Yellek was born in Natambu on the 23rd day of Sarenith, in the year of 2691. His father, Negasi, died in 2893, two days before his younger sister Meskie was born. Their mother, Tsega, died in 2701.

In 2703, after living on the streets of Natambu for two years, Yellek earned a small amount of cash from Pathfinder agents looking to murder their Aspis rivals, and to claim some ancient opal from nearby caves. The Pathfinders offered to bring Yellek and Meskie to Absalom, which they did.

On arriving in Absalom, Yellek worked to learn the Taldane language and worked as a servant in the Pathfinder hall. Relying on a combination of practiced innocence and practical wariness, he managed to get himself letters recommending him to military training, and he joined the Absalom Army for a tour of four years, from 2708 to 2712, leaving with the rank of Lieutenant in the Military Police.

For the past several years, he has worked mostly as a peddlar trading and selling textiles and clothing in Absalom.