

# The Weohstannuk Empire at Height -- The Reign of Emperor Talvos the Just

*Historical Event · The Weohstannuk Empire*

**Date:** ~400 WE

## Summary

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Emperor Talvos IV, called 'the Just,' presides over what later historians will call the Weohstannuk Empire's period of greatest stability. The Orders of Wizardry and the Blue Knights both operate in full cooperation with the imperial government. The Elysor Reaches maintain open diplomatic relations. It will not last, but no one alive during Talvos's reign knows this.

The reign of Talvos IV -- called 'the Just' by his contemporaries and kept by historians as the most straightforward honorific in the imperial record -- lasted forty-one years and was distinguished primarily by the absence of catastrophes. This is not a small distinction in a dynasty that had seen three civil wars, two periods of famine, and one emperor who had to be removed by the Blue Knights in the seventh year of his reign.

Talvos's achievement was structural rather than dramatic. He reformed the imperial tax codes to reduce the burden on non-human settlements, negotiated the first formal trade compact with the Halvaen of Elysor (limited in scope, significant in symbolism), and established the precedent that imperial magistrates required Orders of Wizardry certification before adjudicating disputes that involved arcane matters. The Blue Knights, under Commander Sevara Ironhand, completed the fortification of Blue Vale Keep in this period -- the walls that stand today are largely Talvos-era construction.

What Talvos could not do, and knew he could not do, was address the structural tension between the empire's human-centric governance and the growing demands of its non-human populations for full political representation. He mitigated this tension through personal relationships and targeted appointments. His successors, who did not have his relationships and found appointments more convenient than reform, watched the mitigation unravel.

The historians of the present age look back at Talvos's reign as proof that the empire worked when it was governed well. His reign is also, by any reckoning, the last time that statement was uncomplicated.