

Chapterhouse: Dune Study Guide

Chapterhouse: Dune by Frank Herbert

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Plot Summary

Facing annihilation from the fearsome Honored Matres, the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood struggles for ways to blunt their power. In the process, they learn about conditions in the Scattering, reexamine historic ways of looking at life and turn lush Chapterhouse into a new Dune able to support sandworms. A small group of malcontents lead by Sheeana and Duncan Idaho spirit worms off to a world that no one can trace. This promises to create interesting new patterns.

Facing annihilation by the Honored Matres, the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood hides on Chapterhouse and looks for solutions to problems. One is to prepare again for service, the great Bashar Miles Teg, who dies on Rakis/Dune, is reborn a gholia and is maturing. As more Bene Gesserit planets fall, more cells are sent into Scattering. Reverend Mother Lucilla is surrendered to the Grand Honored Matre, who plays cat-and-mouse with her before killing her. Sheeana, the desert waif from Dune, has become a Reverend Mother and is watching for worms to emerge. Murbella, the captive Honored Matre postulant, has bonded with Duncan Idaho and is nearing the Spice Agony. Odrade hunts to search for weaknesses to exploit in "Spider Queen," when a disgraced Reverend Mother arrives from Buzzell, and they concoct a means of drawing the Honored Matres into discussions. Odrade orders desertification accelerated and places wild Sheeana on the Council. Murbella gives birth, while Sheeana awakens Teg's memories, a coincidence that usefully keeps Idaho off-balance. Word comes that Spider Queen will accept Odrade's surrender on Junction, so Teg and Idaho prepare for war. Murbella undergoes a terrible Spice Agony, experiences a typical manic period and distances emotionally from Idaho. The Battle of Gammu is a feint to get the Honored Matres and their allies to flee to Junction, where the main battle is fought. Before the onslaught, Odrade seeks to understand Dama's psyche and motivations - which appear to be pure greed - and is shocked to see her murdered by her aide, Logno.

Murbella descends on Junction with an Honored Matre's hauteur and violence. She shares memories with her slain teacher, kills the killer and demands that both sisterhoods accept her sole leadership. Back on Junction, she lays out plans to gradually integrate the Honored Matres. Idaho and Sheeana take small worms and assorted passengers aboard the reactivated no-ship on a flight into the unknown. Sheeana may head a new religion. Odrade seems amused inside Murbella's busy head. An old farm couple, who Idaho sees a few times in the novel, appear at the end, having failed to capture the fleeing group and revealing they are free Face Dancers.



Pages 1-50

Pages 1-50 Summary

Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade and others celebrate the first gholia baby, Miles Teg while Honored Matres are hunting the Sisterhood to extinction. They need Teg's abilities and memories. The sisterhood must abandon some worlds to the Matres. On Junction, Reverend Mother Sabanda dies under questioning; her body is fed to captive Futar humanoids. Teg shows brilliance and studies the Bashars. He is told he is a gholia, which explains why he has memories he cannot yet access. Odrade lectures Teg on the ways of the Sisterhood and their role as stewards of the land. Teg sense the cycle of the sandworms to sandtrout to melange and back again. Teg is admonished not to forget Dune or the house of Atreides.

Logno, senior aide to the Great Honored Matre Dama, is terrified by the Matre and her quarters and wishes she had the courage to poison her. The two discuss their need for more weapons and their next target. Dama has "The Weapon," but she nor the Ixians understand how to use it.

Odrade has a "deep desire for personal affinities." Her Atreides genes gives her prescience; the gift is only used to warn of danger to the Sisterhood. Odrade's greatest concerns are Sheenana's use as a religious weapon or the use of Idaho or Teg, neither of whom should exist. Odrade dreams about danger and if she falls, the Sisterhood also falls. A "no-ship" is in space outside the Sisterhood chapterhouse, and has been there for years. Inside live Scytale, the last surviving Tleilaxu Master, Murbella, and Idaho. While Odrade views the projection of the no-ship, her second, Bell, enters and tells of the 10 billion killed by the Matres on Lampadas. They lose several important personages. Odrade will miss Bell when Odrade replaces her with Sheenana when the younger woman is fully trained.

Before she dies, Lucilla wants to pass along the precious burden in her mind and contacts a Rabbi of the "Hidden Israel" about getting her off Lampadas. The Rabbi returns and offers her a deal: he will get the information she has off-planet and in return, give Lucilla up to the Matres in order to protect his people. Lucilla agrees and Rebecca enters to receive the information through mind communication.

Pages 1-50 Analysis

Chapterhouse: Dune opens with the Bene Gesserit facing dangers greater than under Leto II. It opens years after the closing of Heretics of Dune, when the new Mother Superior, Darwi Odrade, spirits to safety on Chapterhouse the gholia Duncan Idaho, Sheenana, Murbella, Lucilla, and a worm of the doomed planet Rakis. Odrade's biological father, Miles Teg, the Sisterhood's greatest military hero ever, perishes in the onslaught, but she harvests cells to be regrown into the first Bene Gesserit gholia. Here,

he is seen gaining knowledge and dedication to the Sisterhood's survival. Chapterhouse is turning into a new Dune.

Daily, Odrade faces crises on Bene Gesserit planets, the most recent being the destruction of Lampadas, the Sisterhood's premier school, with the apparent loss of Lucilla. In fact, Lucilla escapes but gets no further than Gammu, where she receives sanctuary from a Rabbi, a representative of "Secret Israel," with which the Sisterhood has cooperated since time immemorial. Never before in the Dune series has Herbert dealt with a historic religion, and he continues examining the idea of the "Chosen," which in *Heretics* he embodies in the Bene Tleilaxu. Rebecca, a Jew who has undergone the Agony, accepts doomed Lucilla's memories before she is surrendered to the Honored Matres. The Honored Matres, meanwhile, are shown having suffered a setback and need help from the Ixians in rearming to continue their conquests.



Pages 51-104

Pages 51-104 Summary

Sheeana is being marketed as "Holy Sheeana," a herald of Leto II's return as God Emperor. Sheeana and Idaho are close, but he is not her consort; she sexually bonds males that Idaho trains. Sheeana wants to shape her own life even if she loses Sisterhood respect. Odrade's highest priority is scattering as many Bene Gesserit cells as possible before the axe falls. Odrade wonders about Idaho's abilities and memories. Bell and Odrade discuss the Matre's means of sexual bondage. Tam is angry at Scytale withholding vital information, and Odrade suspects the Tleilaxu is cleverer than thought. The Tleilaxu have dirtied the Sisterhood with axlotl tanks, but the Sisterhood need the ghola. Many acolytes are fleeing the Matres' arrival and Odrade scorns those who worry about Idaho's Mentat abilities. Murbella knows she will be forced to give up Idaho.

Rebecca worries the Matre will see her Bene Gesserit identity and had tried to explain to the Rabbi how simuflow works. The Rabbi declares the Bene Gesserit are still not illuminated and doubts they work for the benefit of humankind. Rebecca is questioned by the Grand Honored Matre, but is not trapped into saying the wrong thing. She asks for menial employment and is sent home to Gammu. Lucilla-within interprets: she is bait for something larger, and Rebecca wonders why the whores reveal so many little things. Back on Gammu, the Rabbi does not share Rebecca's enthusiasm for Lampadas' survival and sees her more Bene Gesserit than ever, and unclean, but he has taught her that there are no innocents, even among the Jews.

Idaho wonders what the Reverend Mothers think, and though Idaho is free to do as he pleases within his boundaries, he does want to escape. He believes he is the Matres' prime target and once the Sisters realize he is a Mentat, they will suspect he is a Kwisatz Haderach. Idaho needs his Mentat ability to deal with Murbella. Bell, who wants Idaho dead, is proof that Reverend Mothers rarely make good Mentats, for the Spice Agony bonds them to the Sisterhood. Idaho often has a vision of an old couple in rural setting. Odrade asks Idaho why he is not at his console. He reacts angrily at his lack of privacy, but Odrade claims to need Murbella (who is again pregnant). Idaho declares he is not another Kwisatz Haderach and says the Sisters are drawing down spice stockpiles to dangerous levels. As Odrade contemplates what questions to ask, Idaho seeks patterns about the Tleilaxu, who are second only to the Bene Gesserit in knowing the cosmos. Sheeana faces a dangerous which Idaho can lessen. He requests unlimited data access in return and agrees to be Odrade's Mentat.

Scytale knows that the truthsayers cannot read him and that his time to face God's test has come. Scytale holds the seed cells of fellow Masters, Face Dancers, specialists and an ancient Atreides entourage in his chest. He says the Bene Gesserit seldom scatter dirt. Odrade refuses to discuss with Scytale why she draws the whores to destroy Dune. Odrade takes Scytale on walks outside the ship in exchange for a tiny bit of information and tries to bribe him to talk. He thinks of Bene Gesserit characteristics: they act like



parents, neither love nor hate, and see themselves as teachers. Scytale suggest the Matres and Bene Gesserit are alike. Odrade intends to punish the Honored Matres. Back in the no-ship, Scytale sees Idaho and thinks he must have access to a console as a Mentat.

Pages 51-104 Analysis

Sheeana is watching for worms to emerge out of the desert that has been expanding for eight years, while Odrade devotes her time to launching Sisters towards other worlds with all the tools to replicate Chapterhouse and keep the Order alive. Murbella's blinding speed, a characteristic of Honored Matres training, intrigues the Sisters, but few believe she will become a Reverend Mother. Her sexual "collisions" with Idaho (resulting in a fourth pregnancy) and Sheeana's "polishing" males trained by Idaho are dangerously arousing the novices

Meanwhile, on Junction, Rebecca faces the Grand Honored Matre and makes some useful mental notes. Recollections of her late husband's lessons in Truthsay, a discipline akin to Mentat logic, show Rebecca how to convince Grand Honored Matre to return her alive to Gammu. There, she argues with the Rabbi about cooperating with the Bene Gesserit. Reference to Lidiche, a Czech village destroyed during World War II in retribution for the murder of a Nazi official, like an earlier reference to a 20th-century Spanish-American philosopher are departures for Herbert, who thus far in the Dune series has maintained that memories of Old Earth - including its location - are long lost. The references to "Gadarene swine," not being another Jesus and the road to Damascus are odd for a Rabbi, all coming from the Christian New Testament and, again, are remarkably detailed.

Finally, in the no-ship on Chapterhouse, Idaho and Scytale both grow antsy in confinement. Idaho worries that the Sisterhood will discover his powers, but is relieved when Odrade admits knowing he is a Mentat, and he convinces her to provide him access to data in order to serve her. He, of course, has his own reason for wanting access. Note the vision of the old farm couple, which reoccurs throughout the novel. Scytale's great treasure is the "nullentropy" capsule implanted in his chest. It preserves cells from a multitude of people, including the great figures in the early Dune novels. Scytale is a religious zealot, the last of his kind, disbelieving Odrade's sincerity about the Great Belief, and looking for some way to escape. He knows that there is more hidden in Idaho than has come out and looks forward to communicating with him directly.



Pages 105-148

Pages 105-148 Summary

Lucilla is brought into the Grand Matre's presence suffering both hunger and melange withdrawal. She wants to either kill herself or provoke the Grand Matre into doing so, but the voices in her head admonish her saying the Sisterhood needs her knowledge about strategy. Lucilla uses a combination of obscenity and charm with the Grand Matre and is rewarded with food and melange. Grand Matre admits that Bene Gesserit science interests her. Lucilla continues to attempt to provoke the Grand Matre, who flares orange briefly, but controls herself. Grand Matre asks about Leto II's prescience.

Odrade dines in the Acolyte Hall to learn of the group and who has potential. The Acolytes wonder why Odrade is there; some resent her being the one to have gathered Taraza's persona and thus being elected Mother Superior, following Taraza whom many believe was the best in history. An intermediate third stage acolyte clears her throat twice waiting for permission to speak to Odrade, who has been musing about Sheenana and Murbella. The acolyte introduces herself as Aloana Streggi and speaks of a report she (Aloana) wrote. Odrade makes a quip using a pun on the word Streggi. She offers Aloana the task of being the young Teg's "horse," i.e., carrying him around. Odrade thinks to herself that she is going to have Idaho restore Teg's memories.

Murbella struggles to overcome the poor training from the Matres and live up to the Sisterhood's standards. Murbella still sometimes thinks of herself as an Honored Matre. Idaho finds Murbella and thinking she is sick, communicates for a doctor, who arrives and says Murbella is overstraining herself. Odrade observes that Honored Matres training has left Murbella incapable of making decisions.

Odrade and Bell prowls Central, talking about searching out new galaxies for colonization. They encounter a sister examining data about the melange stores, which are critically low and Odrade realizes she needs to hide the situation. Odrade also realizes that the Sisterhood is too entrenched in tradition and they need to change.

Bell mentions Idaho's dangerous multiple memories, but Odrade's mind is wandering, but Odrade comes back to the present when Bell states that Idaho should not serve as a mentat if he cannot be killed if he shows signs of being a Kwisatz Haderach. Odrade supports Idaho's mentat status and thinks she needs some younger aides. When Odrade is again alone, she realizes that it is time to put more pressure on the Honored Matres, who must be driven to extremis. Odrade decides to send Teg to the no-ship for Idaho to restore his memories.

Scytale whistles to get people accustomed to hearing it. Odrade wants Scytale alive and strong. Scytale vows to make these "women of Shaitan" pay dearly.



Pages 105-148 Analysis

Lucilla confronts Grand Honored Matre and finds no intellectual contest. Voices within argue she must not die, having too much to report to Chapterhouse. Over dinner with the acolytes, who help ground her in reality, Odrade finds an able new assistant, as her old advisers are proving useless. Murbella is struggling to put away her Honored Matres trainings, which sticks like glue, and appears to be taking the Bene Gesserit oath to heart. An inspection with Bell and Tam convinces Odrade that the Bene Gesserit patterns are too obvious and a bold new approach must be taken. She will have Idaho restore the young ghola's original memories, and Streggi will be the Bashar's human horse to carry him around his command rapidly. Finally, Scytale, too, comes to a revelation of how he will triumph over the Bene Gesserit who hold him captive.



Pages 149-205

Pages 149-205 Summary

Odrade knows there is a Bene Gesserit conscience; when Odrade asks who and what am I, Other Memories interfere. Odrade sees how close she is to losing her humanity. There are things a Reverend Mother will not do to save the Sisterhood. Odrade has not sought power; it is thrust on her. All who seek power are corruptible. Everything has a political element and the "separation of church and state" is a lie. The whole universe is searching for answers and mentats only find more questions. Only Reverend Mothers carry the original tradition, which they cannot force on unwilling people. That is why the Tyrant preserves the Bene Gesserit and why Odrade must now get to work.

Dortujla, an elderly Reverend Mother banished years ago finds Chapterhouse and reports that she has met 16 Futars and four Handlers, who want to ally against the Honored Matres, and who possess a secret weapon that can only be fired once. An alliance could take the Bene Gesserit to wherever the Honored Matres originated. Dortujla interests Odrade and Dortujla's demeanor is beyond reproach.

Dortujla's punishment planet is home to soostones, the most valued jewels in the universe. Dortujla intends to return and spread rumors she has been banished, hoping to tempt the Honored Matres into negotiations. If the Honored Matres suggest meeting on Junction, Dortujla is to agree.

On day 17, of her captivity, Lucilla wakes at dawn and provokes the Grand Honored Matre. They speak of politics and original instincts and laws. Grand Honored Matre is defensive when they talk about power corrupting, but Lucilla says that only Dama can accuse herself. The Bene Gesserit believe in morality above any law. Lucilla says the Bene Gesserit practice democracy and explains how their democracy works. Unfortunately, Lucilla insults Grand Matre and the Grand Matre reacts quickly, killing Lucilla.

Bell tells Odrade that the sisters see her as indecisive, and the Proctors are voting on whether to replace her.

Odrade replies that she is thinking actions through carefully. She decides to push for a meeting on Junction. Tam tells Odrade that she wins the Proctors' confidence vote by one. Odrade goes to her bed, visualizing the "Spider Queen," the Grand Honored Matre. She mulls over the actions of the Honored Matres and wonders why they have become so merciless. Murbella helps Odrade understand the Honored Matres and Odrade understands them and pities them.

Idaho and the gholas are on the no-ship's practice floor, surrounded by sophisticated equipment in preparation for Idaho's restoration of Teg's memories. Idaho wonders why it must be done so quickly but is reassured by Odrade that any mistakes can be



corrected, though Odrade tells Idaho to be cautious. Teg is restless and Idaho orders him to be still. Idaho begins the process of restoration, first preparing Teg mentally and physically.

Murbella watches the process and knows Odrade is correct that Murbella has outgrown Honored Matres' views. Idaho is diverging from the correct process for awakening memories and tells Murbella that they must see Sheeana to find a better way to awaken Teg. Idaho contemplates the elderly couple he sometimes sees in a vision and senses they are Face Dancers. Idaho sees himself as a succession of faces at varying ages but a single consciousness that observes and makes choices. Idaho tells Odrade he has been thinking like an Honored Matre about how to overcome the Bene Gesserit. The Honored Matres are being hunted.

Few Reverend Mothers admit to melange addiction, but Odrade does and feels obliged to warn Streggi about it. Streggi notes that Odrade does not refer to them as whores, like the acolytes, who feel their fortress threatened. Odrade wonders what "better way" there is to restore Teg's memories. Odrade makes Bell start working on the pile of paperwork and decisions Bell left on Odrade's desk. Odrade is concerned at not hearing from the Rabbi or Dortujla but leaves everything to Bell as Odrade leaves to go to Sheeana.

Pages 149-205 Analysis

Facing a challenge to her leadership within the Sisterhood, Odrade forces herself to envision a Honored Matres, whom she labels "Spider Queen," in order to search for some weakness to exploit. She is growing convinced that Leto II has no destination for his vaunted Golden Path. A break comes when a disgraced Reverend Mother arrives from Buzzell (earlier mentioned as an Honored Matres' target), with an offer of alliance from the Scattering. Dortujla and Odrade prepare to serve as bait to catch the bloody rivals. Note how Odrade's attitude toward the rebellious Sister fits in with her growing skepticism of how the Bene Gesserit is facing reality.

Herbert indulges himself in a favorite topic, having Lucilla face the Grand Honored Matre in an extended discussion of power and politics (a topic that also engages Odrade's mind in this section), and is doing well - shown in her italicized mental commentary - until a slip of the lip gets her impulsively killed. Van Gogh's Cottages at Cordeville returns in a rather confusing sequence, whose meaning is clarified later in the novel. Idaho's training of Teg makes frequent reference to the Bashar's reawakening his own memories on Gammu in *Heretics of Dune*. Idaho is loath to use pain on the boy and seeks a "better way." His vision of the kindly old couple returns and he contemplates possible meanings. This process continues through the novel. Young Streggi provides an audience for Odrade's mulling over the pluses and minuses of melange addiction (and narcotics more broadly).



Pages 206-252

Pages 206-252 Summary

Rebecca, the Rabbi, and other Jews are buried in a no-chamber hiding from the Honored Matres. Rebecca muses about God and thinks God should mature with its worshipers. Rebecca enjoys learning from the Lampadas horde she holds in her mind.

Idaho is enjoying the game he plays with the sisterhood in reprogramming the no-ship, but Idaho knows he will eventually be found out and punished. He knows Sheeana also plays a game with the Bene Gesserit. Idaho is vexed by his confinement and has learned to tap into the computers for information but not completely. He stays on the no-ship because of Murbella. Idaho uses his mentat abilities to realize the Sisterhood has withheld something about Teg. Idaho creates a mosaic with his thoughts. He realizes the Bene Gesserit are actresses. While studying a Van Gogh, Idaho realizes that the "wild thing" has never been suppressed in humans. His mosaic is still jumbled, but he knows all the pieces he's added belong. Idaho realizes Murbella will soon go from being a lover to a Bene Gesserit witch, but he will always love her. Idaho doesn't like the idea of Murbella undergoing the spice agony. Idaho knows he is a network outside of Time, which could get him killed as a Kwisatz Haderach. He reviews the mosaic pieces and tells himself not to think but to do.

Odrade and her group stop at Pondrille and she tells the acolytes there that they must join the Scattering or become enslaved by the Honored Matres. The Pondrille group grumbles about the lack of rain, seeming to ignore the larger problem of the Honored Matres. Odrade thinks Streggi a gem, though Streggi's bound to have flaws. The sisterhood expects its members to make moral choices and Odrade wonders if Sheeana's moral flaw is due to being older when she begins the Bene Gesserit training. Streggi confides to Odrade that she feels ignorant in making wise, moral choices. Odrade reassures her that she just needs to hone her sensitivity and ask herself what are her motives. Just before Eldio, Odrade and two acolytes have a nude swim in a cove, knowing that the sea will soon be gone as Odrade tells Tam to accelerate the dehydration project. Odrade realizes all things pass and after one last sniff of salt air, lets go of her identity as Sea Child.

Dama likes the title Spider Queen. Consolidation of the Old Empire is going as planned, with only a few nests and Chapterhouses to destroy at leisure. Dama enjoys Logno's groveling, approves Lucilla's insight about democracy, believes that she understands the witches' schools, wants Rebecca found and returned, and is determined to be more cautious.

Bell takes immediate advantage of Odrade's absence to visit the no-ship, intending to find a valid excuse for killing Idaho. Idaho tells Bell he's been expecting her knowing she wants him dead and reiterates he is not a Kwisatz Haderach. Idaho insists he is necessary to the survival of the Bene Gesserit because they need "new blood." Idaho



manipulates Bell into seeing him as valuable more than dangerous. He knows he has caught her. Idaho suggests Bell and he work together to solve problems and Bell realizes that these mad suggestions are aimed at the comeys. Bell leaves and Idaho thanks Teg for the reprieve of death. Later, Idaho tells Murbella and the comeys that the Sisters want help creating a new religion around Sheeana with him serving as their conscience. The thought of anyone controlling Sheeana is ludicrous. Back in Archives, Bell finds the Watch Mother bored watching yet another shower scene. Bell is fuming that Idaho is a better Mentat and knows she is jealous of Sheeana. Honored Matres' sexual knowledge is moving the Bene Gesserit disgustingly toward primitive shared ecstasy, and Sheeana is immune.

Pages 206-252 Analysis

Idaho's plight as a prisoner is examined at length, finding through things Murbella says new ways of looking at the Honored Matres. He has it out, Mentat-to-Mentat with murderous Bell, impressing her with his insights. Meanwhile, Odrade makes an inspection trip that shows how the desert has spread and makes the decision to accelerate it, despite her lifelong love of the sea. Sheeana's potential danger is reinforced before Odrade confronts her. The brief scene on Junction confirms Idaho's suspicion that the Honored Matres are also being hunted.



Pages 253-305

Pages 253-305 Summary

Odrade and Tam go to observe some large dunes forming. Bell communicates that the Honored Matres have taken the bait on Buzzell. Odrade suspects Bell's contact with Idaho. Tam warns of a connection between Idaho and Sheeana. Odrade and Sheeana meet upstairs in Sheeana's quarters. Odrade studies the art in Sheeana's rooms. Sheeana, the youngest ever Reverend Mother, hopes to avoid a full confession to Odrade. As Sheeana goes to meet the search team, Odrade wonders what Sheeana is concealing. Sheeana returns announcing a large spice find, and Odrade leaves after confiding several things to Sheeana.

Murbella awakens from a nightmare and Idaho warns that until she learns instinctively to use words as weapons, she will not be admitted to deeper training. The prospect of the Agony frightens Murbella and Idaho having to cause Teg pain to reawaken him is upsetting, but the Bashar Teg is indispensable because he does the unexpected. Murbella is tired of waiting for the Agony to clarify things and cautions that the Sisters are annoyed that Idaho knows so much about them. Odrade wants Murbella to seduce Scytale but she is revolted at the idea, though she was trained as an enticer by the Honored Matres. Realizing Murbella might not survive the Agony, Idaho wallows in grief.

Odrade and Bell communicate while Odrade waits on the spice. There's no word from Dortujla and Murbella's baby is due in eight days. Odrade wants Tam waiting when she returns from the no-ship with Scytale and Bell available to enter on some pretext. Such excursions have become common. When Odrade meets with Scytale, she sees his tension as he asks for contact with his fellow prisoners. Both Odrade and Scytale wonder about the other's personality. Scytale doubts Odrade's sincerity as a believer, but she recites the Mahai's cry at sundown and surprises Scytale. When Scytale sits in Odrade's office, Tam takes up a position behind him. They then discuss the many discrepancies in Scytale's tale of fighting the Honored Matres where his species was eliminated. He accuses Odrade of stealing some of his cells for cloning, which she admits to doing. Odrade asks Scytale why do the Futars not hunt Honored Matres on Gammu, and hearing that no orders were given, asks about Face Dancers killing on command. Could that be why he wants them?

Bell announces a spice blow and sandworms and taunts Scytale who believes it a bluff until Sheeana enters. While Sheeana holds the worm like an infant, Odrade chides the defeated Scytale. She insists that the Tleilaxu and Bene Gesserit are partners by necessity, if not by shared belief. Odrade is panicky and dense. The Sisters review the meeting with Bell in Mentat mode. Scytale first panics at the mention of a new Dune and Bell wonders why the Honored Matres want them dead rather than captive. With Murbella as a Sister and a restored Bashar, they have a fighting chance. A message arrives: Clairby has been mortally wounded and can survive only as a Cyborg. Odrade gives the order.



Murbella is training when Odrade arrives and turns off the machine. Odrade tells Murbella that she does not yet realize what it means to be a Reverend Mother or what they want from her. Odrade sees wildness still running through Murbella and admits they are afraid of what she can do. Murbella sees that Odrade wants her to choose between Idaho and the Sisterhood, but Odrade says each has a unique past and sees Murbella as the one who can help the Bene Gesserit change its ways. However much this horrifies Bell and others, it is needed.

Odrade and Murbella talk about Jessica and what Jessica was responsible for and Odrade again asks Murbella to "work" on Scytale. Murbella agrees, knowing she'll regret it. Odrade suggest Murbella merely accepts the possibility of giving up Idaho. Odrade reminds Murbella that the Bene Gesserit is everything to a Reverend Mother.

Pages 253-305 Analysis

This section is marked by confrontations and decisions. Odrade evaluates Sheeana, who conceals her plot with Idaho and is offered a chair on the Council. Murbella grows impatient with her extended probation, reveals how she entered the Honored Matres, shows residual feelings for her former Sisters, and insists on keeping Idaho. Her sexual expertise is needed with Teg, but she is loath to give it as this theme comes to the center. Scytale's story comes out, including how the Honored Matres attack Bangalong and also seem to be themselves running. Odrade's profound knowledge of the Tleilaxu religion is demonstrated, and the last Tleilaxu sees The Prophet face-to-face. With the coming of the worms, Scytale's usefulness vanishes. Another ethical crisis erupts over the question of creating a Cyborg, helping Odrade see that the Bene Gesserit must change its ways. Murbella is crucial in this and is coming to a moment of truth.



Pages 306-353

Pages 306-353 Summary

On the no-ship, Teg is being readied for Sheeana restoring his memories. Idaho is allowed to watch through a glass window, but is in a room where his mentat skills are not available to him. Odrade has prepared for every emergency during the process. Proctors know they may have to kill Teg if things go wrong. Odrade reminds Idaho that they are awakening the Bashar, not a child. Meanwhile, Scytale contemplates escaping the "witches," but wonders if they have changed the ship to prevent it.

Sheeana joins Teg in the room and begins to hum and make sexual overtures to Teg. She slides Teg's penis inside her at which time he panics and yells. Suddenly the mature Teg/Bashar emerges and he is told what just occurred. As he assimilates memories, Odrade speaks to him and the Idaho. He learns of his last death and responds by saying that Odrade either kill him or release him. Odrade orders Teg to be dressed and brought out.

Streggi Teg and announces that Murbella has given birth and both are fine. Odrade quietly considers that Murbella is right—the Sisterhood must relearn emotions; as mere observers, they are doomed. Teg says he will be loyal, but Sisters' faces show concern at what Odrade has released. He says the military need better positioning and asks to talk alone with Idaho as Truthsayer-Mentats. Teg is at first overwhelmed, but Odrade is supportive, though, it may worry the Sisters that Teg is a Kwisatz Haderach, which Teg insists he would not risk being another Muad'Dib.

Dortujla arrives to report that the Honored Matres are willing to meet in 100 days at Junction. She gives more information, particularly about the Futars that the Dama keeps. Odrade appoints Dortujla as a special advisor to the Council. Idaho becomes Teg's Weapons Master and Tam is to follow Teg everywhere and report to Odrade;

At a council meeting, Teg insists on either absolute command or relief of his duties and he does not want the Sisters to see his full capabilities Teg tells the council what his plans are for the Junction meeting and Odrade orders it done. Odrade intends to call a Convocation, which last occurred at the Tyrant's death. Odrade intends Murbella to be a Reverend Mother in time for the Convocation. As her advisors arrive for a meeting, Odrade contemplates some of their inner motives and realizes the Sisterhood must adapt. They discuss love and Bell offers the hope that they will not have to start loving each other among the Bene Gesserit. Odrade says Tam and Dortujla will go to Junction and then she pairs off people to share memories. Sheeana is fearful at sharing memories with Tam and is tearful when it is completed. Odrade believes Sheeana has the potential of a future Mother Superior.

Murbella's Agony takes place on the no-ship in order for Idaho to be present. Bell protests a male observing the spice ritual since Muad'Dib and the Tyrant are the only



males that have seen the ritual and each was a disaster. The group argue about the the spice agony about to take place and Taraza's voice inside Odrade's head warns Odrade to listen to Bell. They must all rally around Murbella's needs. As Bell composes herself, Odrade feels the chasm below; prescience has warned her since Sietch Tabr, and she must break utterly free.

Murbella waits in a room with a table with straps. She sees Idaho enter after Odrade and others. At a nod from Odrade, Bell prepares oral syringes with spice essence. Odrade explains what happens during the spice agony and Bell helps Murbella lie down and tightens the straps. As the spice enters her system, Murbella begins a series of visions/hallucinations. At times Murbella is aware of Idaho touching her and the pain is excruciating. She finally emerges from the agony and Odrade tells Murbella that she completed her journey the hard way. As Murbella thinks of what she learned during the agony, she wonders how can she set the balances right?

Pages 306-353 Analysis

Murbella dominates this section, beginning with the delivery of her baby, which corresponds with the awakening of Teg's memories. The coincidence keeps Idaho off-balance. As Idaho suspects, Teg's birth mother has conditioned him against Imprinters, but Sheeana does a good job of seducing him before he realizes this. Herbert continues creating unexpectedly explicit scenes. Seeing himself in a child's body triggers the Bashar's mind to drop the gholia filters. The witnesses notice that Bashar's legendary speed first seen on Gammu returns. His piping voice becomes commanding. Days later, a tortured Dortujla returns with the Spider Queen's acceptance of Odrade's surrender on Junction in 100 days. Teg is given 90 days to mount a feint against Gammu and a full englobement of Junction. Tam and Sheeana share memories as the first step in a series of sharings and become like Janus, the mythological two-faced god. Murbella's Spice Agony is described in minute detail. The shuttle pilot looks and sounds like the Jewish Bene Gesserit Rebecca. As a new Reverend Mother, Murbella seems destined for greatness.



Pages 354-411

Pages 354-411 Summary

Idaho retreats within Mentat abilities, and Murbella is pulling away, breaking entangling bonds. Idaho is shocked when Murbella demands sex as though it is her last chance for ecstasy and hopes it brings the Sisterhood another baby. Odrade reassures Idaho that every woman goes through adjustments after the agony. Idaho dreams about the designs of weapons and wakes up and records the designs. He wonders about people strong enough to drive out the Honored Matres. He is stupefied, until he sees Odrade's fragile plan, which deprives him of Murbella.

The no-ship's great Common Room is packed for the Convocation while Odrade explains about the meeting on Junction and the fact that she will probably not survive. Odrade explains her plan and names who she will share her memories with, including one Sister chosen by the Proctors. Odrade deflects any protest against Tam. Odrade ends the meeting, regretting that she will not see the Scattering completed. The Convocation ends with Odrade happy to see the democracy she started still working.

The Rabbi is frustrated that Passover has come and gone with their door locked. The Rabbi is resisting the Bene Gesserit, whom he forced Rebecca to help. Like Jews, they are an extended clan retaining a "touchy individuality." Rebecca and the Rabbi sit and talk. She explains how the Sisterhood views itself as watchdogs, seeking opportunities to teach those willing to learn. She briefly outlines their ideas and says they are not compatible with Judaism, but neither are the ideas evil.

Odrade's departure requires eight days to organize. Odrade takes advice from everyone and Bell complains about everything, until Odrade reminds her their days together are few. Odrade worries about what she has learned from sharing with Murbella and Sheeana. The mood at the Landing Flat is depressed, with only Murbella looking forward to Odrade's encounter with Spider Queen and hoping Odrade knows in her guts how dangerous this will be. Blinding sand prevents a last low-level view of the beloved planet. The passengers sit in silence to leave Odrade alone with her thoughts.

As they approach Junction, they are queried by the planet authorities and giving authorization to drop off Odrade and her party. The ship's captain tells Odrade he will blow up the ship and return as a ghola. Odrade has written her last will, knowing that she is sacrificing herself for the possibility of the survival of the Bene Gesserit.

The lighter lands in pleasant weather and no one greets them, but Odrade recognizes the Guild Building, little changed. Waiting for an escort, she chats with Suipol about Ixians being products of a dying society because bureaucracy cannot innovate; it cares only about credit, blame, power, and jobs, while survival requires adaptability. Odrade is pleased to see Suipol play along and seems ready for the Agony if she survives this meeting. Aloud, Odrade says that Sisters are not machines but rely on personal



relationships without knowing where they may lead. When Tam asks if the Honored Matres ought not to have sent a message at least, Odrade says putting them in a second-class hostelry is their message, and she has responded.

Coming out of foldspace over Gammu, Teg assumes command and sends in the decoys. Teg reminds people this is only a feint, an occasion for giving the Honored Matres a taste of notorious Bene Gesserit punishment; the real target is Junction.

Murbella's projection appears and insists that some refugees be brought up quickly, and Teg is outraged and goes to see what is so important. Murbella welcomes them in the name of the Bene Gesserit and grants sanctuary. Rebecca removes lenses that disguise her Spice Agony; the first wild Reverend Mother to emerge since Fremen days. She brings 7,623,014 Reverend Mothers' memories.

Odrade's group are escorted by a robot to ugly, uncomfortable quarters. When she summons to Grand Honored Matre comes, Odrade goes alone, led by a green-robed Honored Matre, whose pride and prejudice demonstrate vulnerability. Two women enter dressed in red robes with glittering arabesques and dragon shapes. Without Murbella's hints, Odrade would have reversed the little Spider Queen and her large commander. Grand Honored Matre lets Odrade call her Dama and invites her to walk outside alone where Dama invites Odrade to speak her thoughts. Odrade claims to know about the Matres' enemy who has pushed them here away from the scattering.

They move to Dama's quarters and a message arrives and agitates Dama; she demands to know why Odrade's pilot destroyed the ship rather than be inspected. Odrade responds that it is an old trick, precluding retreat. If her mission is successful, Dama will provide transport home. Odrade can tell that Dama rarely leaves this place of comfort and convenience. She no longer courts danger, but cocoons and manipulates others. The Sisterhood knows how to exploit this. Odrade asks why Dama calls a meeting, which seems out of character. Dama's lack of spontaneity worries Odrade and until Mentat-like processes convince her that Honored Matres revel in chaos. Dama must believe this is bargaining, which means she is a novice. Dama opens a wall and reveals a work of art that is both compelling beautiful and repulsively ugly. When Odrade presumes that they are trying to reach a mutual understanding and find similarities, Dama flares orange and warns her not to think of Honored Matres as offshoots. Dama finds attractive the Bene Gesserits' immunity from new diseases and Odrade sees that Dama is jealous of what the Honored Matres lost in breaking away. The Matres' flaw is bigger than expected. They are lethal to themselves and all they control, but do not see it.

Logno brings poisoned wine, which Odrade neutralizes. Logno kills Dama and tells Odrade she, as the new Grand Honored Matre will use the Bene Gesserit, not slaughter them as Dama had planned.



Pages 354-411 Analysis

There is a difference in their relationship that Idaho and Murbella both feel after the Agony. She experiences a typical manic period and after sex for old time's sake, Idaho discovers his mind is filled with detailed, revolutionary ideas for weapons. Politics receives several goings over that seem forced. The Bene Gesserit Convocation is held and a few questions are answered. Loud-mouthed Garimi returns at the end of the novel. Rebecca and the Rabbi argue again, seemingly just to keep the thread alive, but during the Battle of Gammu, Rebecca gets to deliver her "Golden Egg" to the Sisterhood. Odrade seems to be getting somewhere, analyzing complex Dama before her assistant, assassin, and successor, Logno, does her in. She insists on being addressed as Grand Honored Matre.



Pages 412-460

Pages 412-460 Summary

Murbella watches the Battle of Junction from a no-ship command center. Explosions circle the planet, while Teg attacks the Citadel. Odrade's vital signs transmissions stop, after she confirms Spider Queen's presence. The millions from Lampadas are shared among the Reverend Mothers in "Extremis Progressiva," guaranteeing that some survivor will represent them. To Murbella, the battle seems like a circus - until real bodies fall - then she regrets the waste, recalling her parents. Metaphors vanish and she sees bloody violence, familiar yet new. It is eerily quiet near Teg's position. He loses his Command Pod to a laser strike and everything but his comlink, along with backups. He reads off his aide for the foul-up but is happy to hear the last pockets are bottled up. A report comes from the Flat, where a hundred have perished trying to escape into the screen. There are no signs of Odrade or the Spider Queen. As they begin a search, Teg orders disaster reports broadcast on all frequencies to educate the Honored Matres in what he can do.

At that moment, Odrade sees Teg from the tower where Logno has herded her. She also sees that this is the true workroom, rather than Dama's Potemkin Village intended to send Odrade home with useless information,. This place is sanitized, suggesting biological warfare is practiced in the Scattering, and one surviving Reverend Mother would suffice from whom to pry information. Odrade hears boots, fabrics swishing, and shocked voices. It appears the Bene Gesserit are wining, meaning Odrade may survive, and Murbella's role will change. The attack forces have been warned about the perils of sexual entrapment.

With no orange in her eyes, Logno leaves her console and admits defeat. Her guards reveal no emotions, so perhaps they have not truly admitted defeat. No wonder Murbella nearly dies in the Agony, confronting a genetic past like this. Logno admits that Tam, Dortujla, and Suipol are dead, but Odrade dismisses the names of those responsible, because revenge is for "children and the emotionally retarded." Logno says, flatly, that others will avenge her. Every feeling is buried and masked as a Reverend Mother would. Teg finds Odrade and the captives as he begins his usual battle assessment. He wonders why resistance collapses so easily. Since it is unlikely that these callous women would care about further bloodshed, he smells a trap. Streggi and Odrade both sense his distress. There must be undiscovered weapons that cause no bloodflow.

Sheeana smells worms in the distance and remembers nights like this on Dune - but with moons. She has proved that the Dance of Propitiation still works and assumes it is still too damp for them to grow to the size of Shai-Hulud. She briefly considers accepting a skin of sandtrout to follow Leto II's path of metamorphosis into the Divided God. She knows the lure but dares not. She recalls the spice blow that draws the sandworm to devour her family but spare her. After Sharing, Odrade knows what Sheeana must do



and cannot suppress the wild thing in her. She considers the Missionaria Protectiva idea of making her a fulcrum for moving the universe and cannot ignore the potential of shining as a light, but the plan she and Idaho have developed is better: escape from Chapterhouse's death trap for people and dreams. She wonders if returning spacecraft bring triumphant warriors or refugees. Reciting the Litany, she goes sand walking, sad at what might have been, but she concentrates on what is. Humankind and the Bene Gesserit are matched halves, and an Honored Matre victory would leave people blind in a hostile universe. The Tyrant preserves the Sisterhood because his path has no direction. Sheeana recalls Odrade explaining how they have waited for her a long time, and she naively accepts it. Now, she needs a planet with moons.

Multiple vision bothers Murbella at first, and she is overwhelmed with work. She protests to Dar-Within, claiming to have been lucky to save as many as she has. Over Proctor protests; she rushes down, radioing her Honored Matres identity. A squad of Honored Matres confronts her, led by a poisonous old woman. Identifying herself as an adept of the Hormu, captured on Gammu, trained in Bene Gesserit ways, and now escaped, Murbella knows where the nest is. When a middle-echelon ambitious type presses about her talents, Murbella in a blaze of speed kills her as an example.

Murbella meets the Grand Honored Matre with her friends dead, captured, or in shock, and Logno has used up the last of the weapons. Settling into a combat stance, Murbella insults her with Voice until Logno strikes out - and has her head pulped on the floor. Her aides also fall dead. Seeing that Elpek has slain Odrade, Murbella kneels to collect her newest memories before sending Elpek sprawling dead atop Odrade. Teg is released and Murbella dons a red.

Murbella returns to Chapterhouse with an Honored Matres entourage, Futars, and the Rabbi's party. She waits to ask for her children, sees that Idaho accepts things when he chooses to remain aboard the no-ship. Dressed as the Grand Honored Matre, Murbella receives the first group of Councilors. Dar-Within tells her to act important and hand out favors. With a commander's presence, Murbella promises swift removal of anyone who does not at least pretend to be wise. No longer an Honored Matre, Murbella finds acting like one uncomfortable. She worries about her love for Idaho interfering with decisions. Dar-Within feels that at each step, Murbella has done what she must, but as Idaho says: "Don't think; do it!" When Dar's badgering draws a laugh, Bell suggests restraint in using the Other Memory "peep show." Murbella says Bell's report is a good starting point.

Sheeana is gathering worms for the Great Hold and believes anyone can learn to control them. Scytale is on the ship under wraps, and the Rabbi and party are nervous. Bell laughs when Murbella says that while the voice is different, she still hears Dar. They must delicately educate the Bene Gesserit to learn the Honored Matres' strengths and wean the Honored Matres of the lust for ownership. They must never flaunt anything in front of Honored Matres. They must learn to love like Jessica and to compromise, although neither side finds this natural. Pretending to love is a start. It is a marriage made on a battlefield. Murbella figures out Idaho's mosaic: the piece that cannot be moved. She knows his decision.



Sheeana urges care, but Idaho knows people are too busy care with Honored Matres flooding in, curious about the no-ship. He cannot leave Murbella, but hints he can be taken away. Sheeana gains control of the ship; Idaho makes a last, breezy call to Murbella. Teg will see Idaho's view. The Rabbi, Scytale, and Futars have no say. Idaho knows that his presence endangers precious Murbella. A handful of Proctors led by Garimi are ready to "vote with her feet." Liftoff is skull-rattling until they enter foldspace. Idaho sees the old couple in the garden, expecting him. As he dumps systems: navigation, null fields, star-memory, and his own files, the couple vanishes. When Sheeana complains about losing data, Idaho taps his forehead. For now, they cannot be found. Before Murbella can move to stop Idaho, she hears the take off. To hide her pain, she orders oyster stew for lunch with Councilors and Bell. She has kept the Sisters away to save their lives, but the Honored Matres are beginning to be interested in trying what they see. Murbella is sad to lose the Van Gogh, making Dar-Within laugh caustically. She predicts a "Sheeana future" may be bitter medicine bringing interesting new patterns.

Old Marty accuses Daniel of letting them get away, but they have picked a nice planet that will test them nicely. Marty would have liked to examine Scytale and joked about God with a flowing beard - funny because Masters cannot accept Face Dancers being independent of themselves, even when it is a natural consequence of gathering personas. Marty would have apologized for Scytale's troubles. As Daniel returns to pruning, Marty remarks that people feel alienated when they peek at them and accuses him of not wanting to deal with the nullentropy tube full of gholia cells. He denies it, but says Scytale is welcome to them.

Pages 412-460 Analysis

The finale shows the Battle of Junction, largely from Murbella's point of view with many metaphors about war. When she lands, she finds victory turned to defeat, thanks to a new super weapon, of which, unfortunately for Logno, there are too few. Teg is troubled that the battlefield feels wrong; the casualties are wrong: no wounded, only bloodless dead. Murbella earns the respect of the Honored Matres survivors and claims leadership - even as she claims to succeed Odrade. Back on Junction, she lays out plans gradually to integrate the two sisterhoods. Idaho and Sheeana, meanwhile, take small worms and assorted passengers in a flight into the complete unknown. Sheeana may head a new religion. Odrade seems amused inside Murbella's head. The old farm couple that Idaho sees a few times appear at the end, having failed to capture the fleeing group. It appears they are independent Face Dancers, an apparently kindly pair of codgers, whose purpose, had they caught the no-ship, are left unknown.



Characters

Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade

A desperate devotee of Other Memories, despite the peril, Odrade has recently inherited the mantle of authority from her late mentor, Alma Mavis Taraza. Not everyone in the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood is pleased with the de facto succession. Raised on a beautiful seacoast by her foster Papa and Mama Sibia, Odrade considers herself "Sea Child." She continues to smile at those times that provide her sense of sanity and balance. Before this "hidden Atreides scion" is taken into the Sisterhood, she learns to love herself, something the Sisters find suspect. Proctors cannot root out her "deep desire for personal affinities," and even rigorous training on Al Dhanab cannot touch her secret core. Odrade is aging about the face, but remains tall and muscular. She works non-stop at arranging the Scattering of Sisters to plant new Bene Gesserit outposts around the universe. She sees visions of someone pursuing her with an axe as she walks a tightrope and knows this indicates the Honored Matres threat, who have already massacred most Bene Gesserit worlds. Odrade's tasks, besides supervising the Scattering, are to authorize and supervise Weather Control in turning beautiful Chapterhouse into a Dune-like desert that can support a population of sandworms, the natural source of melange spice.

Odrade must also help train her father, Miles Teg, who has been killed on Rakis/Dune but reborn as the first fruits of the Bene Gesserit axlotl tank. In his tenth year, she entrusts him to Duncan Idaho to be trained and have his memories restored so he can again lead the military forces. Odrade volunteers for a suicidal mission to Junction to confront the Grand Honored Matre Dama, who expects her capitulation. In fact, Odrade is equipped to guide a military raid. She presides at Murbella's Spice Agony, calls a Convocation of the Sisterhood to announce plans, Shares memories with Murbella and departs, doubting she will see her beloved home again. Odrade learns much from and about her savage rival before Dama's own aide assassinates Dama. Odrade is taken to a high tower during the invasion and survives until Murbella confronts, infuriates, and kills Logno, the new Grand Honored Matre. Odrade is killed for "interfering." Murbella Shares her dead teacher's final memories before killing the murderer and demanding that the Honored Matres accept her as their sole leader. Odrade frequently talks with her successor in Other Memory, amused at what the burdens of office are doing to Murbella.

Reverend Mother Superior / Grand Honored Matre Murbella

Sexually bonded to Duncan Idaho, the former Honored Matre postulant from Gammu, kidnapped as a child and forced to learn how to mesmerize males sexually, Murbella begins this novel living with Idaho and Scytale, the last surviving Tleilaxu Master, aboard a grounded Bene Gesserit no-ship in the space field on Chapterhouse. Murbella



has domesticated Idaho and can be humorous, showing no contrition about sacrilegious doggerel she is caught posting. Pretension and discipline annoy Murbella. As part of her Bene Gesserit training, she has switched successfully from melange substitute, which causes eyes to flicker orange when angry to melange, which causes blue-in-blue eyes. She remains furious that Idaho turns the tables on her and addicts her sexually, but they have three daughters and love one another - despite the disapproval of both sisterhoods. A fourth is on the way, but this does not slow her training.

With a suicidal mission planned, ostensibly to surrender to the Grand Honored Matre but actually to guide a military assault, Odrade hurries Murbella's final preparations to become a full Reverend Mother. She presides at the Spice Agony weeks after Murbella gives birth a fourth time. The Agony is particularly intense, but she survives and goes into a typical manic period, which alienates loving Idaho. Murbella accompanies the force that feints at Gammu and interferes with Bashar Miles Teg's authority by granting sanctuary to a Rabbi and wild Reverend Mother, Rebecca. Murbella observes the Battle of Junction from a command ship but, sensing trouble, goes down alone to check on Odrade. Challenged by an Honored Matres patrol, Murbella claims to have defected, kills several Honored Matres as graphic bona fides, and meets the new Grand Honored Matre, who holds Teg and Odrade captive. Odrade dies in the lightning-fast battle and Murbella Shares her final memories. Murbella assumes the mantle of leadership in both sisterhoods, removing to Chapterhouse, where she begins re-educating everyone. Dar-Within is amused at Murbella's frustration and sadness, which is compounded when she realizes Idaho is about to high-jack the no-ship and flee - a moment too late to prevent it.

Duncan Idaho

A Mentat gholia, returned to life countless times from the Tleilaxu axlotl tanks, Idaho has loyally served House Atreides and the Bene Gesserit since the time of Duke Leto I. His metaphor of facing mirrors and gathering images daily, viewing the infinite and finite, guides the Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, to whom he currently reports. Idaho refers to "Specialized complexity - gather, assemble, and reflect." Because his Atreides genetic shielding against prescience is not foolproof, Idaho lives imprisoned on a no-ship, living with the ex-Honored Matre Murbella, with whom he fathers four daughters. He grows lanky and longer-haired. The Mentat-Archivist Bellonda is convince that Idaho is a Kwisatz Haderach and seeks a valid excuse for killing him. His records show that his original and early-ghola character is impulsive and quick, both to hate and give loyalty; later, this is tempered by cynicism. He can be goaded by pride. His long service to the Tyrant fascinates Bell. He has been a Mentat several times and a Truthsayer more than once. Bell cannot see how Odrade fails to see his danger; Idaho even flaunts his clear mind and admits he influences her decisions.

Idaho is assigned to train and then restore pre-ghola memories to Miles Teg, the renowned Bashar, who on Gammu trained and restored Idaho in Heretics of Dune. Idaho is loath to torture the ten-year-old boy as he had been tortured, and schemes with the wild Reverend Mother Sheeana to sexually Imprint Teg. Idaho rightly assumes that



Teg's birth mother, a Bene Gesserit, has psychically inoculated him against this. Idaho watches the reawakening while Murbella is in labor. Odrade is happy to have him distracted. Days later, Idaho has to watch Murbella undergo the Spice Agony to become a full Reverend Mother. Soon he sees her change, as he had feared, and he concentrates on preparing for war on Gammu and Junction as the Bashar's Weapons Master. Idaho invents new armaments and from time to time sees an old farm couple watching him. He believes they may be Tleilaxu Face Dancers. Seeing Murbella, the new Mother Superior, busy and withdrawn, Idaho plans with Sheeana to high-jack the reactivated no-ship to an unknown universe. He clears all shipboard memory so no one can trace them. He still loves Murbella but sees that he endangers her.

Reverend Mother Bellonda

Old, fat, florid, and perpetually scowling, "Bell" is Mentat-Archivist, who resents opulence and frivolity when the Honored Matres are hunting the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood. Bell feasts on violence and has to be restrained. Having long argued that the Mentat ghola Duncan Idaho is dangerous - perhaps a Kwisatz Haderach - Bell, when left off an inspection tour, hurries to his no-ship prison, intending to find a valid excuse for killing him. She cannot see how Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade fails to see his danger, when he even flaunts his clear mind and admits he influences her decisions. When Odrade goes on a suicide mission to Junction to meet with the Grand Honored Matre, Bell is left on Chapterhouse. Odrade's successor, Murbella, finds Bell personally annoying but competent and accepts her as a confidant in the difficult task of blending the defeated Honored Matres with the Bene Gesserit.

Grand Honored Matre Dama

The autocratic ruler of the Honored Matres at the novel's opening, Dama allows only her senior aide, Logno, to address her by this name. She is cautious, but distracted, and beds Futars in the dark. Dama is largely seen in confrontation with Bene Gesserit Sisters. Reverend Mother Lucilla, taken captive on Gammu, is held caged on Junction and undergoes several interrogations with the orange-eyed, weak-chinned, small, thin, and unmemorable woman. Lucilla is on the point of being invited into the Honored Matres when a slip of the tongue enrages Dama, and she crushes the Lucilla's skull.

Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade later comes to Junction with a small cohort, ostensibly to surrender to Dama, but actually to direct a military assault. Dama constructs a "Potemkin village" to impress the visitor, but Odrade sees through it. Dama's impressive command posts are shams. She lives in seclusion in unadorned quarters, with a fake window displaying classic gardens while concealing wild brambles. She has an objet d'art that troubles Odrade, reminding her of a piece by Sheeana. Dama reveals, unintentionally, much about her own mentality and that of her sisterhood. At the top of this violent organization, Dama gets whatever she demands, and looks only at how to gratify herself next, not caring about fouling her own nest. It makes her inattentive to detail. Dama dies at the foot of her favorite sculpture, while recovering



from a pique of anger over Odrade surviving poisoned wine. Someone must pay for the mistake, she rants. Her seemingly cowed assistant, Logno, watches gleefully as Dama crumbles, and routinely assumes power.

Daniel and Marty

Enigmatic figures seemingly living on a farm in the U.S. Midwest in the early 20th century, Daniel and Marty end the novel, arguing about whether and why he lets Duncan Idaho and his cohorts escape into untraceable space. They appear to Idaho in dreams at intervals throughout the novel, and he begins to suspect they are Tleilaxu Face Dancers, who operate independently of Masters. Daniel and Marty confirm this, but leave unanswered why they had wanted to capture Idaho and Scytale, and why they find gholas offensive.

Reverend Mother Dortujla

Exiled to "special perdition" years ago for an "unforgivable infraction" (an illicit love affair probably), Dortujla shows up at Chapterhouse with word that a delegation of Futars and Handlers wants to ally with the Bene Gesserit against the dreaded Honored Matres. This woman, who has not let her exile dull her, impresses Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade. While she would prefer to keep Dortujla near her on Chapterhouse, Odrade bows to her judgment that she is needed on Buzzell, where she intends to be bait to draw the Honored Matres into negotiations. Dortujla is tortured by the Honored Matres but returns with word that a meeting is arranged to accept the Sisterhood's surrender. Dortujla accompanies Odrade on the suicide mission and dies at the outbreak of battle.

Grand Honored Matre Logno

A Grand Dame and senior aide to the Great Honored Matre, Logno is first seen quaking at the darkness in which the Grand Honored Matre sleeps (and reportedly beds Futars). Logno carefully stays four paces behind Dama, lest she be killed, until Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade comes to Junction, ostensibly to surrender to the Honored Matres. Odrade finds the blonde-haired, fierce-eyed Logno more impressive than plain Dama. Odrade is puzzled to see Logno watching Dama drink wine after being lambasted for failing to poison Odrade. She sees on Logno's face the moment of Dama's demise. Logno insists on being addressed as Grand Honored Matre as she succeeds the post. She thus rules the Honored Matres when Junction is invaded and appears to surrender before it is necessary. She has a small quantity of secret, non-renewable weapons at her disposal, however, and uses them up prematurely. Murbella, who succeeds Odrade when one of Logno's aids kills Odrade, taunts Logno to the point that Logno lashes out; Murbella kills the Grand Honored Matre with a single blow. Murbella then succeeds Logno and begins the work of reconciling the two sisterhoods.



Reverend Mother Lucilla

The Vice-Chancellor of the Bene Gesserit's premier school on Lampadas, Lucilla is ordered to flee at the first sign of trouble, but makes it only to Gammu, where she is hidden by a Rabbi of "Secret Israel." Lucilla shares her memories with the wild Reverend Mother Rebecca and is turned over to the Honored Matres as a decoy to save the other Israelites hidden with Rebecca. On Junction, Lucilla is caged and denied food - so she will be lean meat for the Futar. Lucilla endures several days worth of interrogation and conversation with Grand Honored Matre Dama before angering Dama to the point that Dama murders Lucilla ("the witch"). The hordes of memories from Lampadas encourage Lucilla to practice restraint up to the end, and she has Dama ready to welcome her into the Honored Matres before she makes a slip of the tongue.

The Rabbi

A large, intense man wearing old-fashioned glasses, whose age cannot easily be determined, the Rabbi takes in the Reverend Mother Lucilla when her damaged spacecraft has to land on Gammu after escaping the destruction of Lampadas. Although she is not of the Chosen, he owes a debt to the Bene Gesserit for preserving Secret Israel during pogroms, so arranges for his spiritual child, Rebecca, a wild Reverend Mother, to share memories with her before selling Lucilla to the Honored Matres to maintain credibility. The Rabbi and his people are rescued during the Battle of Gammu.

Rebecca

A wild Reverend Mother of the Jews, Rebecca is an older woman in a long, brown gown, hair pulled back, and eyes of total blue with a steely hardness. After undergoing the Agony long ago, she has served "Secret Israel" on Gammu. Her Rabbi, who insists she undertake this assignment, continually kvetches at her for departing from orthodoxy. When the Reverend Mother Lucilla seeks refuge, the Rabbi allows her to share memories with Rebecca before selling her to the Honored Matres to maintain credibility. During the Battle of Gammu, the Jews appeal to the Bene Gesserit for sanctuary, and Rebecca shares with the sisters the "Golden Egg" of 7,623,014 memories from Lampadas. Note the physical and philosophical similarities between Rebecca and the space shuttle pilot, who guides Murbella through the Spice Agony.

Scytale

The last surviving Tleilaxu Master, Scytale lives in the grounded Bene Gesserit no-ship in the space field on Chapterhouse with Duncan Idaho and Murbella. He owes the Sisterhood for rescuing him and giving him sanctuary but withholds bargaining chips from the Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, particularly the nullentropy capsule implanted without scar in his chest. It contains start-up cells for a multitude of gholas,



who can restore the sacred Bene Tleilax civilization and such notables as Muad'Dib and Stilgar.

Reverend Mother Sheeana

Recalled as the Fremen girl orphaned by a sandworm on Rakis/Dune, raised by the Rakian priesthood and revered by the people as a new prophetess (if not goddess), and finally taken in and trained by the Bene Gesserit, Sheeana begins this novel as a Reverend Mother, the youngest in history. She is a tall, slender, austere woman with wild all-blue eyes and commands Desert Watch Station on the edge of the new desert of Chapterhouse. She is awaiting the appearance of the first worms grown on this planet. The Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, Sheeana's first teacher, suspects something dangerous still lurks in this wild girl who sculpts when fearful. Nevertheless, Odrade slates Sheeana to replace old Tamalane on the Council. Sheeana has learned to resist the Honored Matres' sexual enslavement techniques and is assigned to Imprint the young ghola Miles Teg. Before Odrade goes on a suicidal mission to meet the Grand Honored Matre, she orders Sheeana and Tamalane to Share memories. This turns them into Janus companions, but Tam perishes on the mission. Briefly tempted to become a worm symbiote like Leto II, Sheeana conspires with Duncan Idaho to high-jack the no-ship and disappear, perhaps to become the center of a new religion.

Sholem (AKA Shoel)

Rebecca's late husband, Shoel is used to describe the role and characteristics of a Truthsayer. He admits to finding the training nonsense until Truthsense, which has always been inside him, twitches. He hates what he sees in some people, but others are like beautiful flowers, innocent - like Rebecca. Shoel's memory helps Rebecca survive an encounter with the Grand Honored Matre Dama.

Aloana Streggi

An Intermediate, Third-Stage Bene Gesserit acolyte with curly hair, round face, and wide mouth, Streggi is assigned to map the desert's encroachment on Central for Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade. Having prepared a progress report, Streggi clears her throat several times and then talks to the feared Mother Superior at dinner. Odrade is impressed and makes her a special assistant to carry around on her shoulders the Bashar Miles Teg in a ten-year-old's body, faster than his little legs can go. During the Battle of Gammu, Streggi is at a loss in the command center when not serving as Teg's "horse." In the subsequent Battle of Junction, Streggi is slain when the Honored Matres pull out their secret weapon. Teg is taken captive.



Reverend Mother Tamalane

Aged, wrinkled, and amused at the thought of Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade giving birth to her own father via the Sisterhood's first axlotl tank, "Tam" is too old to be anxious about the Honored Matres threat. She makes ludicrously sparse suggestions and is pulling back from life. Odrade keeps her for her shrewdness and famous intelligence until Sheeana is ready to take her chair on the Council. Tam remains as a valued advisor, Shares memories with Sheeana and accepts her as her sister - becoming a Janus pair - and accompanies Odrade on the suicidal mission to Junction to face the Grand Honored Matre. Tam perishes at the onset of battle.

Miles Teg

The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood's greatest military hero, was killed on Rakis/Dune at the end of Heretics of Dune book, but cells scraped from his neck by his daughter, the Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, are used to restore him as the first Bene Gesserit-produced ghola. This novel shows the boy interacting with Odrade up to the age of ten, when the threat of the Honored Matres becomes so great that they must risk restoring Teg's memories, hoping he will retain the amazing speed he showed on Gammu in the last lifetime. Duncan Idaho, the serial-ghola who Teg trained and awakened in Heretics, supervises Teg's training, but is loath to use the torture methods he experienced when Teg awakened him. Because Teg's cells do not contain memory of his physical death, an alternative method of awakening is probably is needed. The Reverend Mother Sheeana is ordered to sexually Imprint young Teg, but his birth mother has psychically inoculated him against this. The shock of seeing such an immature body, however, awakens Teg's memories, and he is immediately put in charge of military attacks on Gammu and Junction. He is assigned acolyte Aloana Streggi to carry him around faster than his little legs are able. His communications equipment is too large and his voice still frustratingly piping, but no one questions his military command. Teg is captured by trickery on Junction, but rescued by Murbella. He then oddly disappears from the story.



Objects/Places

Bene Gesserit

An ancient Sisterhood central to all the Dune novels, the Bene Gesserit is here shown as more a faction than a family. Led by a monarchical Reverend Mother, the order is bound by the common experience of a Spice Agony that either kills or confirms a postulant as a Reverend Mother. The experience also opens to them Other Memories of illustrious predecessors. In this novel, the Bene Gesserit are led by Darwi Odrade, who succeeds her friend and mentor, Alma Mavis Taraza, after her murder in Heretics of Dune. Each Mother Superior appears to be particularly open to communication with her predecessor, who, relieved of the burden of leadership, finds it amusing. The Sisterhood has always prized learning and seeks every opportunity to teach humankind how to survive. They are currently being hunted to extinction, however, and are down to a handful of surviving planets. Much of Odrade's attention goes to preparing cells to fly off into the unknown in a second Scattering.

Buzzell

To the Honored Matres, an undefended planet rich in Soostones, Buzzell is to the Bene Gesserit a punishment planet used to scare acolytes. When a delegation of Futars and their Handlers visits Buzzell from the Scattering, Reverend Mother Dortujla is convinced she should take to Chapterhouse their offer of an alliance against the Honored Matres.

Central

The most powerful of the Bene Gesserit establishments, Central is designed around the concept of "usiform" - nothing is allowed to become non-functional. Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade considers Central "a living jewel," although it is described as conforming to the masterplan for all Bene Gesserit habitations.

Desert Watch Station

Reverend Mother Sheeana's outpost on the edge of the new Chapterhouse desert, Desert Watch Station like most places has only a functional name, because it intends to be constantly moving.

Al Dhanab

A planet of extremes greater than Salusa Secundus and Dune, Al Dhanab is the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood's training ground for those who will serve on desolate Dune.



Dune

The planet at various times officially called Arrakis and Rakis, Dune is in this novel a lifeless sphere, sterilized by the Honored Matres at the end of Heretics of Dune. The ghola Duncan Idaho remembers the planet during his first life serving Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides, and the fluctuation between desert and woodland under Leto II. The Fremen culture is remembered with reverence. A sandworm rescued from Dune is spirited to Chapterhouse, where it is turned into sandtrout to transform this planet into a new Dune, all desert, capable of supporting new sandworms to ensure a steady flow of melange spice.

Futars

Humanoids resulting from Tleilaxu experiments crossing humans with hunting animals, Futars are a failure. They cannot reproduce in captivity or be bonded by sex with humans. The Grand Honored Matre Dama keeps a herd of them captive and feeds them the bodies of her tortured victims. A group of Futars and their Handlers from the Scattering seek an alliance with the Bene Gesserit against the Honored Matres, but nothing comes of the offer.

Gammu

The old Harkonnen home world, which still smells of residual oil, Gammu is home to a cell of "Secret Israel," a Jewish group led by an unnamed Rabbi, whose spiritual daughter, Rebecca is a wild Bene Gesserit. When the Reverend Mother Lucilla flees Lampadas, she can go no farther than Gammu, and the Rabbi takes her in. Lucilla Shares her precious memories with Rebecca and is sold out to the Honored Matres. Rebecca eventually gets the "Golden Egg" of memories to the Sisterhood when Gammu is attacked as a feint, covering a major invasion of Junction, the Honored Matres headquarters in the Old Empire. Continuing where Heretics of Dune leaves off, this novel is filled with memories of events on Gammu, where the previous novel is primarily set.

Honored Matres

A sisterhood originating in the Scattering, the Honored Matres are bringing terror to the Million Planets of the Old Universe, concentrating particularly on those controlled by the Bene Gesserit. Murbella, a Bene Gesserit postulant stolen from the Honored Matres, claims that democratic Fish Speakers and Reverend Mothers in extremis form the Honored Matres. They use sexual mysteries and power to woo captured Reverend Mothers, while also putting them into melange withdrawal and using Ixian instruments on them to twist their will. Grand Honored Matre Dama, headquartered on Junction, believes she is accepting the surrender of Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, but



is actually being set up for a military attack. Murbella forcibly unites the two sisterhoods, and she intends to merge them through education.

Ix

A declining technological civilization that has long specialized in producing weapons and other equipment, the Ixians claim not to understand the Honored Matres' Weapon, which Grand Honored Matre Dama demands they reproduce. Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade discusses at length why the Ixian civilization is doomed to fail, having become an aristocracy and bureaucracy.

Junction

Currently the center of Honored Matres operations within the Old Empire, Junction is built on a gigantic scale to accommodate convocations of Guild Navigators, each contained in a massive tank. The Honored Matres make minor changes to the infrastructure, whose details the Bashar Miles Teg knows intimately, and demonstrate their care only for the moment by failing to maintain their property. After a feint on Gammu, the forces of the Bene Gesserit attack Junction full-force and attain too easy a victory. Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade dies there and Murbella, a former Honored Matres, assumes command of both Sisterhood, moving them back to Chapterhouse.

Lampadas

The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood's premier school planet, considered a "jewel," Lampadas, with 10 billion people, is destroyed by the Honored Matres. Word of the atrocity comes from the Rabbi. Among the dead are Bashar Alef Burzmali and half his handpicked defense force. The Reverend Mother Lucilla, Vice-Chancellor, is thought to perish, but escapes to meet the Rabbi on Gammu.

The No-Ship

Much of the novel takes place on a no-ship stolen by the Bashar Miles Teg on Gammu, flown to Rakis/Dune to fetch key personnel and a great sandworm, and landed on the Bene Gesserit hidden headquarters planet. The No-ship is deactivated except to maintain its invisibility (using Holzmann principles that work without anyone understanding how) and is mined, should anyone figure out how to reactivate it and escape. Duncan Idaho, whose Atreides invisibility to prescients cannot be confirmed, is never allowed to leave the no-ship, along with his mate, Murbella, and the last surviving Bene Tleilaxu Master, Scytale. When the Bene Gesserit defeat the dreaded Honored Matres, the no-ship is allowed to become visible and is restored to flight status. Idaho and the wild Fremen Sheeana high-jack it to an unknown universe.



Pondrille

A typical postulant center being engulfed by the desert on Chapterhouse, three hours from Central, Pondrille consists of low structures, garden plots, and orchards, serving to screen prospective Sisters for Central. Manual labor in the fields toughens them for "muckier tasks" later.

The Weapon

When armed, The Weapon cuts a brief swath of bloodless death in a limited range. The "Ones of Many Faces" and their Futars easily confiscate most of the units, leaving the Honored Matres to re-arm before the battle can be rejoined. They use up all of their supplies in the Battle of Junction.



Themes

Sex

In Chapterhouse: Dune, Frank Herbert continues the more graphic treatment of sexuality begun in Heretics of Dune, which includes many of the same characters and basic challenges. Following Leto II's long, peaceful reign as God Emperor, and a terrible Famine Time, humans scatter throughout the universe, far beyond the Million Worlds of the Old Empire, and deal creatively with their new realities. Although undocumented, it is believed that two groups of powerful women united: Leto II's Fish Speaker guards, shown in God Emperor of Dune to have strong sexual undertones, and Reverend Mothers in extremis, whose training to control every muscle in their bodies does not exclude the erogenous zones. Many times, it is mentioned in passing that Reverend Mothers summon males for sexual gratification on demand. More often than not, they are showed being bored by it all. By means unknown, these "Honored Matres" learn to bring males to a state of perpetual orgasm, in which state they are easily enslaved and the mere threat of withdrawing pleasure is sufficient to control populations.

The Honored Matres return to the Old Empire in a rampage. Patrols sweep up beautiful women and children to become enticers of males. Murbella is stolen from her village because her mother is too old to serve and her father resists seduction. She becomes an adept and on Gammu in Heretics "marks" Duncan Idaho sexually. Idaho, however, is a ghola programmed by the Bene Tleilax to turn the tables on the Bene Gesserit sexual "Imprinter" assigned to restore his pre-ghola memories; he is then to kill her. Murbella intervenes, is the wrong Imprinter, and finds herself caught up in sexual pleasure for which she is not prepared. Murbella and Duncan become sexually bonded, their lovemaking being described as "collisions." He teaches males his technique, the wild Reverend Mother Sheeana "polishes" them, and they send them out to thwart the Honored Matres. On both sides, sex is used as a tool or weapon. Neither sisterhood approves of love (or hate), but for a long time, Idaho and Murbella seem truly to love one another - feeling completed by the other. The sexual attraction is overpowering, but does not exclude the profound attachment. Idaho is particularly saddened to see this weaken in Murbella after she undergoes the Spice Agony. She demands what amounts to "break-up" sex and afterwards hopes for the Bene Gesserit's sake that she is pregnant again. Becoming one with her Sisters, she separates from Idaho, who flies away.

Religion

Religion is a major concern in all Frank Herbert's Dune novels, and Chapterhouse: Dune has its share. The Bene Gesserit's cynical "Missionaria Protectiva" is up to its old tricks, designing a religion around Sheeana, the Dune waif who controls worms in Heretics of Dune, and is now a Reverend Mother waiting for these children of the Divided God to appear in the new deserts of Chapterhouse. Sheeana sees how she



could be the fulcrum to move the world, but events move too swiftly, and she flies away to an unknown universe, to whatever destiny awaits her.

This novel on a smaller scale examines how a Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother can toy with a religious fanatic by using his own words and mythology. Master Waff of Heretics is dead, but the last surviving Tleilaxu Master, Scytale, believes as firmly that God calls when He wants and people must bend to God's will, not vice versa. Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade speaks Ismaliyat, the holy language preserved only by the Tleilaxu and professes to embrace the "Great Belief." Like Waff, Scytale is sometimes drawn in, but always returns to distrust in the "powindah," which has the linguistic force of "gentile."

In Chapterhouse: Dune, Herbert departs from his usual approach and depicts an actual human religion: Judaism. For the first time in the series, he asserts that the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has in deep antiquity come to a mutual-aid agreement with Jews suffering persecution. Cells of "Secret Israel" go out into the Scattering on many worlds, where they keep to themselves, practice a modified version of Judaism, and act crazy as a defense mechanism if discovered. A cell exists on Gammu, Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade knows from some secret source and tells Reverend Mother Lucilla about them in preparation for a sensitive mission. Lucilla meets a Rabbi, who grants her sanctuary from the Honored Matres who pursue her. He doubts that she can be gotten off planet but promises to help get her memories to the Sisterhood. He presents a member of his congregation, Rebecca, who has been through the Spice Agony. They share memories, and the Rabbi turns Lucilla in to the Honored Matres, who imprison and kill her. In a series of short scenes, the Rabbi is shown always clutching the Torah physically and spiritually and insisting any contact with the Bene Gesserit is defilement. Rebecca admits the differences between Judaism and the Bene Gesserit belief system and insists the latter is not evil. The Rabbi cannot be moved. He is treated rather stereotypically. Rebecca has lost her childhood faith and thinks gods should be required to grow up along with those who believe in them. Curiously, during one debate, the Rabbi makes three references to Christian literature too blatant to be considered trivial. Unfortunately, this thread is not picked up.

Politics

Having gone lightly on his favorite subject of politics in recent Dune novels, Frank Herbert returns to it with gusto in Chapterhouse: Dune. He finds an opportunity for a long disquisition when the Reverend Mother Lucilla is imprisoned on Juncture and questioned by the Grand Honored Matre Dama about a variety of subjects. When the Grand Honored Matre asks if the witches (Bene Gesserit) practice democracy, Lucilla affirms they do, but points out they stay especially alert to democracy's tendency to parade scapegoats and to create bureaucracies that convince people it does not matter if they vote. Democracy is prone to demagogues, who are easily recognized by speaking in "pulpit rhythms" and well-rehearsed phrases and gestures. Demagogues can easily be manipulated. Lucilla goes on to talk about how the Bene Gesserit use Proctors to function as a Jury of the Whole with no laws restricting them. Her adding



that humans can be stupid when acting in small, self-serving groups offends the Grand Honored Matre, and Lucilla is killed before she can talk her way out of her cleverness.

What Lucilla is talking about is shown on Chapterhouse, as enough Sisters wonder about the direction in which Reverend Mother Superior Darwi Odrade is taking in perilous times and take a recall vote. Only the Proctors vote, and Odrade wins by a single vote. When the time comes for her to go to Junction on what is likely a suicidal mission to meet the deadly Grand Honored Matre, Odrade summons a general Convocation of the Order. It has only been done twice before: at the accession of the Tyrant Leto II and his death. The clamor of a union meeting is captured as the Sisters wait for clear answers. Sometimes they ask provocative questions that they know cannot be answered. Odrade, the autocrat, explains what will happen in the coming days and everyone quiets. She remarks that the Sisterhood has had long practice at avoiding contentions. Odrade leaves three sisters in joint charge and goes off to her death. Murbella, whom she favors as her successor but does not name, accepts the mantle while also seizing leadership of the Honored Matres, affecting in her person a unity that will require long education and much patience to bring to fruition at lower levels. At present, the rank-in-file have to be segregated in order not to murder one another. As she flies off to Junction, Odrade takes pride in the fact that the jury-monitored democracy she receives has been preserved, and she hopes, perhaps they will thank her some day.



Style

Point of View

Frank Herbert uses a third-person past tense perspective throughout the narrative portions of *Chapterhouse: Dune*, being omniscient to the character's unexpressed thoughts. Much of the novel is driven by dialog, with characters commenting mentally on how they perceive conversations are going. Particularly when facing the easily-provoked Grand Honored Matre, Bene Gesserit characters must remind themselves of her danger, dampen their enjoyment of their intellectual superiority over her, and attempt to get their points across - Bene Gesserit are always looking for opportunities to teach. All the characters, except the hidden Jews on Gammu, live under constant supervision of comeys and know their expression, gestures, and words are carefully analyzed.

Herbert indulges in political philosophy more in *Chapterhouse: Dune* than in the last few *Dune* novels. He relegates the God Emperor (or Tyrant) Leto II and his previously vaunted "Golden Path" to the status of Emperor-without-Clothes. Having examined in *God Emperor of Dune* the Zensunni religious thought that drives the Bene Tleilax (and before them the Fremen, who carry it throughout the universe in Jihad), and fried the Tleilaxu planets along with *Dune*, Herbert is more reserved in this novel. He creates a "Secret Israel," however, supposedly with ancient links to the Bene Gesserit, for a series of scenes with a morbid Rabbi and the congregant (Rebecca) he forces to become a Bene Gesserit and now resents her for being one. Sheeana, the youngest woman ever to become a Reverend Mother (except in utero, with the destiny of being Abominations), is being set up to serve as the holy one in a new religion that the Missionaria Protectiva is crafting. She flees to parts unknown with Duncan Idaho before this can be effected - unless she carries on, on her own, wherever she lands.

Herbert introduces two elderly characters dressed like early 20th-century farmers in the U.S Midwest, who appear to Duncan Idaho first in the melange-rich hold of the no-ship, then in the control room, and interact with him. He considers they might be Face Dancers from the Scattering, not controlled by Tleilaxu Masters. The final section of the novel confirms this, as Daniel and Marty talk about Idaho's escape. This kind of godlike (but not divine) character has not appeared in earlier *Dune* novels and leaves a sense of mystery as the final one ends.

Setting

Picking up where *Heretics of Dune* ends, 1,500 years after the death of the God-Emperor Leto II "the Tyrant," *Chapterhouse: Dune* examines the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood with its back to the proverbial wall, in frantic survival mode. The hysterical Honored Matres are harrying them at every turn, and have reduced the number of Bene Gesserit planets to a handful. *Chapterhouse* is emptying as Sisters with worms and



minimal melange supplies are sent into a new Scattering, made all the more worrisome by the fact no Sister ever returned from the first Scattering. During the novel, the planet is seen undergoing a conversion into desert so it can support the offspring of the great sandworms of Dune. The hubris of changing an entire planet is examined at length.

Gammu, the former Giedi Prime, home world of House Harkonnen, the hated rivals of House Atreides, plays a less prominent role in this novel, although the events that occur there in *Heretics* are referred to repeatedly. The restored ghola Miles Teg is seen in the body of a pre-adolescent leading an attack on Gammu and reluctantly taking in Hidden Israel refugees from the planet. The battle is a feint to drive Honored Matres and their economic allies to Junction for the final confrontation. Junction, a planet whose architecture is designed with the great melange gas-filled tanks of Guild Navigators in mind, is described in some detail. Battles are bloodless but deadly because of a new weapon.

Chapterhouse: *Dune* ends with a small band escaping the windswept desert planet to an unknown universe for unknown purposes. A modicum of peace has returned to the million planets of the Old Empire as Murbella rules both as Mother Superior of the Bene Gesserit and Grand Honored Matre, with plans to merge the sisterhoods, incorporating the best of each.

Language and Meaning

Chapterhouse: *Dune* takes up where *Heretics of Dune* leaves off in Frank Herbert's philosophical investigation of the meaning of life, power, and religion. It continues drawing heavily on the mythologies built up in the original trilogy and *God Emperor of Dune*, but emphasizes that Leto II, the Tyrant, dead for 1,500 years has nowhere in mind for humankind when he launches the "Golden Path." He allows the Bene Gesserit to survive as guides because he has no goal. The Honored Matre Sisterhood, which springs from the Bene Gesserit in the mysterious Scattering, has dropped key elements of the Sisterhood's legacy and been driven back to the Old Empire by some dread, horrible, and unseen force. At the end of *Heretics*, the Honored Matres ruthlessly destroy Rakis/Dune, and mythology naturally elevates the lost to a special revered, so lost Fremen ways are spoken of. The Bene Tleilax, having been all but annihilated, shrink in prominence, but their Zensunni philosophy remains to enrich the language. The Arab/Muslim ambiance of the earliest novels continues to fade.

Herbert continues his explicit discussion of sexual matters begun in *Heretics* and resurrects the interest in all things political that mark the novels prior to *Heretics*. Several times, he discusses the hypothesis that democracy demands distrust and minimal law and stands at odds with bureaucracy. He also depicts the horrors of war more graphically than usual, and contemplates the psychological effects on the victors. Weapons Master Duncan Idaho is inspired to create new armaments, resulting in many neologisms. The technologies of Ix and the Scattering are discussed from a variety of angles. Murbella's Spice Agony is described in minute detail and vivid imagination. She incorporates Reverend Mother Odrade's memories as Odrade takes in Taraza's at the



end of Heretics. Odrade laughs at rebellious Murbella now wanting guidance. What will happen to humankind next is left an open question, and Frank Herbert does not live long enough to provide a seventh installment.

Structure

Like Frank Herbert's previous five Dune novels, *Chapterhouse: Dune* consists of unnumbered and untitled scenes, each headed by an epigraph drawn from ostensibly historical resources that help set the mood for what is presented. The sources are quite diverse. *Chapterhouse: Dune* is very much Part 2 of *Heretics of Dune*, but with the Honored Matre Sisterhood not just harassing the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood but pushing it to the point of extinction.

To survive, the Bene Gesserit needs the service of its finest military commander, Bashar Teg Miles, who perished on Rakis (Dune) at the end of *Heretics*. His cells are regrown in a Tleilaxu axlotl tank, and his biological daughter, the Mother Superior Odrade, guides him through his first ten years. The ghola, Idaho Duncan, whose memories Teg restores in *Heretics* must now restore the young Bashar's, but memories of the pain make Idaho look for another way.

Meanwhile, the planet is turning to desert to accommodate the worms of Dune. Young Sheeana has grown and become a Reverend Mother and is even considered a possible successor to Odrade, despite her wildness. Young Murbella, the Honored Matre postulant, has become Idaho's mate and throughout the novel moves towards undergoing the Spice Agony to become a Reverend Mother. In the end, her intimacy in both sisterhoods become the tool of unifying them.

Throughout the novel, readers are tantalized by the mysteries of the Scattering and the origins of the Honored Matres. Answers begin coming out in the confrontation between Mother Superior and Grand Honored Matre, but war intervenes. The brutality of combat is examined from several angles, and the difficult logistics of restoring peace are brought out. In the end, Sheeana and Idaho depart without a trace into the universe, with it hinted that she may be the cause of another great revolution in human affairs. Herbert does not live to write that novel. The reader is left to ponder what lies ahead in a post-Golden Path era. The novel ends enigmatically with a Face Dancer couple arguing about Idaho and the others getting away.



Quotes

"It was a chilling signal to surviving Bene Gesserit: 'You may be next!' How could any human society be anesthetized to such brutality? Odrade wondered. She visualized the news with breakfast at some Honored Matre base: 'We've destroyed another Bene Gesserit planet. Ten billion dead, they say. That makes six planets this month, doesn't it? Pass the cream, will you, dear?'" pg. 38.

"'She knows we watch.'

The comeyes showed Murbella defying post-coital fatigue to leap from bed. Moving with blurred speed (much faster than anything the Bene Gesserit had ever achieved), she kicked out with her right foot, stopping the blow only a hair's breadth from Idaho's head. At her first movement, Idaho opened his eyes. He watched without fear, without flinching.

That blow! Fatal if it struck. You had only to see such a thing once to fear it. Murbella moved with no resort to her central cortex. Insect-like, an attack triggered by nerves at the point of muscle ignition.

'You see!' Murbella lowered her foot and glared down at him.

Idaho smiled.

Watching it, Odrade reminded herself that the Sisterhood had three of Murbella's children, all female. The Breeding Mistresses were excited. In time, Reverend Mothers born of this line might match that Honored Matre ability.

In time we probably don't have." pg. 59.

"'You are beginning to bore me. Why did we find so little about the God Emperor?'

Pouncing!

'Perhaps your people destroyed it.'

'Ahhh, then you do have an interest in him.'

And so do you, Madame Spider!'

'I would have presumed, Grand Honored Matre, that Leto II and his Golden Path were subjects of study at many of your academic centers.'

'That was cruel!'

'We have no academic centers!'

'I find your interest in him surprising.'

'Casual interest, no more.'

'And that Futar sprang from an oak tree struck by lightning!'

"We call his Golden Path "the paper chase." He blew it into the infinite winds and said:

"See? There is where it goes." That's the Scattering.'

'Some prefer to call it the Seeking.'" pg. 112.

"She felt the remembered hand of the Proctor on her forehead and heard the words that had possessed no meaning until this moment.

'I stand in the sacred human presence. As I do now, so should you stand some day. I



pray to your presence that this be so. Let the future remain uncertain for that is the canvas to receive our desires. Thus the human condition faces its perpetual tabula rasa. We possess no more than this moment where we dedicate ourselves continuously to the sacred presence we share and create.'

Conventional and unconventional. She realized that she had not been physically or emotionally prepared for this moment. Tears flowed down her cheeks." pg. 130.

"It was a thought peculiar to the Sisterhood. The drawbacks of anyone placing considerable reliance on intellectual achievements were large. She could not deny all of that evidence from the Lampadas horde. Speaker paraded it for her whenever she wavered.

Rebecca had come almost to enjoy the pursuit of memory fancies, as she thought of them. knowing earlier times forced her to deny her own earlier times. She had been required to believe so many things she now knew were nonsense. Myths and chimera, impulses of extremely childish behavior.

'Our gods should mature as we mature.'

Rebecca suppressed a smile. Speaker did that to her often—a little nudge in the ribs from someone who knew you would appreciate it." pgs. 208-209.

"Sea Child's memories interfered. Nostalgia. It blocked paths of proper judgment. How fast must the sea go? That was the question. All the inevitable relocations and resettlements waited on that decision.

Best it were done quickly. The pain banished into our past. Let us get on with it! She swam to the shallows and looked up at a puzzled Tamalane. Tam's robed skirts were dark with splashings from an unexpected wave. Odrade lifted her head clear of the small surges.

'Tam! Eliminate the sea as fast as possible. Get Weather to plot a swift dehydration scheme. Food and Transport will have to be brought into it. I'll approve the final plan after our usual review.'" pg. 235.

"Before he could compose a response, Bellonda's projected figure appeared above the table, lifesize and partly translucent, dancing crystals of Archives behind her. 'Urgent from Sheeana!' Bellonda said. 'The spice blow has occurred. Sandworms!' The figure turned and looked at Scytale, comeys perfectly coordinating her movements. 'So you have lost a bargaining chip, Master Scytale! We have our spice at last!' The projected figure vanished with an audible click and a faint smell of ozone.

'You're trying to trick me!' he blurted.

But the door at Odrade's left opened. Sheeana entered towing a small suspensor pod no more than two meters long. Its transparent sides repeated the glowglobes of the workroom in tiny bursts of yellow light. Something squirmed in the pod!

Sheeana stood aside without speaking, giving them a full view of the contents. So small! The worm was less than half the length of its container but perfect in every detail, stretched out there on a shallow bed of golden sand.

Scytale could not contain a gasp of awe. The Prophet!" pgs 289-290.



"'Imprinter!' Teg's screams made the watchers jump.

He beat his fists against Sheeana's shoulders. All of them at the seawall observed an inner flickering of his eyes as he twisted back and forth, something new peering out of him.

Odrade was on her feet. 'Has something gone wrong?'

Sheeana thrust Teg away to escape his clawing fingers.

He sprawled to the floor and whirled with a speed that shocked the watchers. Sheeana and Teg confronted each other for several long heartbeats. Slowly, he straightened and only then did he look down at himself. Presently, he lifted his attention to his left arm held in front of him. His gaze went to the ceiling, to each wall in turn. Again, he looked at his body.

'What in the nether hell...!' Still childish piping but oddly matured.

'Welcome, ghola-Bashar,' Sheeana said." pg. 311.

"'I'm dying.'

The thread was stretching. It was going to break! Hopeless to resist. Muscles would not obey. There probably were no muscles remaining to her. She did not want them anyway. They were pain. It was hell and would never end ... not even if the thread snapped.

Flames burned along the thread, licking at her awareness.

Hands shook her shoulders. Duncan ... don't. Each movement was pain beyond anything she had imagined possible. This deserved to be called Agony.

The thread no longer was stretching. It was pulling back, compressing. It became one small thing, a sausage of such exquisite pain that nothing else existed. The sense of being became vague, translucent ... transparent.

'Do you see?' the voice of her mohalata guide came from far away.

'I see things.'" pgs. 351-352.

"Sheeana recalled giant Shai-hulud of Dune, 'the Old Man of the Desert,' large enough to swallow spice factories, ring surfaces hard as plastrete. Masters of their own domain. God and devil in the sands. She sensed the potential from her window vantage.

Why did the Tyrant choose symbiotic existence in a worm?

Did those tiny worms carry his endless dream?

Sandtrout inhabited this desert. accept them as a new skin and she might follow the Tyrant's path.

Metamorphosis. The Divided God.

She knew the lure.

Do I dare?" pg. 425.

"'She tried to interfere,' Elpek said.

Having killed a Reverend Mother, Elpek expected Murbella (a Sister, after all!) to applaud. But Murbella did not react as expected. She knelt beside Odrade and put her head against that of the corpse, staying there an interminable time.

The surviving Honored Matres exchanged questioning looks but dared not move.



What is this?

But they were immobilized by Murbella's terrifying abilities.

When she had Odrade's recent past, all of the new added to previous Sharing, Murbella stood.

Elpek saw death in Murbella's eyes and took one backward step before trying to defend herself. Elpek was dangerous but no match for this demon in the black robe. It was over with the same shocking abruptness that had taken Logno and her aides: a kick to the larynx. Elpek sprawled across Odrade." pg. 438.

"Are you all right, Murbella?' Concern in Bell's voice.

'You warned me about wild things, Dar, and I didn't listen.'

'After we've eaten, I will take my councilors on an inspection tour of Central. Tell my acolyte I'll want cider before retiring.'

'Bellonda left, muttering. That was more like her.

'How do you guide me now, Dar?'

'You want guidance? A guided tour of your life? Is that why I died?'

'But they took the Van Gogh, too!'

'Is that what you'll miss?'

'Why did they take it, Dar?'

Caustic laughter greeted this and Murbella was glad no one else heard.

'Can't you see what she intends?'

'The Missionaria scheme!'

'Oh, more than that. It's the next phase: Muad'Dib to Tyrant to Honored Matres to us to Sheeana... to what? Can't you see it? the thing is right there at the lip of your thoughts. Accept it as you would swallow a bitter drink.'

'Murbella shuddered.

'See it? The bitter medicine of a Sheeana future? We once thought all medicines had to be bitter or they were not effective. No healing power in the sweet.'

'Must it happen, Dar?'

'Some will choke on that medicine. But the survivors may create interesting patterns.'" pgs. 456-457.

Topics for Discussion

What role does Vincent Van Gogh's painting, Cottages at Cordeville, play in this novel?

How is the 19th-century Russian writer Leo Tolstoy used in the novel?

Why is Murbella's Spice Agony more agonizing than most?

How does Sea Child figure in the story line?

How does the old farm couple figure in the story line? How do you interpret the novel's ending with them?

What is Sheeana's deep secret that Odrade is forced to accept? Where might it lead her? Do you think symbiosis with the worm is ever a viable option for her?

Is there any redeeming characteristic in Dama? Is her murder at all lamentable? Could she have made peace with Odrade had they lived?