

The Three Kingdoms and Their Heritage

Roland (b. 808) is the oldest of Jurien's three sons and ruler of the Southern Kingdom. He has two sons, the princes Marin (b. 832) and Valentine (b. 833) who divide their governance between the twin cities of Deraks and Denira. Upon Jurien's death, Roland envisioned his father's kingdom being evenly run by himself and his two sons. His armies arrived first at Marcel's borders, initiating the decade-long conflict between the kingdoms.

Marcel (b. 814) is the youngest of Jurien's three sons and ruler of the Middle Kingdom. He has one daughter, princess Ava (b. 833). She will not be considered for inheriting the throne as rule is both patriarchal and patrilineal. Marcel's wife died during the siege of West Rock in 844, galvanizing its people during the war against King Felix. She is considered a martyr and memorialized with a large fountain in West Rock's Old Market District intending to mock Tel Fortura, surrounded by desert, and as defiance.

Eckart (b. 810) is the middle child and ruler of the Northern Kingdom. He is also known as "The Widowed King" as he publicly grieved the death of his pregnant wife, LeVada (820-846). At the burial, he clutched her casket and wailed. The cries carried through the city as a banshee. All the people wept with him. The mothers held close their children and the fathers their families. In his grief, he could not stand. His brothers carried him back into his own castle, hanks of grass in his hands from grappling the ground. Never had people seen such a thing.

The presiding law of the land dictates that Roland's sons will inherit all kingdoms if Jurien's sons pass and there are no other eligible heirs. Peasants fear having two contenders will lead to another generation-long war to determine a ruler or they worry what other ambitions may make of their lives.