

When asked what "class" he is, Zayed insists that he is a free herder, rather than a farmer or slave. As far as race, he is a Qadiran Bedouin. He is very faithful to Serenrae, and for most of his life was sickened by witchcraft and sorcery. Zayed believed his own spells to be divine, and to be blessings granted by Serenrae in response to his prayers.

Zayed is old for a bachelor in bedouin society. It took him a length of time to become proficient enough to have built up his herd of goats to a sensible number. Zayed met with the match-maker and had made an arrangement. But at dinner with his planned in-laws, on first seeing his bride, Nura Nimah, Zayed found claws growing! So he ran.

Since that date, when Zayed is frightened, sometimes claws grow. Zayed doesn't have an explanation for that, and doesn't want to think about it much. Zayed instead hides his claws from others and makes ad hoc excuses. He sees the connection between fear in his heart and the claws growing, and sees the claws as a "curse that he become like an animal for his fear."

Zayed decided to learn courage, and to leave his tribe to do so. Zayed joined the Pathfinders because he knows that the society foots the bill for a lot of free travel, and Zayed could never pass up a bargain.

After a difficult adventure against demonic foes (The Sarkorian Prophecy) Zayed finally decided that he needed to be 'a little sharper' and purchased a 'Headband of Mental Prowess' (improving intelligence and wisdom by +2 and giving him ranks in perception).

When Zayed donned his headband, he began thinking about the foes he faced, and seeing some commonalities between his own magical powers and the nature of his own claws. After a couple therapeutic months off in Oppara, speaking to some of the Pathfinder wizards in residence, and deciding that just because he was tainted didn't mean that he couldn't try to use his 'taint' for good. After all, the Dawnflower would not judge his being -- and would forgive the most unworthy if they do good works.

When back in Seqeq (after The Many Fortunes of Grandmaster Torch) Zayed met and married Johara of the Saahli clan. She was not from a family of means, but Zayed found her beautiful, and was attracted to her because of her faith in Serenrae, and she was attracted to him because of a fascination with arcane magic.

Johara was just entering the second trimester of her first pregnancy when Zayed was being called away on missions in old Chelish areas (Echoes of Everwar). She requested that, to keep her company, Zayed wed a second wife who would (as junior) be her subordinate. Zayed was reluctant to make himself a minority in his own house, but agreed to wed the less pretty woman that Johara picked for him, Zaytoonah.