

# Dune



## INTRODUCTION

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF FRANK HERBERT

Frank Herbert was born in Tacoma, Washington, on October 8, 1920. As a child, Herbert was a curious and independent spirit who already knew at eight years old that he wanted to be an author when he grew up. His fierce independence resulted in some difficulties in adult life, with a varied career history in which Herbert refused to be pigeonholed into work he was not passionate about. Upon leaving high school, he worked as a journalist before serving in the United States Navy as a photographer during World War II. Herbert received a medical discharge after six months and went on to study at the University of Washington. He failed to complete a writing qualification because he refused to take required courses if they did not interest him. Herbert started a career in reporting for and editing a number of West Coast newspapers and magazines, while writing fiction on the side. He gained an authorial reputation with the publication of *Dune* in 1965. A futuristic and ecological novel about human evolution and galactic space travel, *Dune* has sold more than 12 million copies and been translated into 14 languages. Ironically Herbert's text was rejected by 23 publishers before Chilton Book Company took a chance on it. The success of *Dune* resulted in his move to becoming a full-time fiction writer in 1972. After a divorce with his first wife, Flora Parkinson, with whom he had a daughter named Penny Herbert, Frank Herbert married Beverly Stuart in 1946. They had two sons, Brian and Bruce Herbert. Beverly died from cancer in 1984, and Herbert married Theresa Shackleford in 1985. Herbert's relationships with his children were strained for much of their lives, but he reconciled with Brian shortly before his death. Frank Herbert had a prolific output of almost 30 novels and short story collections—six novels were set in the popular world of *Dune*—before he died from a pulmonary embolism at age 65 on February 11, 1986. Brian Herbert went on to co-publish stories in the *Dune* franchise based on his father's notes.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Frank Herbert conceived of *Dune*'s desert-like world of Arrakis after working on a newspaper article about a United States government project aimed at preventing the spread of sand dunes along the Oregon coastline. Science fiction was a relatively new genre during Frank Herbert's lifetime: the Industrial Revolution's technological advances that sparked the genre's creation in the late 1800s was followed by the genre's increase in popularity in the mid-1900s alongside the creation of the first computers and space programs. Certainly,

mainstream readers were becoming more interested in themes of science and society. Herbert wrote and published *Dune* in the US in the 1960s, a time that was significant for its cultural experimentation with drugs. This theme is echoed in the mind-altering and addictive qualities of *Dune*'s spice. In the 1960s, Americans were also becoming more interested in non-Western cultures, an interest that *Dune* reflects in its similarities between the languages, religious traditions, and social customs of fictional Fremen and real-world Arab culture.

### RELATED LITERARY WORKS

*Dune* is the first novel that Frank Herbert published in his comprehensive and popular *Dune* series. He completed six novels for the world of *Dune*; after his death, his son Brian Herbert and author Kevin J. Anderson co-published a number of prequel and sequel novels that are based on Frank Herbert's notes. The *Dune* franchise has often been likened to J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* in that both works are the critically acclaimed masterpieces of their respective genres, science fiction and fantasy. Herbert and Tolkien were also pioneers of complex literary world-building, creating self-contained universes with unique histories, languages and social systems in a manner that was uncommon in the 1950s and 1960s. Herbert's *Dune* has been adapted to other media, most notably a 1984 feature film directed by David Lynch and a 2000 television series produced for the Sci Fi Channel. His work has also been widely influential in popular culture, including the *Star Wars* universe. Herbert's novels and short stories outside of the *Dune* franchise are based on similar social issues including the future of ecology, politics, religion, economics, and human psychology. In a 1973 interview, Herbert noted that influential authors he read included science fiction writers H. G. Wells, Robert A. Heinlein, Poul Anderson and Jack Vance. Herbert was also greatly influenced by the literary and philosophical works of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, T. E. Lawrence, and Zen Buddhists.

### KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** *Dune*
- **When Written:** 1959-1965
- **Where Written:** United States of America
- **When Published:** 1965
- **Literary Period:** Contemporary Period
- **Genre:** Science fiction novel
- **Setting:** Arrakis, a desert-like planet in a galactic feudal system, in the year 10,191
- **Climax:** Paul Atreides and his fanatical Fremen forces defeat

the Imperial and Harkonnen forces on Arrakis.

- **Antagonist:** Baron Harkonnen and Emperor Shaddam IV
- **Point of View:** Third-person omniscient

## EXTRA CREDIT

**Arab Influence.** Herbert merged Eastern and Western themes in *Dune* to create a compelling new universe that seemed both exotic and familiar. In creating the Fremen society on Arrakis, Herbert particularly drew inspiration from Arab culture—Fremen clothing reflects Arabic fashion and Fremen language reflects Arabic roots. Through these authorial choices, Herbert suggests that Middle Eastern cultures may be distant ancestors of the fictional Arrakis natives.

**Cold War Suspicions.** During his lifetime, Frank Herbert was a vocal critic of the Soviet Union. *Dune* was published in 1965 during the height of the Cold War, and Herbert's decision to give a Russian-sounding name to the novel's antagonist Baron Vladimir Harkonnen echoes his distrust of the Soviet Union.



## PLOT SUMMARY

More than twenty thousand years into the future, humankind is spread across the universe living in a feudal society with the Padishah Emperor at its head. The Emperor has recently given control of the desert planet Arrakis to House Atreides, one of the Imperium's powerful Great Houses. Despite its hostile desert climate, Arrakis is a valuable holding, as it is the only planet that produces the profitable crop called **spice** (also known as melange). Spice is a highly addictive drug that can be ingested as a mind-altering substance to increase human lifespan, allow interstellar travel, and open the human mind to higher cognitive functions including prescience.

The novel opens with Duke Leto Atreides moving his son Paul, his concubine Lady Jessica, their noble household, and the Atreides military forces from his home planet Caladan to Arrakis. The Duke is popular as a fair and virtuous leader, although he has historic enemies in rival House Harkonnen. Lady Jessica is a member of the Bene Gesserit order, a matriarchal program who use cognitive abilities and genetic breeding to hold power in the wider universe. One of the Bene Gesserit leaders, Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, visits Caladan and demands a meeting with fifteen-year-old Paul Atreides. Paul has impressive mental and physical abilities due to the training he has received from his mother and from renowned warriors Gurney Halleck and Duncan Idaho. The Reverend Mother puts Paul through a dangerous test whereby he must prove his humanity by overcoming instinctual reactions to fear and pain using cognitive rationality and control; if he fails the test, Paul will meet death through the **gom jabbar** (a poison-tipped needle that the Reverend Mother

holds to his neck during the ordeal). Paul demonstrates courage and self-control to pass the test. He also learns that there is a chance that he is the Bene Gesserit's promised Kwisatz Haderach, a male individual who will have higher cognitive awareness than all other humans, although the Reverend Mother dismisses this possibility.

Meanwhile, the greedy and corrupt Baron Vladimir Harkonnen plots against his cousin Duke Leto. The Baron and his Mentat Piter de Vries have managed to turn one of the Duke's most trusted advisors, Dr. Wellington Yueh, to the Harkonnen cause. This is an impressive feat, as to do so they have subverted Yueh's Suk Imperial Conditioning to do no harm to other humans. The betrayal is planned to take place on Arrakis, which was under Harkonnen control before the Emperor re-gifted its governance to the Atreides.

Shortly after the Reverend Mother's visit, the Atreides leave **water**-rich Caladan for arid Arrakis. The planet is also known as "Dune" due to its vast and barren desert landscapes. It is home to tribes of Fremen, a hardy people who survive outside of Arrakis's cities in the harsh wilderness environments. Duke Leto must balance the needs of Arrakis's people with his suspicion that House Harkonnen will attack his household during the period of change. Leto's trusted Mentat, Thurfir Hawat, wrongly suspects that Lady Jessica is a traitor, causing tension between Leto and Jessica.

When the Harkonnens attack with the support of Imperial Sardaukar troops disguised as Harkonnens, Leto is shocked to learn that it is Yueh who betrays House Atreides. Leto, Jessica, and Paul are captured, but Yueh contrives for Jessica and Paul to escape into the desert. Yueh also double crosses Baron Harkonnen by implanting a false tooth filled with poisonous gas in the captured Duke's mouth, instructing Leto that this is the one final act of courage he can undertake—assassinating the Baron through an act of suicide. Leto follows through with the plan but Baron Harkonnen manages to escape alive, although several of his advisors fall to the poison gas.

Idaho dies defending Jessica and Paul; their ally Liet-Kynes is taken prisoner during their escape. Halleck, believing them dead, joins up with a smuggling outfit. Jessica and Paul are on their own, without supplies, in the harsh Arrakis desert. During their escape, Paul inhales a quantity of **spice**, which enhance his genetics and training to afford him some abilities of foresight with potential futures laid out before him. After arduous travel through the desert in which they survive a sandstorm, an avalanche and a giant sandworm, Paul and Jessica find a Fremen sietch (community) led by Stilgar. The Fremen are a hardy and honorable people who live in communities across the Arrakis deserts that are governed by strict moral, political, and religious codes. Paul proves himself to the Fremen by fighting in single combat, while Jessica proves herself a powerful religious figure who is soon adopted as the sietch's Reverend Mother. Jessica, who is pregnant with Leto's daughter Alia Atreides,

ingests the Water of Life in the ritual to become Reverend Mother; this change affects Jessica and her unborn child by giving them both the collective ancestral memories of the Fremen Reverend Mothers.

Paul and Jessica learn that the Fremen are more numerous and powerful than commonly thought. The Fremen escape the Emperor's eye by paying the Guild to largely ignore their movements on Arrakis. They also work to return Arrakis to its ecology with lakes and oceans, a collective goal that drives their individual and societal obsession with reclaiming and storing water from their environments and their own bodies. The Fremen come to view Paul as the messianic figure Mahdi who was promised long ago, although Paul and Jessica recognize this myth as a Bene Gesserit construct planted in Fremen culture. Due to Fremen's liberal use of **spice**, Paul's cognitive abilities continue to develop, while he also becomes physically sharper and stronger due to the tough Fremen lifestyle. Paul is concerned by the visions he has of becoming so powerful that a religious crusade will sweep the galaxy in his name. During his time with Stilgar's sietch, he also falls in love with a young Fremen woman named Chani.

Meanwhile, Baron Harkonnen persists with his political scheming. He puts his nephew Rabban in charge of Arrakis, but plans to turn Arrakis's inhabitants against Rabban. This is so that the populace will welcome Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen, the Baron's favored nephew, as their leader. The Baron has also convinced Hawat, Duke Leto's Mentat, to work for House Harkonnen by convincing Hawat that it was Lady Jessica who betrayed the Duke.

Two years pass, and the Baron's ambitions have now grown to aspire to placing Feyd-Rautha on the Emperor's throne. On Arrakis, Paul has gained increased authority after riding a sandworm, an important mark of adulthood for Fremen men. He teaches Fremen to fight using the "weirding way," the Fremen name for the Bene Gesserit training Paul has learned from his mother. He gains respect as a Fremen political and religious leader known by the Fremen as "Muad'Dib." The Fremen ready him to lead a rebellion against House Harkonnen and the Empire to claim back Arrakis. Gurney Halleck is reconnected with Paul when the warrior's smuggling group is captured by Fremen. Paul also has a child with Chani. Paul's development into the Fremen's Mahdi is suddenly compromised when he decides to drink the Water of Life without consulting anyone. No male has ever successfully completed the Fremen's Water of Life ritual. Paul lies in a coma for three weeks, upon which he awakes with increased mental awareness as the Kwisatz Haderach.

Concerned by the rumors of Fremen leader Muad'dib's influence, the Harkonnens attack the Fremen with the support of the Emperor's Sardaukar troops. Astonishingly, the Fremen defeat the Sardaukar forces with little difficulty using wits and tactics that rely on the desert's harsh conditions. Paul also

holds the invaluable **spice** crops on Arrakis as a ransom that stalls the Empire's forces.

During the attack, Fremen forces storm the commanding Imperial ship above Arrakis. Here, Alia Atreides kills the Baron Harkonnen, whom she reveals as her grandfather—the Bene Gesserit's genetic breeding program saw them hide the truth of the Baron's identity as Jessica's father. Paul corners the Emperor, demanding that he relinquish the throne to Paul and allow him to marry Princess Irulan. After Paul kills Feyd-Rautha in single combat, the Emperor has no choice but to allow Paul his demands. Paul consoles a hurt Chani that he will never bear children with the Princess. Jessica declares that history will remember Chani and Jessica as Atreides concubines and the true loves of Paul and Leto respectively. In just a few years, then, Paul has assumed political and religious leadership of the Fremen and led them to an unlikely victory against the might of the Empire. However, the violent Fremen holy crusade that Paul has foreseen as a possible future is an unwanted but increasingly likely threat that looms close due to the new power experienced by Muad'dib and the Fremen.



## CHARACTERS

### MAJOR CHARACTERS

**Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib** – Also known as Usul, Mahdi, Lisan al-Gaib and the Kwisatz Haderach, Paul is the son of Duke Leto and Lady Jessica and older brother of Alia. He is a thoughtful young man of extraordinary talents. At 15 years of age, Paul has already developed impressive cognitive and physical skills, receiving training from a number of his father's trusted advisors—Mentat Thufir Hawat, weapons master Gurney Halleck, sword master Duncan Idaho, and Suk doctor Wellington Yueh. Paul also shows talent and discipline when his mother teaches him Bene Gesserit practices, surpassing the dangerous **gom jabbar** test when tested by Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Mohiam. Despite his personal losses after the Harkonnen attack on Arrakis, Paul succeeds in surviving as a fugitive in the harsh Arrakeen desert by winning the loyalty of the Fremen. His exposure to the mind-altering **spice** that grows richly in the desert propels him into a higher awareness, allowing him to see possible futures. Paul's new skills of foresight help him to provide the Fremen with political purpose and spiritual strength while also providing himself with the self-assurance he requires to take control of his destiny—or to at least try to. He also proves himself a wise leader who can inspire other people to freely pledge their lives to him. In only a few years, Paul evolves into the religious savior and military leader prophesized by the Fremen and the Bene Gesserit order. After completing the Fremen Water of Life ritual, he is able to access male and female ancestral memories as well as see future pathways. This ability to bridge past and present helps Paul to successfully overcome Imperial and Harkonnen

forces to take the Imperial throne from Emperor Shaddam IV. However, Paul feels trapped in his role of Lisan al-Gaib and Kwisatz Haderach through the certainties of his life path that he foresees. His public identity has grown too much to allow him the simple life that he craves to share with the Fremen woman that he loves, his concubine Chani.

**Lady Jessica** – Lady Jessica is Duke Leto’s concubine, Paul’s mother, and a member of the mysterious Bene Gesserit order—a powerful, all-female organization whose secret mission is to progress a genetic breeding program that will bring about their messiah. Bene Gesserit members are also accomplished in their heightened mental and physical capabilities. Jessica takes great pride in her son, Paul, helping him to develop his naturally advanced cognitive abilities by secretly training him in the Bene Gesserit way. This is no small act, as Bene Gesserit are forbidden to teach their practices to those outside the organization and especially to men. However, Jessica is a rebellious Bene Gesserit sister, as she also broke her superior’s direct orders by choosing to bear the Duke a son rather than a daughter. However, overall she is committed to the sisterhood’s collective goals to manipulate galactic events for increased power while also trying to genetically create the godlike Kwisatz Haderach. Jessica therefore accepts the painful reality that there is nothing she can do to prevent her beloved Duke’s death when House Atreides moves to the planet Arrakis. Jessica is renowned as a great beauty and part way through *Dune’s* events discovers the truth of her parentage, previously hidden by Bene Gesserit command—she is the daughter of Baron Harkonnen, a corrupt and abominate individual who is the Duke’s mortal enemy. Jessica’s extraordinary life and sacrifices, including her rise to become the Fremen Reverend Mother of legend, are overshadowed by her son’s legacy as the Bene Gesserit’s Kwisatz Haderach and Fremen’s Lisan al-Gaib.

**Duke Leto Atreides** – A compassionate but doomed noble leader, the Duke is Head of House Atreides. He is a hardworking and responsible commander who dearly loves his concubine, Lady Jessica, and son, Paul. He is well-regarded by his people and the other Great Houses, except for House Harkonnen who are mortal enemies to the Atreides. From the novel’s beginning, the Duke’s fate is sealed for an early death at the hands of Baron Harkonnen. In collusion with the Baron, the Emperor Shaddam IV assigns the Duke to govern Arrakis. It is a desolate yet valuable planet due to its unique production of the **spice** drug. The Duke knows he is likely walking into a trap but takes up leadership on Arrakis anyway; perhaps he views the Arrakeen spice profits as outweighing the approaching danger. As predicted, the Duke meets his death shortly after taking up his post on Arrakis. He has been betrayed by one of his most trusted staff, Dr. Wellington Yueh, who drugs and captures him. Dragged before Baron Harkonnen and knowing that he will be murdered shortly, the Duke’s final cares are for his family as he

sacrifices his life in an attempt to kill the Baron. He dies without knowing that Jessica is pregnant with their daughter, Alia. The Duke’s legacy as an honorable and compassionate leader is overshadowed by the immense exploits of his son, Paul, who develops into a messiah-figure for a number of key groups in the Imperium and wins the Imperial throne.

**Baron Vladimir Harkonnen** – The power-hungry Head of House Harkonnen with a dangerous intellect, who regularly engages in corrupt schemes. The Baron is an enormous man whose morbidly obese weight is held up by anti-gravity suspensors. He spends much of his energies designing ways to destroy House Atreides and Duke Leto Atreides. He thinks nothing of using manipulation, torture, and brute force to get his way, examples including his corrupting Dr. Yueh, deceiving Thufir Hawat, and killing individuals such as Liet-Kynes who get in the Baron’s way. He treats his family with the same cruel attitudes, using people and then tossing them aside or destroying them. Notably, though, he always orders someone else to undertake his dirty work, including his Mentat and chief collaborator, Piter de Vries. The Harkonnen leader and his Mentat manipulate the Padishah Emperor into joining forces to exterminate the Atreides, creating a cunning plan to gift Duke Leto the valuable planet Arrakis and there spring a deadly trap. The plan is largely successful, and the Baron gloats over capturing the Duke. His arrogance is almost his downfall when Duke Leto nearly kills him with poisonous gas. The Duke dies in this attempt and House Harkonnen re-take Arrakis, making life terrible for its populace. Some years later, the evil Baron receives his comeuppance when he is outsmarted by Duke Leto’s son, Paul, and killed by Leto and Jessica’s daughter, Alia.

**Thufir Hawat** – Duke Leto’s personal Master of Assassins and Mentat, which is an individual trained to calculate information at a much greater speed and capacity than other humans. Hawat is well-known as one of the Imperium’s most impressive Mentats. He is the Duke’s main strategist and prides himself on having loyally served the Atreides family for three generations. Hawat trains Paul Atreides in strategy and tactics throughout Paul’s childhood. He is on high alert when House Atreides moves to Arrakis, as he knows there will be likely attacks on his commander. Despite this vigilance, the elderly Mentat makes several key mistakes leading up to the Harkonnen attack on Arrakeen. It is likely his pride in his abilities that blinded him to some of the threats aimed at the Duke. Falsely believing that Paul has died in the attack along with Duke Leto, Hawat is devastated and angry. The Baron Harkonnen deceives him into working for the Harkonnens, where the Mentat tries unsuccessfully to bring the House down from within. For a long time Hawat believes that Lady Jessica betrayed her Duke and dedicates his life to getting vengeance on her. He is ashamed to learn that this is untrue, merely one of the Baron’s ploys to destroy the Duke by causing a rift with his concubine. Paul forgives Hawat’s mistakes before the Mentat dies, with Hawat

demonstrating ultimate Atreides loyalty when he chooses death rather than assassinating Paul as the Baron has instructed.

**Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV** – Ruler of the Known Universe and head of the Imperium, the Emperor is a powerful player in the universe who upholds his rule through political maneuverings and the might of his feared Sardaukar forces. The Emperor must achieve a delicate balance with the Landsraad, Guild, and Bene Gesserit program to keep the Imperium in order.

**Alia Atreides / St. Alia-of-the-Knife** – A young woman of extraordinary cognitive powers, Alia is born after her father, Duke Leto, is killed and when her mother, Lady Jessica, and brother, Paul, have taken refuge with Stilgar’s sietch in the desert. Alia’s powers arise from the awakening she experienced in the womb when Jessica underwent the Fremen Water of Life test.

**Gurney Halleck** – Duke Leto’s weapons master and a renowned fighter. Halleck is proficient with many styles of fighting, training the young Paul Atreides to be the same. He is a humorous man who is also a talented musician on the baliset (string instrument), often entertaining the Atreides family and men with music.

**Dr. Liet-Kynes** – The Imperial planetologist (ecologist) on Arrakis. He is at first wary of House Atreides’ arrival to the planet, but is won over by their shared desire to change the Arrakeen climate for more comfortable human life. The Fremen call the planetologist “Liet” and worship him as their religious-military leader who will help them terraform Arrakis into a lush and vegetative planet. Liet-Kynes is captured and later killed when he helps Paul Atreides and Lady Jessica escape a Harkonnen attack.

**Stilgar** – A Fremen leader who challenges and then accepts Paul Atreides and Lady Jessica into his sietch, or Fremen community. He is a wise and capable leader who is so respected by his people that he is widely considered to be the voice of Fremen. He always places the interest of his people before his own, a quality that Paul admires greatly. When Paul rises to become the Fremen’s promised Mahdi of legend, Stilgar becomes one of his most trusted generals.

**Chani Kynes** – A Fremen soldier and daughter of Liet-Kynes, Chani also has some Bene Gesserit talent that makes her a fearsome fighter. Stilgar charges her with guiding Paul Atreides when he is accepted into their Fremen community; Paul and Chani fall in love and she gives birth to his first child, Leto, who is later killed during an Imperial attack. By the end of the novel, she is deeply hurt when Paul must marry Princess Irulan for political reasons, leaving Chani as just his concubine.

**Dr. Wellington Yueh** – Duke Leto’s knowledgeable Suk doctor who is bound to harm no other human due to his Imperial Conditioning. However, Baron Harkonnen is able to convert

this conditioning to force Yueh to betray the Atreides. Although the Suk doctor’s treachery results in the Duke’s death, Yueh is able to help Paul Atreides and Lady Jessica escape the Harkonnen attack on the Arrakeen palace.

**Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam** – An elderly leader of the Bene Gesserit order, Mohiam trained Lady Jessica and serves as the Padishah Emperor’s truthsayer. Before Paul Atreides travels to Arrakis, she tests him with the **gom jabbar** in order to discover if he is human or animal—in other words, whether he bends to his animal instincts or has mastery over his mind and body. She furthermore wants to find out if he is the Bene Gesserit prophesized messiah known as the Kwisatz Haderach.

**Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen** – Favored nephew and heir of Baron Harkonnen. The Baron installs Feyd-Rautha as ruler on Arrakis and aspires for him to one day sit on the Imperial throne. Feyd-Rautha is the same age as Paul Atreides and an excellent fighter, as proved in his duel to the death with Paul. It takes all of Paul’s significant skills to defeat the Harkonnen man.

**Count Hasimir Fenring** – A trusted servant to the Emperor and likely his only friend, Count Fenring is highly intelligent and a skilled fighter. He is married to Lady Margot Fenring, a Bene Gesserit sister. He is also a genetic-eunuch, the result of Bene Gesserit genetic breeding to try and create the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach.

**Piter de Vries** – A cruel Mentat (human capable of extraordinary information computing) who works for Baron Harkonnen. Piter is an ambitious and bloodthirsty advisor of renowned intellect, who rarely makes mistakes in his logical analysis and predictions. He is the Baron’s right-hand man who comes up with the key steps in the plot to destroy House Atreides, but ultimately dies at the hands of the captured Duke Leto.

**Harah** – A Fremen in Stilgar’s sietch who was married to Jamis. Harah has sons named Kaleff and Orlop, and becomes a member of Paul Atreides’s Fremen household after he kills Jamis in single combat. Harah shows a fierce love for Alia Atreides despite the rest of the Fremen largely fearing the strange girl.

**Shadout Mapes** – A Fremen housekeeper for House Atreides in their Arrakeen palace. Mapes is the first Fremen to test Lady Jessica and realize that she is Bene Gesserit. The housekeeper is a stern and honorable individual, warning Paul that there is traitor in House Atreides to repay him for saving her life from a hunter-seeker droid. Dr. Yueh kills Mapes when he betrays the Atreides to the Harkonnens.

**Count Glossu Rabban** – One of Baron Harkonnen’s nephews, Rabaan ruled Arrakis for House Harkonnen before the events of *Dune*. When the Harkonnens succeed in overcoming House Atreides and taking command of Arrakis, the Baron reinstates Rabban as ruler. The Baron considers Rabban as less intelligent

than his younger brother, Feyd-Rautha. He is known on Arrakis as “the Beast” due to his brutal and sadistic tendencies.

## MINOR CHARACTERS

**Duncan Idaho** – A skilled sword master and member of House Atreides. Idaho faithfully serves Duke Leto as one of his key staff, while also training Paul Atreides in combat. Idaho dies in an old Arrakeen Imperial base defending Paul and Lady Jessica from attacking Harkonnen forces.

**Lady Margot Fenring** – The intelligent and beautiful wife to Count Hasimir Fenring who is devoted to loyally serving her Bene Gesserit order. Lady Fenring leaves an encoded message for Lady Jessica in Arrakeen to try and warn her of threats to the Atreides family.

**Jamis** – A Fremen in Stilgar’s sietch with a wife named Harah, son named Orlop and adopted son name Kaleff. Jamis continually challenges Paul Atreides, resulting in a duel to the death that the young Atreides Duke wins.

**Staban Tuek** – The son of smuggler Esmar Tuek, Staban takes over leadership of the Arrakeen smugglers after his father’s death. After House Harkonnen takes control of Arrakis from House Atreides, Staban offers sanctuary to Gurney Halleck and his men if they work with his smugglers.

**Pardot Kynes** – The first planetologist (ecologist) on Arrakis and father of Liet-Kynes. Pardot Kynes appears to his son as a hallucination when Liet-Kynes is dying in the desert. He is also the main focus of *Dune’s* Appendix I, titled “The Ecology of Dune.”

**Princess Irulan** – The eldest daughter of Emperor Shaddam IV who marries Paul Atreides when he blackmails her father into abdicating the Imperial throne. Irulan will become a renowned historian; each chapter of *Dune* begins with an epigraph from one of her future historical texts.

## TERMS

**Bene Gesserit** – An ancient and powerful matriarchal order operating on values of secrecy, whose members are accomplished in mental and physical training. Bene Gesserit sisters can wield control over others using tonal controls learned in their practice known as the Voice. Members also become proficient in prana-bindu (muscle control) and prana nervature (nervous system control). Bene Gesserit members who survive a ritual involving the transformation of toxic spice into a non-toxic substance then become Reverend Mothers, with the ability to access the Other Memory (the combined memories of female ancestral Bene Gesserit). The order’s overall mission is to harness genetic breeding to produce the Kwisatz Haderach, a male individual whose mental abilities go beyond all others.

**Butlerian Jihad** – Humankind’s epic crusade against, and ultimate triumph over, computers and thinking machines (intelligent and sentient machines that were created in the form of a human mind).

**CHOAM** – Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles. A corporation that is overtly controlled by the **Padishah Emperor** and Great Houses, while secretly also controlled by the Guild and Bene Gesserit. The corporation controls the universe’s economy by directing each Great House’s revenue and financial influence.

**Great Houses** – The Great Houses are the most powerful houses in the Imperium. In theory, the Great Houses are a key element in the workable feudal model that governs the Imperium. However, many Great Houses misuse their power and blatantly disregard the rights of those they govern. All Great Houses have voting rights in the Landsraad.

**Guild** – Also known as the Spacing Guild. The Guild controls interstellar travel because its Guild Navigators are the only beings with the ability to “fold space.” This monopoly allows the Guild great political and financial leverage. In *Dune’s* later scenes the Guild Navigators are revealed to gain their powerful abilities by ingesting **spice**, which mutates them mentally and physically.

**Imperial Conditioning** – A seemingly absolute conditioning against taking human life, Imperial Conditioning is taught at Suk Medical Schools. An individual who has received Imperial Conditioning is marked by a diamond tattoo on their forehead and wears their hair in a silver ring. Graduates of the Suk Schools are the universe’s most trusted individuals. However, **Baron Vladimir Harkonnen’s** coercion of **Dr. Wellington Yueh** into betraying House Atreides in the events of *Dune* demonstrates that Imperial Conditioning can be corrupted.

**Imperium** – The galactic Padishah Empire under the rule of House Corrino. **Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV** is the current head of the Imperium and therefore the ruler of the universe. Realistically, though, galactic power is held in a four-way relationship between the Imperium, the Landsraad, the Bene Gesserit, and Guild. The four powers hold stakes in CHOAM, which carries out the majority of the galaxy’s economic transactions.

**Kwisatz Haderach** – A male individual of the highest mental powers who will be the result of Bene Gesserit genetic breeding. The individual will be able access higher powers of cognition, including prescience, with the name “Kwisatz Haderach” signaling “The Shortening of the Way” or “The one who can be two places simultaneously.” The Bene Gesserit seek to breed and manipulate this unique individual to gain extreme power for their order.

**Landsraad** – The body that represents all of the Great Houses in the Imperium.

**Mentat** – Individuals who are trained in supreme logic and

rationality to become the best of humankind in terms of cognitive and analytical abilities. They are known as “human computers” and take the place of computers and thinking machines that were overthrown during the Butlerian Jihad. Mentats often use sapho (a high-energy juice extracted from roots) to amplify their cognitive powers.

**Sardaukar** – Renowned fighters, Sardaukar are the **Padishah Emperor’s** soldier-fanatics and ultimate military force. Their background and training is shrouded in secrecy, and their fighting style is emphasized by a ruthlessness and single-minded devotion to the Emperor’s cause.

**Sietch** – A Fremen community.

**Water of Life** – A sandworm’s liquid exhalation when it drowns, this substance is used in a ritual for Fremen to determine their Reverend Mothers. The ritual is called the **spice** agony, and a Fremen candidate must successfully alter the poisonous Water of Life into an enhancing substance that increases mental awareness. If the Fremen candidate fails in the ritual, he or she will die from the poisonous Water of Life. In the novel, both **Paul** and **Jessica** ingest the Water of Life successfully.



## THEMES

In LitCharts literature guides, each theme gets its own color-coded icon. These icons make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. If you don’t have a color printer, you can still use the icons to track themes in black and white.



### POWER AND VIOLENCE

Set in a future world of intergalactic human occupation, Frank Herbert’s *Dune* relates the story of the young nobleman Paul Atreides’s rise to total authority by taking control of the planet Arrakis and its indigenous Fremen. *Dune* is a political novel that examines influential individuals and organizations who wield power by maintaining control of people and events. There are many types of power prevalent in *Dune*, including control over politics, environments, resources, genetics, and military strength. Furthermore, this power is consistently linked to acts of corruption and revenge. Through the numerous and complex power plays that take place in *Dune*, Herbert suggests that power—the ability to maintain control over people and events—is a necessary political tool that is always attached to violent force. Even when power is wielded for intentions of greater good, violent consequences are inevitable.

*Dune* encompasses an elaborate system of power structures that drive the key plot actions throughout the novel, and Herbert explicitly associates all of these structures with violence. *Dune’s* intergalactic setting is based on a feudal system in which all planets belong to the Padishah Emperor.

The Emperor’s ruling power is dependent on and enforced by the Laandsrat, an alliance of Great Houses who use strength of arms to uphold the Emperor’s authority (and their own accompanying influence). Many citizens lose their lives in the violent clashes that occur regularly in the Imperium, as the Great Houses control their assets and feud for political leverage. The Emperor’s authority also arises from his monopoly over **spice**, which is the most valuable commodity in *Dune’s* universe and only harvested from the planet Arrakis. The plot of *Dune* centers on brutal warfare that occurs on spice-laden Arrakis to challenge the Emperor’s monopoly over the prized resource. This violence has been repeated throughout Arrakeen history because of its unique spice production, showing how violence is necessarily bound up in power. A number of power structures also derive from various groups’ strengths or talents in *Dune*. Showing extreme military strength, the Emperor’s fearsome Sardokaur troops and Paul’s formidable Fremen are quick to slaughter any groups that their leaders declare as enemies. Strength of mind is also a powerful weapon that leads to great violence; for example, the best Mentats—individuals with comprehension capabilities well beyond a normal human intellect—are also known as “Masters of Assassins” because of their chilling influence over violent power plays in the Imperium. Demonstrating a different talent, Duke Leto commands authority due to his strength of popularity; however, even then is violence connected to power. Despite Leto’s honorable leadership, the Emperor perceives the Duke’s power as a threat and causes great bloodshed by killing the Duke and attacking House Atreides with House Harkonnen, showing how violence is a necessary tool for attaining and maintaining power in *Dune*.

Later on in the novel, Paul realizes that he may be the Bene Gesserit’s Kwisatz Haderach, a powerful political and religious commander is prophesized to lead humanity away from annihilation. Despite his genuine desire to avoid violence committed in his name, Paul realizes that he must establish political charge through destructive, often brutal force of arms. Paul wants to develop his powers of control over people and events in order to save the fate of humanity as well as avenging his dead father. He therefore capitalizes on cunning strategy to secure political and religious influence on Arrakis as the visionary prophet Muad’Dib—a role that he first feigns and stumbles through, before developing into the genuine legendary prophet. Paul draws on his unique Mentat, Bene Gesserit, and weapons training to convince the formidable desert Fremen to form a fiercely loyal following that would die for him. This results in Paul’s control of a powerful army of fanatic fighters, who efficiently massacre Imperial and Harkonnen forces to give Paul a strategic edge over his enemies. Paul eventually leads the Fremen to victory over the tyrannous Padishah Emperor, but this comes at a cost. Upon taking control of the Empire, Paul realizes he cannot prevent a Fremen holy crusade from sweeping the universe, as his image

has become too powerful to keep his followers in check. Ironically, then, political power—and its ensuing violence—has the ability to overwhelm even the noblest of intentions.

From his opening episode of Bene Gesserit authority through to his final scenes of Paul's military and political take down of the Padishah Emperor, Herbert uses the fictional world of Arrakis to interrogate the results of power. While many characters such as the Emperor wield power with outright evil intentions, even those such as Paul and Duke Leto who desire control and authority for the greater good find that their power is corrupted by violence. Political instability means that power needs to be earned and shored up by violent force. Through Paul's epic rise to controlling the Imperium, *Dune* suggests that the most influential leaders need to be willing to destroy something—even a galaxy—in order to gain power over people and events.



### FREE WILL AND FATE

The themes of free will and fate weigh heavily throughout Frank Herbert's epic science fiction novel *Dune*. The protagonist, a young nobleman named Paul Atreides, is an individual who shows uncanny abilities of foresight. These talents result from generations of careful selective breeding as dictated by the cunning Bene Gesserit organization; Paul's ability to view potential futures is then heightened by his use of the powerful drug called **spice**. In his visions, he sees many pathways that lead him to overthrow the treacherous ruling Empire and save the galaxy from destruction. This occurs with the support of the Fremen—a hardy people who have adapted to the harsh desert climate on planet Arrakis and regularly ingest the planet's spice. Through his actions, Paul will become the Bene Gesserit's Kwisatz Haderach, who is prophesized to save humanity from annihilation. However, Paul sees that this triumph will come at a great human cost: his Fremen army will become an uncontrollable force who will sweep the galaxy in a violent religious crusade. Although Paul tries to assert his free will to avoid this violence, he comes to realize and accept that he cannot escape his destiny. In playing out the tension between free will and fate, Herbert uses Paul's character arc to demonstrate that people are ultimately powerless against fate's determinism.

As Kwisatz Haderach, Paul is able to see visions of all the potential paths that lie in his future, which suggests that he possesses free will in making different choices. Ultimately, though, fate dictates that all of the future pathways have the same outcome. As he grows into the Kwisatz Haderach role over the course of the novel, Paul becomes powerful individual possessing ancestral memories and powers of foresight. The Bene Gesserit have prophesized the Kwisatz Haderach as a benevolent messiah who will guide humanity toward peace and stability. As he develops into this messianic figure, he

experiences increased visions of a future characterized by the Fremen's religious warfare in the name of "Muad'Dib" (Paul's chosen Fremen name). Paul's identity and actions are thereby shaped by both past realities and future certainties. He desperately tries to avoid his visions and the Bene Gesserit prophecy that predicts his destructive rise to galactic power. However, Paul eventually accepts that regardless of which pathway he chooses to try and save humanity from destruction, the final outcome is going to be the same—a violent religious war in his name. Herbert thus encloses his protagonist's being in a foretold narrative arc, suggesting that his fate is inescapable.

*Dune's* narrative structure reflects its thematic deterministic universe, as readers know that Paul Atreides will overthrow the corrupted Empire, but they don't know *how* this will occur. Each of the novel's chapters begins with an excerpt of Princess Irulan's future historical writings, offering insights on Paul (her future husband in a marriage of political convenience) whom she refers to by his Fremen name, Muad'Dib. Irulan's writing lends a (fictional) scholarly weight to Paul's prophecy as the Bene Gesserit's Kwisatz Haderach, confirming him by that title as well as "Lisan al-Gaib" (Paul's messianic title in Fremen culture). These (future) historical excerpts play into Herbert's dramatic conceit that readers are aware of the novel's end but not the means of getting there; this reflects Paul's foresight that a future religious war will occur in his name, but his uncertainty of how actions and events will lead there. He sees many pathways and is able to choose the means but not the destination, emphasizing that no amount of free will and choice can allow a person to outrun their destiny.

Paul is a protagonist characterized by his uniquely singular abilities to tap into a collective consciousness to experience the past and foresee the future. His transformation into the Kwisatz Haderach collapses time and space and reveals his predetermined future as the prophet who overthrows the Padishah Emperor and unleashes a religious war on the universe. Paul's dilemma is that he wants to save humanity and avenge his family, but he also longs to avoid the accompanying Fremen war that will take a huge cost in human lives and material damage. Ultimately, though, this is not possible—the two are tied by fate, and there is nothing Paul can do to sidestep his destiny.



### ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN CULTURE

Frank Herbert's *Dune* relates the rise of young hero Paul Atreides. He thrives on the desert planet Arrakis after being integrated into indigenous Fremen culture, and he ultimately overthrows the corrupt Padishah Emperor. Herbert's rich and complex world-building is a hallmark of *Dune's* narrative. One key element of this world-building is Herbert's attention to detail regarding the physical environments that set the scene for *Dune's* action.



Most notably, of course, are the barren Arrakeen deserts where Paul evolves into the prophesized messiah Kwisatz Haderach who will lead humanity to prosperity. Arrakeen environmental hardships are so critical for Paul's development into a hero that many critics have suggested that Arrakis is actually the novel's protagonist—not Paul. In *Dune*, Herbert highlights how environment can have an immense influence on human culture.

The harsh and unforgiving Arrakeen deserts toughen its indigenous Fremen peoples into a hardy and disciplined culture. Arrakis (also known as Dune, hence the novel's title) is a desert planet where water is an extremely scarce resource. Consequently, the Fremen are an extremely tough and resilient people. They are disciplined in conserving water through the use of technologies such as stillsuits and practices such as their death rituals; they have learned to cohabitate with and benefit from the deadly sandworms that inhabit Arrakis's deserts; and they have also developed strong fighting techniques honed in the desert and regularly compete for the strongest individuals to lead their communities. The Arrakis ecology shapes their every way of daily being. Paul recognizes the benefits of the Arrakeen environment for Fremen culture, stating that "there should be a science of discontent. People need hard times and oppression to develop psychic muscles." Desert hardships make Fremen so physically strong and psychologically ruthless that they arguably become the most powerful culture in the Imperium, overpowering the Padishah Emperor and his formidable, highly trained Sardaukar forces. Significantly, Paul realizes that his Fremen army would lose their impressive power if they converted the planet Arrakis from desert wilderness to a lush Eden-like environment. By associating Fremen's core values of strength and discipline with Arrakis's desert trials of hardship, Herbert suggests that lessons learned from trials of environmental hardship have a crucial impact on the human experience. Through the Fremen, he ultimately suggests it is preferable for people to inhabit harsh rather than comfortable environments, since learning to thrive in these hostile landscapes teaches strength of body and mind.

The Atreides' home planet, Caladan, which is abundant in water, flora, and fauna, also shapes its people's culture. Unlike Arrakis, the water-rich Caladan has a temperate climate, vast oceans, and islands covered in forest and swamp. These elements are favorable for comfortable human life and provide plentiful resources for its people. Caladan's populace are even able to produce pundi rice as one of their main crops and exports, even though it takes an exorbitant amount of water to grow. This crop allows Caladan's people live a comfortable lifestyle, and their culture is consequently characterized by peace and prosperity rather than a rough-and-tumble struggle for survival. However, Paul acknowledges the way that Caladan's comfortable environments also affected the culture negatively, stating that on the "paradise world" of his birth

planet, "we went soft, we lost our edge." Paul and his mother, Jessica, become much stronger when they are tested by the harsh Arrakeen environments; he knows that if the Fremen lived in a lush ecology like Caladan, it would diminish their physical and mental strengths. In contrasting Caladan and Arrakis, Herbert makes the desert planet seem more dangerous and powerful, and also reveals the strong link between the characteristics of a people and a place.

*Dune* also suggests that the relationship between environment and culture is reciprocal—that is, human culture can also influence the environment. An obvious example is Giedi Prime, the home planet of House Harkonnen. Giedi Prime is not described significantly in *Dune*, but readers learn enough to know that it is a planet rich in minerals yet also an industrial wasteland. This is not a natural phenomenon—the Harkonnen rulers' greed has forced its oppressed and largely enslaved populace to mine the planet to the point of widespread pollution. The capital city is thus characterized by "rubbish heaps" and "the furtive scurrying of the people." The Harkonnens' social practices of slavery, torture, and gladiator competitions are reflected in their cruel treatment of Giedi Prime, which has drastically altered its ecology. Just as the planet Arrakis influences its Fremen people, so too do the Harkonnen people influence the planet Giedi Prime, further emphasizing the connection between culture and environment.

In *Dune*, Frank Herbert pays exceptional attention to the relationships between physical environments and human culture. Paul recognizes the importance of Arrakeen landscapes in benefitting human development and integrates himself into Fremen culture, thereby further developing his own physical and cognitive abilities. He hones previous skills and learns new ones; like his fellow Fremen, his core identity is now tied to desert ecology, as demonstrated when he proves his courage by successfully riding a deadly sandworm. Ultimately, Paul's rise to power could not have occurred if he had stayed on his comfortable home planet Caladan, revealing just how important environment is to the novel and the characters and cultures within it.



## HUMAN COGNITIVE ADVANCES

*Dune* is the epic tale of the young nobleman Paul Atreides and his ascendancy to power in a futuristic world characterized by intergalactic human habitation. In his narrative, author Frank Herbert shows a preoccupation with the future development of the human mind. This was an unusual priority for science fiction of the time, which tended to focus on technological futures rather than advances in human psychology. While *Dune* includes some futuristic technologies such as laser shields and ornithopters, it is the cognitive abilities of humans that best showcase Herbert's creativity. In particular, Herbert uses the future cognitive and psychic abilities of Mentats and Bene Gesserit

sisters to demonstrate his belief that humanity's cultural evolution will hinge more on cognitive rather than technological changes.

The Bene Gesserit order is a mysterious sisterhood who favor psychological manipulation for worldly influence, and they are responsible for many of *Dune*'s political occurrences. The group taps into many forms of mental conditioning. This includes a female collective unconscious that arises from shared genetic memories, using "the weirding way" to exert psychic control over others, and using mental control to override physical stresses such as pain. The sisterhood is also responsible for 40 generations of genetic bloodline control aimed at producing the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach, a powerful being capable of shaping humanity's future prosperity. Thus, the Bene Gesserit's complex cognitive talents and missions are critical for human evolution in Herbert's novel.

Mentats are individuals possessing extreme analytical and processing abilities who symbolically function to replace computers Herbert's story. The world of *Dune* has banned any "thinking machines" made "in the likeness of man," and therefore there are no digital machines such as computers. Instead, Mentats are humans who can process enormous amounts of data to make complex and insightful decisions. Often employed as political aides to noble families, Mentats symbolically function to highlight Herbert's distrust of exclusively technological societal advances. Herbert's dislike of technological evolution is also represented by the ability of the sandworms on planet Arrakis to render electrical and metal technologies useless.

The culmination of Herbert's desire to see humanity evolve cognitively rather than technologically is reflected in the development of *Dune*'s protagonist, Paul Atreides. With the aid of **spice**, Paul transforms into the Kwisatz Haderach "who could indeed see the future." As this figure, he is the culmination of the Bene Gesserit's 10,000-year-old genetic breeding program and can access the sisterhood's collective memories. He learns to practice "mind-body" meditation from his Bene Gesserit mother, Lady Jessica, to relieve personal stresses. He also trains his Fremen army in the Bene Gesserit "weirding way" so that they become more lethal soldiers. Paul also benefits from the childhood Mentat training he received from Thufir Hawat, who was Duke Leto's talented Mentat. Hawat was able to train the young Atreides extensively in political and military strategy, which ultimately helps Paul capitalize on circumstances that link him to the Fremen's prophesized messiah "Lisan al-Gaib." This, in turn, sets Paul up for his triumph over the Padishah Emperor and Harkonnens with the support of the Fremen army. Thus, the mental abilities of the Bene Gesserit and Mentats shape the cognitive makeup of Paul Atreides, who is Frank Herbert's ultimate depiction of human potential in *Dune*. Across his writing, Herbert was invested in exploring the evolution of the human mind over time; Paul's development is a

transformational point in Herbert's imagined future of *Dune* due to Paul's unique cognitive abilities.



## SYMBOLS

Symbols appear in **teal text** throughout the Summary and Analysis sections of this LitChart.



### SPICE

In the novel, the spice drug, also known as melange, takes on two different layers of significance: it represents valuable worldly resources that result in epic power plays, as well as the use of drugs to reach the human mind's potential. *Dune*, a story set in a feudal society spread across the universe, is strongly focused on the clashes for control over the crop spice that is only mined from the planet Arrakis. Set twenty thousand years in the future, humanity has abolished all computers and thinking machines, and now relies on the mind-altering qualities of spice. Spice is a drug that can extend human life, allow interstellar space travel, and bestow heightened cognitive powers. Spice is therefore the most valuable commodity in the universe and has allowed humanity technological progress and cognitive development. As the most important resource in the galaxy, the spice drug symbolizes resources that have been critical for humanity's technological and cultural advancements. Examples include digital data, as well as fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas. As with spice, political battles have constantly pivoted on control of these real-world resources. With *Dune* written in 1960s America, spice can also represent recreational drugs of the time such as marijuana, cocaine, and LSD; in many communities, it was popularly believed that such drugs could increase cognitive abilities by unlocking dormant parts of the human brain. Like spice, such drugs are also highly addictive and often require the user to take more and more to achieve the same effects.



### WATER

Water represents life on numerous levels in *Dune*: survival at the individual level, well-being and spiritual faith for Fremen communities, and universal prosperity in enabling the production of **spice** as a commodity that enables technological and cognitive progress. Compared to the abundance of water on his home planet, Caladan, Paul comes to recognize the precious nature of water on Arrakis. He learns how to use technologies such as stillsuits and windtraps to survive at an individual level in the harsh desert environments. As he integrates into Fremen life, Paul also learns the importance of water at a community level; for example, water is measured and stored precisely in community

wells, oaths are guaranteed by water rather than blood, and funeral rites see the community reclaiming water from the individual's body. In Fremen culture, the collection and storage of water also represents their hope to one day terraform Arrakis into lush, vegetative landscapes. Although Arrakis has no open bodies of surface water, salt flats indicate the planet was once home to lakes and oceans, and ecologists such as Liet-Kynes have confirmed the planet's ecology can be recreated to emulate these historic habitats if they store enough water to change the climate. Kynes has instilled in the Fremen a mixture of political and spiritual customs that ensure the people are severely disciplined in their water use and collection. Strict individual and societal water regulation underpins the Fremen hope for a better future, where they are not always subject to the relentless tolls of desert life. On Arrakis, water is also an essential ingredient in forming the pre-spice mass, with the final product spice existing as the most valuable commodity in the universe. Therefore, despite wanting to alter the planet's landscapes, Fremen are also practical in pledging to leave a number of desert environments on the planet so that spice and sandworms can still thrive, highlighting how water—and its lack—symbolizes life in the novel.



## GOM JABBAR

The gom jabbar, a poisoned needle that is mounted on a thimble and worn on a Bene Gesserit's finger, symbolizes self-mastery. In the universe of *Dune*, it functions as a test of humanity: an individual is placed in a crisis situation of immense stress, and if they cannot overcome their instincts with their mind, they will meet death at the poisoned needle's tip. In the case of Paul Atreides, Reverend Mother Mohiam places the gom jabbar at his neck while forcing his hand into a nerve-induction box that causes excruciating pain. Paul knows that if he yields to the physical pain and withdraws his hand from the box, he will die; therefore, he wills himself to endure the physical agony through sheer mental toughness.

The Reverend Mother observes Paul's response to this stress, noting that his ability to ignore the fierce instinct to withdraw his hand from the box proves he is a human capable of absolute cognitive control and awareness. She explains: "You've heard of animals chewing off a leg to escape a trap? There's an animal kind of trick. A human would remain in the trap, endure the pain, feigning death that he might kill the trapper and remove a threat to his kind." Paul passes the test and is allowed to withdraw his hand (which is unharmed) from the box, with the threat of the gom jabbar removed. The Bene Gesserit program therefore uses the gom jabbar to verify if an individual is human, or a baser being of mere animal instincts such as fear and pain. By their definition, and that of the gom jabbar's test of "human-ness," to be human is to have total self-mastery. The gom-jabbar further symbolizes self-mastery in the Reverend Mother's revelation that none of the Bene Gesserit are

animals; even if a Bene Gesserit was struck by the poisonous gom jabbar, they have all mastered the ability to metabolically neutralize the needle's poison through their heightened mental and physical abilities, thus proving themselves human and in control of their minds and bodies.





## QUOTES


Note: all page numbers for the quotes below refer to the Ace edition of *Dune* published in 1990.

### Book 1, Part 1 Quotes

“A duke's son *must* know about poisons,” she said. “It's the way of our times, eh? Musky, to be poisoned in your drink. Aumas, to be poisoned in your food. The quick ones and the slow ones and the ones in between. Here's a new one for you: the gom jabbar. It kills only animals.”

**Related Characters:** Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam (speaker), Lady Jessica, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 11

### Explanation and Analysis

In this passage, Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam is threatening 15-year-old Paul Atreides with death by poison. She holds the gom jabbar (a poison-tipped needle) at his neck while instructing him to keep his hand in a nerve-induction box. The scene takes place at the novel's very beginning, and the Reverend Mother's statements reveal clues about the complex world of *Dune* that Frank Herbert thrusts his audience into. Firstly, Reverend Mother Gaius is a dangerous and ruthless character who is willing to kill an innocent boy for no fault of his own. Readers know that she is a superior in the mysterious Bene Gesserit sisterhood, therefore can infer that the order itself is a brutal system willing to sacrifice innocent lives in their quest for improve quality in human genetics and evolution.


Secondly, the Reverend Mother's claim that Paul must know about poisons because he is a duke's son reveals information about *Dune's* political setting. Noble families must be regularly under threat from assassination to need to have extensive knowledge of poisons. Finally, the Reverend Mother's claim that the gom jabbar will reveal

whether Paul is human or animal shows the Bene Gesserit belief that humans are beings who wield self-awareness and control over baser instincts that animals are driven by. During the test, Paul needs to use sheer willpower to overcome his animal instincts to escape the pain that the box is causing him; if he fails, the Reverend Mother will kill him.

☞ *I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain.*

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Lady Jessica, Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam

**Related Themes:**   

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 12

### Explanation and Analysis

In this passage, Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam is testing 15-year-old Paul Atreides to determine whether he is human or animal—an animal would succumb to the instinct to escape pain, while a human would be able to overcome these basic instincts through mental toughness. Paul manages to overcome his fear and the pain of the Reverend Mother's gom jabbar test by reciting this Bene Gesserit litany against fear.


The litany embodies the Bene Gesserit belief that the test of humanity is the ability to master one's base instincts using emotional and mental control. Paul's ability to master his instinct to escape pain and fear demonstrates he has elite talents in self-awareness and self-control. His cognitive strength results in his successful survival during a crisis situation, and this is just one of many tests and crisis situations that Paul must survive throughout the course of the novel. Later, Jessica also uses the Bene Gesserit litany against fear to calm herself when she is trapped in a violent sandstorm of winds above 700 kilometers with Paul. As with Paul, the litany returns her to a calm state so that her Bene Gesserit training in logic and restraint prevails. Through his characters' ultimate successes upon using the litany, Herbert elevates values of refinement and control over innate urges and instincts.

## Book 1, Part 3 Quotes

☞ The willow submits to the wind and prospers until one day it is many willows—a wall against the wind. That is the willow's purpose.

**Related Characters:** Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam (speaker), Lady Jessica, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 42

### Explanation and Analysis

After announcing that Paul has passed her test to prove that he is human, Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam explains that he may be the messianic Kwisatz Haderach long prophesized by her Bene Gesserit order. She warns Paul of a dangerous future and offers him vague hints about the hardships he will encounter.

The Reverend Mother's metaphorical willow illustrates the Bene Gesserit sisterhood's *modus operandi*—to work as a flexible, industrious, and patient organization in order to gain great power in the long term to wield influence over people and events. They secretly work to manipulate genetic breeding to control the future leader of intergalactic forces. By working covertly while appearing to submit to other forces, the sisterhood is certain that it will benefit greatly. To this end, all Bene Gesserit members must offer absolute devotion and loyalty in service to the sisterhood—the program's greater collective purpose overrules any individual desires.

Despite the Reverend Mother's previous threat to kill Paul using the gom jabbar if he fails to prove he is human, she reveals a more compassionate side as she attempts to offer Paul hints about how he can overcome future hardships to rise to become the Kwisatz Haderach. Her discussion of the willow's certain "purpose" also foreshadows the "terrible purpose" that Paul will shortly experience when the Reverend Mother reveals he may be the Kwisatz Haderach. The echo of this "terrible purpose" haunts Paul during many key scenes throughout the events of *Dune* and ties into the novel's overarching theme of free will versus fate.

## Book 1, Part 4 Quotes

☛☛ “Mood?” Halleck’s voice betrayed his outrage even through the shield’s filtering. “What has *mood* to do with it? You fight when the necessity arises—no matter the mood! Mood’s a thing for cattle or making love or playing the baliset. It’s not for fighting.”

**Related Characters:** Gurney Halleck (speaker), Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib

**Related Themes:** 

**Page Number:** 55

### Explanation and Analysis

Here, Paul Atreides and Gurney Halleck are practicing dueling in the training room of the Atreides’ Caladan palace. When Paul mentions that he is not in the “mood” for training, and thus isn’t at peak performance, Halleck becomes angered. Most of the time, Halleck is a jovial character who has a fun-natured relationship with Paul as his pupil. His anger at Paul’s attitude in this passage likely arises because Halleck is aware that with the upcoming move to Arrakis, Paul will likely soon experience real life-and-death situations where he will need to rely on his fighting skills no matter what his “mood.” Halleck’s harsh words therefore reflect his care for his young charge. Even in a moment of severity, the weapon master’s humor shines through as he notes that “mood” is for more trivial activities such as sex.

## Book 1, Part 9 Quotes

☛☛ Muad’Dib learned rapidly because his first training was in how to learn. And the first lesson of all was the basic trust that he could learn. It’s shocking to find how many people do not believe they can learn, and how many more believe learning to be difficult. Muad’Dib knew that every experience carries its lesson.

**Related Characters:** Princess Irulan (speaker), Dr. Wellington Yueh, Duke Leto Atreides, Thufir Hawat, Lady Jessica, Duncan Idaho, Gurney Halleck, Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib

**Related Themes:**   

**Page Number:** 106

### Explanation and Analysis

This quote is from an epigraph taken from a text called “The

Humanity of Muad’Dib.” The author, Princess Irulan, comments on Paul Atreides’s early lesson of learning how to learn—a seemingly simple lesson but one that she knows many people fail to understand. Princess Irulan’s comments offer multiple layers of foreshadowing. Firstly, her notes from an in-world published text suggest that Irulan becomes an authority on the character of Paul Atreides—later, readers learn that the two are married in a political union. Furthermore, her mention of the mysterious figure Muad’Dib suggests that he is Paul Atreides due to Paul’s shared history in learning “the basic trust that he could learn.” From a young age Paul is subject to learning from experts in specific talents—weapons training from Gurney Halleck and Duncan Idaho, cognitive training from Lady Jessica and Thufir Hawat, and a strong foundation of other knowledge from Duke Leto Atreides and Dr. Wellington Yueh.

Princess Irulan’s words also foreshadow Paul’s almost unbelievably quick adaptation to Fremen life on Arrakis and his swift ascent to taking control of the Imperial throne—his ability to learn from all situations, including failures, accounts for his rapid gain of knowledge, skills, and power.

## Book 1, Part 13 Quotes

☛☛ *I must rule with eye and claw—as the the hawk among lesser birds.*

**Related Characters:** Duke Leto Atreides (speaker), Dr. Liet-Kynes, Lady Jessica, Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib, Baron Vladimir Harkonnen

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 165

### Explanation and Analysis

In this moment, Duke Leto Atreides is standing in a tower overlooking Arrakeen, which he has just relocated to. He is frustrated by the constant hounding of the Great House Harkonnen as they look to undermine and destroy his House Atreides. Particularly shocked by their recent attack on his son, Paul, Duke Leto resolves that he will gain control and stability in his new city by ruling “with eye and claw” like the “hawk.”

Ruling like a hawk suggests that Duke Leto will begin to rule more fiercely and severely, much like a bird of prey’s behaviors. Duke Leto’s thoughts also demonstrate his character development. While the Duke was previously described as an honorable and compassionate man who

values the wellbeing of his family and people above all else, readers now learn of his resolve to be more ruthless in his governance and his fight against the Harkonnens. In this way, he starts to emulate the harsh rule of his enemy, Baron Harkonnen.

The Duke's thoughts are a particularly apt description of his resolved will because a red hawk emblem is the symbol of House Atreides. Furthermore, Duke Leto is often described as hawk-like in appearance: Lady Jessica describes his face as "predatory: thin, full of sharp angles and planes," and Liet-Kynes states that he is "hawk-faced." On a literal and figurative level, then, Leto is likened to the bird, suggesting that he is a sharp and competent leader.

## Book 1, Part 16 Quotes

☞ Greatness is a transitory experience. It is never consistent. It depends in part upon the myth-making imagination of humankind. The person who experiences greatness must have a feeling for the myth he is in. He must reflect what is projected upon him. And he must have a strong sense of the sardonic. This is what uncouples him from belief in his own pretensions. The sardonic is all that permits him to move within himself. Without this quality, even occasional greatness will destroy a man.

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Dr. Liet-Kynes, Princess Irulan

**Related Themes:**   

**Page Number:** 205

### Explanation and Analysis

Princess Irulan's book "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" includes his words on the topic of greatness that act as an epigraph in *Dune's* Book 1. Muad'Dib, also known as Paul Atreides, believes that an individual can experience greatness if they have three qualities: an imagination that partakes in myth-making, the ability to reflect the ideas that other people project onto them, and a sense of the sardonic to disconnect themselves from the myth.

Paul's beliefs are intrinsically tied to his own experiences in developing into the messianic identities Lisan al-Gaib and Kwisatz Haderach. He knows that much of these identities are dependent on myth—in these cases originating from Fremen and Bene Gesserit prophecies that foretell a messiah. Paul acknowledges that he has been able to reflect these myths' expectations to gain the respect associated


with the mythic figures—coming from a background trained in elite cognitive and physical skills, he uses foresight and training to match his behaviors with those prophesized of a messiah.

This quote is an appropriate epigraph to begin *Dune's* Book 1, Part 16, because the section celebrates Paul's quick reactions as a boy who overcomes an older and more experienced enemy who tries to publicly humiliate him during a formal dinner. Paul's actions and his interest in the Fremen dream that Arrakis will one day become a lush and comfortable planet convince Liet-Kynes that Paul may be connected intimately to the myth of Lisan al-Gaib. The powerful Liet-Kynes begins to favor the young Atreides nobleman—later in the novel he will even sacrifice his life for Paul.

☞ "I've heard you have a saying," Paul said, "that polish comes from the cities, wisdom from the desert."

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Dr. Liet-Kynes

**Related Themes:**   

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 235

### Explanation and Analysis

In spite of the well-known barren deserts and water scarcity on their new home planet, Lady Jessica and Paul Atreides are very interested in rumors of water in the desert that Fremen can access. At the formal dinner party that the Dule hosts, Dr. Kynes rejects these assertions, but Jessica and Paul can tell he is lying. Paul pursues the truth further by asking Dr. Kynes about the Arrakeen proverb that "polish" (or sophistication) emerges from the cities, while "wisdom" is gained in the desert.

Paul and Jessica have already learned that the local Fremen and Arrakeen cultures place great stock in myth and superstition. In asking about a local proverb, Paul demonstrates his artful strategy in trying to draw out truths from the reluctant Dr. Kynes, while staying within the bounds of acting as a gracious host who does not make his guests uncomfortable. Paul's political tact will become invaluable during his rise to lead Fremen to a victory over Harkonnen and Imperial forces. The proverb itself demonstrates the tension between urban elegance versus desert intuitive knowledge. In *Dune*, it soon becomes

apparent that Frank Herbert promotes the older and intuitive desert knowledge over the modern but vulnerable city ways.

## Book 1, Part 19 Quotes

☞ There should be a science of discontent. People need hard times and oppression to develop psychic muscles.

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Count Hasimir Fenring, Princess Irulan

**Related Themes:**   

**Page Number:** 263

### Explanation and Analysis

In this passage, an excerpt from Princess Irulan's "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib," Paul claims that hardship and oppression develops mental strength. Paul's claim is a direct reference to his learnings on Arrakis, where he recognizes that the desert's harsh environmental challenges have developed Fremen into a society with elite mental fortitude. Desert hardships have resulted in Fremen being so physically strong and mentally sharp that they become the most powerful society in the Imperium, overcoming the Padishah Emperor and his formidable Sardaukar troops with relative ease. Paul knows that if the Fremen succeed in their dream to alter the Arrakeen climate to ensure a more comfortable life on their planet, then the Fremen would suddenly lack "hard times and oppression" and would therefore lose their impressive abilities.

Paul's understanding of ecology and how it shapes human culture helps him understand social dynamics and ascend to power as Fremen leader. In addition, Paul's "science of discontent" theory is echoed by Count Fenring later in the novel, foreshadowing the close relationship between the two unacquainted men due to their shared identities as possible Kwisatz Haderach figures.

## Book 1, Part 21 Quotes

☞ The whole universe sat there, open to the man who could make the right decisions. The uncertain rabbits had to be exposed, made to run for their burrows. Else how could you control them and breed them? He pictured his fighting men as bees routing the rabbits. And he thought: *The day hums sweetly when you have enough bees working for you.*

**Related Characters:** Duke Leto Atreides, Baron Vladimir

Harkonnen

**Related Themes:** 

**Page Number:** 285


### Explanation and Analysis


From afar in a ship, Baron Harkonnen is watching his military success as the Harkonnen fighting forces mostly kill or trap Duke Leto Atreides's staff and household on Arrakis. The Baron is pleased as the relative ease of execution of his plan and reflects on his victory in amassing increased power in the Imperium. The Baron's vocabulary is telling; he considers the enemy Atreides forces as "rabbits," suggesting prey that can be controlled in the direction they move and the breeding they undertake. This is his attitude towards general civilians in the Imperium as well. He also calls his Harkonnen fighters "bees" who "rout" the rabbits, suggesting that his collective forces are working in unison for him as their rightful monarch, and they are scattering and conquering the Atreides "rabbits." Bees are industrious workers who are environmentally invaluable in pollinating plant life and creating desirable product of honey, while rabbits are global pests who destroy plant life. The Baron therefore assigns moral value to his own forces while discrediting House Atreides.

## Book 1, Part 22 Quotes

☞ *People are the true strength of a Great House,* Paul thought. And he remembered Hawat's words: "*Parting with people is a sadness; a place is only a place.*"

**Related Characters:** Thufir Hawat (speaker), Duke Leto Atreides, Lady Jessica, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 308

### Explanation and Analysis

As they flee from attacking Harkonnen forces into the unknown Arrakeen desert, Paul thinks of how to gain control of the Atreides atomic weapons. Meanwhile, Lady Jessica is struck by a desire to find any of the Atreides's forces who have also escaped the Harkonnens. Her desire reminds Paul that people are the strength of a noble house, a belief that Thufir Hawat shared.

This passages demonstrates Thufir Hawat's influence on



Paul, having instructed him in Mentat ways and attitudes since Paul was a young boy. Paul still remembers his mentor's advice from time long past. The passage also draws similarities between Paul and his father. Duke Leto was widely known as a fair and loyal leader who—unlike most nobility in the Imperium—valued people's lives over monetary profits.


This is evidenced when Leto and Paul are inspecting their spice operations shortly after their move to Arrakis, where the Duke surprises Arrakeen locals by saving the lives of a dozen spice workers instead of trying to save the valuable haul of spice. Furthermore, Paul's thoughts darkly foreshadow the leader he will grow into—a strong-willed man who values place (Arrakis) as much as people (his Fremen) due to the ability for Arrakis to train Fremen into formidable fighting forces, as well as inspiring their hope and devotion for a changed planet and galaxy.

## Book 2, Part 2 Quotes

☞ “We will treat your comrade with the same reverence we treat our own,” the Fremen said. “This is the bond of water. We know the rites. A man's flesh is his own; the water belongs to the tribe.”

**Related Characters:** Thufir Hawat

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 346

### Explanation and Analysis



In this passage, Thufir Hawat and a small number of Atrideides soldiers are pinned in a cave by Harkonnen forces. A Fremen has safely entered the cave and offers Hawat and his men aid if they will enter “the bond of water.” By this, the Fremen alludes to his cultural practice of reclaiming water from a dead person's body. This Fremen practice reflects the harsh desert realities of lack of essential resources. Water is considered so rare and sacred—not to mention necessary for human survival—that the “bond of water” replaces social bonds that are traditionally sealed by words or blood. Furthermore, Fremen are driven by the generational dream to one day terraform Arrakis by storing enough water to alter its climate for more comfortable human life, making water extra important in their culture. When Hawat eventually agrees to the Fremen's offer of the bond of water, the Fremen calls his peers, and the group are

willing to help the Atrideides's forces in whatever way necessary, risking their own lives for them.

Hawat and the Atrideides men are suspicious of Fremen practices regarding water, especially their custom to reclaim water from a dead person's flesh. But to the Fremen, water is a priceless commodity regardless of its source. Herbert's portrayal of an extreme water scarcity cautions readers about human impact on the Earth's environment that must be protected.

☞ And Paul, walking behind Chani, felt that a vital moment had passed him, that he had missed an essential decision and was now caught up in his own myth. He knew he had seen this place before, experienced it in a fragment of prescient dream on faraway Caladan, but details of the place were being filled in now that he had not seen. He felt a new sense of wonder at the limits of his gift. It was as though rode within the wave of time, sometimes in its trough, sometimes on a crest—and all around him the other waves lifted and fell, revealing and then hiding what they bore on their surface. And through it all, the wild jihad still loomed ahead of him, the violence and the slaughter.

**Related Characters:** Lady Jessica, Stilgar, Chani Kynes, Paul Atrideides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 518

### Explanation and Analysis

Walking behind Chani as Stilgar and the Fremen lead Paul and Lady Jessica to the safety of their sietch, Paul feels that his life and future events have moved beyond his control. His prescient dreams have predicted this moment, therefore it is likely the rest of his prophetic visions will play out no matter what he desires. The simile of Paul feeling caught as though on “a wave of time” demonstrates the unrelenting force and motion of pre-determined future events.

Paul leverages Bene Gesserit myth to gain safety and influence within Fremen culture, eventually fulfilling the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach myth after developing the ability to see possible future timelines as well as accessing collective Bene Gesserit memory. However, Paul becomes trapped by the Kwisatz Haderach prophecy due to the power that his name alone takes on. He begins to see that all potential future events will result in a Fremen religious war sweeping the Imperium in his name; the “the violence and





the slaughter” of these visions haunts Paul throughout *Dune's* events, yet he is powerless to change the course of his rise to power and accompanying Fremen crusade.

## Book 2, Part 4 Quotes

☝☝ Let him sweat a little, the Baron thought. One must always keep the tools of statecraft sharp and ready. Power and fear—sharp and ready.

**Related Characters:** Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (speaker), Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV, Duke Leto Atreides, Lady Jessica, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 372

### Explanation and Analysis


The Harkonnen captain of guard has just relayed news to his leader, Baron Harkonnen, of Lady Jessica and Paul Atreides's escape into a sandstorm. Although the Baron privately agrees with the captain's assessment that the mother and son must have died in the dangerous sandstorm, he decides to worry the captain by pretending he is upset with his work. This scene of emotional manipulation is on the minor end of the scale when considering Baron Harkonnen's corrupt behaviors. The Baron believes that “power and fear” are the “ultimate tools of statecraft” that ensure his effective leadership. He therefore regularly uses torture, manipulation, assassination, and other means of oppression to keep his people in line and ensure he gains more influence over people and events.

Interestingly, the novel draws parallels between the seemingly immoral Harkonnens and the moral Atreides. Earlier in the narrative, Duke Leto referred to sometimes needing to use power and fear as a tool of statecraft, while Paul has not hesitated in using blackmail to ensure that the Emperor and the Guild bend to his will at the novel's end. This suggests that power will always involve corrupt behaviors, even when wielded by individuals with good intentions of fair governance or overthrowing an oppressive ruler.

## Book 2, Part 6 Quotes

☝☝ There existed no need on Caladan to build a physical paradise or a paradise of the mind—we could see the actuality all around us. And the price we paid was the price men have always paid for achieving a paradise in this life—we went soft, we lost our edge.

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Princess Irulan

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 411

### Explanation and Analysis


Recorded by Princess Irulan in her text “Muad'Dib: Conversations,” Paul Atreides reflects on the contrast between his birth planet Caladan (where he spent his first 15 years) and the planet he now considers his home, Arrakis (where he matured into adulthood and quickly ascended to take power as Fremen leader and later Imperial monarch). Paul remembers that Caladan was a water-rich ecology that provided means for comfortable human life with plenty of resources and beautiful spaces to enjoy. Paul claims that because of this easy lifestyle, humans on Caladan “went soft, we lost our edge.”


Paul believes that physical hardship provides heightened physical and cognitive societal attributes, whereas physical ease ensures that society grows “soft” in physique and loses its cognitive “edge.” This relationship between ecology and human culture is demonstrated on Arrakis where the Fremen manage to thrive in the midst of extreme desert hardships. This hones them into fighting forces of elite physical and mental strength, similar to the Emperor's Sardaukar soldiers and vastly superior to all other societies. Paul therefore values the barren Arrakeen landscapes because they have shaped such a strong and resilient Fremen society. He recognizes a hard life on Arrakis is vastly desirable over an easier life on Caladan due to benefits in human culture and evolution.

## Book 2, Part 8 Quotes

☝☝ “No more terrible disaster could befall your people than for them to fall into the hands of a Hero” his father said.

**Related Characters:** Pardot Kynes (speaker), Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib, Dr. Liet-Kynes

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 445

### Explanation and Analysis

After capturing the Imperial planetologist and Fremen supporter Liet-Kynes, the Harkonnens release him into the desert without a stillsuit in an act of murder. In the extreme heat, with no supplies, Liet-Kynes quickly fades into a stumbling and delirious state. Before he dies of heat exposure and lack of water, he hallucinates that his father Pardot Kynes—also a planetologist (ecologist)—is lecturing him on his actions relating to the Fremen mission to terraform planet earth. This includes the advice that a “Hero” rising to lead the Fremen will be a tragedy.



Pardot Kynes views the stereotype of a hero as an affliction that will lead Fremen away from their goal to permanently alter the Arrakeen climate. Indeed, Liet-Kynes has often wondered for this very reason if it is right for him to help Paul Atreides survive Harkonnen threats and connect with Fremen society. His actions lead him away from his ecological mission and cause him to make mistakes that lead to his death.

Through the leadership decisions of Liet-Kynes and later Paul Atreides as men in power, Frank Herbert seems resolute in his choice of message that individuals in positions of power are readily fallible to mistakes and poor decisions. Indeed, Paul’s rise to epic power in *Dune* sees him make decisions that have terrible costs for the Fremen, leading to widespread death and a future in which Fremen are set to impose a violent religious war across the galaxy.

## Book 2, Part 10 Quotes

☞☞ The Fremen were supreme in that quality the ancients call “spannungsbogen”—which is the self-imposed delay between desire for a thing and the act of reaching out to grasp that thing.

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib (speaker), Princess Irulan

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 466

### Explanation and Analysis

In her text “The Wisdom of Muad’Dib,” Princess Irulan recounts Paul Atreides’s saying that Fremen people are incredibly self-disciplined. “Spannungsbogen” is a German word meaning “arc of tension” and plays into Frank

Herbert’s tendency to draw on many sources and cultures to layer his world-building in *Dune*. The Fremen’s ability for self-control in approaching an intensely desired goal heightens the novel’s tension and suspense. Their self-discipline for collective power affords them elite cognitive and physical prowess—coupled with Paul’s leadership, this ensures that Fremen become the most powerful society in the Imperium who will one day sweep the galaxy in a violent religious crusade.

The best example is the way that Fremen greatly desire and need water, yet they discipline themselves in the extreme to only use the minimum amount of water to sustain human life—while also storing huge caches of the rare and precious resource. This self-discipline is in aid of their collective cultural goal to terraform the harsh and arid Arrakis into a more comfortable planet. Herbert perhaps uses Fremen discipline to comment on the Western world’s increasingly consumer-based society where people tend to frivolously and selfishly buy whatever they desire, at the expense of the planet’s environmental wellbeing.

## Book 2, Part 11 Quotes

☞☞ My mother obeyed her Sister Superiors where the Lady Jessica disobeyed. Which of them was the stronger? History has already answered.

**Related Characters:** Princess Irulan (speaker), Duke Leto Atreides, Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib, Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV, Lady Jessica

**Related Themes:**   

**Page Number:** 480

### Explanation and Analysis

In an epigraph, Princess notes that her Bene Gesserit mother obeyed her superiors’ orders, including the command that she bear Emperor Shaddam IV daughters only. She compares her mother to Lady Jessica, a Bene Gesserit sister who disobeyed the same command to bear Duke Leto Atreides only daughters (resulting in Paul Atreides’s birth and consequently his rise to extreme power and his political marriage with Princess Irulan).



Among other cognitive and biological powers, Bene Gesserit sisters are able to choose the sex of their children. The Bene Gesserit order operate on secrecy and manipulation—neither the Padishah Emperor or Duke Leto know that their wife and concubine, respectively, have been

ordered to bear daughters only. This order comes in aid of the Bene Gesserit mission to foster the legendary figure known as the Kwisatz Haderach, who will save humanity from annihilation.

The order purposefully marries its members to men of high positions of power to then gain control over the couple's powerful offspring. Lady Jessica's unruly streak in bearing a son continues with Paul's actions in growing into the powerful Kwisatz Haderach yet openly defying the Bene Gesserit order, undoing countless years of genetic manipulation. Alongside Paul's rise to power, Lady Jessica overcomes many hardships and gains great power, becoming a key political player in the Imperium's history. Princess Irulan concludes that Lady Jessica is stronger than her mother because she dared to defy her Bene Gesserit superiors and rose to overcome the resulting challenges.

“When your opponent fears you, then's the moment when you give the fear its own rein, give it the time to work on him. Let it become terror. The terrified man fights himself. Eventually, he attacks in desperation. That is the most dangerous moment, but the terrified man can be trusted usually to make a fatal mistake. You are being trained here to detect these mistakes and use them.”

**Related Characters:** Duncan Idaho (speaker), Thufir Hawat, Lady Jessica, Jamis, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 493

### Explanation and Analysis

While fighting the Fremen Jamis, Paul remembers the words of one his teachers, Duncan Idaho. Idaho was a legendary sword master and counselled Paul to take advantage of an opponent's fear by letting it consume him. Fear will cause a person to act unpredictably and make mistakes.

Throughout the hardships that Paul experiences on Arrakis, he is able to show great skill and maturity in overcoming them. Much of this success comes down to the elite training he has received from masters in their craft—weapon teachers such as Idaho, as well as teachers of knowledge and cognitive skills such as Lady Jessica and Thufir Hawat.


Paul, although only 15 years of age, successfully defeats the full-grown and experienced fighter Jamis. Although he did not want to fight, Paul's lethal win has gained him power in earning the remaining Fremen's respect and admiration.

This is the beginning of Paul's violent rise to power—Fremen are starting to believe that he is their prophesized messiah.

“I will tell you a thing about your new name,” Stilgar said. “The choice pleases us. Muad'Dib is wise in the ways of the desert. Muad'Dib creates his own water. Muad'Dib hides from the sun and travels in the cool night. Muad'Dib is fruitful and multiplies over the land. Muad'Dib we call 'instructor-of-boys.' That is a powerful base on which to build your life, Paul—Muad'Dib, who is Usul among us. We welcome you.”

**Related Characters:** Stilgar (speaker), Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**   

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 498

### Explanation and Analysis

Paul Atreides has been accepted into Fremen society and is asked to choose a name that all Fremen will know him by. He asks what the name of the desert mouse is, and Fremen leader Stilgar replies that it is “Muad'Dib.” Stilgar also says that it's a good choice of name for many reasons—the desert mouse is a wise, resourceful, and flourishing creature on Arrakis.


Paul's choice to be called “Muad'Dib” fits with one of the future visions he experiences shortly after arriving on Arrakis. His choice gains Fremen respect because they greatly admire the hardy desert mouse's survival skills. It is a modest creature yet conveys a sense of power in its ability to thrive in the harsh Arrakeen deserts—a metaphor that aptly fits Paul, a young foreigner who rises to great power and skill through his trials in the harsh Arrakeen ecology. At many times, though, Dune's narrative foreshadows that the name Muad'Dib becomes synonymous with violence—the masthead that leads Fremen to cause mayhem in a terrible religious crusade that floods the Imperium.

## Book 2, Part 12 Quotes

Survival is the ability to swim in strange water.

**Related Characters:** Lady Jessica (speaker), Chani Kynes, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**   

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 504

### Explanation and Analysis



Learning about the importance of water to Fremen culture, Lady Jessica reflects on a Bene Gesserit axiom. She and her son, Paul Atreides, are desperately fighting for survival by impressing the Fremen enough to be integrated into their society and thereby escape the Harkonnen and Sardaukar forces that are hunting survivors of House Atreides.

Paul practices this axiom as soon as he arrives to Arrakis. Without knowing why, he adapts to desert practices and customs in a manner that allows him to overcome hardship and to inspire Fremen. He thrives so well in the “strange waters” of Arrakis that the Fremen believe he may be their prophesized messiah, Lisan al-Gab. It is Paul’s ability to adapt quickly to new situations that allows him a quick rise to power in the Imperium.

## Book 3, Part 3 Quotes

☞☞ “When religion and politics travel in the same cart, the riders believe nothing can stand in their way. Their movement becomes headlong—faster and faster and faster. They put aside all thought of obstacles and forget that a precipice does not show itself to the man in a blind rush until it’s too late.”

**Related Characters:** Lady Jessica (speaker), Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Page Number:** 620

### Explanation and Analysis

Paul Atreides reflects on the concern that his mother, Lady Jessica, holds about the Fremen’s devotion to Paul as a prophesized messiah, as both Paul and Jessica are unsure if he truly is that mythic leader. In the midst of his musings, Paul remembers his mother sharing this Bene Gesserit proverb about the danger of comingling politics and religion. The proverb speaks to the collective folly that arises when people believe in a cause that mixes religion and politics, leading to danger and demise. In this case, Jessica’s fears are founded in truth and the prophecy’s accuracy, demonstrated by Paul’s rise to power. Using his powers of foresight, Paul comes to realize that his

leadership—which combines his prophesized religious role as the Fremen’s Muad’Dib with his political ascendancy to the Imperial throne as the Kwisatz Haderach—will result in Fremen causing violent destruction and death across the Imperium in the name of Muad’Dib.


Paul desires to prevent such a crusade, but is powerless to do so because his followers (or “riders” in the “cart”) become so powerful in their united causes that their actions grow powerful beyond Paul’s control. The danger of combined religious and political leadership is therefore a threat to human life, democracy, and personal freedoms.

## Book 3, Part 10 Quotes

☞☞ “I’m sorry, Grandfather,” Alia said. You’ve met the Atreides gom jabbar.”

**Related Characters:** Alia Atreides / St. Alia-of-the-Knife (speaker), Baron Vladimir Harkonnen

**Related Themes:**    

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 753

### Explanation and Analysis

Four-year-old Alia Atreides (who has adult capabilities and the wisdom of Bene Gesserit collective memory) has been caught by Imperial and Harkonnen forces. Fremen soldiers attack and Alia, pretending to be scared, uses the confusion to back into Baron Harkonnen’s captive grip. She surprises him by injecting him with poison on her gom jabbar, taunting the Baron at his imminent death and revealing that he is her maternal grandfather.

Alia’s strange existence is the result of her experience absorbing all collective Bene Gesserit memories while existing pre-birth in her mother’s womb. Alia’s murderous act is chillingly efficient and affirms the suspicion and even horror that Fremen and Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam have felt at her existence—the young girl is an extremely intelligent and dangerous being.



Despite the Reverend Mother rejecting Alia as totally unnatural, Alia is a direct result of Bene Gesserit designs—her mother, Lady Jessica, is Bene Gesserit, and Alia is the result of a Bene Gesserit ritual whereby a member is altered cognitively and chemically to gain access to collective memory. Alia is arguably the most powerful member of the Bene Gesserit order, save for her brother, Paul Atreides. Alia aligns herself with the Bene Gesserit


order by selecting the gom jabbar—a secret Bene Gesserit weapon—as her weapon that kills her grandfather. However, she imbues the traditional gom jabbar with new power by naming it after her paternal family line. Her chilling and ruthless act as a young child suggests that she is almost inhuman in biology and mindset.

## Book 3, Part 11 Quotes

☞ The Guild Navigators, gifted with limited prescience, had made the fatal decision: they'd chosen always the clear, safe course that leads ever downward into stagnation.

**Related Characters:** Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV, Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib

**Related Themes:**  

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 767

### Explanation and Analysis

About to enter negotiations with the Padishah Emperor and his entourage after the Fremen have defeated Sardaukar and Harkonnen forces, Paul Atreides thinks on the Guild's decision to use their powers of foresight to always choose safe paths of action. Paul believes that this has led the Guild to ruin.

Paul has his own powers of foresight, much greater than the Guild's, and knows that he will lose power and perhaps his life if he always makes risk-free decisions. This leads to his outrageous blackmail of the Guild in threatening to destroy Arrakeen spice production forever—the Guild, who know the invaluable nature of spice as a resource that prolongs life and offers the gift of foresight, can barely comprehend the idea because they would never consider such a dangerous move.

Destroying spice would affect Paul and his Fremen adversely, but Paul is willing to follow through on his threat if needs to. He knows that extreme action is required to prevent personal “stagnation” and to protect the future of humanity. Paul's ruthless attitude that safe choices leads to ruin is echoed in his ominous declaration later in the same conversation with the Guildsmen that “the eye that looks ahead to the safe course is closed forever.”

☞ “If I hear any more nonsense from either of you,” Paul said, “I'll give the order that'll destroy all spice production on Arrakis ... forever.”


[...]

“Do it!” Paul barked. “The power to destroy a thing is the absolute control over it. You've agreed I have that power. We are not here to discuss or negotiate or compromise. You will obey my orders or suffer the *immediate* consequences!”

“He means it,” the shorter Guildsman said. And Paul saw the fear grip them.

**Related Characters:** Paul Atreides / Muad'Dib (speaker), Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV

**Related Themes:**   

**Related Symbols:** 

**Page Number:** 772-3

### Explanation and Analysis

After Paul's Fremen forces have overcome Imperial and Harkonnen troops, the Padishah Emperor, accompanied by an entourage that includes two Guildsmen, meets with Paul to negotiate. In this passage, Paul blackmails the Guildsmen into supporting his claim to the throne by threatening that if they refuse his demands, he will destroy the spice crop that they so heavily depend on for prolonged life and space travel.

Paul has undergone a dramatic shift from a young man who cares about people, to a ruthless leader who will force his will on others no matter the dire consequences. He and his Fremen do have the power to destroy spice forever on Arrakis, which would leave the Imperium in utter chaos—many individuals and cultures depend on the spice for its cognitive-enhancing and life-prolonging abilities. Paul is starting to wield the political tools of “power and fear” that have been long-favored by his enemies, the Harkonnens, suggesting that power is intrinsically linked to corruption. His attitude in yelling commands at the Guildsmen and threatening immediate, serious consequences comes across as tyrannical and drives the Guildsmen to fear his unchecked power.

“Do you know so little of my son?” Jessica whispered. “See that princess standing there, so haughty and confident. They say she has pretensions of a literary nature. Let us hope she finds solace in such things; she’ll have little else.” A bitter laugh escaped Jessica. “Think on it, Chani: that princess will have the name, yet she’ll live as less than a concubine – never to know a moment of tenderness from the man to whom she’s bound. While we, Chani, we who carry the name of concubine – history will call us wives.”

**Related Characters:** Lady Jessica (speaker), Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV, Duke Leto Atreides, Princess Irulan, Paul Atreides / Muad’Dib, Chani Kynes

**Related Themes:**   

**Page Number:** 794

### Explanation and Analysis

In *Dune*’s final scene, Paul has defeated the Padishah Emperor and negotiated a political marriage with Princess Irulan so that he can take the Imperial throne. Lady Jessica assures Chani that history will remember both concubines

as Atreides “wives” despite their lack of legal marriage—Irulan is nothing to Paul except a means to an end.

Jessica’s words to Chani end the novel and carry a heavy weight. It is likely that Jessica has accepted the political reasoning behind Duke Leto’s never having married her, as he held a greater foothold in the Imperium as an unmarried nobleman. She is therefore reassuring Chani of Paul’s true love and commitment to the Fremen woman rather than the beautiful Irulan. However, Lady Jessica might instead be manipulating Chani to stay with Paul—the Bene Gesserit woman has used many underhanded manipulations to protect her son throughout the novel’s events.

These events show cyclical patterns, with Paul following his father’s example in refusing to marry for love. He thereby fulfils his prophesized role as Kwisatz Haderach by gaining leadership over the Imperium, although he refuses to submit to Bene Gesserit influence. At the same time, Paul’s political union with Princess Irulan ensures that loyal Bene Gesserit influence still sits close to the throne.



## SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The color-coded icons under each analysis entry make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. Each icon corresponds to one of the themes explained in the Themes section of this LitChart.

## BOOK 1, PART 1

An epigraph by Princess Irulan from the “Manual of Muad’Dib” notes that anyone studying Muad’Dib must always consider the planet Arrakis as his home, even though he spent his first 15 years growing up on the planet Caladan.

*The mysterious epigraph offers no explanation as to who Princess Irulan or Muad’Dib are. This is typical of the narrator’s world-building, where details are introduced without explanation until much later in the novel. It can be presumed both characters are powerful, as Princess Irulan is clearly royalty and Muad’Dib is the subject of her book.*



The novel begins with the noble House Atreides preparing to leave their ancestral home planet Caladan for planet Arrakis. Duke Leto, head of House Atreides, has a concubine named Lady Jessica and a 15-year-old son named Paul. One night, an elderly woman (later revealed as the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam) visits Castle Caladan and together with Lady Jessica looks in on Paul sleeping. Although she doesn’t speak to the sleeping boy, the crone remarks on Paul’s sly pretense of sleep and acknowledges to Jessica that he may be the “Kwisatz Haderach” who will be tested by her “**gom jabbar**.” She tells Paul to sleep well and leaves him wondering at her strange presence and unfamiliar terms. He is also left feeling frustrated by the way the old woman treated his mother, Jessica, like a “common serving wench” rather than “a Bene Gesserit lady” and a “duke’s concubine.”

*Paul’s confusion at the unknown visitor and her unfamiliar terminology parallels a reader’s experience, as the narrator introduces many new details without explanation. The old woman clearly has a close relationship with Lady Jessica, with the two focused on their shared knowledge of a “Kwisatz Haderach” prophecy. The narrator reveals the protagonist, Paul, as an intelligent young man who cleverly pretends to be asleep to gain information during an unexpected and worrying situation; however, the old woman is astute in recognizing that Paul is actually awake. Paul is also somewhat arrogant in his expectation that the elderly woman will treat his family in a manner that befits nobility—Dune is clearly a world of class-based distinctions.*



Paul also reflects on the current state of change his family is experiencing. Thufir Hawat, Duke Leto’s Master of Assassins and Mentat (a human with extraordinary computing capabilities), has discussed the upcoming planetary move with Paul. The Atreides’ longtime enemy, House Harkonnen, governed the desert planet Arrakis for some 80 years on a CHOAM contract to mine for the resource melange, more commonly called **spice**. The Harkonnens are now withdrawing from Arrakis, as the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV has awarded Duke Leto governance of the desert planet; Hawat and the Duke are wary that this is a political trap due to the Duke’s popularity within the Landsraad. Hawat states that “A popular man arouses the jealousy of the powerful.”

*Once again, the narrator introduces many mysterious terms without explanation. The narrator sets up the fierce rivalry between House Atreides and House Harkonnen that drives the novel’s plot, yet will later ironically reveal that Paul is of Harkonnen as well as Atreides heritage. Hawat’s statement about popularity attracting jealousy begins the theme that politics is always linked closely with violence, as his words foreshadow the early death that Duke Leto will meet for political reasons.*



Paul falls asleep reflecting on Arrakis. He dreams of a dimly lit Arrakeen cavern. It is “solemn” and like a cathedral, and he hears the faint sound of dripping **water**. Within his dream, he is aware he will remember it upon waking, as he “always remembers the dreams that were predictions.”

*Paul’s conviction that his remembered dreams always come true suggest that he has a gift of foresight. This talent will develop significantly as the novel progresses, becoming a great source of power.*



Upon waking before dawn, Paul considers what he has learned about the desert planet from his teacher Dr. Wellington Yueh. The planet is run on a “faufreluches” system—a feudal class structure. However the indigenous people, known as Fremen, live without command on the desert edges and are not recorded in any Imperial census. Paul makes note of his own anxiety and uses one of Lady Jessica’s teachings—a Bene Gesserit mind-body technique—to calm himself.

*Paul’s is a thoughtful young man who reflects deeply on possible future events. He also shows great self-awareness in tracking his emotions and managing them using Bene Gesserit cognitive skills.*



Lady Jessica enters Paul’s bedroom, and he notices that she is similarly tense. She informs Paul that the old woman, who is Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, has summoned Paul to meet her. Paul says that he has dreamed of the Reverend Mother before. Jessica instructs Paul to tell the old woman about his dreams and to hurry to greet her.

*In recognizing his mother’s anxiety, Paul reads other people’s emotions almost as well as his own. His revelation that he has dreamed of the Reverend Mother Mohiam again suggests that he has dreams that accurately predict future events.*



Paul and Jessica meet the Reverend Mother Mohiam in Jessica’s morning room. Paul is angered by the Reverend Mother’s seemingly disrespectful dismissal of Duke Leto’s concubine. The Reverend Mother proceeds to test Paul’s humanity with the **gom jabbar**, a poisoned needle held on her finger at his neck. She forces his hand into a nerve-induction box that can cause extreme pain; Paul will face death at the gom jabbar if he cannot use cognitive control to overcome his animal instincts to escape the pain by withdrawing his hand from the box.

*The narrator reveals the truth of the gom jabbar test. The mysterious Bene Gesserit order uses the poisoned weapon to determine whether a person is animal or human based on their reactions to pain and fear. By Bene Gesserit definition, humanity is the capability of total self-control. In threatening to kill the innocent Paul, the mysterious Bene Gesserit order demonstrates their ruthless commitment to testing an individual’s humanity for some unknown purpose.*



Paul is outraged that the Reverend Mother Mohiam considers he may not be human, and threatens to call servants to kill her when she threatens his life with the dangerous test. However, after learning that Jessica supports the crone’s decision to subject him to the **gom jabbar**, he bends to her will.

*Paul believes that his noble status protects him against threats against his life, a belief that he will come to realize is firmly untrue. His mother allows the life-threatening test to go ahead, suggesting she is complicit in the Reverend Mother’s mysterious mission.*





Reverend Mother Mohiam makes note of the caution, courage, and mind control that Paul uses to succeed in the **gom jabbar**'s test. She also acknowledges to herself that she put him through greater pain than she has ever administered before when using the gom jabbar and nerve-induction box to test an individual's humanity. When Paul is allowed to remove his hand from the box, he expects it to be withered to ash due to the extreme and burning pain he has felt—but to his surprise, his hand is unharmed. Paul and the Reverend Mother speak about the test, and the latter is shocked to realize that Paul can sense when a person is telling the truth.

Jessica returns to the room, greatly relieved that Paul has passed the test. He learns that she passed the same test during her Bene Gesserit training. The Reverend Mother Mohiam explains the history of the matriarchal Bene Gesserit program, including its genetic breeding program that is designed to produce the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach. This individual will be a male who is able to access higher levels of mental awareness than anyone else in the galaxy; he will be the first male to successfully take the Truthsayer drug that allows access to Bene Gesserit ancestral memories. Many women have successfully taken the drug, becoming Bene Gesserit Reverend Mothers, but only a male will be able to access both the masculine and feminine pasts the Truthsayer drug can give access to. So far, all males who have taken the drug have died.

## BOOK 1, PART 2

An epigraph by Princess Irulan from "Manual of Muad'Dib" states that to understand Muad'Dib, one must understand his mortal enemies the Harkonnens.

Elsewhere, Baron Vladimir Harkonnen boasts to the "effeminate" Piter de Vries and "sullen-faced" Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen of the trap he has set for the Atrides on Arrakis. The Baron is an arrogant and elephantine man whose enormous extra weight is held up by anti-gravity suspensors. Piter is the Baron's cunning and sadistic Mentat, and Feyd-Rautha is the Baron's cruel 16-year-old nephew and heir.

*Paul displays extraordinary skills in mental courage and fortitude when experiencing intense pain. Coupled with the narrator's earlier revelation that Paul has a gift of foresight—which the Reverend Mother is shocked by, suggesting it is a rare gift—the young man is clearly a character of great power.*



*The entire Bene Gesserit order is founded on trying to manipulate genetic lines to produce an individual who is their prophesized male messiah. Paul appears to be a possible candidate, but great risk is attached to the prophecy, and so far all potential male candidates who have tried to reach the Kwisatz Haderach level of consciousness have died. This emphasizes how high the stakes are and just how special the prophesized messiah will be, as he will do what no other man has done before him.*



*The narrator uses another fictional textual reference to offer clues about Dune's world. Because the narrator has already commented on the fierce rivalry between the Atrides and Harkonnens, readers can assume that the figure of Muad'Dib may be an Atrides family member.*



*While the Atrides are concerned with their move to Arrakis and defending themselves from any political attacks, the Harkonnens are plotting active violence against the Atrides. Immediately the two families are set up as honorable and immoral counterparts, respectively. Feyd-Rautha's age and family name also sets him up as a direct foil to Paul Atrides—a deadly relationship that will be teased out later in the novel.*



Baron Harkonnen has persuaded the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV to assign Duke Leto to govern Arrakis. Although this is a seemingly positive assignment due to the desert planet's unique production of the valuable resource known as **spice**, the Baron has arranged for the Duke and his family to meet death upon their move to Arrakis. He has managed to turn one of the most trusted members of Duke Leto's household to his cause—Dr. Wellington Yueh will betray House Atreides. The Baron is adamant that before the Duke dies, he must be aware that the Baron is responsible for his downfall. The Baron also wants the rest of the Great Houses to also learn about his treachery as “the knowledge will give them pause.”

Responding to the Baron Harkonnen's daring plan, Piter is concerned that his master's success will be viewed as a threat by the Emperor. The Baron laughs off this apprehension, and Piter reminds his master that he has been promised Lady Jessica in return for his help in planning the Atreides demise. The Baron begins insulting both Piter and Feyd-Rautha, undermining them and pointing out their dependencies on consuming **spice**. Piter voices his concern that the Baron may kill him and find another Mentat. The Baron rejects this theory, wondering aloud where he could find a Mentat as skillful as Piter.

At Baron Harkonnen's command, Piter runs through the plan to destroy House Atreides. It hinges on the Baron's success in having turned Dr. Yueh a traitor against the Atreides. This is a surprising coup because Yueh is a Suk school doctor who has undergone Imperial Conditioning, a strict training program that ensures its doctors unable to cause harm to human life. Consequently, doctors with Imperial Conditioning are the most trusted beings in the Imperium. The Baron and Piter plan to cause Duke Leto and his Mentat Thufir Hawat to suspect Lady Jessica as the traitor in the Duke's household. The Baron also has the support of the Emperor's fearsome Sardaukar troops, who will be disguised as Harkonnen soldiers in an attack on the Atreides holdings on Arrakis. The Emperor has pledged this secret support because he is threatened by Duke Leto's popularity amongst the Great Houses.

### BOOK 1, PART 3

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text “Muad'Dib, Family Commentaries” quotes a saying by St. Alia-of-the-Knife that a Reverend Mother must “become a wellspring of cunning and resourcefulness” in order to survive beyond youth and beauty.

*Political intrigue abounds as the plot revolves around the scheming Great Houses who jostle for power. Baron Harkonnen takes the bold stand of wanting to reveal his treachery to the rest of the Imperium so that they will respect his rule, too afraid of repercussions if they stand against him like Duke Leto—clearly the Baron uses violence and fear as his key tools of political craft.*



*Baron Harkonnen's style of leadership—instilling fear through overt violence as well as underhanded manipulation—must work against him if Piter, one of his most trusted and valuable employees, is afraid of him. It seems that Piter's greed for promises of spice and Lady Jessica outweigh his fear, and therefore he remains with House Harkonnen. The Baron's thoughts demonstrate that Mentats are valuable commodities in the Imperium due to their impressive cognitive processing powers—later, readers will learn that all computers have been banned from the Imperium, making Mentats indispensable.*



*The narrator reveals that Thufir Hawat's earlier concern that Duke Leto's popularity will have dangerous repercussions is, in fact, true. Baron Harkonnen has put in place a plan with many layers of secrecy, coercion, and deceit in order to take down House Atreides.*



*St. Alia-of-the-Knife's name foreshadows Alia Atreides's actions at the novel's end in callously stabbing to death injured Sardaukar soldiers on the battlefield in order to reclaim their water, a Fremen cultural ritual.*



Back on Caladan, it is the evening on the same day of Paul Atreides's **gom jabbar** test. The Reverend Mother Mohiam challenges Lady Jessica about her decision to bear Duke Leto a son instead of following the Bene Gesserit instructions to bear a daughter (Bene Gesserit women are able to dictate the sex of their children). Jessica is not wholly certain why she chose to rebel and bear a son, but tells the Reverend Mother it is because Duke Leto wanted a son. This has ruined the Bene Gesserit genetic breeding program, as the sisterhood wanted to wed Duke Leto and Jessica's daughter with Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen. It was hoped their union would produce a child who would be the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach, the result of thousands of years of secret genetic breeding. Jessica is unrepentant for her decision.

The Reverend Mother Mohiam warns Jessica that the Atreides family are in danger due to the Emperor Shaddam IV and Landsraad's political manipulations. She suggests that Duke Leto will die on Arrakis, and Jessica and Paul will become fugitives. Jessica is both furious and heartbroken, but ultimately knows that she cannot act to change this course of events: she is Bene Gesserit and "exists only to serve."

The Reverend Mother Mohiam calls for Paul and speaks to him about his dreams of foresight. He recounts a dream in which he meets a girl who calls him "Usul" and puts "a stamp of strangeness" on him. She requests that Paul tell her about the **waters** of his home planet, Caladan, and so he recites her a poem on the subject. Paul is certain he will meet this girl in the future.

The Reverend Mother Mohiam acknowledges that Paul may be the Bene Gesserit's prophesized Kwisatz Haderach, but doubts it. However, she offers him hints about how to successfully control the Truthsayer drug. Paul feels afflicted by a "terrible purpose." He also reveals he overheard the conversation about Duke Leto's approaching death and is furious the Bene Gesserit will not help his father. The Reverend Mother instructs Jessica to continue to teach Paul Bene Gesserit training, including the way of the Voice. She wishes Paul well and departs Caladan; Jessica is unnerved as she catches signs of tears on the old woman's face as she leaves.

*The Bene Gesserit sisterhood are a powerful order who have amassed great worldly power through its members' absolute obedience. Lady Jessica's rebellious actions are therefore surprising, demonstrating that she does not fit the Bene Gesserit mold. Ironically, her breach of loyalty catalyzes the events that produce the Kwisatz Haderach that the sisterhood constantly strives towards creating and controlling.*



*Despite her refusal to obey Bene Gesserit orders to bear Duke Leto a daughter, Lady Jessica accepts that she cannot change the fact that her beloved Duke Leto will be killed. This suggests that Bene Gesserits have access to foresight, and that their order believes in a predetermined future—individual free will cannot change predicted future events.*



*Paul demonstrates his creative and intellectual talents, playing into his visionary casting of character. The details of Paul's dream are suggestive of myth and prophecy due to the unfamiliar name that the girl calls him, alongside the otherworldly "strangeness" she casts on him.*



*The Reverend Mother is a Bene Gesserit superior who believes in the predetermined future—for example, she knows that nothing can be done to save Duke Leto from being killed upon his move to Caladan. However, her hints to Paul about what he must achieve to become Kwisatz Haderach—even though she doubts he is that figure—sets up a tension between the concepts of fate and free will. This scene is also the first of many in which Paul feels afflicted by an unknown "terrible purpose" of his fate.*



## BOOK 1, PART 4

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "A Child's History of Muad'Dib" comments on Muad'Dib's companions growing up. None were his own age. Instead, he was entertained and trained by "the troubadour-warrior" Gurney Halleck, the respected Mentat and Master of Assassins Thufir Hawat, swordmaster Duncan Idaho, and the knowledgeable (and later traitorous) Dr. Wellington Yueh. Muad'Dib also benefitted greatly from his mother Lady Jessica's Bene Gesserit teachings, and Duke Leto's fatherly qualities.

On Caladan, it is a week after the Reverend Mother Mohiam's visit to Paul Atreides. Thufir Hawat, a Mentat who has been in the Atreides family's service for three generations, meets Paul in Castle Caladan's training room. Paul is studying the planet Arrakis, with Hawat describing elements of the planet's fierce weather systems and indigenous Fremen practices. The Atreides will need to gain the respect of the Fremen, a resolute and tough people, in order to succeed in governing Arrakis and mining its valuable **spice**. When Hawat mentions the stillsuits that Fremen wear to reclaim the body's **water**, Paul suddenly remembers a dream of thirst he once had. The two discuss the precious nature of water on Arrakis, and Hawat believes he is making progress in getting Paul to understand "the planet as an enemy" that must be approached cautiously.

Paul tells Hawat some of the details from his meeting with the Reverend Mother Mohiam. The Reverend Mother told him, "you must learn to rule. It's something none of your ancestors learned," and that "a ruler must learn to persuade and not to compel." Paul is angry at her implication that Duke Leto's leadership is failing, but Hawat agrees with the Reverend Mother's advice. Paul draws a comparison between Arrakis and what he has learned of the planet Salusa Secundus.

Hawat takes leave of Paul, intending to depart for Arrakis today with the Atreides to follow tomorrow. Gurney Halleck, the Atreides weapons master and Paul's favorite of Duke Leto's men, enters the training room. Beyond his talents as a warrior, Halleck is skilled in playing the basilet (a stringed instrument) and sings a Paul a bawdy tune after trading friendly insults with the Duke's son.

*Much of Paul's power as Muad'Dib and Kwisatz Haderach arises from his childhood learnings from a range of teachers. These teachers are all elite in their respective fields, and their combined training ensures that Paul is a well-rounded character of mental and physical prowess.*



*While Hawat regards the desolate planet Arrakis as an "enemy," Paul will come to realize it is his greatest asset. The harsh desert landscape builds human resilience, honing Paul and his future Fremen forces into an elite society with the power to take the Imperial throne.*



*Paul's resentment of Bene Gesserit influence increases due to the Reverend Mother criticizing his father. The comparison between Arrakis and Salusa Secundus is important because it foreshadows Paul Atreides and Count Hasimir Fenring's realizations that the Imperial Sardaukar troops have been trained on a planet similar in ecology to Arrakis. They draw the conclusion that the Fremen of Arrakis may well rival the elite Sardaukar forces because harsh environmental elements have similarly sharpened their fighting skills.*



*The Atreides household's life seems to revolve around Paul as much as Duke Leto—his teachers value and enjoy training the young Duke. Paul seems to resemble his father in gaining respect and power through popularity.*



Paul and Halleck then duel, with the weapons master making it a hard fight for Paul. Halleck is so fierce in the duel that Paul even becomes afraid that the weapons master is trying to seriously injure him. However, Halleck is simply trying to impress the necessity of strong fighting skills on his charge, as he is keenly aware that with the move to turbulent Arrakis, Paul may engage in real combat soon. He cautions Paul to consider their weapons training as essential for his future survival. Paul reflects on this time of serious change, and Halleck is surprised to realize that the young man has been studying fighting techniques of his own accord beyond Halleck and swordmaster Duncan Idaho's trainings.

*Paul's sudden fear that the much-trusted Halleck is trying to seriously injure him reveals the extent of political corruption that pervades the Great Houses. Halleck is relieved and impressed that his young charge has taken the initiative to upskill independently of his teachers; once again, the narrator depicts Paul as an extraordinary individual who has an important future ahead.*



## BOOK 1, PART 5

Princess Irulan's epigraph is an entry on Dr. Wellington Yueh from "Dictionary of Muad'Dib." Yueh is a graduate of the Suk School for Imperial Conditioning and is historically remembered for betraying Duke Leto Atrides.

*This epigraph builds tension about approaching events, as the narrator again signals that Duke Leto will soon die.*



On the same day on Caladan, Paul Atrides meets with another one of his teachers in the training room. Dr. Wellington Yueh teaches Paul new information about life on Arrakis. Yueh confirms previous accounts that the Fremen are a fierce people, known for their fighting skills and their blue eyes that result from ingesting **spice**. Paul is inspired by the Fremen's fierce culture, where even the children are "violent and dangerous." He thinks "What a people to win as allies!" The sandworms are monstrous creatures that might grow more than four hundred meters long. Yueh also suggests that upon arriving on Arrakis, he plans to seek out the Imperial planetologist (ecologist), Dr. Kynes, to learn more about Arrakeen life forms.

*While Yueh is focused on danger encroaching on the Atrides family—likely because he knows peril approaches due to his own betrayal—Paul reveals his tactical prowess when he considers that the violent Fremen could make valuable allies. The narrator's impressively frightening descriptions of Fremen and Arrakeen creatures suggests some correlation between their strengths and the hardships of the Arrakeen deserts.*



Throughout their conversation, Yueh reflects privately on his upcoming betrayal of House Atrides. He is conflicted and already regrets his future treachery, but thinks "I must not falter. What I do is done to be certain my Wanna no longer can be hurt by the Harkonnen beasts."

*Yueh's thoughts, especially his naming the Harkonnens as "beasts," begin to reveal that they are blackmailing him into betraying House Atrides because they are holding one of Yueh's loved ones hostage. Yueh feels he has no choice but to obey Harkonnen commands.*



Before leaving Paul, Yueh gives him an Orange Catholic Bible. It small, about the size of Paul's thumbnail, and is read using magnification and electrostatic charge technologies. Despite its small size it is a comprehensive text, containing 1,800 pages of collected religious teachings from around the universe. Yueh's motives behind the gift are to introduce Paul to religion before the young man dies, assuaging the doctor's guilt somewhat. He asks Paul to refrain from telling Lady Jessica about Yueh's gift, knowing that Paul's mother would question Yueh's motives.

*Yueh is concerned that his betrayal and the unstoppable Harkonnen forces will see Paul killed alongside his father. The Orange Catholic Bible gift is a selfish attempt to make peace with helping to kill the Atrides family.*



At Yueh's urging, Paul reads aloud a verse from the Orange Catholic Bible. The doctor quickly stops him when he registers that Paul is reading Yueh's "dead wife" Wanna's favorite passage. Yueh realizes that Wanna had marked the passage with a notch in the book's pages. From his interrupted reading, Paul feels a sense of his "terrible purpose." Yueh is again tormented by guilt at his upcoming betrayal, thinking "Damn those Harkonnen beasts! Why did they choose me for their abomination?"

*The passage that Paul reads from the Orange Catholic Bible affects the pair significantly. Paul is again struck by the sense that he cannot escape a "terrible" future, suggesting that no matter his actions, his future is fixed. Meanwhile Yueh is shocked that his wife speaks to him through her favorite passage. It reminds him of the appalling violence he has set in motion through his betrayal. The Orange Catholic Bible, then, serves him a moral reminder of his upcoming actions.*



## BOOK 1, PART 6

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib, Family Commentaries" muses on Duke Leto Atreides legacy. Although historically overshadowed by his son, the Duke is remembered as a leader devoted to his family and those who served him.

*In this epigraph, readers are reminded of Duke Leto's upstanding character. The narrator has already signaled that the Duke's integrity attracts political jealousy, which will result in his death.*



Duke Leto Atreides, Paul's father, joins Paul and Dr. Yueh in the training room. Leto confirms that they leave for Arrakis tomorrow, and comments on the danger the Atreides household will face there. He acknowledges he is entering a Harkonnen trap, but believes the Atreides can survive it. The value of the planet's **spice** is also too great to give up because it offers House Atreides leverage with the influential CHOAM. The Harkonnens have been stockpiling spice and will likely try to destroy Atreides' mining ventures so that Duke Leto would be blamed for market shortages, while the Harkonnens would charge exorbitant prices for the valuable drug. Leto believes that Emperor Shaddam IV may be collaborating with the House Harkonnen.

*The narrator reveals that Duke Leto is very aware of the risks he faces in moving to Arrakis. Much of this danger arises because House Atreides is gaining control of spice—as the Imperium's most sought-after natural resource that offers life-prolonging and mind-altering abilities, spice is symbolic of the mythical philosopher's stone. It also represents many real-world commodities that are central to global power plays; for example, addictive drugs such as cocaine and limited natural resources such as oil and water.*



In subverting the Harkonnen's plan, Duke Leto reveals that he hopes to win the Fremen as allies. He also reveals that Paul has been secretly trained as a Mentat since childhood. Paul wants to continue this training.

*Once again, the narrator emphasizes Paul's elite abilities as Dune's protagonist and future hero. This time, the narrator reveals that Paul has been training to compute immense cognitive calculations that most people are incapable of undertaking.*



## BOOK 1, PART 7

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Analysis: The Arrakeen Crisis" reveals the success of Bene Gesserit "sowing implant-legends" throughout the worlds of the Imperium since ancient times. The Arrakeen implant-legend of the coming of a Reverend Mother and a messianic figure benefitted Lady Jessica and Paul Atreides immensely during their integration into Fremen culture. This process was helped by the expert cognitive talents of both mother and son.

*Princess Irulan's report highlights the novel's play between concepts of prophecy and free will. Jessica and Paul manipulate implanted prophecy to gain influence and protection, but then discover that the prophecies become true—even when Paul tries to prevent his rise to Muad'Dib, the figure who inspires future violence across the Imperium. The narrator suggests that determinism governs the world of Dune.*



The Atreides family have arrived to Arrakis and take up residence at the city of Arrakeen's palace. While unpacking possessions, Lady Jessica considers her feelings of apprehensiveness and homesickness due to the move. Duke Leto appears and the two discuss ways in to make their new home feel welcoming.

While considering Lady Jessica's great beauty, Duke Leto also ponders her mysterious heritage, as the Bene Gesserit order has deliberately kept her ancestry a secret.

Leto assures Jessica that he has security under control on Arrakis. He has employed a number of Fremen servants, including a head housekeeper for Jessica named Shadout Mapes. The Duke has learned that there are Bene Gesserit legends embedded in Fremen culture, which Jessica attributes to the sisterhood's protective practice of planting prophecies throughout the Imperium's worlds that can help the Bene Gesserit if needed.

Duke Leto leaves and Shadout Mapes approaches Jessica to introduce herself. Jessica quickly realizes that Mapes has been sent to test the concubine. The Duke's concubine uses her impressive skills of observation and analysis, as well as the Bene Gesserit's embedded legends, to prevent Mapes from killing her. Jessica realizes that Fremen prophecy predicts the coming of a Reverend Mother to Arrakis. After Jessica correctly identifies Mapes's strange weapon as a crysknife, or "maker," Mapes is persuaded that Jessica is "the One alright. [...] Poor thing."

## BOOK 1, PART 8

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "A Child's History of Muad'Dib" is the short quote "'Yueh! Yueh! Yueh!'" goes the refrain. 'A million deaths were not enough for Yueh!'"

*Lady Jessica is anxious because she has been unable to prevent their move and knows that her Duke will be killed shortly.*



*The Bene Gesserit sisterhood wields great influence because of their secretive operations. Duke Leto's reflections set up readers for great shock at the narrator's later revelation of who Jessica's father is.*



*The Fremen's legends are extremely similar to the Bene Gesserit Kwisatz Haderach prophecy. Jessica and Paul will one day find that the Fremen legends ensure their safe escape from deadly Harkonnen forces. Therefore by implanting the legends, the Bene Gesserit sisterhood enable two of their most dangerous adversaries to gain great power.*



*Now well into the narrative, the narrator is still introducing many details that are left unexplained, such as the "crysknife" and "maker." Despite having only just arrived on Arrakis and acting ethically, members of the Atreides household are already in danger. In this passage, Jessica must rely on her Bene Gesserit training to survive an assassination attempt.*



*The "million deaths" wished on the treacherous Yueh suggest that in Dune's world, violence breeds further violence. This violent cycle explains why there is so much political conflict and distrust between the Great Houses.*



Searching for Paul, Lady Jessica finds Yueh in one of her son's rooms with Paul asleep next door. Jessica and Yueh discuss the situation on Arrakis, particularly focused on the issue of the indigenous people's reception to their new ruling family. They acknowledge that the population will likely resent the wealthy Atreides household and their new and valuable source of income, **spice** production. However, some of the population might also view the Atreides as fairer governors than the cruel Harkonnens who ruled previously. Jessica and Yueh also discuss the lack of **water** on Arrakis and the likely future Harkonnen attack on House Atreides.

Throughout their conversation, Yueh feels great regret at the knowledge he will betray Jessica, Duke Leto, and Paul. He loves the Atreides family, but Baron Harkonnen has forced him into the role of traitor. Jessica learns that Yueh's wife, Wanna, who is also Bene Gesserit, was taken and presumably killed by House Harkonnen. Yueh thinks "Wanna might not be dead. He had to be certain" and tries to hide his guilty plans from the mentally astute Jessica. Although Jessica becomes suspicious that Yueh is hiding something, she does not push him on it, deciding she should trust Atreides allies.

## BOOK 1, PART 9

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "The Humanity of Muad'Dib" relates Muad'Dib's early lesson of learning how to learn—he realized that every experience could teach him something valuable. This belief was then augmented by the specialized mental training he received from cognitive experts throughout his childhood. These traits explain his almost unbelievably swift adaptation to life on Arrakis.

Paul Atreides pretends to be asleep while his mother, Jessica, talks with Dr. Yueh in the next room. When she leaves, Paul gets up, but freezes when he notices a lethal "hunter-seeker" motion-tracking weapon appear from his bed's headboard. The hunter-seeker tries to kill him, as well as the Fremen housekeeper Shadout Mapes when she enters Paul's room to summon him to Duke Leto. Paul manages to use his knowledge of a hunter-seekers to safely immobilize the weapon. Mapes states that she must repay her debt of "**water** burden" for saving her life, and reveals that the Fremen are certain that there is a traitor in House Atreides.

*Jessica and Yueh consider all political angles regarding the Atreides new governance on Arrakis. The pair's ease in discussing the potentially dire situation speaks to the regular practice they have in analyzing political threats. They also discuss two of the most precious Arrakeen commodities—spice and water. Wars have been fought over these resources, and they're certain new battles are fast approaching over spice control.*



*Jessica's decision to try to be more trusting like her beloved Duke Leto results in disaster, as she doesn't press Yueh and discover his impending betrayal. Her noble intentions ensures the Harkonnen's violent attack is successful in capturing Duke Leto.*



*Paul's swift ascendancy to power in Dune is largely due to his mental attitudes and cognitive capabilities. Because Paul gains Imperial control and is prophesized to save humanity, the narrator suggests that it is human cognition rather than technological capabilities that will profoundly shape human culture.*



*For the first time in his life, Paul has to rely on nothing more than his own skills to stay alive. His intensive childhood training ensures he is more than up to the task of preventing the hunter-seeker from assassinating anyone. Shadout Mapes's claim that she owns him a debt of "water burden" foreshadows the ultimate value that Fremen culture places on water—Paul will later learn that Fremen consider water to be so precious that they will reclaim it from the air and even from dead human bodies.*





## BOOK 1, PART 10

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib: Family Commentaries" meditatively considers how Lady Jessica kept to her Bene Gesserit program during her trials on Arrakis.

After leaving her conversation with Dr. Yueh, Lady Jessica discovers a secret conservatory in the palace. It is a lush space filled with greenery such as roses and must use exorbitant amounts of **water** daily. In the conservatory Jessica finds a note addressed to her from Lady Margot Fenring, a Bene Gesserit sister. In a secret Bene Gesserit code she warns Jessica of an attack on Paul involving his bed, as well as the threat of a House Atreides betrayal that "involves defection of a trusted companion or lieutenant."

Paul rushes into the conservatory clutching the hunter-seeker and informs Jessica of the attack as well as Shadout Mapes's warning about a traitor. She instructs him to submerge the weapon in **water**. An Atreides guard intrudes to say that they caught the man controlling the hunter-seeker from the palace cellar, but the man was killed in a skirmish. The guard posts himself outside of the conservatory to guard Paul and Jessica. Jessica relays Lady Fenring's warnings to Paul, and they consider whether the traitor could be Thufir Hawat, Dr. Yueh, Gurney Halleck, Duncan Idaho, or another trusted household member. Before leaving the conservatory, Jessica notices flashes of light from distant desert cliffs and believes them to be signals between Harkonnen agents.

## BOOK 1, PART 11

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib: Family Commentaries" suggests that Duke Leto Atreides did not walk naively into danger on Arrakis. Rather, it is likely he lived with danger all his life and misjudged the intensity of this situation; or alternatively, that he persevered with governing Arrakis in order to sacrifice himself for his son Paul's prosperity.

Duke Leto Atreides is rattled to learn that there has been a sophisticated attempt on Paul's life. Standing in a tower above the Arrakeen landing field, he considers his situation. He knows that gaining the Fremen as allies is crucial to evading Harkonnen attacks. Throughout his reflections, he repeats the thought "They have tried to take the life of my son!"

*The narrator once again prioritizes the value of heightened human cognition in Dune by suggesting that Jessica's Bene Gesserit mental strength ensured her survival on Arrakis.*



*The flourishing vegetation in the conservatory is totally unexpected on Arrakis and reminiscent of Caladan's lush environments. It therefore highlights the significant ecological and lifestyle differences between Jessica's previous home and her new one. Lady Fenring's message suggests that she either has the power of Bene Gesserit foresight or has some insight into House Harkonnen's plans. The fact that Fenring and Jessica have never met before demonstrates the loyalty between Bene Gesserit sisters.*



*Water proves useful in sustaining life by eliminating the hunter-seeker's threat. Events are taking place quickly, with the Harkonnen attacks that the Atreides and Bene Gesserit order have been expecting now coming to fruition. Despite the warnings and hints about a traitor from Shadout Mapes and Lady Fenring, Paul and Jessica have no real idea who the betrayer is. And despite their powerful personal abilities, they are at the mercy of the Harkonnens.*



*Princess Irulan's commentary plays into the theme that power always attracts violence—despite his honorable character, the Duke has been dodging danger throughout his life.*



*Although Duke Leto is accustomed to dodging danger in his role as Head of House Atreides, he is appalled that his son is now being targeted. Normally a man of calm discipline, his horror is evident in the refrain that keeps interrupting his thoughts.*



Leto meets a number of his men in his temporary ducal command post in the tower. He tasks Gurney Halleck with assigning extra men to support Thufir Hawat in eradicating Harkonnen agents on Arrakis. He also charges Halleck with persuading some of the 800 **spice** hunters who are about to leave Arrakis to remain and work for House Atreides.

Out of sight of his men, Leto can relax slightly, but reminds himself he must always portray confident leadership. He is again plagued by the thought that “They have tried to take the life of my son!”

## BOOK 1, PART 12

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Manual of Muad’Dib” details an inscription that Muad’Dib repeated throughout his life. The phrase was originally seen during his first night on Arrakis where it was inscribed over the Arrakeen landing field: “O you who know what we suffer here, do not forget us in your prayers.”

Paul Atreides is invited to his father Duke Leto’s staff meeting in the ducal command post that overlooks the Arrakeen landing field. Beforehand, father and son discuss the hunter-seeker attempt on Paul’s life. The Duke is displeased that his Mentat Thufir Hawat failed to discover the plot when assessing the palace before the Atreides family moved in. Paul defends Hawat, stating the plot was a clever one and it was the Mentat’s training that helped Paul defeat the hunter-seeker. Leto accepts it is not Hawat’s fault and knows that the Mentat will be his own harshest critic, therefore does not need further criticism. When Hawat arrives for the meeting, he tries to resign due to his failure. Leto refuses to accept this resignation.

Leto and his men use the meeting to share information and make plans to avoid the imminent Harkonnen attacks. They also plan to counter the Harkonnens’ moves by raiding Harkonnen **spice** reserves stored on another planet.

*Despite his fear for his family, Leto is still able to lead his men in arranging to take advantage of the valuable Arrakeen spice crops. However, because of the impending Harkonnen attacks, it seems that Leto is betting on a future for Paul rather than for himself.*



*Once again, the narrator uses Leto’s character and repeated worries for Paul to demonstrate the danger of their political rule and general well-being in Arrakis.*



*The Arrakeen landing field inscription is ominous and foreshadows the reality that Duke Leto will never leave the planet, while Paul and Jessica will experience great hardships in their coming years in the Arrakeen deserts.*



*Despite his youth, Paul is respected enough to participate in Duke Leto’s leadership meetings. Leto’s disappointment in Hawat’s failure to discover the exceedingly clever assassination attempt demonstrates the immense trust that the Duke places on his human computer. Paul demonstrates greater wisdom than his father in realizing the situation’s reality and Hawat’s response—in fact, Paul’s logic is the type of cognitive reasoning that Mentats themselves are known for. His wisdom and logic suggests that he is beginning to rival or surpass his teachers in his abilities.*



*These planned power plays again reflect the cyclical nature of political destruction that occurs between the Great Houses.*



Hawat shares information he has learned about Fremen culture. They are likely led by an individual named Liet, although Hawat cannot be certain whether he is a real person or a God who is worshipped by Fremen communities. Duke Leto remains adamant that House Atreides must recruit the Fremen as allies who will support them against Harkonnen and even Imperial attacks. Fremen are responding positively to the Atreides's extension of friendship and have shared gifts such as stillsuits and maps with the Duke's men.

House Atreides will also try to win the support of the **spice** smugglers on Arrakis. Local Fremen and smuggler support would benefit Leto's economic profits as well as boosting his protective forces. Hawat and the Duke's men raise their frustrations that the Great Houses who have previously vocalized their support of Duke Leto are now refusing to be involved in the conflict between Houses Atreides and Harkonnen. The Duke acknowledges that it is typical behavior for the Great Houses to remain aloof until a winner is evident.

Numerous issues are raised regarding **spice** production. It is currently stalled due to the Harkonnens leaving the Atreides with largely inoperable mining equipment on Arrakis. Sandworms are also a threat to successfully harvesting spice from the desert, as they can destroy the mining machinery in one hit. The giant worms seem immune to the protective shields that House Atreides normally rely on; Duke Leto asks Hawat to find a solution to this obstacle. The group realize that they can make **spice** profits more quickly if they cut costs by paying their workers (including Fremen) less fairly. The Duke refuses to do so, as he is invested in the long-term prosperity of Arrakis. He again reiterates the importance of strong relationships with the Fremen, describing them as key to harnessing the "desert power" of Arrakis compared to the "sea and air power" that the Atreides ruled with on Caladan.

The meeting also addresses the likelihood of Emperor Shaddam IV supporting House Harkonnen's attacks on House Atreides by disguising his feared Imperial Sardaukar soldiers in Harkonnen colors. Duke Leto stipulates that they need to acquire fighting Fremen battalions to oppose the Sardaukar. He is pleased that Gurney Halleck has persuaded almost three hundred of the departing **spice** hunters to stay and work for House Atreides.

*Hawat's confusion about the identity of Liet suggests that Fremen culture closely intertwines politics with religion. Leto's plan to gain Fremen as fighting forces allied with House Atreides is going well, validating the Duke's political and military strategy. The Duke has recognized that the Fremen's knowledge of Arrakeen landscapes is as valuable as their military strength, for the Duke needs to navigate Arrakis for strategic military placement as well as spice production. The gifts of maps and stillsuits are therefore likely greatly appreciated.*



*Duke Leto considers that the spice smugglers' support is similarly beneficial for adding military and strategic strength to House Atreides. The fickleness of the Great Houses symbolizes the delicate political collaboration that hangs between the Padishah Emperor, the Landsraad, the Guild, and the Imperium at large.*



*House Atreides are struggling to manage the ecological differences between water-rich Caladan and arid Arrakis. The Duke shows his fair ethics in refusing to underpay his new workers in return for huge spice profits. He also knows that he must pay fair wages because he needs to persuade the Fremen to follow his leadership. Once more, the narrator uses Duke Leto to argue that the Fremen's knowledge of surviving the Arrakeen desert environments is crucial to the Atreides's military and economic successes.*



*Duke Leto again demonstrates political intellect in targeting Fremen support and securing spice workers for House Atreides. He needs all the economic and military power he can get in order to overpower the dangerous Harkonnens.*



Duncan Idaho joins the meeting and reports on a clash with Harkonnen soldiers disguised as local Fremen. Fremen sent a man to warn Duke Leto about this duplicity, but their messenger was killed by the Harkonnens. Idaho describes a strange weapon that the Fremen was carrying: a knife that is “milky white and glowing with a light of its own like.” He moves to show the knife to the room, but a Fremen leader named Stilgar calls out commandingly from the doorway and prevents the weapon—a crysknife—from being displayed. The Fremen leader is allowed entry to the meeting and Paul Atreides immediately notices an “aura of power” that radiates from the man. Stilgar explains his actions result from a Fremen belief that those who have viewed a crysknife can never leave Arrakis. The Duke agrees to comply with this Fremen belief, budding Idaho to leave the weapon sheathed.

Idaho has won the respect of Stilgar, and Duke Leto now does the same through the honor and fairness he affords the Fremen leader. Stilgar shows his respect to the Duke by spitting in front of him. It takes quick thinking from Idaho to prevent Leto’s men from retaliating to the perceived insult; instead they learn that spitting is a Fremen sign of respect, as it sacrifices the precious resource of **water**. To increase bonds between House Atreides and the Fremen, Stilgar proposes that Idaho becomes a member of his sietch (Fremen community). Leto and Idaho agree to Stilgar’s suggestion, with Idaho taking on a dual allegiance—he remains an Atreides soldier but is now bonded to the Fremen as an ambassador.

Duke Leto’s final act at the meeting is to order that the Imperial planetologist Dr. Kynes is found so that he can lead the House Atreides to the abandoned Imperial bases on Arrakis. The Duke’s men advise against this dangerous move, as taking the Imperial bases could anger both the Emperor and the Fremen, but Leto demands his orders be upheld. The meeting is disbanded, with Paul concerned that his father’s leadership is unsteady, even “desperate.” He remembers Reverend Mother Mohiam’s prediction that Duke Leto would be killed when he moved to Arrakis.

## BOOK 1, PART 13

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Manual of Muad’Dib” recounts the Fremen response to Paul Atreides’s first public outing on Arrakis. They tentatively shouted “Mahdi!” as they hoped he was the prophesized messiah who is known in Fremen cultures as “Mahdi” and “Lisan al-Gaib, the Voice from the Outer World.” The Fremen are also fascinated by Lady Jessica’s power and status as a Bene Gesserit sister.

*The narrator exoticizes Fremen culture in Idaho’s otherworldly description of the Fremen knife that emits an unusual pale glow. Stilgar’s sudden intrusion on the meeting to inform them of the ritual associated with the weapon is a demonstration of House Atreides’s lack of knowledge of Arrakeen customs, despite their many preparations in learning all that they could about Arrakis before the move. Paul’s admiration for Stilgar will one day be reciprocated to an even higher degree from the Fremen leader.*



*Despite the many hints that House Atreides has learned about the significance of water since they moved to Arrakis, the spitting scene indicates that none of them truly understand its importance. Jessica and Paul will soon come to realize water’s value firsthand when they must escape the Harkonnen forces by fleeing into the desert. However, at this time, the cultural differences between Fremen and House Atreides are taking too long to work out, and Duke Leto will not be able to protect his people.*



*Duke Leto normally leads his people in a composed and clear-sighted manner. However, his decision to ignore his trusted companions’ advice causes his men and his son to doubt their leader. His “desperate” actions arise from the shock he still feels at the attack on his beloved son; his reckless behavior also perhaps arises from the knowledge that his own death is likely fast approaching due to the Harkonnens’ intentions.*



*The Fremen legend of a foreign messiah is similar to the Bene Gesserit prophecy of the Kwisatz Haderach. Their public cries cement the likelihood that Paul is this prophesized leader who will guide the Fremen to Imperial power and save humanity as per Bene Gesserit foresight. The Fremen word “Mahdi” means “messianic deliverer” in the Arabic language and signals Frank Herbert’s decision to base Fremen language and customs on Arab culture.*



Duke Leto approaches Thufir Hawat and instructs him to destroy Harkonnen **spice** stockpiles on the planet Giedi Prime. Although House Atreides cannot spare many men, the Duke thinks this venture is worthwhile and suggests some Fremen may also enjoy an off-world trip.

Hawat has intercepted a message that suggests Lady Jessica is colluding with Baron Harkonnen. The Mentat is unaware that this is a Harkonnen ploy to make House Atreides suspect Duke Leto's beloved concubine. Hawat informs the Duke of the message. Although Hawat suspects Jessica, the Duke is certain that she is not a traitor. However, Leto decides to pretend he suspects Jessica to convince the Harkonnens that he has naively fallen into their trap. The Duke allows Hawat and Duncan Idaho to the possibility that Jessica is guilty to make his pretense more convincing to Harkonnen spies; Hawat places Jessica under constant surveillance.

Duke Leto had previously asked Hawat to look into why Fremen have started addressing Paul in the streets as "Mahdi." His Mentat tells Leto that the Fremen believe that Paul could be the messiah that has been promised to them in prophecy, which states that "a leader will come to them, child of a Bene Gesserit, to lead them to true freedom."

Duke Leto needs time to consider the weight of this Fremen belief. He strides to a tower balcony, taking in the beauty of the sky and desert basin. Leto experiences a sudden intense anger at the Harkonnens who threaten this place and threaten his family. He vows to make a stand on Arrakis. Watching the landscapes and the dew gatherers in the morning light, the Duke acknowledges that the planet "could become a good home for my son" or conversely it "could be a hideous place."

## BOOK 1, PART 14

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" considers the shocking moment when a child realizes his father is a person "with human flesh."

*By prioritizing destruction of Harkonnen assets over military protection of his family and people, Duke Leto exemplifies the vindictive political tactics favored by the Great Houses that results in recurrent conflict.*



*This is the second time that Hawat falls for a Harkonnen trap. His fallibility suggests that Mentats are not as effective as they're made to seem, or that because of his elderly age, he is losing the sharp skills in deduction and logic that Mentats are renowned for. Unfortunately, too, despite Duke Leto's knowledge that the intercepted message must be fake, he pretends he thinks it true. His imminent death makes this decision a poor one because it upsets his relationship with Jessica.*



*In this passage, Duke Leto learns more about the prophesized Fremen messiah, and these details support the possibility that Paul is their messiah.*



*Duke Leto continues to be informed of news about Paul that rocks his usually solid leadership. His comparison between Arrakis as a "good home" or a "hideous place" foregrounds the fragility of the Atreides future fortunes. These rest on gaining local Arrakeen support and learning to navigate the beautiful but dangerous desert environments.*



*Muad'Dib's allusion to realizing that his father is not an all-powerful being, but rather a fallible human, suggests once more that Muad'Dib is Paul Atreides, as the narrator has just informed readers of Paul's concern at his father's increasingly unstable leadership.*



Duke Leto has breakfast with Paul and tells his son about the Harkonnen message that Thufir Hawat intercepted. Leto states that he knows this is a Harkonnen deception aimed at turning the Duke against Lady Jessica, but Leto is going to play along to lure House Harkonnen into a false sense of security and “smoke out” the real traitor. If something happens to the Duke, Paul must tell Jessica that Leto never actually suspected her.

*Duke Leto is sacrificing familial honesty for political advantage, another example of character development where he takes unusual risks that do not match up with the loyal and honest values he is known for. The promise that he asks of Paul suggests an outcome that Paul has been told is inevitable by his mother and Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam.*



Duke Leto discusses his plans for securing loyalty from the Fremen. He also hands Paul a report on Fremen religion. If anything happens to the Duke, he advises Paul to manipulate the Fremen’s belief that the boy may be their prophesized messiah—this leverage can help him survive. Paul has a foreboding that the Fremen belief is linked to the possibility he will become the Bene Gesserit’s Kwisatz Haderach.

*Once more, the narrator signals Duke Leto’s approaching death due to his succession plans. For the third time in the novel’s events, Paul is struck by the ominous sense that he is trapped in a predetermined chain of events.*



## BOOK 1, PART 15

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “In my Father’s House” relates Irulan’s realization that her father, the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV, greatly admired Duke Leto Atrides despite “the political necessities that made them enemies.” The two men resemble each other in physical appearance, and the Princess deduces that the Emperor wished Duke Leto had become his son—in fact, her father wishes she were much older so that she could have married the Duke.

*Princess Irulan reveals that the Padishah Emperor is captive within the Imperium’s cyclical power plays just as much as the rest of the Great Houses are. The Emperor’s desire for Leto to be his son through marriage to Irulan suggests that he views his daughter as a political pawn.*



Dr. Kynes, the Imperial planetologist on Arrakis, is shaken by the realization that he greatly likes Duke Leto and Paul Atrides. He even allows himself to consider that Paul is perhaps the prophesized Mahdi. However, Kynes has been tasked to betray them. His role as an Imperial officer is to ensure that House Atrides obeys Imperial law in their rule of Arrakis.

*The narrator demonstrates the influence of Duke Leto and Paul’s likeable personalities through Kynes’s admiration of the pair despite his previous conviction not to like them. Like his fellow Fremen, Kynes is also struck by the signs that Paul might be their prophesized messiah.*



Duke Leto and Paul meet Kynes in midmorning at the Arrakeen landing field where an ornithopter (flying vessel) waits for them. Kynes is initially scathing in his assessment of House Atrides and sneers at their folly in relying on force shields to help protect them. The fact that he has been questioned by Thufir Hawat throughout the night and then briefed by Hawat on how Kynes must address this new nobility further irritates the planetologist. However, he is slightly more impressed by the approaching nobles when he views the command and assurance that the young Paul Atrides radiates even upon his approach to meet Kynes.

*Kynes begins to admire Paul as soon as the Atrides noblemen approach the planetologist. Paul is still only 15 years old and new to this planet, therefore his aura and bearing must be extremely commanding to demand such respect from the Fremen leader.*



Paul's confident attitude and easy behavior in wearing a stillsuit and jubba cloak correctly for the first time match with the Fremen prophecies that the Mahdi "will know your ways as though born to them." Paul also quotes a phrase from the Orange Catholic Bible that "The gift is the blessing of the giver." This surprises Kynes and his Fremen escort, as the Mahdi is predicted "to greet you with Holy Words and your gifts will be a blessing." Paul is similarly immediately impressed by Kynes, observing the power Kynes quietly wields "as though he were blood-royal, born to command." The Duke Leto is impressed with Kynes's knowledge of Arrakis, but thinks him too "Fremen" in his casual, forceful manner.

Kynes has been asked to accompany Duke Leto, Paul, and Gurney Halleck to view a **spice** mining operation. Leto pilots an ornithopter (flying ship) with Kynes directing him where to fly. The two discuss the function and manufacture of stillsuits. Leto and Kynes also partake in a tense conversation about Kynes's role as an Imperial officer. Kynes refuses to reveal whether he will confirm with the Emperor that House Atreides has observed all legalities required during the Arrakis takeover. Kynes also refuses to reveal the whole nature of his work as planetologist, sidestepping the Duke's questions about spice.

Kynes's biggest withholding from the Atreides is his rejection of Duke Leto's request to open up the abandoned Imperial bases to House Atreides. He grows angry at the request, stating that Arrakis could be a paradise "if its rulers would look up from grubbing for **spice!**" Leto also hears him refer to the ecology as "my climate."

Duke Leto is interested in the political implications of Kynes's statements, but cannot pursue them further as the group has arrived at the **spice** mining operation. They approach a huge crawler (spice factory vehicle), and Kynes warns to be on their guard as sandworms are drawn to spice and to shielding. The Duke asks about the nature of sandworms, and Paul realizes from Kynes's answers that there is a specific relationship between the sandworms and spice that the planetologist is trying to hide.

Duke Leto suddenly spots the "wormsign" that Kynes has just described as a moving wave of sand. Kynes confirms it is a large worm and radios this information to the crawler. Gurney Halleck directs that the **spice** bonus that the Duke receives for being first to spot the wormsign is split out among the spice workers, a politically weighed move for the Duke to gain the workers' respect.

*Once more, Paul amazes Kynes and his Fremen escort because his words and behaviors match the prophecy of the arrival of the Fremen Mahdi. This affords Paul an even better relationship with the Fremen than his father, despite Duke Leto now governing Arrakis. Paul's comments on his respect for Kynes "as though he were bloody-royal" once more highlights the Imperium's class-based system. It also plays into the theme of mysterious ancestry that the narrator earlier introduced when describing the Bene Gesserit's refusal to reveal Lady Jessica's parentage.*



*Although Kynes likes Paul very much and the Duke somewhat, he is very cautious and does not show any outright support for House Atreides. Much like the Great Houses, Kynes has to balance delicate loyalties between his Fremen culture and Imperial work.*



*Kynes's outburst demonstrates the fierce Fremen anger at the never-ending ecological damage caused by the Great Houses in their greed to mine spice on Arrakis. Furthermore, his claim of environmental ownership demonstrates the truth that he is a Fremen leader, perhaps even the "Liet" that Fremen have previously acknowledged they answer to.*



*Paul has quickly adapted to Fremen customs in garb and speech on Arrakis. Using his Bene Gesserit Truthsayer skills, he just as quickly realizes that the Fremen are hiding significant knowledge about the relationship between sandworms and spice. This knowledge is of great political and economical value.*



*Like his leader, Halleck is well-versed in the political nuances of trying to gain power through popularity.*



The sandworm is fast approaching, but the carryall ship required to rescue the **spice** workers from the crawler fails to appear. Duke Leto prioritizes the safety of his people over the rich and plentiful spice load by helping to evacuate the workers from the crawler. They use the ornithopters and the crawler's spotters (small watch vessels) to get all of the spice workers away from the crawler before it is swallowed by the sandworm's mouth. Paul is amazed to watch the sandworm's whirlpool of a mouth—approximately twice as large as the crawler itself—envelop the factory machine whole. He and the Duke are surprised to hear Kynes bless “the Maker” as the sandworm devours the spice load.

Duke Leto is furious that **spice** workers are vulnerable to such risks during their regular work. House Atreides are also confused to see two small figures on the sand walking smoothly away from the site of the swallowed crawler. Paul deduces that they are Fremen; when Kynes and the spice mining leader deny it, Paul can tell that they speak falsely.

Duke Leto becomes even more enraged that the group has likely lost two lives, with Kynes stating there is little hope for the two men. Paul doubts this and becomes sure that the Fremen are capable of thriving in the desert in ways not yet known. Kynes's admiration for the honorable Duke and his perceptive son continues to grow, especially because they clearly value human life over **spice** profits. He views Leto's behavior as the type of leadership that “would command fanatic loyalty” and be difficult to overpower.

## BOOK 1, PART 16

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text “Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib” meditates on the quality of “greatness.” An individual can experience greatness if they have an imagination that partakes in myth-making, can reflect the ideas that other people project onto them, and have a sense of the sardonic to disconnect themselves from the myth.

*This time, the Duke himself gains popular respect by rescuing the spice workers instead of the financially lucrative spice load. His value and care of people have won him great respect in the past, and he hopes that this fairness will bring his family success on Arrakis. Kynes, who has appeared a man of science up until now, whispers in a religious manner to bless “the Maker”—a term that Jessica was similarly confused by when the Fremen Shadout Mapes first spoke to her.*



*Once more, the Duke demonstrates that he cares for people more than economic profits. Paul uses his acute intelligence and Truthsaying skills to deduce that Fremen are easily avoiding the attacking worm on the desert sands, despite Kynes lying to his face again.*



*Kynes's claim of Duke Leto inspiring “fanatic loyalty” is prophetic because Paul goes on to inspire this devotion from all Fremen. Paul will also learn their skills to thrive in the desert in the same manner that the young nobleman is certain the two escaping Fremen are doing now.*



*Muad'Dib knows what it takes to achieve societal “greatness” because he has succeeded in tying together all of these elements to himself become a legendary leader of humankind.*





At the Atreides palace in Arrakeen, the dining hall has been dressed grandly for a formal dinner. Duke Leto observes the arrangements, taking note of the exorbitant flagon of **water** at each table setting. It was the previous Harkonnen rulers' custom that guests would arrive to a dinner and slop the water on the floor while washing their hands, then drying their hands and flinging a growing mound of towels into a wet puddle beside the door. Arrakeen's beggars would then gather outside to try and collect water squeezings from the used towels. Leto finds this practice to be despicable, and instead gives away the clean water to Arrakeen's needy. This change in tradition causes some resistance from the Arrakeen elite who are arriving for dinner, but the Duke politely ignores their objections.

Meanwhile, in the Great Hall Lady Jessica is entertaining guests who have arrived for the dinner. Paul, Dr. Kynes, and Duncan Idaho are among them; there are also many of the planet's prosperous upper class present, and Lady Jessica has decided to invite a smuggler. As he approaches the Great Hall, Duke Leto sees that Jessica has worn stunning clothing in his favorite colors, and he knows that this is a subtle reproach for his recent cold manner toward her—part of the pretense to trick the Harkonnens into revealing the true House Atreides traitor. The Duke knows that part of Idaho's role at the formal dinner is to keep watch over Jessica. Leto is in a dispirited mood, reminded again that his death might be near. Paul's mood matches his father's bitterness.

Joining the guests in the Great Hall, Duke Leto confirms that he will be experimenting to see if weather controls can induce climate change on Arrakis for a more hospitable ecosystem. A watershipper named Ligar Bewt challenges the Duke's many changes in tradition on the planet, eventually daring to ask Leto if he plans to continue "flaunting" the conservatory's thriving plant life in spite of limited **water** resource available. Lady Jessica steps in with a diplomatic answer that House Atreides is holding the conservatory in trust for the people of Arrakis, in the hopes that one day the planet's environments will be able to sustain lush plant life.

Dr. Kynes is surprised that Jessica shares his dream for a more Eden-like Arrakis. He asks her "Do you bring the shortening of the way?" This phrase startles her, as she knows it is a reference to the Kwisatz Haderach. Jessica is unable to answer due to an interruption from Bewt, who insults Kynes as living like the uncivilized "mobs of Fremen." Jessica wonders if the Bene Gesserit order planted the Kwisatz Haderach prophecy on Arrakis, which encourages her secret hope that Paul might be that messianic figure.

*Duke Leto's understanding of and reaction to the traditional Arrakeen palace's water rituals shed light on why Arrakeen locals hate the imposing rule of Great Houses so much—previous Great Houses have selfishly squandered precious water at the expense and humiliation of Arrakeen city residents. Leto acts in a manner that endears him to common citizens more than it does the Arrakeen upper class. It is his broad popular appeal that attracts the jealousy and resulting danger from other Great Houses.*



*Like Duke Leto, Lady Jessica is not afraid to rebel against upper-class tradition. Her actions in wearing uncustomary clothing and socializing with a known smuggler echo her refusal to bow to Bene Gesserit convention, which resulted in the birth of Paul. Once more, the narrator uses Duke Leto and Paul's behaviors to remind readers that Leto's death is quickly approaching.*



*Duke Leto and Lady Jessica are no strangers to verbal political attacks, navigating Bewt's challenges with ease. They slip into an easy rhythm in supporting one another, despite their current strained relationship due to Leto's pretense that he suspects Jessica might betray him.*



*Kynes surprise at Jessica's similar ecological hopes are echoed symbolically by her claim that the Atreides will keep the lush conservatory as a reminder of the potential for Arrakeen climate change. Unbeknownst to Jessica, Kynes has set up similar vegetative pockets in the Arrakeen deserts for the same reason. Jessica is shocked at how closely the Fremen's savior myth matches the Bene Gesserit Kwisatz Haderach prophecy, once more signaling the future likelihood that Paul is the prophesized messiah.*



As the group moves to the dining hall, Leto questions Jessica on her decision to invite a smuggler named Esmar Tuek to the event. She notes that Tuek is very influential among smugglers and on Arrakis at large; his presence at the dinner will give their enemies pause for thought. She also thinks to herself that the Duke doesn't realize that smugglers, with their underground connections and fast ships, can be bribed if the Atreides family need a fast getaway from Arrakis.

Before starting dinner, Duke Leto makes an unusual toast that includes the loud claim "Here I am and here I remain!" He orders Gurney Halleck to play guests a tune on his baliset, and while the weapons master does so, Leto continues to address his guests and then implies they must all follow his suit by tipping out their flagon of clean **water** on the floor. Jessica thinks he may come off to guests as being drunk, but notes that he is instead "angry and uncertain." Guests' response to the water dilemma is telling, with many nervous to follow through. Kynes openly tips his water into a personal container instead of on the floor, and then raises his glass in a toast.

As the group begins eating, Jessica overhears a conversation between Kynes and a Guild representative related to the earlier events of a sandworm destroying a **spice** crawler. She chillingly realizes that the Guildman has speech patterns from Giedi Prime and must be a Harkonnen agent. He manipulates the conversation around him to personal benefit, but is stopped short by Paul Atreides and is embarrassed when the boy outwits him. Kynes and Tuek enjoy Paul's show of strategy. When the Guildman insults Kynes again, the planetologist threatens the Harkonnen agent, and Jessica realizes the Guild banker is terrified of Kynes.

Lady Jessica once more turns to Dr. Kynes to pick up the conversation about the possibility of terraforming Arrakis. Duke Leto realizes that this dream is the reason the Imperial planetologist has softened toward House Atreides over the course of the day. Leto questions the prospects of climate change on Arrakis, pressing Kynes, who accidentally reveals enough for Jessica to realize that there's enough **water** on Arrakis to one day change it into a more human-friendly ecosystem. Paul hears the same message by using his powers of truthsense.

*Despite their earlier united front in fending off Ligar Bewt's challenges, Leto and Jessica still have an unusual rift and lack of understanding that separates their usually close bond. This is particularly dangerous because of the Harkonnen threats that currently face House Atreides.*



*Duke Leto suddenly reverts to the volatile and awkward behaviors that had previously scared his men and his son during their strategy meeting. Once more, it seems his leadership is failing.*



*Due to their Bene Gesserit training, Jessica and Paul can see human patterns that their peers completely miss. This skill becomes essential to their survival on Arrakis.*



*While Jessica and Paul continue to make complex deductions about their fellow diners' personalities and motives, Duke Leto makes his own important realization that Kynes highly values the dream of changing the Arrakeen climate into a more hospitable one. This knowledge can be used for political leverage to align the Fremen with House Atreides.*



A messenger arrives with a communication for Duke Leto, and he leaves the dinner abruptly. Paul takes his father's place as host and once more outwits the Guild banker after the man insults Paul's youth. Tiek finds this enormously amusing, but the banker does not, and Jessica and Paul ready themselves for possible violence. Kynes signals Tiek to step in, and the smuggler defuses the tension with a loud toast. Jessica realizes even more Kynes's influence as a leader on Arrakis and wonders why he has chosen to stand with Paul. However, she is confused when Kynes once again lies about Fremen practices—she and Paul sense his falsehoods when he assures the group that rumors of Fremen using soaks and sip-wells to successfully cross the planet's deserts are untrue.

Jessica receives a message from Duke Leto informing her that the matter that called him away suddenly has now been resolved: a shipment of Harkonnen lasguns has been discovered by his men. Jessica is filled with worry about the implications of this event. Lasguns are violent weapons, and it is plausible that other shipments have been smuggled past the Duke's men.

## BOOK 1, PART 17

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" claims that there is no escaping the violence of one's ancestors.

That night, Lady Jessica wakes in the early morning to a disturbance in the palace. Duncan Idaho is intoxicated and causing a scene in the Great Hall. Jessica tries to sober him up by slapping him and then giving him coffee. Idaho's response reveals that he believes Jessica is a Harkonnen agent, the traitor that House Atreides is on alert for. Jessica is shocked and knows this suspicion must be shared by Thufir Hawat. She calls the Mentat to meet her.

Jessica and Hawat talk in her rooms, where Jessica tries to persuade him that she is not a traitor. At the same time, she tests Hawat for any signs of betrayal to House Atreides, finding none. The two exchange a long dialogue, reasoning why Jessica can or cannot be trusted. At the conversation's end, it is a stalemate, with Hawat remaining unconvinced of Jessica's loyalty to Duke Leto.

*Paul demonstrates that he can hold his own in political dinner party dissension. He and Jessica continue to use their Bene Gesserit training to understand what is going on beneath the veneer of civility and naivety at the table.*



*Yet another event heralds the impending Harkonnen attacks on House Atreides and casts doubt on who the family can trust.*



*Muad'Dib acknowledges that violence is intrinsic to human nature—it erupts throughout history because of the cyclical nature of revenge.*



*House Atreides is starting to fall apart—beyond Duke Leto's increasingly unusual behavior, loyal men like Idaho and Hawat are now mistrusting Jessica despite her fierce lifetime of loyalty to her beloved Duke.*



*The Harkonnen plan to sow seeds of suspicion in House Atreides has succeeded so well that the Mentat and Bene Gesserit sister cannot come to a shared truth, despite their shared elite skills in logic and understanding.*



Jessica changes tack and asks Hawat why he has never trusted her to use her full Bene Gesserit abilities in Duke Leto's service. The Mentat angrily replies that he does not have faith in Bene Gesserit motives and insults the order's purported powers of control and persuasion. Jessica resorts to using the Bene Gesserit Voice on Hawat, pitching her tone to force him to obey her commands to sit back in his chair listen to her argument. He feels the full extent of her total control over him. Jessica tries to explain that she cannot be a traitor to House Atreides, otherwise she would have used this power to destroy the Duke a long time ago.

Despite her intentions to regain his trust, Jessica's depth of powers cause Hawat to be even more suspicious of her motives—she could be a powerful tool for the Harkonnens. When Jessica lets him leave her rooms, he considers killing her, but decides to leave quietly. He suspects Jessica as a traitor while also admiring her person and actions immensely.

## BOOK 1, PART 18

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Songs of Muad'Dib" recounts "The Dirge for Jamis on the Funeral Plain." It is a mournful elegy that recounts a foolish and restless waste of a life.

Duke Leto stands in the palace foyer, considering a strange note from a Fremen messenger that reads "A column of smoke by day, a pillar of fire by night." The messenger cannot be found to explain the mysterious note. Leto feels very weary. He reflects on his recent meeting with Thufir Hawat, where the Mentat related his conversation with Lady Jessica to the Duke. After blaming the drunken Duncan Idaho for starting the unfortunate chain of events, Leto realizes that he should have been honest with Jessica from the beginning regarding his pretense of suspicion.

Leto hurries to waken Jessica and make amends, but walking down a hallway hears a strange mewling noise. Tracking it, he discovers the smuggler Tuek stabbed to death on the floor. The Atreides housekeeper Shadout Mapes has been stabbed also and is taking her last breaths as she tries to tell Leto who the traitor is. She dies, and Leto is struck in the arm by a poisoned dart.

*The narrator shows that Hawat is fallible yet again, because he will not let the logical evidence that Jessica presents sway him from his incorrect belief that she is the traitor.*



*In this case, Jessica's Bene Gesserit talents harm rather than aid her cause. Hawat will not let his admiration for her personal conduct affect his loyal protection of Duke Leto.*



*It does not make any sense to readers yet, but the narrator uses Princess Irulan's epigraph to foreshadow Paul's future victory in a lethal duel with a Fremen named Jamis. The accurate record of Irulan's future texts serves to add a legitimacy to the theme of Dune's predeterminism.*



*It is too late for Duke Leto to undo the mistakes he has recently made on his move to Arrakis—the Harkonnen attack and his death are imminent. He is also unable to decipher the Fremen hint that the Harkonnens will attack tonight.*



*Even in the midst of violent injury and death, Duke Leto fails to realize the danger until it is too late and he is incapacitated.*



As his body is overcome by paralysis, Duke Leto turns over and sees that Dr. Yueh is the traitor. Yueh has turned off the house generators, leaving the Atreides household unprotected from a Harkonnen attack. Yueh reveals that he has betrayed the Duke so that he can kill the Baron Harkonnen, taking vengeance for House Harkonnen kidnapping and likely murdering his wife. The Suk doctor places a false tooth filled with poisonous gas in Leto's mouth, instructing the Duke that he must bite down hard when he is brought before the Baron.

Yueh feels a great relief in executing his revenge on House Harkonnen, but is also extremely guilty over his betraying House Atreides. He tells Duke Leto that if the Duke will kill Baron Harkonnen, Yueh will ensure that Paul and Jessica escape the Harkonnen attack—he will make them appear dead and then hide them with enemies of House Harkonnen. As Leto blacks out, he feels Yueh remove his ducal ring and hears the doctor reminding him of the secret false tooth.

## BOOK 1, PART 19

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" states that "there should be a science of discontent." People need hardships to develop mental strength.

After being drugged in her bedroom, Jessica awakes in darkness and can feel that she is bound and gagged on a floor. She has been kidnapped by House Harkonnen and hears four sets of footsteps coming toward her. A door opens, revealing she is in the palace cellar where Paul slept, although he is not here now.

Lady Jessica is confronted by Baron Harkonnen and his Mentat Piter de Vries, with two guards posted outside the room. The Baron tells the Mentat that Piter can choose one of two rewards for helping achieve the Atreides downfall—ruling Arrakis, or claiming Jessica as his prize. Jessica knows through her truthsense that the Baron is lying either way; Piter chooses Arrakis. Jessica realizes that Yueh is the traitor who has handed the Atreides to the Baron. When she realizes that Emperor Shaddam IV has supported House Harkonnen's attack on House Atreides, she accepts the likelihood that Duke Leto is dead.

*The fragile Atreides rule on Arrakis has come to an end as Yueh's betrayal leaves them vulnerable to Harkonnen and Imperial forces. Yueh was a member of a household that the Duke never considered as capable of betrayal because of the Suk Imperial Conditioning. The much-trusted Mentat Hawat failed in his recognition of this threat, too.*



*As he has in the lead up to his betrayal of House Atreides, Yueh feels great remorse at having harmed the Duke. He tries to allow the Duke two reassurances to ensure his impending death is a little more bearable.*



*Muad'Dib believes that challenge fosters growth; people develop skills and develop resilience by overcoming hardship.*



*Despite awaking to a terrifying situation, Jessica's Bene Gesserit training ensures that she keeps calm and assesses her surroundings.*



*Jessica continues to use her Bene Gesserit training to read the room and search for any advantage she can use to escape. She demonstrates courage in accepting that Duke Leto is dead; she is likely holding on to the hope that Paul is still alive.*



Shortly after, Harkonnen troops bring Paul to the room on a litter. Although he is seemingly unconscious, Paul is secretly awake, trying to calm his despair and work out an escape plan for him and Jessica. The pair are then flown into the desert by two Harkonnen guards. At Yueh's suggestion, Baron Harkonnen has ordered the mother and son to be killed there so that their bodies will be disposed of by sandworms. Upon their landing, Jessica notices another ornithopter covertly land some distance away on the desert's Shield Wall.

*Like his mother, Paul is relying on his Bene Gesserit training to ascertain what is happening and decide how he can escape. The narrator notes that Yueh has influenced Baron Harkonnen's plan for Paul and Jessica, implying that they may be able to escape the Harkonnens with the Suk doctor's help.*



Paul, who is not gagged like Jessica, is able to use his limited power of the Bene Gesserit Voice to persuade the guards to remove his mother's gag. The other guard is deaf and cannot be controlled by the Voice, but Jessica convinces the hearing guard to fight his ally. One of the guards is killed, and Jessica distracts the remaining one long enough for Paul to be able to attack and overpower him.

*Once more, Paul and Jessica use their Bene Gesserit training to outsmart and overpower the Harkonnens.*



Raiding the ornithopter that brought them to the desert, Paul and Jessica discover a bundle hidden by Yueh that contains stillsuits, food, and Leto's ducal ring. Suddenly another ornithopter appears in the distance, flying toward them. Paul and Jessica flee the scene.

*Paul and Jessica are in survival mode, hoping to escape being recaptured by Harkonnen forces. They will need more than their Bene Gesserit training to survive in the hostile Arrakeen deserts.*



## BOOK 1, PART 20

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" relates a parable known as "the attitude of the knife"—cutting off what is incomplete in order to make it complete.

*"The attitude of the knife" is brutal yet efficient, foreshadowing Muad'Dib's own ruthlessly effective leadership style.*



The narrative cuts back in time briefly. Dr. Yueh has implanted a false tooth in the paralyzed and unconscious Duke Leto's mouth. Meanwhile, Harkonnen forces are attacking the Atrides household. A Sardaukar soldier disguised as a Harkonnen troop finds Yueh and searches for Duke Leto's signet ring. Yueh has removed it and intends to give it to Paul; to allay the Sardaukar's suspicions, Yueh lies that Leto sometimes sent the ring with messengers to confirm the authority of their communications.

*The violence is widespread in the city of Arrakeen. The narrator continues to paint Yueh in two lights—he sends Leto to his death yet tries desperately to enact a plan to help Paul and Jessica escape the Harkonnens.*



## BOOK 1, PART 21

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Introduction to a Child's History of Muad'Dib" tells of the legend that when Duke Leto was killed, a meteor was sighted in the skies above his ancestral palace on planet Caladan.

*The legend of a meteor symbolizing Duke Leto's death above his palace on Caladan, Leto's familial and political stronghold, signals the weight of the Duke's loss as an important player on the Imperium's galactic stage.*



In Arrakeen, Baron Vladimir Harkonnen looks over the city as it is overpowered by his troops. Explosives set off by his soldiers destroy the rest of Duke Leto's army. The Baron's Mentat, Piter, approaches him to relay that Sardaukar soldiers have arrived with the captured Duke. The Baron reflects on the reward of Arrakis that he has promised Piter for helping him defeat the Atreides. He is secretly planning to only leave Piter in charge of Arrakis for a short time, before replacing him with the Baron's favored nephew, Feyd-Rautha.

The Baron Harkonnen calls for Dr. Yueh to present himself. Although the Baron has promised to reunite Yueh with his kidnapped wife, Yueh can tell from the Baron's demeanor that his wife is dead. The Baron states that their bargain was for Yueh to betray House Atreides in exchange for the Baron freeing Yueh's wife and permitting the doctor to join her—to fulfil this agreement, the Baron has Piter kill the Suk doctor.

Soldiers bring the defeated Duke Leto before Baron Harkonnen. Leto, now conscious, gains some hope when he hears that Jessica and Paul are alive and have escaped their captors in the desert. The Baron demands that the Duke reveal where they've fled, but Leto does not know. When the Baron leans down to the Duke to gloat over his defeat and threaten torture, Leto remembers to bite down on the false tooth implanted by Yueh. The Duke breathes out poisonous gas, sacrificing his life to try and kill the Baron. Piter and the guards in the room perish, but the Harkonnen leader manages to escape the deadly poison without harm.

A Sardaukar guard demands that Baron Harkonnen show him the Duke Leto's body to confirm Leto's death for the Padishah Emperor. The Baron is embarrassed that Duke Leto has made him look weak in front of the Emperor and in front of his men. He's also frustrated by the death of his valuable Mentat, Piter, as his plans for House Harkonnen leadership on Arrakis must change now.

## BOOK 1, PART 22

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Songs of Muad'Dib" is a lament for the fallen Duke Leto and his legacy.

*As the narrator has previously shown, Baron Harkonnen is a leader who uses control and fear to influence people and events around him. Here he once more demonstrates the extraordinary lengths he will go to in his quest for increased power, killing innocent people and betraying allies including his Mentat, Piter.*



*It is no surprise that Baron Harkonnen continues to break promises. This time, he does so by killing Yueh, who is no longer useful to him.*



*Leto's final scene showcases two of his finest values: care for his family and courage in the face of adversity. He sacrifices his life because he knows it is lost anyway and there is a chance that through his suicide he can also take the Baron down with him. Unfortunately the Baron escapes, leaving Paul to take up the Atreides mantle and avenge Leto's untimely death.*



*Although Duke Leto failed to kill Baron Harkonnen, he has succeeded in weakening the Baron's leadership through loss of respect and loss of a valuable human resource—Mentats are rare individuals throughout the Imperium, and Piter was one of the best.*



*Like Jamis's funeral dirge, another song remembering a death illustrates the harsh realities of life in the Imperium.*



Fleeing from the pursuing ornithopter, Paul and Jessica are caught quickly. They turn to face the ship, prepared to face Harkonnen troops, and Paul is consumed by anger. However he recognizes that the ornithopter is piloted by Duncan Idaho—an assumption he makes quickly from the subtle clues in the pilot's flying technique. He reaches the conclusion that it is Idaho chasing them much faster than his mother, who only recognizes the swordsman when he leans out of the landed to ship to urge them to hurry—a sandworm is approaching.

Idaho, Paul and Jessica take flight in the ornithopter, and Idaho conceals Paul and Jessica in a ring of desert rocks. Idaho escaped the Harkonnen attack with Yueh's aid, and the doctor directed him to help Jessica and Paul. Jessica and Paul wait in a stilltent—a Fremen temporary shelter—while Idaho leaves to aid other House Atreides survivors. Paul feels cowardly, hiding in the desert while others fight for his House, but he acknowledges it is the wisest action.

Paul and Jessica are able to read the final message that the Dr. Yueh left for them alongside Leto's ducal ring in their bundle of supplies. The Suk doctor has arranged the escape of key House Atreides members even as he betrayed Duke Leto. He writes that by the time they read his message, the Duke will be dead, but they can take some comfort in the knowledge that Baron Harkonnen will also have been killed. Paul and Jessica realize that the Suk doctor hated the Baron, even though he worked for House Harkonnen. Yueh writes that he does not want forgiveness for his unspeakable actions; Jessica confirms aloud that Yueh's betrayal of House Atreides must have stemmed from the Harkonnen kidnapping of his wife, Wanna.

In this time of terrifying change, Paul feels a heightened intelligence and awareness of the events occurring around him. He finds he is able to process information more quickly than even his Bene Gesserit mother Jessica, becoming surprised by her slow and even poor understanding of their situation. Paul is "unable to stop the inflow of information. [...] It was Mentat power and more." This newfound power feels like a "cold precision" in his mind, reflected outwardly in a new cold and "steel" command that Jessica recognizes in her son's voice and attitude. Paul is suffused with the "sense of terrible purpose" that has visited him since his meeting with Reverend Mother Mohiam.

*Paul's cognitive agility seems to be outstripping his mother's impressive mental abilities. Jessica is perhaps affected by her near-certainty that Duke Leto has died. The narrator harshly reminds readers that Harkonnens and Imperial troops are not the only forces threatening Paul and Jessica—Arrakeen wildlife can be just as deadly.*



*The narrator once again echoes the dualism of Yueh's actions in helping Paul and Jessica escape the Harkonnens while helping Baron Harkonnen to capture Duke Leto.*



*Yueh's letter allows Paul and Jessica to gain the same understanding that readers have likely held for some time now: Yueh was a fundamentally ethical man who was driven to evil actions through a serious threat to his beloved wife.*



*Paul's cognitive abilities continue to surpass his mother's. He cannot stop the Mentat-like calculations that continuously race through his mind, suggesting that he is developing a higher level of conscious and perhaps evolving into the prophesized Kwisatz Haderach figure. Once more, the unstoppable sense of predetermined fate envelops Paul. For the first time in his life, Paul's behavior shocks Jessica in his seemingly uncaring logic.*





Jessica hopes that Idaho can connect with Kynes, who might provide sanctuary to the two Atreides. She also wants to join with any of Duke Leto's household who have escaped the Harkonnen attack. Paul overrides her desires, stating that that mother and son must depend on themselves and that their first priority is securing the Atreides atomic weapons. Paul has also realized that it is unlikely any of their household will also escape the Harkonnens: with the Padishah Emperor's support, they are determined to wholly exterminate House Atreides.

*Paul does not hesitate in overruling his mother's desires in favor of his own. For the first time, and in direct contrast to his father's values, Paul seems to be prioritizing political advantage of the safety of his people.*



Paul uses advanced reasoning to grasp that the Fremen are paying the Guild to program their surveillance satellites to ignore Fremen activities on Arrakis. There are unknown depths to Fremen culture that the young Atreides wants to explore. Meanwhile, Jessica thinks of her lost Duke Leto and his unborn daughter that she carries. Paul and Jessica receive news of the Harkonnen victory in Arrakeen over the radio. They also learn that Sardaukar soldiers in Atreides uniform have sacked the Guild bank. Paul realizes that the Padishah Emperor and Baron Harkonnen are leaving nothing to chance—by turning the Guild against House Atreides, survivors are trapped on Arrakis.

*Paul's perspective extends well beyond his immediate situation, considering Fremen and Guild cultures at large. He is still certain that Fremen society hides valuable knowledge about spice production and desert survival. Jessica's private revelation that she is pregnant is surprising and devastating because it seems that Duke Leto didn't know about his daughter before his death. Paul is too busy calculating his situation to notice his mother's introspection.*



Jessica learns from Paul that Duke Leto never suspected her of betraying him; this was merely a pretense to gain political power over the Harkonnens. Paul also reveals that his father regretted never marrying Jessica. Jessica grieves for Leto, but Paul finds he is unable to do the same. His mind is spinning as he experiences foresight, seeing visions of thousands of possible futures stretching in all directions. Paul grasps onto the idea that this foresight must be key talent that the Guild navigators rely on to undertake interstellar travel.

*Paul now turns to his mother to fulfil his promise to Duke Leto that he would tell Jessica of the Duke's unwavering faith in her. Paul reaches another new level of conscious as he suddenly experiences manifold future possibilities before him, once again suggesting he is transforming into a powerful prophesized messiah who can see into the future to save humankind.*



Paul also realizes that there is increased **spice** in the air and in the food he has been eating. This mind-altering substance must have augmented his already impressive cognitive powers, pushing his mind into a new state of awareness. He relates future events to Jessica, claiming that she will give birth to a daughter. His gift of foresight is strong, as Jessica had not revealed her pregnancy to anyone yet.

*Spice is foregrounded as the key substance that is enabling Paul's sudden cognitive leaps. If he is having this extreme a reaction, it is likely that the spice affects the Fremen who live permanently in the spice-rich deserts.*



Paul also reveals the terrible truth that he and Jessica are Harkonnens—the Baron Harkonnen is Jessica's father, his identity purposefully withheld from her by the Bene Gesserit program. Throughout Paul's visions of possible futures, he sees many paths in which the Fremen give he and Jessica sanctuary. He also predicts that the Fremen will call him "Muad'Dib," meaning "The One Who Points the Way."

*Paul's increased powers of foresight reveal the terrible truth of his and Jessica's familial relationship to the man who has just killed Duke Leto. Bene Gesserit superiors hid Jessica's paternal identity because they hoped to inbreed her daughter with Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen to produce a child who would be the Kwisatz Haderach. Finally, too, the narrator confirms that Paul is, in fact, Muad'Dib, the subject of Princess Irulan's many historic texts.*



## BOOK 2, PART 1

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "In My Father's House" recounts Emperor Shaddam IV's rage when he learns that Duke Leto Atreides has died an unfair and ignoble death at the hands of House Harkonnen. The Emperor blames many parties for the Duke's death—Baron Harkonnen, the Guild, the Bene Gesserit order, even the Emperor's own wife and daughter. Irulan attributes her father's extreme and unreasonable reaction to Leto's death not to care for the dead Duke, but to the Emperor's fear for his own continued existence of privileged elitism.

Paul and Jessica are in the stilltent, hidden in the desert by Duncan Idaho. Paul is still furious at the circumstances that have led to his father Duke Leto's death; he also continues to reveal his newfound cognitive and prophetic powers to his mother. His mind is working leaps and bounds ahead of Jessica as he tells her that the Fremen and their "desert power" are the key to defeating the Harkonnens. He also states that they must attack House Harkonnen by taking control of the **spice**. Jessica struggles to follow his lines of thought. She believes that her son must be the Kwisatz Haderach, but he dismisses this idea, stating that he is "something unexpected."

Using his heightened mental awareness, Paul comes to terms with the fact that he is a result of the Bene Gesserit efforts to refresh the human gene pool. However, Paul sees that this will take the form of a religious war, with surviving Atreides soldiers and Fremen sweeping violently across the universe. Paul desires to prevent this crusade from happening.

Duncan Idaho does not return to the stilltent. A storm comes up and covers the stilltent in sand; later, when Paul has determined that if Idaho has been captured he will have by now given in to torture, Paul decides he and Jessica must leave their hiding spot. It is night outside when they dig themselves out of their sand cover. Jessica follows Paul "automatically" as he decides where to travel; she notes that "she now lived in her son's orbit." As they depart their camp, they can see Harkonnen ornithopters hunting for them with jetflares and lasguns lighting up the distant desert. As Paul steps away from their hidden site, the ominous shapes of ornithopters rise above directly above them in the night sky.

*The Padishah Emperor's furious response to Duke Leto's death signals his fear at losing control over the Imperium—he had ordered Baron Harkonnen to keep the Duke alive. The physical similarities that the narrator earlier shared between the Emperor and Duke Leto foreshadows the Emperor's approaching downfall in the face of Paul Atreides. Certainly, Dune's events are looping chains of violent revenge for familial injustices.*



*Paul continues to outpace his mother in understanding their current situation and making plans. He refuses her labelling him the Kwisatz Haderach in a manner that foreshadows his refusal to be the puppet hero that the Bene Gesserit hope to control on the Imperial throne.*



*Paul acknowledges that he has the Kwisatz Haderach's powers. He also gains an understanding of the Bene Gesserit program's goals—despite their terrible manipulations, the sisterhood is trying to save the future of humanity because they know that the current gene pool will lead to humanity's destruction. However they have not foreseen that in saving humanity, Paul's Fremen forces will also destroy millions of lives in a war that may sit beyond his control. His powers of foresight are now stronger than the combined foresight of the Bene Gesserit order.*



*Paul continues to naturally make decisions without Jessica's input. Her recognition that she now lives within Paul's "orbit" is a symbol of sorts—soon the entire galaxy will be within Paul's orbit as he ascends the Imperial throne with the help of fanatical Fremen forces.*



## BOOK 2, PART 2

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Conversations with Muad'Dib," Muad'Dib reflects on his father's belief that respect of the truth is the mark of morality, alongside his saying that "Something cannot emerge from nothing." Muad'Dib is conscious of how changeable "the truth" can be.

With the sun rising, Thufir Hawat hides on the outskirts of Arrakeen with some surviving Atreides soldiers and a Fremen. He has been so shocked and furious by the Harkonnen attack that his emotions have almost overpowered his rational Mentat abilities. Hawat is amazed that the Padishah Emperor and House Harkonnen have committed ten legions of soldiers to the attack—an enormous and costly enterprise that would equal the price of at least fifty years of the Arrakeen **spice** income. Hawat is still fixated on Lady Jessica as the traitor who sold out House Atreides and is bent on taking revenge.

Hawat talks with the Fremen to try to work out how he and his men can escape the Harkonnen forces. He learns that Gurney Halleck and some of the Atreides soldiers are safely hidden with Arrakis smugglers. The Mentat tries to negotiate with the Fremen for his people to offer the Atreides men their support. The Fremen keeps referring to a "**water** decision" that Hawat must consider—reclaiming water from Atreides soldiers who die from their wounds. Hawat asks the Fremen if he knows the fate of Duke Leto or his son, Paul Atreides, learning that the Duke is dead and that Paul's fate unknown and "in Liet's hands."

On behalf of Liet, the Fremen asks Hawat about the artillery weapons that the Harkonnens are using to trap Atreides forces in caves. Hawat is amazed to learn that the Fremen have stolen an artillery weapon to study. Even more shockingly, they have beaten Sardaukar in battle with little difficulty, even capturing three of the fearsome Sardaukar soldiers alive.

A wounded Atreides soldier dies, and the Fremen demands of Hawat whether it is "the bond of **water**." Finally realizing the man's intent, Hawat reluctantly agrees to formally bond their peoples in this manner. His men are angry, but placated when they learn that the Fremen—and four others who mysteriously appear quickly to take the dead soldier away—are now willing to help them in all endeavors.

*In Irulan's records, Paul acknowledges Duke Leto's fallibility again by stating that his father incorrectly believed in the power of truth as a fixed concept. Paul knows that in reality truth can be warped to mean many different things.*



*The outrageous numbers (and accompanying costs) of soldiers that the Padishah Emperor and Baron Harkonnen commit to destroying House Atreides demonstrates their fear of Duke Leto's rising popularity and power. Hawat, in cursing Jessica, continues to show his Mentat failings to understand his situation.*



*Hawat's inability to understand the Fremen's suggestion of a crucial decision involving payment of water echoes Duke Leto's slow progress in appreciating Arrakeen values and customs. Hawat should realize that water is so precious to Fremen culture that he needs to address the "water decision" before they will offer any aid.*



*Paul's previous inferences that Fremen hold great hidden power are proved correct in their ability to overpower Sardaukar and steal Imperial weaponry.*



*Once Hawat agrees to sharing his dead men's water with the Fremen, things move quickly. Water value drives individual and collective Fremen action so thoroughly to the point that Fremen are willing to lay down their lives for strangers due to "the bond of water."*



Hawat is then impressed by Fremen discipline and fighting skills when he sees a small group of them overpower an ornithopter flown by Sardaukar soldiers. They kill the Sardaukar easily and steal the ship. Later, Hawat is amazed to see a Fremen pilot deliberately sacrifice himself by crashing the stolen ornithopter into a Harkonnen troop carrier. The resulting explosion takes out three hundred enemy troops. At this time Hawat, his men, and the Fremen prepare to move location. However, they are attacked by Sardaukar forces. The Fremen is killed and Hawat is knocked out during the fight.

*The Fremen demonstrate further awe-inspiring military skill and dedication to collective success—a Fremen will bravely sacrifice his life without second thought if he knows it will aid a collective Fremen goal. This mindset is terrifying in its effectiveness.*



## BOOK 2, PART 3

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Arrakis Awakening” discusses Muad’Dib’s powers of foresight. He can see the future, but she likens it to being limited in the same way that sight is limited by perspective and light. The future is also impacted and changed by the smallest of decisions, even someone’s simple choice of words. Irulan notes that Muad’Dib always rebelled against choosing a seemingly straightforward option of the future paths he sees before him, stating “That path leads ever down into stagnation.”

*Although Paul Atreides has the greatest powers of foresight in the Imperium, he is not all-knowing. To this end, he has some element of free choice in his life, despite all future possibilities being laid out before him—sometimes they are shrouded by his perspective. He believes that making safe choices will lead to humanity’s destruction and therefore makes risky decisions.*



The ornithopters that rise over Paul and Jessica in the desert are flown by Duncan Idaho, who has brought Dr. Kynes and several Fremen with him. They rescue the pair and the group watch as the enemy ornithopters sweeping the desert with lasguns are blown to pieces due to a large shield that Idaho buried in the sand—the power of the lasgun and shield charges meeting causes a subatomic explosion.

*Violent destruction continues on Arrakis as Harkonnen forces destroy desert landscapes in the hope of wiping out the Fremen who dwell there.*



Kynes then guides the group to one of the old Imperial bases that he had earlier refused to show Duke Leto. It is a cave chamber where the Fremen now undertake ecological experiments with the aim of restoring surface bodies of water on Arrakis. Paul is struck by the strangeness of Idaho calling him “Sire.” Now that Duke Leto is dead, Paul is officially head of House Atreides.

*Paul seems more surprised at his new role as Duke than his ascent to Kwisatz Haderach. He now learns, too, that the Fremen are successfully learning how to terraform Arrakis to result in a more hospitable climate. This will prove powerful knowledge that will save his life and allow him to inspire a Fremen following.*



In the base, Kynes wonders for a moment if he has made the right choice in choosing to help Paul and Jessica and therefore endangering himself and the Fremen. He is comforted in his decision, though, when he observes the mantle of adulthood and leadership that Paul now wears as head of a dukedom. He is further convinced that Paul is worth aiding when the young man comments that he would like to use the Imperial bases to work out how to make Arrakis more hospitable for human life. In the base, Paul and Jessica discover that Kynes is the mysterious leader that the Fremen call “Liet.” He seemingly holds both political and religious power in his Fremen leadership role.

*For the first time in his life, Liet-Kynes has risked the Fremen dream of creating an Eden-like Arrakis by endangering the Fremen and their ecological experiments when helping Paul and Jessica escape. His concern at the repercussion of his actions will prove valid as his Imperial defection is later punished with death by the Harkonnens.*



Liet-Kynes leads Paul and Jessica to private chambers in the cavern, where Paul and Kynes negotiate. They each forcefully try to impose their own authority over one another, with Paul pushing his legal nobility while Kynes presses his Arrakeen mantle of authority. Paul then speaks to his likely identity as the prophesized Fremen messiah Lisan al-Gaib, which Kynes tries to dismiss as superstition. Kynes changes the subject by asking Paul what his plan is to take back power from Emperor Shaddam IV and House Harkonnen.

Using the Fremen's talents to prove that the Padishah Emperor's Sardaukar soldiers are secretly fighting for House Harkonnen, Paul wants to blackmail Emperor Shaddam IV into abdicating his throne to the young Atreides Duke. Paul will threaten the Emperor with a violent civil war by bringing the truth of the Arrakis attacks before Landsraad High Council. This will enrage the Great Houses of the Landsraad: if they learn that the Emperor helped to attack House Atreides, the Great Houses will fear similar treatment and unite to take on Imperial forces. Paul will then offer the Emperor an alternative to civil war—that the young Duke marry one of the Imperial princesses, and the Emperor step down to allow Paul Imperial rule. Paul is betting on the Emperor's wish to preserve the Imperium rather than see the Great Houses tear worlds apart in their fighting.

Liet-Kynes and Jessica are wary about this course of action, seeing flaws as well as advantages in Paul's plan. However, Kynes is won over to the Atreides cause by Paul's integrity when the young man apologizes for an overstep in communication. Paul furthermore pledges his loyalty—even his life—to Kynes if the planetologist will return the loyalty. Kynes is shaken by the sincerity and magnitude of Paul's offer. However, their conversation is cut short as Sardaukar forces attack the group in the old Imperial base.

Duncan Idaho is killed protecting Paul during the fight with the Sardaukar soldiers, but Liet-Kynes, Paul and Jessica escape through a secret exit. Kynes splits from his companions, directing them to continue down a passage until they reach a hidden ornithopter, and to pilot the ship into an approaching sandstorm to escape their attackers. It is highly dangerous, but Kynes assures the mother and son that Fremen have succeeded in such ploys before. They must keep the ornithopter high in the storm to survive it. Before he departs down another passage, Kynes promises to send Fremen back to guide the pair to safety.

*Liet-Kynes is not willing to give up anything more than he already has in aiding Paul's escape. Their exchange demonstrates their similarities in personal conviction and leadership style. Kynes demonstrates his wiles when he tries to distract Paul and sound out his big picture plans by asking him about his revenge on the Padishah Emperor and House Harkonnen.*



*The narrator reveals that Paul has designed a complex and ambitious plan to gain the Imperial throne—as per his father's hopes, he needs to secure Fremen support to carry them out.*



*Since his escape from Baron Harkonnen with Jessica, Paul has been chillingly cold in his relations with everyone around him, including his mother. Now, though, he secures Liet-Kynes's support by reverting back to his father's favorite strategy in gaining power—treating people with care and loyalty.*



*Liet-Kynes follows through on his pledge to support Paul even at the risk of his own and his Fremen's deaths.*



Paul and Jessica follow Liet-Kynes's instructions to escape the Imperial Base, but are pursued in the air. Jessica trusts that Paul's training and talents will get them through this ordeal as he daringly pilots the ornithopter into the sandstorm, where they are immediately buffeted by immense winds. Paul wrestles the ship into a safe flying zone, where he finds that they are stuck. Paul begins reciting the Bene Gesserit litany against fear when he realizes his mother is terrified that the two of them must ride out the sandstorm.

*Paul must combine his Mentat and Bene Gesserit talents with his new skills in foresight to successfully enter the deadly sandstorm and find a safe pocket of air to fly in. The recently aloof young man shows compassion in supporting his mother through her fear by reciting the calming Bene Gesserit refrain—this is now one of many instances where the litany has protected Paul or Jessica by calming them into a state of self-control.*



## BOOK 2, PART 4

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Manual of Muad'Dib" quotes the short lines "What do you despise? By this you are truly known."

*By Muad'Dib's words, readers can consider his disdain of cautious decision-making and of House Harkonnen. This suggests that Paul's identity is built on the recognition that he must take risks to save humanity, and that he is driven by the fierce need to avenge familial injustices by destroying the Harkonnens.*



Baron Harkonnen is in a grounded space frigate on Arrakis. Iakin Nefud, Harkonnen guard captain, reports to the Baron that Paul and Jessica escaped a Sardaukar troop by flying an ornithopter into a sandstorm. With winds above 800 kilometers, the captain assumes the two must now be dead. The Baron pretends to be furious to intimidate the guard, stating they cannot be certain Paul and Jessica are dead without seeing their bodies.

*This passage ties in to the novel's overarching idea that in power is a necessary political tool that goes hand in hand with violence. Here, the Baron uses violence on a small scale by intimidating and deceiving the captain to ensure his unwavering fear and loyalty.*



Nefud also reports that it is likely that the Imperial planetologist Dr. Kynes has been helping House Atreides. Baron Harkonnen is irritated at the Imperial planetologist's betrayal and orders him killed. Nefud is aghast, stating that they cannot murder an Imperial servant for fear of repercussions from the Padishah Emperor. The Baron orders Nefud to make it seem like an accidental death. The guard captain reveals the Sardaukar managed to capture Kynes and he is now in Harkonnen custody.

*The narrator draws a comparison between Baron Harkonnen and Paul Atreides—both are willing to risk the Padishah Emperor's extreme crushing power due to their dangerous decision-making tendencies.*



Finally, Nefud reports that Duke Leto's Mentat Thufir Hawat has been captured, and that the Atreides Mentat still believes that Jessica was the traitor who enabled a Harkonnen victory. Baron Harkonnen knows that Hawat is a talented Mentat and decides that "one doesn't waste a Mentat," especially after the death of Piter de Vries. He will use Hawat's anger at Jessica to try and persuade him to work for the Baron. The Baron will also use a residual poison to control Hawat by withholding its antidote if the Mentat does not comply with Harkonnen orders.

*The Baron's conviction that he cannot "waste a Mentat" confirms the rarity and value of Hawat's profession in the Imperium—human computers are essential now that thinking machines are banned. However, this moment also reveals that the Baron sees his Mentat as a commodity rather than a human being, which points to the Baron's callous nature more generally. Baron Harkonnen's plan to use deceit and poison to manipulate Hawat again shows the Baron's ruthless leadership style.*



After dismissing Nefud, Baron Harkonnen sits back, very satisfied with the situation he finds himself in. Contrary to his claims made to Nefud, the Baron is quite certain that Paul and Jessica must have died in the sandstorm. He is thrilled to have exterminated all of the Atréides. He is also satisfied with his plan for House Harkonnen to keep climbing in power—in the future, the Baron wants one of his relatives to sit on the Imperial throne. He thinks that his favored nephew, Feyd-Rautha, has the potential.

Baron Harkonnen calls for another one of his nephews, Count Glossu Rabban, to assign him control of Arrakis. The Baron boasts of his successes and intimidates his nephew into submission. He then instructs Rabban that he can do whatever he pleases on the planet, so long as he undertakes everything in his power to make the biggest profit possible. The Baron has spent an inordinate fortune on financing Sardaukar troop transport as well as his own soldiers' transport.

When Rabban wonders if the Harkonnens have underestimated the power of the Arrakeen Fremen, Baron Harkonnen dismisses his concerns as foolish. But Rabban notes that the Sardaukar think the Fremen are a threat and have vowed to go back to Arrakis and exterminate them. The Baron instructs Rabban that the people of Arrakis must be forced to agree with the false story that the Arrakis invasion was merely a House-to-House battle and that Duke Leto died in an accident. The Baron dismisses Rabban, who remains unaware that Baron plans to shortly replace him with his younger brother, Feyd-Rautha, to rule Arrakis.

## BOOK 2, PART 5

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "A Child's History of Muad'Dib" shares that by the time Muad'Dib was 15 years old, "he had already learned silence."

Paul Atréides is fighting to keep control of the ornithopter in the middle of the sandstorm. His newly heightened awareness is constantly calculating different factors that interweave throughout the storm. He finds that he starts to be able to "see" through the storm, realizing that he must find the correct wind vortex to ride the ornithopter out of danger. Risking Jessica's life alongside his own, he drives the ship into a vortex as his mother screams loudly. Paul's risk has paid off, as the vortex spits the ornithopter out of the dying storm. No enemy ships are seen in pursuit.

*The Baron's plan pits his nephew Feyd-Rautha against his (unknown) grandson Paul in a fight to win the throne from the Padishah Emperor.*



*Baron's Harkonnen's use of bullying as well as intellect as his political tools to maintain power once again demonstrates his callous, self-serving attitude toward human life.*



*Rabban proves cleverer than his uncle believes him to be because he recognizes the potential danger that the Fremen pose on Arrakis. Baron Harkonnen's dismissal of his nephew's concern is arrogant, as he fails to acknowledge that an opinion other than his own might have value, and that a people other than his own might be significantly strong and threatening.*



*Princess Irulan's comment affirms that Paul Atréides was an extraordinary child, making him seem fated for greatness.*



*The danger of Paul's flying maneuver is so great that for the first time in the narrative, Jessica loses her self-control and screams in terror. Paul's commitment to taking extreme risks to survive rather than fall into "stagnation" pays off as they are able to land, heavily but uninjured.*



Paul sets the damaged ship down clumsily on a piece of sand, and he and Jessica race for the safety of nearby rocks, knowing that a sandworm will be attracted to the sound of the ship landing. A sandworm “bigger than a Guild spaceship” quickly appears and devours the ornithopter. Paul and Jessica are awed by its size, and Paul is satisfied that there is now no trace of their vessel for enemy trips to spy.

*Once again, the narrator describes the harsh Arrakeen ecology as equally dangerous as the ruthless Harkonnen forces. Paul's satisfaction at the sandworm's actions demonstrate his commitment to practicalities for survival, rather than concern in the face of danger.*



Paul and Jessica know that they must travel by night and rest in the heat of the day. The fugitives find their way through a channel in the rocks; it is difficult and slow terrain. Although Jessica tires, Paul relentlessly pushes them onward. They come to a sheer cliff and see that there is almost four kilometers of dangerous open sand to cross in front of them. They must find a way to safely traverse the sand without attracting any worms. Jessica suggests a break for food and rest beforehand. Paul questions how his mother feels, to which she stiffly replies that the pregnancy is not impacting her physical capabilities. Jessica realizes that she fears her son's new strangeness and what he may see in the future.

*Paul is strict in his pragmatic desire to push Jessica to her physical limit in order to try to ensure their survival. Jessica, always Paul's fiercest champion, feels a rift in their relationship that grows from her son's new powerful talents of foresight.*



To cross the open desert safely, Paul and Jessica agree that they will set off a spring-loaded clapping device called a thumper in the rocks. The thumper's rhythmic sound will attract sandworms and keep them busy for some time, as the worms cannot surface through rock. Meanwhile, the two will cross the open sand using non-rhythmic walking patterns to mimic natural desert sounds, thereby hopefully avoiding the notice of any sandworms not occupied by the thumper.

*Paul's intuitive imitation of Fremen practices—distracting sandworms using thumpers and moving erratically across open sands—once more supports his identity as their prophesized Mahdi.*



Paul and Jessica climb down from the cliff to spend the approaching daylight hours resting in shade near the desert floor. However, during their descent Jessica is totally buried in a landslide of sand. Paul must calm his fear and use his manifold cognitive abilities to locate his mother and free her from the dangerous shifting sand. He succeeds, but their pack with most of their precious supplies has been lost under the sand. Paul despairs, believing the two are now doomed to death, but Jessica is optimistic that they can salvage the situation.

*Paul's intense fear in this situation, despite his lack of fear in other dangerous circumstances, demonstrates his love for his mother. He again uses Bene Gesserit training to calm himself, gaining self-control and executing a complex plan at impressive speed to rescue Jessica.*





With Jessica's optimism boosting his spirit, Paul comes up with a creative plan to recover the pack. He uses his paracompass power pack and compass dish, a few mouthfuls of **water**, and a nearby **spice** patch to create a green foam that he spreads to hold back the slope's sliding sands. While managing the foam and sand, he directs his mother where to dig and at what angles. Just as the foam runs out, the weary Jessica uncovers one of the pack's straps. She cannot uncover it any further without the slope of sand burying her. With Paul's help, she allows herself to be mostly buried by rushing sand while still keeping of the pack. He then digs her out of the settled sand, all the way down to the pack. With great physical effort and risk they have retrieved the pack.

Paul moves to set up the tent for the day and finds anchor holes in the rock, revealing that others have camped here before. After erecting the tent, he scans the landscapes for any sign of life. Seeing scrawny saguaro trees in the distance, he tells Jessica that he thinks there must be Fremen nearby. To him, this "has the feeling of a Fremen place."

Jessica wonders if there are Fremen nearby, and if they will be friendly on approach. Although Liet-Kynes promised the Fremen would help Paul and Jessica, she has now felt the hardships of the desert firsthand and can understand why people would kill to reclaim a body's water. Jessica reflects on the difference between this arid planet and the Atrides home planet Caladan, where lush jungles and deltas are bordered by oceans.

Paul and Jessica hear a hissing sound. It grows in volume until they see a huge sandworm pass by them in nearby dunes. The creature has an "uncaring majesty" and twists through the sand to create a huge burrowing, driving mound. When it has moved beyond sight and hearing, Jessica tells Paul that they should practice his lessons, as he panicked earlier in the day and would benefit from learning about the body's prana-musculature. The young Duke suppresses his flare of anger at her suggestion and works on his training as she suggests.

## BOOK 2, PART 6

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib: Conversations" finds Muad'Dib ruminating on life on Caladan. The paradisiacal Atrides home planet was so geared for ease of human life that the humans living there "went soft" and lost their edge.

*Once more, Jessica encourages her son, and her support encourages Paul to try—and succeed—in rescuing the vital pack. He again proves his Mentat skills by quickly forming an inventive plan to make use of limited supplies to shift great loads of sand. Jessica's courage in allowing herself to be re-buried in the sand reveals her total trust in Paul, despite her earlier fear at his strange new behaviors.*



*Paul's instinct for Fremen ways gives the pair hope that they are close to possible aid. The sign of distant vegetation is a marker that Fremen have been planting in the area to further their efforts in slowly but steadily alter the Arrakeen climate.*



*While Paul seems excited and confident in the face of the desert's challenges, Jessica is exhausted and dispirited. Realizing the intensity of her growing thirst for water, she thinks longingly of their comfortable life on Caladan. The extreme differences between the Caladan and Arrakis serves to heighten the extremities of the severe Arrakeen landscapes and illustrate how the Fremen became such a hardy people.*



*The narrator's description of the sandworm's "uncaring majesty" suggests that the creature is awesome in size and beautiful in its absolute confidence in surviving its harsh environment. Feeling inspired after viewing the sandworm, Paul controls his frustrations at Jessica by accepting her advice that he needs to continue his Bene Gesserit training.*



*Princess Irulan's records once again indicate that Paul believes that harsh and dangerous environments allow humanity to thrive and develop, while the opposite is true for in a comfortable ecology such as Caladan's.*



Gurney Halleck meets with Staban Tuek, son of Esmar Tuek, who now leads the Arrakis **spice** smuggling rings. Tuek is uncertain whether his father was killed by Harkonnen men or the traitor from House Atreides. He offers Halleck and his surviving Atreides soldiers—a group of 74 in total—sanctuary with the smugglers, but will not help Halleck fight back against House Harkonnen. In fact, Tuek says that if Halleck wants sanctuary he cannot raise a hand against the Harkonnens. It is too dangerous for the smugglers to risk open warfare, although Tuek reveals he hates the Harkonnens fiercely as well.

Gurney Halleck and Staban Tuek discuss many topics. Halleck is inclined to believe that Lady Jessica is the House Atreides traitor, because the weapons master trusts Thufir Hawat's Mentat logic. However, Tuek thinks that they are holding the wrong person accountable for the betrayal. Tuek tells Halleck that the Harkonnens think Jessica and Paul are dead and confirms that Duke Leto has been killed. He also confirms that the Harkonnens have captured Hawat. The Baron Harkonnen has put Count Glossu Rabban—known to the Arrakeen populace as “Beast Rabban”—in charge of Arrakis. Halleck starts at this news, revealing that he has a score to settle with Rabban to revenge the Count's previous injuries to Halleck's family.

Halleck considers joining up with Fremen instead of the smugglers. Tuek sways him toward the latter as in this moment the smuggler reminds him of Duke Leto in the days of Calaban, courageous and decisive. Then Tuek goes on to claim that the smugglers are “civilized” while the Fremen are merely a few “ragged bands.” He states that if Halleck joins the Fremen, it will be for a life of being hunted by the Sardaukar, who even now look for Fremen to eliminate from Arrakis. Finally, Halleck accepts Tuek's offer of sanctuary. The smuggler hopes that Halleck will convince his men to stay also, as the smugglers would benefit from increased fighting power in their line of work. Halleck's men can work out their passage off Arrakis by serving with the smugglers.

Halleck returns to his men, where he finds one of the wounded, Mattai, is close to dying. Mattai requests his favorite song from Halleck on the baliset and passes away listening to the baliset's tune that is accompanied by a soldier's singing the lyrics of “My Woman.” Halleck thinks sadly that his group now numbers only 73.

*Like Jessica and Paul, Halleck is seeking a safe haven on Arrakis to escape the continuing Harkonnen searches for surviving Atreides soldiers. Tuek's intense hatred toward House Harkonnen plays into the cyclical acts of familial and political violence that dominate the Imperium's history.*



*Halleck also plays into the theme of inevitable cyclical violence when he reveals that he wants to kill Rabban to avenge his murdered family.*



*Tuek's criticism of the Fremen as “ragged” and uncivilized plays into the colonial Western notion of urban refinement versus indigenous primitivism. Halleck and Tuek come to an arrangement of mutual benefit—the smugglers will hide the Atreides men if they help protect the smugglers' during their dangerous work.*



*Halleck's previous musical role of entertainer becomes one of comfort, demonstrating the narrative's move from its relatively safe early scenes to ongoing and absolute danger.*



## BOOK 2, PART 7

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "In My Father's House" details life for the Imperial princesses in the Royal Creche. Irulan acknowledges that it may be difficult to understand, but along with her sisters and mother she would spy on her father Emperor Shaddam IV. This was a necessity, seeing as there were many attempts on the princesses' lives and some of them may have come from the Emperor himself. Irulan claims that "A Royal Family is not like other families." She believes that her father only had one true friend, the "genetic-eunuch" Count Hasimir Fenring who was known as one of the best fighters in the Imperium. On one occasion, spying on the Emperor, Irulan is worried to see that her father rejects one of Count Fenring's gifts of a slave-concubine because she is "too beautiful." The Emperor demonstrates a "subtlety and control" that scares Irulan and her sisters.

In late afternoon on the desert, Paul stands beside the pitched tent in which Jessica sleeps. He is considering whether his plan to cross the open desert is a good one. When Jessica wakes and sees his stance outside, he reminds her of Duke Leto, and she turns away in grief. When she later moves outside, Paul remarks that he is enjoying the quiet of the desert and that "it could be a good life here."

As the sun sets, Paul sets the thumper in the deepest part of the rock. Under starlight, he and Jessica begin to walk with an erratic pattern across the open sand, trying to mimic the desert's natural sounds. Paul shows his mother how to achieve this by drawing on prophetic memory as well as his memories of brief glimpses of Fremen on the sands. They are almost half way across the sands before they hear the sounds of sandworms traveling to investigate the thumper. The worms start the slow and brutal process of ripping through rock to get to the thumper, the sounds becoming a backdrop to Paul and Jessica's careful movements.

About 200 meters from safety, Paul accidentally steps on drum sand and it booms out loudly across the desert. Jessica screams at her son to run for the rock zone, and the two sprint to safety with a threatening sandworm on their tails. They reach the rock and hide in a crevice; the huge creature rears out of the sand with a gaping mouth, questing toward its hidden prey. Paul is struck by its magnificence. He can smell a strong sense of cinnamon from its open mouth and once again feels sure that there must be a strong relationship between sandworms and **spice**, although he has not yet figured this out or seen it using foresight.

*Princess Irulan's royal upbringing is revealed to be as dangerous as Paul's due to her father's lack of love for his daughters. The Emperor's power and self-discipline foreshadows the term "spannungsbogen" that Paul will later use to describe the Fremen ability to control their urge to reach out and grasp a desired object. Irulan also introduces the character of Count Fenring, who will become an essential player in the conflict between Paul and the Padishah Emperor.*



*Paul is still optimistic about their difficult situation, while Jessica is increasingly dispirited as she grieves for the lost Duke Leto.*



*Once more drawing on his Mentat and Bene Gesserit training as well as his prophetic talents, Paul's guidance allows Jessica to follow his lead in safely crossing the first half of the dangerous open sands.*



*One small mistake on the open sands can result in loss of life. Paul and Jessica know they are lucky to have reached the rocks with a sandworm on their tail. While Jessica uncharacteristically loses her composure again, Paul is thrilled rather than scared by its awe-inspiring power in close range.*



The sandworm reaches over the rock to try and catch them, but is suddenly distracted by the sound of another thumper in the distance. Paul wonders if Fremen have deliberately set it off to lure the sandworm away from them. Or, they may have been calling the creature for another purpose—perhaps something to do with the “maker hooks” in the Fremen packs that he and Jessica escaped with from the Imperial base.

Paul and Jessica find a way up a rock cliff using long and thin poles that have been set as markers. At the steepest point there are stairs cut into a crevasse. At the top of the rocks, they are amazed to see an oasis basin that is filled with desert plants. There are even mice flitting in and out of the shadows and a bird of prey hunting the rodents.

Suddenly, though, Paul and Jessica are surrounded by a group of Fremen. Paul’s body tenses in preparation to withdraw, but the Fremen warn him not to. He is frustrated that he has not immediately fallen into the emergency semblance of relaxation like his mother. The Fremen—one of them is referred to as a companion by “Stil”—threaten to take Paul and Jessica’s **water** and perhaps even their lives.

## BOOK 2, PART 8

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Arrakis Awakening” contemplates the “mystical fusion” of Fremen religious belief. Irulan recites “The Old Man’s Hymn,” which she claims all who audiences are moved by, and which describes desert flora and fauna while relating it to themes of time, glory and danger.

A man crawls along the top of a sand dune in the blazing sun. It is Liet-Kynes, who was captured by House Harkonnen and then left in the desert without supplies or equipment. With no stillsuit, Liet-Kynes cannot survive in the fierce conditions. He is delirious from the heat and lack of **water**, and so weakened that he is now stumbling and crawling along the sand.

Even in his delirious state, Liet-Kynes recognizes the smell of a pre-**spice** mass under the sand and can tell that it will soon explode upward out of the sand. He starts to hallucinate that his father Pardot Kynes (the first Arrakeen planetologist) is with him, lecturing him about how to terraform Arrakis into a paradise for human life with lush vegetation and bodies of surface **water**. His father reproaches Liet-Kynes for straying from his ecological mission to help Paul Atreides. He also signals the importance of his son educating the Fremen communities about their planet and how they can help shape it toward a more hospitable ecology.

*Paul’s pragmatism and mental agility is demonstrated again as his mind leaps beyond his immediate hiding place with Jessica to consider distant Fremen actions.*



*Paul’s guess is proved correct in that Fremen have been in this area cultivating desert plant life. His view of the desert creatures becomes essential later in the narrative when he adopts the Fremen name “Muad’Dib,” meaning desert mouse.*



*Yet again, Paul and Jessica face a new threat to their lives and must prepare themselves for battle or escape. As Paul and Jessica have experienced firsthand just how harsh and dangerous the Arrakeen desert is, it’s likely that the people who call it home—the Fremen—will be just as unforgiving.*



*The Arrakeen desert landscapes and creatures are so powerful in their beauty that Princess Irulan claims their description in song moves all listeners profoundly.*



*Liet-Kynes’s fear that helping the Atreides family escape the Harkonnens might lead to Fremen ruin has in fact led to his own demise.*



*The visions of Pardot Kynes add to Liet-Kynes’s despair, also berating the dying man for his foolish (if noble) actions. But Pardot Kynes’s lecturing also illustrates the immense impact that Liet-Kynes and the Fremen have had in harnessing desert power and educating their communities to make ecological changes that are beginning to alter the Arrakeen sandscapes. Liet-Kynes has experienced a profoundly meaningful life and passed on his knowledge to future generations.*



As birds of prey begin to circle overhead, Liet-Kynes considers the organic process that is occurring deep below the sand. There are small creatures that he calls “little makers” who are giving **water** and organic matter to feed and grow a pre-**spice** mass. At a certain point the mass begins to grow quickly, and produces a large amount of carbon dioxide. This gas will reach a point where it explodes, blowing the pre-spice mass to the planet’s surface where the oxidation turns the material into crop known as spice.

Liet-Kynes continues to hallucinate visions of his father Pardot Kynes, who is explaining the plans he began decades ago to alter the Arrakeen climate and that his son has continued. The pre-**spice** process that Liet-Kynes has been thinking of reaches a critical point amount of carbon dioxide, and the resulting explosion kills the planetologist.

*Through Liet-Kynes’s delirious ramblings, the narrator informs readers about how the valuable spice crop is formed. Liet-Kynes’s understanding that the pre-spice mass below him will soon erupt, coupled with the circling raptors overhead, suggest that he is letting nature take its course to end his life.*



*Liet-Kynes dies in pain but reflecting on the glorious mission he has helped facilitate to change the climate on Arrakis and offer future generations of Fremen better lives.*



## BOOK 2, PART 9

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Private Reflections on Muad’Dib” reflects on the nature of Muad’Dib’s gift of foresight. She wonders how much of prediction is reading the set future and how much is the prophet shaping the future to fit the prediction. Does a prophet read the future or does he see a “line of weakness” that he can “shatter with words or decisions.” Irulan concludes that this weighty question remains unanswered.

Paul and Jessica are still surrounded by hostile Fremen on the top of a rocky outcrop. Mother and son tense for battle as they hear a Fremen give the command to “Get their **water**” in the common language. Through her Bene Gesserit training, Jessica can understand their indigenous language as Chakobsa and deduces that the Fremen are holding back as they consider whether the two strangers are might be the ones they have apparently been searching for. She tries to control their leader using the Voice, but he is too well-trained and mentally guarded to obey.

The Fremen leader reveals himself as Stilgar, the individual Fremen that Paul met through Duncan Idaho during one of Duke Leto’s staff meetings in Arrakeen. Stilgar acknowledges that Paul and Jessica made a brave crossing by traversing the open sands with the threat of sandworms. A Fremen called Jamis continually urges Stilgar that the Fremen should kill Paul and Jessica and take their **water**—this is law for “Ones who cannot live with the desert.”

*Irulan directly addresses the tension between free will and fate that pervades Dune’s narrative. She concludes that she cannot truly know if predetermined prophecy shapes all human life, or if people are able to shape their lives to fit prophecies that suit them. In other areas of the narrative, though, Paul wrestles with the prophesized Fremen religious crusade that will commit widespread violence in his name—but he is unable to prevent it, suggesting that he cannot change the future.*



*Paul and Jessica’s confrontation with Fremen confirms that water is of extreme value in Fremen culture, and that Fremen possess unusually high levels of mental strength.*



*Jamis cites the harsh but practical Fremen law that those who cannot survive in the desert must die. This law points to the novel’s overarching theme that environment shapes human culture in profound ways. For the Fremen, living in accordance with the ways of the desert is crucial to their survival and to their identity as a people.*



Stilgar decides he will not kill Paul because Liet-Kynes has ordered the Fremen to find the young Duke. Stilgar also knows that Paul may be Lisan al-Gaib, the Fremen's prophesized messiah. However, Stilgar believes Jessica's death and reclaimed **water** is worth more to his Fremen community than she is alive. He tries to explain to Jessica that this is "nothing personal," it must be done "in the general interest." All the while Jamis continues to urge Stilgar that both strangers must be killed according to desert law.

Jessica reads the dangerous situation and pretends to slump to the ground. As Stilgar approaches her to kill her with his knife, she catches him by surprise by disarming him and holding him powerless against the rocks. Paul has anticipated his mother's attack and sprints for cover in the rocks, disarming a Fremen who tries to block him. With the Fremen's projectile weapon he quietly climbs the rock face to try and gain height on the Fremen, to better protect his mother while remaining safe.

The Fremen soldiers send projectiles at Paul and approach Jessica warily. Stilgar yells at them to stop, recognizing that his life is in the hands of the very capable fighter who has rendered him defenceless with her hands. He asks her why she didn't tell him that she was "a weirding woman and a fighter." The Fremen leader is awed by Jessica's combat skills and decides that if she can beat a strong Fremen commander, then Jessica is "worth ten times your weight in **water**" alive and teaching the rest of the Fremen her skills.

Stilgar has to command his Fremen troops to fall back again, hurling colorful insults at their hotheaded approaches. He warns off a young woman called Chani who is stealthily trying to approach Paul at his hiding place, calling her a "spawn of a lizard" to which she curses at. However, she listens to her leader and pulls back.

Stilgar offers Jessica and Paul a safe place in his community if Jessica will teach them the "weirding way." When she asks how she can trust him, the Fremen notes that their culture's word is law—and because he is a leader, his people's word is bonded to his. He reminds her of his hatred for the Harkonnens and reiterates his offer of support to her. Jessica accepts his proposition.

*While Bene Gesserit prophecy and Liet-Kynes's goodwill prevents Stilgar from ordering Paul killed, the Fremen leader wrongly assumes that Jessica is a fragile individual and explains that they will kill her as per the Fremen custom to eliminate weakness. This highlights how seriously the Fremen take their laws and customs, but it also points to how everything they do is for the good of the group, which is implied to be a necessary value in such a harsh climate.*



*Jessica and Paul use their Bene Gesserit training to gain tactical advantage over the Fremen—a great feat, considering that the Fremen group greatly outnumbers the two Atrides.*



*When Stilgar realizes Jessica's value as a fighter, he orders his Fremen to stand down because he realizes that Jessica could be helpful for the group. That Stilgar wants Jessica to teach the community her fighting techniques emphasizes that the Fremen are always focused on the collective good.*



*The Fremen soldiers are spirited individuals, and Stilgar has to work to control their instincts to try to disarm and/or kill the strangers. Chani's resentment at Stilgar's insult that she is the "spawn of a lizard" is humorous, as Stilgar is inadvertently insulting his leader—Chani is later revealed to be Liet-Kynes's daughter.*



*The Bene Gesserit order's influence on Fremen culture is again evident, this time in Stilgar's knowledge of Bene Gesserit training, which he calls the "weirding way." This phrase is an apt description of the strange yet powerful Bene Gesserit talents; while "weird" can mean bizarre or abnormal, in medieval times it meant having the power to control fate or destiny, thus pointing to the novel's interest in fate and free will.*



Lady Jessica knows that not all of Stilgar's men are convinced they should offer her and Paul sanctuary. She calculates that Fremen culture was implanted with Bene Gesserit legends many generations ago and plays on these myths and prophecies to demonstrate that she and Paul are beings of great power. The Fremen are impressed yet also uneasy to learn that she is Bene Gesserit herself. When she speaks of the **gom jabbar**, she knows she has "struck to the heart of them."

*Jessica realizes the extent of Bene Gesserit influence in Fremen culture and uses this to her and Paul's advantage, revealing that she is a powerful Bene Gesserit sister herself. The superstitious Fremen are awed and scared by her apparent knowledge of their hidden ways.*



Paul disarms Jamis who has tried to overpower him despite Stilgar's clear orders. Jessica gives the all clear and Paul emerges from his hiding place, coming face to face with the Fremen girl from earlier. She is pointing a projectile weapon at him and laughingly reveals that she would not have let him harm any of her companions. The young woman reveals that she is Chani, Liet-Kynes's daughter, and Paul is shocked to recognize that she is also the girl from his dreams on Caladan. Her face is the same, but the setting they meet in is different.

*Jamis is still challenging Stilgar's word by trying to harm Paul. Meanwhile, another one of Paul's prophetic dreams from before his time on Arrakis comes to fruition, showing the ever-growing power of his cognitive abilities.*



Chani offers to lead him down the rocks, teasingly chiding Paul that he chose the most difficult path to climb up and was "as noisy as a shai-hulud in a rage." She moves gracefully down the rock face, and Paul is glad that it is dark so no one can see him blushing. He is still amazed at meeting the young woman from his dreams and thinks that she is "like a touch of destiny."

*Paul, usually so confident and calm in any situation, reacts so strongly to meeting Chani that he experiences physical as well as emotional responses. His description of Chani as feeling like "destiny" both affirms his powers of foresight and foreshadows his future intimacy in tying his life to Chani's.*



Before the group leaves for Stilgar's sietch (community gathering space), he gives them each a kerchief that will identify them as Stilgar's sietch members in case they are separated. He also instructs Chani to look after the "child-man," meaning Paul, and keep him out of trouble. Chani takes great delight in teasing Paul further, but also takes her job seriously in ensuring he does not compromise the safety of the group as they travel to the sietch. Jessica, who is exhausted, focuses on keeping up with the troops and also considers the military discipline with which the Fremen move. She is thrilled that they may be able to inspire the Fremen to support Paul in his cause to claim back his rights for House Atreides.

*True to his word, Stilgar begins protecting Paul and Jessica as his new members of the community. While Paul is bemused and off-kilter with Chani's attentions, Jessica becomes the pragmatic of the pair as she considers the vast potential that the Fremen provide Paul in his mission to triumph over the Harkonnens and Padishah Emperor.*



## BOOK 2, PART 10

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "The Wisdom of Muad'Dib" states the Fremen's proficiency in "spannungsbogen," an ancient term for self-discipline.

*Paul's claim that Fremen possess the extreme self-control known as "spannungsbogen" again demonstrates Frank Herbert's tendency to draw on a wide variety of sources in his world building—the term is German and means "arc of tension."*



After traveling with Stilgar and his Fremen throughout the night, Paul and Jessica reach the Cave of Rocks at dawn. They follow a narrow channel, moving urgently due to the danger of being trapped there if they are spotted by enemies. Arriving at a deep cave, the troop relax again, and Chani offers Paul food while teasing him. Paul notices that the food smells strongly of **spice**. Stilgar orders that the camouflaged door is put into place and for Fremen to see to “moisture security.”

Jessica can see another cave entrance nearby and notices the beauty of the rising sun on the landscape, which also brings danger with its light. Stilgar also directs her to look toward people working under a distant cliff—they are his Fremen, and his group should reach the sietch that night.

Jessica comments on the Fremen’s discipline. Stilgar tells her that this is for the survival of the tribe, and that they choose a leader using the same value. The leader is the strongest individual, who “brings **water** and security.” Jessica wonders aloud if she has undermined Stilgar’s authority by besting him in combat, but he replies that it was not a formal trial. He says that all of his people are eager to learning the “weirding way” of Jessica’s fighting style.

Stilgar also reveals that his people have stayed outside overlong into daylight hours because they are trying to gather enough **spice** to give to the Guild. Jessica wants to know why they are paying spice to the organization that controls interstellar travel. Stilgar reveals that it is Liet-Kynes’s instruction to do so; in return, the Guild refrains from flying satellites over desert areas that the Fremen are terraforming to alter the Arrakeen climate.

Even though it will take more than six generations to see the full result of their work, the Fremen are wholly committed to developing Arrakis into a better home for human life. They dream of a planet where people can walk the earth without stillsuits—an environment that includes healthy plant life and surface bodies of **water**.

Jessica is shocked to see movement in the distance that looks like Fremen riding on the back of a sandworm. Stilgar states that they cannot ride “a maker” in their current area because worms are not permitted there.

*The Fremen travel with tight military discipline and Paul and Jessica are expected to work hard to try and achieve the same competence. The Fremen’s “moisture security” measures again highlights their extreme attention to conserving and storing water.*



*Jessica’s view over the twilight desert landscape echoes Duke Leto’s view over a dawn desert basin—both of them conclude that the desert is exceedingly beautiful while fraught with danger.*



*In accordance with Fremen customs of valuing collective strength and pragmatism, Fremen leadership is decided through tests of strategic and physical strength. Jessica realizes that the tests are likely trials of combat.*



*Jessica comes to understand the conclusion that Paul came to shortly after entering the desert on the run from Harkonnen and Imperial forces: that the Fremen are escaping Imperial attention by paying the Guild to program their satellites to ignore Fremen desert areas.*



*The Fremen’s discipline is evident once more due to their individual and collective commitment toward a life of hardship in order to better the lives of future generations. Their dream for Arrakis matches the lush ecology that Jessica has lived in for many years on Caladan.*



*More Fremen secrets are revealed—they know how to coexist with their environment so well that they actually ride the fearsome sandworms as a form of travel. Their strict borders between sandworms and planting again indicates their disciplined community order.*





Stilgar implies to Jessica that he is interested to know whether she would consider becoming his wife. He knows that she is very powerful and realizes that one day in future Jessica would need to challenge his leadership, as per the Fremen way of the strongest individual holding tribal authority. Their marriage would negate the need to fight for leadership. It would not involve a physical relationship, as Stilgar knows he will be challenged by younger men if they think he has become distracted from the community's needs.

Jessica's respect for Stilgar grows due to his considered foresight and reflection. She considers his offer of marriage, realizing that such a move would solidify her place with the Fremen. However, she concludes that there are too many unknown factors about the effects of such a union on Paul and on her unborn child.

Stilgar suggests that there is another alternative to avoid a need to challenge one another for leadership: Jessica could become the tribe's Reverend Mother. Their current Reverend Mother is elderly. As Stilgar explains his current status as leader of a Fremen tribe, Jessica is struck by his depth of wisdom and his noble countenance. She wonders about the ancestry of such a man.

Stilgar offers his friendship and trust to Jessica once more. She asks whether she might be the Reverend Mother of the Fremen legend she has been hearing whispers of, but he will not commit to an answer.

With Stilgar and his tribe watching her, Jessica suddenly feels that this is the time for her to prove she is the prophesized Reverend Mother. After a moment of hesitation, she is able to let an external memory come upon her and recite ritualistic words that are known by the Fremen. They rhythmically respond to her chanting. After, Stilgar confirms that Jessica will "pass within" to be a Reverend Mother "If the Shai-hulud grant it." All of the Fremen now regard Jessica with respect and awe, except for Jamis who stands apart from the group.

Paul is also watching this scene and reacts to it intensely due to the **spice**-infused food he has just eaten. In his heightened state he can sense an unescapable "race consciousness" and is reminded again of a "terrible purpose." Sitting on the floor, Paul lets himself be guided into a new awareness where he can now see into past, present, and future with a sharpened clarity of mind.

*Jessica has impressed Stilgar so much that he offers her a great respect in marriage. He exhibits wisdom in recognizing the danger of Jessica's power for his leadership and instead proposes that they work as a team. He also shows nuance in his offer of a political union only.*



*Jessica affords Stilgar the same respect he shows her by deeply considering his offer, but ultimately knows it is not a good decision for her family. Like Duke Leto, she prioritizes people of political influence.*



*The narrator once more emphasizes the theme of genetic lineage. Jessica's opinion that a man as admirable as Stilgar must come from noble ancestry reveals her belief in the Bene Gesserit conviction that genetics determine human qualities and must be controlled for humanity's survival.*



*Jessica is trying to piece together details of the Fremen legend of the Mahdi and his mother so that she can use the knowledge to secure her place with Paul in Fremen society.*



*Jessica's show of Bene Gesserit power plays up the novel's tension between free will and fate. She knows that the Fremen are watching her for a sign, so she chooses to produce a sign that fits with her legend, suggesting she is making choices of her own free will. However, she is lost as to what to say—the Fremen ritualistic words that appear in her mind are an act of fate.*



*Paul reaches another new level of consciousness by ingesting the powerful spice directly. He experiences threatening echoes of the "terrible purpose" attached to the fate of humankind that he first felt when meeting with the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam. His tripartite collapse of time corresponds directly with the Kwisatz Haderach prophecy.*



Paul understands that there is some danger in this heightened awareness and that he must not get lost in the bounds of time. He also now grasps the fact that the foresight he has experienced before this moment was both illuminating and blinding in its accuracy and purposeful error. He sees that a minute decision such as the blinking of an eye or a negligent word can have substantial universal consequences. He also sees violence and his own death by knife wound at the end of many of the future paths laid out before him.

*Paul can see more in his future visions than he previously could, but is still not all-powerful in being able to understand the entirety of the future's possibilities. He knows that a likely violent death awaits him because of his continued rise to power.*



## BOOK 2, PART 11

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "In My Father's House" describes her father, the Padishah Emperor. At the time of Duke Leto's death, the emperor was 72 years of age but looked no older than 35. He wore his Sardaukar uniform and a decorative military helmet in public as an explicit reminder of where his power lies. Irulan describes the way that he could "radiate charm and sincerity" but knows this was an act. She reveals that he was a man who was fighting to escape a feeling of entrapment and emasculation due to his lack of a son in the face of the ancient House Corrino dynasty. The Princess draws a distinction between her Bene Gesserit mother and Lady Jessica, with the former obeying her superiors' orders to produce daughters while Jessica rebelled.

*Princess Irulan reveals details about her parents who have so far remained distant figures in the novel's events. She reveals that the Padishah Emperor, a powerful man capable of feigning persuasive charm, feels emasculated by his failure to produce a male heir in the vein of many generations before him. Meanwhile Irulan's mother is a clever but submissive woman who obeys her Bene Gesserit superiors in all of their commands. This description gestures to Lady Jessica's unusual actions in denying Bene Gesserit command by giving birth to Paul, and Duke Leto's luck in receiving a much-desired son.*



Near nightfall, Jessica awakens in the cave. She notes that her deep sleep shows her new sense of security within the Fremen's company. Jessica observes Paul across the cave, remembering the way that her son earlier seemed strange and private. She guesses that the **spice** is affecting him, perhaps enhancing his future forecasting abilities.

*Jessica continues to worry about the changes that her son is experiencing as he transforms into the Kwisatz Haderach.*



Stilgar appears and Jessica notes the Fremen leader's tension. She becomes abruptly aware that this tension is spread throughout those in the cave. It transpires that Jamis has challenged Jessica to combat, as is his legal right. She can provide a champion, but Jamis slyly remarks that she should not need Fremen to fight for her. He wants to duel Paul to undo the shame he feels at being bested by the young stranger on their first encounter.

*Jamis will not relent in his desire to kill Paul, and it will prove the Fremen's undoing—Paul is his superior in fighting form and strategy due to his intensive childhood training from elite teachers.*



Jamis is also angry that the Paul and Jessica carry a wealth of **water** to the Fremen, but that it is undervalued by Paul and Jessica, who are still learning about Arrakis and its hardships. Jessica gifts the water to the Fremen, stating that she intends the abundance of liquid to save life. Jamis still wants to fight Paul, and although Stilgar is unhappy it, he allows it because it is a Fremen's right. Jessica tries to persuade Jamis to fight her, then threatens him using the Bene Gesserit Voice. When Jamis invokes the right of silence on her, she must step back and watch her son fight, without interfering. She can sense that the rest of the Fremen are unhappy with Jamis too.

Paul steps forward to try to talk to Jamis, but the Fremen is too worked up to let him. Paul feels calm in believing that he can best Jamis again, although the recent visions of his death in many possible futures unnerves him slightly. Chani gives him a crysknife, and Paul matches Jamis's actions in stripping off his stillsuit before stepping forward, weapon ready. Chani has also whispered advice about Jamis's fighting technique, including a small weakness in defense that Paul may be able to take advantage of.

Except for the fact that he is used to fighting with a force shield, Paul feels confident in his training from Gurney Halleck as he and Jamis circle one another. But after watching the whipcord of a man before him, Paul is suddenly overcome with fear. No foresight can help him in such a moment on the edge of death. He calms himself by reciting the Bene Gesserit litany against fear.

Paul and Jamis spar, with Paul clearly having greater skills than Jamis. His fighting is beautiful in its deadly grace, but his timing on attack is off because of his shield training—instead of trying to get through the shield. Paul needs to be “slow” and “deceptive.” Finally, Paul lands a blow to Jamis's knife hand. He asks Jamis to yield but the Fremen cannot as per his people's laws. Jamis starts to feel afraid, now, and Paul circles him warily, remembering Duncan Idaho's advice to let time turn an opponent's fear to terror.

Jamis reaches a point of desperation in his fear and leaps at Paul, trying to outwit him by changing his knife to his left hand. Thanks to Halleck's training and Chani's advice, Paul is aware of the danger. Jamis's leap brings his body straight down onto Paul's swiftly moved blade. The Fremen falls to the floor, dead. Some of the tribe hurry to bear his body away to reclaim its **water**, while Jessica approaches her son. Paul has killed another human for the first time, and she wants to ensure he does not grow to enjoy such a win, especially when the two fighters were unevenly matched in skill.

*Jamis is a man who dishonors his fellow Fremen through his actions in challenging Paul Atreides, despite Stilgar's promise of protection and despite the fact that Paul is likely the Fremen's prophesized Mahdi.*



*Paul is mostly calm and confident in reacting to this new risk, which is a testament to his training. Meanwhile, Chani's actions suggest that she favors Paul beyond friendship.*



*Despite his sudden terror, Paul's Bene Gesserit training once more serves him well, and he exerts a mental toughness to discipline his fear. His use of the Bene Gesserit litany against fear echoes his gom jabbar trial; he triumphed then and believes he can do so now.*



*Paul's training gives him an edge over Jamis during his fight. Paul tries to encourage an injured Jamis to back out but is unsuccessful, as Fremen custom precludes it, and Jamis is an ardent follower of such laws.*



*The fight ends abruptly—Jamis's foolhardy final charge at Paul during combat reflects his foolishness in constantly challenging Paul against his tribe's wishes. The Fremen value of water is evident in their customs surrounding death. This ritual once again shows that everything they do is for the good of the community—even death provides nourishment for the group.*



The rest of the Fremen look at Paul with varying emotions—admiration, fear, even loathing. Jessica and Paul realize that the Fremen do not understand Paul’s shield training and believe he was sadistically toying with Jamis rather than ending the fight quickly and cleanly. Stilgar and his Fremen are shocked to learn that Paul has never killed a man before and that he did not want to kill Jamis. They understand and respect his actions now, with Stilgar bestowing the honor of a Fremen name on Paul—Stilgar’s sietch will know the young man by his secret name “Usul,” meaning the strength at the base of a pillar.

As per Fremen custom, Paul is then asked to choose a name for himself that all Fremen may call him openly. He chooses the name “Muad’Dib” in the manner of the desert mouse. This is the name he predicted long ago, and it reminds him of the terrifying visions he has had of Fremen troops crossing the universe in a violent religious crusade in Muad’Dib’s name. Therefore Paul amends his choice to Paul-Muad’Dib, having not seen this in any vision and hoping that he can change his fate. But he still feels the terrible danger that surrounds his growing power. Stilgar’s invoking of funeral rites for Jamis grows Paul’s sinking feeling of an unavoidable and catastrophic future war.

## BOOK 2, PART 12

The epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “The Wisdom of Muad’Dib” imparts his quote that “God created Arrakis to train the faithful.”

As evening falls, Jessica feels uncomfortable in the stillsuit that envelops her body and runs across her face. She also worries about Chani’s growing attachment to Paul. Jamis’s funeral takes place and Paul is offered his **water**—Fremen law states that reclaimed water from the dead belongs to the tribe unless it was death by combat. Chani does not understand why Paul does not want Jamis’s water. Jessica commands her son to accept, as she has learned that water equals power in the Arrakis desert. Her insistence makes him pause to reevaluate his refusal, and he grasps that refusing the water would cause a rift within the tribe.

*Paul’s skills and compassion afford him even more respect from the members of Stilgar’s sietch. The young Duke has earned a Fremen name, showing his success in penetrating Fremen society.*



*Paul’s chosen Fremen name pays homage to the humble yet powerful desert mouse who thrives in arid landscapes. Although Paul tries to alter his future by altering his name, it is an insignificant change and he still feels trapped by a predetermined fate.*



*This epigraph plays into the idea that environment crucially impacts human culture. In this case, Arrakeen hardships condition the Fremen into superior fighting forces.*



*Paul’s rise to power is hampered somewhat by his discomfort at some Fremen customs, such as the way they reclaim water from a dead body. Chani cannot understand his refusal to accept his right to precious water—for Fremen, water is water no matter its source.*



Stilgar calls forward friends of Jamis, while Chani leads Jessica to sit opposite the men. Anyone who has a claim of friendship with Jamis steps forward to choose an appropriate item from the dead man's belongings, with Stilgar starting the proceedings. As the ceremony continues, Paul does not know what to do except that the Fremen expect him to take part. Jessica steps forward to pay her respects to the dead man and chooses a kerchief from the items. Her actions trigger Paul's memory of her teachings, and he suddenly knows what he must do.

Approaching the pile, Paul acknowledges that he was a friend of Jamis. He chooses a baliset (stringed instrument) from items on the ground, perhaps because it reminds him of his troubadour-warrior friend, Gurney Halleck. Paul shares that through his friendship with Jamis, the Fremen has taught him that to kill takes a toll. Paul states he wishes he had known Jamis better and chokes up tearfully. The Fremen are astonished at the depth of respect that Paul pays to Jamis—Jessica realizes even more now the value of **water** to Fremen, as tears are a sacred offering. Fremen approach Paul to touch his wet cheeks in wonder.

After ritual chanting, the final funeral rite is to pass on Jamis's **water**. Stilgar and Chani ensure that the water goes to Paul along with the customary instructions for its usage—Paul must guard it carefully and share it if a need arises. Instead of collecting the water bags directly, though, Paul receives metal rings that act as water markers, with the liquid stored with the tribe's catchments. Paul asks Chani to hold the rings for him until he learns how to carry them without noise—he does not realize immediately that his offer to Chani is a form of Fremen courtship.

The tribe begins moving once more. They pass by a windtrap, an invention that precipitates moisture and which is novel to Jessica and Paul. They hear a Fremen remark that the windtrap is has a good catch in it, which must be Jamis showing them he is at peace.

*Paul feels the weight of Fremen expectation and is unsure about the right move. Jessica once again supports her son, approaching Jamis's funeral collection to show Paul how he might do it. His mother's Bene Gesserit training helps him through yet another cultural hurdle.*



*Paul's natural compassion for Jamis and the death Paul was forced to inflict on him awes the Fremen. To the Fremen, who live on a parched planet and conserve water as much as possible, tears are considered an incredible, selfless gift for another person—an echo of Stilgar's gift of loyalty to Duke Leto when he spat on the table in the Arrakeen tower.*



*There are many Fremen customs that accompany the transactions and storage of water, once again highlighting water's momentous value for the tribe. Paul's innocent mistake in courting Chani—yet another custom he doesn't understand—foreshadows their future romantic relationship.*



*Fremen are extremely superstitious and spiritual, evidenced in the belief that Jamis's peaceful spirit has bestowed a good moisture catch on the tribe. It is this superstition and spirituality that allows Jessica and Paul to take advantage of their Bene Gesserit religious training to persuade the Fremen to accept them into the sietch.*



Soon they reach a large open cavern with a high ceiling and a large pool of **water**. Jamis's water is poured into the pool with extremely precise measurements matching the Fremen's earlier calculations. Jessica is impressed by their accuracy. Stilgar tells her that this place is so sacred that even a thirst-addled Fremen would not take a sip. The pool is an enormous treasure of sacred water that is safely "walled off from the little makers," and the Fremen have created thousands more sites like it. Jessica thinks that Paul will be able to inspire such a fanatical people to his cause with relative ease.

The Fremen observe the **water** pouring process with a reverent mysticism. Paul is overcome once more about the inevitability of a future violent crusade under his figurehead. He greatly desires not to let it happen, but knows that it will be the result of an overwhelmingly powerful chain of events looming out of the future. Even if Paul dies, the fate will resolve itself through his mother Jessica or his unborn sister. He realizes that the only way to stop the violent wave of slaughter is if he, his mother, and all of the Fremen die right now in this cavern. The tribe moves on, with Paul believing that "a vital moment ha[s] passed [by] him."

Chani asks Paul to sing a song and play the baliset. Jessica reminds herself that she needs to warn Paul about the dangers of becoming involved with Chani. Paul plucks the baliset and sings one of Gurney Halleck's simple tunes about dusk and nighttime. Jessica is alarmed that Paul has chosen to sing Chani a love song. After the song, Paul sits in darkness and thinks that his mother is his enemy—she is the source of the violent religious war because she gave birth to Paul and then trained him.

## BOOK 2, PART 13

The epigraph in Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" discusses the idea of progress. Muad'Dib describes progress as a shield that protects people from "the terrors of the future."

*The narrator again highlights water's importance to Fremen by sharing the extreme discipline they exhibit in refusing to touch the community's water stores without permission, even if they are in great physical need. Once again, it is clear that the Fremen prioritize the community's well-being over that of the individual. Jessica remains confused at yet another mention of mysterious "makers" but is relieved that Paul can secure his future with the Fremen fairly easily. Jessica's future with them still remains uncertain.*



*Paul has a sudden insight that this moment in the cavern is his last chance to take action—the difficult action of mass murder—to prevent the greater violence of a future Fremen religious crusade. Either event will be marked by violence, pain, and bloodshed, but if Paul kills the Fremen, it will be him committing the violence, while if he lets the religious crusade play out, it will be other people committing widespread murder and destruction across the Imperium in his name. Since Paul does not choose to act, consequently paving the way for the religious crusade, he is now wholly tied to the myth of the Mahdi now known as Muad'Dib.*



*Jessica wants Paul to make a marriage of political benefit rather than a love marriage; therefore, she doesn't want to encourage his attachment to the Fremen girl Chani. Paul's dejection in being caught up in the future violence of his fanatical Fremen followers emerges as resentment toward Jessica for defying the Bene Gesserit order in birthing and then training Paul.*



*Muad'Dib practices the Bene Gesserit philosophy that progress, no matter the accompanying sacrifices, is essential to avoid humanity's future annihilation.*



On the planet Giedi Prime, it is Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen's seventeenth birthday. In celebration he kills his one hundredth slave-gadiator in the public arena. Count Hasimir Fenring and his Bene Gesserit wife Lady Margot Fenring have been invited to the special occasion, and the day is declared a holiday across the planet. There is an illusion of good spirits painted across the House Harkonnen stronghold city of Harko, with banners and new paint decorating the buildings.

However, when Count Fenring and Lady Fenring walk through Harko, they can see the city is also marked by "rubbish heaps," "scabrous brown walls" and "the furtive scurrying of the people." Harkonnen servants are always watching the two nobles, who speak in a secret language for privacy.

At the Harkonnen keep, Count Fenring and Lady Fenring are met by Baron Harkonnen. The Head of House Harkonnen is quite a sight as he glides towards them with the strange pace of a man who wears anti-gravity suspensors to hold up his enormous weight. Rings bedeck his hands and he is robed in an orange cloak sewn with "opafires."

Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen accompanies Baron Harkonnen in a sullen mood. Lady Fenring is conscious of the young man's prime physical conditioning. Unlike his uncle, it is clear that Feyd-Rautha will not let his body go to fat.

The Baron Harkonnen introduces his nephew Feyd-Rautha to Count Fenring and Lady Fenring. Feyd-Rautha is disconcerted by the Bene Gesserit Lady's calm manner. He is also attracted to her beauty. The Baron thinks to himself that his nephew should be observing Count Fenring, whom the Baron considers to be one of the most dangerous individuals alive.

Feyd-Rautha sees that despite Count Fenring's slight stature, he is a man who commands respect. The Harkonnen is frustrated to observe that Count Fenring behaves almost disrespectfully to the Harkonnen nobility, although the Count covers his actions through a superficial veneer of formal courtesies.

*Feyd-Rautha shares his uncle's fondness for earning respect and power by inspiring fear, and therefore regularly kills slave-gladiators to display his elite fighting prowess. This ties into the novel's broader idea that violence is crucial to securing and maintaining political power in the Imperium. However, because the novel also posits that violence breeds more violence, it seems that Feyd-Rautha's cold-hearted killings will come back to bite him.*



*Count Fenring and Lady Fenring are visiting Giedi Prime at the Padishah Emperor's command and see through the gaudy celebrations, clearly finding the planet's corruption distasteful. The trashed environment is inhabited by a scared populace, with widespread oppression binding the land and the people in misery.*



*The Baron's obesity and his opulent dress sense suggests he is a gluttonous, pleasure-seeking man. As the rest of the novel shows, he is also gluttonous for power and influence.*



*Feyd-Rautha always seems to be surly when in the Baron Harkonnen's company—perhaps because the Baron tries to tightly control his nephew's political future.*



*Although Count Fenring is humble and slight in appearance, Princess Irulan and now Baron Harkonnen have identified that he is one of the most dangerous beings in the Imperium. Like Paul Atreides, the Count is rife with hidden talents.*



*Feyd-Rautha is not merely a brilliant fighter; he shows sharp perception in recognizing Count Fenring's hidden power. Feyd-Rautha acts in a similar manner to Paul Atreides when he becomes frustrated by the lack of respect afforded to his Harkonnen family as should befit nobility.*



Feyd-Rautha speaks out of turn in the group by suggesting that he will make a kill in the gladiator ring dedicated to Lady Fenring. She firmly rebukes this offer. As Feyd-Rautha strides away to prepare for his fight, she wonders as to whether this is the young man that the Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother has asked the order to look out for—Feyd-Rautha’s Harkonnen bloodline is important for the sisterhood’s genetic breeding program.

Baron Harkonnen continues on to a special area of privacy with a “cone of silence” between two pillars. He and his guests, Count Fenring and Lady Fenring, are watched by the Minor Houses present, but now they cannot be overheard. Count Fenring tells the Baron that they are not happy about the way that he ordered the Padishah Emperor’s Sardaukar soldiers off Arrakis after their victory over House Atreides. Furthermore, the Emperor wants to know how the Harkonnens are dealing with the troublesome Fremen on Arrakis. The Count also comments that it is “unfortunate” that the Imperial planetologist Dr. Kynes is dead.

Baron Harkonnen replies that the Fremen are of no concern, with only small pockets of them left in the desert. He also argues that the Sardaukar troops could not have remained on Arrakis any longer to help eliminate the Fremen because the other Great Houses would have discovered the Padishah Emperor’s secret support of the Baron’s attack on Duke Leto’s household. Count Fenring does not seem swayed by his arguments, remarking on more of the convenient accidents that occurred in the Harkonnen attack on Arrakis—Lady Jessica and Paul Atreides are presumed dead after being lost to a desert sandstorm.

When Count Fenring tells the Baron Harkonnen that the Emperor wants to audit the Baron’s financial affairs, the Baron is quick to agree. The Count deduces that the Harkonnen finances will therefore seem in order on paper. He is worried to learn Baron Harkonnen has made a comparison between Arrakis and the mysterious prison planet Salusa Secundus. The Count warns the Baron to steer away from trying to turn Arrakis into a prison planet like Salusa Secundus, for the Arrakeen **spice** production is too valuable to endanger by altering the environment successfully.

Count Fenring continues to interrogate Baron Harkonnen about his concerning political decisions. He wants to know why the Baron lied about Thufir Hawat’s death, when Duke Leto’s former Mentat is actually now in the Baron’s employ. Count Fenring advises the Baron to kill the Mentat immediately, but the Baron is loath to do so because this would leave him without the services of a talented Mentat.

*Feyd-Rautha reveals his brash personality by boldly attempting to dedicate his fighting prowess to Lady Fenring—an obvious act of flirtation in front of the Lady and her Count. The Bene Gesserit order surfaces again, looking to preserve certain bloodline for the benefit of humanity’s survival.*



*The Baron’s “cone of silence” suggests that private spaces are often required by the Imperium’s nobility for political purposes. The Padishah Emperor, having previously allied with Houses Harkonnen to overpower House Atreides, has become unhappy with the Baron’s conduct. Count Fenring is the dangerous messenger who delivers news of the Emperor’s displeasure.*



*Baron Harkonnen underestimates the Fremen—they are greatly more powerful and numerous than he believes, hidden and training in the Arrakeen deserts. Count Fenring and the Padishah Emperor also see through the Baron’s political manipulations in covering up his murders as accidents.*



*Baron Harkonnen is an expert in ensuring that his political leadership appears to comply with the Padishah Emperor’s rule. Count Fenring’s concern at the Baron’s comparison of Arrakis to Salusa Secundus is later revealed to stem from the Padishah’s Emperor desire to keep the prison’s planet’s harsh ecology and Sardaukar training regime a secret so it cannot be replicated on a similar inhospitable planet such as Arrakis. The Emperor fears any challenge to his elite Sardaukar troops.*



*Once again, the Baron treats Mentats as commodities rather than real people—echoing his lack of compassion for other people more generally. Meanwhile, Count Fenring’s many questions suggest that the Baron is increasingly in hot water, building suspense for the events to come.*





The tension between Count Fenring and Baron Harkonnen increases when the Baron learns that the Padishah Emperor is so concerned at his maneuverings and lies that the Emperor may consider having his Sardaukar forces deal with House Harkonnen. The Baron actually hopes this will occur so that he can gain the support of the other Great Houses. He knows that in such a situation the Great Houses will fear that the Emperor could also turn on them, banding together to take on Imperial forces. This civil war would enable the Baron's plot to put Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen on the Imperial throne.

The nobles begin walking to the arena where Feyd-Rautha's combat will take place. Count Fenring remarks that the science of humankind is one of "discontent." Baron Harkonnen, already on high alert at the Count's many insinuations on behalf of the Emperor, is appalled to learn that he may not be able to name Feyd-Rautha as his heir—the Emperor may withhold his official sanction if House Harkonnen continues to displease him.

Feyd-Rautha enters the arena's fighting pit. He is dressed for combat and wears a traditional black glove and long knife in one hand, with white glove and poisoned short blade in the other. As he observes the loud and cheering crowd around him, the young man thinks on his secretly poisoned long blade that he plans to use for an extra special fight today. Accompanied by ceremonial music, he parades in front of the crowd and declares that his fight is dedicated to his uncle, the Baron Harkonnen.

Baron Harkonnen and the crowd are unaware that Feyd-Rautha has colluded with Mentat Thufir Hawat to ensure a unique gladiatorial fight takes place today. The slave has not been drugged as is usual; the heightened danger for the heroic Feyd-Rautha will whip the crowd into a frenzy when they realize this truth. In case the slave begins to get the upper hand on the Harkonnen noble, Hawat has imprinted a key word into the slave's mind that will paralyze him when uttered, leaving the slave open for an easy kill.

The slave enters the pit and some of the crowd immediately realize he is not drugged. The slave has also used his own blood to draw a symbol on his clothing. It is the red hawk ensign of House Atreides, indicating that the slave is one of Duke Leto's captured soldiers and likely a formidable fighter.

*Baron Harkonnen is a master manipulator who plots to benefit from great misfortune to turn it into an advantage. The Baron's high-risk plan to instigate a successful political coup by goading the Emperor into attacking House Harkonnen suggests he is a leader willing to put everything on the line—including his own life and those of his people—for increased personal gain.*



*Count Fenring adeptly manages Baron Harkonnen's aggressive political maneuvers by threatening to destroy a desire that the Baron holds dear—for Feyd-Rautha to succeed him as the head of House Harkonnen to continue gathering power via his ancestors.*



*Feyd-Rautha demonstrates a flair for the dramatic in his fashion sense and parade. He knows how to play a crowd to his advantage. In this vein, he wisely dedicates the fight to his uncle rather than causing political objection in dedicating it to the married Lady Fenring as he earlier suggested.*



*Feyd-Rautha plots further to offer such a spectacle to the crowd that they will admire and support him even more due to his skill and courage in besting a truly dangerous opponent. The crowd will remain unaware that he has a treacherous deceit up his sleeve that means the fight is not equal after all—like the Baron, Feyd-Rautha makes complicated, multilayered plans to ensure his success.*



*The claim of allegiance to House Atreides is particularly significant because the slave is fighting in a Harkonnen stronghold—the entire Imperium knows of the fierce enmity between the two Great Houses.*



Feyd-Rautha has a brief moment of concern that Thufir Hawat may be trying to secretly have Feyd-Rautha killed. But he can see the sense in Hawat's plan that the slavemaster will be blamed for betraying House Harkonnen by entering a dangerous slave into the ring, while Feyd-Rautha will gather accolade and respect for besting such a menacing opponent. Baron Harkonnen will read the threat to his nephew as a threat to his own person. Feyd-Rautha also backs his own fighting talents to win the match, with the extra security of nobody knowing he has switched the blade that is tipped with poison.

The fighting begins and only Feyd-Rautha's combat training and youthful agility see him clear the slave's blows while managing to bury drugged barbs into the slave. He is thrilled by the cheers of the crowd at his daring success. However, Feyd-Rautha makes a mistake in engaging the stronger slave in close quarters. The nobleman has to use the key word to render the slave immobilized for but a second, which is enough time for Feyd-Rautha to scratch him with his poisoned black blade.

The poison works immediately and the slave is crippled. He kills himself on his own knife point rather than letting Feyd-Rautha take the glory. The Harkonnen fighter is frustrated at this move, but is pleased that the crowd, cheering madly for him, have witnessed such a spectacle of a fight. His enemies will always wonder which hand he carries poison in now.

In a calculated move to win over the crowd, Feyd-Rautha also refuses the tradition of cutting off a dead slave-gadiator's head and instead affords him an honorable warrior's burial. Baron Harkonnen is annoyed until Lady Margot Fenring shows him how much the rest of audience adores Feyd-Rautha's gesture. The Baron orders an immediate fete in his nephew's name for the energized crowd to celebrate together.

The Baron Harkonnen excuses himself. The Count Fenring and Lady Fenring discuss what they have witnessed. They know that Feyd-Rautha intentionally planned to fight an undrugged slave and conclude that Thufir Hawat must have helped plan the spectacle. The Count admits that his earlier instruction for the Baron to kill Hawat was a mistake. He and Lady Fenring have deduced that Hawat is likely trying to eliminate the Baron by elevating Feyd-Rautha to Head of House Harkonnen. The Fenrings would prefer this, as Bene Gesserit Lady Fenring knows that she can control Feyd-Rautha through his physical attraction to her.

*Feyd-Rautha easily calms his brief moment of concern with the knowledge that he has made every arrangement to ensure that Hawat's plan will succeed. He is also thrilled at the public acclaim he will receive upon killing the Atreides gladiator. Like the Baron, Feyd-Rautha is willing to use violence to secure political power and respect.*



*Feyd-Rautha has overcommitted himself but escapes the perilous situation by cheating in the match. Harkonnens are well known for their treachery, and Feyd-Rautha's fight is no exception.*



*The Atreides gladiator's suicide robs Feyd-Rautha of some of his glory, echoing Duke Leto's death in preventing Baron Harkonnen the pleasure of killing his enemy.*



*Feyd-Rautha once more proves his cunning in a calculated move to win more glory and admiration from the crowd.*



*Like the Baron, Count Fenring and Lady Fenring reveal that they can enact plans within plans to neutralize their political threats. Lady Fenring cannot control the Baron using the sway she holds over Feyd-Rautha because the Baron is attracted to young men.*



As per Bene Gesserit order, Lady Fenring is planning to become pregnant with Feyd-Rautha's child in the near future, securing the future of the Harkonnen bloodline. Count Fenring accepts this necessity despite his jealousy. The couple also comment on the similar talents shared by Feyd-Rautha and Paul Atreides, although their behaviors are worlds apart due to the two men's different training. The Count wishes that they could have saved Paul's life from his apparent death on Arrakis; Lady Fenring quotes a Bene Gesserit saying that a person is not dead until one sees their lifeless body—and even then all may not be as it seems.

*Lady Fenring is a model Bene Gesserit sister—she is willing to birth a child to a man she despises in order to preserve a bloodline that the sisterhood desires. Count Fenring proves a loyal Bene Gesserit ally by supporting his wife in her plan to bear a child to another man. Notably, Fenring himself is unable to produce a child with his wife, as he is a genetic eunuch. The pair's conversation draws an explicit parallel between Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen and Paul Atreides, setting up tension for their later showdown at the novel's conclusion.*



## BOOK 2, PART 14

The epigraph from Stilgar's Preface in Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib, The Man" reveals more information about the Muad'Dib's learnings on Arrakis. Stilgar describes the way that Muad'Dib's education truly began when he learned to read Arrakeen weather and efficiently guard and reclaim his body's **water**. During this time, the Muad'Dib's eyes changed to blue and "he learned the Chakobsa way."

*Stilgar promotes the planet Arrakis as a greater teacher than all of Paul's expert childhood teachers combined, emphasizing how greatly environment can affect human culture. Arrakis trains Paul to evolve into a more efficient leader and survivor.*



Stilgar's tribe travel in near silence to their sietch in moonlight. Chani advises Paul to lower his hood in a certain manner to shield everything but his eyes, thereby retaining as much water as possible. As they near their home, the Fremen become more relaxed. Once past two moisture doors and in the safety of a rocky passage, they throw back their hoods, slip out their nose plugs and breathe deeply.

*The many dangers on Arrakis have taught the Fremen that they must be alert at all times until they reach the safety of the sietch.*



Paul, or Usul as the tribe now call him, does the same. He is hit by a wave of smells—unwashed bodies, reclaimed wastes, and the pungent smell of **spice** pervading it all. Jessica can tell from the smells alone that the Fremen community uses spice as an ingredient for materials such as paper, plastics, and explosives. As they take in their new environment, they realize that Chani has disappeared ever since they entered the sietch.

*While water is the Fremen's most precious resource, Paul and Jessica quickly realize that spice is their most abundant one—they use the powerful crop in all aspects of daily life. While the rest of the Imperium pays exorbitant amounts to buy the rare drug, the Fremen are used to its constant presence and have likely evolved into more powerful beings because they regularly ingest spice.*



Paul hears the news that Chani's father, Liet-Kynes, is dead. The Fremen are sad and angered, knowing that this is a result of Harkonnen treachery despite trying to make the planetologist's death look like an accident in the desert.

*Liet-Kynes is one of the many powerful individuals who have died in the pursuit of aiding Paul Atreides to survive the Harkonnen attack. Liet-Kynes recognizes that Paul's destiny is greater than his own causes.*



Swept by a throng of Fremen through to another cave, Paul comes face to face with a beautiful Fremen woman dressed in vibrant colors with **water** rings in her ears. She is Jamis's wife, Harah, and cannot believe that the youthful Paul killed her husband, leaving their two children fatherless. She is angry about this until she learns that Paul may be the promised Fremen messiah Lisan al-Gaib.

Paul learns that by besting Jamis, he is now responsible for the man's two sons. He also receives Jamis's lodgings, coffee service, and wife. He chooses to accept Harah as his "servant" rather than his "woman" and promises to care for her as long as she needs a place with him. Paul is surprised that Harah does not actually resent him for killing Jamis. She responds that it was a fair match and that she knows Paul was a friend to Jamis, even offering the gift of moisture at his funeral.

Many of Stilgar's tribe are moving with some urgency to complete installing dew collectors. Paul marvels at the dew collector technologies that catch moisture for plants—they are chromoplastic creations that are simple but beautiful in execution. Paul also realizes that Sardaukar are hunting Fremen tribes across the desert; Harah states that the Padishah Emperor's soldiers will only find empty sietchs and explosives in the sand.

Paul continues moving toward his lodgings with Harah. He views a number of Fremen innovations such as weaving, food processing, and stillsuit machinery. He is surprised to see that even as the tribe prepares to abandon the sietch, children are engaged in their lessons about Arrakeen ecology. Harah says that the Fremen cannot afford to halt the trainings that Liet-Kynes has taught them.

Many of the Fremen that Paul passes view him with suspicion, and Harah suggests that he will likely need to prove his fighting abilities again soon. She is disbelieving when Paul states he doesn't want to kill anyone. The two reach the lodgings that previously belonged to Jamis, which turns out to be a large set of stone rooms draped in different colored fabrics. Paul rebuffs Harah's flirting and instructs her to bring him food.

Paul wonders where Chani is. He also thinks about his pregnant mother, Jessica, and how she will adapt to Fremen culture. Hearing rustling fabrics, he turns to find not Harah with food but two young boys with small crysknives hanging at their belts. He thinks of the legends that describe the Fremen children as being just as fierce of fighters as the adults.

*Harah parallels many of Dune's characters in underestimating the young Duke upon their first meeting.*



*Paul is once again surprised by unfamiliar and awkward Fremen customs. He demonstrates wisdom in working out the Fremen expectations quickly and calculating the most advantageous response to Harah's service.*



*In this passage, the Fremen reveal their cunning in evading elite Sardaukar troops and planting traps for them in the desert. The Fremen clearly have a steep advantage, as they know the ins and outs of the terrain, while Sardaukar troops do not.*



*Fremen value their dream for an Eden-like Arrakis above all else—therefore they prioritize sharing environmental knowledge with future generations as much as escaping the Sardaukar. Paul is once more impressed at the strength of their collective desire for change.*



*In the Fremen world, powerful individuals must constantly prove their worth, therefore Paul will likely face the challenge of combat again soon. This aligns with the novel's overarching idea that violence is a necessary tool to secure and maintain power. The Fremen are also testing Paul to try to determine whether he is the legendary Lisan al-Gaib.*



*This passage hearkens back to Paul's learnings about Fremen culture on his home planet. Simply hearing about Fremen's fighting prowess and the size and power of sandworms has not prepared him for experiencing firsthand the Arrakeen desert and its people.*



## BOOK 2, PART 15

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's work "A Manual of Muad'Dib" is a poetic fragment of text that reveals the way that the Muad'Dib's ideas "gush" from his hips and his eyes "devour." The text also calls him "an Island of Selfdom."

Jessica finds herself in a huge cavern where she estimates there are more than five thousand Fremen gathered. She stands with Stilgar in front of this audience, waiting on Paul to arrive. She thinks about the test that she is about to take, knowing it is risky because it could affect her unborn child. She knows, however, that it is her only choice if she wants to secure her safety within the Fremen society. More Fremen enter the cavern until there are more than ten thousand gathered.

Paul arrives to the scene, escorted by two young boys who keep their hands on their knives as though protecting their new guardian. Chani also approaches the front of the cavern, wearing green to mourn her father, her face a mask of grief. Behind Chani are four women who carry a fifth woman in a litter.

Stilgar tells the gathered assembly that their Reverend Mother is too elderly to survive their upcoming move in order to avoid their enemies who are sweeping the desert for Fremen cells. However, the sietch may have a new Reverend Mother if Jessica can successfully "pass within" to become a powerful religious leader.

The ceremony is one of great ritual. Chani offers Jessica a drink from one of two sacks of liquid, stating that she passes Jessica the Water of Life. This is a life-altering substance that can "open the universe" to Jessica. After drinking the liquid, Jessica uses her Bene Gesserit talents to analyze its chemical makeup and learns that the liquid is a poisonous drug. It extends her consciousness and slows down time, allowing Jessica to look within her with greater awareness than any normal human being. However, the poisonous substance is also leeching her life away. By considering its molecular makeup, she is able to alter the liquid's chemical properties to render the poison harmless.

Jessica has successfully neutralized the Water of Life and must now prove it to the Fremen. Chani takes a drop of the liquid from Jessica's lips and adds it to the rest of the **Water** of Life. The altered drop acts as a catalyst that converts it all into a harmless liquid.

*The poem suggests that Paul's personal power is extensive, intoxicating, and irresistible. His immortalization in history books and literary works demonstrates the broad reach of his rule and legacy.*



*Jessica has weighed her options for survival among the Fremen and is taking a calculated risk to her unborn child in undertaking the trial to become a Fremen Reverend Mother. The numbers of Fremen arriving for the ceremony are staggering and emphasize Baron Harkonnen's foolish claims that they pose no threat on Arrakis.*



*As is his pattern, Paul has managed to ally himself with individuals who could have just as easily become his enemies—in this case, Harah's sons.*



*Fremen culture is extremely practical, and the Reverend Mother accepts her approaching death, helping her tribe to obtain a new spiritual mother.*



*Jessica's Bene Gesserit training gives her the ability to make molecular changes to her own body and to liquid and food substances—a skill that protects Bene Gesserit sisters from poison assassinations as well as enabling them to transform to Reverend Mother status.*



*Like many aspects of Fremen culture, the Reverend Mother trial has religious undertones in that it is extremely ritualized and centers around water, which is sacred to the desert-dwelling Fremen.*



Jessica becomes aware that her conscious being is merging with that of the Fremen's previous Reverend Mother. The elderly woman is passing on her life experiences in memory to Jessica. She also warns Jessica that this transformation is affecting Jessica's unborn child: every way that Jessica is now changing will be shared by her daughter. As the new Reverend Mother, Jessica now has access to all previous Reverend Mothers' ancestral memories, even going back beyond the Bene Gesserit order, and so will her daughter. Jessica can tell that her unborn child is in agony and is able to calm the being through her motherly love.

Jessica realizes that the creatures that Fremen call "makers" are the sandworms of Arrakis, and that the Water of Life must be the liquid exhalation that a sandworm makes as it dies. The newly altered **Water** of Life, no longer poisonous, is passed around the gathered Fremen to share. Paul takes a sip and falls back into the state of higher cognitive awareness. It seems that the drug alters everyone's minds; both Paul and Chani sees visions of a future in which they have a child together. Paul also foresees a violent war between his Fremen forces and those of the Padishah Emperor, the Harkonnens, the Guild, and the Bene Gesserit. He is once again conflicted by his visions of the Fremen religious war that will devastate the Imperium. Chani and Paul leave the cavern together.

*Jessica can access a new level of collective consciousness to gain the wisdom and knowledge of all previous Reverend Mothers. Never before has a child been able to do the same, and no doubt Jessica's daughter will be a powerful figure in her own right.*



*Paul and Jessica are now fully integrated into Fremen society. Paul knows he will find personal happiness with Chani but is still haunted by the knowledge of the extreme future violence that will take place in his name. It seems that no matter what Paul does in the present, he can't escape his destiny.*



## BOOK 3, PART 1

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Count Fenring: A Profile" she details the relationship between the Count and her father, the Padishah Emperor. The closest thing to an intimate relationship that her father ever had was with the Count, who was a close friend of the Emperor's since childhood. The Princess describes a positive aspect of their relationship, when Count Fenring aided the Emperor in overcoming the Landsraad's suspicion and fears after House Atreides was destroyed. She also describes a negative aspect of their friendship, when the Emperor ordered the Count to kill a man, but he refused to do so, despite it being within his capabilities.

Two years have passed. The Baron Harkonnen is in a rage and bursts into an antechamber to find that his guard captain, Iakin Nefud, is in a deeply drugged ecstasy. The Baron demands to know where his nephew Feyd-Rautha is, as he has worked out that the younger Harkonnen is the likely mastermind behind an attempt on the Baron's life. A slave boy sent for the Baron's pleasure tried to kill the nobleman with a poison needle embedded in his skin.

*The Padishah Emperor's political position as the monarch attempting to maintain Imperial rule while evading attacks on his leadership means that he has lived a strict and lonely existence. His only close relationship with another person, his trusted friend Count Fenring, is broken when the Count refuses his Emperor's order to kill a man—foreshadowing for the novel's final scene in which the Count honors his close spiritual connection to the Kwisatz Haderach Paul Atreides rather than his earthly duty and friendship to the Padishah Emperor.*



*Baron Harkonnen's lust is almost his downfall. He regularly manipulates and threatens his enemies and allies, including his family, but cannot bear it when he receives the same treatment.*



Nefud believes that Feyd-Rautha will be taking his pleasure in the slave quarters. Baron Harkonnen finds his nephew and confronts him, where his suspicion is confirmed—Feyd-Rautha tried to assassinate his uncle.

Baron Harkonnen tells Feyd-Rautha how foolish he has been. He also asks his nephew why Feyd-Rautha used a slave boy rather than trying to kill the Baron using his own considerable talents. Feyd-Rautha reminds his uncle that he taught him to always get someone else to carry out his dirty work.

To prevent an early death orchestrated by his nephew, Baron Harkonnen offers Feyd-Rautha a compromise: the Baron will step down as head of House Harkonnen in the not too distant future, allowing Fey-Rautha to succeed him as the rightful heir, in return for Feyd-Rautha to stop trying to kill the Baron. The Baron will also have his Mentat Thufir Hawat watch over his nephew to prevent an act of treachery. Feyd-Rautha realizes that Hawat has been playing the pair against one another to try and harm House Harkonnen.

Baron Harkonnen has even bigger plans for achieving power. He tells Feyd-Rautha that he wants to place a Harkonnen on the Imperial throne, making use of Thufir Hawat's intelligence to come up with a plan to defeat the Padishah Emperor. Baron Harkonnen also comments on the new religious leader among the Fremen called Muad'Dib; neither he nor Feyd-Rautha realize their peril.

## BOOK 3, PART 2

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "The Sayings of Muad'Dib," Muad'Dib claims that humans subconsciously always desire a rational universe. However, the universe is "always one step beyond logic."

Baron Harkonnen meets with Mentat Thufir Hawat. Hawat wants a message sent to Count Rabban on Arrakis but has not revealed why. The men discuss their suspicion that there is a connection between Arrakis and the Padishah Emperor's prison planet, Salusa Secundus. Hawat thinks that the Emperor trains his fearsome Sardaukar fighters on the prison planet.

*Feyd-Rautha resembles Baron Harkonnen in partaking in pleasure with slaves whenever he desires—both men are corrupt and selfish in caring only for their own desires and gains.*



*Baron Harkonnen only has himself to blame for the cruel and deceitful values he has taught his nephew. Feyd-Rautha is unashamed and unrepentant for his actions, confident that his skills and growing political power will protect him from his uncle's potential revenge.*



*Once again the Baron depends on his cunning wits to ensure his survival. The power-hungry pair reach an agreement that ensures their future fortunes and safety from one another.*



*The Baron wants to enact his lifelong dream to advance the Harkonnen family to Imperial rule, using Feyd-Rautha as a puppet to achieve this mission. Baron Harkonnen once again dismisses the Fremen threat on Arrakis, building tension toward the inevitable confrontation between Paul Atrides and House Harkonnen.*



*Paul's philosophical commentary suggests that the universe is driven by an irrational higher power.*



*The Baron and his Mentat have realized the Padishah Emperor's hidden source of power—the desolate prison planet Salusa Secundus. Its harsh environments shape the Imperial Sardaukar forces into lethal soldiers. The Emperor thereby relies on a power that is similar to the "desert power" Duke Leto and Paul Atrides recognize immediately on Arrakis—the harsh and unforgiving desert has the ability to produce elite fighting forces.*



Hawat also believes that there was more to the Imperial aid in betraying House Atreides than Baron Harkonnen ever realized. Hawat knows that a small group of Duke Leto's soldiers had trained to an elite level of skill that could rival the legendary Sardaukar fighters. This threat resulted in the Emperor's collaboration with Baron Harkonnen to wipe out House Atreides.

Hawat also reveals that he believes Arrakis is a planet of harsh conditions that, like Salusa Secundus, has bred an elite fighting force. Baron Harkonnen is astounded to learn that there are likely ten million Fremen on Arrakis, a number wildly larger than his earlier population estimates. Hawat thinks that the Fremen may be better warriors than the Sardaukar.

Baron Harkonnen remembers a conversation with Count Hasimir Fenring on Giedis Prime. The Count reacted strongly to the Baron's joke that he should turn Arrakis into a prison planet to oppress people. The Baron now understands that he had hit on a truth or a concern felt by the Padishah Emperor.

Hawat recommends that Baron Harkonnen should indeed turn Arrakis into a prison planet that creates powerful military forces by abandoning Arrakis to Rabban's oppressive leadership for some time without offering aid. Then the Baron, or Feyd-Rautha, can take over rule of Arrakis and its strong soldiers. Secretly, Hawat is hoping that some of House Atreides have survived and are now thriving on the desert planet.

### BOOK 3, PART 3

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib" considers the pattern of the universe. Natural phenomena such as changing seasons have a balance and grace that humans try to imitate at an individual and societal level. However, there is danger in attaining absolute perfection of the pattern, as this results in a fixity that moves toward death.

On Arrakis, Paul dreams beyond space and time under the influence of **spice**. He dreams of his family—he and Chani are now a couple and have a young son named Leto II in honor of Paul's father, Duke Leto. Paul also dreams of his mother, Jessica, who has become increasingly concerned about his power over the Fremen and warns Paul that religion and politics should not be mixed.

*Despite Baron Harkonnen's impressive intelligence, it takes the skill of a powerful Mentat to realize the Padishah Emperor's true fear of Duke Leto's growing power before his death. Despite Duke Leto's honorable leadership and his obedience to Imperial rule, his growing power scares the Padishah Emperor and results in Leto's violent death. Once again, violence is a tool for maintaining political power.*



*Hawat continues to prove his value as a Mentat, sourcing valuable information and processing it to understand the truth of the Fremen threat to the Harkonnens and the Padishah Emperor. It is unclear why he reveals so much to the Baron when he despises the man.*



*The Baron believes his Mentat's astounding claims because it is based on logic and because it explains Count Fenring's strange behavior in their previous meeting.*



*Hawat encourages Baron Harkonnen's original plan to replace the much-hated Rabban with Feyd-Rautha to rule on Arrakis. The narrator reveals that Hawat still desperately hopes that the noble Great House he served loyally for three generations survives in exile on Arrakis—little does he know of Paul's powerful new status among the Fremen.*



*Paul Atreides has a twofold relationship with the idea of pattern, admiring its beautiful balance but condemning its culmination in stagnation and destruction. He intentionally takes great risks in his life to avoid this stagnation and to save humanity as per the Bene Gesserit Kwisatz Haderach prophecy.*



*Paul has grown confident in using spice to boost his powers of foresight. His subconscious reminds him of Jessica's concern that he is losing control of his fanatical Fremen followers—his combined religious and political leadership has become so powerful that it is starting to exist beyond Paul's action in mere name.*





Paul's younger sister, Alia, has also been born. She is a strange child, for despite only being two years old, she is self-aware and walks and talks like adult. This advanced awareness results from the Water of Life transformation process that Jessica undertook when Alia was in the womb; like her mother, Alia can also access ancestral Bene Gesserit memories. Many of the Fremen dislike Alia due to her strange and worldly ways.

*Alia is born as an extraordinary child who is viewed as a gifted being by some and a monstrous creature by others. Her condition a result of the dangerous choice that Jessica had to make in undertaking the Reverend Mother trial while pregnant.*



When Paul awakens from his dream, he knows that today he will be tested as a Fremen man. He has risen in Fremen ranks to become a respected and worshipped religious-political leader and is even surrounded by a personal guard of the most fanatical of Fremen fighters, known as the Fedaykin. Despite his elite position, Paul must still prove his worth through the traditional Fremen rite of adulthood. He will need to successfully ride one of the immense Arrakeen sandworms.

*Fremen society is immensely practical, and Paul must pass the ritual test of maturity like all others. Fremen culture is intrinsically tied to the Arrakeen desert; therefore, it is fitting that young Fremen must prove themselves by handling the enormous, dangerous sandworms of the desert. The severe challenge is typical of Fremen training and ensures their people grow courageous and resilient.*



Stilgar shows Paul how to mount a sandworm using equipment known by the Fremen as maker hooks. Another Fremen, Shishaki, has lent Paul his maker hooks.

*Like the dew collectors, the maker hooks are example of the simple yet effective technologies that the Fremen utilize to survive the harsh desert landscapes.*



First, though, Paul needs to call a sandworm to him. Stilgar offers him a thumper, which Paul plants in the sand. He waits for a worm to appear; it is not long before he sees the wormsign approaching.

*Fremen use thumpers to actively call dangerous sandworms to them in order to use the creatures for travel or to test their young soldiers.*



## BOOK 3, PART 4

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Arrakis Awakening" details Muad'Dib's secret message to the Great Houses of the Landsraad. He asks them to consider if they are profitable rulers or if they are ruled by the profitable Padishah Emperor, comparing the Great Houses to the "rabble" of common citizens.

*Paul Atrides boldly challenges the Great Houses to reflect on their relationship between the Imperial throne and the common people. His message encourages the Landsraad to push back against the Padishah Emperor's unfair manipulations.*



In the safety of the sietch warrens, Jessica is dwelling on Paul's test to ride a sandworm. It is evening, and she has Reverend Mother duties to perform for a new birth. Jessica has settled into Fremen life well, although she will never be completely at ease in the desert. The environmental dangers are harsh, and the people are tough. Jessica is now accepted wholly by the tribe who treat her with a mixture of respect, love, and fear.

*Jessica's relationship with the Fremen is multifaceted, and although she is now confident in surviving the Arrakeen desert's many challenges, she also still longs for her previous comfortable life with Duke Leto on the water-rich Caladan.*



Alia enters Jessica's room with Harah, a female member of Paul's household. Jessica can see that Harah is troubled deeply and being at odds with the teasing Alia is not helping the woman. Harah informs Jessica that Alia has been causing trouble within the community, hiding at the recent birth and touching the newborn baby's forehead. This does not help the rumors that Alia is a demon or another supernatural being. Despite her tension with Alia, it is clear that Harah cares fiercely for the young girl and empathizes with her outcast status.

Harah tells Jessica that she will not remain in Paul's household much longer—she has held out this long so that her sons receive special training according to their guardian father's powerful status. She surprises Jessica with her revelation of some Bene Gesserit talents. Harah has also decided to marry Stilgar, becoming one of his wives. Jessica reflects that Harah could have been a good companion for Paul, though not a wife. Jessica is similarly worried about the love match between Paul and Chani, noting that her son is a nobleman who needs to secure a marriage for political advantage. Jessica loves Chani, though, and Harah points that Chani wants what is best for Paul also—perhaps even marriage to a more influential woman.

One of Stilgar's wives, Tharthar, arrives to speak with Jessica. Tharthar is concerned that when Paul successfully passes the test to ride a sandworm, he will challenge Stilgar's leadership and fight to the death as per Fremen tradition. In fact, it seems inevitable because so many of the young Fremen men are actively calling for the challenge. However, the rest of tribe agree that they are better off with Stilgar alive. Alia suggests she will talk with the young men to try and deescalate the situation.

## BOOK 3, PART 5

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib: The Religious Issues" discusses the reality that politics are embedded within religion. Politics spread through religious training, education and discipline. Religious leaders are therefore always faced with the difficult issues of whether to sacrifice themselves for religious ethics or retain leadership and control by taking all opportunities to control the embedded politics.

Paul succeeds in mounting and riding the sandworm that he has called with the thumper. After a brief solo ride, he is joined by many other Fremen who similarly hook themselves up onto the worm. Stilgar critiques Paul for his riding technique.

*Despite her vast wisdom, Alia does not control her childlike curiosity even when she knows it will upset fellow Fremen. Surprisingly, Harah—who dislikes her position as a servant in Paul's household—is a fierce advocate for Alia and defends the child against the rest of the Fremen's criticism.*



*Harah continues to surprise, counselling Jessica that her concerns about Chani's influence on Paul are likely unfounded. The narrator's description of Harah shows that she shares many similarities with Jessica—they are both strong-willed and mentally astute women who want the best for their children.*



*Fremen culture is evolving beyond their traditional concerns to determine leadership by a fight to the death. This is perhaps a result of Paul's influence on the tribe. The suggestion that two-year-old Alia will work to resolve the situation reminds readers of the child's extraordinary abilities and strangeness.*



*In this epigraph, Princess Irulan demonstrates a shrewd grasp of religion as intrinsic to political workings. As per Lady Jessica's previous warnings to Paul about mixing politics and religion, Irulan's commentary serves to build suspense and foreshadow the tragedy of widespread death that accompanies Paul's rise to power.*



*Stilgar's critique suggests that he and Paul have formed a close relationship where honesty and teasing are allowed. The two men interact as equals.*



Paul wants to ride the sandworm south to a newly established sietch that hides Fremen women and children, while Stilgar thinks that they should stop and set up camp for the night. Both men realize that the Fremen expect Paul to challenge Stilgar soon for tribal leadership, as Paul's superior talents beyond all other humans is becoming increasingly more apparent.

*The great leadership skills held by both Stilgar and Paul complicate their friendship. Fremen tradition demands that they fight to the death to determine who will command the Fremen. The two have held off such a challenge because they greatly value each other's knowledge and talents.*



While Paul and Stilgar debate what the tribe's next move is, they hear a smuggler's ornithopter flying nearby. The Fremen dismount the sandworm and hide. Paul decides to punish the smugglers for flying in Fremen territory—he and Stilgar set a trap using a fake **spice** patch to lure the smugglers in.

*Paul seems to have taken de facto leadership of the Fremen; Stilgar doesn't challenge his instruction because he knows that Paul has grown more powerful than him.*



## BOOK 3, PART 6

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Muad'Dib: The 99 Wonders of the Universe" reveals that Muad'Dib believed that a person could never fully hold an individual identity if they held the role of religious leader. The combination of law and responsibility makes individualism impossible.

*Paul's revelation of the difficult responsibilities of a religious leader speak to his impossible desire for a quiet life dedicated to Chani and their children.*



Paul and the Fremen are successful in trapping the smugglers who infringe on Fremen territory. Gurney Halleck, Duke Leto's old weapons master and Paul's childhood teacher and friend, leads the smugglers' party. Halleck is shocked by Paul's appearance, having thought him dead in the years since the Harkonnen attack on House Atriedes. Halleck is further surprised to learn that Paul is the identity behind the mysterious Fremen leader Muad'Dib. The weapons master declares his loyalty to Paul, his Duke. The two begin plotting how they can destroy the Harkonnens.

*Halleck shows his dedication to House Atreides by immediately swearing loyalty to Paul, despite his lack of knowledge of who Paul has grown into as the Fremen leader Muad'Dib. Halleck is a valuable addition to Paul's forces because the weapons master is an elite fighter and military strategist. Like Stilgar, Halleck is also unafraid to break convention by sharing a friendship with the powerful young Duke.*



Halleck and the smugglers accompany Paul and the Fremen into a cave. Some of the smugglers are undercover Sardaukar soldiers and stage an attack. The Fremen easily overpower them, killing most of the Padishah Emperor's fighters and capturing the others.

*Once again, Fremen prove their remarkable fighting skills by overpowering the feared Sardaukar soldiers with ease. Paul has a potent army backing him against the Padishah Emperor and House Harkonnen.*



Playing a game of strategy, Paul arranges for the Sardaukar captives to escape so that they can report back to Emperor Shaddam IV on Paul's name and the elite Fremen fighting force. Paul also reveals political nous when he reassures Stilgar that he will not be killing the Fremen to take his leadership—Stilgar is too valuable for that, and Paul has a plan to assume authority in a different manner.

*Paul's military tactics demonstrate his Mentat abilities in complex strategy. He is also unafraid to alter Fremen tradition, refusing to kill such a valuable soldier as Stilgar.*



## BOOK 3, PART 7

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected saying of Muad'Dib," Muad'Dib speaks of the way that a person who is angry will refuse to hear the truths of their inner consciousness.

Despite mounting pressure for Paul to challenge Stilgar's leadership in deadly combat, Paul announces to Stilgar and the Fremen that he will not do so. He has found a different method of claiming leadership, showing the tribe his ducal ring inherited from Duke Leto. Paul proclaims himself Duke of Arrakis and his first official act is to knight Stilgar. Stilgar can accept Paul's leadership as Duke Paul rather than Fremen Usul. He works to convince the tribe to accept this too. Paul furthermore convinces them that he is taking on his legacy as the religious figure Lisan al-Gaib, a different kind of authority to Stilgar's operational leadership.

Paul has just learned that Baron Harkonnen is withdrawing his support for Count Rabban on Arrakis. In effect this means that the Fremen can attack Rabban without fear of his calling for military aid from House Harkonnen. Paul announces this to the Fremen and charges them with fighting to take control of Arrakis at large. He whips them into an excited frenzy so that the Fremen are ready to fight and also accept Paul's new leadership role as Duke Paul-Muad'Dib and Lisan al-Gaib. Paul reminds them that Stilgar leads the tribe and that he commands with Paul's voice.

Gurney Halleck, reunited with Paul and accompanying him to meet with his Fremen, is shocked to learn that Lady Jessica is alive and living within the sietch. Halleck still believes that Jessica was the traitor who sold out House Atreides to the Harkonnens. Halleck unexpectedly attacks her in Paul's rooms, meaning to kill Jessica. He has a knife at her throat when Paul enters.

*Paul's Bene Gesserit training allows him to effectively read other people's emotions. His discussion of anger matches many of the events in Dune, most particularly the inability of the furious Thufir Hawat to realize that Lady Jessica did not betray House Atreides to the Harkonnens.*



*Paul is committed to fulfilling his destiny as the Mahdi who will bring the Fremen power and glory through his triumph over the Padishah Emperor and House Harkonnen. His decision to promote his leadership as the mystical Lisan al-Gaib sees him giving in to the unstoppable chain of events that will result in the devastating Fremen violence across the Imperium.*



*Through a delicate political ploy, Paul has sold his unofficial leadership to the Fremen as working through his trusted right-hand man, Stilgar. Paul uses his mythic status as the prophesized messiah to inspire the Fremen into a fanatic frenzy, ensuring that they will follow his cause without question and even to their deaths.*



*Despite her safety as Reverend Mother in Fremen society, Jessica has not escaped the political danger associated with the Great Houses.*



It is only quick thinking and a vulnerable speech from Paul about Jessica's honor and love for Duke Leto that finally convinces Halleck she is not at fault. Jessica is also stirred by the great emotion and love that Paul reveals for her and for his father. When Halleck drops his blade, she is almost in tears. She crosses the room to Paul and states that she has failed him in her teachings—she urges him to charter his own course now to find a real happiness. She acknowledges that he should marry Chani if he loves her.

*Paul's unexpected vulnerability causes Jessica to doubt all of her plans supporting him in his rise to power and revenge on the Padishah Emperor and Harkonnens. She gives up her long desire of his identity as the Kwisatz Haderach and begs him to change his course to find personal happiness. Her change of heart is also striking because she has previously strongly counseled Paul that he must undertake a political marriage rather than a love match. Jessica doesn't realize that it is too late for her son to prevent his rise to Imperial power, pointing to the idea that people are ultimately powerless in the face of fate's determinism.*



Halleck interrupts the touching moment, shocked to the core and heavily shamed that he has believed a lie about Jessica for so many years. He feels that he has failed Paul and Duke Leto as well as her. He demands that Paul kill him for his mistake, but Paul will not accept such foolishness. Neither will Jessica move against him when he asks her to kill him, instead offering him forgiveness and love.

*As with Stilgar, Paul refuses to kill Halleck—it is senseless to dispose of such a valuable asset. Jessica also forgives Halleck immediately, as she knows he is true in his loyalty to House Atreides.*



Jessica is suddenly weary, and Paul is distracted by the many decisions he needs to make for the Fremen. They request that Halleck play them a tune on his new baliset, with Paul leaving the weapons master playing in his rooms with Jessica while he leaves to attend to his duties. A Fedaykin guard reports that many Fremen leaders are arriving for a council.

*Paul is once more torn between personal desires and collective responsibilities, required to leave his reunion with Halleck and his support of Jessica.*



Instead of attending to his responsibilities, Paul walks to deep reaches of the cavern where, as per every sietch, a small sandworm is kept in stunted growth near the tribe's **water** basin. It is trapped in this space by the water which is poisonous to sandworms. The drowning of the sandworm results in its liquid expulsion of the Water of Life, the poison that can be deactivated by a Reverend Mother.

*Paul's decision to forego the impending council for the Fremen water basin suggests that some mystical power is drawing him to continue his journey to becoming prophesized messiah.*



Paul has decided it is time see if he is indeed the Kwisatz Haderach of Bene Gesserit prophecy. He will drink the poisonous Water of Life to attain Reverend Mother status, a move that no man has yet attempted and survived.

*Paul suddenly chooses to prioritize his personal desire for increased power and takes the perilous risk of beginning the trial to become Kwisatz Haderach.*



## BOOK 3, PART 8

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Collected Legends of Arrakis" the Princess relates the Muad'Dib's trial in undertaking a dangerous transformation ritual by drinking the Water of Life—"a poison that gives life." Muad'Dib lies in a cave as though he is dead while his being is transported across the lines of times. His experience fulfils the Fremen prophecy of the Lisan al-Gaib, an individual who will be "both dead and alive."

It is three weeks since Paul decided to drink the Water of Life. Unaware of Paul's dangerous decision, Chani has been called north by Paul, only to learn that Jessica has called for her because Paul is in an ongoing unconscious state. Jessica does not know the reason for his state and has tried many things to wake her son, but all have failed. Some of the Fremen believe that Paul is lost to them, while others believe that he is in a holy trance preparing for the upcoming battle. Jessica sends for Chani on a chance that the Fremen woman will know how to help her beloved Paul.

Upon viewing Paul's seemingly lifeless body, Chani feels a sudden strong connection to Jessica. She clasps the Reverend Mother's hand, reflecting on the parallels between Chani viewing Paul while worrying about how she can protect her son Leto, much like Jessica must have felt when considering the danger to Duke Leto and her son.

Chani suddenly realizes what Paul has attempted—becoming the first male to pass the Reverend Mother Water of Life test. She tells Jessica to fetch her the poisonous holy liquid, smearing some of it on Paul's lips. Jessica is amazed to see her son take a deep breath. Chani asks Jessica to quickly use her Reverend Mother abilities to transform some of the **Water** of Life into its safe form. But before Jessica can do so, Paul abruptly awakes and shows them that there is no need to change the liquid—that he deactivated the poison himself.

Jessica is appalled to learn that Paul drank the Water of Life. He states that he only sipped the smallest of drops, but now he knows what it is to be a Reverend Mother. Paul thinks he has been unconscious for only minutes, learning from Chani and Jessica that in fact it has been three weeks. He is weak from his ordeal, but proud he has survived it. To prove the molecular conversion, he drinks a full mouthful of the poisonous **Water** of Life. Jessica screams loudly, at which Paul grabs his mother's hand and sends his conscious into hers.

*Never before has a male survived the Water of Life trial. Paul's attempt to succeed places him squarely in the Fremen and Bene Gesserit prophecies of the Lisan al-Gaib and Kwisatz Haderach.*



*In his quest for greater power as the Kwisatz Haderach, Paul's life hangs in the balance. For the first time, Jessica asks Chani for her help. She has been reluctant to in the past because she did not want Paul to marry Chani, fearing he would waste opportunity for an advantageous political alliance in marriage. With recent events, though, Jessica's attitude to the Fremen woman has changed entirely.*



*Like Jessica, Chani feels a much stronger bond with between them—their deep care for Paul unites them. Chani feels great empathy for the trials and grief that Paul's mother has borne during the political perils that have haunted House Atreides.*



*Chani has realized what Jessica could not—that Paul has taken the dangerous leap of ingesting poison in an attempt to become the Kwisatz Haderach with access to Bene Gesserit collective memory. Paul passes the trial, able to neutralize the poison at a molecular level due to his refined Bene Gesserit skills.*



*Jessica cannot comprehend the enormity of the events, still terrified that she will lose her son. But Paul has transformed into the Kwisatz Haderach, gaining even more power than before—he can now access an enormous reserve of historic knowledge through the Bene Gesserit ancestral memory. The only way to prove his power and safety to his mother is to invade her mind with his own.*



Jessica's experience in joining awareness with her son is not as gentle as it was when she connected consciousness with Alia or the elderly Fremen Reverend Mother. But it is a connection nonetheless. Paul asks and then commands his mother to show him the dark pit inside that all Reverend Mothers can sense but cannot see into.

Paul shortly releases Jessica, who is completely drained of energy and requires Chani's help to sit down. She feels the full realization that Paul is the Kwisatz Haderach, "the one who can be many places at once." Paul explains to Jessica and Chani that he now exists at the "fulcrum" of giving and taking the precious male and female energies that can cross the boundaries of space and time. He is the Bene Gesserit's Kwisatz Haderach and the Fremen's Lisan al-Gaib.

Paul has been looking not just forwards and backwards in time but in the now, and into the space directly above Arrakis. He has seen that there is a fleet of Guild ships above Arrakis that holds a truthsayer, five legions of Sardaukar, Baron Harkonnen, Thufir Hawat, and the Padishah Emperor himself. Furthermore there are representative raiders from all of the Great Houses in the epic force, waiting to attack Arrakis.

Jessica wants to know what the forces are waiting for when they could attack Arrakis at any time. Paul reveals that the Guild are threatening to strand any of the group that lands on Arrakis. The Guild are trying to protect their livelihood, the **spice** that they depend on for their monopoly over interstellar travel.

Paul informs Jessica and Chani of his chilling plan to create a Water of Life weapon that will be the catalyst for destroying all the planet's **spice** by setting off a chain reaction of destruction for little makers and sandworms, both of which spice production depends on. Chani is shocked at the "blasphemy" he speaks of. Paul will threaten his enemies with his power to destroy all of the spice, destroying the means of space travel and destroying the Guild navigators who are addicted and wholly dependent on the drug.

The Guild have used their own lesser powers of foresight to realize Paul's threat; they know he is on Arrakis and are desperately searching for him, but cannot find him. Paul's foresight becomes more muddled, with potential pathways narrowing down and becoming blurred. He knows that the Guildmen are experiencing the same phenomena, but they grow desperate enough to interfere by risking the resource that they cannot live without.

*Paul is the only man to ever access this power, which may be why he uses the connection aggressively rather than gently as per the Bene Gesserit way*



*Paul can access "many places at once" because he can access past, present and future time dimensions as well as Bene Gesserit ancestral memory. Furthermore, he can access a level of Bene Gesserit collective consciousness that is barred to Bene Gesserit sisters. The prophecies surrounding Paul since childhood are coming to fruition.*



*Paul's astounding new powers allow him to realize an immediate threat to his Fremen. The Padishah Emperor and Landsraad have decided that the rumors of Fremen strength must be dealt with.*



*The Guild are preventing an attack on Arrakis using their monopoly over space travel that the Emperor and Great Houses rely on. Through their limited powers of foresight, they know that an attack on the Fremen may result in the destruction of the spice that they depend on for prolonged life and space travel.*



*Paul's reckless plan to triumph over the forces amassed above Arrakis shock his family and followers. He is willing to risk the spice crop that is essential for Paul and the Fremen to thrive on Arrakis in order to best the Padishah Emperor, the Guild, and the Landsraad.*



*The power play occurring between Paul and his enemies becomes a game of skill in foresight. As Kwisatz Haderach, Paul has the advantage with the greatest talent of prediction. The Guild has always made safe decisions, but for the first time in their history, they grow so desperate as to take precarious risks.*



## BOOK 3, PART 9

The epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Arrakis Awakening" reads, "And that day dawned when Arrakis lay at the hub of the universe with the wheel poised to spin."

Paul, Stilgar and Gurney Halleck sit on high rock at the Arrakeen Shield Wall, surveilling the enemy encampment. Despite the Guild's threat, Emperor Shaddam IV has landed on Arrakis along with Baron Harkonnen and five legions of Sardaukar. They have set up camp behind the Shield Wall, with Paul and Stilgar watching to learn more about the forces they will soon engage.

Stilgar is concerned for Paul's safety as it grows light, but Paul is carefree. He knows that if they are spotted and attacked, his troops have ornithopters to spare. There is also a "great grandmother" of a sandstorm on its way to the area that will favor the Fremen's fighting style.

With the impending arrival of the great desert sandstorm, Paul plans to use the epic weather to attack the Imperial and Harkonnen forces by blowing up the Shield Wall with atomics. Fremen will continue the attack by targeting firearms at the spaceships' noses to cripple them for flight. The Fremen will fight to overpower the Sardaukar, while the rest of the Arrakeen populace will confront the Harkonnen forces. Gurney Halleck can also sense the sandstorm approaching, and like Stilgar he urges Paul to retreat and take cover.

Paul receives a report from a messenger that the Fremen have their rocket launchers and projectile weapons in place, ready for battle. The messenger also relays that the "pet" Sardaukar the Fremen previously captured masquerading as Arrakeen smugglers have been released to return to the Padishah Emperor. Paul wants the Emperor to know his identity in order to give the Emperor the chance to raise the Atreides flag to restore House Atreides to the Great Houses and as the ruling body on Arrakis. If this was to occur, Paul would order his Fremen warriors to only move against the Harkonnen forces. However, the Emperor chooses to refrain from formally acknowledging the Atreides heir.

*Arrakis becomes the one planet that will determine the rest of the Imperium's fate.*



*Like Paul and the Guild, the Padishah Emperor takes a great risk in defying the Guild's ban on Arrakeen landings. Paul's future visions are shown to be limited in some ways—he must observe the enemy's military set up as he cannot see immediate movements in the possible futures that spread out before him.*



*Paul is confident in his fighters, weapons, and the incoming weather shield to protect him from enemy attacks.*



*Combining his own military strategy with that of his advisors, Paul creates an ambitious plan to defeat the Imperial and Harkonnen forces. Unlike the enemy's first attack on House Atreides in Arrakeen city, this time Paul is prepared for conflict.*



*Paul acts honorably by offering the Padishah Emperor a safe exit from the approaching battle. He doesn't bother to offer the treacherous Harkonnens the same courtesy. In a scene that echoes Paul's fight with Jamis, the Emperor refuses the opportunity to forego the battle.*





Halleck and Stilgar worry about the Guild and Great Houses that are still poised in a fleet above Arrakis. However, Paul knows that they can't risk involving themselves in the fight with their powerful atomic weapons because Paul is holding the previous **spice** to ransom. Paul is blackmailing the Imperial and Harkonnen forces in the same way—they know he has threatened to destroy spice forever if they use atomics on his forces.

The sandstorm arrives, and Gurney Halleck pulls the trigger to hit the Shield Wall with atomics, blowing it up. Fremen immediately target the spaceships with heavy fire as planned. As Paul and his soldiers prepare to meet the Sardaukar in battle, they receive a garbled message from the sietch where the Fremen women and children are taking refuge—a Sardaukar raiding party attacked, killing many Fremen including Paul and Chani's son Leto. The Sardaukar have also captured Alia; there is no word in the message about Jessica and Chani.

Paul feels detached and empty at the devastating news, believing that everything he touches brings destruction and grief. He knows, too, that his influence is "like a disease that could spread across the universe."

*Despite no direct communications with the Guild, Paul is able to blackmail them into submission through his will alone—the Guild's gift of foresight ensures that they can see his future promise of destroying Arrakeen spice crops forever.*



*About to lead his forces to a great victory, Paul is struck by personal loss. Again, his gift of foresight is shown to be limited—he did not foresee the attack in which his enemies kill his son and kidnap his sister.*



*Paul's comparison of his influence as a "disease" that will infect the Imperium is suitable because it fits the Fremen religious crusade that he knows is fated to cause death and destruction throughout the galaxy.*



## BOOK 3, PART 10

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan's text "Arrakis Awakening," Irulan describes a scene in which the Muad'Dib stands before an audience and proclaims that a captive who seems dead is in fact alive. He claims a close relationship to the captive and knows that because of his influence, she can now see into the future.

Inside an Imperial ship, Emperor Shaddam IV interrogates Baron Harkonnen with the aid of his Bene Gesserit truthsayer, who is Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam. Also present are two Guild members and the Princess Irulan. The Baron has not met the Princess before but knows she is an adept study in Bene Gesserit ways and can also see that she is a great beauty.

The Reverend Mother Mohiam's presence demonstrates the significance of this meeting, with the Baron Harkonnen frightened at the implications for his House's prosperity. The Emperor wants to know the truth about Thufir Hawat, who has gone missing; the whereabouts of Harkonnen brothers Rabban and Feyd-Rautha; and, most importantly, any information about the powerful Fremen figure Muad'Dib.

*Princess Irulan's record of this event is another example of Paul's gift of foresight and his commanding ability to persuade audiences of his power.*



*Baron Harkonnen is in dire trouble—no longer is it the Padishah Emperor's messenger Count Fenring who interrogates the Baron, but the Emperor himself who communicates his displeasure at House Harkonnen's actions.*



*The Padishah Emperor knows that he has severely misjudged the situation on Arrakis and within House Harkonnen, trying to gain as much knowledge as possible to strategize for the imminent battle. He is still unaware of Muad'Dib's identity as Paul Atreides, which will come at a great shock and political blow.*



Baron Harkonnen reveals that Hawat has been missing for five days since going on a mission to infiltrate an Arrakeen smuggling ring. The Baron believes that the Mentat will perish shortly, as he has not been receiving the daily antidote administered by House Harkonnen to counteract the residual poison they have infected him with. The Baron's nephews, Rabban and Feyd-Rautha, are currently running a perimeter check. And Baron Harkonnen downplays the Muad'Dib's authority as well by repeating his earlier assurances to the Emperor that there is nothing in the Arrakeen southern desert regions; he claims they are uninhabitable and certainly do not hold Fremen strongholds as has been implied.

The Padishah Emperor has the captive Alia Atreides brought in. After hearing of the battle between Sardaukar and Fremen in which she was captured, the Emperor makes clear his anger at Baron Harkonnen for misleading him about Fremen military threat, numbers, and locations. The Emperor is furious that the Fremen forces are far more powerful than reported on—he is enraged that few of his Sardaukar soldiers were able to escape the Fremen women, children, and elderly, who defended their sitech and revealed themselves as ferocious fighters.

Alia, who looks merely four years of age, astonishes the room by announcing articulately that she is Duke Leto and Lady Jessica's daughter and sister of Duke Paul-Muad'Dib. She is completely unafraid in countenance and approaches Baron Harkonnen boldly, addressing him as a "frightened old fat man too weak to support his own flesh without the help of suspensors." The Baron is flabbergasted. Alia also makes entertainment of the high and mighty around her, refusing the Emperor's demands and referring to him as "Shaddam."

Meanwhile, the Reverend Mother Mohiam is appalled when she recognizes Alia's strange way of being and demands that they kill the girl. She views Alia as an "abomination" because the young girl is cursed with the ability to access Bene Gesserit ancestral memories. Through the collective memory pool, Alia can stand in the Reverend Mother's mind as a living memory of sorts.

Attacking Fremen interrupt the Imperial negotiations, and the Shield Wall is breached. In the resulting confusion, Alia feigns fear to back into Baron Harkonnen's imprisoning arms before stabbing the Baron—whom she knows is her grandfather—with the "Atreides **gom jabbar**" and escaping Imperial forces under the cover of the sandstorm's dust.

*Baron Harkonnen attempts to save face—and stay alive—by answering the Padishah Emperor's questions in detail. He still completely underestimates the Fremen threat to Imperial rule, believing the Arrakeen deserts to be "uninhabitable." The Emperor knows that the hostile Arrakeen environments actually have the possibility to train Fremen into powerful soldiers who can rival the abilities of Imperial Sardaukar forces.*



*Just as she enjoyed causing mayhem within her Fremen community, Alia is only too happy to use her intelligence and ancestral knowledge to sow seeds of discord between the Padishah Emperor and Baron Harkonnen. The Emperor's fury suggests that he fears the Fremen soldiers will triumph over his Sardaukar forces—and the Sardaukar are the political tool that he has relied on to enforce his rule throughout his time as Emperor.*



*Alia continues to cause trouble by announcing her heritage. Her fierce courage and strangeness is evident in her appearance and countenance, as well as her brutal insult at Baron Harkonnen criticizing his age and obesity. The Baron isn't used to such insubordination and cannot respond. Alia similarly treats the Padishah Emperor with irreverence.*



*In her fear of Alia's knowledge and control over her, the Reverend Mother considers the child an evil creature—despite the fact that Alia never had any choice in the Bene Gesserit collective memory she was forced into.*



*Alia's actions are clever, skilful and ruthless in murdering her grandfather and escaping the Imperial soldiers. She claims her maternal and Bene Gesserit heritage by choosing the gom jabbar as her weapon, but imbues it with new power by naming it after her paternal heritage.*



The Emperor is shocked that the Fremen have also incapacitated his spaceships. Even more staggering is the sight of Fremen troops riding to attack Imperial forces on a wall of giant desert sandworms. He and the Sardaukar “stand awed for the first time in their history by an onslaught their minds found difficult to accept.”

Emperor Shaddam IV retreats into a damaged ship with Princess Irulan, Reverend Mother Mohiam, two Guildsmen, and a guard of Sardaukar soldiers. The Emperor and the Reverend Mother have seen the battle outside and know that the Fremen have the upper hand. They see that there is only one way forward for their triumph—treachery. The Reverend Mother summons Count Fenring from his quarters.

## BOOK 3, PART 11

In the epigraph from Princess Irulan’s text “Arrakis Awakening,” the Princess relates some of the many facets of Muad’Dib’s fascinating personality. He was a man of contradictory qualities, being both soldier and spiritual leader, monstrous and virtuous, cunning and innocent, honorable and ruthless, and “less than a god, more than a man.” She finds that he cannot be measured by ordinary standards because of his extraordinary life. At the time of his greatest triumph he also becomes aware of death before him, but accepts it. Princess Irulan is not sure that this gracious acceptance comes from a sense of justice, because Muad’Dib is a man “who ordered battle drums made from his enemies’ skins” and reneged on his noble responsibilities in favor of his opportunities as Kwisatz Haderach.

Paul takes his rightful place on the Arrakeen throne. Gurney Halleck and Stilgar would prefer he set himself up in a more defensible location, such as a desert cavern, but Paul likes the symbolism of his choice. Count Rabban resided in this mansion, therefore Paul’s re-occupation sends a message of victory to the Arrakeen populace.

Paul asks Halleck to bring Jessica and Chani to him, knowing that Chani will by now have learned of their son Leto’s death. Paul has pushed his own grief out of his mind in the same manner he did after his father Duke Leto’s death. As Paul deals with post-battle matters, he is still plagued by the weighty despair of seeing potential futures that all result in a brutal Fremen holy war sweeping the Imperium.

*The Sardaukar have spent reigning terror over the Imperium due to their fanatical fighting abilities. However they cannot comprehend the Fremen forces that confront them. The Sardaukar suffer a devastating defeat because the Fremen have been exposed to even harsher environments and more brutal training than the Sardaukar have experienced on the terrible prison planet Salusa Secundus.*



*By summoning Count Fenring as their final desperate act to escape Paul and his Fremen’s destruction, the Padishah Emperor and Reverend Mother suggest that the humble-looking Fenring is actually their greatest weapon.*



*The many dualities in Paul’s personal and public identities serves to heighten his mythic status in the Imperium. He is so skilled and talented that he exists as a more powerful being than all other humans, although Irulan notes that he is not a god and is therefore fallible. Paul’s rise to Imperial power has also resulted in his transformation to a callous and treacherous leader compared to his existence as an honorable young nobleman at the start of the novel.*



*Paul prefers the power of symbolism over the safety of the desert when re-claiming Arrakis and confronting the Padishah Emperor.*



*Since finding out about Leto’s death at the beginning of battle, this is Paul’s first moment to attend to his personal grief. His despair at losing his son is echoed by the reminder that his Fremen will one day sweep the galaxy in a violent religious war; Paul and the Fremen’s victory is at the same time a death sentence for millions across the Imperium.*



Reflecting on the day's events, Paul remembers the strange ability that Alia has used to bend time to place a future message into his awareness. She is letting her brother know that she has killed "the demented old Baron" (Baron Harkonnen). When Stilgar returns to report finding the Baron's body in the war's wreckage, he is shaken by Paul's demonstration of all-ranging knowledge once more.

Paul sends a captured Sardaukar soldier as a messenger to the Pashidah Emperor to arrange a meeting in which Paul will settle the terms of the Emperor's surrender. Paul promises the word of bond to protect the Emperor and his company during negotiations if they bring no weapons to the meeting. As he tests the Sardaukar soldier to ensure that the man understands the message to be conveyed, Paul realizes that an organization such as the Sardaukar military never knowing anything but victory was a huge weakness in itself.

Stilgar informs Paul that while Chani has taken time alone in her grief, Lady Jessica has asked to meet her son in the conservatory. The Fremen have also found Count Rabban's dead body. When Paul and Stilgar talk about the planet Caladan's weather causing **water** to fall from the sky, Stilgar becomes awed by Paul, ready to follow his every command. The young Duke realizes that such a moment "lessens a man," and that he has "seen a friend become a worshipper."

Jessica finds her son and is shocked by the change that she senses in Paul. He seems removed and cold in manner; Jessica wonders if it is because of his son Leto's death. Then, though, Paul affirms to Jessica that he is the Bene Gesserit's Kwisatz Haderach. He has "lived billions upon billions of lives" and "plumbed the depths of both cruelty and kindness." Paul then bids his mother stand to his side, as the Emperor's party—including Paul's future bride—will shortly be arriving.

Jessica snaps at Paul, warning him not to make the same mistake as his father, Duke Leto. Paul coolly replies that a princess is the "key to the throne" but that this is all she will ever be to him. Chani enters, grief written upon her body. Paul is shaken to see that she has been crying, gifting **water** to their dead son. Paul still feels numbed of emotion but tries to comfort Chani, promising that they will have more sons together.

*Paul is growing comfortable in his predictions of the future based on the many possibilities he sees laid out before him. Alia once more shows her strange maturity and irreverence when she refers to their murdered grandfather as "demented."*



*The mighty Sardaukar forces have never experienced hardship in battle, and therefore they were terribly unprepared for the skill they faced when fighting the Fremen soldiers.*



*Paul is saddened when he realizes that his religious-political leadership has awed Stilgar to the point that Stilgar is no longer comfortable treating Paul informally as a friend in his Fremen leadership. Paul finds himself increasingly an isolated island of power due to his burden of leadership.*



*Paul's unemotional relationship with his mother once more emphasizes the isolation he feels as the most powerful individual in the Imperium. He also explicitly signals his plan to marry Princess Irulan and thereby set himself up to take the Imperial throne.*



*Jessica is unimpressed by her son's attitude and decisions. He ignores her warnings, pragmatically viewing a royal marriage as the solution to his desire for increased political power. Although Paul makes no effort to connect with his mother, he tries to comfort Chani—at this moment she is the only person he cares for deeply enough to push through his chilling wall of isolation and power.*



Stilgar starts to indicate that the Padishah Emperor and his party approach, but Paul already seems to know and beats Stilgar to it. Paul's powers in foresight impress the Fremen once more. Gurney Halleck notes that the Emperor's group have no throwing weapons. He also notes Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen's presence and asks Paul if he wants the Harkonnen removed. Paul says he is fine.

Halleck notes that the Guild have also been in contact making demands. Jessica is shocked by Paul's casual dismissal of the Guild, but he knows his control over Arrakeen **spice** puts them in the palm of his hand. Paul also thinks on the process that has brought the Guild to ruin—with their limited foresight, "they'd always chosen the clear, safe course that leads ever downward into stagnation."

Gurney Halleck also informs Paul that Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam is with the Emperor, as is Thufir Hawat, Duke Leto's old Mentat. Paul is surprised that Halleck has left their old friend Hawat in their enemy's group, but has a glimpse of one possible future in which the Padishah Emperor has ordered Hawat to assassinate Paul with a poisoned needle.

When the Imperial enemy approach Paul, they are seen to be a dishevelled and somewhat devastated group. Not their leader, though—despite his unkempt look with torn clothes and mussed hair, Emperor Shaddam IV has a presence that commands attention and respect.

Paul's Fremen guards stop the group on their approach to Paul's throne. He sees Reverend Mother Mohiam peering out at him, and Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen's face beside her. Paul also spies a slight man in the party who he has never seen in his dreams or reality before—yet he instantly recognizes the man's dangerous presence whose face carries "a marker of fear." Jessica tells Paul that the man is Count Hasimir Fenring, a genetic-eunuch and killer who lived in Arrakeen before the Atreides took over. Paul wonders if fate has denied him a look at Fenring because the man will one day kill Paul. Finally, Paul's attention is drawn by the beautiful Princess Irulan who shows strength in her lack of fear.

*Paul continues to wield his Kwisatz Haderach powers with ease. He is perhaps eager to meet Feyd-Rautha—now that Baron Harkonnen and Rabban are dead, Feyd-Rautha is the only noble Harkonnen whom Paul can manipulate to avenge his father's death.*



*Paul's contempt for the Guild's fear of risk-taking as well as their fear of his power over spice sees him treat the powerful galactic organization with derision in a manner that they have never before received.*



*Paul is thrilled to meet with his old teacher Hawat despite the risk the Mentat poses to his life. He is less than thrilled, though, to be again encountering the Reverend Mother who threatened his life on Caladan.*



*Paul's Fremen army has thoroughly decimated the powerful Imperial forces. Despite his vulnerable position, the Padishah Emperor remains a commandingly authoritative figure.*



*Paul draws on his Mentat and Bene Gesserit training to calmly assess the varied party before him. Although his lack of foresight regarding Count Fenring suggests that the man may play some part in Paul's death, the narrator will soon reveal it is because of the Count's close connection with Paul due to Fenring narrowly missing transformation into the Kwisatz Haderach because of his genetic condition.*



Thufir Hawat pushes forward from the back of the Imperial party. He looks old and frail, but Paul is very glad to see him. Hawat apologizes to Lady Jessica; he has learned from Gurney Halleck that his furious blame toward her for betraying Duke Leto has been wrong the whole time. Now that they are reunited, Paul states that because of Hawat's many generations of service to the Atreides family, Paul is willing to give the Mentat anything he asks for—even Paul's life. Hawat is shocked, realizing that Paul knows about his assigned assassination.

Paul reaches out to support Hawat, who is almost dead on his feet due to the Harkonnen-administered poison. The Mentat manages to turn proudly to face the Emperor, revealing the poison needle that the Emperor gave him and declaring that he will not betray his service to House Atreides in this final hour. Paul catches Hawat as he collapses, dead.

Fremen bear Hawat's body away and for the first time Paul sees fear in the Padishah Emperor's eyes. Paul uses his Bene Gesserit Voice training to put every ounce of contempt into his address of "Majesty." The Emperor tries to talk down to Paul, blaming him for the warfare and threatening that the Guild and Great Houses are poised to fight for the Emperor.

Paul curtly dismisses the Emperor's posturing as foolish and turns his attention to the two Guildsmen in the group. The Guild refuses Paul's authority before the young Duke reminds them that he can and will destroy the Arrakeen **spice** crops forever if they don't obey him. They label him "mad" but know from their limited powers of foresight that he could follow through on his threat.

Paul addresses Reverend Mother Mohiam, whom he has not seen since she tested him with the **gom jabbar** on Caladan. The Reverend Mother acknowledges that there is now no doubt that Paul is "the One," and she forgives Jessica for her rebellion in carrying a son and her mistake in creating the all-seeing Alia. Paul coldly tells the old woman that she has no right or cause to forgive Jessica for anything. And he informs her that despite ninety generations of the Bene Gesserit program's genetic breeding, now that the Kwisatz Haderach is here, he will never help with their cause—the Reverend Mother screams with anger.

*Hawat realizes that his anger has clouded his logic for many years, a weighty error for a Mentat. Paul demonstrates the value of loyalty alongside astute political manipulation in his dealings with the dangerous yet beloved Mentat.*



*Paul's loyalty and honor to his childhood companion serves him well, with Hawat proving a faithful Atreides ally to his death. One of the Emperor and Reverend Mother's final gambles to destroy Paul has failed.*



*Paul's wielding of the Voice informs the Bene Gesserit-trained Princess Irulan of some of his hidden power. The Emperor's blustering political protests carry no weight with Paul and his Fremen forces.*



*This time, Paul uses direct communication with the powerful Guild to force his authority. Once more, his control of Arrakeen spice resources is the key power play that allows him to neutralize the Guild's threats.*



*The Reverend Mother's dramatic reaction to Paul's firm refusal of Bene Gesserit influence over his actions as Kwisatz Haderach acknowledges the sisterhood's failure in spending 40 generations to carefully attempt to produce a powerful yet puppet human savior they can manipulate to control the Imperium.*



Next, Paul turns his attention to Princess Irulan. He addresses her politely and formally, suggesting that there is an obvious solution to the bloodshed and manipulation. Irulan agrees and is willing to marry Paul, but the Emperor will not have it. While Reverend Mother Mohiam tries to convince him, Paul comforts Chani that despite this marriage to Irulan, Chani is his only beloved.

Paul and Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen exchange words, and Feyd-Rautha invokes the right of single combat against Paul due to the *kanly* (formal feud between Great Houses) between the Atrides and Harkonnen families. Paul accepts, with his people unsure why he so easily takes on this great risk. As the room rearranges itself for the combat, Paul thinks on the meaning of this moment in time. He is resigned to the fate of a Fremen holy war that will occur in his name whether he leads it or not. He is also the “race consciousness” of the Kwisatz Haderach who can see the doom of humankind and knows that it needs to shake itself out of destruction through new mixed gene pools for stronger peoples.

Paul asks his “cousin” if he is ready to fight; indeed, Feyd-Rautha is excited by what he sees as a sure win over the “yokel Duke.” The Reverend Mother Mohiam trembles as she realizes that Paul knows his maternal grandfather’s heritage that the Bene Gesserit kept hidden all of Lady Jessica and Paul’s lives. She is terrified at the outcome of two Bene Gesserit “end products” now fighting each other to death.

As the two men circle each other, Feyd-Rautha is exceedingly confident in his taunts and knife thrusts. Paul wonders if a possible opening on Feyd-Rautha’s left side is actually a trap with a flip-dart hidden in the Harkonnen’s girdle. Paul’s suspicions prove true: it is a feint within a feint, as the flip-dart is hidden on the opposite side to where Feyd-Rautha lures Paul. There is further treachery with a muscle-slowing soporific on the Harkonnen’s borrowed blade that belongs to the Padishah Emperor. Finally, though, after a well-matched fight (except for Feyd-Rautha’s deceit), Paul gains the upper hand and kills the Harkonnen.

*The younger generation are more adept and practical in political negotiations than the previously all-powerful Imperial and Bene Gesserit leaders. Paul affirms his personal commitment to Chani but will not retract his marriage offer to Irulan because of its political advantage.*



*Paul once more surprises his supporters with his desire to take great risks during his leadership. As he prepares for battle with the lethal Feyd-Rautha, Paul once more finds himself distracted by his “terrible purpose” in both destroying and saving humanity.*



*Like his uncle, Feyd-Rautha arrogantly underestimates the power of the desert in having trained Paul and the Fremen into formidable opponents. Meanwhile, the Reverend Mother despairs further when she realizes that the two final male heirs of the Atrides and Harkonnen Houses that the Bene Gesserit sisterhood has genetically cultivated for so long are about to fight each other to the death—once again, Paul Atrides is the undoing of countless years of Bene Gesserit planning.*



*Unsurprisingly, Feyd-Rautha rigs his fight. Like Baron Harkonnen, he plots complex layers of deceit to trap his enemies. However, Paul is able to draw on his training to defeat his cousin. Feyd-Rautha’s death ends House Harkonnen and one of the Bene Gesserit’s most important assets, unless Lady Fenring was earlier successful in conceiving a child with Feyd-Rautha.*



Seeing Paul's impressive triumph in besting Feyd-Rautha, Emperor Shaddam IV turns to his most trusted friend and member of household, telling Count Hasimir Fenring to kill Paul at once and using any means possible while the young Duke is spent from the fight. Count Fenring and Paul look at one another and Paul realizes why he has never seen the man in his dreams and visions—the Count is an almost-Kwisatz Haderach, undermined by his genetic anomaly as a eunuch. Count Fenring has instead turned his considerable talents into a secretive and introspective existence. Through their momentary connection of brotherhood, Fenring can feel Paul's deep sympathy for him. For the first time in his life, the Count opposes the Emperor's orders, stating "Majesty, I must refuse."

The Padishah Emperor is enraged by Count Fenring's betrayal and hits him across the face. Paul starts to set out his terms to take the throne—as well as allowing Paul to marry Princess Irulan, the Emperor will step down from the throne and move to live on Salusa Secundus. When the Emperor complains that Paul breaks his bond of safe negotiations, Paul states that he keeps his bond—but Muad'Dib is not beholden to it. Paul also predicts that the Fremen will be able to terraform Arrakis into a paradise and that he cannot stop the Fremen holy crusade that will one day sweep across the Imperium.

As dowry, Paul demands the Pashidah Emperor's entire CHOAM holdings and titles, as well as holdings for Gurney Halleck and all other surviving members of House Atreides. Jessica considers that she may like to live on Caladan again one day, and Paul claims that he will be making Stilgar the governor of Arrakis. When asked, Chani says that she wants for nothing. She is still saddened by her grief and Paul's marriage of politics. He reassures her again that she is he is hers and hers alone, and that they will bear more children together. Jessica assures Chani that history will remember them as Atreides "wives" despite their status as concubines.

*Faced with one of the most dangerous threats that could end his life, Paul's compassion rather than his impressive powers is his saving grace. Paul and Count Fenring are men of great power in their own right and can empathize with one another's weighty and lonely existences. This fleeting connection is intense enough for Count Fenring to betray his lifetime of loyalty to the Padishah Emperor.*



*The Padishah Emperor is not only shocked by Fenring's betrayal after a lifetime of loyal service; he knows that he has run out of options to defeat Paul and maintain his Imperial rule. Paul shows a ruthless side when he manipulates his various leadership titles to state that his Fremen persona, Muad'Dib, made no such promise of safe negotiations.*



*Jessica's comments demonstrate she has come to accept Duke Leto's decision to never marry her, instead keeping her as his concubine—a political marriage is too advantageous to give up for love. Paul's daring plans all come to fruition—he now commands the Guild and has defeated the Emperor and House Harkonnen, thus securing a political marriage to Princess Irulan and effectively taking over Imperial rule. Paul rewards his most loyal supporters with prestigious new titles and wealth; his new authority now allows the Fremen their collective dream of altering the Arrakeen climate to better their future generations. However, the novel's conclusion ends ominously—once more the narrator reminds readers that Paul cannot prevent the predetermined Fremen holy crusade that will cause galactic destruction in his name.*



## APPENDIX I

This appendix details "the ecology of Dune." It is heavily focused on the story of Pardot Kynes, Arrakis's first planetologist. The appendix begins with an epigraph by Pardot Kynes in which he considers the kind of existence available when humans increase in number in a finite environment.

*The subject of ecology as the first appendix indicates Frank Herbert's growing concern at the real-world detrimental environmental impacts of humans—increasing exponentially due to humanity's growing population.*





Pardot Kynes is fixated on the potential for Fremen—an indigenous and hardy Arrakeen society—to reshape the environment on Arrakis to suit their wants and needs. He is single-minded in his desire to terraform Arrakis into a lush and “man-healthy” planet. To aid this mission, he marries a Fremen woman and begins teaching Fremen children (including his own child Liet-Kynes) the ecological awareness that they require to be able to reshape Arrakeen landscapes to suit their needs and desires.

Earlier, though, Pardot Kynes had to gain Fremen trust. Upon arriving on Arrakis and realizing its potential, the planetologist was shocked to find Harkonnen soldiers killing indigenous Fremen. Because he valued the Fremen as the human instruments that would alter Arrakeen ecology systems, Pardot Kynes killed Harkonnen troops when he came upon them harming Fremen youths. This earned him respect from Fremen youths, but he had to work much harder to prove himself to the Fremen communities he was now allowed access to. A combination of religious belief and circumstance finally earned him total respect and even worship from the Fremen.

Pardot Kynes set about ensuring that the Fremen started to infiltrate the oppressive Harkonnen’s governing system on Arrakis. They also upgraded technologies and began a complex series of small experiments to test the possibilities of ecological change on Arrakis. Specifically, the return of open bodies of surface **water** to the planet would be a catalyst for lush ecological change. Pardot Kynes estimated that Arrakis would not become a “paradise” for “three hundred to five hundred years,” with the Fremen staunch in their commitment to this long-term intention.

Central to the problem of collecting and storing **water** was the fact that the planet’s water was mostly blocked off by small organic beings living deep under the land’s surface. Therefore, Pardot Kynes had to devise a plan that would start making minute changes to the ecosystem with organic materials that could support their own life in the arid sandscapes.

Beginning small, Pardot Kynes directed the Fremen to plant grasses on dune faces to anchor the sand. This caused the dunes to grow on windward faces, and planting was increased to match this, resulting in some sand dunes reaching more than 1,500 meters in height. Next, the Fremen planted sturdier vegetation that helped environments flourish enough to support animal life. Finally, they introduced more than two hundred plants and trees that were food sources. Then, they observed whether their carefully selected elements would sustain a fluid yet stable ecosystem.

*The narrator showcases Pardot Kynes as an ecologist who dedicated his life to improving the Arrakeen climate for Fremen society’s benefit. His actions suggested that he believed the education of future generations was key for this change.*



*Kynes valued ecology more than human life, only dedicating his cause to improving Fremen society because he knew that he needed their support to help him improve the Arrakeen ecology. He gained Fremen trust by mixing religion with politics—a dangerous combination that the Bene Gesserit sisterhood warn Paul Atreides about often in the events of Dune.*



*Upon arriving to the desert planet, Kynes immediately realized that collecting and storing water—the rarest resource on Arrakis—was the solution to changing the climate. The planetologist and the Fremen showed intense individual and collective discipline in dedicating their lives toward the cause of terraforming Arrakis. Kynes instigated small social and environmental changes that would have exponential positive effects in later Fremen generations.*



*Despite the many complex challenges that faced Kynes in his attempt to terraform the Arrakeen deserts, he demonstrated innovation and resilience in finding ways to advance his mission.*



*The narrator demonstrates Kynes’s leadership in educating the Fremen about how to slowly build advantageous changes in desert environments.*



During this time, Pardot Kynes had to manage many issues that threatened the success of a terraformed Arrakis. He responded to problems and unexpected outcomes in the experimental environments that the Fremen cultivated, and bribed the Guild to prevent satellites from viewing certain areas of Arrakis in order for Fremen activity to escape the Imperial gaze.

Fremen activity continued in “building, planting, digging, training the children.” Then Pardot Kynes was unexpectedly killed in a cave-in. His 19-year-old Fremen son, Liet-Kynes, was well-trained as a planetologist and took over the mission to terraform Arrakis. His mission was progressing well “until the day his planet was afflicted by a Hero.”

*Pardot Kynes’s foresight in bribing the Guild to ignore Fremen activity on Arrakis will prove crucial to Paul Atrides’s rise to the Imperial throne with the support of his powerful Fremen army.*



*In Dune’s narrative, Liet-Kynes plays a key role in educating and leading Fremen, as well as saving Paul Atrides from Harkonnen forces. By aiding Paul, Liet-Kynes becomes distracted from the Fremen dream to terraform Arrakis and this leads to his early death at the hands of House Harkonnen.*



## APPENDIX II

This appendix details the origins and history of “the religion of Dune” before the coming of Muad’Dib.

Firstly, the narrator describes the dominant religious faiths in the Imperium before Muad’Dib’s ascendancy to the Imperial throne. The widespread followers of the Fourteen Sages follow the Orange Catholic Bible’s teachings. There are also many Ancient Teachings practiced widely and based on Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu origins. The Bene Gesserit order is an elite sisterhood founded on religious mysticism and ritual. There is also an agnostic ruling class who view religion as a tool to distract the masses.

There is a fifth religion that stands on its own: space travel. Early interstellar travel troubled ancient notions of Creation, with Genesis re-interpreted to ensure belief of God could exist alongside findings from space exploration. At this time, “sorceresses” also began to gain real power.

The Butlerian Jihad is one of the most significant events in the Imperium’s history. It was sparked by religious and political outrage over “the god of machine-logic” and resulted in the destruction of and total ban of all computers and similar “thinking machines.”

*Religion is a theme that pervades Dune’s narrative and is closely linked to the themes of power and myth.*



*The many different religions offers insight into the workings of Dune, particularly regarding the the mysterious Bene Gesserit sisterhood and the aristocratic Landsraad structure.*



*Space travel as religion is a strange human concept that arose in the Imperium due to a need to reconcile other planets with Christianity’s Creation story. In Dune, the Guild wield god-like powers because all humans rely on them for interstellar travel.*



*Among many outcomes, the Butlerian Jihad resulted in the creation of Mentats—valuable human beings with the computer-like power to process vast information at impressive speed. The Mentats Thufir Hawat and Piter de Vries are key characters in Dune.*



In the aftermath of the violent crusade, religious leaders came together to discuss their beliefs. The agnostic Guild, beginning to gain influence through its growth toward a monopoly over space travel, attended such meetings. So did the Bene Gesserit, who were networking with the sorceresses.

From these meetings, it was agreed that all religions had a common mandate that “thou shalt not disfigure the soul.” The Commission of Ecumenical Translators was also formed as a result of the meetings, with representatives from all the major religious faiths. Its purpose was to prevent aggressive religious forces from using the weapon of “the claim to possession of the one and only revelation.” However, the Commission proved ineffective and soon became a ridiculed organization throughout the Imperium.

Some years later, the Commission of Ecumenical Translators stated that it was producing a book in its efforts to prevent a religious crusade such as the Butlerian Jihad from occurring again. However, their statement that “We are producing an instrument of Love to be played in all ways” resulted in violent riots that killed close to eighty million people. The narrator explains that these events reflect the Imperium’s “psychological tone” and “deep uncertainties” in “striving for something better, plus the fear that nothing would come of it all.” Only the stability of the Guild, the Bene Gesserit, and the Landsraad prevented total lawlessness.

Despite the unrest, the Commission of Ecumenical Translators spent seven years developing a great text. Finally, they revealed the completed Orange Catholic Bible and its Commentaries as “a way to make humanity aware of itself as a total creation of God.” Reception to the Orange Catholic Bible was at first enormously successful, and the Commission became revered rather than ridiculed. The Orange Catholic Bible spread throughout the universe. However, when the Commission’s delegates returned to their respective congregations, many were killed and even more recanted. The Orange Catholic Bible was accused as a text produced by “the hubris of reason”; numerous changes were made to the text to indulge popular bias.

The Commission of Ecumenical Translators Chairman Toure Bomoko admitted that the Commission had failed to prevent ancient narrow-minded religious beliefs from causing harm that could escalate into another violent crusade. He stated that the Commission should not have tried to produce new religious symbols, or “introduce uncertainties into accepted belief,” because this was doomed to fail.

*The violent Butlerian Jihad gave rise to new galactic powers, just as the predetermined Fremen holy crusade will alter the Imperium’s power dynamics. The narrator demonstrates that history and human nature is cyclical.*



*The new command not to “disfigure the soul,” as accepted by all religions, demonstrates humanity’s fear of computers and thinking machines that originally resulted in the Butlerian Jihad. The soul is proof of humanity as opposed to artificial intelligence.*



*Religion gave rise to terrible violence across the Imperium that greatly influences the various organizations and societies in Dune. The narrator closely ties religion, a form of power due to its influence over people, to violent destruction.*



*Although popularly received by the masses, the Orange Catholic Bible’s spread results in widespread death—another example of violence coexisting with religious power.*



*Once again, the narrator emphasizes that religion is closely linked to the threat of violence.*



Turning to consider Muad'Dib, the narrator relates the different ways that various groups in the Imperium prophesized and explained his practically unchecked religious and cognitive powers. Muad'Dib likely met such success within Fremen culture because of the Arrakis inhabitants' reliance on religious superstitions due to their harsh desert lifestyles.

*In Dune, Paul Atreides is able to manipulate Fremen religious prophecy—as embedded generations earlier by the Bene Gesserit program—to gain fanatic support from the powerful Fremen. Religion is vital to Paul's assumption of the mantles of Lisan al-Gaib, Kwisatz Haderach, and Imperial ruler.*



### APPENDIX III

This appendix details a “report on Bene Gesserit motives and purpose.” The narrator introduces it by noting that Lady Jessica commissioned the report directly after the “Arrakis Affair.” The document is noted as being extremely honest in tone.

*Lady Jessica's purpose in commissioning the report is to likely learn more about her son's new identity as the Bene Gesserit Kwisatz Haderach.*



Despite the Bene Gesserit order's significant influence over the Imperium, the matriarchal program was guilty of error on the subject of Paul Atreides. They wrongly dismiss him as the wrong identity for their prophesized messianic figure, the Kwisatz Haderach. Their error fell particularly on assuming that one of their members, Lady Jessica, would abide by the Bene Gesserit's wish that she bears Duke Leto Atreides a daughter. Instead, without truly knowing why, she chose to birth a son.

*Bene Gesserit sisters are trained on the core value of giving total service and acquiescence to their order's mission. Lady Jessica's stand of defiance in birthing a boy is notable because no other Bene Gesserit member has rejected a superior order so explicitly. Jessica's actions are also striking because they facilitate the birth of the Kwisatz Haderach, whom the Bene Gesserit have been trying to engineer for 40 generations.*



The Bene Gesserit ignored further warnings that Paul Atreides would become the Kwisatz Haderach: that he demonstrated the gift of foresight from a young age; that he withstood the **gom jabbar** test to a greater degree than any other; that the Fremen hailed him as their own prophesized messiah; and that the Guild had visions of issues pertaining to Paul and his Fremen. The report concludes that the sum of these elements suggests that there is a higher power than the Bene Gesserit in the Imperium, which they are completely unaware of.

*The report writer's conclusion that there is an unknown higher power in Dune's universe is never picked up in the novel. Indeed, the narrator outlines Paul Atreides as the Bene Gesserit Kwisatz Haderach as being the highest power in the narrative.*



### APPENDIX IV

This appendix details selected excerpts about the noble Houses of Dune. The first entry discusses the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV of House Corrino. His rule is most significant for the “Arrakis Revolt,” which historians ascribe to his poor court politics. The Emperor's wife died some years earlier, and he has five daughters and no sons.

*The Great Houses are essential to the events of Dune because they create the political structure that controls the Imperium. The Padishah Emperor's poor political strategy and lack of sons means that the Corrino line of male heirs ends when Paul defeats him. However, the Corrino daughters are able to continue the genetic bloodline.*



The next entries discuss three members of House Atreides. Firstly, Duke Leto Atreides (also known as the “Red Duke”) successfully ruled his ancestral planet Caladan for twenty years until reassigned to the planet Arrakis. Shortly after moving to the desert planet, he was betrayed by a household member and died at the hands of Baron Vladimir Harkonnen. Next, Lady Jessica is acknowledged as a member of the Bene Gesserit order, daughter of Baron Harkonnen, and mother of Paul Atreides. Lady Alia Atreides is listed as Paul’s sister, born to Lady Jessica on Arrakis after Duke Leto’s death. The Bene Gesserit call her the “Accursed One” because of her exposure to intense **spice** levels while in the womb.

Baron Vladimir Harkonnen is the head of House Harkonnen, which has successfully exploited the whale fur and melange markets to gain prosperity and power despite an ancestor shaming the House to a poor reputation and prospects during the Battle of Corrin. The Baron died during the Arrakis Revolt, with his title passing briefly to nephew Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen.

A maternal cousin of House Corrin, Count Hasimir Fenring is the Emperor Shaddam IV’s closest companion. His work for the Emperor included duties as an Imperial Agent during the Harkonnen rule on that planet; the Emperor later assigned him to govern Caladan. Count Fenring later joined the Emperor “in retirement on Salusa Secundus.”

Count Glossu Rabban was the Baron Harkonnen’s eldest nephew—a son of the Baron’s younger half-brother. Count Rabban’s brother was Feyd-Rautha Rabban, who reclaimed the Harkonnen name when selected for the Baron’s household.

*The narrator’s extensive detail about House Atreides and House Harkonnen matches with the focus on Paul Atreides and Baron Harkonnen as the respective protagonist and antagonist in Dune.*



*Baron Harkonnen is clever enough to win back prestige despite the shame his House endures during a historic battle. The Baron relies on deceit and corruption to gain this power.*



*Count Fenring is a minor character in Dune’s narrative, but each of his scenes are extremely important—in fact, he is revealed as one of the most powerful characters in the Imperium due to his Mentat and Bene Gesserit skills.*



*Rabban, a minor character in the events of Dune, is best known for his cruel rule as the Harkonnen governor on Arrakis.*





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