

Sir Tymbeck Valencia is the son of Lady Cynthia Valencia, of the city of Kalchith, and an Ogre chieftain named Morgrath The Terrible. She was a passenger on a goods caravan, en route to see her husband, Sir Balan Valencia, the king's royal architect. Sir Balan was working abroad, overseeing the building of a new cathedral in the city of Ilfrey. The caravan was raided by Morgrath's war band, and Lady Cynthia was taken prisoner. She was Morgrath's special "prize," and she endured his "attentions" for almost 14 years.

Almost immediately (only a few weeks) after being captured and given to Morgrath, Cynthia became pregnant with Morgrath's son, Tymbeck. When Tymbeck was born, he was raised for the first few years by Lady Cynthia, but as he grew, Morgrath became more and more attentive, taking pride in his half-Human son, whom he hoped would lead a great Crusade against the Humans one day.

However, Tymbeck had inherited his mother's sensibilities, thus he never became the bloodthirsty conqueror that Morgrath had envisioned; however, he was smart enough to realize his mother's situation, and he pretended otherwise about his feelings and ambitions. He kept up the pretense until Morgrath began to give him more privileges and expanded freedoms; then one night, at the age of 14, Tymbeck helped his mother to escape from Morgrath's fortified village, and return to the city of Kalchith.

Surprisingly, Sir Balan accepted his wife back without reservation, although he did pay handsomely to have the local temple priest bless and purify her with spells. Thereafter, she bore him twin sons, Brollin, and Braden, who are currently 7 years old.

Sir Balan, noticing that Tymbeck had inherited his mother's good looks, decided to make the best of his bastard son, by officially adopting him (i.e., thus removing his "bastard" status) and sending him to school for 3 years, until the age of 17, to learn the basics of etiquette, reading, writing, heraldry, and horseback riding. After that, between the ages of 18 and 21, Tymbeck served a 4-year stint in the King's army as a Knight, holding the rank of *Lieutenant, Junior Grade*. This commission cost his father a lot of money, but Sir Balan was determined that every member of his family, no matter what, achieve a noteworthy and respectable status among the members of court.

It should be noted that although Sir Balan was a minor landowner, and had no field army of his own, he still held the rank of *Baron* in the king's court, because of his status as the most highly skilled architect in the kingdom. Thus, any male blood offspring of his would automatically be born with the title of *Baronet*. Since Tymbeck was not blood, but adopted, he bore no title; therefore, Sir Balan bought him a commission, so that he would at least have the title of *Knight*, and be called "Sir." Sir Tymbeck, holding the least rank that a Knight can hold (Lieutenant, Junior Grade) is therefore a member of the lowest (but still quite prestigious and respectable) order of Knighthood, an order known as "The Order of The Scarlet Cross." There are two orders of Knighthood that are higher than this, and those are "The Order of The Knights of Renown," and "The Order of The Knights of the Mountain Dawn," respectively. *Scarlet Cross members are Knights who are not of noble birth, but whom were commissioned to nobility (as Tymbeck was) and make up the bulk of battlefield commanders.* Scarlet Cross Knights often serve in the most forward and dangerous areas of battle, and are therefore highly respected for their bravery. Scarlet Cross Knights are commonly known as the Knights who are "Noble by virtue of their brave deeds." Knights of Renown members are Knights who are born of noble birth, who may or may not actually serve in the army; those that do serve typically do so at the highest levels, i.e., strategy and planning, and rarely see combat. (There are a few notable exceptions to this; one example is Sir Grigory Polzin, Duke of The Realm, who has reportedly killed 156 foes in personal combat.) Lastly, the members of the Knights of the Mountain Dawn are Knights of noble birth who are selected at a young age to become members of the *king's personal guard*. These Knights are often second and third sons, who will not inherit, who apply for this honor. After serving for 20 years as a Knights of the Mountain Dawn member, they are allowed to retire, and are given a small estate, many servants, and a small area of jurisdiction to preside over for crop harvesting and tax collection. The price for this "mini-inheritance" is that Knights of the Mountain Dawn members are charged with protecting the king at all costs, even the sacrifice of their own lives. They have no social lives, as they are constantly required to be in or near the king's presence.

During his stint in the army, Sir Tymbeck became well-liked among the other junior officers, although there were members of the senior staff who were somewhat jealous of him. Sir Tymbeck served bravely and with distinction, and his obsessive / compulsive predilection for following rules to the letter left him with a spotless service record, which further fanned the flames of jealousy among his rivals.

Since his tour of duty ended last year, Sir Tymbeck has been enjoying “the good life” at court (Ilfrey); He is almost always in the company of other Scarlet Cross members, most of whom served at the same time as Sir Tymbeck, and are now also free of mandatory service. The local merchants and minor nobles, as well as some of the upper class nobility, hold him in high regard; on the other hand, there are more than a few among the upper class nobility who despise him; they call him names like “the charming savage,” or “the pretty mongrel,” albeit never to his face. He sometimes travels to the Northern Province, either on buying trips for his mother (who now refuses to travel) or in pursuit of his own interests, when the fancy strikes him. He also spends some time in his hometown of Kalchith, where he is considered a hero, but he seldom stays for long, because all of his best friends are in Ilfrey. However, when he is at home, he spends a lot of time with his mother, who cherishes her son’s company (and vice versa.)

Sir Tymbeck’s father (Sir Balan) respects him for helping his mother to escape, and for how well he has adapted to life at court, and for his accomplishments in the army, and he is therefore appropriately grateful to and admiring of him, but it is obvious that his feelings for Sir Tymbeck fall short of actual love. Sir Balan claims to love Sir Tymbeck publicly, but anyone with a sharp eye and good sense can see that Sir Balan’s attentions are focused almost exclusively upon his wife and his two young sons. This is a saddening thing for Sir Tymbeck, but he holds neither grudge nor ill will against Sir Balan; it is what it is.

Sir Grigory, who has actually seen Sir Tymbeck in action during combat (because he was fighting alongside him!) greatly admires Sir Tymbeck’s skill, devotion to duty, and courage. It was Sir Grigory who gave him the nickname “Big Tim.” Sir Grigory is quite fond of Sir Tymbeck in almost a fatherly way. (Sir Grigory has no sons of his own; only 4 daughters.)

Sir Tymbeck holds no grudge against Morgrath, although there is certainly no loss of love there, either. If the two were to meet in battle, Sir Tymbeck would do his duty, and serve his king, even if that meant that he must kill Morgrath to do so.

NOTE: Sir Tymbeck’s commission could theoretically be re-activated at any time, if there is a crisis, such as a war, or some other significant need. Sir Tymbeck is also required to aid any local official (Mayor, Sheriff, etc.) who requests his help directly, because he is still considered a vassal of the king, and therefore subservient to any local proxy of the king’s authority.