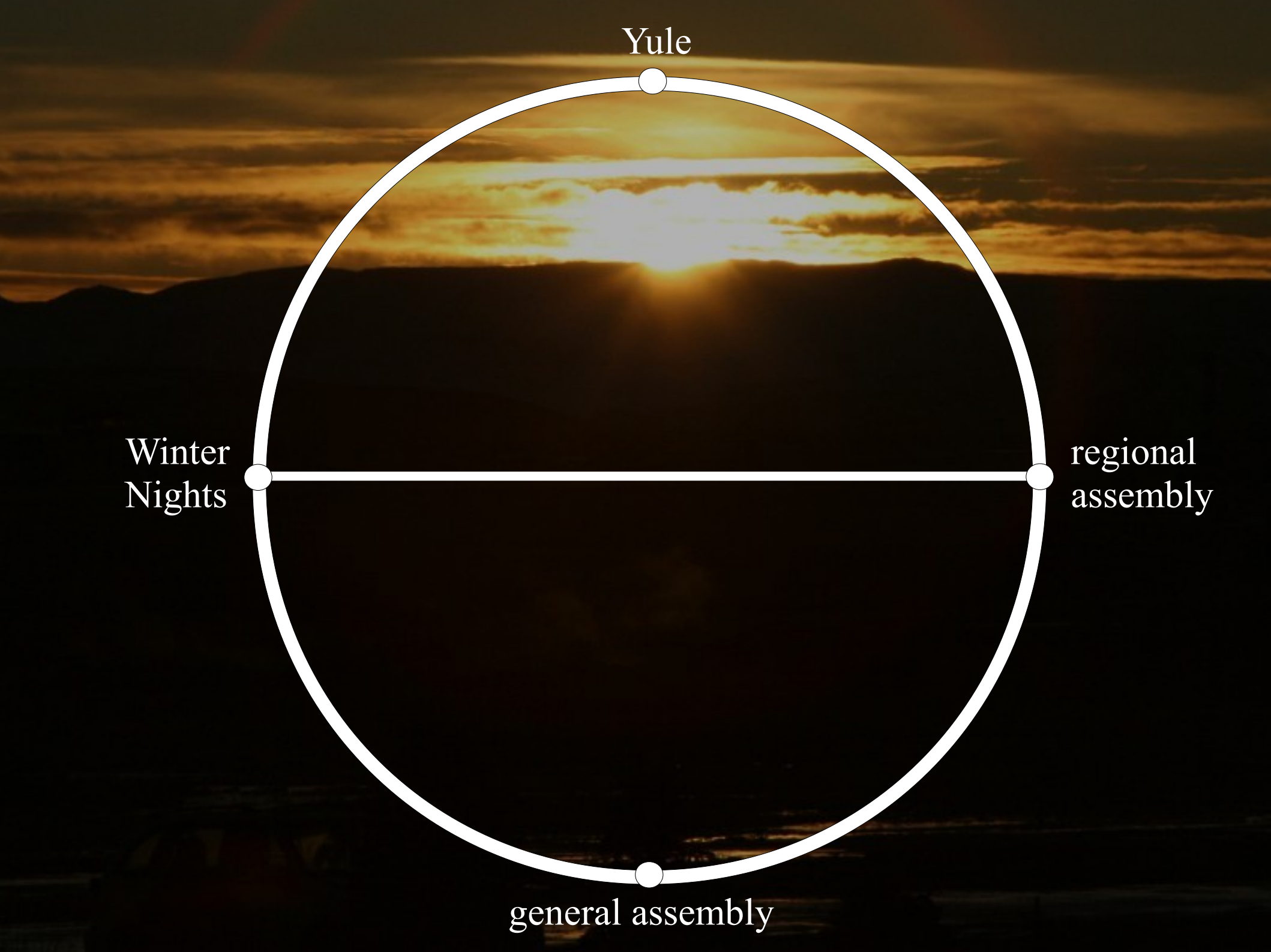


midwinter

start of  
winter

start of  
summer

midsummer

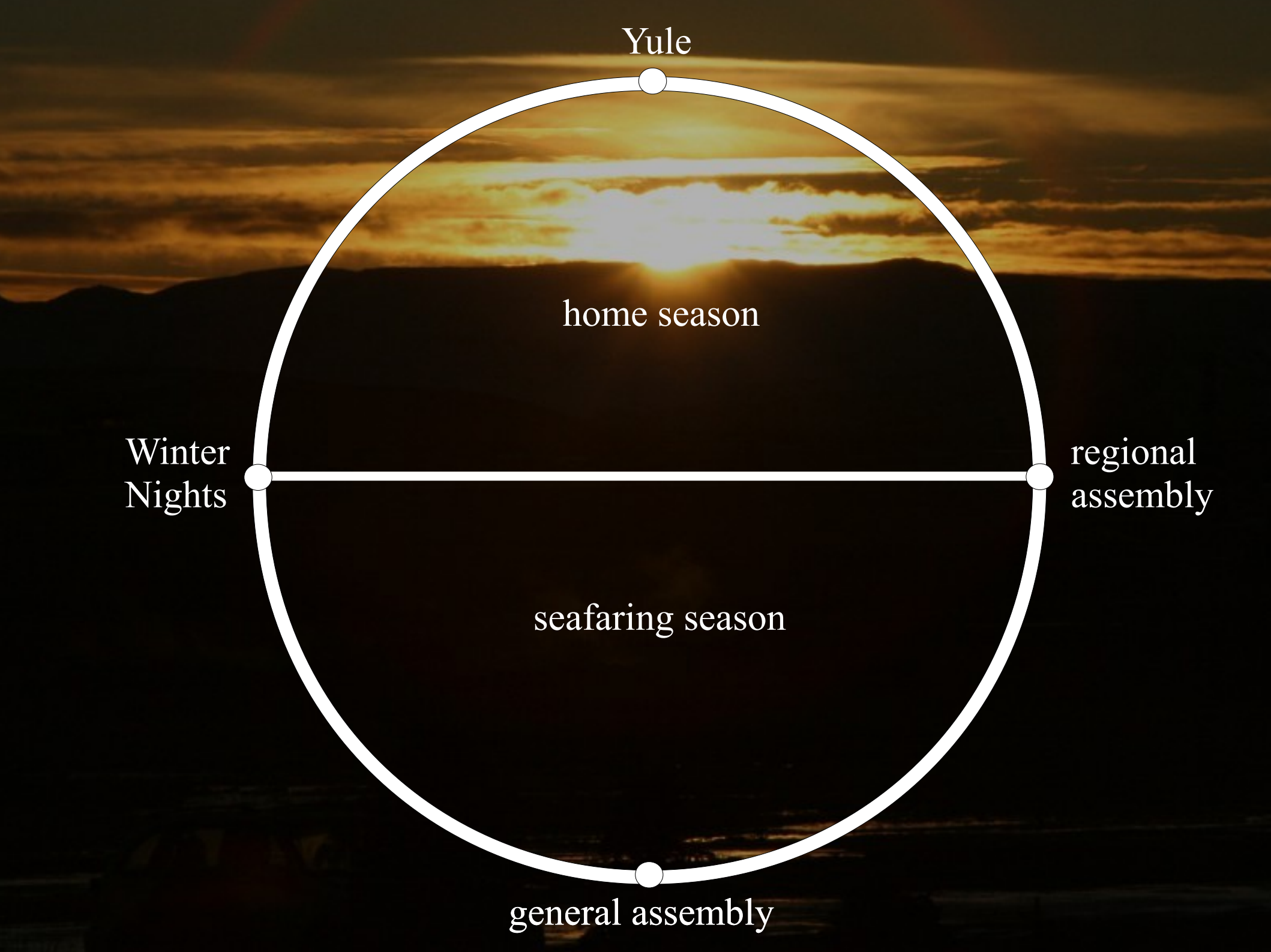


Yule

Winter  
Nights

regional  
assembly

general assembly



Yule

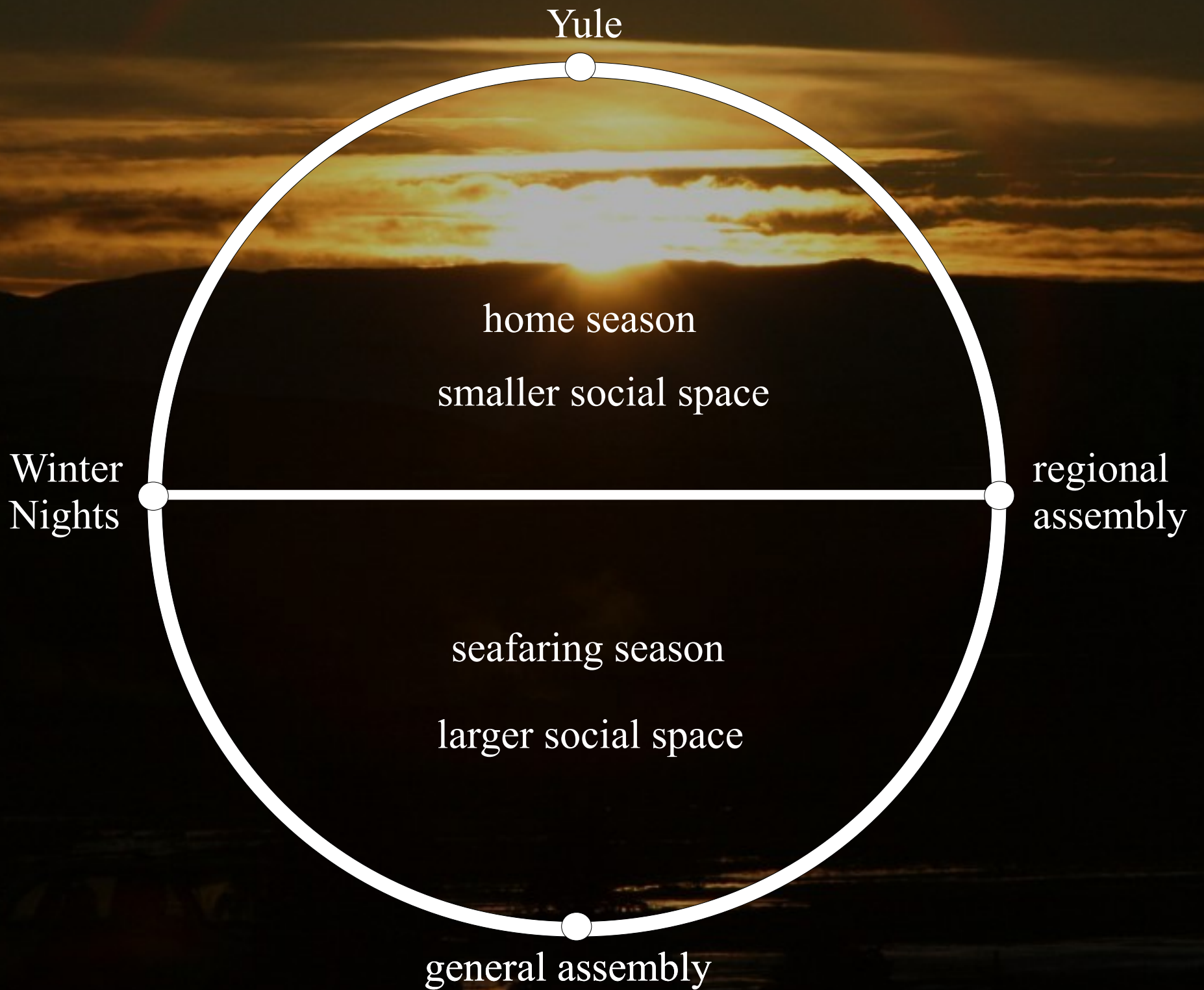
home season

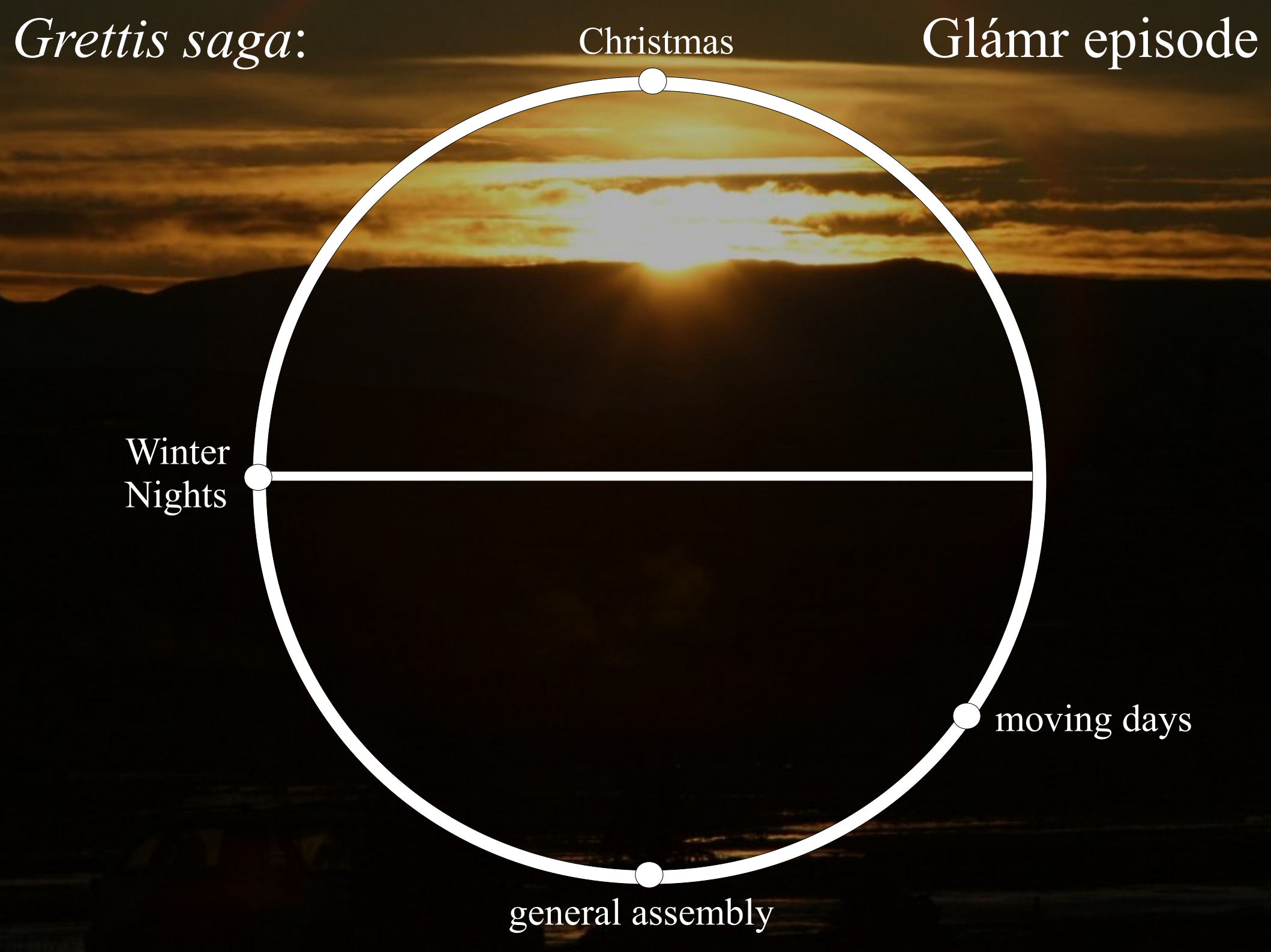
Winter  
Nights

regional  
assembly

seafaring season

general assembly





*Grettis saga:*

Christmas

Glámr episode

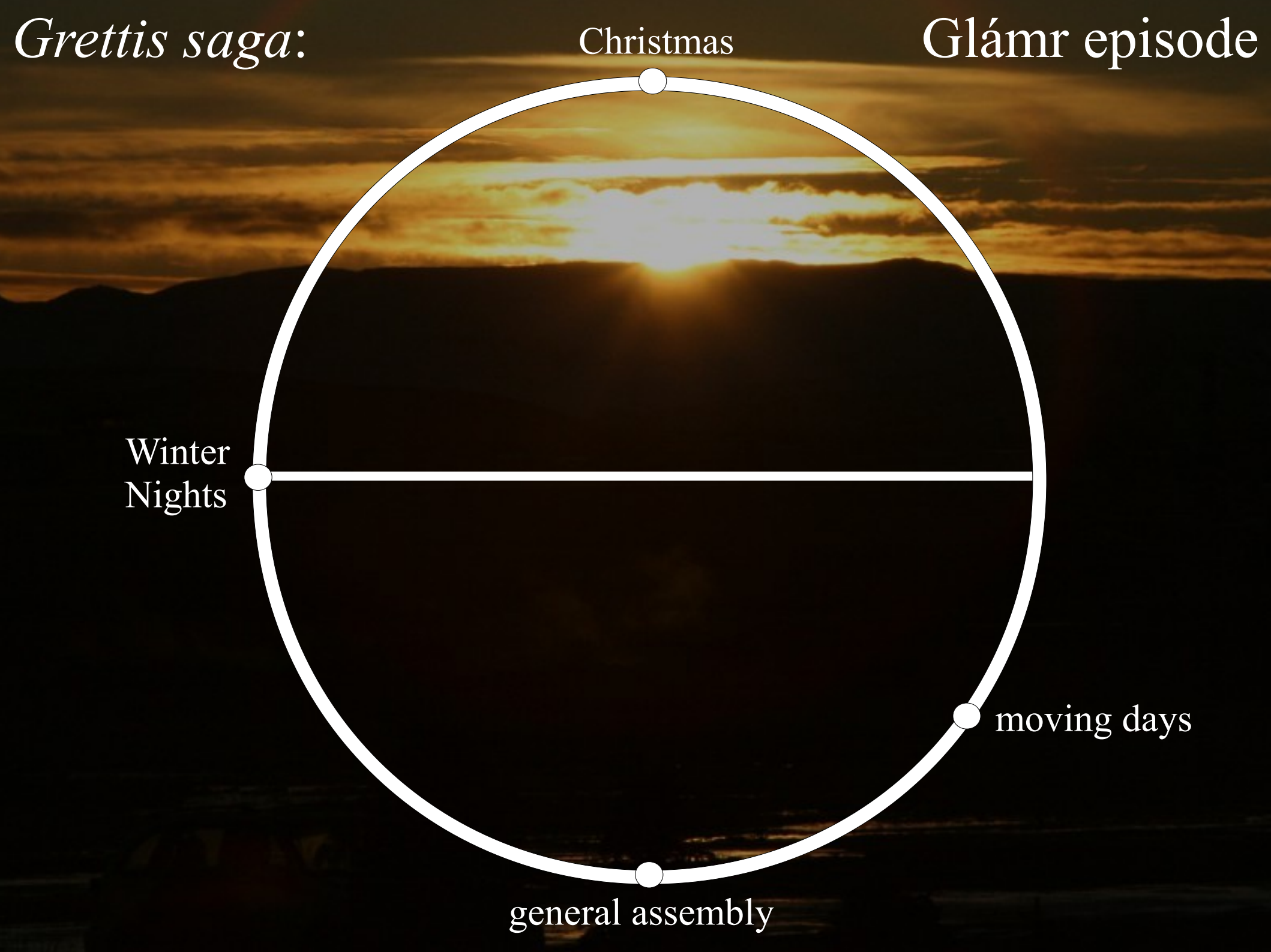
Winter  
Nights

moving days

general assembly

Um v́arit fekk Þórhallr sér hjón ok gerði bú á jorðu sinni; tók þá at minnka aþtrgangr, meðan sólargangr var mestr; leið svá fram á miðsumar. (p. 113)

(“In spring, Þórhallr hired servants and constructed a building on his land. The hauntings grew to be less as the course of the sun was at its longest; so time passed until midsummer.”)



*Grettis saga:*

Christmas

Glámr episode

Winter  
Nights

moving days

general assembly

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a dark landscape. The sun is partially obscured by a layer of clouds. The foreground is dark, suggesting a body of water or a dark field. The overall mood is serene and atmospheric.

En er váraði ok sólargangr var sem mestr, létti heldr  
aptrgöngunum. (p. 115)

(“But when spring came on and the course of the sun was  
at its longest, the hauntings grew considerably less.”)

*Grettis saga:*

Christmas

Old Kárr

- Sandhaugar
- bear-fight
- twelve  
berserks



*Eyrbyggja saga:*

Þórólfr lame-foot



start of  
winter

autumn

when the  
ground has  
thawed

*Eyrbyggja saga:*

Christmas

Fróðá

Candlemas Eve (Feb 1st)

two weeks  
into the winter

haymaking



*Flóamanna saga:*

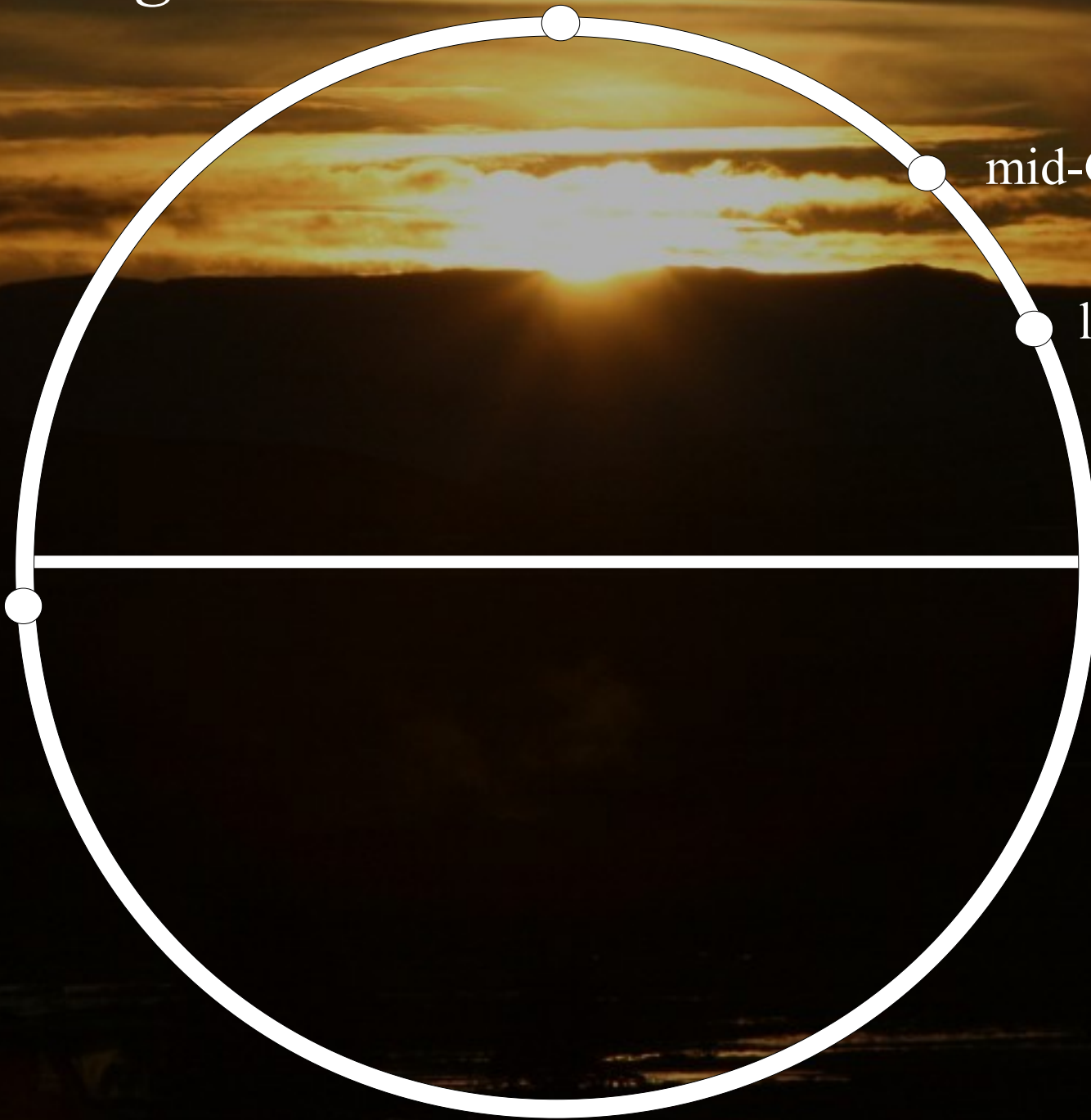
Christmas Day

Greenlandic  
episode

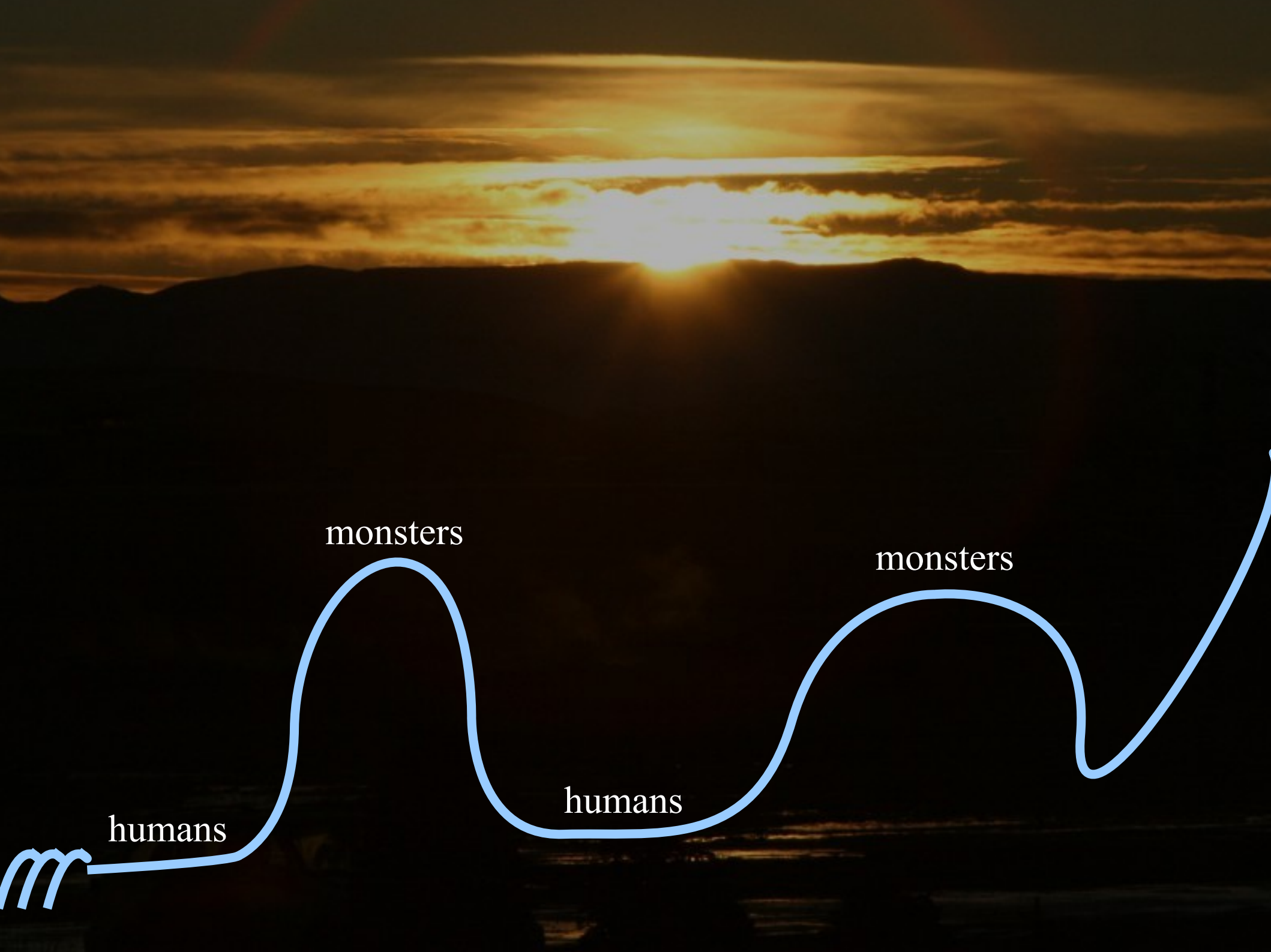
start of  
winter

mid-Gói

late winter







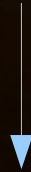
monsters

monsters

humans

humans

*hrímþursar* “hoarfrost giants”



monsters: · *jǫtnar*  
· *þursar*  
· *risar*  
· *tröll*

monsters

humans

humans

