

Children of Dune Study Guide

Children of Dune by Frank Herbert

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Plot Summary

Children of Dune concludes the three-book story of Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' life. His amazing young son, Leto II, helped by twin daughter Ghanima, surpasses Paul in finding the inner balance and unity of time and space required to lead humanity into a 4,000-year Golden Path of peace and prosperity. Paul's sister, Alia, exposed to the spice melange before birth, succumbs to the possession that she long fights, but which the twins channel adequately.

Stilgar feels responsible for Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' 9-year-old twins who are discovering their father's powers within themselves. They prepare to launch a "Golden Path." Their Regent, Alia Atreides, is power-hungry and possessed by the evil Baron Harkonnen. On Salusa Secundus, Wensicia, daughter of the ousted Emperor, plots to murder the twins and put her son, Farad'n, on the throne. A blind "Preacher," whom many think is Paul, stirs up dissent in Arrakeen, visits Salusa, and turns over Duncan Idaho to the Corrinos. Paranoid and self-obsessed Alia fumes about conspiracy, missing that the twins are the targets. Arrakis moves towards civil war. Idaho appears to double cross Jessica, but reveals he works for The Preacher. Jessica agrees to tutor Farad'n.

Leto and Ghanima separate, with Jessica expecting him to fall into Sisterhood's hands and her to marry Farad'n. Jessica wonders if the Bene Gesserit is misusing her or about to discard her. Alia despairs just as she comes to believe that The Preacher is her brother. Idaho leaves Atreides service. Halleck and Namri capture Leto and force him to take the spice trips that he and Ghanima have avoided. Leto feels Time and Space and all of creation coalesce within him. Jessica begins Farad'n's training, but her mind is on Arrakis, where Alia and Irulan try to convince Ghanima to marry Farad'n. Leto is kept in a perpetual half-trance, which allows his inner thoughts to organize. He realizes the threat to spice posed by ecological change and goes to Shuloch, a smugglers' den, where he envisions "Kralizec," the "Typhoon Struggle," the inevitable end-day battle. He also begins his fearful physical transformation, putting on an impenetrable armor of sandtrout, which improve his agility and strength. Leto finds and confronts his father, who is indeed the blind Preacher.

Idaho escapes Alia's murder plot and goes to Tabr, where he and Alia's lover, Javid, die under circumstances that force an exodus, but Alia captures them. Leto's vast powers, which he widely demonstrates, spawn a new cult. Paul accepts his son's new universe and delivers one last sermon in Arrakeen on the day of his daughter's betrothal. Leto, Ghanima, Jessica, and Farad'n watch as Paul is assassinated and Alia leaps to her death. The novel concludes with Leto troubled by his lost humanity, but looking forward to a 4,000-year reign that will restore humanity to dignity and peace. Humankind will many times rise from its own ashes. Brother and sister will marry but since Leto is sterile, Farad'n will provide genetic material to a new House Atreides. Ghanima remarks that one of the twins has to accept agony, and Leto has always been the stronger.



Children of Dune (through pg. 54)

Children of Dune (through pg. 54) Summary

Stilgar, Naib (leader) of Sietch Tabr and guardian of Paul-Muad'Dib's orphaned twins, Ghanima and Leto, feels the weight of his duties. He remembers Fremen pride and dreaming of a messiah, rather than guilt over helping subject the universe to jihad. The "friendly desert" is shrunk to half its original size and the spread of "paradise" is dismaying. The children's paternal grandmother, the Lady Jessica, is visiting today. Naibs have killed for the good of the tribe, and these are not mere children. They possess terrifying genetic memory, like their Aunt Alia, having been addicted to melange in their mothers' wombs. Since infancy, Leto has shown he knows things only Muad'Dib could. The Bene Gesserit call them "Abomination," but want to exploit them genetically. Most upsetting is Muad'Dib's deification and the formation of a government/religion alliance. Stilgar sympathizes with the rebels whom he is obliged to crush. The knife is the simplest solution, but it will not roll back time. Killing the twins would only create new forms of chaos. Stilgar resigns himself to serving God, the Merciful and Compassionate, according to the old Fremen ways. He wishes he could foresee the future but has decided not to interfere with it.

The twins arise before dawn, dress in stillsuits and capes, and eat a simple breakfast served by Stilgar's kibitzing wife Harah. They discuss their grandmother's visit, suspect some evil persona from the past has taken over Alia, speculate why they are not likewise afflicted, since they are no less "pre-born Abominations," and realize they must not mention to Jessica the wandering, heretical Preacher whom some claim is their father. Abomination perhaps occurs only in those who dare the spice trance, which they have avoided. Alia approaches, warning them to behave and not provoke dangerous thoughts in their grandmother. Leto sees in Alia's face genetic reminders that the unpleasant Baron Vladimir Harkonnen is her maternal grandfather, and suspects he works within Alia without her realization. As Alia departs for the spaceport, the twins suspect dangerous changes ahead and vow to continue resisting the lure of spice overdose. Pitying Alia, they resolve to discuss her somehow with their grandmother.

As she leaves the twins, Alia is torn, wanting their help, but angry at failing both to see the future and to open the twin's eyes to millennia of memories. She wonders what brings her mother back, along with ugly, loyal retainer Gurney Halleck, reportedly her lover. Alia hopes Jessica's enquiring into the twin's education will keep scrutiny off her. Alia loves and hates her mother and does not blame her for being the Sisterhood's pawn in the quest to breed a Kwisatz Haderach, a supremely aware male capable of being many places simultaneously. By falling in love with her assigned breeding partner and giving him a son, Jessica has condemned Alia to in utero addiction and a feeling of being unwanted. With Paul come one generation too soon, Alia is the Abomination who carries the precious genes. Idaho's Mentat abilities show Jessica turning the twins over to the Sisterhood. The ornithopter sets down on the roof of Alia's Keep.



Two big Laza tigers, specially bred on Salusa Secundus, are implanted as cubs with servo-stimulators that make them pawns of whoever controls the transmitter. In a desolate region where a few sandtrout smuggled from Arrakis are kept alive in hopes of breaking the melange monopoly, the cats again spot two children in House Atreides clothing. The Sardaukar Levenbrech who controls them reports the swift, deadly attack is the best he has seen. This duty surely will earn a promotion when Farad'n, grandson of the late Shaddam IV, retakes the throne.

A half million people, one-third pilgrims, jam the landing plain for Jessica's arrival. She reprises the black hooded aba to impress them. Space travel does not agree with her and Arrakis holds bitter memories. Jessica stretches out her senses to probe for dangers. Alia's party approaches, including Stilgar and ageless Irulan. Alia's impudent, youthful face confirms that she has entered the forbidden way. The human sea kneels for Jessica's benediction, which lasts long enough for security to subdue known rebels. Bypassing Alia, Jessica orders Stilgar to seal the port until the captives are questioned. Alia knows what her mother has deduced but is delighted that all is out into the open. Irulan, who lives for Paul's children, realizes Jessica has returned to the Sisterhood and has plans for them. She finds Jessica haughty but is sure that merely hides something. Two priests, surly Javid and jolly, ruthless Zebataleph, squabble over whose event Jessica will attend. She finds both repellent, but adds the more dangerous Javid to her entourage, hoping to infiltrate the priesthood. Jessica objects she is here to see her grandchildren and finds any priestly nonsense a waste of time, but then deigns to attend Javid's Lustration.

Leto plays the baliset given him by Halleck. In four years, he has become fluent and finds the instrument soothing. Ghanima objects to sitting outdoors with him at nightfall, waiting for their grandmother. He is nostalgic about the Atreides' home planet and feels his father's psychic presence. Grimacing, he plays a moody Halleck classic, and is awed by the bond between them. He knows that if one should die s/he would live on in their shared memory. Only today has he sensed gaps in the future and does not know how to share this. The eerie crescent-shaped dunes called barchans intrigue him. The desert floor is a profusion of green. An oasis of planted dunes catches his attention and he reminds Ghanima that they can never forget having altered everything. Beyond lies "The Emptiness" where nothing grows, but elsewhere, forests flourish and the young cannot picture a barren planet. Leto, however, feels the Fremen reticence to change. Sandtrout are reportedly rare now near the surface, showing that change is accelerating. Ghanima, who does not resist change as strongly, comforts her brother.

Leto strums his baliset, searching for a way to tell Ghanima that he is experiencing visions of unprecedented wars, buried sorrows and joys emerging, and conversations on many planets. Nightfall is when it is most unbearable. The ancient known-unknown moves in him like a wave. His father's prescience is superimposed on everything, and Leto wants all pasts, no matter how dangerous. The desert glows with the light of First Moon as Leto studies an outcropping of rock, The Attendant, which Leto and Ghanima disobediently visit frequently. "I stand between fish and worm," Leto announces, making both twins shudder. He a time when water exists on ancient Arrakis, and watches sandworms seal it off to make the land safe for giant sandworms. This makes him worry



about what human intervention is doing. Ghanima finds it hard to take seriously that creatures, which children play with before taking them to the deathstill, could play so significant a planetary role.

Fremen have always seeded cisterns with predator fish to control the sandtrout. Large bodies of water make "vector sandworms" produce poisonous melange concentrate that is diluted for sietch orgies. Muad'Dib drinks the concentrate to penetrate Time in ways no male ever has dared. Ghanima asks what Leto has done, but he continues meditating. Fewer sandtrout mean the planet is transforming. The worms will follow, and then the spice. Alia's gloating means she realizes this. The tribes will not believe their warning if Alia denies it, so they must first convince Stilgar. Leto admits he is having prescient dreams, earlier than his father. He has seen himself in armor, racing to mythical Jacurutu to confront The Preacher, to see if he is Muad'Dib or just another old mystic. They both know this is the way to Abomination.

Halleck uses Atreides' hand signals to thwart the priests' spy devices as he updates Jessica. As expected, many of those arrested are Alia's people, and under deep drugs, some mention "Jacurutu," but die as they pronounce it. They suspect heart-compulsion. Saying aloud to carry on, Jessica gestures Halleck to contact smuggler friends. They are sure to know about Jacurutu, if it is real. Leaving, he warns Jessica to be careful about Alia and her priests. Jessica signs that Javid hates the Atreides and conspires against Alia, who is unaware. Jessica intends to spend the night at Sietch Tabr after a final meeting with the Master of Novitiates.

The people fear The Preacher, who like Muad'Dib has been blinded by a stone burner and whose voice compels response. An unknown, innocent-looking Fremen teenager, Assan Tariq, leads the man around, but people doubt he needs a guide. He wears an old-style stillsuit under a bourka. Blind Fremen remain a rarity, still being considered an obligatory sacrifice to Shai-Hulud. They ascend to the third landing of Alia's Temple, where the blind man surveys the pilgrims, seemingly seeing their gaudy, noisy variety, hearing their many languages and occasional vocal prayers to Muad'Dib, and inhaling rich odors until they are masked by incense drifting from the Temple. When tethered, Sand Dancers pass by in a state of ecstasy and are mocked. The blind man is revolted, with Voice demands silence, and denounces blasphemy, idolatry, and the perversion of religion. People wonder if Muad'Dib has returned. Pulling out a desiccated human hand, the stranger claims to speak for the "Hand of God" and names himself "The Preacher."

In a control room, monitors show Laza tigers feeding, and a Sardaukar officer nearby with a control unit at his chest. A slender, fair-haired woman in a clinging, gold-trimmed white robe sits, attended by a graying Bashar Aide, Tyekanik. She is Princess Wensicia, mother of Farad'n, whom she plots to restore to her father's throne by eliminating the twins. Javid assures her that Alia can be handled, Jessica is not a true Atreides, and the Landsraad and CHOAM go wherever profits are. Wensicia orders Tyekanik to embrace Muad'Dib's religion and pass it on to Farad'n, thereby cinching Fremen loyalty. Wensicia orders Tyekanik to turn the tigers on the Levenbrech trainer and kill the transport pilot after he returns the tigers. Lose ends must be tied. Wensicia declines Tyekanik's offer to fall on his own blade. She orders the six remaining pairs of robes and stillsuits, all



bearing Atreides insignia, sent to Farad'n's beloved cousins as tokens of his devotion, and orders Tyekanik to train her son to rule. When the supreme commander tries her royal patience, she reminds him that everyone in an army is replaceable.

Children of Dune (through pg. 54) Analysis

After a dramatic opening flourish, Herbert settles into recapitulating what has transpired in the nine years since Dune Messiah, re-introducing to series fans major characters and focusing on Stilgar's responsible for Muad'Dib's twins and his distasteful role in government. Alia shows signs of being the "Abomination," and her tragic fate is a major thread in the novel. Those reading Children of Dune as a separate receive sufficient information to appreciate the characters and situation, but are at a definite disadvantage. The twins, last seen as newborns, are discovering their father's powers in themselves. New characters are introduced on Salusa Secundus, where bitter descendants of the ousted Emperor plot a return to power by murdering the twins. The moving force is Wensicia, Irulan's sister. She spies on Jessica and arranges her son's feigned conversion to win Fremen support. Various dangers of religion interfacing with state are brought out in this section and throughout the novel. "The Preacher," resembling Paul in many ways, remains an enigmatic figure for much of the novel. Young Leto's figuring out the link between sandtrout, sandworms, and melange production heightens the ecological theme. Jacurutu also introduces a mythical one.

Readers new to the Dune universe must grow familiar immediately with some basic terms. "Spice" or "melange" is an addictive substance produced only on the planet Arrakis (Dune) used for gaining prescience needed, e.g., for space flight and viewing "inner lives." The latter is the way of the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, whose members include Jessica and Irulan. Powerful intriguers, the Sisters control a breeding program to create the "Kwisatz Haderach," a male who can be many places at once. Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides in an earlier novel becomes this, a generation earlier than expected, and his sister Alia perhaps becomes Abomination by spice addiction as a "pre-born." The native people of Arrakis, called "Fremen," traditionally live in cavernous "sietches" and are led by a tribal "Naib." Most, however, are growing modernist.



Children of Dune (pgs. 54-96)

Children of Dune (pgs. 54-96) Summary

Ghanima arranges a private meeting with Jessica to talk about experiences in their mutual past. For the first time in years, Jessica needs the "Litany against Fear" to calm herself. She fears for her grandchildren, although neither shows the signs of Abomination that Alia flaunts. As Jessica lets down her guard, the pair converse silently and in synchrony about Paul's boyhood testing by gom jabber. Ghanima "remembers" the pain. Jessica suspects Leto may not be human and cries over her part in Alia's destruction. Ghanima reveals Leto's dreams.

Jessica brings up The Preacher, about whom Javid laughs, and Ghanima says Leto will find him and make sure. Ghanima is worried that Alia works a "strange attraction" on Leto, which is why they meet without him. He empathizes with Alia and mutters "Jacurutu" in his sleep. Ghanima is afraid to search her memories and many lives within, and Jessica warns her sharply not to risk it. Jessica reflects on the strangeness of such young flesh carrying all of Paul's memories. It is an invasion of privacy. There is sweetness to Ghanima, so willing to sacrifice for her brother. Jessica agrees with Halleck's plan: separate the twins and let the Sisterhood train Leto.

From childhood through adolescence, Alia practices prana-bindu trance, strengthening her personality to withstand all the "others." In the melange-rich sietch, she finds no release for genetic memories and knows that any of the lives can casually intrude on her. She fights alone, without help, for even her mother accepts that the pre-born are Abomination. Within a month of her Paul's death, Alia marries Duncan Idaho, his Mentat swordmaster, and becomes the twins' Regent. This new responsibility drives Alia to consult her inner lives, seeking advice. While still in mourning, Alia puts down Jessica's demanding voice, opens the bottomless pit, and comes face-to-face with the Baron Harkonnen. She screams and for a while, there is silence.

The "sharklike circling" of voices resume the morning after she tries and nearly condemns Essas Paymon, but so admires his boldness that she hires him. Soon afterward, Javid reports hearing Paymon quote dangerous scripture: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Alia has him executed. Now his face haunts Alia. Other lives well up, demanding "Me! Me!" She knows whichever one she chooses will take her over. A rumbling, chuckling basso offers to help her if she helps him. Alia's grossly fat grandfather explains that in exchange for occasional moments of contact with Alia's senses (as when she makes love) he will counsel her and hold the other voices at bay. Together they will be invincible. The Baron's first advice is to seduce Javid, ask him jokingly about Paymon, and when he admits the lie, kill him. Alia orders Javid brought to her private chamber. Javid's sole value is knowing Jacurutu's whereabouts. The Baron's words seem reasonable and they strike a bargain.



Muriz, a leathery Fremen, identifies himself to six bound men deep in a damp sietch. They are tourists and their guides, whose stumbling upon Shuloch is discovered by Muriz's son, Assan Tariq. The 14-year-old stands with a bare chrysknife, ready to undergo the test of manhood required by the "Cast Out." Future judges must remember Jacurutu and the day of despair. The shades of the men Tariq slays become his guardians forever, warning him of demons. Muriz cautions The Preacher must not learn of this.

Leto and Ghanima sit cross-legged in a secret place toward dusk, when they are supposed to be exercising, speaking in ancient Egyptian, which no one, including Alia, can decipher. Leto feels they "can't go the way of the spice," and will undertake his daring plan alone if Ghanima backs out. They must escape possession, but also must consult their parents. As Ghanima sings one of her mother's favorite love songs, Leto wills himself to be Paul sitting beside his wise, beloved Chani; Ghanima slips into her mother's "persona-memory" with frightening ease; it is easier for females but far more dangerous. Paul and Chani discuss his blindness and his quest for Jacurutu. Muad'Dib the hero must perish for Leto's "Golden Path" - the only viable future - to bring humanity back from chaos.

Alia has failed. Jessica has returned too late with her own plan. As an observer, Leto calls out to his father, longing for him to be alive, making decision, and unmaking mistakes. Chani feels her lover withdrawing and calls to him. "Paul-within" remains to warn Leto that the twins have no guarantees, reveals that the Baron controls Alia, and forbids Leto says to "become" him. Using enormous will-force, Paul withdraws, and Leto's only temptation is to transform melange to shatter Time's veils and view the future. In the end, he opts for Paul's final vision, accepting life as beautiful, joyous, and surprising.

Leto orders Chani to withdraw, but she is tempted to remain, and doing so is "foolishly easy." Recalling Paul's struggle, Leto panics, picturing Ghanima lost in an "observer-world." He tells his mother he despises her, warns that Paul will despise her, and summons Paul to confirm this with Voice. Chani writhes, trying to get away and for hours rocks Ghanima's body in an inner battle. Sometimes Ghanima's voice begs Chani not to make of her another Alia. When Chani does depart, Leto begs his sister's forgiveness for once again playing this fearful game.

Ghanima is happy they have learned so much: they must follow Leto's Golden Path; Jessica wants to decontaminate them and guide their education; because they carry the blood of the Kwisatz Haderach, the twins are in danger from the Bene Gesserit; they may be forced to mate as Royals have before - but both find this repellant. Simultaneously they realize that the Kwisatz Haderach's power, used in the Bene Gesserit way, must fail. Dawn arrives over the desert and the twins stand and stretch, dedicated to the Golden Path. Paul's last vision melts into Leto's dreams. They will accompany one another into deathliness and only one will return to report it.

The twins enter the sietch and, as they head for their quarters, people stare, wondering about their keeping the ancient Fremen vigil. Continuing in Egyptian, Ghanima says that



whether the death is real or simulated, the survivor must truly believe and truly mourn. Any misstep, and the Golden Path is aborted. They must either take what they need with Atrides audacity or become petitioners before their Regency. Ghanima is concerned that her brother is pleading with her on two levels: 1) for the Golden Path per se, his and his father's vision; and 2) for free reign in pursuing the dangerous myth creation that it requires. Leto's inability to share frightens her. Could he entertain the idea of becoming a godhead like Paul? The cult of Muad'Dib has soured and needs regeneration. Ghanima recalls Leto's brilliant dream: Realizing he is the sun, Leto moves out of himself and views himself as a child's stick figure drawing holding a realistic scepter, whose movement terrifies him. Leto awakens into another dream in which his skin is encased in moving, invisible armor. Terror vanishes and he possesses the strength of 10,000 men.

Before they enter Jessica's quarters, Ghanima warns that they could already be possessed without knowing it, but Leto sees Alia's struggling against the powers within being her undoing, while they have amalgamated their lives-within, learning to ride with them. That is what Paul has taught him. Ghanima is now able to listen to her mother-within, while Leto seeks counsel from the grandfather for whom he is named. Jessica, still living, can be consulted twice, but Ghanima will not risk another inner sharing. They need her Harkonnen perspective, however. Ghanima feels the psyches-within which she has consulted lurking like harpies in ambush. Leto's persuasiveness alone sustains her. She knows he is sincere and needs her "fertile creativity" to enrich his plan. The desert, possibly the spice, and certainly the "Trial of Possession" await them.

Leto finally admits this last element, reluctantly. It is an ancient Fremen examination, which often ends in hideous death or permanent insanity. Leto reminds her, "Power attracts the psychotics. Always. That's what we have to avoid within ourselves." If they create the Golden Path, they will not be possessed. They will love one another but never mate, and while knifing Alia might solve their problems, Ghanima agrees to do things Leto's way.

Farad'n walks with Tyekanik, who is fresh from an argument with Wensicia. Like his grandfather, Farad'n is more interested in hobbies than in governing. He wants to experiment with sandtrout, which promise great economic benefit. He asks about the assassination plot, an unpleasant but inevitable part of royal life. It will be expedient for them afterwards to move to Arrakis. Farad'n is troubled by Tyekanik's new religion, which the Bashar says befits his inner warrior. Tyekanik speaks about it casually, then, boldly lying, claims he has gone behind Wensicia's back to invite "a practitioner of oneiromancy" - Dune's mysterious Preacher. Muad'Dib's teachings reconcile church and state, science and religion, past and future. The interpretation of dreams is central to the faith, and Farad'n has casually mentioned dreams. As Tyekanik fetches the visitor, Farad'n finds it foolish, irregular, and odd that someone the Bashar's age should suddenly be interested in religion and dreams.

Wearing an Ixian mask that enables him to see and a long gray robe that reeks of spice, and speaking with a feint Fremen accent, The Preacher makes Farad'n nervous, but still he tells his dream about water running upward, worlds as atoms, and snakes turning



into sandworms. When he finishes, The Preacher says he has interpreted the dream but refuses to explain it, since that is not the agreement, would serve no purpose, and probably would confuse. The Preacher trusts neither man because they do not trust themselves, knows the "fatal consequences" of incurring Corrino anger, but knows they will not kill him, for he can produce Duncan Idaho. Farad'n proposes keeping The Preacher in the palace, but he is there under a bonded agreement with the Guild and must return to Arrakis, summoned by a greater power.

When Farad'n condemns the farcical waste of his time, Tyekanik reveals that the Preacher wants to come and promises Idaho as a Corrino spy in exchange for getting to interpret Farad'n's dream. The dream proves to him that great events are "moving toward a logical conclusion." After talking about the rise and fall of governments for insignificant reasons and applying strategy properly, overlooking no details, The Preacher wishes Farad'n luck with his throne and warns he will need more than that. He stands at a moral crossroad and a future he cannot see. Fed up, Farad'n orders The Preacher "sent packing." Tyekanik already has a mission in mind for Idaho. Farad'n is inspired to look more closely at the new religion.

Children of Dune (pgs. 54-96) Analysis

The novel next shows conflicts brewing. Alia is given unusually compassionate treatment until it is decided she is truly Abomination. The process of her possession is fascinating and dramatic. The Baron is used to develop a favorite Herbert theme: the superiority of public order over blind justice. The Preacher's guide, Tariq, is tied into a militant Fremen cell, and the twins prepare to execute a plan that will launch the Golden Path. The operation of "other memory" is examined a second time as the twins allow their parent to take them over and discuss their destiny. Ancient Egypt finds a place in the novel, linguistically as one of the twin's secret languages (earlier they use modern French - an equally dead language), and mythologically in references to Osiris, god of life, death, and fertility, and to Isis at once Osiris' wife and sister. They fear the Sisterhood will force them into incest. Meanwhile, at the center of the Corrino conspiracy, The Preacher comes practicing "oneiromancy" - dream interpretation - and apparently using Ixian technology to overcome his blindness. Ix is a planet that often flaunts the prohibitions of the Butlerian Jihad. Alia's husband, Idaho, is ominously turned over to the Corrinors.



Children of Dune (pgs. 97-142)

Children of Dune (pgs. 97-142) Summary

Leto speaks his peace to Jessica and Ghanima agrees: they must learn to live with what they are; it is better that he not be Emperor. Leto puts his grandmother off balance by asking why her lips flutter - a frequent observation by his namesake. He asks, not to taunt her but to remind her of the long-ago sietch orgy by which she can understand the twins' experience. Jessica is loath to discuss Alia beyond saying she is on a dangerous course. Leto asks point blank if he and Ghanima are Abominations or the Atrides' hope. He is not "prattling," and is ready to feed her Sisterhood cant from her own memories. Leto assures Jessica he has not looked outside his time, for he knows the "trap of prescience." He wants more freedom than it allows. Realizing Jessica can be maneuvered, Leto observes that most people think prescience nice - and useful - but absolute knowledge of the future would be boring. Ignorance has advantages.

During her grandson's long speech, Jessica studies his mannerisms, intonations and ideas, and finds all are Paul's. Leto drips bitterness saying how completely the Duke lives in him - and Jessica in Ghanima. Hoping to shock her, he says neither grandparent's life holds any fleshly secrets. She has no right to judge Alia or the twins and had better judge herself. Jessica worries that Leto has reached Alias's condition, admits he is disturbing her, and asks if he knows the consequences of his difference. Leto declares that if either twin becomes Abomination, it could be she, Paul, or the Duke who causes it. Based on what he has learned from role-playing with Ghanima, Leto predicts Alia is plotting to abduct Jessica. He urges her to pity Alia, who has been overwhelmed by a strong voice in the pack wanting to share the flesh. Leto believes that not taking spice and not resisting the voices offers protection. They mix with all the egos and cease to be their original selves, but at least they are not possessed.

Jessica returns to the plot against her. Leto says Wensicia is ambitious for her son and Alia for herself, and Wensicia has a sister in Alia's house. Alia will benefit from an attack on the lone Atrides stronghold. When Jessica resents being patronized by her grandson, Leto insists she think of him as her Duke - and his perfect reproduction of gestures and voice silence her. He resumes the abduction scenario: blame will fall on House Corrino. The whole Imperium suspects Jessica is on Arrakis to breed the twins incestuously on the Sisterhood's orders. Once Jessica is discredited, House Atrides suffers a mortal blow. If it were just an "idle rumor," would the twins be living together past puberty?

When Jessica's Harkonnen lineage is "accidentally" leaked, she will be finished. When he shows how the Sisterhood has maneuvered her into coming to "save" her grandchildren, it is as though Leto has eavesdropped on meetings with her Proctors. Leto must make a difficult decision: follow the Atrides mystique and live - and die - for his subjects, or live thousands of years. Jessica is stunned; if this were possible, Reverend Mothers would be doing so until too many ageless women provokes an attack



by short-lived humans. Jessica has reported that Alia is not aging, but Leto dismisses this as a short-term chemical adjustment. He envisions perfection beyond anything humans have contemplated.

Realizing that Leto is near admitting the same capital crime as Alia, and that beneath her robe she holds the deadly gom jabbar that the Sisterhood warns she may need, Jessica demands an explanation. Leto cannot explain until she realizes that: 1) there is no difference between 100,000 years and a heartbeat; and 2) "the entire universe with all of its Time is within me." Paul suspects this, but falls short of understanding it. It is an experience transcending words. Delaying aging through melange is illusory: time still passes. Jessica resents being lectured but cannot see past the shadows, any more than Paul. Leto says, "When he lived, he lived, but when he died, he failed to die." He can explain Time no better than this.

Pointing at the concealed gom jabbar, Leto asks if Jessica intends the unthinkable on him or Alia, whom she abandoned as queen in all but name to nurses her own wounds. Leto's mastery of Voice is superb, silencing his Jessica. He challenges her to examine his invocation of Bene Gesserit myths and use of their techniques. When she looks inward, Jessica realizes how profoundly she has been conditioned. Her belief in words is shattered and her mind fills with new awareness. She accepts Leto's order to accept being abducted. She will see why when she confronts an interesting student. Leto leaves, meets up with Ghanima, and hurries with her to their quarters. He tells his twin it has worked.

After noon, while pilgrims seek refreshment, The Preacher and Tariq come to Alia's Temple. The Preacher carries the useless mask that, like the boy, perpetuates the useful myth that he needs surrogate eyes. Nothing yet gives him any hope for change. Alia watches from a high slit concealed in the wall. She hears every rumor, including her secret order to arrest The Preacher; she modifies it to specify he be taken unseen. Alia wonders where he hides in the desert. Alia is tempted to consult within and wonders if Paul is in there. The Baron calls that ridiculous. Alia recalls a fight in Council earlier today over Irulan accepting clothing for the twins. Alia delays the question of Jessica voting on the Council. Alia's Regency is as out of control as Arrakis' ecology. Only the great Mother Desert remains arid; everything else is manmade or -planted. Alia finds The Preacher has infected even reliable Stilgar.

Watching from her wall slit, Alia wonders why she cares about this "ruin in ancient flesh," who could not be magnificent Paul. Irulan realizes they have collectively lost the power to think well of themselves and make good decisions. Javid urges concentrating on retaining power. Irulan must be eliminated. As Alia wonders why The Preacher does not preach, he raises his arms in benediction. She leans close to hear four messages, addressed to her, Stilgar, Irulan, and Idaho. Alia wants to seize The Preacher but cannot move. He delivers to the priesthood a "sermon of the desert": manifest destiny has a demonic side; holiness has replaced love; priests court the desert's vengeance. Although cracked, it is Paul's voice. The Preacher then booms to the people that they will get more than they ask for; Muad'Dib has not died of prescience; and by deceiving



themselves and others the priests will perish. Alia believes that only Paul could speak such fearless heresy. No one impedes The Preacher as he departs the square.

Alia feels cold, realizing how tenuous her hold on power is - particularly with Farad'n in the wings. Should she lose the Fremen or the monopoly on spice, she is finished. People listen to The Preacher, so there is danger in silencing him or in letting him speak. The Bene Gesserit teach that large populations turn on their oppressors when they 1) find a leader, 2) recognize their chains, and 3) see hope for escape. Her spies confirm these signs are present everywhere the "ecumenism of the sword" has touched. The traditional reaction to unrest is to 1) show it is always punished while assistance to the ruler is always rewarded, 2) shift forces randomly, 3) conceal major adjuncts to power, and 4) time counter attacks to keep the opposition off balance. Alia worries about losing her sense of timing. The Baron says they have a fine plan to eliminate Jessica's threat and discredit House Corrino. It does not matter whether The Preacher is Paul. Alia know he has a flaw by which he can be discredited and sets her spies looking for it.

Leto and Stilgar visit The Attendant and survey the moonlit desert. Stilgar balks at thus exposing two important targets, but is curious about Leto needing to realign his life and wanting him to be prepared for what will happen. When Leto finally states his problem - how his father has left many things undone, leaving human life unfocused - Stilgar observes having heard Paul worry about this. Leto considers risking spice to gain perspective, but Stilgar says Paul feels locked into the future by knowing it too well. Leto agrees it is a paradox, like interpreting the world to a blind man. They have come to this place, Leto says, because it is where he may die. He has seen three paths. One requires him to kill Jessica to keep from losing the spice monopoly; a second requires him to marry Ghanima and seal the Atreides bloodline; and a third requires him to "undeify" Paul, to reduce to human stature. All three paths - and the possibility of the twins' possession - are strongly repulsive to Stilgar and violate Fremen law.

If he dies here, Leto continues, Stilgar must beware of Alia. The Empire needs good government based on the ruler's personal qualities, not laws or precedents. Leto is expected to be Emperor and is fit for the job. He sees constancy and rooting every action in tradition as essential. His past goes deeper than others' do, and he has no "first person singular." His burden is being "past-directed." Stilgar trembles, considering how modern Fremen flaunt tradition: stillsuits vs. water pills. Leto warns that Alia plays on the Fremen desire to resist change but plans changes too terrible to imagine. With his understanding of truly ancient Fremen ways, Leto would demand a closed, sacred society with limited migration; each planet would evolve in its own way and, eventually, the Empire would shatter because of the differences.

Stilgar sees Muad'Dib in these frightening words and shakes his head. He sees circumstances changing: Muad'Dib, after all, has caused the desert to bloom. As Leto "recalls" an event shared only by Muad'Dib and Stilgar, the Fremen chief again sees that the Atreides twins cannot be judged by ordinary standards. Still, he cannot bring himself to obey Leto as his Duke. Leto warns Stilgar to flee Sietch Tabr with Ghanima should he die or disappear. Saving people is the prime consideration, and Ghanima is most precious, for without Leto, she is the Atreides' only hope.



As they walk home, Stilgar thinks about Leto's casual observation about young women being beautiful this year. Glowing young Fremen are abandoning stillsuits for revealing clothing and sealed sietch warrens for brick villages. Old Fremen like Stilgar gasp at their prodigality and know they are a dying breed. Muad'Dib's changes have created a new outward vision. Like the old Fremen, Alia means to suppress creativity and evolutionary progress. Before Muad'Dib, the Fremen live in an endless now, always failing, but during the Jihad, they learn that old Emperor has taught to think of themselves as helpless. Stilgar's generation needs boundaries and a catechism defining what works and what does not. Change is dangerous. Sameness and stability are good. He recalls Muad'Dib's concerns for the long life of the Imperium, but also his that change is inevitable, as beautiful young Fremen know. Tradition is not an absolute guide.

Alia finds it difficult to ask her husband to abduct Jessica. She feels uncomfortable as he studies her. Having heard of Leto and Stilgar's night in the desert, Alia suspects conspiracy. The abduction must appear the work of House Corrino. Idaho is shocked by Alia's coldness but knows no one else can carry out this mission. He will do it, but not in the way she orders. Alia claims that abducting Jessica conforms with the Atrides code, for it will spare her harm. From long service, Idaho knows the Atrides' strengths and weaknesses, and they have never been devious towards family like this. He computes the only possibility: risking Jessica's life means that Alia has disconnected from her mother's inward "pseudo-life" when another pseudo-life possesses her.

Accepting Alia is Abomination, Idaho computes further that with all Atrides in one place, vulnerable to Corrino attack, illegal atomic strike is too risky, so abduction and terror alone required. Alia sees Jessica as a greater threat than the Corrinos, and prefers matricide. Jessica's reporting Alia to the Sisterhood must ally them with the Corrinos. Idaho says it is better for Alia not to know when he acts or where he hides Jessica. Alia's glee shows that she believes Idaho will kill Jessica. There is finality in his voice as Idaho bids his once-beloved goodbye, and tears in his metallic eyes as he departs her Temple.

Stilgar quadruples the twins' guard but knows it is useless. Ghanima is more like Chani, but follows Leto's lead. Stilgar cannot consult Alia or Irulan, and accepts Leto's assessment that Alia uses people casually and callously and will turn on - and kill - anyone, including Stilgar. On the afternoon of Jessica's homecoming celebration, Stilgar sees her and Ghanima talking and wonders why Leto has deliberately afflicted him with doubts. He could almost hate these kinsmen who are his greatest responsibility. He sees their perplex mental lives, aloofness from fixed tradition and pat answers, and wonders why Leto wants him to understand the "affliction" of never having experience blissful ignorance since conception, knowing everything that can go wrong, constantly fighting doubts, resenting being different, and asking, "why me?"

They do not fear death because they have experienced it countless times. No one can teach them anything. Jessica thinks similar thoughts, talking with Ghanima: the difficulty of immature bodies carrying mature minds. She sees Ghanima loves Stilgar, the new Arrakis ill befits him, and the new universe ill befits the twins. Death is an easier yoke



than those three lives. They say things the mature Paul might say, and seem capable of reproducing one another's thought trains and drawing inferences from their father's experiences. Jessica dislikes the way they turn her on and off at will, observe her memories, and touch her emotions. She realizes that their profane talk even about sensuality is never casual.

Children of Dune (pgs. 97-142) Analysis

Much of this section shows one or the other of the twins and Jessica in conversation. Jessica is concerned that they, like Aunt Alia, are or could become Abomination. Jessica and Stilgar both struggle with the reality that immature bodies hold fully mature and all-penetrating minds. Alia, for her part, feels her back to the wall. She needs Jessica out of the way and plots to have her husband, the ghola Duncan Idaho, abduct her. This section is heavily dependent on events in the first two novels, but Herbert does not lose the novice reader. Note in particular the parallels between the Bene Gesserit experience of "other lives" within and Idaho's dealing with restored memories of his first life, and the several references to the "gom jabber." It becomes a symbol of Jessica's blind - and cruel - dedication to the Sisterhood, for she is as prepared to dispatch her daughter and grandchildren if they are indeed possessed as she was to let young Paul be torture-tested at the opening of Dune. Herbert includes a good deal of detail on Fremen traditions of government and justice. Stilgar wonders about how he has played into the system.



Children of Dune (pgs. 142-185)

Children of Dune (pgs. 142-185) Summary

Alia paces angrily in the Council Chamber, facing Irulan and Idaho, whose mentat faculties she needs more than his services as abductor. She smells a massive plot potentially involving Irulan, Jessica, and the Fremen (including Stilgar). Idaho computes that the Guild and Sisterhood are probable "passive combatants." Idaho wants to be at Sietch Tabr, where The Preacher has slipped him a note using Paul's secret signal. When Irulan's comments seem not jibe with conspiracy, Alia wishes she had had Javid torture her and left Idaho in the desert, for Idaho's thinking beyond the finite limits of data are annoying her.

Within her head, the Baron agrees, but she silences him. Irulan rambles about feints within feints within feints and asks who poses the greatest threat to the Regency. Idaho computes involvement by CHOAM, which controls every product and service in the Empire, particularly the priceless melange. Speculative stockpiling in it by some Great Houses makes Irulan suspect CHOAM complicity. Alia admits a slight increase in trade for four specialties, but Idaho calculates nothing sinister even in fincap accountants. The next Landsraad session is too far off to suggest political realignments and Idaho warns only against attempts to limit Regency veto powers over taxation and cartels. He warns Alia to downplay Fremen ferocity vis-à-vis the Sardaukar, as this plays badly psychologically. Idaho lacks the data to compute where money might be collecting or if (or when) someone may learn to nullify the Holtzmann Effect, thereby rendering shields obsolete and disrupting the military balance of power.

Alia insists that while CHOAM realizes House Atreides can destroy spice at its source if threatened, no one will risk attacking. Idaho presents a caveat: someone may duplicate the sandtrout-sandworm cycle on another planet, such as Salusa Secundus. Irulan's contacts there discount this. Idaho demands why he has been dragged away from important work if Alia is simply dictating based on whim. Alia flares with anger, which the others try to ignore. Wealth is all the matters in the universe. Mutations like Paul are not irreversible, Irulan believes, unless three people perpetuate it - Alia and the twins. Alia rasps that people want to assassinate her. Idaho believes both women insane. It would be far easier to discredit Alia and separate her from the Fremen than to kill her. The universe is too vague and fuzzy for proper precision in such analyses. As Irulan tries to return to CHOAM and the Landsraad, Alia demands answers to three questions: "When? Using what weapons? Where?" The question of 'who' is less important.

Idaho realizes that the twins are the target, and is amazed at the women's misunderstanding as they set to wild speculation. Irulan hits upon the use of an animal as a weapon, but Alia knows the House ferrets would repel any intruder. Idaho covers his eyes in dismay, fighting off the state of "Rhajia" that mentats dread. Seeing the twins crouching in darkness as giant claws rake the air above them, he asks if the Corrino garments have been given to the twins. Both women dismiss any threat to them, but



Idaho knows with a visionary power close to Paul's own. He asks to embargo the ports against imported animals but is not taken seriously, and knows Guild navigators can be bribed. Alia maintains that she is the only conceivable target and is defiant. Idaho knows better than protest. At least Alia no longer suspects him. Wishing she were the target, imagining striking her down with his own knife, and knowing she is doomed, he returns to Tabr. Whom to warn, he wonders: Stilgar or Jessica, who may also be too far-gone.

Standing in the anteroom to the Keep's Great Hall, Jessica wonders why Alia wants to share the morning audience. This trip has aged Jessica who feels her muscles losing tone, no matter what people say about her not aging. Javid, master of Alia's appointments, stands at the great door, smiles at Jessica and shrugs, and coughs dismissively when she ignores him. Rumors are he is Alia's lover. Jessica is here without Halleck's guards but unafraid, knowing Alia dares not martyr her. As the room fills, Jessica perceives that Alia is delaying her arrival to allow "subtle currents" in the room to run their course. Jessica agrees with the Sisterhood that matters cannot continue this way. She sees the threat lying in the "souring" of a great religion.

The Bene Gesserit have tested Jessica's loyalty before sending her to Arrakis. Javid approaches with tales of The Preacher railing against her family, and is surprised when Jessica refuses to denounce this rebel heretic. As the courtiers grow restless, Jessica realizes she has returned just in time: Arrakeen is ungenerous, unreasonable, self-righteous, and harsh. The Preacher is right. Abruptly, behind a vanguard of Amazon priestesses, Alia marches in, her face confirming that the battle between mother and daughter is joined. The great doors open, and Jessica falls into step, not having had time to read Idaho's enigmatic warnings.

Jessica and Alia sit on identical thrones, with Alia in the dominant position, but she offers Jessica the first case to judge. Tagir Mohandis is a Kadeshian troubadour, robbed on pilgrimage and wanting to get to Salusta Secundus, which is a haven of the arts. Jessica offers Fremen terms: if she enjoys Mohandis' playing, she may retain his services; if he offends her, he will toil in the desert for his money, and if she deems his playing just right for Farad'n, an enemy of the Atreides, she will send him with her blessing. Mohandis improvises verses about Caladan and Dune that offend Alia, but Jessica restrains her with Voice. She grants Mohandis passage to Farad'n, although she would rather add him to her retinue, hearing this song is a bold test of Atreides open-mindedness. Jessica wonders whether Alia has staged this confrontation to confuse her, but cannot reflect on this as a second supplicant approaches.

Ghadheal al-Fali is a desert-born Fremen Naib, a surviving death commando, here on "a matter of the desert." As an official of the Priesthood rushes up to declare him out of order, Alia gives the sign for "Now!" Seeing it, Jessica rolls, avoiding pistol shots. Neither Alia nor the Advocate moves. The Priest-assassin is dropped by al-Fali. Jessica orders him revived and questioned, and quietly enlists al-Fali's services. Alia orders the corpse removed and Jessica's throne righted; she interprets this as an attempt on her own life, and thanks the Naib. Jessica points to a bullet hole in her sleeve as proof she is the intended victim and asks where the gun has disappeared. Alia resumes al-Fali's



audience. He declares he has come to see the Mother of Muad'Dib. When Alia claims to speak for the Atreides, Jessica calls her a "murderous Abomination."

As Alia sits frozen, Jessica sees her fingers tapping in the Baron Harkonnen's manner. Mother and daughter know this must be reported to the Sisterhood and a Fremen Trial of Possession may be called. Alia cannot let Jessica live. As al-Fali reports on the terrible condition of the desert, Alia sneers but Jessica accepts the premise: if the worms go, the spice goes; if the spice goes, profits go. Gasps and whispers echo. Adab (demanding memory) comes over Jessica, and she sees the Baron's destructive plot. Everything moves in slow motion as Jessica identifies her murderers and a possible escape path. Snapping out of adab, Jessica silences Alia, declares herself still a Fremen, challenges all to accept al-Fali's warning, and accuses Alia of wanting to destroy spice production. The Baron speaks openly through Alia, wanting revenge. Jessica launches onto the safe path that the adab has revealed, leading five Fedaykin to safety.

Leto and Ghanima give guards the slip from the sietch through an orchard where children gather fruit. They work their way to the qanat and into a water-filled tunnel, where no Fremen would think to look. Each carries a fruit basket containing Fremkit, pistol, chrysknife, and a Farad'n robe, whose purpose they understand. "Others" have seen them, so they must act swiftly. They strip off their stillsuits, don Farad'n's robes, arm themselves, and make for The Attendant, where Stilgar will know to come - but arrive too late. They walk unrhythmically over open sand, watching for hunters.

Reaching The Attendant, they know an attack is near and are alert. Leto computes it will be a predatory animal; Ghanima knows the Corrinos will not risk sending only one. Leto feels the many lives that fill him are also a beast that could devour him. He knows Ghanima will return, fully believing he has been slain - whether he dies or not. Leto fears to risk full prescience. As darkness falls, the twins drop into their place, a narrow cleft in the basalt. They know they may be killed but owe this to their father; they are taking the correct path. They realize well-trained Laza tigers have seen them, directed by a human nearby.

The Fedaykin take Jessica to Red Chasm Sietch and send word to Stilgar that Alia must stand trial. Alia, meanwhile, declares them enemies of the realm and implicates the Sisterhood. Some Fremen wish not to believe the accusations against Alia, but surviving Fedaykin rally around Jessica. Al-Fali brings word that the twins have left Tabr. Alia demands custody, so Stilgar may have spirited them away. Feeling no panic, Jessica is sure they have gone into the deserts on their own. They have a plan, perhaps involving Jacurutu. Al-Fali is vigilant as Idaho, sent by Stilgar, visits Jessica. He admits he is under orders to abduct her.

Jessica asks about her grandchildren; Idaho believes they are hiding until the risk of civil war passes. Jessica realizes Halleck is now their only hope. Al-Fali argues against Jessica accompanying her former guardian and savior, but she trusts Idaho completely. The Fedaykin submit to Jessica's order to go and reinforce Stilgar. Idaho and Jessica hurriedly board a hidden 'thopter. He admits Alia is no longer an Atreides and repledges



his loyalty to the House. They head toward Sahaya Ridge en route to Farad'n on Salusa Secundus. Jessica finds herself constrained by deadly shigawire as Idaho does The Preacher's bidding. He wants her to teach the prince as she once did Paul. Idaho wishes he knew whether The Preacher is Jessica's son.

Children of Dune (pgs. 142-185) Analysis

This next section opens with Alia fuming about conspiracy and using Idaho to analyze the probabilities of various members. There are several references to "horns"; this is an old English metaphor for the cuckolded husband. Alia is paranoid and self-obsessed, unaware of the Baron's using her to destroy House Atreides. Idaho is disillusioned with the wife he has dearly loved and becomes the only one who perceives the real plot is against the twins. He foresees an animal attack, which they also at the end of the section surmise. Breeding of sandworms off of Dune comes up in long discussions of how CHOAM functions, but Irulan (wrongly) denies this is going on Salusta Secundus. The growing tension between mother and daughter erupts during a joint audience and appears to head Arrakis towards civil war. Idaho appears to double cross Jessica, but then reveals he is commissioned by The Preacher. Why the enigmatic figure, who may be Paul Atreides, wants to deal with his cousin is an enticing mystery.



Children of Dune (pgs. 186-233)

Children of Dune (pgs. 186-233) Summary

Farad'n sits motionless, after hearing all that Wensicia has secretly done for him. Tyekanik now calls her "Queen Mother." Farad'n regrets having responsibilities thrust upon him without his permission, and wonders what happens if the plan fails. Wensicia feigns ignorance of The Preacher's visit or any link to Idaho. Farad'n is beginning to enjoy mind-games and political plotting with his mother. She impatiently rejects his interest in Arrakis' ecology however, claiming he has responsibilities, and expresses distaste in some things done in his name. He declares that he can read between the lines. Wensicia fears her son might denounce her, but he hurries to the library to study Corrino history, unable to figure out how he feels about his growing place in history.

Ghanima gets caught diving into the crevasse, clawed by the cat that now stalks them. She controls the bleeding as Leto reaches his poisoned chrysknife up to where the cat can swipe it. Leto borrows Ghanima's fresh blade for the second cat, but it is more cautious, and rather than risk Leto, Ghanima exposes herself enough to lure it close. It rakes her arm badly before feeling the fatal stab. Leto cares for Ghanima's wound as she recites the Litany against Fear. He bandages her sloppily to make it look like she has done it herself. They must evade the cats' controller and split up, never to share like this again. Leto warns against a traitor in Stilgar's rescue party, whom Ghanima vows to kill.

Leto heads to Jacurutu/Fondak. Ghanima steels herself to believe that Leto is dead, applying an age-old hypnotic process that can withstand even a Truthsayer. As a side effect, "deep compulsion" also silences her inner world. Looking to the desert, Ghanima sees a middling-sized worm approach and is sure she sees it eat Leto and the cats rather than riding Leto off on its back. Fighting grief, Ghanima heads towards lighted Tabr. She avoids the approaching party of rescuers and hurries to tell how Leto has died saving her.

Farad'n has changed greatly since learning about his mother's plotting. He ignores Wensicia in his book-lined room as he and Tyekanik discuss Idaho's unexpected, unsolicited offer of Jessica. The Bashar sees no reason to suspect The Preacher is behind it. Idaho terms it "asylum," which might confirm rumors of trouble on Arrakis. Idaho may have broken with Alia over Javid, who is probably a double agent. The men dismiss Wensicia's views as naïve and she grows silent. They will look into any Tleilaxu tampering with Idaho.

Jessica's prowess is recognized throughout the Empire, so it is a two-edged sword to hold her. She cannot be openly exchanged for something of greater value but could be held against the future. Wensicia suggests Jessica may want to seduce Farad'n. The prince shudders with excitement and fear; this game of restoring House Corrino is both attractive and repulsive to him. Historical research, ruling Salusa Secundus, and



restoring the Sardaukar forces are more interesting to him currently, but reading about Muad'Dib makes him see how power can be used. He wants to restore House Corrino to the Lion Throne.

Farad'n sends Tyekanik to determine what Idaho has in mind, and then begins expounding on the stillsuit as the very hallmark of Dune, making life possible on that planet. It points to a basic conservatism, which will be the line along which Fremen mistakes will be made. Farad'n more resembles Paul Atreides as a leader than Shaddam. Corrino begins defeating Atreides by introducing stress into their society. They need a full spectrum of choices, and Jessica may fit in. Farad'n wonders if they have passed the "point of no alternative choice" - the end of their rope.

Ghanima hugs the shadows as she returns to Tabr, setting aside mourning, and nurturing rage. Outsiders believe the Fremen brutish, but she knows they have conscience, centered on their survival as a people. Ghanima targets Farad'n for retribution. She creeps through tall grass towards the covert entrance to the sietch. A light burns carelessly, typical of lax security among latter-day Fremen. A young couple is backlit, acting not like typical lovers. She recognizes Palimbasha, grandson of a Naib in Atreides service. He teaches mathematics in the sietch school, enslaving minds by transferring technical knowledge without transferring values. Attached to his belt is the transmitter that controls the tigers. Ghanima wonders why she has not suspected him earlier. She knows they are watching for either of the twins who may have survived. The woman, Muriz, is too alert not to be part of the conspiracy, and surely, they have allies inside. Ghanima's leg throbs, her knife arm numb, and she cannot risk gunfire. She fashions a blowgun from her sandsnorkel and fires a poisoned needle at Palimbasha. Assuming an insect has bitten him, he swats the needle aside. As Muriz supports his dying body, Ghanima takes her captive.

In Shaddam's exotic State Audience Chamber, Farad'n warns Jessica and Idaho against "witchery." They are bound to suspensor chairs by deadly shigawire and guarded by a mute. News from Arrakis exhilarates him: Leto dead, Ghanima a hostage, and an uneasy truce after an abortive civil war. Stilgar is neutral, working on hostage exchanges. Wensicia rushes in with a message cube, which Farad'n and Tyekanik study before Farad'n orders Wensicia to show Jessica. It is from the Landsraad Internal Security Commission, responding to a formal complaint by the Sisterhood's Council. Farad'n is ordered to respond. Wensicia begins declaring her intentions, seeing that her son has not been formally invested as head of House Corrino, but Farad'n demands real power or she can find another heir. Jessica admires his poise and believes he is innocent of the assassination.irate, Wensicia announces the investiture tomorrow and cedes authority immediately. Hidden in the Landsraad message is a note to Jessica that the Sisterhood knows of her situation. Farad'n plans to deny responsibility and condemn the manner of the assassination, even though the outcome pleases him. He is sorry for any grief this causes Jessica.

Jessica assumes that Leto is carrying out the twins' plan: making his way to Gurney, who will carry out the Sisterhood's "devices," and test him; Ghanima will be dealt with later. Some day, someone will realize that Ghanima could unite the warring Houses.



Jessica warns that Farad'n may already have played into Alia's hands by having Alia's husband abduct her. The Bashar sees the logic and believes they could have been tricked. Realizing that Idaho is locked in a dangerous Rhajia vision, Jessica pushes him by saying she may announce that she has come freely as the Sisterhood's plenipotentiary to supervise Farad'n's education. Wensicia's repeated objections earn a sharp rebuke from Farad'n, who is intrigued. The Sisterhood will consent, provided Farad'n marries Ghanima. Idaho reacts to this by declaring the Sisterhood wants what it always has: a universe that does not interfere with it. The whole scenario is farcical. Jessica further demands that Wensicia be exiled. Hoping Idaho will not interfere at this critical point, Jessica wonders if the Sisterhood is using her. Idaho says he has only provided transportation to The Preacher, who may be Paul Atreides (data are insufficient to compute). Alia expects Farad'n to kill them both quietly and blame the Sisterhood.

In a trance, Jessica sees that Idaho is right: they are both obsolete. She orders Idaho silent, but Farad'n commands him to continue. Jessica sees that the Sisterhood has too much invested to abandon the hope of a controllable Kwisatz Haderach and it wants to arbitrate marriage between the Atreides and Corrino scions. Jessica promises that Farad'n will reign with Ghanima as his mate. The Sisterhood has worked independently of Wensicia to arrange this, and has tricked Jessica, wishing her eliminated as a twice-failed sister. Farad'n sees "wheels within wheels" and asks whether Alia might not choose to be his bride. As Farad'n and Jessica talk of treachery and considerations, Idaho uses an old Mentat drill to flex his right wrist and sever an artery, requiring that he be freed and given emergency medical care. Farad'n thinks about having a renegade Bene Gesserit - the one thing Paul had that he lacks. He is willing to banish his mother, accepts Jessica's terms, and releases her bonds. When she offers him Bene Gesserit teaching, he beams.

To Leto it is a good omen when a scarce sandworm devours the dead tigers. Ghanima believes he is dead, but the words "Secher Nbiw" - "Golden Path" - can restore her memory. Leto feels truly alone. Far from The Attendant, he plants a thumper to summon transportation. He remembers Stilgar's calm on his first worm ride and the many things he has taught him, including the story of Jacurutu, where other tribes wipe out the Iduali generations ago. As Fondak, it is a smuggler's place, offering the necessities of life, a perfect place for the dead to hide. Leto thinks about his and Ghanima's difficult decision based on his vision - not a dream - which he has failed to reveal to her fully. His vision convinces him that Paul is alive. Turning his back on him will be hard, but the Atreides Empire must be shaken, for it obliterates people casually and its "religious insanity" is still ticking. Paul has seen that the Golden Path is the only way out, but future people may look back on his time as a better age. Only by experiencing an alternative to Muad'Dib can humanity understand its myths. Future generations may hate Leto, but it must be so. He prays that this rich, sandy planet may bless him. He recalls the beauty of sietch life before technology and promises that his terrible glove will restore the balance. Leto sleeps.

In a room full of illegal electronics, Farad'n studies Idaho by spy circuit as he awaits an audience with Jessica. Farad'n wonders what Idaho remembers from before being revived. History says he kills 19 Sardaukar before falling, to be regrown as a ghola with



Mentat abilities. Farad'n is a historian-archaeologist and judge of man, forced to study the Atreides in order to govern well. Idaho's suicide attempt is not in character for someone who always shifts orbit rather than crashing. If he cut his wrist, it is because as a mentat he believes that holding Jessica here somehow strengthens House Atreides. This nearly leads Farad'n to send them both away, but he decides he needs the mentat stirring up trouble on Arrakis and the witch on Salusa, where he can drain her of her knowledge. Farad'n knows he is playing a dangerous game, one he begins preparing for in the library as a child. He has now alienated his mother, but Jessica will help him better understand the Atreides way of thinking. His Sardaukar legions are small but once again the equal of Fremen man-on-man. A civil war on Arrakis could even the numbers, but first Farad'n needs new allies and access to CHOAM financing.

Farad'n turns to the latest reports from Arrakis, where his spies offer hope: on a fertile planet, Fremen are losing touch with traditional sietch-based values; social discipline grows lax; new communities are volatile; violence seems inevitable; and a generation gap is developing, shown clearly in attitudes towards Muad'Dib's religion. Farad'n wonders why Tyekanik has embraced it, as though stepping into a whirlpool to test its waters and been dragged off against his will. It seems a reversion to ancient Sardaukar ways, and Tyekanik seems to warn that young Fremen may revert in a similar way. Most disquieting is the persistence of the "Water of Conception" - drinking the amniotic fluid distilled by one's godmother. Farad'n thinks of Ghanima drinking it without question. For a moment, he regrets Leto's death and thinks of discussing it with Ghanima. Idaho's cutting his wrists still bothers him, and he wishes he could slip into a trance like Paul and know the answers, but he can never ingest enough spice to do so. The spy screen shows Idaho admitted to Jessica's door and Farad'n switches to a view of her sitting room. The Mentat looks calm and inscrutable.

On "Ayil" - "The Sacrifice" - the holy day commemorating a deified Muad'Dib dying to make his presence "real in all places," The Preacher appears on the plaza of Alia's Temple, defying her arrest order. A delicate truce prevails between the rebellious Fremen and the Priesthood, and Arrakeen is tense (it also being the 28th day of official mourning for Leto). The crowd hushes as The Preacher pays homage to Leto, who has learned there may be no tomorrow; people should savor the here and now; governments grow and die, as do citizens. People murmur, wondering if The Preacher will be arrested, but Alia has ordered he be unmolested, and disguises herself to observe him close-up. Paul could not have used his voice more effectively, more dazzlingly.

Alia senses no irony in The Preacher's words, and he confirms he intends none; Leto's blood may not be washed away; history is being rewritten; another lesson must be learned from lives and endings. A truthsayer has confirmed Ghanima's story, so why would The Preacher suggest Leto might not be dead? Is he talking reality or myth? The Preacher continues: if people want to possess their humanity, they must let go of the universe. He points his empty eye sockets at Alia, who shivers, and speaks on about people fleeing selfhood, living thoughtlessly like animals. Muad'Dib tells them to do otherwise. Unless they understand this, they cannot properly revere their god.



Someone in the crowd, perhaps a disguised Priest, challenges The Preacher's lone belief that Muad'Dib is dead. The Preacher asks if Muad'Dib's death must inevitably be followed by the "moral suicide of all men". As a prophet of his - and these - times, The Preacher admits Muad'Dib is Messiah. Alia hears the inflections of Voice and wonders if this is a ploy of the Missionaria Protectiva. Alia edges closer as The Preacher continues: his goal is to disturb people, to combat the "fraud and illusion" of a conventional, institutionalized, cowardly, mediocre, and self-satisfied religion. Alia hopes a riot will kill The Preacher, but he attacks the Priesthood and wins the crowd's sympathy. Alia thinks about how different his words are, about the sad payoff on Muad'Dib and his son's risk, if Paul is speaking them. She pushes closer and sees the indentation of a ring. Once again, The Preacher aims his sockets at her, while telling the crowd that Muad'Dib has shown them both a certain and an uncertain future and stepped off blindly from this world. Therefore, people must always do.

Alia's hand goes to her crowsknife and she wonders how the crowd would react if she were to kill The Preacher and denounce him as an imposter and heretic. She hesitates, because this could be Paul. He resumes speaking, with pain in his voice: Why has another Leto been taken? Life is meant to be probing the uncertain. Absolute certainty is death and such a future becomes the now. The Preacher grabs Alia's arm without groping, painfully, and demands to know what Paul Atreides has told her. Alia wants to consult her inner lives. He asks if Paul equates completion with death. Alia dares not use her knife.

To the crowd, the Preacher gives Muad'Dib's promise to discomfort them and prevent their growing mediocre and cowardly. Releasing Alia, he pushes her into the crowd. Existence means standing out, he continues, and risking one's sanity by judging one's existence. The Preacher again seizes Alia without faltering, but more gently, and chides, "Stop trying to pull me once more into the background, sister." He and his guide depart, as people throng to touch his cloak. Alia is in shock, but certain it is Paul. She wants to run after him, begging him to save her, but cannot move. She feels absolute despair. Idaho and her mother are gone, her inner lives are silent, and Ghanima, whom Alia holds under guard, cannot be talked to about such distressing matters.

Children of Dune (pgs. 186-233) Analysis

This section establishes that Leto and Ghanima take their separate paths, with Jessica expecting him to fall into the hands of Halleck and the Sisterhood, and her to marry the man she has vowed to kill for assassinating her brother. Farad'n appears at times dedicated to becoming a good ruler, and at other times competing with the memory of Paul Atreides and lining up his forces for a final assault on the ancient enemy. Jessica vacillates, being easily tempted to think the Bene Gesserit is still misusing her and is ready to discard her. Their plots within plots are unfathomable even for an initiate. Alia is left in a state of despair, abandoned by all, just as she comes to believe The Preacher is her brother. Paul's long speech develops philosophical themes about the meaning of life in a more organized manner than they have been heretofore.



Children of Dune (pgs. 234-278)

Children of Dune (pgs. 234-278) Summary

Jessica uses prana-bindu training to suppress her emotions as she awaits Idaho. He claims he is on Salusa Secundus for the same reason as she, but Jessica doubts he has sufficient data to penetrate a secret only she and Ghanima share. Knowing their conversation is being overheard Jessica speaks of House Atreides reaching a "bitter crossroads." Idaho refuses to talk about the Harkonnens, while wondering if she doubts Paul has revealed her secret to him. Idaho demands to know now who is House Atreides, and reports that many Fremen eloquently curse Muad'Dib and his House. Jessica shudders at the words, but wonders why Idaho reveals this to Farad'n.

Jessica points out that this is a powerful argument for Farad'n and Ghanima marrying, but Idaho reproaches such single-mindedness. As Fremen, Ghanima can marry no one who buys protection and Farad'n exists on Atreides sufferance. Marriage would bring Farad'n - and the Sardaukar - to Arrakis, where they and the Fremen could not cohabit and the Duke's bones would be unsettled. Jessica resents Idaho's patronizing manner, but suspects it is for the spies' benefit. She worries he may plant the idea that Farad'n can regain the Throne without the Atreides. Priests, Idaho continues, have perverted Atreides Law, but the "hidden fist" is still present.

Probing to see where Idaho is heading, Jessica asks if he thinks the Priests will forbid this wedding. He replies that they will let Alia do as she wants - including her marrying Farad'n. That is not the point. People are dying in Atreides dungeons just as in Beast Rabban's; Idaho is ashamed to serve any longer a House that has betrayed Duke and son. He and Alia have gone in different directions. He advises Jessica accept Farad'n's terms. Idaho reveals how, at The Preacher's request, he has spent time among al-Ourouba, the "Zarr Sadus," who withstand the Priests. When Idaho announces his "removal to enemy territory," Jessica considers alternatives, including killing him, lest he interfere with her delicate plan.

Declaring Jessica will not kill him and insisting she accept his resignation, Idaho backs away, bows, and calls her "My Lady" for the last time. He intends to recommend a quick, quiet return to Wallach IX, to go on working for the Sisterhood as she always has. Idaho is sure the Corrinos can read this parting only one way.

Lying atop a dune, Leto surveys a lifeless rock outcropping that resembles an immense worm. Certain that this is Jacurutu/Fondak, he wonders where the entrance is and feels a warning flicker at the edge of perception. A typical Fremen, Leto is cautious about the absence of life, but knows it can support life because he sees a windtrap. This is where the Golden Path begins. A great storm has swept through recently revealing a gypsum plain that proves open water once exists on Arrakis. According to Fremen superstition, "White Lands" portends a double-edged wish. Open water will return. With binoculars, Leto scans the lifeless rock and then around the flat horizon.



Leto accepts responsibility for the decision he and Ghanima have made. He opens his mind to Jacurutu, seeking to know nothing about it but just to resonate with its taboo. Scavenger birds should be investigating him; their absence suggests even the smugglers have left and there may be no water here or, worse, poisoned water. That would confirm the Jacurutu legend. Leto refuses to believe the rock is deserted. He spends a long, hot day in his stilltent.

Toward evening, Leto emerges from his "sandy shroud" and senses a Coriolis storm coming, carrying death for anyone caught exposed. Leto hears bats. Waiting for night, he traces Chaucer's route from London to Canterbury, then considers his current, more dangerous journey. Leto cautiously approaches a rock cleft, knowing poisoned barbs and spines often protect old-time sietches. He hears day birds and wonders what has turned their world around. When a fire is lit on the cliff, he grows more cautious, continues forward, and feels himself caught by trapvine. As he reaches for his knife to free himself, flares of light surround Leto.

A man whose voice is vaguely familiar declares Leto a "fine catch." Thoroughly searched and disarmed, Leto learns he has been expected. He says he has long ago ceased to wonder at how many people want the Atreides twins dead, for obvious reasons. His mind, meanwhile, is flying wildly, wondering who could predict his actions. The captor declares that Leto must be educated before ascending the Throne; he cannot remain just a "repository of dead lives." Declaring Leto's father "only Paul Atreides," the captor volts him unconscious. Leto sees the Atreides banner on a Dune staff.

Alia confronts nine guards over disregarding orders, letting her anger over various betrayals run freely. She is dressed in yellow in preparation for leading the second and final procession to Old Gap to dedicate a marker to Leto. The guards are defiantly unashamed. They know her orders, have heard his blasphemy, have tried to capture him, been thwarted by the crowds, but will continue trying. Alia asks what they will do if they take him and discover he is Paul. The head guardsman declares he will kill the troublemaker personally, but his companions are aghast. Alia declares that for "the good of the Church" they must not take or harm him in the open. She absolves them of guilt in the Old Fremen way and congratulates herself on an adroit handling of matters. If some guards still believe she wants The Preacher dead, they will find a way. A bass voice insider her head claims she seeks immortality and warns that Ghanima's knife is sharp. Alia considers how that knife might cut her out of her predicament.

Leto awakens to typical sietch odors. He sees the Golden Path aborted and himself vanished without a trace. A male voice repeats, "I could kill you, Atreides." Leto lies unfettered on a couch, facing Namri, father of Javid, his new schoolmaster, who will gladly kill him if he fails to learn. Behind this "human gob jabbar," Leto senses his grandmother and the Bene Gesserit. Namri warns that Leto must attend to every word, for each holds life and death. Namri describes how Fremen and Atreides view light (Eos) and asks which Leto prefers. Leto prefers Lisanu L'haqq - the "Light of Truth," and sees Namri's hand move away from his crysknife.



Namri declares this recitation, not belief, and Leto realizes this is true. Namri mentions a cave where Shai-Hulud is sealed; Leto has learned of a "Cave of Life" from Stilgar. Namri asks if Atreides, who as a family have come a long way from the salt mines of Niazi to controlling a Central Ministry for Information, would open that cave. Leto realizes his flight into the desert is for this very purpose. Seeing Leto as a true rebel, Namri describes a vision of Thatta and Shakir Ali, looking for the city of tombs, and asks if Leto can find it. Leto recognizes words of the original Zensunni Wanderer, conflicting with the Fremen prohibition against tombs and recites "beatifics" that make Namri sneer, but grants him "a provisional future." He warns Leto not to move, for his captor is coming. Leto smells Jessica and the Sisterhood. Beyond this stretch lies only endless desert, which he could re-cross, but not quench his thirst.

Jessica dresses in a Reverend Mother's black hooded cloak, with the addition of Atreides symbols embroidered at hem and sleeves. Farad'n does not react to these as he arrives. Jessica wonders at the humor in his voice; he wonders why he trusts a witch. Reading his body language, she assures him he has struck a good bargain, and that the Sisterhood survives by earning trust. Farad'n is anxious to begin. Jessica warns that it is hard to begin at his age and that prana-bindu training requires extreme patience. They begin with elementary leg, arm, and breathing exercises.

Suddenly scared, Farad'n looks to see that everything is being recorded; Jessica pretends not to see as she talks about the basics of Bene Gesserit training. The universe is unstable and conditional, which is best realized by extending one's arms and studying the palms and backs of the hands until they can be imagined aged and infantile, back and forth. His arms quickly fatigued, Farad'n claims it is impossible. Yet, Jessica assures him otherwise. It may, however, take hours, days or even months. He must visualize the flow of time as relatively stable. Imagination can manipulate belief to create a universe. He must concentrate on his hands, relax if he grows too tired, but persist until he succeeds. No lesson can succeed until this is mastered. Observing Farad'n on the way out, Jessica is reminded of Paul. Sardaukar guards follow "the witch" warily to the garden, where Jessica hopes Idaho and Halleck do their parts.

Leto hears his captor approach and turns to the sound. As the man peels off his desert gear, Leto sees Halleck's inkvine scar. No Atreides retainer has ever been more loyal than Halleck has, so his being part of a conspiracy is painful. Halleck confirms Namri's only function is to kill him if necessary, warns him against Voice tricks, and declares he follows Jessica's orders. Leto's education has been planned out in detail and Jessica controls Leto's fate. Halleck produces an injector of blue fluid: spice essence to send Leto on a worm trip. Paul's presence in Leto's mind tries to strip away his defenses, but Leto is outraged at being forced to undergo what he most fears. How could Jessica want him to see the fixity and horrors of the future? The Litany against Fear comes to him. He is unable to resist and feels pain lance through him.

Leto envisions a young woman outside a hut at dawn, roasting coffee beans. Music echoes and fills his body, and he recognizes the feeling of skin becoming not his own. Night falls abruptly and Paul's presence intrudes, to protect Leto during the trance. Wind tumbles Leto, cutting him, but he heals instantly in skin not his own. Thoughts are also



not his own, as past, present, and future mingle to form a "multidimensional relief map of his own future existence." Time and space merge. The trance deepens and Leto experiences Time as a "montage-in-motion." He picks out fragments. He sees his and Ghanima's plan and is terrified at its inevitability. He cannot separate past and present. He hears a voice from the time of the Butlerian Jihad and Idaho as a mentat advising him to do well, avoid notoriety, evil, and self-awareness. Paul-within warns that while learning "stroboscopic awareness," Leto must not overrun himself in Time.

Leto feels powerless and lost as he struggles for order or rhythm. He sees present, past, and future move as one, without barriers to his psyche. There are many futures besides Namri's "provisional" one. Leto dominates all the inner lives in his past and distances himself enough from his own life to accept multi-pasts as burdens, joys, and necessities. Paul departs when Leto no longer needs protection. He sees an ultimate ancestor, Harum, but no ultimate descendant. He knows he will always live among convoluted lives. No one - not even Ghanima - can see the fullness of the power within him. Awakening and seeing only Namri, Leto in an old voice denies universal prescience and a single set of rules; the universe is infinite and the local can appear gigantic. Namri fails to understand. Leto nearly pleads with Namri to kill him, which convinces Namri to let loose his knife. Leto agrees that indifference kills individuals and civilizations and realizes that his father's life holds no moral grandeur.

Still in yellow, Ghanima insists she will kill Farad'n on their wedding night if Alia pushes her plan. Alia reminds her she is not free to do as she wishes. Everyone knows, Ghanima protests, that Farad'n has killed her brother, and she would be rejected if she agreed to be betrothed. Alia argues that his mother, the truly guilty party, has been banished, and the Fremen accept whatever they are told. This could bring peace to the Empire. Irulan tries to reason with her, but Ghanima warns her, as a Corrino, not to push her luck. Irulan would kill her own relative if it would help, but there are larger considerations: Farad'n holds Jessica and Idaho hostage. Ghanima doubts the stories. Ghanima brings her weary aunt up short with an ancient explicative, making Alia wonder if she is also Abomination. Ghanima wants to see Farad'n's blood, and says the unborn are, inescapably, windows for a multitude. Inwardly, she pities and despises Alia. Worn out, Alia and Ghanima fall silent, and Irulan tries Voice on Ghani, who angrily rejects the nickname and any new information on Farad'n. She suggests she knows far more than either older woman.

Intrigued and newly energized, Alia suggests luring Farad'n into a trap. The Fremen will surely understand she is setting a trap. Irulan looks shocked and protests that Atrides dare not go back on their word. When Alia believes no one will dare judge them, Irulan washes her hands of the plan, realizing Ghanima is a true, bloodthirsty Fremen. Alia is delighted, declaring they will have agreements signed and witnessed immediately. Ghanima is sure that Farad'n will doubt them, but come anyway, surrounded by guards. Irulan pleads that they at least make his death appear accidental, but Ghanima intends to display her bloody knife proudly. To meet Irulan's objection, Ghanima suggest that Alia choose the delegates carefully, so they can be eliminated later. Irulan flees in despair, to be closely surveyed. Ghanima wishes the tiger had killed her instead of Leto.



After dinner, Leto's mind goes walking with a man, listening to timespaces and commanding memory-lives. His body revolts against the ill-kept sietch and heavy doses of melange keep him partly spice-bound all the time. Leto knows he will soon come to a branching between life and death. Leto believes he is a coward and fears he will die a captive unless he summons inner wisdom, balance, and calm strength to find his Golden Path and survive the skin that is not his own. Halleck's baliset moves him to marvelous memories of the old life, and more spice sends him hurtling into a sandstorm that resolves into a moth's eyes and reduces his life to an insect trail. Leto remembers Sisterhood teachings about a universe in flux and "Terrible Purposes" that manipulate people and religions in ways even Paul cannot escape.

Leto sees the clue he has been seeking, and strength returns. He summons Halleck, who is joined by Namri, and speaks of judgment teetering "on the brink of error," and knowledge is "unending adventure." The senses work at two levels: "trivia and message." Life requires dispute, which is a necessary ingredient in religion and philosophy, and the only way to test the universe. Namri grows dangerous as Leto declares only the wind understands the universe; creation is discovery; God discovers humans in the Void when they move against a background he understands. Halleck also warns of the danger of Leto's words, but Leto calls them friends, describes the secret ritual of Namri's sietch, and speaks of Halleck's love for his father. Leto is allying himself with Namri against his father, while his father allies himself with them against all who distort his legacy. Humankind must examine itself and be humbled. Life need not be uniform on all planets and contented; diversity is needed. Leto vows to cooperate with his grandmother and the Sisterhood - though they may come to regret it. Namri hopes they do right by leaving Leto alive.

As the two men depart, Leto's head spins and he sees how Imperial society should be organized. Every system has a window and Leto is a "cosmic voyeur," as Jessica and the Sisterhood seek. Awareness flows at a higher level to the archetypal myths that haunt his assumptions. All of human existence becomes integrated in him. Humans are a "form of colony organism," wanting his cooperation, recognizing him as a healer. Leto grimaces, knowing he will bring them malevolence like his father, and the universe may yearn for the "good old days." Paul-within begs an audience, but Leto refuses. Humans will be occupied by complexities for millennia.

Children of Dune (pgs. 234-278) Analysis

A dramatic section of text shows Idaho leaving Atreides service on principle, but leaving it unclear whether he is playing along with Jessica's master plan. Halleck and the traditional Fremen Namri, explicitly under Jessica's control, capture Leto and his life hangs in the balance, based on how he learns what his grandmother demands. This part of the novel grows dense with Fremen mythology and mysticism. Leto finally undergoes the spice trip he and Ghanima have avoided, and feels Time and Space and all of creation coalesce within himself. Hints of his coming physical transformation and amazing longevity - and menace to humanity - are given. At the start of the spice trip, Leto sees his future mate, Sabiha. Jessica begins Farad'n's prana-bindu training,



allowing Herbert to offer more detail than in earlier novels, but her mind wanders to the state of the plot on Arrakis, where Alia and Irulan try to convince Ghanima to marry Farad'n. She agrees only to become engaged in order to get him alone and murder him in vengeance. Alia seems less possessed and Irulan frustrated and torn, hoping to spare her cousin.



Children of Dune (pgs. 278-318)

Children of Dune (pgs. 278-318) Summary

Farad'n bursts in on Jessica's bedchamber after midnight to report his hands have changed. She informs a fearful guard that she will not seduce the prince, and Farad'n laughingly dismisses him. Jessica has not expected a breakthrough in just eight days, warns he is just an infant, and says he must practice until he can change his hands at will. Simultaneously, he will begin mastering every muscle in his body. Jessica intends to set Farad'n loose on the universe to become whatever he most desires. Knowing how those who analyze the records will react, Jessica tells him he must control his desires the way he does reality. Feeling warm camaraderie, Farad'n believes Jessica and holds his tongue about other thoughts. Returning to sleep, Jessica realizes Farad'n is deep, having all but admitted understanding her design and signing on. She knows the palace personnel will have many questions for her in the morning.

Leto enjoys the touch of sand outside the sietch, guarded by Namri, enduring yet another forced spice trip. Inside his head Duke Leto I and Baron Harkonnen battle, and Leto feels sorry for Alia. He is also bitter that Jessica is forcing him into the same "valley of peril" as Alia. Feverish, Leto wonders where his Golden Path is and feels his skin is not his own. He studies the desert and marks a distant line of cliffs as his green but wormless future; he has penetrated the veil into the Unknown. A future without Shai-Hulud or spice would be deadly. A lilting voice within tells Leto he has everything backwards: the future is fixed and inevitable, and forms the present. Leto feels contaminated, defenseless, and fears Abomination. The voices have turned against him. He tries to picture himself from infancy through old age, as in the training exercise, but melts into other faces. He is shattered and as pieces of awareness drift apart, he realizes his mistake: seeking power in the trance rather than facing fears. Fear is what defeats Alia. Seeking power has diverted him into fantasy. Memories do not invent the next moment, but show him how to create new moments to avoid being locked on old tracks. Leto feels his slate wiped clean.

Distant voices talk of overdose and Sabiha being essential to their plan. Leto feels his body grow transparent. His inner lives fall into silent, orderly ranks, and he tells them he is their spirit and only remaining home. He alone mediates cosmos and chaos. Victoriously, Leto lets go of himself to become himself, and savors the newness of being able to share any inner life he chooses without giving up the totality. He awakes in a flash of awareness: this sietch is Jacurutu/Fondak, but different from the smugglers' legends. Namri's deadly niece, Sabiha, guards him. He says she no longer needs the crysknife in her lap. She clutches it as Leto speaks enigmatically about Shai-Hulud as garbage collector, a vision in which Sabiha appears, and the need to work out a better balance on Arrakis. Extinction of the "dragon on the floor of the desert" - the great sandworms - will end spice production and turn space into an impassible boundary for humans.



Leto confuses Sabiha with talk of countless lives, not really being the child that he appears, and their lives being entwined in love. Leto requests help returning to the sietch, for his travels have left him weary, and Namri must hear his report. When she hesitates, Leto proclaims himself the son of Muad'Dib and able to see the future. Seeing her eye him up as a mate, Leto realizes size too will change. Jihad, he continues, is a "kind of mass insanity." Sabiha believes it cruel to draw out the time before killing Leto and hopes the boy's revelation is what her uncle - and Jessica - want. She reflects on Leto's claim to not be a child and asks about the disappearance of worms. Only he can change this - and he can change anything. To explain would only confuse, but Sabiha must believe this is a changing universe and Leto is changing most strangely; he must do brutal things to remove one barrier to a better future: he may have to give his sister to a monster. He refuses to answer more questions; better, Sabiha know nothing until necessary.

On a roof garden atop the Keep, Ghanima contemplates Alia's fate being her fate. Inner lives have been clamoring, as Jessica warned while explaining that in the pre-born, inner lives divide into benign and malignant factions. Ghanima has called on the benign for protection. Chani now appears to warn Ghanima to bar the door leading to the "food of hell." Quickly, Ghanima recites the Sisterhood Credo, regains a sense of order, and vows to defy the heart of her enemy and resist Alia's fate by the strength of hatred. Irulan interrupts with news that Farad'n's acceptance but need to delay the ceremony. Idaho is coming home, but Jessica remains. Irulan continues to worry about Ghanima, who declares that Atreides go back to Agamemnon, have a bloody history, and are not through with blood: for she will kill Farad'n. Alia is exiling Irulan until the deed is done; the alternative is the deathstill.

Despite her training, Irulan pales, talks about dedication to the twins since birth, and tells of her fear that Alia is out to destroy her Family. Ghanima fears Alia has worked "witchery" on poor Irulan. When Irulan whispers about her love for Paul, realized only after his death, Ghanima reveals Paul may not be dead, but could be The Preacher, finding it amusing to attack his family. Ghanima does not mean to taunt Irulan, but needs Irulan to accept that Abomination is not as a Bene Gesserit superstition but a reality. Ghanima has experiences of futures her father has explored and the wisdom - and ignorance - of many lifetimes. If Irulan wants to help, she must first learn who Ghanima is. As Irulan draws Ghanima into her arms, Ghanima hopes she will not have to kill this woman. Night falls.

Leto awakens to find Sabiha guarding him. She is obviously nubile and being kept unmarried for a special purpose. Leto is on a most dangerous journey away from and back to the world of senses. Sabiha is mixing more spiced food according to Jessica's plan. Leto does not know whether to thank Jessica for his expanded and organized mind or hate her. Halleck is a danger, waiting impatiently for a sign that Leto refuses to give; Namri is a different problem: he can see the revelation. As Sabiha feeds Leto, his heart fills with pain at visions of their everyday and sexual life together; her existence torments and oppresses him. When he calls out to her by name, she tells Namri, who goes to discuss this knowledge with Halleck. When Sabiha touches Leto's hand, he gently puts her to sleep by hypnosis, rises, dresses in his stillsuit, and steals away.



Halleck and Namri are angry when they discover Sabiha sleeping. Namri has disabled Leto's heel pumps, so he cannot get far. Angry, Halleck organizes a search. They assume he has taken a Fremkit. With a sandstorm approaching, Namri cannot warn their friends and Halleck worries about Leto being torn to shreds.

Alia glares at Idaho as he reports Jessica is training Farad'n. Behind a mentat mask, Idaho mourns for the wife who has died inside this Alia-body. Alia has entrusted Ghanima and Irulan to Stilgar, making Idaho wonder whether Alia is losing ground or has won Stilgar over. Salusa is swarming with Farad'n's relatives, prearranging patronage. Alia does not worry about Bene Gesserit training, since Ghanima is going to kill Farad'n, but she is upset over Idaho's taking his orders too literally. Seeing him as no longer trustworthy, she orders him to watch Irulan, Javid, and the priests at Tabr. Idaho sees her transparent rejection, even as she claims to have missed him. Idaho kisses Alia's hand but cannot look at her once-beloved face. On the Keep roof pad, Idaho analyses the situation and appropriates an aircraft. Alone in the air, he is wracked with sobs and knows the coming waters of Dune cannot match his tears. His mentat facilities return and he realizes the assigned pilot, Zia, would have arranged an "accident."

Knowing he has a new grip on all the "threads" of the future, Leto considers avoiding his vision and doing the one thing he has not seen: running away from Jacurutu. First, he must cut the tie to Sabiha. He decides to head south into the Tanzerouft - the "Land of Terror"— as Halleck will expect, but the storm lies in that direction. Nowhere does he foresee surviving "the grey serpent of a mother storm," although he knows ancient survival schemes. Thirsty and visionless, Leto walks into a gorge, towards his father, and as it issues into the desert, he unwraps the Atreides hawk ring. The worm Leto catches is not large, but obeys his commands and heads into a storm that will not hit until dawn, but is spreading out and picking up energy. As sand begins to fly, Leto allows the worm to burrow and does likewise, quickly setting up his stilltent. Lacking a sandsnorkel, Leto puts himself into a dormancy trance to minimize his need for oxygen as tons of sand covers his tiny bubble. He will die or emerge with only his Golden Path remaining; he will not return to the lie of his father's caliphate.

Knowing she is being watched and analyzed, Jessica describes how Paul sees the process of creation and relates it to the myths in which people sleep - what others call seeing the future. Through months of training, Farad'n has grown leaner, more sinewy, and his mind has grown sharp. Jessica explicates the Sisterhood's views: there is a natural unity of all life forms and the fate of all life is at stake in that of each individual. In a crunch, the sisters select individuals and set them as free as possible. Farad'n sees where Jessica is going and knows the spies are anxious. Seeing his own momentary imbalance, Jessica declares with a smile that today is his graduation, and quickly recites the formula about the human condition being a perpetually empty canvas to be painted by one's desires in conformity with the sacred presence that all share and create. Tyekanik tries to intervene, but Farad'n has ceased to be Corrino and become Bene Gesserit.

Leto emerges from his trance and, goaded by stale air, he digs his way to the surface. Sand and stars remind him that patterns guide, trap, and change. He collects his



equipment and repairs his sabotaged heel pumps, realizing that a visionless future is dangerous. He summons a fast "growler" worm and steers it southward, contemplating the many new ceremonies that he must adopt to keep his personality intact along the Golden Path. He must constantly find new threads. Leto steers towards a distant butte, where through binoculars he sees a harvester, whose crew will be suspicious of a single rider.

Leto abandons the spent worm and is soon approached by a 'thopter, from which an armed Fremen, Muriz, clearly the leader of a band of paid renegades, emerges. Leto's claim to have come from Jacurutu makes Muriz laugh, but he fails to respond to the name, so Leto calls himself the mythical "waif from Shuloch who knows only to move his hands." Muriz stiffens, inquires if Leto is human, and reminds him he can order taqwa - the immediate death of a demon. Leto agrees to submit to Mashhad - the "Spiritual Test" at Shuloch, but when he remarks on how clever it is for smugglers to use the mythical place, Muriz draws his pistol on a "cursed midget" spy.

Leto identifies himself as the son of Muad'Dib, and warns that if Muriz kills him, the Fremen sink into the sand, but if he spares him, they achieve greatness. Muriz snarls that Leto is at Jacurutu. In a flash, Leto kicks the pistol away and holds Muriz's poisoned crysknife at his back. Muriz makes a warding sign as Leto relates Muriz's intentions to claim his water in the Cast Out tradition. Muriz curses Namri for mentioning them, but Leto calls his attention to something more vital: their loss of livelihood once Dune is greened. It is already happening and Leto alone can prevent it. Leto claims to have come to this precise place at this precise time to meet Muriz and his son, The Preacher's guide. Paul Atreides, at whom they sneer, has run out of vision, but Leto remains. When The Preacher returns, they will see how blind he is. Leto forces Muriz to bite his thumb and drink the blood, making them wadqiuyas, placing himself beyond harm.

Children of Dune (pgs. 278-318) Analysis

This section finds Leto kept in a perpetual half-trance, which turns out to be a blessing, as his thoughts organize and clarify. He feels his slate has been wiped clear. Herbert several times uses the complex German word "Einfalle" - "idea, concept, notion; invasion, incursion of an army for conquest, incursion; onset, fall" (Babylon German-English online dictionary). Leto realizes the threat to spice in ecological change and goes against his visions to flee Jacurutu/Fondak, only to be taken to the equally mythical Shuloch. Muriz, who appears earlier testing his son's manhood, becomes Leto's blood brother and takes him to the smugglers' den. Idaho is set up for murder but escapes, heading to Tabr, where Ghanima, Irulan, and the priests are in isolation. Alia is depending on Ghanima killing Farad'n, so she is unconcerned with Jessica's educating the prince in the Bene Gesserit manner. More of the Sisterhood's philosophy and rituals is described. It appears that The Preacher's mysterious identity is soon to be revealed in the context of the radical Fremen freedom fighters who hate Paul's legacy. Leto sees only the Golden Path ahead but assumes he has slipped the last thread, to comely Sabiha. That is yet to be seen for sure.



Children of Dune (pgs. 319-351)

Children of Dune (pgs. 319-351) Summary

Muriz lands at Shuloch, a water-rich butte that appears on no maps thanks to many bribes and deaths. The architecture replicates primitive Fremen stilltents. Leto feels sorry for his father enduring such poverty - and Sabiha, who is being punished here. Muriz explains that each canyon is home to a worm and the qanat is being cleared of predator fish to attract sandtrout. Leto knows that at Muad'Dib's suggestion, the Cast Out are selling these off-planet, but they are not thriving - and will not in 10,000 years. Muriz says that Fremen are only led by "blooded" men, to which Leto responds he is ready to lead them in "Kralizec" - the "Typhoon Struggle," the legendary battle at the end of the universe. Leto recognizes Sabiha without her turning around and explains to Muriz how Namri's niece has come to be at Shuloch: she let Leto escape. Sabiha is angry that Leto has shamed her before her people. Muriz laughs at the thought of them together, but Leto's tears throw him into awe Leto promises that Kralizec certainly will come.

Namri smiles, telling an irate Halleck that Leto is in a safe place with Sabiha and may not be seen. Namri does not feel constrained by "the witch" Jessica's orders and warnings of what could happen if Leto fails to master his terrible memories. Halleck feels threatened by and stands ready to fight. The thought that forces are moving for which Jessica has not prepared him makes Halleck feel disloyal to his old benefactor. Halleck reveals the orders: Namri would have had to kill Leto if Fremen tests had shown him to be possessed. Sensing a "feint within a feint within a feint," Halleck provokes Namri and, as they exchange ethnic slurs, learns that Alia has been forging notes while Jessica is a prisoner on Salusa. Namri draws his crysknife, forbidding Halleck to speak of the "Womb of Heaven," whom he serves, but Halleck deftly slays him with his own knife, avoiding his body armor. Halleck strips the corpse of its robe, dons it, hides the body, adjusts his stillsuit, and saunters off, looking innocent. If Alia is, indeed, in charge, he knows he does not have long to live, leaving Stilgar as Leto's only hope.

Muriz has taken Leto's stillsuit and ordered Sabiha to force-feed him spice. Leto is tempted to kill her, but a future with her is alluring. Leto sees which thread to follow: the skin that is not his own. He goes outside and squats by the qanat a long time, listening to a small worm, destined for a desert planet too moist for its survival. As in the Fremen children's game of "sandtrout glove," Leto finds an unexpectedly large sandtrout, which eagerly attaches to flesh supersaturated with spice. Leto adjusts his enzyme balance to stave off an overdose. He adds more and feels a sensitive "skin symbiote" cover him to the elbow, then to the shoulder, and, concentrating on preventing his body from rejecting this new organ, lies naked on the sand, to be covered completely. He sucks sweet liquid from one sandtrout to energize himself. The creatures stop trying to cover his face and ears.



Leto stands to test the vision. Running and leaping are hard until he trains his muscles to amplified movement. "Swimming" across the sand attracts a trapped worm, which rises fiercely but does not move. Leto turns confidently away and leaps for joy. A 'thopter circles and lands, the Mashhad arriving after he is no longer human. He leaps ledge-to-ledge down a 200-meters cliff to the desert floor and races across the dune crests. Once the searchers give up, Leto lopes 50 km. northeast and spends the day burrowed in the sand, learning to live with this new membrane and planning systematic attacks on qanats, which will set back ecological transformation by a generation. Soon he and Paul will dispute, man-to-man, and "only one version will emerge."

Alia recites the Litany against Fear, to compose herself, but a voice chuckles at the efforts. The latest reports arrive two hours ago: attacks against Muad'Dib's religion, Namri's failure, Stilgar's possible rebellion, Halleck's disappearance, Muriz's hysterical talk of Leto's escape, Ghanima sticking by her story, 40 qanats breached, great portents and storms increasing in frequency, Idaho and Irulan talking foolishly about the omens. The only reassuring news comes from Farad'n, who is ready to help and preparing for the betrothal rite. Alia can use Corrino men against the rebels, but wonders about how Farad'n fits into Jessica and the Sisterhood's plans. Alia refuses the Baron's request for sex with a captive. She is too busy and has a headache.

Due south of Old Gap, Leto knows he controls the land and the universe. He rides a worm to exhaustion, reliving portions of Earth's history, while drifting from recognizable humanity. Cilia from the sandtrout have penetrated his flesh, beginning the long metamorphosis that Paul once sees but rejects it as too terrible. Leto knows a worm will approach from the north carrying a young Fremen and a blind man, bound for Shuloch. As he expects, the worm changes course and aims at him, but stops ten meters shy. Leto addresses The Preacher by title and welcomes them to spend the night together. He begins calling The Preacher "father."

Leto convinces Paul of his identity and traces their shared genes in the structure of Paul's face. He quotes in ancient Chakobsa Leto I's words: "Here I am; here I remain!" and reminds Paul of how he once let him see through his eyes long ago. Paul shudders, learning how far the transformation has gone and how Leto has fastened his memory to a place where they could spend an evening with together. Paul laments he is but a relic and bait in a trap for Alia. He hopes it is not too late for Leto to revert, but it is. Paul warns that Leto cannot control the future and Leto agrees the universe eventually defeats anyone who builds weapons to control it. Choosing and managing a vision requires playing God. As they contend, Leto has two advantages: he is committed to this path and has accepted the consequences. He talks about believing in truth and a faith he creates, whose markers the will some day tell people how to be human. He knows it is a gamble.

Leto smells ozone from a pseudoshield, intended to enrage a worm into devouring the Atreides. Leto kills Tariq and flings the shield away. A worm consumes it. Paul stands atop the dune, blind, angry, and near despair. He refuses Leto as a guide and asks if Leto understands the universe he is creating. Leto knows that movement is now linear and orderly, but he holds many reigns. Paul can no longer see how Leto might



manipulate the reins, but recognizes inhuman consequences. The Golden Path is the change for which Paul has prayed, but which he now fears. Paul asks if Leto wants to live thousands of years, changing as he has begun. Leto knows how his body will adapt and be worshiped, but Paul means inner changes or the thoughts he will inflict on worshippers.

Leto asks if Paul knows his apocryphal last words: "Now I do what all life must do in the service of life"; Paul believes they are good words. Paul has tried to guide his personal vision to the end, but now it is Leto's universe. He would stop Leto if he could, but Leto intends to give humanity thousands of peaceful years - dormant and stagnant, to be sure, but they will learn a lesson. Leto admits that his vision is no better than Paul's and suggests Paul kill him. Paul refuses to go back with Leto, and wishes he had died when he walked into the desert.

By spice essence, women, and dreams, the "jackals of Jacurutu" have contaminated Paul, but he has withheld the visions they want. Paul refuses the hawk ring and tells Leto that he too has contaminated himself. Paul asks to be allowed to walk blind into the desert and find peace on his own terms, but Leto forbids it. He will permit Paul to fall on his knife, but knowing Leto will enshrine his body, Paul refuses. They grapple, but Leto's chemistry is immune to poison. Tears flow from Paul's sightless eyes. Leto admits Paul has done good and evil but not taken his vision far enough. Paul replies he could never do premeditated evil.

Paul explores Leto's sheathed arm and asks where this flesh will take him. Leto intends to go to a place where humans create their own futures instant-to-instant, and warns that Alia, not he, is possessed - and by the Baron. Paul weeps, curses House Atreides, and wishes Leto could seek another life. Paul attributes his failure to accepting the Mahdinate for Chani's sake, and asks if the Typhoon Struggle is necessary. "It's that or humans will be extinguished," Leto replies. Paul admits to never seeing this among his choices. Leto sees the Sisterhood behind it. Paul declines to share the night. Muad'Dib the Hero must be destroyed. Only The Preacher can go now.

Children of Dune (pgs. 319-351) Analysis

This complex section shows Leto imprisoned at Shuloch, envisioning "Kralizec," beginning his physical transformation (which culminates in the fourth novel, *God Emperor of Dune*), and confronting his father, the blind Preacher. There is a massive amount of historical, mythological, philosophical, and metaphysical detail thrown in, in the form of long dialogs. Leto's vision of the Golden Path is drawn a bit more clearly, but how he proposes it to work and how it might be an improvement over Muad'Dib's Jihad is difficult to tell. Alia knows the truth about her brother, who seems determined finally to die in the desert, and her possession is one of the last unanswered questions, along with Ghanima's fate.



Children of Dune (pgs. 352-410)

Children of Dune (pgs. 352-410) Summary

After listening all night to Idaho's mentat arguments about Alia's machinations, Stilgar is not convinced and refuses to compromise his neutrality. If Idaho is sure about Alia's infidelity, he may kill Javid in the desert - but not escape - and he may not send a message to Jessica. Only the Trial of Possession can settle the question of Alia's condition, and first they must investigate extenuating circumstances. The rest this question and Stilgar refuses to say any more about Ghanima than that no one can harm her. Idaho feels this is naïve.

As they stiffly stand, Idaho sees Javid enter and kills him with a thrown knife, to silence the gossip, he says. Stilgar is irate that his honor along with his neutrality has been defiled. Idaho delivers the three most deadly Fremen insults in succession and declares he is off to find Jacurutu, but Stilgar put his knife in Idaho's heart. Idaho remarks he has now died needlessly twice for the Atrides. Stilgar knows there are not extenuating circumstances for killing the consort of the Womb of Heaven. She will have to take revenge, even if she is happy Idaho is dead. Stilgar realize why Idaho has provoked him: to force him to flee into the desert with Ghanima, his wives, and Irulan if she wishes. Stilgar remembers Leto's warning to beware of Alia and "flee with Ghani."

Halleck stands in Tuek's Sietch, waiting to learn whether the smugglers will shelter him. The sabotaged qanat is being repaired and the thousands of sandtrout attracted to open water are being distilled. Halleck knows this is a new breed of smugglers. He focuses on a lone willow tree, which symbolizes how Arrakis is changing. Rural folk are becoming colonial subjects of the city, defensive, evasive, resentful of authority. Halleck can trust these attitudes and nurture distrust. Alia has done a good job consolidating power and insinuating spies. The opposition is off guard and, if the Fremen remain dormant, Alia will win. Halleck is accepted for short-term sanctuary; he only wants time to hijack a 'thopter.

In her small audience chamber, Alia wonders out loud why she does not grieve over Javid and Idaho's deaths. Buer Agarves, Zia's aide, has delivered the news along with Stilgar's "final obedience." Agarves reports seeing the corpses and hearing Stilgar's account. Alia promises that on the day he delivers Stilgar's head, Agarves will become Naib of Sietch Tabr. Alia can spare few 'thopters but adequate fighting men, who will serve gladly in hunting down the disgraced Stilgar. Alia orders Agarves washed, perfumed, and brought to her chambers. As she curses Idaho for provoking the deaths, she steps painfully on a buckle presented by Duke Leto I to Idaho, who has abandoned it. The Baron-within demands to know who is crying. It is Alia.

Birds thrive in the latest djedida (town) in the Tanzerouft, 600 km. south of Sihaya Ridge to which a happy and carefree Stilgar has led his 60 rebels over the months. The "Desert Demon" has been smashing qanats, a search-and-destroy force seeks them,



and smugglers want to collect the steep price on Stilgar's head. Ghanima wonders why Stilgar refuses to discuss what is happening to Arrakis - and the Empire. Ghanima's inner lives are no longer plaguing her but inform her of what the desert had been like before the transformation. This qanat is shattered five times in eleven months before the djedida is abandoned. Eight of nine new settlements are also abandoned and old sietch communities along the northern Shield Wall are crowded with refugees. Fremen are reverting to old ways, seeing omens everywhere. Stilgar's band finds a reeking worm dead for no apparent reason atop a ruined spice blow and is horrified for days.

Ghanima trusts Stilgar's fear of Alia, reinforced by Irulan's arguments. Some day, Farad'n will be reckoned with. There is no one to help and nothing makes sense to Ghanima. She cannot believe that the Desert Demon is a rogue worm, for spilling water would kill it. It could be revolutionaries bent on overthrowing Alia's Mahdinate and restoring Arrakis' old ways. Ghanima sighs, almost glad Leto has not lived to see these days and would join him were she not bound to deal with Farad'n and the Baron-possessed Alia. To Harah Ghanima laments joining this stupid band, and asks whom Stilgar expects to meet here. Friends from Red Chasm Sietch are bringing Agarves blindfolded to bargain. Stilgar laughs at Ghanima's fears and orders her to look for sandtrout. Inner lives stir and oddly suggest that if "they" can be immobilized, things can go as planned. Ghanima does not know who speaks.

Halleck sits with his baliset on the butte at Shuloch watching workers plant crops. Leto estimates that spice production is at 10% of the peak years, and stockpiles double in value regularly. The Cast Out worship Leto as Shai-Hulud personified and work feverishly. Halleck does not relish all of humanity following suit. It begins when Leto arrives with Halleck and The Preacher in a stolen 'thopter, breaches the qanat, kills those who try to stop him, and laughs at the survivors' weapons. Remembering his escape, the Cast Out prostrate themselves and accept orders to guard his guests and make ready an oasis garden home. They are to store spice rather than sell it. The Preacher, who resembles Duke Leto I, is entrusted to Halleck's care.

Calling Jessica his mother, the Preacher talks about the difficulty of Halleck's task and lectures him: Leto seems confusing because he is a community under stress rather than a singular being. The transformation has taken place and cannot be subverted. Leto is "the Healer," formed by crisis, and the "ultimate feedback upon which our species depends." Halleck objects that he must test Leto to determine if he is Abomination, but The Preacher scoffs at "Bene Gesserit nonsense." The Preacher declares, "Paul Atreides is no more," suggests Jessica is testing Halleck, and demands to know who plays God and to what end. This convinces Halleck he faces Paul and Leto, but Paul wants everyone to believe him dead. Jessica does not know that being a god is boring and degrading. Paul ignores his old companion's excitement. The Fremen surge to ask if The Preacher is Muad'Dib, but he insists he is henceforth only The Preacher. With a "bull voice," Leto pushes everyone away and demands obedience to the voice of Shai-Hulud. All swear they will deny ever having seen Leto and make a warding sign. As Paul, Leto, and Halleck fly to Shuloch, Leto says Farad'n will soon arrive and the real test will occur. Halleck remains confused.



Ghanima distrusts Agarves. His movements do not match his words. He says Alia will pardon everyone, doubts Alia trusts him after such a long, fruitless search, and suspects she may not want them caught. When Irulan suggests that he is more than a military advisor, Agarves explodes, declaring Alia has fouled him and everything she touches. Stilgar insists he is responsible for many lives and must know what reparations Alia offers; he will not return to Alia's entourage or provide fighting men. Agarves agrees, saying Alia only wants Ghanima returned for the betrothal. As she gloats that Stilgar will not agree, Ghanima feels powerful hands grab her and criticizes herself for not guessing as she loses consciousness

Leto stands at the ring of the palmyrie where old-time Fremen are used to hardship and believe in Freedom. He laments being no longer completely human but knows better than indulge the emotion. As subtly modified prayers are chanted to Shai-Hulud, Leto thinks about simply disappearing into the desert to which he belongs. Another breed of Fremen, however, needs him to cure them of their greed. Either Kralizec or something worse waits. The Preacher comes out, led by a child, old before his time. He notices how coldly Leto talks about Farad'n's arrival - like Paul in former days. Leto knows there is a trap, but plans to go to Arrakeen, posing as The Preacher's guide, to face Farad'n and Alia. Old visions wait to scream in The Preacher's throat as he sees the terrifying and deadly forces they face in the city.

Alia is attracted and repelled looking down from the window of her Temple aerie. Her plan is working perfectly: Stilgar has killed Agarves who unknowingly guides the kidnappers to the djedida. Stilgar and Irulan are in the Temple dungeons. Ghanima will soon kill Farad'n. Below, Ixian dancers whirl in honor of the Womb of Heaven until, abruptly, voices roar a welcome to The Preacher. Farad'n sends a request to come to Alia's chambers, which enjoy the best view of the unfolding drama. Alia invites Farad'n, his guards, and Jessica. Ghanima is to be dressed as a Fremen bride, including knife. Finally, The Preacher is to be invited up, politely, without force. He and Ghanima must appear simultaneously on Alia's signal.

The first delegation arrives as The Preacher shouts about God commanding him to cleanse the Desert of Zan. Shai-Hulud will yet lead people back from their depravity. The Preacher admits to shattering qanats and making a straight highway for the Lord from the wilderness. Alia fears a bloody riot as the yellow-robed Priests work their way toward The Preacher, who talks of blood flowing on the land as Kralizec nears and a beast rising up, marked with the name of God. The crowd is angry. The Preacher proclaims the final blasphemy: Alia! and points at her window. As the crowd sweeps him and his guide forward, a yellow-clad arm buries a crysknife in The Preacher's chest. Guards secure the great Temple doors as people shrink back from the crumpled body. Alia whirls to tell Jessica they have just killed Paul. People will riot. Jessica glares back.

Alia summons Ghanima, but before an aide can comply, the hinges pop from the reinforced security door and it topples into the room. Ghanima and Leto enter and greet their grandmother and the prince. Leto declares they are the Lion and Lioness of Atreides, come to set them on Secher Nbiw - The Golden Path. This snaps Ghanima from hypnosis. Leto says their plan has worked "Well enough," and easily handles the



guards that try to seize him. Leto confronts Alia, who flashes a knife and lunges. Leto easily disarms her. Bene Gesserit kicks are powerless against Leto, who swings his aunt around and around until her cries cease. The twins want to show Alia how inner lives can be conquered but she refuses.

Jumbled words in many languages pour from Alia as she swears to kill the Baron and drink his blood. Jessica averts her eyes. Leto moves to a reinforced window and shatters it with his fist. Alia parodies Voice to command everyone to leave her alone, but then reverts to her sweet, youthful voice, to beg her mother's help. The Baron's voice dominates after Leto mentions a Trial of Possession - the only alternative being the open window. Alia pleads a last time to Jessica, and then begins weaving, sticklike, toward the window. The Baron's voice orders her to stop, then pleads, but Alia topples soundlessly to the steps below. Jessica buries her face in Farad'n's tunic.

Ghanima asks Farad'n if he has seen Leto running at night. With Jessica and Tyekanik, they wait outside a small audience hall to which Leto has summoned them. There is no longer a political reason for the betrothal, but it moves forward. All assume Leto will assume the Throne and some day have his human skin restored. Ghanima knows he is running to exhaust himself. He pleads for a way to die, but estimates he has 4,000 years before the metamorphosis destroys him. The memory of being human brings torment as Ghanima understands. Paul walks into the desert to escape it, Alia becomes Abomination for fear of it, and Jessica needs every Bene Gesserit skill to live with the "blurred infancy of this condition." Leto is alone and can never be duplicated. He tells Jessica he is the "first truly long-range planner in human history."

Farad'n's role in the Golden Path is to be Ghanima's mate and father children. Stilgar arrives still mourning Idaho and behaves stiffly towards Jessica. When he indicates Sietch Tabr is returning to the old ways, Ghanima warns that within 100 years there will be fewer than 50 sickly worms alive, producing spice exclusively for the Spacing Guild at astronomical prices. Stilgar has heard about the destructive Golden Age and does not like it. Ghanima and Jessica assure him everyone else longs for it. Peace, abundant harvests, and plentiful trade will be its hallmarks - under a Golden Ruler. Fremen and Sardaukar will unite to remove occasional dissatisfaction. Leto will control spice absolutely. Memory of war will vanish. Farad'n is resigned to a lifetime married to strange Ghanima. Kralizec will come when Leto's Empire falls, Ghanima assures them, but humans will by then know what it is to be alive. Humans will always re-enter the crucible and rise from their own ashes. The worms will come back after 200 years of extinction. The Guild will survive on stockpiles but worms will be abundant after Leto "goes into the sand."

Leto sits on the Lion Throne receiving homage. Ghanima stands beside him, a step down. Each group of Fremen brings gifts befitting a god of vengeance who promises peace. He has over the past week demonstrated his indestructibility, faced down a worm, and toppled a Guild frigate. Jessica sits at a high spy hole watching. She realizes that she, Farad'n, and the Sisterhood have been outmaneuvered. Jessica is bitter about how Bene Gesserit mythology strips Alia of hope. Ghanima has controlled her inner lives and insists Alia deserves only pity. Hypnotic suppression and a benign ancestor



might have saved Alia. Beside the throne stands a jar of Muad'Dib's water. Jessica is happy House Atreides survives, but cannot bear the failure of what might have been. Farad'n sits bored in the position of the Royal Scribe.

The last Naib is Stilgar, bearing a braided headband bearing the Atreides Hawk, the artifact that preserves Ghanima in the desert. Leto reciprocates with a bit of the robe Ghanima's robe wears when kidnapped; it is a "gift without price," to remind Stilgar that "humans are prone to error and all leaders are human." Leto proclaims himself Naib of Naibs, and Stilgar realizes it is too late to slay him. Leto has Stilgar read the inscription of Muad'Dib's water jar and interprets it to mean that Muad'Dib's seed and water move the universe despite catastrophes. Mysticism always leaves Stilgar in turmoil. The end and the beginning are one, Leto declares; everything returns in changed forms. Stilgar again rules Tabr with Halleck as Leto's advisor on the Council.

Leto looks forward to Farad'n relinquishing his Sardaukar. He hopes Jessica has prepared Farad'n to understand that civilization always builds itself as a barrier to change, which leaves future generations "unprepared for the universe's treachery." Anything can become a "mystique," and any mystique is like demon possession. Ghanima has escaped Abomination, but Leto, despite his promise to his grandmother, has had to balance good and bad forces. He is not his father - and not even Leto II. He is a community dominated by one Harum, who fathers a weak and superstitious people that easily follows god-kings and survives by habit. Leto knows that Jessica does not trust him but pragmatically acquiesces.

Farad'n has agreed to be Leto's scribe, but has too great a genius for that. Leto confesses to matching Harum in cruelty and autocracy. He can no longer father children, so Farad'n must, but Leto and Ghanima will be formally married. An Atreides line will be trained and an ecosystem prepared to take over after Leto's long reign ends. Future rulers will be incomparably knowledgeable. New powers will appear throughout the Empire as the last worms die, the last melange is harvested, and the hidden stockpiles make their mark. Leto makes his appeal to Farad'n without Voice. Leto changes Farad'n's name to Harq al-Ada - "Breaking of the Habit" - charged with resisting Leto every day. Farad'n relinquishes his Sardaukar and asks Ghanima if they will love one another.

Leto and Ghanima will always stand back-to-back, protecting one another; when Farad'n is with her face-to-face, whispering of love, he must remember that his back is exposed. Leto strides out with courtiers in his wake. Ghanima takes Farad'n's hand and remarks one of them had to accept the agony, and Leto has always been the stronger.

Children of Dune (pgs. 352-410) Analysis

The final section kills off Idaho and Javid in a way that sends Stilgar and his ward Ghanima into the desert to view Leto's destruction of qanats up close. Under a flag of truce, Alia then takes them captive. Halleck reunites with two of the Atreides he has served and watches Leto's vast new powers, which spawn a new cult. Paul accepts this



new universe and refuses any persona other than The Preacher. He delivers one last sermon on the day of his granddaughter's betrothal, which is certainly the long-anticipated "feint within a feint within a feint," for Alia expects to tie off the final knots in ways no one expects. The surviving principal characters gather in Alia's aerie to watch in shock as Paul is assassinated, Leto and Ghanima burst in, and Ghanima's memories are restored. The Baron makes a last attempt at controlling Alia, but she resists and her suicide becomes a triumph, although the scene is made poignant by girlish pleas to her mother. Sadly, Fremen taboo requires her water be wasted. The novel concludes with Leto reigning in triumph and discussing plans for the next 4,000 years. His loss of humanity torments him, but he intends to restore humanity to dignity and peace. Kralizec is never described in its apocalyptic horror, but Leto assures everyone it must and will come. Brother and sister must, indeed, marry as they once foresee and swear to avoid, but since Leto can no longer reproduce, there is no danger of incest. Farad'n becomes the official progenitor of a new House Atreides. House Corrino has fallen forever.



Characters

Leto II Atreides

Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' orphaned son, Leto II is the novel's protagonist. Due to inherit the Imperial Throne when he attains his majority, Leto and twin sister Ghanima are nine years old at the start of the book, living at Sietch Tabr, guarded by the Naib Stilgar, and sit on the Royal Council controlled by his Aunt Alia, their official Regent. The twins have been exposed to the spice melange since the womb, their mother Chani having been addicted during pregnancy. This combining with the genetic code of the Kwisatz Haderach Paul, gives them a full set of other lives to consult. Since infancy, Leto has shown he can be his father, knowing things only Muad'Dib could possibly know. Leto sense he is called to undo his late father's mistakes, which have taken the Empire on the path of violent Jihad and turned him into a demigod. Leto sees a "Golden Path" along which he must lead humanity. He and Ghanima avoid using spice, which they see as their aunt's downfall, and concoct a plan that will make it appear Leto has been killed by Laza tigers and been consumed by a sandworm. Instead, he rides a worm to Jacurutu, where he falls into the hands of his father's former retainer Gurney Halleck and the Fremen Namri, whom his grandmother, Lady Jessica (ostensibly, but Alia in reality), has commissioned to test if Leto is possessed - and kill him if so. They keep Leto half-high on spice all the time and he sees past, present, and future merge. Many possible threads of time are available, and he is unsure which to take. Leto escapes Jacurutu, survives a massive sandstorm, and is taken in by another Fremen, Muriz, who imprisons him at Shuloch, a smuggler's hideout. Here, Leto sees which thread he must follow: taking on skin that is not his skin, and begins physical merging with sandtrout. They enhance his strength and speed and eventually form an indestructible hide.

Escaping Shuloch, Leto confronts his father, lately a renowned blind Preacher whom many suspect is Paul. They argue about the future, tussle, and in the end, Paul submits to Leto's vision. The journey together to Arrakeen to face Alia, and Paul is assassinated. Leto is reunited with Ghanima, whom he will officially marry, but she will bear children by Farad'n. Leto knows he will reign for 4,000 before the physical transformation destroys him, and he intends to restore humanity to its proper peace and prosperity.

Alia Atreides Idaho

Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' younger sister, whom he names Regent to his twin children, Leto II and Ghanima, Alia is yet unborn when her mother, Jessica, takes the Water of Life. This makes both of them full Reverend Mothers. In her childhood, Alia practices prana-bindu trances, strengthening her personality against the onslaught of "other lives" within. She fears the ability of any of the lives to intrude on her casually. Within a month of her brother's death, Alia marries his retainer, Duncan Idaho, and becomes the twins' Regent. This new responsibility makes her consult inner lives, and the Baron Vladimir Harkonnen, the evil maternal grandfather whom she murders as a child, emerges above



the din of inner voices and offers to control them for her in return for using her physical senses from time to time. Eventually, Alia agrees. Alia heads the Mahdinate, her late brother's official cult. Alia and her mother fight when Jessica reports to the Sisterhood that Alia is indeed Abomination. Alia contrives to have her husband abduct her mother. Under instructions from The Preacher (Paul-Muad'Dib), Idaho takes Jessica to Salusa Secundus to become tutor to Prince Farad'n Corrino, whom Alia wants to betroth to Ghanima, thereby healing an ancient rift. Alia intends to kill Idaho when he returns from his mission, but he flees to Sietch Tabr. There, he kills Alia's lover and is himself killed. Ghanima, whom Alia wants to control, flees into the desert. Alia tracks her down and brings her back for betrothal. On the day of the ceremony, Leto and Ghanima announce the beginning of the Golden Path, The Preacher - whom Alia now knows is Paul - is assassinated by one of her Priests, and the Baron manifests his possession of her. Alia struggles with him and begs her mother's help before jumping out a high window to end the agony. By Fremen tradition, her water is poured out in the desert, not added to the tribe's treasury.

Lady Jessica Atreides

The grandmother of the twins Leto II and Ghanima Atreides, Lady Jessica begins the novel in self-imposed exile on Caladan, House Atreides' home planet. She is a graduate of the Bene Gesserit's deepest training program, a full-fledged Reverend Mother, and for over twenty years, the widow of Duke Leto I. Returning to Arrakis is painful for her because of the memories of her husband's murder and the time she and Paul spend surviving in the desert. She is sent, however, by the Sisterhood to determine if her daughter Alia, whom she exposes to the spice agony in the womb, is possessed - a pre-born Abomination. Jessica's dark secret is that the Baron Vladimir Harkonnen, her husband's murderer, is her biological father, and the Sisterhood holds this as potential blackmail. When Jessica reports that Alia is, indeed, possessed, Alia arranges for her to be kidnapped by her husband Duncan Idaho. Yet, Idaho spirits Jessica to Salusa Secundus to tutor Prince Farad'n Corrino. Jessica has concocted a plan to "educated" Leto before he ascends the throne, and arranges for him to fall into the hands of Atreides family retainer Gurney Halleck. In fact, Alia takes over control of the plan, forging her mother's name, and intends to eliminate Leto. Jessica succeeds admirably in training Farad'n and returns with him and Idaho to Arrakis for Farad'n's betrothal to Ghanima. Instead, she watches Paul, masquerading as The Preacher, assassinated, Alia commit suicide by jumping out a window, and Leto enthroned as Emperor.

Ghanima

Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' orphaned daughter, Ghanima and twin brother Leto are nine years old at the start of the book, living at Sietch Tabr, guarded by the Naib Stilgar, and sit on the Royal Council controlled by their Aunt Alia, the official Regent. The twins have been exposed to the spice melange since the womb, their mother Chani having been addicted during pregnancy. Ghanima's name in the ancient Chakobsa language means "Spoil of War." She detests the nickname Ghani.



Ghanima is the quickest to realize that Alia has become possessed by one of her inner lives, and convinces her brother that they, as "pre-born," must avoid use of spice. Ghanima concocts a plan with her grandmother, Jessica, who has great difficulty accepting that a little girl in fact has numberless inner lives at her disposal. Reluctantly, Ghanima agrees to help Leto with his plan to disappear into the desert to initiate the Golden Path that will reverse their father's disastrous Mahdinate and Jihad. After killing two Laza tigers sent to assassinate them, Ghanima hypnotizes herself into believing that Leto is dead and consumed by a sandworm. She kills the conspirators who control the cats, and convinces a truthsayer that her story is valid. Alia and Irulan determine that Ghanima should marry Farad'n Corrino to end the enmity between their noble Houses, but Ghanima is convinced that his family has murdered Leto. She vows to kill Farad'n on their wedding night.

After months in protective custody at Sietch Tabr and then more months wandering the deserts as fugitives from Alia, Ghanima is captured and returned to Arrakeen. On the day of the proposed betrothal, Leto returns and says the words that snap Ghanima out of her deep trance. They watch their father and aunt die traumatically. Leto ascends the throne and announces he and Ghanima will wed, but she will bear children by Farad'n. Ghanima alone has the perspective to understand what Leto is going through and the sacrifice he is making for the good of humankind.

Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides

The protagonist of *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*, Paul begins this novel as a memory and a destructive legacy against which his young son must battle. In the course of the book, it becomes increasingly likely that Paul has survived the desert and is provoking Alia and the Priesthood as the blind, heretical Preacher. Paul arranges with Duncan Idaho, his childhood teacher and retainer while Duke of Arrakis, to visit Prince Farad'n on Salusa Secundus, ostensibly to interpret his dreams. Paul leaves Idaho in Farad'n's service, and arranges for his mother, the Lady Jessica, to go to Salusa to train Farad'n in the ways of the Bene Gesserit, even as she taught him as a child. Paul organizes Fremen and smugglers to transport small sandworms and sandtrout to other planets to break Arrakis' hold on the spice market.

Paul eventually meets his son Leto II, who has begun his physical transformation into a human/worm symbiote. Paul reveals that instead of walking into the mouth of Shai-Hulud as blind Fremen are expected to do, he goes to the mythical sietch Jacurutu, where the "jackals" use spice essence, women, and dreams to contaminate him. However, he withholds the visions they want. Paul and Leto argue about their respective visions and programs, and in the end, Paul pledges to follow his son's way. He rejects all past identities and becomes only The Preacher. He undertakes one last ministry to Arrakis, where he ends his oration with a denunciation of his daughter Alia as Abomination. One of Alia's priests assassinates Paul on the plaza as a horrified crowd looks on. When Leto ascends the Lion Throne, which Paul occupies before him, a jar of Paul's water occupies an honored place beside him.



Irulan Corrino Atreides

With her golden hair tied in tight coil at the neck and wearing the simple black aba of the Bene Gesserit sisterhood, the daughter of the late Emperor Shaddam IV and widow of his successor, Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides, Irulan has been toughened by life on Arrakis. Paul takes Irulan as his politically expedient wife but never as his lover. After he apparently dies, Irulan remains savage and seductive, dedicating her life to raising his children. Her refusal to age infuriates her mother-in-law, Jessica, a fellow Bene Gesserit who has also separated in the past from the Sisterhood over love. Irulan enjoys a mediocre career at the Bene Gesserit School, but tries to expand her capabilities. Still haughty like her father, Irulan is, to the mind of her sister-in-law, always a potential conspirator against her. Irulan tries hard to convince Ghanima Atreides to marry her cousin Farad'n, even after it is shown that the Corrinos are planning Ghanima's twin brother's murder. Irulan is generally shown as an ineffectual character.

Farad'n Corrino / Harq al-Ada

The grandson of the late Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV, Farad'n is the hope of House Corrino to reclaim the Imperial Throne. He lives in exile on Salusa Secundus, controlled by his mother, Wensicia both directly and through her Sardaukar Bashar Aide, Tyekanik. Farad'n is a student of history and human relations, and a patron of the arts. He learns late of Wensicia's plot to murder the Atreides twins and thus clear his way to the Imperial Throne. He disapproves of the means but not the end. As a result, Ghanima Atreides swears to kill him if the plan to betroth them is carried out. Lady Jessica, Ghanima's grandmother and a Bene Gesserit adept, seeks refuge from her estranged daughter Alia on Salusa Secundus and becomes Farad'n's mentor. He excels in his physical and mental training and graduates, more a Bene Gesserit than a Corrino at this point. They travel to Arrakis for the betrothal, but on that day Paul and Alia Atreides both die and Ghanima regains memories of her plans with twin brother, Leto. Leto assumes the Lion Throne, making the political marriage unnecessary, and names Farad'n his official scribe and renames him Harq al-Ada - "Breaking of the Habit. Leto and Ghanima will always stand back-to-back, protecting one another. Farad'n, who will marry Ghanima and father her children, will stand face-to-face, whispering of love, and remembering that his back exposed.

Wensicia Corrino

The mother of Prince Farad'n, grandson of the late Emperor Shaddam IV, Wensicia is a younger sister of Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' widow, Irulan. Wensicia is an exacting, cold-blooded woman determined to put her son the throne that the Atreides have usurped. She works through her Sardaukar Bashar Aide Tyekanik to perfect a means of assassinating Leto II and Ghanima Atreides, which appears to succeed halfway. When Lady Jessica comes to Salusa Secundus and offers to tutor Farad'n in the Bene Gesserit ways, she confronts the crime and Wensicia is forced to cede control over the



affairs of House Corrino to Farad'n. Jessica then demands that the prince admonish and banish his mother. Wensicia disappears from the novel.

Ghadheal al-Fali

A desert-born Fremen Naib, one of Muad'Dib's death commandos, al-Fali attends one of Alia's morning audiences on "a matter of the desert" - to express concern about losing the desert and, thereby losing sandworms and spice. Al-Fali kills a Priest who tries to assassinate Jessica, and follows her out of the Chamber along with four fellow Fedaykin. Al-Fali appears late in the novel in a trivial role.

Gurney Halleck

An ugly, supremely loyal, straightforward retainer of House Atreides from the days of Leto I and teacher of a young Paul Atreides, Halleck is in this novel seen as Regent Governor of Caladan, accompanying Lady Jessica, his lover, back to Arrakis. A master of both killing and the nine-string baliset, Halleck hates the Harkonnen, who have tortured him and his family. In an earlier volume, Halleck is a smuggler, and Jessica now sends him to redevelop old contacts. From Salusa Secundus, where she is tutoring Farad'n Corrino, Jessica arranges for Halleck and the Fremen Namri to educate Leto II before he ascends the throne. Alia Atreides, the official Regent, forges dispatches in her mother's name and orders them to determine if Leto is Abomination and destroy him. Halleck is unquestionably loyal to House Atreides and will comply. Leto, however, escapes. Some time later, Halleck is seen again among smugglers, seeking asylum but actually intending to steal a 'thopter. He picks up Paul and Leto and takes them to Shuloch, where he witnesses Leto's new superhuman strength. The Atreides leave Halleck behind on their final mission together to Arrakeen in order that he may survive.

Baron Vladimir Harkonnen

Lady Jessica's biological father, Harkonnen is the epitome of evil in the original Dune novel, where Alia at age four slays him with a gom jabbar. In this novel, the Baron is among the ancestors filling her "other" memories, and succeeds in taking over her personality at times - making her a true Abomination. At the climax of the story, the Baron tries desperately but unsuccessfully to prevent the suicide that ends Alia's agony.

Duncan Idaho

The longtime swordmaster of House Atreides, Idaho marries Alia Atreides a month after her brother Paul ostensibly walks into the desert to his death. Brought back to life as a "ghola" in the previous novel after dying in a valiant defense of Paul and Jessica Atreides in the first novel, Idaho is briefly described as having black goat hair over sharp, dark features. Thanks to the Tleilaxu, he now has eerie multi-faceted metal eyes. Alia often wonders how he feels, after being regenerated from cadaver cells, trained as



a Mentat, and given as a gift to Paul, whom he has been programmed to assassinate. Idaho overcomes the hypnotic compulsion and regains the memories of his previous life. Alia still thinks of him as the ghola Hayt and scrupulously hides from him the Baron-within. Once much in love, the couple is now distant; Alia's touch revolts Idaho and he cannot look at her. Alia's Amazon guards resent Idaho, while the Fremen view him as the "Coan-Teen's" husband and a ghola. Working for The Preacher (in reality: Paul-Muad'Dib), Idaho takes Jessica to Salusa Secundus to tutor Prince Farad'n Corrino and appears to leave the service of House Atreides. Returning to Arrakis, Idaho reports to Alia and follows her orders to go to Sietch Tabr to help watch over Ghanima, Irulan, and a delegation of priests. In fact, Alia intends to murder Idaho, but he sees through the plot and escapes. At the sietch, Idaho kills Alia's secret lover, Javid, and goads Stilgar into stabbing him to death. Stilgar has no option but to flee into the desert with Ghanima - the action Idaho spends his last night alive trying to convince him to do. Thus, Idaho dies a second time for the sake of House Atreides.

Ziarenko Javid

A cynical, well-fed Fremen who serves as a surly priest and Alia Atreides' Master of Appointments, Javid is a truly dangerous man. Lady Jessica takes him briefly into her small retinue, hoping his intelligence will help her infiltrate the Arrakeen priesthood, but he is, in fact, an active spy for the Corrinos on Salusa Secundus. Rumors spread that Javid is Alia's lover and reach the ears of her ghola husband, Duncan Idaho. Javid is part of a priestly delegation at Sietch Tabr when Idaho arrives. Idaho stabs Javid at first sight and then provokes Stilgar into killing him to avenge the murder on neutral ground under his control.

Muriz

A leathery Fremen, Muriz first appears putting his teenaged son, Assan Tariq through the test of manhood required by the "Cast Out." Tariq is guide to the blind Preacher (Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides). Muriz next appears as the leader of a band of paid renegades operating at Shuloch. He finds Leto II Atreides in the desert, foolishly draws a pistol on him, is disarmed, and forced to become Leto's wadqiuya (blood brother), thereby guaranteeing Leto's safety among the smugglers. Leto is at the point of launching his Golden Path by covering his body with sandtrout that amplify his strength and offer protection. Muriz fails to prevent Leto's fleeing into the deep desert.

Namri

The father of Javid, Namri is the desert Fremen who captures Leto Atreides II when he fakes his own death and holds him at Jacurutu/Fondak to educate him before he ascends his throne. Namri calls himself "Mirzabah" - the "Iron Hammer" - who in Fremen mythology smashes souls that cannot answer satisfactorily on their way to paradise. Leto sees his new schoolmaster as a "human gob jabbar," arranged by his



grandmother, Jessica, and the Bene Gesserit. Namri warns that Leto must attend to every word, for each holds life and death. After several tests, Namri grants Leto "a provisional future." Namri assigns his nubile niece Sabiha to watch Leto and keep him always half-high on spice, but Leto escapes and survives a deadly sandstorm. Namri punishes Sabina by sending her to the deadly Cast Out at Shuloch.

Sabiha

Namri's nubile niece, Sabiha is as adept with a crysknife as her uncle is. She is set to watch Leto II Atreides during one of his forced spice trips at Jacurutu/Fondak. Sabiha is physically eight years older than Leto, but he confuses her by talking of being thousands of generations older than she inwardly is. He assures her the idea of them being together will grow on her. Dark-haired, pale-skinned, deep sockets that make her blue-in-blue eyes appear green, small-nosed, wide-mouthed, and sharp-chinned, Sabiha is obviously being saved for a special purpose, for she is well beyond the Fremen age of marriage. Needing to launch his Golden Path, Leto hypnotizes Sabiha by a touch and escapes into the desert. Surviving a sandstorm and assault by the leader of the smugglers at Shuloch, Leto finds Sabiha there, enduring punishment for her laxity. She again tries to get him to consume spice and warns him of the dangers posed by captive sandworms, and Leto briefly contemplates a different path of life with Sabiha. He also considers killing her to continue on the straight path. In the end, Leto begins his transformation by clothing himself in sandtrout and races away from Shuloch, leaving Sabiha staring in amazement.

Stilgar

The Naib (leader) of Sietch Tabr and guardian of Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides' orphaned twins, Ghanima and Leto II, Stilgar is quite different from how he is portrayed in the first two novels. Here he is beset with guilt over Paul's jihad, which is launched, from his sietch and in which his Fremen brethren play a key role. He contemplates murdering the twins to prevent anything worse, but decides that this will just cause different chaos. Leto takes Stilgar into his confidence, showing him the place at The Attendant where he will die, and asks Stilgar to flee with Ghanima into the desert away from his Aunt Alia, the Regent, who Leto suspects is also Abomination. Instead, Stilgar arranges for Tabr to be neutral territory in a civil war between desert and pro-government Fremen and actively arranges hostage exchanges. Stilgar insists on honoring the terms of neutrality when old friend Duncan Idaho, Alia's estranged husband, urges him to save Ghanima by disappearing into the desert. Idaho breaks neutrality by killing Alia's lover, Javid, inside the sietch, and then throws into Stilgar's face the three worst Fremen insults. Stilgar drives his crysknife into Idaho's heart and then sends word of his crime to Alia. Idaho gets his dying wish: Stilgar gathers some 60 Fremen and flees with Ghanima. They are hunted for months before Stilgar agrees to "parley" with Alia's representative who innocently carries a transponder that leads kidnappers to the rendezvous point. They are imprisoned in Alia's dungeon until Leto sweeps in to change the regime. The



new Emperor restores Stilgar to leadership of Sietch Tabr and honors him as the first among the Fremen Naibs.

Assan Tariq

First appearing as an unknown Fremen hireling, Tariq leads The Preacher around, although no one believes the blind man - possibly Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides - needs a guide. The slender guide appears to be about 15, wears a shoddy modern stillsuit, and has all-blue eyes and the look of innocence that often masks cynicism. Tariq is, in fact, the son of Muriz, leader of the radical group, "Cast Out," and is next seen undergoing the group's test of manhood - killing six men who have wandered too near the group's secret headquarters at Shuloch. Tariq last appears riding a sandworm with The Preacher and trying to steer it at Leto II Atreides, who has come out into the desert to confront his father. The Preacher cannot prevent Leto from killing Tariq when he treacherously turns on a pseudoshield to enrage and attract a sandworm to consume the Atreides.

Bashar Tyekanik (

A Sardaukar Bashar Aide serving Princess Wensicia on Salusa Secundus as he had her late father, the Emperor Shaddam IV, Tyekanik is most likely also Wensicia's lover. She treats him (and everyone else) scornfully and reminds him of her power over life and death. Tyekanik resists Wensicia's orders to convert to Muad'Dib's religion in order to coax her son, Farad'n, who admires Tyekanik, into following suit. This will make the Fremen of Arrakis more likely to support him for the Imperial Throne once the Atreides twins have been eliminated. Tyekanik is not pleased with the use of Laza tigers to kill the twins. Tyekanik appears protectively at Farad'n side throughout the novel, silently watching the prince take control of House Corrino and exile his mother and unable to keep Lady Jessica from turning Farad'n into a Bene Gesserit adept. Tyekanik accompanies Farad'n and Jessica to Arrakis for Farad'n's betrothal to Ghanima Atreides. When Ghanima's brother Leto II returns from the desert and claims the Imperial Throne, he works to integrate Fremen and Sardaukar forces. Tyekanik and the Naib Stilgar reach an awkward understanding.



Objects/Places

Arrakis

The planet on which most of the action of *Children of Dune* occurs, Arrakis is no longer a desert planet deserving the unofficial name "Dune." Half of the planet has already been greened, following the plans originally put forth by the Planetologist Liet-Kynes, advocated, and funded by Paul-Muad'Dib Atrides during his reign as Emperor. Paul is now thought to be dead but is, in fact, operating out of a smugglers' den at Jacurutu/Fondak, coordinating the sale of small sandworms and sandtrout off-planet to break Arrakis' monopoly on the spice melange. The primary locales on Arrakis where the story evolves are the capital city, Arrakeen, the sietches Tabr and Jacurutu, and the butte of Shuloch. Arrakeen has grown, as *The Preacher* says, ungenerous, unreasonable, self-righteous, and harsh. The desert Fremen are being treated like colonial subjects and are seething. With humidity too high for sandworms even the deepest desert, the Tanzerouft - "Land of Terror"— which still experiences "the grey serpent of a mother storm," Fremen are moving back into the sietches, but without observing the obsolete rules for water conservation. When Leto II Atrides fakes his own death and begins his transformation into a human/ sandworm symbiote, he begins a systematic program of sabotaging the qanats that carry water to planted fields. He hopes to set back the ecology program until its dire consequences can be better evaluated. Leto calculates that within 100 years, there will be fewer than 50 sickly worms alive, but after 200 years of extinction, they will again grow abundant once Leto "goes into the sand."

Bene Gesserit

A Sisterhood that in the original *Dune* novel is seen planting prophecies on various planets, including Arrakis (Dune) against a time when their fulfillment might prove valuable, the Bene Gesserit are, in *Children of Dune*, too preoccupied with righting the outcome of its breeding program to deal with religion. The Sisterhood is headquartered on the planet Wallach IX, where it runs a school of intensive physical and mental training. Some graduates undergo a spice ordeal, which, if they survive, turns them into Reverend Mothers, able to consult the innumerable inner lives of previous sisters in their line of succession. Lady Jessica graduates, is assigned to House Atrides as concubine to Duke Leto I, and told to conceive a daughter. Jessica falls in love, bears a son, Paul Atrides, and becomes a Reverend Mother in an unorthodox ceremony instill in Fremen culture long before as part of the Missionaria Protectiva program. Because she is pregnant at the time, Jessica makes her unborn daughter also a Reverend Mother - part of the "pre-born" that the Bene Gesserit fear and prejudice as "Abomination." Paul too takes the spice in *Dune* and becomes the Kwisatz Haderach, whom the Sisterhood has been preparing for but who comes a generation too soon. In this book, the Sisterhood gives Jessica another chance, sending her to Arrakis to investigate her daughter Alia, who is showing signs of possession, and kill her if



necessary. Jessica is also to examine her twin grandchildren, Leto II and Ghanima, for signs of possession and, if they are clean, take over their education. Instead, Jessica is spirited to Salusa Secundus, where she teaches Prince Farad'n the basics of prana-bindu training. Herbert devotes considerable space to describing this essential training, which includes the use of "Voice" a basic Sisterhood toll for forcing hearers to comply. Throughout the novel, Jessica suspects that her sisters are tricking her with characteristic "feints within feints within feints."

Caladan

House Atreides' home planet, Caladan is the birthplace of Paul-Muad'Dib and the current residence of his mother, the Reverend Mother Jessica. It is a world that stands in stark contrast to arid Arrakis (Dune), for it has vast oceans and smaller bodies of water and rain falls from the skies. The Fremen of Arrakis in all of the Dune novels marvel at the thought, which helps motivate them to "green" their own planet.

CHOAM

The "Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles," CHOAM for short, controls every product and service in the Empire, in particular the priceless melange, which makes space flight possible and extends the upper classes' lives. House Atreides controls 51% of its shares, Muad'Dib's priesthood another 5%, and the various Great Houses the rest. Speculative stockpiling in melange by some Great Houses makes Princess Irulan suspect CHOAM is in on an anti-Alia conspiracy.

The Golden Path

Based on a dream seen by Leto II Atreides, the Golden Path is a new direction for the human species, away from Paul-Muad'Dib's path of jihad. Working in league with his twin sister, Ghanima, Leto disappears into the desert, convincing everyone that he is dead. First, he implants in Ghanima's deep memory the Chakobsa words "Secher Nbiw" - "Golden Path" - to restore her perceptions at the proper time. Under directions from his mother, Lady Jessica, Gurney Halleck and Namri keep Leto half-high on the addictive spice melange, and he eventually succeeds in getting all of the past lives inside him properly aligned and obedient to his will. He sees past, present, and future come together into a unity and realizes the set future determines the present rather than vice versa. Still, Leto sees many threads of possible futures in his hand. One enigmatic one begins to predominate: he will have flesh that is not his flesh. He chooses this unique path while at the butte of Shuloch and attracts sandtrout to form a new skin over his own, interlocking and penetrating his body, giving him extraordinary physical powers and protection, ensuring that his all-encompassing mind will survive for at least 4,000 years. During this time, Leto will rule benevolently albeit dictatorially to end his father's jihad and give humanity a long period of peace and prosperity. At the end will come "Kralizec" - the "Typhoon Struggle," the legendary battle at the end of the universe.



Jacurutu/Fondak/Shuloch

Jacurutu is a place shrouded in Fremen myth, a sietch, where generations back other tribes band together and wipe out the inhabitants, the Iduali. Thereafter, the superstitious Fremen consider it strictly taboo. It occurs to the prescient Leto II Atrides that Jacurutu might be real and known as Fondak, and equally mysterious place kept secret by spice smugglers. As a first step in his quest for the Golden Path, Leto heads to Jacurutu to look for The Preacher, to determine if he is, as some believe, his supposedly dead father, Paul-Muad'Dib. There, Gurney Halleck and Namri wait to capture Leto and educate him before he ascends his throne. After several tests, Namri grants Leto "a provisional future," assigns his nubile niece Sabiha to watch Leto, and keep him always half-high on spice. Nevertheless, Leto escapes and survives a deadly sandstorm. Namri punishes Sabina by sending her to another mythical place, Shuloch.

Shuloch is located at some distance from Jacurutu/Fondak, but partakes of the same mystery. It is the headquarters of a deadly sect, the Cast Out, descendants of the slain Iduali, who remember Jacurutu and the day of despair. At Paul-Muad'Dib's suggestion, the Cast Out sell small captive sandworms and sandtrout off-planet to break the monopoly on spice. Spice production drops to 10% of the peak years, and stockpiles increase sharply in value. The Cast Out worship Leto as Shai-Hulud personified and work feverishly, making ready an oasis garden home for him. They store spice rather than sell it.

Laza Tigers

Specially bred on Salusa Secundus for 8,000 years to meet its severe conditions, Laza tigers receive servo-stimulators implanted in their brains as cubs, making them pawns of whoever controls the transmitter. Numerous innocent children the size and age of Leto II and Ghanima Atrides perish wearing replicas of their clothing as a pair of hunters are programmed. The tigers are then smuggled onto Arrakis (Dune) and positioned near the twins' favorite hiding place. They gash Ghanima badly, but she kills them and hypnotizes herself into believing that Leto is dead. Returning to Sietch Tabr, Ghanima kills two Fremen conspirators controlling the cats, and convinces a truthsayer that her story is valid. Alia and Irulan determine that Ghanima should marry Farad'n Corrino to end the enmity between their noble Houses, but Ghanima is convinced his family has murdered Leto, and vows to kill Farad'n on their wedding night.

Melange

A spice produced only on the planet Arrakis (Dune), melange has addictive and geriatric properties. It is used by Spacing Guild Navigators and the Bene Gesserit to give them limited prescience, and most famously by Paul-Muad'Dib Atrides. After faking his death, Leto Atrides II is held at Jacurutu/Fondak by Gurney Halleck and Namri on orders from his grandmother, Jessica, and the Bene Gesserit. Namri assigns his nubile niece Sabiha to watch Leto and keep him always half-high on spice, which helps him



sort out his many inner memories and see the path he must take. Worms produce a pre-spice substance during their rapid travel over the sands. Drowning small worms in water produces poisonous spice extract. Bene Gesserit Reverend Mothers convert the poison internally, making it safe to consume.

Thought to be dead, Paul-Muad'Dib is encouraging smugglers to ship small sandworms and sandtrout to other worlds, including Salusa Secundus, to break Arrakis' monopoly. Leto knows that this cannot succeed, because no place is sufficiently arid for the worms to survive. Spice production drops to 10% of the peak years, and stockpiles increase sharply in value. Leto predicts that within 100 years there will be fewer than 50 sickly worms alive, producing spice exclusively for the Spacing Guild at astronomical prices. The worms will come back after 200 years of extinction and again become abundant after Leto "goes into the sand."

Salusa Secundus

The planet to which the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV is exiled by his usurping successor, Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides, Salusa Secundus remains a hotbed of resentment among his heirs. According to the treaty that gives Paul the throne, the Corrinos give up all their CHOAM stock and limit the size of their Sardaukar troops, making overt rebellion for the present unthinkable. Sandtrout smuggled from Arrakis are nurtured in the Salusan desert in hopes of breaking the melange monopoly, and consideration is given to marrying the young Prince Farad'n to the younger Ghanima Atreides (or her Aunt Alia) to end the long-simmering feud. Under the direction of Farad'n's mother, Wensicia, an exacting, cold-blooded woman, the Sardaukar Bashar Aide Tyekanik perfects a means of assassinating the twins, which appears to succeed halfway. Ghanima vows to spill Farad'n's blood in revenge. When Lady Jessica comes to Salusa Secundus and offers to tutor Farad'n in the Bene Gesserit ways, she confronts the crime and Wensicia is forced to cede control over the affairs of House Corrino to Farad'n. Jessica then demands that the prince admonish and banish his mother. Farad'n accompanies Jessica to Arrakis and there enters the service of Emperor Leto II.

Sandworms

The source of Arrakis' unique treasure, the addictive geriatric spice melange, sandworms begin life as small, leathery sandtrout, which instinctively rally around any open source of water, link together, and encyst it. Over time, this process turns Arrakis (Dune) into an arid desert and creates conditions under which the sandtrout can mature into vector sandworms and finally into gigantic, fearsome creatures measuring hundreds of feet in length. Small sandworms are held captive by the Fremen and ritually drowned to produce the poisonous raw Water of Life that Reverend Mothers convert into a liquid that drive the Fremen into orgies. Sandworms are "oxygen factories," converting silicon and sulfur because of the friction of their passage across desert sands and through internal chemical reactions to the same friction. The first step in Leto II Atreides' Golden Path is to allow sandtrout to cover his body, forming an impervious natural stillsuit that



also enhances his strength and speed. Leto's father, Paul-Muad'Dib, thought to be dead, is alive and is encouraging smugglers to take small worms and sandtrout off-planet to breed on other arid planets. None survives long, and Leto knows it is impossible to duplicate Arrakis' conditions. Leto predicts that within 100 years there will be fewer than 50 sickly worms alive, producing spice exclusively for the Spacing Guild at astronomical prices. The worms will come back after 200 years of extinction and again become abundant after Leto "goes into the sand".

Sietch Tabr

The birthplace of the Atrides twins Leto II and Ghanima in *Children of Dune*, Sietch Tabr is their current home and sanctuary as the novel opens. Tabr is but one of a string of sietches - places of safety in times of trouble - which Fremen have dug into cliff sides in the northern portions of the planet Arrakis (Dune). Old-time sietches have provisions for conserving moisture and windtraps to condense morning dew. They have vast underground storage units for water and collect the water of the dead as part of their funeral ritual. Modern sietches have relaxed the discipline, Tabr included. Sietches are ruled autocratically by "Naibs," who obtain the office by challenging and killing their predecessors. Stilgar is Naib of Tabr, where he is also guardian to the Atrides twins. When the situation in the city of Arrakeen grows tense, Stilgar brings Ghanima to safety at Tabr and proclaims it neutral ground in the building civil war. He does not let Duncan Idaho violate the terms of neutrality, and abandons Tabr only when provoked into an officially unforgivable action — killing the consort of the Womb of Heaven. He does as Idaho suggests, packing up anyone wishing to leave with him, and taking Ghanima into the deep desert. In the end, Emperor Leto II, returns Stilgar to his post of Naib at Sietch Tabr.



Themes

Possession

Children of Dune exaggerates for effect the psychological phenomenon of multiple personalities. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has long relied on raw melange spice when ordaining Reverend Mothers. Those who survive are filled with innumerable inner lives of their predecessors. When Lady Jessica undergoes the test at Sietch Tabr, she also fills with memories her month-old fetus, traumatizing daughter Alia for life. Older son Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides, converts raw melange on his own whim and survives, proving he is the Kwisatz Haderach - the one who can be many places at once. Paul's genetics coupled with his concubine Chani's spice addiction expose the twins in her womb to particular conditions, giving them more extensive memories than anyone.

The Bene Gesserit have apparently in generations past faced this problem, for they have a strong prejudice against such "pre-born," offering little benefit of the doubt. The Fremen also have a deep phobia of possession and the Orange Catholic Bible orders that witches not be allowed to live. Facing this, Alia fighting valiantly through childhood and adolescence, refusing to listen to the inner voices that she fears. Only when named the twins' Regent does job pressure make Alia look inward for help and guidance. Unfortunately, it unleashes a cacophony of voices that further scares Alia. The only calm voice within belongs to the evil Baron Harkonnen, her maternal grandfather, who offers to keep the others at bay and to advise her. This sounds reasonable, and Alia agrees. The Bene Gesserit dispatch Jessica to Arrakis to see if Alia is possessed as rumored and, if she is, order her killed. Jessica must also to evaluate the twins and take over their education, assuming they are normal. Granddaughter Ghanima hears voices but is able to control and use them fearlessly, even playfully. Caught in his grandmother's trap, grandson Leto is subjected to unaccustomed, massive doses of melange, which he survives, finding a way to unite space and time within himself and order and command inner lives. He admits, however, that he listens to first-ancestor Harum more than to others, which might constitute possession, were Leto not by then beyond harming or controlling.

Ecology

Author Frank Herbert is an outspoken proponent of ecology, and uses the first two books in the Dune series to show how humans can reclaim even the most desolate of wastelands, given planning, resources, and cooperation. While Emperor, Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides supports the project heartily, as he promises earlier, and large tracks of land on Arrakis are now in crops and even fruit groves. Water is moved from the ancient underground storage areas - the only place it could be stored, taking care to prevent the loss of any moisture - to the fields via qanats. These qanats must be stocked with predatory fish, because sandtrout mass on any open source of water and join together to encyst it, thereby removing any threat to sandworms, for whom water is lethal.



This interaction makes it clear to some observers that Arrakis once upon a time holds standing water. Its extraordinary dryness - surpassing desert regions on other planets - is a function of the sandtrout, which, under the right circumstances, grow into worms. Worms, however, are not growing as large or being found in as high a numbers as previously in the formerly temperate zones. Humidity is getting too high for them even in the deepest desert, the Tanzerouft - "Land of Terror," where "mother" sandstorms blow the desert clean, revealing clear geological evidence of standing water, further supporting the hypothesis. Add a final factor: that worms are the source of the spice melange, which is vital to space transportation and many other parts of life, and it becomes clear that not enough research has gone into the greening of Arrakis. Entrepreneurs rather than scientists try shipping small worms off world to try to introduce them on other planets, but none thrives. Leto, who knows this is a hopeless plan, buys time by destroying qanats as fast as they are repaired, causing farm villages to be abandoned, and slowing the greening. Being prescient, however, Leto knows that within 100 years, there will be fewer than 50 sickly worms alive, followed by 200 years of extinction, before they again become abundant after Leto "goes into the sand."

Religion

The original Dune trilogy is filled with religious language, symbolism, and philosophy. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has over eons taken pains through its Missionaria Protectiva planted the seeds of potentially useful prophecies. These help in Dune to establish Paul-Muad'Dib Atreides and his mother, the Reverend Mother Jessica, among the devout Fremen. Paul, however, is transformed into a demigod, with sister Alia as the high priestess of his cult. She builds a massive Temple rivaling Paul's greatest architectural triumphs, and invents an ancient-seeming cult that centers on imbibing massive quantities of the addictive spice melange. A self-serving professional bureaucracy develops that follows the bloody swords of holy warriors who take Paul's religion to the ends of the universe. Pilgrimage to Arrakeen is a major tenet and the local economy thrives. By the time of Children of Dune, Alia's Mahdinate (so called because among Paul's titles is "Mahdi") has lost former fervor. She appears no longer to preside at religious events and the current crop of pilgrims is lax, cynical, and more materialistic than ever.

The Bene Gesserit's view of how religions are successfully promoted is quoted as a series of cynical maxims. "Evil men never prosper; only the brave deserve the fair; honesty is the best policy; actions speak louder than words; virtue always triumphs; a good deed is its own reward; any bad human can be reformed; religious talismans protect one from demon possession; only females understand the ancient mysteries; the rich are doomed to unhappiness." Realizing that his fate is to be deified like his father, Leto modifies some rituals and contemplates running away from it all, but realizes that the Fremen have so declined morally that he must stay and do his best to correct and improve them. He intends them to enjoy millennia of peace and prosperity and is willing to force them to accept his gift. He muses that it is boring and demeaning to be a god. He believes free will is invented to give God time to rest. This parallels his

views on prescience: it is boring to know from moment to moment precisely how one's life will unfold.



Style

Point of View

Frank Herbert narrates *Children of Dune* in the third person past tense. In this novel, he uses far more dialog and narration than in the earlier novels, where he relies heavily on revealing their inner thoughts (in italics). As in the earlier volumes, Herbert opens new scenes by quoting epigrams in the manner of a historian. The source of the epigrams is far more diverse than in earlier volumes, perhaps because Princess Irulan is an integral part of the story in *Children of Dune*. The saga picks up with the precocious Atrides twins, Leto II and Ghanima, newly born in *Dune Messiah*, during their ninth year. They understand that they possess the knowledge of all ages and worry that they, like Aunt Alia, the Regent, are possessed. Never one to share his thoughts on religion, politics, ecology, and various social issues, Herbert constructs a plot that allows him to range widely. It gradually grows clear that Paul-Muad'Dib has not died in the desert after being blinded and abdicating; he is living among smugglers and rebels and coming into town to goad the establishment as The Preacher. Leto sees the need to undeify his father, end the disastrous bloody jihad, and launch a 4,000-year Golden Path. This thread allows for considerable philosophical and metaphysical rumination. There are a few places when it seems like tidbits too interesting for Herbert to resist are tucked in as an afterthought. Much attention is given to how the ecological transformation shown hopefully in the first earlier books is reaping unintended havoc and threatens to kill off the great sandworms - and with them the spice. Slowing the process is simple but planning a 4,000 reign of peace and prosperity is not. Herbert leaves himself plenty of material for another three sequels and a fourth he does not live to write.

Setting

Children of Dune is set, like the two preceding Frank Herbert novels, *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*, on the planet Arrakis. The greening of the planet in the nine years that elapse since *Dune Messiah* makes "Dune" a much less apt nickname. Much of the planet is under cultivation and even the great desert is growing too humid for the sandworms to survive long-term. The novel begins with the twin children of Paul-Muad'Dib Atrides, born at the close of *Dune Messiah*, having grown to age nine under the protection of the Naib (Chief) Stilgar, living in his sietch and thinking about their father's mixed legacy. As Emperor Paul-Muad'Dib engulfs the universe in sacred jihad and becomes a demigod, and the twins mean to reverse this. Aunt Alia is the official Regent for Leto, but works primarily to consolidate her own power in Arrakeen. Alia's mother, Jessica, who has been living on House Atrides' home planet, Caladan, is sent by the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood to Arrakis to determine if Alia is possessed (Abomination) and kill her if necessary; she is also to evaluate the twins and, if they survive, take over their education. Meanwhile, on a second planet, House Corrino, overthrown by House Atrides in *Dune*, plots to take back the Lion Throne by assassination. The twins use the plot to falsify Leto's death, freeing him to roam over the planet, preparing for his



Golden Path. Many scenes are set in various parts of the surviving desert. Arrakeen is less prominent in this novel, but the dramatic climax takes place in Alia's aerie overlooking the Temple courtyard. The tense action of the novel is spread over just a matter of months.

Language and Meaning

Children of Dune concludes Frank Herbert's best selling planned trilogy, following *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*. It is narrated in straightforward Standard American English, using contractions, but avoiding the tendency of many science fiction writers to use contemporary idioms that date their works badly. Narrative description is a bit more important than in the earlier volumes, but dialog is still essential to building characters and moving the plot forward. Much attention is given to bringing readers up to speed on holdover characters. It is not tedious for established fans and should suffice for novices. *Children of Dune*, like earlier volumes, is filled with references to the political, social, and religious life of the universe since the "Butlerian Jihad" and Paul's emergence as Muad'Dib. There is new metaphysical language befitting Leto II's determination to forge a 4,000-year Golden Path of peace and prosperity following Paul's violent jihad. Many new hyphenated words are introduced as Leto wrestles with where spice addiction is steering his mind.

Children of Dune continues to be filled with specialized cultural vocabulary. Herbert coins more-or-less easily understood compound words (e.g., "stillsuit") for objects needed to survive on an arid world. Herbert provides a rich variety of terms with a distinctly Arabic flavor. Some are authentic Arabic words ("Jihad," "Hajj," "ruh") but most are Herbert's inventions. Arabic seems natural in such an Arabia-sounding environment, and this novel finally makes explicit the cultural origins of the Fremen in Sunni Muslim exiles. In an interesting twist, the Atrides twins communicate in ancient dead languages to thwart anyone who might be listening in on them. They use ancient Egyptian while alluding to Egyptian myths, vernacular French, and Chakobsa, said to be the Fremen's original tongue.

Structure

Children of Dune is a single 410-page narrative without section or chapter breaks. As in the earlier *Dune* novels, historical epithets mark off the beginning of discrete scenes, but in this volume, they are not from the pen of Princess Irulan, Paul-Muad'Dib Atrides' legal wife, but from a variety of sources. The story unfolds chronologically, with epithet-demarked sections generally focusing on the major characters in succession, advancing their subplots. Two mysteries are allowed to develop gradually and are resolved only at the end of the novel. The first involves whether The Preacher of Arrakeen is Paul-Muad'Dib someone resurrected; it is clear that most characters believe he is, but confirmation is withheld until Paul and Leto can meet face-to-face. The second is whether the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has sent Jessica on an inquisition to Arrakis to determine her daughter and the twins' fates. The *Dune* series repeatedly talks about



"feints within feints within feints," but this volume does an exceptional job of showing characters manipulating and being manipulated.

The story begins with anticipation at Sietch Tabr over the return to Arrakis (Dune) of Lady Jessica. It frequently examines reactions to the same event in several locations, but more often advances steadily, showing the increased tension between Jessica and her daughter Alia. It highlights the twins' determination to change the course of human history, and Alia's grasping for power and fighting with the voices that seek to possess her. We learn more about the break with Jessica and various twists that put her not in her grave or some place of bitter exile, but tutoring the scion of a rival House, Farad'n Corrino. The Corrinos are implicated in the supposed murder of Leto II Atreides, which frees the 9-year-old to begin his quest for the Golden Path. Ghanima hypnotizes herself into believing Leto is dead and she swears to take vengeance on Farad'n, whom Alia wants to betroth to her as a diplomatic solution. Leto falls into the hands of Gurney Halleck and Namri, supposedly working under Jessica's orders; in fact, they are being guided by Alia, who forges her mother's signature and seeks Leto's death. Leto masters spice addiction, organizing the hazardous inner lives so he can command them, and then escapes to find his singular path. It lies in starting a 4,000-year physical transformation into a human-worm symbiote. Ghanima is taken into the desert to be safe from her aunt, but is found and brought back. At the great finale, Paul and Alia both die, Ghanima's memory is restored, she and sterile Leto marry, and Farad'n is given the job of fathering the next Atreides generation.



Quotes

"Stilgar knew his thoughts and emotions were like the light. He could not still a restless inner projection. Some greater power controlled that movement. It projected him into this moment where he sensed the accumulated peril. Here lay the magnet for dreams of grandeur throughout the known universe. Here lay temporal riches, secular authority and that most powerful of all mystic talismans: the divine authority of Muad'Dib's religious bequest. In these twins - Leto and his sister Ghanima - an awesome power focused. While they lived, Muad'Dib, though dead, lived in them." Children of Dune, pg. 10.

"The tries would understand a threat to water,' Leto said.

"But it's a threat to more than water. It's a -" She fell silent, understanding the deeper meaning of his words. Water was the ultimate power symbol on Arrakis. At their roots Fremen remained special-application animals, desert survivors, governance experts under conditions of stress. And as water became plentiful, a strange symbol transfer came over them even while they understood the old necessities." Children of Dune, pg. 41.

"Ahhh, you precious dunce! Because of the value contained in the lesson.'

"I don' understand.'

"Values, my dear grandchild, depend for their acceptance upon their success. Javid's obedience must be unconditional, his acceptance of your authority absolute, and his -'

"The morality of this lesson escapes -'

" 'Don't be dense, grandchild! Morality must always be based on practicality. Render unto Caesar and all that nonsense. A victory is useless unless it reflects your deepest wishes. Is it not true that you have admitted Javid's manliness?'

"Alia swallowed, hating the admission, but forced to it by her complete nakedness before the inner-watcher. 'Ye-es.'" Children of Dune, pg. 68.

"I am on sand in bright yellow daylight, yet there is no sun. Then I realize that I am the sun. My light shines out as a Golden Path. When I realize this, I move out of myself. I turn, expecting to see myself as the sun. But I am not the sun; I am a stick figure, a child's drawing with zigzag lightning lines for eyes, stick legs and stick arms. There is a scepter in my left hand, and it's a real scepter - much more detailed in its reality than the stick figure which holds it. The scepter moves, and this terrifies me. As it moves, I feel myself awaken, yet I know I'm still dreaming. I realize then that my skin is encased in something - an armor which moves as my skin moves. I cannot see this armor, but I feel it. My terror leaves me then, for this armor gives me the strength of ten thousand men." Children of Dune, pg. 84.

"Who is a Harkonnen?' he asked, goading. 'Who is Beast Rabban? Any one of us, eh? But I digress. I speak the popular myth of prescience: to know the future absolutely! All of it! What fortunes could be made - and lost - on such absolute knowledge, eh? The



rabble believes this. they believe that if a little bit is good, more must be better. How excellent! And if you handed one of them the complete scenario of his life, the unvarying dialogue up to his moment of death - what a hellish gift that'd be. What utter boredom! Every living instant he'd be replaying what he knew absolutely. No deviation. He could anticipate every response, every utterance - over and over and over and over and over and" Children of Dune, pg. 99.

"Leto's mind was reluctant to leave the night and the clean exertions of a sand crossing. Once here in the rocks, the night had taken on its black stillness. He sympathized with Stilgar's daylight fears. Black was a single thing even when it contained boiling terrors. Light could be many things. Night held its fear smells and its things which came with slithering sounds. Dimensions separated in the night, everything amplified - thorns sharper, blades more cutting. But terrors of the day could be worse." Children of Dune, pg. 117.

"Directly ahead of him lay the apricot orchard, with children working there to gather the fallen fruit. Beyond the orchard was the qanat. He and Ghanima had given the slip to their guards by losing themselves in a sudden crush of incoming workers. It had been a relatively simple matter to worm their way down an air passage to its connection with the steps to the covert exit. Now they had only to mingle themselves with the children, work their way to the qanat and drop into the tunnel. There they could move beside the predator fish which kept sandtrout from encysting the tribe's irrigation water. No Fremen would yet think of a human risking accidental immersion in water." Children of Dune, pgs. 172-173.

" 'I know.' Hearing his own voice, Leto realized they were drawing out these last moments of sameness. A wry grin touched his mouth, adding years to his appearance. Ghanima realized she was seeing him through a veil of time, looking at an older Leto. Tears burned her eyes.

" 'You needn't give water to the dead just yet,' he said, brushing a finger against the dampness on her cheeks. 'I'll go out far enough that no one will hear, and I'll call a worm.' He indicated the collapsed Maker hooks strapped to the outside of his Fremkit. 'I'll be at Jacurutu before dawn two days from now.'" Children of Dune, pg. 195.

"'There's always the possibility that you've already played into my daughter's hands,' Jessica said.

"Farad'n stiffened. 'Explain!'

"'Matters on Arrakis are not as they may seem to you,' Jessica said. 'Alia plays her own game, Abomination's game. My granddaughter is in danger unless Alia can contrive a way to use her.'

"'You expect me to believe that you and your daughter oppose each other, that Atrides fights Atrides?'

"Jessica looked at Wensicia, back to Farad'n. 'Corrino fights Corrino.'

"A wry smile moved Farad'n's lips. 'Well taken. How would I have played into your daughter's hands?'



"By becoming implicated in my grandson's death, by abducting me." Children of Dune, pg. 212.

"Leto's mind floated in a stew of fierce odors. He recognized the heavy cinnamon of melange, the confined sweat of working bodies, the acidity of an uncapped deathstill, dust of many sorts with flint dominant. The odors formed a trail through dreamsand, created shapes of fog in a dead land. He knew these odors should tell him something, but part of him could not yet listen.

"Thoughts like wraiths floated through his mind: In this time I have no finished features; I am all of my ancestors. The sun setting into the sand is the sun setting into my soul. Once this multitude within me was great, but that's ended. I'm Fremen and I'll have a Fremen ending. The Golden Path is ended before it began. It's nothing but a windblown trail. We Fremen knew all the tricks to conceal ourselves: we left no feces, no water, no tracks. ... Now, look at my trail vanish." Children of Dune, pg. 250.

"Leto leaped to his feet, intended to stand and wait, but the amplified movement sent him sprawling twenty meters farther into the canyon. Controlling his reactions with terrible effort, he sat back onto his haunches, straightened. Now the sand began to swell directly in front of him, rising up in a monstrous starlit curve. Sand opened only two body lengths from him. Crystal teeth flashed in the dim light. He was the yawning mouth-cavern with, far back, the ambient movement of dim flame. The overpowering redolence of the spice swept over him. But the worm had stopped it remained in front of him as First Moon lifted over the butte. The light reflected off the worm's teeth outlining the faery glow of chemical fires deep within the creature." Children of Dune, pg. 333.

"Now the voice of the Old Baron raged from her lips: 'Stop! Stop it, I say! I command you! Stop it! Feel this!' Alia clutched her head, stumbled closer to the window. She had the sill against her thighs then, but the voice still raved. 'Don't do this! Stop it and I'll help you. I have a plan. Listen to me. Stop it, I say. Wait!' But Alia pulled her hands away from her head, clutched the broken casement. In one jerking motion, she pulled herself over the sill and was gone. Not even a screech came from her as she fell.

"In the room they heard the crowd shout, the sodden thump as Alia struck the steps far below.

"Leto looked at Jessica. 'We told you to pity her.'

"Jessica turned and buried her face in Farad'n's tunic." Children of Dune, pg. 396.

Topics for Discussion

Why does Alia alone among the Atrides succumb to Abomination?

How is Javid vital to the plot? Do you expect any more of him than Herbert delivers?

How is Sabiha vital to the plot? Is it reasonable to have her tempt Leto at this point?

Why do the Bene Gesserit fear the prospect of sisters not allowing themselves to age?

What is Leto's most important realization?

Should order trump justice when they conflict?

How does Duncan Idaho's identity as a ghola affect the novel?