

# **Dune Messiah Study Guide**

## **Dune Messiah by Frank Herbert**

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# Plot Summary

*Dune Messiah* by Frank Herbert continues the cosmic drama of *Dune*, taking up the action in the frustrating twelfth year of the Emperor Paul Atreides' reign. It follows a treasonous plot that fails to overthrow him but leaves him blind physically and psychically, walking off into the desert and timeless immortality as the "Muad'dib."

*Dune Messiah* opens with a band of conspirators plotting against the Emperor Paul Atreides in the twelfth year of his reign. The Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, a Tleilaxu Face Dancer named Scytale, and a Guild Steersman named Edric labor to win over Paul's wife, the Princess Irulan, from whom the Emperor withholds a child in favor of his beloved Fremen concubine, Chani. At stake is preservation of a gene pool the Bene Gesserit sisterhood has long cultivated.

Scytale takes on the guise of Paul's long-dead friend, Duncan Idaho, to pump a veteran for information about Paul's Keep (fortress/palace), then treacherously murders the veteran and his blind son, and makes off with the son's would-be fiancée, whose remains later turn up in the desert. Meanwhile, at an Imperial Council meeting, Chani doubts she can provide an heir and suggests Irulan be allowed to do so, but Paul protests that Irulan is too loyal to the Sisterhood. Alia, prescient since undergoing the "Water of Life" crisis *in utero*, shares Paul's agony over the bloody Jihad. The repugnant Korba the Panegyrist represents the Qizarate, administrators of the Jihad, on Council.

The Spacing Guild insinuates Edric into the court by naming him ambassador, and Edric presents Paul a "ghola," Hayt, the re-animated flesh of his late friend, Idaho. Paul accepts and uses Hayt cautiously. From the ship that brings Edric, Paul seizes and imprisons Mohiam, Irulan's former teacher. When Irulan tardily reports Chani is pregnant, Mohiam orders her to murder or abort Chani's baby and find a means of bringing the Atreides siblings together. The genetic program must be put back on track. Alia feels her budding sexuality sharpening, but the man of her destiny remains hidden until she is thrown together with the ghola on an assignment to examine a body found in the desert. Alia and her pilot, in the course of a long verbal duel - and a kiss - find themselves drawn together. Paul takes a massive dose of spice to clear his muddled vision, foresees Chani's death in childbearing, and summons Mohiam, not to execute her as she fears, but to propose a compromise: Chani will bear his heir, but Irulan may be artificially-inseminated to preserve his genes. Paul's intense love for Chani suggests leverage, which the conspiracy can exploit.

Chani learns about Irulan's treachery in giving her contraceptives for years and demands revenge, but allows Paul to calm her. Idaho continues struggling to overcome his ghola programming, and Paul plays cat-and-mouse with Scytale, who has assumed his most perfect disguise, the slain Fremen girl, Lichna. Paul plays along, donning a disguise to visit her father, Otheym, who gives Paul his nervous, data-packed mentat dwarf, Bijaz. Soon after they depart, an atomic blast consumes the neighborhood, leaving Paul and countless others eyeless. His other senses adapt and cooperate with prescience to give him perfect vision that amazes all who see it in action. Korba is put

on trial, where he reveals the religious establishment's involvement. Hayt is sent to interview Bijaz, who puts him into a trance and administers a verbal "trigger" for an assault on Paul. After Hayt helps Alia ride out a massive spice overdose, they fall in love.

In the desert, as Paul has foreseen, Chani gives birth and dies. Idaho's humanity prevails over the Tleilaxu conditioning, and he helps Paul resist abdicating in exchange for Chani's restoration. Scytale and Bijaz are slain. Paul arranges for a repentant Irulan to care for his twins, suggests the traitors not be executed, turns over the government to Alia (who promptly executes the traitors), and walks, blind, but free, into the desert - and into timeless immortality as the Muad'dib. Idaho is united with a bitter and grieving Alia.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 1-24)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 1-24) Summary

On the planet Wallach IX in the twelfth year of the Emperor Paul Atreides' reign, the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam hosts a secret planning meeting to overthrow Artreides. Committed to the plot are Scytale, a "Face Dancer" from the planet Tleilaxu, and Edric, a fishlike "Guild Steersman," who lives encased in a special tank filled with the spice "melange." Not yet committed but present is the beautiful Princess Irulan, Paul's wife, who is frustrated by their unconsummated marriage.

It is a tense alliance. Irulan has second thoughts. She finds Edric repugnant but knows his mental powers keep them shielded from Paul's prescience. Edric offers a lure: only by joining them can Irulan realize her goal of becoming the founding mother of a royal dynasty. She is secretly administering contraceptives to Paul's beloved concubine, Chani, to prevent conception of an heir. Irulan is not yet convinced Paul can be defeated, but Mohiam reminds her that Paul's "abominable" little sister, Alia, has the same genes. Being human, both have weaknesses to exploit. The conspirators need a "lever" if they are to bring hope and salvation to mankind.

To win over Irulan as their "instrument of destiny," the conspirators explain how they propose to use a "ghost" to contaminate Paul. They have had the corpse of Paul's late friend and lieutenant, Duncan Idaho, preserved as a "ghola." Renamed "Hayt," the gholia will be given to Paul as a gift from the Guild, so the gholia can both poison Paul's psyche and seduce Alia. Scytale expects opposition to fail and all power in the Imperium will rally to them. Mohiam is shocked to learn Hayt has been given "mentat" powers, revealing her hatred of all "thinking machines." Edric fears an Atreides monopoly on spice could prevent him from probing the future, as he must for his job. Finally, Irulan signals commitment.

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 1-24) Analysis

A two-page prologue, "The Weird of Dune" summarizes in textbook style the characters, places, and plot of *Dune*, the first volume in Frank Herbert's saga. Details begin to fill in as the band of conspirators is overheard discussing their plot. The cast of characters is established and it is determined that Emperor Paul Atreides is to be martyred using a former friend, with blame being cast on his sister. Themes begun include: deep conflicts within the Bene Gesserit, among the conspirators, and in the Imperium at large; the question of a royal heir; complex marital conflict; and the tension between science and myth, centered in the Tleilaxu practice of reanimating the dead -perhaps programmed to serve political ends.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 24-36)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 24-36) Summary

In from a secret, nighttime walk around the city of Arrakeen, Paul is tired, but his mind seethes with envy for those who enjoy the freedoms forbidden him as Emperor. Dune is a world under siege. When Paul's longtime and beloved concubine, Chani, enters, he wonders how he appears to her these days. He recalls his grandfather's insistence that a ruler is responsible for those he rules and must show selfless love. Paul worries he is, instead, loosing a "wolf among sheep."

Chani orders Paul into bed, pours coffee, and massages his aching muscles. She mentions that Irulan wants a child. Chani usually avoids such indiscreet questions, looking rather to help Paul through her sharp memory for names and details. Paul is suspicious about Irulan's recent trip and thinks about putting her away. Chani forbids this, seeing it playing into their enemies' hands. Paul renews his vow never to impregnate Irulan and worries about Chani's safety in the Keep. Chani insists Paul have an heir, and, since she cannot produce one, Irulan is the logical choice. "Fremen," the free-ranging natives of Arrakis, have strong taboos against artificial means of producing a child, which leaves Paul impregnating Irulan as the only avenue open.

Eyes closed, Paul recalls first seeing Chani as a shy, smiling girl, and an early prophetic vision warning him to "disengage." Since discovering his "terrible purpose," Paul has vainly hoped to find peace. Chani's mind is made up: she will share her man as Fremen women always have shared. An heir is too important to leave to one woman. This reminds Paul of something his mother might say, making him wonder whether they are in secret communication. The Lady Jessica has broken with the "Bene Gesserit" Sisterhood in which she is trained, but is still conditioned to think in terms of the fate of the House of Atreides.

Paul recalls meeting Irulan earlier that day, in a bad-omened room reeking of spice essence. Irulan wonders at Paul's mild tone, while he detects underlying fear about whatever the Sisterhood has assigned her to do. Irulan demands a child and threatens to cuckold Paul if necessary. Paul says she may, discretely, take a lover but never bear children. Irulan leaves angrily, declaring this is on Paul's head. Declaring, "Irulan reeks of secret decisions," Chani advises Paul to walk away from the "damnable godhead" that the "Qizarate" (religious bureaucracy) has forced on him. Paul assures Chani it is not that simple. They agree to go to "Sietch Tabr," their desert place of retreat and safety during times of peril.

Paul knows going there will cost him dearly but cannot compare this with the agony he has caused to multitudes. The "Jihad" (religious war) will continue, following his ghost should he do as he wishes: renounce his role, vanish, and be free. Chani mentions a rare large "sandworm" has been seen at the "Shield Wall," and feels it may have come to fetch "Muad'dib" (Paul's Fremen name) home. Paul wonders at the persistence of



myth and recalls one of his earliest prescient moments on his "homeworld," the planet Caladan. He shudders at having succumbed to the lure of oracles and worries that going to Sietch Tabr may fix him on a single-track life. It may even *make* the future. The "spider-future" long approaching is nearing.

Paul's vision dissipates, leaving him amidst currents and feeling some power lying just beyond his reach. When Chani begs for a child, Paul caresses her but leaves the bed to watch the desert. Moonlight touches the enclosed garden below, which he knows the Fremen consider a dangerous waste of water. Many hate him for changing the old ways, and he knows it is presumptuous for anyone - even an Emperor - to remake a planet's ecology. Chani worries she has upset Paul, but he reassures her, knowing she is his future.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 24-36) Analysis**

On Dune two days after Irulan's return, the succession theme recurs. Irulan demands a child, but Paul is determined Chani will bear the heir. Fremen superstitions and prejudices are examined, as is Paul's determination to disengage from the life that traps him. He is frustrated he cannot explain that prescience does not allow him to pin down the future. Paul's misery in returning to the desert is first mentioned but hidden in mystery.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 36-47)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 36-47) Summary

Taking on the form of Duncan Idaho but calling himself Zaal, Scytale risks visiting someone who has known Idaho, a suspicious Fremen named Farok. They exchange the rebels' sign and countersign. Although he dislikes his "offworld" visitor, Farok welcomes Zaal to his home. The "semuta" music Scytale hears while approaching has ended and a "baliset" begins playing. The musician is Farok's eyeless son, who sits opposite them, and who is frustrated no Fremen girl will marry him. Scytale asks about the layout of Paul's Keep, which Farok has visited. Farok reveals that Paul trusts only people like Stilgar, who have been with him since the old days. Paul travels by 'thopter, which he personally flies, and uses humans to carry "distrans" messages. Every gate to the Keep is guarded. There is no way in. Zaal (Scytale) sees this surety as Paul's weakness. He will get in. The boy's music has been recording data onto a distrans embedded in Zaal's brain. He is a "vessel sloshing with data" about the conspiracy.

Farok summons a young Fremen woman, clearly addicted to semuta music and the narcotic of the same name. She is the daughter of the next-door neighbor, Otheym, a retired "Fedaykin" (death commando), who is served by a dwarf, Bijaz. Farok hopes that drugged, she will accept the blind son, but she has merely grown addicted. This is rare among Fremen. Otheym is outraged, but will not interfere. When Farok confirms no one else is in the house, Zaal (Scytale) slays him and the son with poisoned needles, takes on Farok's appearance, and escorts the young woman away.

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 36-47) Analysis

Scytale the Face Dancer takes on the guise of Duncan Idaho to pump a veteran, Farok, for information about Paul's fortress. Having obtained it, he murders the conspirator and his blind son and makes off with the girl. She and her parents will figure later in the novel, as Paul is lured to his doom by information on the plot. At that point, the dwarf Bijaz turns into a full-fledged character. This scene demonstrates some of the changes Paul has made to the planet, causing at least some Fremen to hate him.



# Dune Messiah (pgs. 48-59)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 48-59) Summary

At an Imperial Council meeting including Paul, Irulan, Chani, Stilgar, Korba and Alia, Alia dives in, insisting the Qizarate are spies. Delegating Korba to lead prayers, Paul notices his 16-year-old sister has become a woman. Chani quietly studies her uncle, Stilgar, Paul's Minister of State, who is upset by the "fawning supplicants" and court pomp. When Korba returns, his fanatic eyes show he relishes religious power, and Paul wonders why Alia is being so cynical with him. Alia is a product of the same Bene Gesserit breeding program as Paul, but as an embryo is exposed to raw melange poison, becoming a "Reverend Mother" simultaneously with Jessica.

Stilgar is anxious to proceed with business. The first item is a proposed treaty with the "Tupile Entente," the last sanctuary of the defeated "Great Houses," that Paul does not want to see further reduced. Stilgar observes if Tupile can hide people, it can hide armies - or a melange culture facility. Alia wants to avoid backing them into a corner, precipitating a showdown, and causing more butchery in the Atreides' name. Paul is pleased that Alia shares his feeling about the price paid by the masses for his dream. Chani argues a cutoff of melange will harm the Guild and the Bene Gesserit, and Paul will get the blame. Paul decides to sign the treaty as it stands, but Stilgar wants him to use his powers to locate the Entente. Paul struggles again to explain the limitations on prescience, and Alia weighs in nastily. Puzzled by Alia's behavior and worrying how Irulan or Korba might use her words, Paul reiterates he will sign the treaty.

Stilgar moves on. Some in the "Ixian Confederation" want a constitution. When Korba suggests a *religious* constitution, Paul forbids *any* constitution because such documents are necessarily tyrannical, conscienceless, and unlimited. The Ixians must pay tax as a condition for his signing the Tupile Treaty. The next item is a Qizarate report purporting Irulan's father is practicing military maneuvers on Salusa Secundus. A nervous Irulan downplays the significance but is ordered to warn him about his foolish actions. The fourth item is a Bene Gesserit request for a consultation on preserving Paul's bloodline. Chani agrees it is time and Irulan argues the danger of an emperor dying without an heir.

Feeling time rushing upon him, Paul walks to the balcony to seek tranquility. "Disengage" fills his mind. He considers seeking sanctuary on Tupile with Chani, but know the Jihad will proceed in his name anyway, and the universe *could* take an even worse course. He watches a "hajj" procession snake by below and thinks about how these religious tramps make possible the opulence of his Imperium. He wonders what they find on Arrakis, and ruefully notes his legions are constantly adding to their numbers as they conquer new planets. Only Paul's heart lacks "the peace of Muad'dib," for having "out-fought," "out-thought," and "out-predicted" the universe, he can find no certainty.

Chani touches Paul's arm and begs him not to fight with his "ruh-self." They return to the table, where Paul announces he knows all the political arguments but still rejects Irulan as mother of his heir because she answers to the Sisterhood. Stilgar presents the last item: a Guild proposal of a formal embassy. Korba opposes it on behalf of the Fremmen, who have suffered Guild trickery in the past, but Paul allows it, saying he has "use" for a Steersman. Irulan hides a smile, realizing the conspiracy is indeed hidden from Paul.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 48-59) Analysis**

Back in the Keep at an Imperial Council meeting, the characters of Chani, her uncle Stilgar, and the repugnant Korba the Panegyrist are filled out. The theme of Paul's heir is advanced, with Chani doubting her ability to provide one. Paul's rejection of Irulan has shifted to a political consideration: Irulan is too loyal to the Bene Gesserit. Paul's ongoing agonizing over his role in the bloody Jihad is seen to be shared by Alia, whose background is concisely explained. Paul's sexual attraction for his matured sister is taken up later in the novel, along with her sexual attraction to the ghola presented to Paul in the next scene.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 60-75)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 60-75) Summary

Alia peers down from her "spy window" into the great reception hall where Paul receives the Guild entourage. In its midst glides Edric's tank. They stop before Paul on his Lion Throne. Alia and Paul both focus on a metal-eyed, orange-robed attendant walking "cock-sure" at the right front corner of the tank. Paul welcomes Edric, accepts his credentials, and is offered a "ghola" named Hayt, regenerated by the Tleilax, and purchased by the Guild as a gift, because all believe Hayt is Paul's late retainer. The gholas answers Paul's questions in Idaho's precise voice.

Hayt retains no memory of his former life but recognizes some stimuli. He is willing to serve Paul any way Paul wishes. Alia detects nothing false in Hayt but, like Paul, worries about what the amoral Tleilaxu may have inserted during training. Hayt appears to have been made a "mentat" and "Zensunni" philosopher, and while it is prudent to reject the gift, politically Paul must accept it. Dismissing Edric, Paul mentions arresting Mohiam aboard Edric's heighliner, a topic they will discuss later. Paul worries both the gholas and the "old hag" are "bait," but the "Waters of Time" are too muddled to know for sure.

Stilgar begs Paul to send the gholas away, and, in Idaho's voice, Hayt asks "the young master," to defend himself by doing so. Paul has never known a gholas and suspects the compassion he feels for this one could hold danger. He is surprised not to have foreseen this gholas. Hayt denies having prescience, but this ignorance could be part of a hidden design. Old visions surge around Paul, warning him to "disengage," while, high above, Alia senses Paul's unspoken appeal for help and accepts the role of spy. She feels a magnetic attraction to Hayt/Duncan and wants to be near him, knowing he represents a danger to both siblings.

Irulan dares visit Mohiam in her barren cell deep in the Keep. Mohiam's new Dune Tarot cards counsel patience. Irulan has informed Jessica but expects nothing. Mohiam believes she (Mohiam) will not leave Arrakis alive, but remains calm. Her oracular powers are too weak to be sure if the Guild has planned this. The Qizara sent to arrest her reminds her of Paul's death sentence should she set foot on the holy planet again, dismisses her claim to be a passenger in "free space," and takes her into custody - all on Paul's orders. The Steersman may have failed to conceal the conspiracy or Paul and Alia's joint powers could have penetrated the cover.

The true conversation between Mohiam and Irulan is carried on by finger signals hidden from the monitors. Irulan confesses her loyalty, while Mohiam realizes the Princess is too flawed to use in preserving Paul's precious gene pattern. Beneath their small talk, Mohiam issues shattering orders: explore brother-sister crossbreeding. When Irulan lets slip that Chani is pregnant, Mohiam is outraged, pronounces that such a child would pollute the genes and renew Paul's ambition to consolidate his Imperium. The

conspiracy cannot afford such a setback, so Irulan must kill the fetus or the mother, even at the risk of the Sisterhood losing its inside agent. Irulan accepts the role stoically. As Irulan leaves, Mohiam's cards show a bad omen: the enemies have concealed resources. They may still need Irulan to destroy them.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 60-75) Analysis**

The next two scenes center on Paul's acceptance of the gift of a ghola. The amorality of Tleilaxu technology is explored, as is the question of Paul's responsibility towards the flesh of his (probable) former friend. Prescience fails both Paul and Alia concerning Hayt. Alia's involvement with the ghola later in the novel is suggested. Moving to Irulan's meeting with Mohiam, suggestions the princess is putting contraceptives in Chani's food are confirmed, but the superstitious Fremen girl has unwittingly made this impossible. Mohiam's contempt for her former student is evident as she shifts the conspiracy's focus to preventing a conception and birth that will set back the Sisterhood's genetic program by centuries.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 75-96)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 75-96) Summary

Alia is homesick for the desert, more so than ever since the ghola's arrival. Like all Fremen, she hates the pilgrims and the new Dune Tarot packages being sold by vendors. No one knows where the cards come from. She winds her way to her private quarters, which she has filled with momentos of the desert, and undresses for a bath. Bath time is usually her time to commune with the spirits of all the Reverend Mothers who have come before her, but today Alia feels "lust in tension with chastity." The man of her future is near but hidden.

Dripping from the tub, Alia enters her training chamber, intending to clear her mind by working herself to exhaustion. Armed in both hands, Alia activates a target dummy. It comes alive, moving in confusing ways designed to draw attention away from the true danger: the one real blade among the many showing in prisms. Every time Alia hits the target, a marker light comes on and the dummy both speeds up and offers more diversions. Alia has never risked eight lights, but today she abandons caution. At nine, she feels exalted and fights on. At eleven, something flashes over her shoulder to trip the deactivating switch. Even before she turns to face him, Alia knows Paul is behind this accurate knife-throw.

Accompanied by Stilgar, Paul is angry. Realizing she is naked, Alia is amused. Paul is disquieted by Alia's "femaleness" as he lectures her on the danger of going to such high levels, and while Stilgar calls her actions "madness," his voice is full of awe. Paul admits to once attaining ten before being stopped and punished. Impatient, Alia asks what Paul wants. Irulan has suggested - and Stilgar has confirmed her belief - that their enemies are about to try something major. Stilgar suddenly and sharply changes the subject: Alia needs a mate - soon - or there will be trouble. Alia is irate, but Paul agrees to arrange her mating. They return to the plot: the Guild intends to capture a sandworm to smuggle offworld and start a spice cycle. Paul is upset the "rot is setting in" but can foresee nothing. The Steersmen must be hiding things from him. Alia recounts her fears about the new Dune Tarot. Alia and Stilgar argue about visions, but Paul concludes that nothing strategic can get by them.

Paul receives Edric privately in his reception room. They chat about events preceding the crucial Battle of Arrakeen, but the Steersman is clearly uncomfortable, and Paul is suspicious of Edric's lone attendant, a hulking man named Scytale, who is trying to look stupid. Edric is pleased that Chani has enjoyed the Face Dancer performance just before this interview. When Paul asks why Hayt believes he is designed to destroy him, Edric dismisses the idea that anyone could kill a god. Most observers, he insolently adds, believe Paul is conspiring to make himself a god. Paul finds it curious that a Steersman should probe this question and his mind flicks through thousands of possible motives in mere seconds. Whenever Edric questions the "guidelines of prescience," Edric retreats behind a lengthy aphorism about "forces in our universe," and Paul feels



violence in Edric's protestations of innocence. Violence is possible, of course, only if the traitors have won over Paul's guards. Edric observes that people are always willing to think the worst of rich and powerful people such as Paul.

Paul demands Edric tell him who he thinks might be "conspiring" with Paul to "make him a god." The Qizarate perhaps? Are his missionaries preaching subtle falsehood? Is Paul insincere? Are his bishops "power-hungry brigands?" How could such fraud be maintained across time and space and involve so many individuals? Surely holes would develop. Edric suggests, provocatively, that government has the power to hide what religion and self-interest cannot hide. Wondering if the ambassador desires martyrdom, Paul says Edric is obviously trained in "the lying tricks of statecraft," including double-meaning and power words. Edric responds that "rulers are notoriously cynical where religions are concerned." Religion is a weapon, particularly when it *becomes* government. Cautious after these clever words and wanting the man-fish to think he has won the argument, Paul complains that "religious *mana*" has been *forced* on him rather than his *seeking* it. Edric is exhausted and no longer gloating as the interview ends. Scytale pipes up, suggesting religion may serve many of the same purposes as the Imperium in helping people lessen their sense of loneliness. Paul and Stilgar agree this idea is odd.

Knowing he is being set up to destroy himself, Paul angers Stilgar in hopes Korba will sense the conflict. He then goads Korba about his loyalty, and in Korba's evasive answer, Stilgar understands Paul's intent. Paul orders Chief of Security Bannerjee and Korba to expel the strangers milling about the gardens, and for Korba to personally kill-quietly - anyone Chani identifies as being a Sardaukar warrior. Other business must wait. "The party is over."

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 75-96) Analysis

These next two scenes introduce data on the conspiracy, as Paul and Stilgar believe it to be forming, but resolve nothing. Alia's developing sexuality is sharpened, but the man of her destiny remains hidden. In his private interview with the Guild Ambassador and complex interaction with Korba and Stilgar, Paul is cynical and baiting, frustrated at the insufficiency of his prescience. Scytale's presence as Edric's attendant brings him within the Keep, but Paul appears not to recognize him as a Face Dancer or conspirator. Author Herbert is being vague about how everything will fit together.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 96-106)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 96-106) Summary

Out in the desert, Alia studies the corpse of a young woman. Semuta addiction in a Fremen and Tleilaxu poisoning are a rare enough combination for Paul to assign the investigation to his sister. Uncomfortable in a stillsuit, suspicious of her ghola pilot, angry that people expect her and Paul always to do the superhuman, and finding no strange truths in the evidence, Alia wants to go home. The earlier Reverend Mothers inside her advise her to "be at peace " and accept what she is, for there are "compensations."

Back in the air, Alia notes that Hayt both flies and thinks like Idaho. Hayt says he is amused by the feelings he gets when people speak about his former life. He believes he is probably Idaho. He offends Alia by calling her by her given name. Over El Kuds, the rock pyramid built atop her father's skull, Alia orders Hayt to circle and observes a tear fall down his cheek. This fills Alia with Fremen awe at this "sacrifice to the dead," but when the escort commander questions the maneuver, they set course for Arrakeen. Hayt somehow remembers Alia's father as a friend. Alia explains how, thanks to her prenatal awakening, her nerve cells hold memories of countless lives, including every detail about her father. Hayt says Paul has explained some of this to him, in order to fill his mentat's need for data.

Over the Shield Wall, Alia and Hayt clash over his remark, "Sibyls have limits." He claims to respect her omens and potents, compliments her ability to use symbols, but declares her "careless" with her powers. Resenting a *thing* bandying words with her, Alia demands why Hayt has been given to Paul. Hayt intends to destroy Paul, he admits - but, then, Paul is adequately destroying himself. Hayt knows Alia does not believe in the "natural law of heaven," and asks why she then talks about Paul ruling by this myth. Even by Bene Gesserit methods, Alia cannot control her reactions, and flashes anger when addressed once too often as "child." Hayt apologizes before suggesting she is disturbed by her "new womanhood." Hayt claims to be devoted to her brother, clear in actions, and easily understood. Alia objects that Hayt is complex and his Tleilaxu component is unknown. Hayt says they have given him freedom to "mold" himself, which leaves Alia curious why Paul has left him alive and free. Paul, Hayt says, laughs at people who want a master to protect them from change and blames himself for the Imperium's destruction. The pilot asks permission to complete the tricky rooftop landing in silence.

Hayt declares enduring oneself is a bitter pill and admits he has advised Paul to judge (not serve justice), make decisions, keep friends, destroy enemies, and provide order. Hayt has advised Paul to destroy him. As Alia talks about Hayt's danger lying in the way he has mastered his passions, he plants a kiss on her lips, leaving her in shock. He claims Alia had offered the kiss. Alia is now convinced Hayt is utterly truthful. Halting, he

advises her to tell Paul about her thoughts about Face Dancers. He doubts any young woman will be reported missing by the Fremen.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 96-106) Analysis**

The ninth scene sets up Alia and Hayt/Idaho's novel-closing romance and the climactic battle to put down the conspiracy. Verbal dueling helps deepen both characters. The desert corpse is, of course, Otheym's daughter Lichna, abducted by Scytale after learning from Farok all he can about Paul's Keep. The action shifts to the cul-de-sac to add details on who is responsible for what aspects of the plot - and for a battle that seals Paul's desert fate. The means by which Hayt resists the implanted instructions to kill Paul is suggested: the Tleilax have given him freedom to mold himself. Details of his role will shortly come out.



# Dune Messiah (pgs. 107-124)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 107-124) Summary

Immersed in a spice trance, Paul sees the moon first deform and then disappear. Terror sweeps over him as he studies the city below and contemplates what he has always known: to end the butchery, Paul must "discredit" himself. He must "disengage." He yearns for Chani, but cannot tell her the death he has in mind. Everything Paul has invented is slipping back to old patterns, and as humankind sweeps unstoppably across the universe, his Jihad is but an eye blink in the larger scheme of things. He needs to measure this falling moon against other visions.

Paul whirls to see the ghola, who senses Paul is troubled and commiserates. With mentat logic, Hayt analyzes that the vision means Paul is refusing to live here and now. The Zensunni say, "Not collecting, that is the ultimate gathering." Paul rages at such nonsense, but Hayt insists he has seen oracles at work: visionaries always fear what they seek. Paul fears his own powers. The ghola becomes pure Idaho and offers Paul what comfort he can. Paul lets the vision float over him but shrieks silently at the thought of Chani going back to "water and sand," like everything in the universe.

Guards lead Mohiam the long way around to a potentially fatal meeting with Paul. She feels old, and the Tarot cards have withheld her fate, but Mohiam's chief concern is the Atreides' disregard of their genetic destinies. Mohiam decides the long march means Paul wants something from her. Remembering Scytale's saying that creatures once set in their ways do not change, she sees hope. In the Grand Reception Hall, where Paul sits enthroned, Mohiam refuses to be cowed. Alia, Stilgar, the ghola, and other trusted counselors surround him, but Chani and Irulan are missing. At Paul's suggestion, they retire to his private chamber.

Paul proposes to bargain with Mohiam for Chani's life. Mohiam feels insulted when Paul offers his seed but not his person. Irulan in exile may be artificially inseminated, but Chani, who is pregnant, will bear the Imperial heir. As they study one another, Paul makes it clear that this is his only offer. The ghola, on whose face Mohiam senses emotion, approves the life-for-life proposal and wonders why the Bene Gesserit has not used Tleilaxu methods heretofore. Mohiam wonders what Paul will pay for Chani's life. Will he accept a cross match with Alia? Paul is angered by this subtle proposition and feels adrift as Alia communes with some inner force. Mohiam remains concerned about the Tleilaxu angle. Paul allows Mohiam to consult her Council on Wallach, before declaring he and Chani will go into the desert for their child to be born.

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 107-124) Analysis

The movement towards tragedy begins, with Paul increasingly seeing Idaho in the ghola. Having taken a massive dose of spice to clear his muddled vision, Paul realizes

he must lose Chani - and begins seeing more clearly. In the meeting with Mohiam, references to *Dune* are compressed so severely that the depth of Paul's animosity is inexplicable. The focus, however, is on damage control for the Sisterhood's genetic project. Paul and Alia are personal disappointments, but might not yet be dead ends, since Paul's love for Chani suggests leverage. As will be seen at the dynouement, this is precisely where the conspiracy concentrates.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 124-139)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 124-139) Summary

In the wake of Paul's meeting with Mohiam, Scytale visits Edric. Scytale demands to know if Edric is truly shielding them from Paul's powers, but Edric fears real spies and the Imperium's physical powers. The conspiracy is clearly delicate, and Edric fears Scytale is breaking away. The future is too muddled to tell. Edric fears Alia more than Paul, but Scytale believes Hayt will be able to destroy them both. Scytale is upset by how Paul has systematically replaced civil servants and diplomats by power-hungry Qizarate functionaries, but Edric believes cutting off the head will solve everything. Scytale reminds him there are *two* heads, and the sister is now likely to marry. This will shake truly the universe. Scytale concludes they must move faster or they will "feel the thunderbolt."

After a heavy workout with the ghola, Paul thinks about Chani in the clinic. She has taken ill in the sixth week of her pregnancy. Meanwhile, no word has come from Wallach. Paul feels carried by the currents of Time, unable to struggle with destiny. When Chani appears, she has murder on her face. Someone has been feeding her contraceptives, which will cause problems with the birth. The remedies are dangerous. Bearing the heir is not sufficient; she wants revenge on the perpetrator, for this birth now controls her life. The doctors say she must increase her spice intake. Irulan is not to be forgiven, but killing her would solve nothing. Paul cannot tell Chani the future, which includes her death in childbirth, but insists she do as he asks. Chani shifts attention to her objections about the ghola. Paul probes him in order to remove Chani's fear of Idaho. Chani is mentally far away, frightened about how fast time is moving. The fetus, Paul knows, is aware of the necessity for speed.

Chani arranges for Lichna, Otheym's daughter, to visit the private quarters as a messenger. Paul admires the accuracy with which Scytale imitates Lichna's shape and mannerisms but knows that the semuta-addicted Fremen is dead in the desert. Paul sees only the edges of time in this instance, but it convinces him the Face Dancer must not be killed. Rather, Paul must control his emotions, reach into the darkness, and change the future. Lichna (Scytale) says the plotters suspect her father, so he cannot come to the Keep. Paul *and Chani* must come to him as a "Water matter." Only Muad'dib can unlock Otheym's secret human distrans. Lichna meets Paul's clever objections and counter-proposals, but cannot get around Lichna's stepmother serving as the necessary "Sayyadina of the Rite." Paul orders Lichna put to suitable quarters, using code words meaning a tight guard. Paul tells no one about the Face Dancer's identity, lest violence disturb the future he must find.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 124-139) Analysis**

Scenes twelve through fifteen set up the climax, delicately and enticingly dancing around the ghola's pivotal role. Interpersonal conflicts, the conspiracy's weaknesses perceived since the beginning, come to the surface, as Scytale and Edric square off. Edric is proud and defensive but feeling limited as the "muddying" of the future appears to extend to everyone having prescience. The religious nature of the Imperium under Paul, previously hinted at, is openly discussed. Chani learns that Irulan has been using her and demands revenge, but Paul, knowing Chani is doomed once she gives birth and survives now only because of the deal with Irulan, says that Irulan may not be harmed. Idaho's struggle to overcome his ghola nature's limitations advances. Finally, Paul plays a delightful cat-and-mouse game with Scytale in the latter's most-perfect disguise. The poor Face Dancer does not know Fremen customs well enough to pull off the ruse and ends up under guard in Paul's Keep as Paul walks into whatever Scytale has planned for him.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 140-158)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 140-158) Summary

Disguised and affecting a limp, Paul crosses from his Keep to the bustling Qizarate Office building. Guards in 'thopters overhead and dispersed in the crowd keep watch. Paul thinks about how little Chani understands about the bitter choice he is making. Paul dislikes the type of persons attracted to the religious civil service: mostly converts, spice-addicted, detail-oriented, unimaginative, and remote. Bells call pilgrims to Evening Rite at Alia's Fane. The temple and the rituals it hosts are recent but somehow imbued with age and mystery. Feeling free, Paul plunges into the crowd. He studies the pilgrims' faces and envies how intent they are. Approaching the altar, Rasir speaks the codeword that shows he is Paul's guide.

A feminine chorus summons Alia in terms so pious Paul is nauseated. Paul knows her ritual but has never before watched it from a pilgrim's perspective. Alia raises a golden chalice of unaltered melange - "the sacrament of the oracle" - and begins an antiphony with the mob. As she drinks, Paul recalls the sensation of time stopping. Alia sinks to her knees and sways, and Paul feels an indescribable "transcendental presence." As Alia speaks, Paul awaits a private signal but is disappointed. Supplicants cry out but receive unsatisfying answers. A woman near Paul remarks Alia has never seemed this angry. Paul knows Alia is raging at him. With the crowd restless, Rasir pulls Paul toward the exit. Paul wonders what Alia might have seen during the ritual - and if there are alternatives.

Rasir leaves Paul in the dimly-lit, foul-smelling cul-de-sac. Paul wonders at his own hesitation. Paul fails to recognize from the oracles Otheym's house - "Fate's house" - or the ancient dwarf who admits him. Paul realizes visions can contain disparities, so he still has hope. The dwarf calls Paul "Sire," as he disappears into a dark side passage. A somewhat thinner Otheym sits on cushions precisely as Paul's vision has revealed him. Paul nods to the undamaged half of Otheym's face and is addressed as Usul. Paul acknowledges his duty to accept the summons, which Dhuri characterizes as a deathwatch. Paul is edgy over minor differences between this scene and his vision, but must either let Time's passage oppress him or release great violence.

After a coughing fit, Otheym warns Usul (Paul) of a Fremen plot against him. The dwarf, a human distrans, holds all the names. Happy Lichna is safe in the Keep, they urge Paul to take the dwarf and leave. Paul shudders, knowing the truth about their daughter. The rebels' gathering place is the house at the end of the street. They know Otheym is poor, so they will believe Paul is purchasing the amusing dwarf as an act of charity. In his vision, Paul leaves the house with the traitors' names, but fails to see the carrier; a different oracle, therefore, is obviously protecting the dwarf. Free Will, Paul sees, is a delusion, but most people are fortunate not to realize that they are caged. Paul senses. Hope is waning.

Bijaz, alert and worried, is told Usul is his new master. Otheym apologizes for Bijaz's constant playing with words. Paul realizes Bijaz is a Tleilaxu toy, too valuable to discard. The dwarf is anxious to depart, but Paul, wanting to wait out the timing of his vision, asks if Bijaz has "truthsense." Otheym chats about Lichna and the nostalgic old Harkonnen days. As Bijaz fidgets, Paul asks what he fears. Bijaz fears a spirit "seeking" him and things he sees and does not see. Paul recognizes prescience and wonders how potent it is. Paul is loath to walk out into troubled times, but Otheym wheezes the words of the vision and they are gone.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 140-158) Analysis**

A disguised Emperor makes his way slowly to the place designated by Scytale in the guise of Lichna. This allows the depiction of the religious establishment and Alia's rituals to deepen before reaching the understated Fremen home, where Paul is troubled by hopelessly incomplete visions. Paul collects the Tleilaxu dwarf, who is said to have recorded the names of all the conspirators. Bijaz provides a pleasant diversion, as Paul toys with him, wishing to put off the inevitable for as long as possible. The fate he fears has yet to be revealed to the reader.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 158-176)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 158-176) Summary

Bijaz urges Paul to hurry as they emerge from the cul-de-sac. Stilgar intercepts them and takes charge of the dwarf. Imperial troopers close on the rebels' house, instructed to take live prisoners. Recognizing a soft hiss that grows into a roar, Paul dives for the ground as a "stone burner" vaporizes Otheim's house. The J-rays specially attack eye tissue. Paul briefly sees through a mist that fades to darkness. Still, without eyes, Paul identifies every detail around him, as in an "apocalyptic dream." Identifying himself as Muad'dib, Paul commands people wait for Stilgar to bring help. Paul cannot understand how he has entered a world beyond the present, but accepts it. He refuses to hide the truth, and orders no victim is to be surrendered to the Fremen law that demands the blind be abandoned in the desert. They live now under Atreides law, and Paul intends to buy Tleilaxu eyes for everyone - except himself. Paul orders the perpetrators flushed out, and Chani informed that Paul is alive and coming to her. The "forces have gathered" and the "smell of fear" is strong all around.

The Keep is feverishly busy for seven days and then settles into unnatural quiet. Rumors are everywhere, particularly about Muad'dib seeing without eyes. Fear is widespread and people are fleeing. There is talk of convening a "Grand Council of the Naibs." Korba has been arrested. Chani awakens early and is surprised to find Paul sitting beside her. As she eats ravenously, Paul apologizes for her condition. She trembles at the sight of the empty eye sockets, but Paul refuses to consider Tleilaxu eyes. Chani notes how tired, grim, sluggish, and remote Paul is. Only a few things must be done in Arrakeen, he says, before they can go to the desert. He begs Chani not to fear him, to forget mystery and to accept love. Paul promises their child will rule an empire of artistic and cultural greatness never envisioned. Chani sobs, saying they have so little time in the present; Paul may have eternity, but she knows she does not. They feel the "little ruler of the universe" stir in Chani's womb, and Chani wonders how Paul can fail to realize she carries twins. As she wishes people could know Paul's love, he launches into a tirade on how politics needs despotism and how laws are both humankind's highest ideal and its basest nature. Law is "just another word for death." Chani knows Paul cannot forgive or forget. His mind is burdened by "mutilated memories" of things fated not to be. He feels Past and Future become one as he is punished for chasing immortality. The old vision guides him through his hours and days.

Paul asks Alia to preside in his place over Korba's trial, and she watches the clamor as Korba, dressed like "an immaculate fop," parades through the city en route to protest his innocence. Heading out, Alia touches a letter from Lady Jessica and experiences an odd sense of mutual contact. Thoughts of her mother always create "shadows of the past" in Alia's mind. Jessica has written to admonish Alia for trying to achieve a government that is both religious and self-assertive. Religion, Jessica writes, needs spontaneity, while laws suppress this. Morality, conscience and religion always give way to ritualism and symbolism.



Alia sits on the dais while Korba, looking surly and sleepy, is escorted in and seated below her. The gallery is filled with Naibs, who protest her presiding, but Alia silences them by citing Fremen law on capital crimes. She is a Reverend Mother. She makes mental note of the troublemakers before shifting attention to Korba, who promptly protests his innocence. Stilgar reads the charges with "solemn flourishes" and "probity" as Korba angrily shakes his head. Alia broods, listening to the nonsense. When Stilgar finishes, Korba insists he is not a traitor and demands to confront his accuser. Alia's powers strike Korba with mystical terror, when she suggests he accuses himself.

Paul enters and announces a worm has been stolen for transport to another world. The gallery mutters at Paul's empty sockets, while he describes various individuals' attire and gestures. Korba, Paul declares, "looks guilty." Korba insists he may have associated with the guilty but is himself not guilty. Korba fidgets under Paul and Alia's scrutiny and the gallery fears Korba will break. Alia studies the faces again. When Korba again asks who accuses him, Alia replies Otheym. When Korba declares Otheym is dead, Paul asks how he knows that, unless he is in touch with "spies and couriers." Korba blurts out the Qizarate had bought the stone burner for self defense, and he does not know how it fell into traitorous hands. Paul reveals Otheym has provided names, dates, times, and crimes in a recording in his own voice and observes several prominent faces are missing today. They have fled with the stolen worm. Paul suggests releasing Korba to the mercies of those who have lost their eyes.

Stilgar takes Korba's side in insisting the accuser's voice must be played. Korba's sly look suggests he has received the message that help is on the way. Paul and Alia have withheld the dwarf's existence, and now it appears Stilgar has betrayed them, but Stilgar gives a look that says he intends to wring the truth from Korba. Paul names Stilgar his counsel and accepts no objection. When the chamber is empty, Paul thanks Stilgar for playing this role that surprises even Alia. She chalks this up to a planned distraction. This way, Korba's execution will be seen as following Fremen procedure. Alia names the Naibs she is certain are accomplices. Paul asks Alia to take the morning audience for him so he and Chani can slip away. Stilgar recalls when Paul's secret purpose would not have thrown Alia, to which counters Stilgar seems dramatically changed. Distressed, Stilgar asks if Alia no longer trusts him. Alia only wonders why Stilgar is so ready to disobey her brother. There is no time to respond before the first "Supplicants" and "Pleaders" come forward, but Alia sees in Stilgar's face the "replacement of morality and conscience with law," which her mother says is a "deadly paradox."

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 158-176) Analysis**

The eighteenth and nineteenth scenes examine the dramatic atomic attack that claims Paul's eyes and the aftermath, as his other senses adapt and he enjoys perfect vision. Korba's trial reveals the religious establishment's part in importing the illegal device and shows how morality and conscience devolve into law. It is difficult to see why Lady Jessica's letter is included to solidify this point, as she has been a distant, unimportant character to this point.



# Dune Messiah (pgs. 176-192)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 176-192) Summary

Visiting Bijaz in confinement, the ghola introduces himself as Hayt, but the dwarf insists he is Idaho, whose struggle against the Tleilaxu tank he has witnessed. Paul has tasked Hayt with determining why the Tleilaxu want Bijaz in Paul's Keep. Bijaz hears Hayt's blood "boil" when he speaks of Alia, whom they nickname "Hawt" ("Fish Monster"). Her beauty captivates Bijaz. He observes Alia and Paul are a single person, back-to-back, half-male, and half-female. Hayt realizes he is Bijaz's true target too late to avoid being immobilized by a mesmerizing song. Hayt's metallic eyes burn and his vision goes hazy as he penetrates the layers of the dwarf's being, and declares he cannot be forced to slay Muad'dib. Bijaz mocks Hayt for believing the Emperor is what the Tleilaxu prize most. They produce tools and services, including war, which stimulates metabolism, enforces government, and diffuses genetic strains. War alone has "vitality," and those who recognize its value enjoy "self-determination." Bijaz is delighted to see anger arise in Hayt and declares he must now awaken the awareness that he is Idaho: an extraordinary killer, lover, and Atreides' field hand. This Idaho element in Hayt will submit to emotion and will emerge, focused and obedient.

Using "power-words," Bijaz implants in Hayt the reaction he wants when Paul announces, "She is gone." Hayt is to reply, "Master! Oh Master!" and relay Bijaz's message. To motivate Hayt to kill Paul, Bijaz reveals Paul carries Harkonnen blood in his veins. Hayt blinks surprise and grows angry, for Harkonnen have tortured his family. The Tleilaxu offer to restore Chani as an improved ghola, able to love Paul and bear children, in an idyllic asylum somewhere beyond the Imperium. In return, Paul must renounce his godhead, discredit the Qizarate, and relinquish his CHOAM holdings. Hayt may lull Paul by discussing Tleilaxu plans for shaping religion to particular needs. Bijaz taunts Hayt for believing he can disobey before bringing him out of his trance. Hayt resumes their conversation where it leaves off.

Uneasy since the Bijaz interview, Hayt watches Alia emerge from her temple and enter the family quarters. She seems out of place in the city, like a hunted creature. From her balcony, Alia watches a boy bouncing a ball and thinks about bouncing in the "corridors of Time." Today's dose of melange is the largest she has ever taken, a massive overdose, and it has left her terrified. To see where her brother is heading, she must penetrate the fog that the Dune Tarot has spread over the future. Alia senses Hayt nearby and contemplates how the Tleilaxu appear to have left no corner of him unfinished. His metal eyes intrigue her. As the melange causes Alia to swoon, Hayt moves to help her. Alia babbles about his danger, her Bene Gesserit roots, and the urgency of their breeding program. The Sisters never let go; they want Chani's baby - or hers. Alia is baffled when Hayt asks if she is pregnant. She studies his face and asks what he sees. Hayt makes a mentat "prime computation": the Bene Gesserit want her and Paul to mate. Terrorized by the thought an Atreides woman might die, Hayt asks why she has taken this risk. "Nature abhors prescience," she declares.



Hayt insists Alia receive medical attention, for what future will there be if she dies? She feels electricity at his touch. Time is overloaded, the universe is slipping in all directions. Alia can find no leverage. As people surround Alia, Idaho holds her hand and she senses he loves her. She clings to this thought. A doctor says they have gotten to her in time, but thinks it unseemly for Hayt to stay with her. Both insist that Hayt stay. Alia realizes Paul has foreseen this vision of Hayt as both danger and salvation and transports her voice at a nexus in time that Paul must pass through. Paul ignores the warning, perhaps hating Time for hurting him. Hayt declares his love and willingness to do anything Alia wants. She begs Hayt not to leave her and refuses to sleep, lest Paul be torn apart. Paul is bait in his own trap, creating a universe in which he will not permit himself to live. Declaring it is too late, Alia contemplates the heartbeat of a child not yet conceived whom she knows will suffer the same awakening as she.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 176-192) Analysis**

Two Tleilaxu creatures confront one another, the dwarf whose voice is keyed to Hayt's obedience and the conflicted Hayt/Idaho himself. Chani's imminent death in childbirth offers the Tleilaxu a bargaining chip too irresistible for Paul not to abdicate. Hayt receives a post-hypnotic suggestion for the perfect moment; his human hatred for the Harkonnens will make him strike Paul, who, surprisingly to those who have not read *Dune*, is half-Harkonnen. In the next scene, Hayt helps Alia ride out a massive overdose of spice, and they realize their love for one another.

# Dune Messiah (pgs. 193-221)

## Dune Messiah (pgs. 193-221) Summary

Below the entrance to Sietch Tabr, Chani fights a contraction as she watches the dawn. Paul has chosen odd companions for the trip: Bijaz, Hayt, Edric, Mohiam, Lichna, Stilgar, Harah, Irulan, and Alia. He has been annoying Chani with cynical observations. In the clouds of a gathering storm, Chani sees Shai-hulud's mouth carrying the "incense of death." Hayt urges her inside. Hayt says Paul's fear of her bearing children is partly natural concern and partly memory of their firstborn, whom the Sardaukar killed. Chani wonders if this gholia truly is Idaho - and if he speaks truthfully. She asks for Usul, who is detained by affairs of state. When Chani admits her time has come, Hayt panics, guides her to her quarters, summons Harah and the doctors, and retreats to an outer passage. He fears Paul coming to him in grief, cannot fathom why, and so forces himself to realize the Bijaz has rigged some "compulsion" inside him.

Paul's vision is thinning as he stands outside, remembering their first sietch - and forcing himself not to think about Chani. Paul knows everything around him is changing. An aide brings a treaty for him to sign. Paul hates this ugly, barren, immense land, so changed by water, and he wants to shout to his aides, "Worship life!" but knows they will not understand. Paul wants to flee from his own mind and stop the vision. Contemplating the infinity of stars, Paul realizes the futility of ruling them all. People worship or hate him throughout a universe he has created "in his own image." It is now breaking him in its waves. What has become of his myth?

The gholia, who has been avoiding Paul, approaches, warns him that calling him "Duncan" is dangerous and pours out the story of Bijaz's actions. Paul declares Duncan incapable of treachery. When the gholia calls him "young master," as Idaho used to do, Paul urges him to free himself and do something human. Paul hears "Usul," wail and speaks distantly of "water sickness." Paul's cheeks are moist as the wailing grows louder. A lieutenant informs Paul of what he already knows, and Paul pronounces, "She is gone." At these words, the gholia becomes a puppet and his hand goes to his knife. Horrible sounds come from his throat until he finds his own voice and warns the young master to run. Paul refuses and Hayt's muscles lock. Old memories flood Hayt/Idaho and integrate, forming a "new awareness." The gholia knows he is Idaho, accepts the name, and stays at Paul's side as they enter the sietch. Zensunni and mentat training have both helped Idaho shrug off fear and embrace life.

Lichna must see him, Paul is told, and the twins are doing well. Surprised to hear twins, Paul stumbles. Paul is glad Chani's death is swifter and kinder than his will be. As confusion grows, Paul considers he should be grieving - but that is not how the vision goes. Paul checks on his children. Alia enters, forming an overwhelming presence, and insists they talk about Lichna. Paul demands time with Chani. The universe seems vacant, but Paul cannot weep. At a baby's cry, the "curtains" fall on Paul's vision and he welcomes the darkness. Paul rejects any future as he bids Chani goodbye.

When Alia insists he see Lichna, Paul reveals it is a Face Dancer impersonating the dead girl, and Scytale identifies himself. Paul refuses to bargain, but Alia insists he learn what he is rejecting. Scytale moves about as he chides Idaho about regaining his past, and Paul wishes for a vision of this swift menace to his babies. As Alia bemoans her guilt, Scytale offers to restore Chani better than ever. Paul longs for Chani, but knows this will open them to Tleilaxu and Qizarate plotting forever. Turning over negotiations to Alia, Paul enters upon a "stillness within stillness" and sees Scytale's knife hand - and himself across the room - from his son's perspective. Paul bares his crysknife and measures a throw that hits Scytale in the eye. He staggers and falls dead. Alia rushes to the crib and cuts off Paul's vision.

Paul declares restoring Chani is not part of his vision, and there are some prices an Atreides cannot pay; still, he had been sore tempted. The newborn son speaks mentally to Paul, who, drained, slumps against a wall and sees his male ancestors. He recalls Alia awakening in their mother's womb, but knows no "Water of Life" has been at work here - unless Chani's hunger during her pregnancy has produced a spice overdose. Paul feels himself to be in the crib again, with Alia soothing him, and he looks over at his tiny baby sister, who is the image of Lady Jessica, and who is filled with a multitude and staring at him. Disengaging, Paul names the boy Leto after his own father and the girl Ghanima. Behind them, the "Water Rite" for Chani begins, and Paul has Idaho take him to his quarters. Before Idaho can leave, Bijaz appears and repeats Scytale's offer. Had the gholia slain Paul, Bijaz reveals, the Tleilaxu would have negotiated with Alia to restore her brother. Chani can be kept from the stills and restored fully. Exhausted, Paul finds this second refusal harder, but orders Idaho to kill the dwarf. There is no choice. Paul has meddled in too many futures, and some problems in the universe have no answers. Paul feels his link with the vision shatter and his mind is overwhelmed with possibilities.

Idaho pauses at the edge of the open desert. Lt. Tandis relates how he accompanies Paul to this point and watches him walk, blind, into the desert. Earlier, Paul makes provisions for his children. Idaho regrets leaving Paul alone in his frame of mind. The Fremen refuse to search for Paul and are chanting for a worm to take Muad'dib swiftly. Some believe Paul has entered the "ruh-world," never to die, but Idaho knows better. Dying without a trace has a certain neatness, because the entire planet becomes his tomb. Idaho forces himself out of the catatonic state into which he is tumbling as a "mother storm" approaches. It will make Paul "one with the desert" and future generations will speak of him as "swimming" onward in time. Stilgar comes to take Idaho to Alia, who has assumed full command but is in mourning and asking for Idaho's comfort. Overriding Paul's request for amnesty for the traitors, she has had Stilgar execute Edric, Mohiam, Korba, and others. Idaho realizes Paul's pattern goes on. The possibilities of the future dazzle Idaho's mentat brain. Paul has set in motion vortices that cannot be stilled. Both the Tleilax and the Guild are discredited and the Qizarate shaken, but the Fremen are solidly loyal to House Atreides.

Alia chokes over the words, "Paul is gone!" and deems him a fool. The whole universe will agree before she finishes saying it. Idaho senses Alia has lost prescience since Chani's death. If Paul had but stepped off the track, he and Chani would have been



safe. Paul's whole life is a struggle to escape his Jihad and deification - and now he is free. Idaho identifies Chani's death with the moon that falls in Paul's oracle. Alia is bitter, being left behind to live on. Alia resolves to save the grieving Princess Irulan, who has defected from the Sisterhood and devoted her life to teaching Paul's children. She is now trustworthy and the Bene Gesserit has no remaining lever against the Atreides. Idaho comforts Alia as she sobs, and their "streams of grief" unite. They declare love for one another. Idaho will follow her anywhere.

## **Dune Messiah (pgs. 193-221) Analysis**

The forces Paul has foreseen converge in the desert. Chani goes into labor. Hayt forces his Idaho identity to the surface and is free. Chani gives birth and dies, but Idaho's humanity prevails over his conditioning. The temptation scene is complicated by Paul's loss of prescience followed by a strange bi-location into his newborn son's crib and a "Water of Life" kind of mingling with his forbearers. The darkness Paul has yearned for is frightening when it arrives. The dwarf details the backup plot before being slain. In the final scene, Idaho contemplates Paul's decision to disappear into the desert and is united with a bitter and grieving Alia.

# Characters

## Paul Atreides

The protagonist of *Dune Messiah*, Paul Atreides has reigned twelve years as Emperor. Resembling his murdered father in temper and hawk nose, but his mother, the Lady Jessica, in overall physical structure, Paul is frequently referred to by the honorific "Muad'dib," often in the compound form "Paul-Muad'dib" (a muad'dib being a small desert mouse renowned for its caution and survival abilities). Paul is also referred to as the "Mahdi," the Fremen term for messiah; "kwisatz haderach," a specially bred male Bene Gesserit messiah, capable of being many places at once; and a "mentat," a human computer. Paul's tribal name, Usul, meaning "base of the pillar," is used only by his Fremen companions from the earliest days of his flight into the desert.

Since childhood on the water-rich planet of Caladan, Paul has received physical and mental training from his mother, strictly against the rules of her Sisterhood. Sheltered by the Fremen after his father's murder, Paul takes as concubine Chani, the niece of the chieftan Stilgar. Chani has borne Paul a son, who tragically dies as an innocent bystander in the battle that puts Paul on the throne. Chani conceives again only after discovering she has been fed contraceptives by Paul's legal wife, Princess Irulan, the Bene Gesserit-trained daughter of the Padishah Emperor whom Paul has overthrown. Frustrated over Paul's refusal to give her a child, Irulan joins the conspiracy against her husband. Paul is helped in ruling the Imperium by his prescient, teenage sister, Alia. Paul frequently laments the old days of freedom before he becomes Emperor and the violence that has swept the universe in his name. He sees past, present, and future combined, but his prescience is frustratingly limited, with crucial details often missing. Paul fails to foresee the atomic blast that destroys his eyes and the fact that Chani delivers twins before she dies. For a while, between the blinding and the birth, Paul is able to "see" by a combination of his other senses and his prescience. Finally, having made provision for his children's protection and raising by a changed Irulan, Paul wanders off into the desert - and into legend.

## Scytale

A Tleilaxu Face Dancer - a human chameleon - Scytale is the novel's chief antagonist. He is one of the leaders of a plot against Emperor Paul Atreides, but he, alone, shows remorse of all the traitors. Hiding this fact from the other conspirators may be the foundation of the distrust that weakens and ultimately destroys the conspiracy. For the initial planning meeting on the planet Wallach IX, Scytale adopts a bland, but jolly, round-faced appearance. He and the Guild Steersman Edric are antagonistic, while he and their hostess, the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, constantly take one another's measure. The details of the plot are not revealed at the end of this meeting, and it appears Scytale is largely responsible for modifying it on the fly to meet changing conditions as they watch for a chance to strike.



Visiting Farok, a retired jihadist, Scytale daringly and successfully takes on the appearance and speech of Farok's old friend, Duncan Idaho. Having gotten from Farok all the information he can about the interior of Paul's Keep (fortress), Scytale treacherously, but painlessly, kills Farok and his blind son. He abducts the next-door neighbor girl, Lichna, and dumps her dismembered body in the desert. Scytale then takes on her form and speech to enter the Keep and pass word to Paul that Lichna's Fremen father, Otheym, must see Paul, as a matter of Water. Unfortunately for Scytale, Paul remembers Lichna from the old Sietch Tabr days and sees through the skillful performance. Nevertheless, he goes to Otheym's house and departs with Otheym's dwarf, Bijaz, moments before an atomic blast destroys the neighborhood and everyone's eyes, including Paul's.

Still in the guise of Lichna, Scytale is invited to the desert to attend Chani's giving birth. The plot unravels when the gholia Hayt/Duncan Idaho manages to overcome his Tleilaxu programming and takes Paul's side. Paul points out Scytale's fraud and assigns his sister Alia to negotiate with the Face Dancer the conditions for restoring Chani's dead flesh to life. Scytale brandishes a dagger over Paul's newborn twins, pressuring Paul and Alia to make a quick decision, but does not see Paul take up and throw Scytal's own knife at him. The sightless Emperor has seen Scytale from his son's perspective and been able to calculate the pinpoint aim. Scytale falls dead, but his backup, Bijaz, tries to close the deal. Duncan dispatches Bijaz on Paul's command, and the rebellion ends.

## St. Alia of the Knife

Emperor Paul Atreides' sister, born fifteen years after him, after undergoing in the womb, the "Water of Life" ritual that makes their mother, Lady Jessica, into a Reverend Mother. During that ritual, Alia becomes addicted to the spice melange and absorbs simultaneously with her mother the accumulated knowledge of the Bene Gesserit. As Emperor, Paul places Alia on the religious throne of the Sisterhood, and she functions as high priestess of a melange-based rite, recently invented but given the patina of antiquity. Alia and Paul share violent tempers, spotty prescience, and a sense of daring. Alia has the striking blue-in-blue eyes of a melange addict, her mother's oval face, bronze hair, and a wide, generous mouth. She usually keeps these concealed beneath the black hood of her aba robe. The Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, Jessica's former teacher who has organized the conspiracy against Paul, considers Alia abominable, and others see her as more able and dangerous than her brother. At age sixteen, Alia is blossoming into womanhood, to her brother's amazement. She overcomes the ingrained Fremen revulsion for technological tampering to fall in love with the gholia Hayt/Duncan Idaho, who becomes her comfort when a blind Paul abdicates and disappears into the desert.



## Chani

The Emperor Paul Atreides' Fremen concubine ever since his flight into the desert. Chani is the love of his life, despite a political marriage to Irulan, the daughter of the Padishah Emperor Paul has overthrown. Chani is the niece of Paul's Minister of State, Stilgar, who remains a darkly elfin creature, vulnerable yet self-contained and beginning to show age lines around her eyes. She is a Fremen woman, little changed by city life. All the superstitions and prejudices survive in Chani. Those who have already read *Dune* will find Chani rendered very flatly here. When Chani learns she has been prevented from conceiving an heir to the throne by Irulan's secret contraceptives, she insists on revenge, but passively accepts Paul's decision that revenge would not help the situation. Paul foresees Chani will die in childbirth, but withholds the information, while she eats massive amounts of the spice melange during the pregnancy, affecting the twins in her womb - as Alia is earlier affected in her mother's womb. Chani is amazed Paul does not foresee the second fetus. After Paul is blinded, Chani cannot look at the empty eye sockets and is troubled by Paul's increasingly dark moods. She insists on giving birth at the old Sietch Tabr and does, indeed, die after the too-rapid birth. The conspirators hold out to the grieving widower the hope of Chani's complete restoration as a Tleilaxu gholia, but Paul honors tradition and allows her water to be gathered to the people.

## Hayt (a.k.a. Duncan Idaho)

The finest swordsman in history, Idaho is Paul Atreides' trainer on the planet Caladan and his lieutenant after the murder of Paul's father, the Duke Leto Atreides. Over twelve years ago, Paul sees Idaho suffer a fatal head wound while helping Paul escape Harkonnen raiders and does not know his corpse has been preserved in an axolotl tank and re-animated as the gholia Hayt. The Guild purchases Hayt from the Tleilaxu, and the conspirators intend to use him to poison the Emperor's psyche. The Steersman Edric gifts Hayt to Paul when Edric is received as the Guild's official ambassador on Arrakis. Hayt retains no memory of his former life but finds some stimuli familiar. He looks, sounds and behaves like Idaho, but his metal eyes are disconcerting. Hayt is willing to serve Paul in any way Paul wishes. Paul and Alia both worry about what the Tleilaxu may have programmed in Hayt, but Edric's claim that Hayt has been trained as a mentat and Zensunni philosopher seems sincere. Paul dislikes Hayt's cryptic Zensunni statements, but accepts him, and addresses him by his new name, Hayt. The superstitious Stilgar begs Paul to send the gholia away, but Paul refuses. Paul's prescient sister, Alia, is initially repelled by Hayt, but comes to see his loyalty to House Atreides and sincerity and eventually falls in love with him. Paul's concubine, Chani, is also won over after initially feeling repulsion.

Sent to question Bijaz, a dwarf obtained by Paul just before his blinding, Hayt finds himself put into a trance. Bijaz reveals he is a product of the same axolotl tank and has witnessed Hayt's forced transformation. Hayt has been programmed to respond to Bijaz's voice and is given a post-hypnotic suggestion to begin his assault on Paul when





he hears the grieving words, "She is gone." Before they depart to Sietch Tabr for Chani's delivery, Hayt confesses the session with Bijaz and the uncertain belief that he has been programmed. Paul urges Hayt to reach deep within himself and discover the human Idaho. Hayt is at Paul's side when word of Chani's death comes and his hand goes to his knife when the keywords are spoken, but Hayt struggles mightily to become wholly Duncan Idaho again. At Paul's command, Idaho executes Bijaz to prevent his being tempted to re-animate Chani at the cost of Paul's throne. Idaho realizes he should not leave Paul unattended in his grief, but leaves Paul for a moment, and Paul disappears forever into the desert. Alia is distraught - and offended at the stupidity of Paul's act. She begs Idaho not to leave her as she serves as regent for her newborn niece and nephew, and the pair declares mutual love.

## Princess Irulan

The Emperor Paul Atreides' tall, blond, aristocratic consort, Irulan is the daughter of the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV, whom Paul has overthrown. Their marriage continues for twelve years unconsummated, while Paul sleeps with and loves his Fremen concubine, Chani. Both women yearn to bear Paul's heir. Her former teacher, the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam, invites Irulan back to Wallace IX, where in her youth she had undergone Bene Gesserit training. While Irulan has been feeding traitors information about her husband useful as propaganda, she has not committed herself to open rebellion. Irulan has also been placing a contraceptive into Chani's food to prevent her conceiving. The conspirators win Irulan over, and she returns to Arrakis (Dune) to demand her conjugal rights. Suspecting the Sisterhood has given Irulan a secret mission, Paul tells her she may discretely take a lover but bear no children. She will never be mother to a dynasty. Irulan is further embittered. When Mohiam is imprisoned deep in Paul's Keep, Irulan dares to visit her, but Mohiam has decided Irulan is too flawed to preserve Paul's genetic treasury. Irulan may be sexually desirable, but inwardly she is a whining shrew, all words and no action. Irulan is shocked at being ordered to explore sibling crossbreeding between Paul and Alia. After Paul's blinding, Chani's death giving birth to twins, and Paul's flight into the desert, Irulan breaks with the Sisterhood and dedicates her life to raising the orphaned children. *Dune Messiah* refers in passing to Irulan's "histories." Readers of *Dune* will recall Irulan is the major literary source about Muad'dib's life and times. Like Chani, Irulan is flattened in this sequel.

## Bannerjee

The Emperor Paul Atreides' chief security officer, Bannerjee comes up through the ranks of the Fremen Constabulary through brains and loyalty. A solid figure with a steady blue-in-blue gaze, he comes from smuggler ancestry. Paul, Chani, and Stilgar all trust him.



## Bijaz

A catalyst-dwarf belonging to the retired Fedaykin death commando, Otheym, Bijaz speaks in incessant riddles. He is a gholā, produced in the same Tleilaxu axolotl tank as Duncan Idaho and an eyewitness of Idaho's re-animation as Hayt. The Tleilaxu have conditioned Hayt to respond to Bijaz's voice, so when Hayt questions the dwarf after Paul's blinding, Bijaz is able to plant a post-hypnotic suggestion in his mind, to be triggered by Paul's words, "She is gone." The Tleilaxu Face Dancer, Scytale, is then to take over negotiations aimed at obtaining Paul's abdication in return for Chani's re-animation after her death in childbirth, but Paul succeeds in killing Scytale. Bijaz steps in in a last-ditch effort to preserve the plan, but Paul orders Idaho to kill the little tempter.

## Edric

A repulsive, fishlike, vaguely humanoid Guild Steersman encased in a special container filled with orange gas rich with the smell of the addictive spice, Edric is one of the leaders of a plot against Emperor Paul Atreides. Co-conspirator Scytale views Edric as little more than "magician's hands," useful in concealing and distracting the Emperor from their activities. Melange enables Steersmen to navigate through space at hyperlight speeds by foreseeing obstacles. As part of the plot, the Guild, which controls all transportation in the Imperium, proposes a permanent embassy at Paul's court. When Edric presents his credentials, he presents the Emperor the gift of a gholā, Hayt, reconstituted from the slain flesh of Paul's friend and retainer, Duncan Idaho. Edric and Scytale meet once more and battle about the need for speed in executing the plot. Edric has doubts he is succeeding in shielding their activities from Paul. After the plot fails, Alia orders Stilgar to execute Edric along with the other ringleaders.

## Farok

A minor conspirator against Emperor Paul Atreides, Farok is a native of Sietch Tabr, a proud, spice-rich Naib and rider of worms who loses an arm serving as Bashar of the Ninth Legion in the Jihad. With his musician son, blinded in the line of duty and rejected as a son-in-law by the superstitious Fremen, Farok lives in veterans' housing in a suburban cul-de-sac. Next door lives Otheym, a retired Fedaykin death commando who eventually denounces the conspirators. A key conspirator, Scytale the Face Dancer, under the guise of Duncan Idaho, Farok's old acquaintance, pays a visit, learns from Farok all he can about the inside of Paul's Keep (fortress), and then treacherously, but painlessly, murders both Farok and his son. Scytale then kidnaps, murders, and later impersonates Otheym's daughter, Lichna, in order to infiltrate the Keep and bring the conspiracy to a climax.



## Lady Jessica

The Emperor Paul Atreides' mother, Jessica, is the concubine of the late Duke Leto Atreides. A major character in *Dune*, Jessica is relegated to the shadows, living on her home planet of Caladan but is in frequent communication with her children. Frequent resentful references are made to how Jessica's daughter, Alia, is forced to become a Reverend Mother *in utero* as Jessica undergoes the "Water of Life" ordeal 16 years ago. A letter from Jessica fills Alia with shadows of the past. Jessica admonishes Alia for trying to achieve a government both religious and self-assertive.

## Korba the Panegyrist

A bald, fuming, cynical gnome, Korba is the Qizarate's representative on the Imperial Council. His colleagues find it amusing this former Death Commando has transformed himself into a priest and shows through his eyes both his fanaticism and love for religious power. His chief rival for religious preeminence, Paul's sister, the Reverend Mother Alia, cannot help mocking Korba. After Paul's blinding, Alia presides at Korba's trial for treason. Korba insists on his Fremen right to confront his accuser - conveniently deceased - and trusts his fellow Naibs to get him off. After Paul's disappearance into the desert, Alia boldly orders Korba's execution.

## Lichna

Ostensibly the daughter of Otheym, a retired Fedaykin death commando, Lichna is in fact Scytale in his most audacious face painting. The real Lichna has been murdered and abandoned in the desert. Paul remembers them from Sietch Tabr days well enough to see through Scytale's skillful act.

## Gaius Helen Mohiam

The disdainful, silver-haired, leather-faced, black-robed crone serving as Reverend Mother of the Bene Gesserit in the twelfth year of Emperor Paul Atreides' reign. Mohiam hosts a meeting of conspirators against Paul at her home on Wallach IX, many parsecs distance from Arrakis (Dune). Mohiam is filled with a blinding hatred for her former pupil, Lady Jessica, the Emperor Paul Atreides' mother, and Jessica's daughter Alia. Mohiam's weakness is wielding her emotions like a scythe. Forbidden to set foot on Arrakis, Mohiam is taken from the Guild heighliner that brings Edric as ambassador and imprisoned deep in Paul's Keep. Even though she is certain she will perish, Mohiam still holds hope of surviving and orders Princess Irulan, another former student, to assassinate the pregnant Chani and investigate the possibility of mating Paul and Alia as a last, best hope of keeping the Sisterhood's genetic program on track. After Paul's disappearance into the desert, Alia boldly orders Mohiam's execution.

## Otheym

A retired Fedaykin death commando living in the suburbs with his wife and a catalyst-dwarf, Bijaz. Otheym is dying of a breathing disease when Paul appears at his door, ostensibly summoned through Otheym's daughter, Lichna. Paul knows the real Lichna to have been murdered and abandoned in the desert but conceals the truth from her parents. Otheym, nostalgic about the old Harkonnen days, has programmed into Bijaz all of the names, dates, and facts needed to destroy the conspiracy against Paul, and urges the Emperor to pretend to buy the dwarf as a kindness to an impoverished veteran. Soon after Paul and the dwarf depart, an illegal atomic blast destroys Otheym's home, but Bijaz is installed in Paul's Keep - albeit as a prisoner.

## Stilgar

A strong and prominent character in *Dune*, Stilgar's presence is severely diminished in this sequel. He has been advanced to the Emperor Paul Atreides' Minister of State and, as his former mentor, still enjoys extraordinary boldness in addressing Paul. Stilgar's niece, Chani, is Paul's beloved concubine. The graying, eagle-eyed Stilgar is a Naib, who, like Paul, longs for the simpler life of the sietch. Stilgar presides at meetings of the Imperial Council, seeking to move business forward, caring more about victory than truth. When the ghola Hayt/Duncan Idaho is presented to Paul as a gift, Stilgar begs Paul to send the ghola away, but he refuses. After Paul's blinding, Stilgar takes part in a charade to sweat the truth out of the traitor Korba, and after Paul's disappearance into the desert, Stilgar carries out Alia's death sentences against the conspirators, against Paul's stated wishes.

# Objects/Places

## Arrakis (Dune)

Still largely covered by desert, Arrakis has in places been turned lush with vegetation on orders from the Emperor Paul Atreides. The current capital city, Arrakeen, features the Imperial Keep (fortress), Alia's temple, the Qizarate's headquarters, and tangles of modern buildings, streets, and bridges that offend the sensibilities of the freely-wandering natives, the superstitious Fremen. Most of them still prefer the wilderness and its old ways. Arrakis is the only place in the universe where the spice, melange, is produced, a critical monopoly that others wish to see broken. Plotters conspire to kidnap a small worm that produces melange and take it offplanet.

## The Bene Gesserit

A female order devoted to the mental and physical arts in service to controlling genetic lines, the Bene Gesserit is, in the twelfth year of Emperor Paul Atreides' reign, headed by the bitter and scheming Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam. The Emperor Paul Atreides mother, Lady Jessica, sister Alia, and wife, Irulan, are all alumnae of Mohiam's school on Wallach IX. Against regulations, Jessica teaches her son in his youth the techniques of *prana-bindu* training, which prepare him for the gift of prescience.

## Bene Tleilax

Sworn enemies of Emperor Paul Atreides, the Bene Tleilax are also known as "Face-Dancers" because of their ability to change their appearance at will. Their amoral use of technology is strongly opposed by the Bene Gesserit, even when the techniques might expedite their goal of breeding the perfect kwiasatz haderach. The Tleilax part in the plot against Paul is to provide two programmed gholas, the dwarf Bijaz, and Hayt/Duncan Idaho. Bijaz plants a posthypnotic suggestion in Hayt to be triggered when Paul's concubine Chani dies in childbirth. Bijaz tells Hayt/Duncan that Paul is maternally descended from Harkonnens, Idaho's sworn enemies. The dwarf believes that this hatred will suppress any surviving feeling towards the Atreides and enable the ghola to talk Paul into abdicating as the price of re-constituting Chani. Bijaz is the backup should Scytale and Hayt fail. Paul overcomes all of the twists and the Bene Tleilax is discredited.

## The Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles (CHOAM)

A business association jointly owned by the major power centers in the universe, including the Imperial throne, CHOAM is seen by the Steersman Edric as one of the

keys to the success of a conspiracy against Emperor Paul Atreides. Paul will be required to surrender his shares in CHOAM in return for his and Chani's lives.

## Fremen

The wild, superstitious desert people of Arrakis who rally around Paul Atreides in his battle to overthrow the Harkonnens and the Imperial Sardaukar troops, and now, in the twelfth year of his reign, remain loyal to him not only as Emperor, but also as Muad'dib and Madhi, despite his having changed the ecology of their planet and offended many of their mores. They call themselves "Children of the Moon."

## Jihad

*Jihad* is an Arabic word meaning "holy war," having for Westerners connotations of the fanatical spreading of religion by means of the sword. Herbert uses it in precisely this loaded sense to portray the zealous Qizarate Missionaries and Fremen, who in the Emperor Paul's name and under the Atreides banner, have over twelve years killed some 60 billion people throughout the universe and subjected the survivors to the cult of Paul as a god. Alia is the priestess, and pilgrims to Arrakis enrich the Imperial treasury. Every newly-conquered planet brings a new influx of avid converts. Paul is shown throughout the novel lamenting Jihad, which he knows will be his major legacy. It is implied that Paul's regret over Jihad is part of his downward slide in later years. Readers of *Dune* recognize Paul foresees this from the outset as an outcome of his accepting power, but can find no way to steer history into another avenue.

## Melange

The addictive, cinnamon-smelling spice used to extend life, melange also produces prescience needed by Paul in ruling the Empire and Steersmen in navigating through space. The Spacing Guild has long held a monopoly on the transportation of the spice, but is limited in its strategic use by the fact Paul and his Fremen have a monopoly on its production. Melange is central to the religious cult over which Alia presides as priestess. When she grows desperate to see Paul's and her futures, she takes more than she ever has and nearly overdoses. Devotees of melange have strikingly blue eyes, which sets them apart from outlanders.

## The Qizarate Missionaries

Emperor Paul Atreides' followers, the Qizarate wage Jihad in a form of fanatic religious colonialism that brings all but a fraction of the vast universe under its control. By the twelfth year of Paul's reign, the Qizarate, led by Korba the Panegyrist, is plotting to make a martyr of Paul and blame it on his concubine, Chani. Paul disdains the Qizarate's bustling and ostentatious Office building and the type of person attracted to such religious civil service. Most are over-zealous converts, spice-addicted, detail-



oriented, unimaginative, and remote from the people. The Qizarate loses face when it is discovered it smuggles onto Arrakis an illegal "stone burner," an atom bomb releasing J-rays that attack eye tissue. The Qizarate's representative on the Imperial Council, Korba the Panegyrist, lamely attempts to defend this as a defensive measure, and Korba is, in the end, condemned to death by Alia.

## **Sietch Tabr**

A complex of caves deep in the desert on the planet Arrakis, Sietch Tabr is Stilgar and Chani's birthplace and Paul and Chani's place of retreat and safety during times of peril. It is there that they go for Chani to give birth.

## **The Spacing Guild**

The Spacing Guild has historically avoided control by the Imperium by holding a monopoly on transportation. Its Steersmen (pilots) are able to see the future, including how to avoid obstacles while traveling at translight speeds, through addiction to the spice melange. Edric, a fishlike, vaguely-humanoid Steersman, encased in a special container filled with orange gas rich in the spice, is one of the leaders of a plot against Paul. Edric is accepted as Ambassador to the court, where he presents the ghola Hayt (the former Duncan Idaho) as a gift to the Emperor.

## **Tupile Entente**

The last sanctuary of the defeated Great Houses, the Tupile Entente has for ten years been negotiating a treaty with Emperor Paul Atreides, who rejects preemption against signs of hostile actions, observing his subjects will feel vulnerable if the last hope for safety is removed. Minister of State Stilgar observes if Tupile can hide people, they can hide armies or an alternate melange culture facility. Irulan favors withholding melange from them.

## **Wallach IX**

The Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam's desolate, frozen home planet located many parsecs from Arrakis (Dune), Wallach IX in the past served as the Bene Gesserit training center and now is the initial planning center of a conspiracy against Emperor Paul Atreides.



# Themes

## Religion

Religion does not fare well in Frank Herbert's *Dune Messiah*. The Emperor Paul Atreides has in the twelve years of his reign been made into a god but badly wants to escape this fate, even to the point of giving up his religion and fleeing. He knows that even without him, in his name and under the Atreides banner, the fearful Jihad will continue. It has gone out from the planet Arrakis (Dune), killing some 60 billion people outright and turning survivors into potential pilgrims. Paul cannot figure out what the pious pilgrims who overrun Arrakeen City seek to find there. Filling the streets with screeches of religious ecstasy, they are mocked by the Fremen (who form the core of Paul's loyal followers) as "passage birds," while those who die on Arrakis are "Winged souls." They come "in gratitude for 'the peace of Muad'dib'," who accepts the riches they throw into the coffers, allowing his Imperium to prosper.

Religion is organized through an official state bureaucracy, the Qizarate, housed in a modern office building opposite Paul's Keep. The Emperor dislikes the kind of person attracted to the religious civil service: mostly converts, spice-addicted, detail-oriented, unimaginative, and remote. The Qizarate's representative on the Imperial Council is Korba the Panegyrist, a former death commando who has put on the priesthood. The irony of the change is lost on no one. Korba takes obvious pleasure in exercising religious power, sometimes substituting for Paul for blessings of the pilgrims from the Imperial balcony. When the Qizarate is implicated in smuggling onto Arrakis a small atomic device is used by traitors against him, Paul asks why a religious institution would need such a "defensive" weapon.

Paul's prescient, teenaged sister, Alia, presides over the cult, which conducts its religious rituals in a grand, but gloomy, nave filled with Fremen mythological symbols. The temple and its rituals are of recent invention but imbued with great age and mystery. The central Evening Rite, following nauseatingly pious hymnody, has Alia consume a golden chalice filled with unaltered melange in the "sacrament of the oracle." Worshipers expect Alia then to answer inquiries, but the one time Paul attends incognito, Alia moodily leaves them restless and dissatisfied. Paul and Alia's mother, Lady Jessica, writes from Caladan reminding her Reverend Mother daughter against trying to achieve a government that is both religious and self-assertive. Religion needs spontaneity, while laws suppress this. Morality, conscience, and religion always give way to ritualism and symbolism. Jessica forbids establishing a secondary place of pilgrimage at her son's birthplace, to avoid the disorder. Menacingly, it is said the Fremen on Dune are restoring blood sacrifice and other old rites of the desert in protest to the cult of their Muad'dib and Mahdi.

Finally, although the Bene Gesserit claims not to be a religious organization, they use elaborate rituals, call their leaders Reverend Mothers, and make use of psychosomatic exercises similar to Yoga. In centuries past, they have seeded various worlds - including



Arrakis (Dune) - with legends of a coming messiah, in the event they should need to seek shelter there. The superstitious Fremen are easily fooled into believing that Lady Jessica and Paul are the fulfillment of prophecy.

## Time/Space

Frank Herbert's *Dune Messiah* is filled with matters of time and space. The planet Arrakis (Dune) is the unique place in the universe where the geriatric spice melange is produced. It enables those addicted (marked by blue-in-blue eyes) to see past, present, and future united. The Spacing Guild's Steersmen use it to foresee obstacles as their ships fly through space at hyperlight speeds, enabling them to keep a monopoly on transportation. The elite of the Bene Gesserit sisterhood chosen to become Reverend Mothers drink an undistilled "Water of Life," which unites them with the memories of all earlier Reverend Mothers - or kills them in the process. Paul Atreides has dared drink the water before becoming Emperor and thereby received the ability to be in many places at once as the long-awaited "kwisatz haderach." His teenaged sister, Alia, has been a Reverend Mother since being infected in her mother's womb.

All the prescient in *Dune Messiah* are frustrated by the limitations of their painful gift. Paul and Alia both risk overdoses of spice to overcome the clouding. People ask about the blank spots, but Paul cannot find words to explain them. He uses the analogy of waves; one can see that which floats on the crest but not what lies in the troughs. He says so many strings of possible futures flash past him that he grows confused. Alia has a special power over time and space. She can project her thoughts to a nexus she knows her brother is destined to pass through, but is frustrated when Paul allows one such warning to pass through him, unheeded. Frequently, Paul knows he is on the path prescribed for him by the general situation and even specific details of furniture, etc., but unforeseen elements are also present. Among the most dangerous is the Tleilaxu-programmed dwarf Bijaz, to whose voice the ghola Hayt/Duncan Idaho is keyed. Paul's eyes are destroyed in an atomic explosion, and he becomes father to twins, two details he has failed to foresee. Paul realizes darkly that the flow of history - powered by his Jihad - is determined to go forward in his name whether he lives or dies. Knowing past, present, and future as a unity is a frustrating, largely fruitless burden.

## Technology

Frank Herbert's *Dune Messiah* is set some twelve millennia in the future, but the technology pictured is a surprising mixture of primitive and advanced. In most cases, it is self-limiting. The Fremen, Emperor Paul Atreides' fervent followers, fight mostly with crysknives made from the teeth of the great sand worms of the desert. They wear stillsuits designed to recycle virtually all of the moisture lost in the desert. Force fields can be generated to protect individuals and communities, but their use in the sands infuriates the worms and invites attacks, while their interaction with lasbeams (lasers) destroys both the attacker and the victim. Mankind has long ago banned the use of atomic weapons against human beings, but they still exist, and a group of terrorists

explodes one in an attempt to assassinate Paul. Its J-rays target eye tissue, so everyone in the vicinity - Paul included - are instantly blinded. Paul's prescience augments his other heightened senses to give him perfect vision for a while.

Other victims are fitted with artificial eyes manufactured by the Bene Tleilaxu. This group of technologists provides many such products to meet the tastes of any sort of needy or perverted audience. Their specialty is the "ghola," a re-animation of a deceased person. Two such ghola play a major role in *Dune Messiah*. A dwarf, Bijaz, is programmed to serve as a recording device filled with data on the traitors, a resource too attractive not to take into the Keep (fortress/palace). There, Bijaz entrances the ghola he has watched enter and emerge from the axolotl tank and be programmed. Called Hayt, this ghola has the flesh of Paul's former mentor, friend, and aide, Duncan Idaho. Hayt has eerie, metallic eyes, which bother Paul and his advisors, but Hayt also has been programmed with the freedom to develop himself independantly of other programming. With help from Paul and Alia, he uses this freedom to force memories and emotions that ought not to be present to the surface and shake off his programming. The battle is intense and the victory a first for ghola creations.

The essence of the traitors' plot is to use the death of Paul's beloved concubine, Chani, as a lever to make him abdicate. The Tleilaxu offer to reconstitute Chani better than ever. Paul struggles with the temptation, but in the end decides there are things an Atreides cannot do. Meanwhile, the conspirators have used oral contraceptives to prevent Chani's pregnancy and afterwards considered administering her an abortifact - two controversial novelties for readers in 1969. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has for generations been using their powers of persuasion (the "Voice") rather than technology to affect the perfection of two gene strings they plan to produce the "kwisatz haderach," a male having the sisters' prescience and the ability to be in many places at once. Revelation that the Tleilaxu have produced a kwisatz haderach that destroys itself is a shock. Paul's suggestion the sisters use Tleilaxu technology on a sample of his genetic material makes them withdraw in horror. Surprisingly, it has never occurred to them. The Fremen view with horror all such experimentation with life, which to them is sacred. The Fremen believe that the blind must unburden society by dying in the desert. Given this, it is perhaps ironical that the Fremen distill from every corpse all moisture and add it to the collective pool.

# Style

## Point of View

Frank Herbert narrates *Dune Messiah* in the third person past tense. More often than he quotes character's words in dialog, Herbert lays out their inner thoughts (in italics). He opens new scenes by quoting epigrams in the manner of a historian. Herbert reveals very gradually the plot to remove protagonist Paul Atreides from his Imperial throne. The narrator is obviously on the protagonist's side - no matter how frustratingly Paul may behave. It appears from the opening scene that the dysfunctional group of traitors knows what it intends to do and they are shown taking steps to make the pieces fall into place, but the unexpected news that Paul's beloved concubine, Chani, has succeeded in getting pregnant, appears to force a sudden re-evaluation. Only when any chance of the plot succeeding has been dashed is its full scope made clear. The fuzziness affecting all the prescient characters - Paul, Alia, and the Spacing Guild's Steersman - plays into the confusion Herbert doubtless intends. Space-time is mysterious, as are the actions of those who seek to master it.

From the offhand way he mentions key events in the earlier novel, *Dune*, it appears Herbert expects readers of *Dune Messiah* to have read and digested it. References are exasperatingly brief and lacking in context. The Atreides characters are depicted as depressed and dysfunctional, and for anyone who has not read the ending of *Dune*, it appears to be caused by frustration over a twelve-year reign that has not gone as intended and is now falling apart. In fact, Paul's assuming the throne (never shown) is accompanied by fatalism as severe as is depicted throughout *Dune Messiah*. The only thing that has changed in twelve years is that a group of traitors has had enough and is ready to act. Herbert's brevity in referring to *Dune* makes some of the most striking phrases in the sequel appear far more dramatic than in the original context (e.g., Paul's "never forget, never forgive"). In most cases, however, references are flattened in *Dune Messiah* rather than made more dramatic. Alia's attempt at protecting her brother by projecting her thoughts ahead of Paul to a nexus in space-time where she knows he will pass through is utterly baffling when reading this novel as a stand-alone work, as is Paul's angst over the course of the Jihad.

## Setting

*Dune Messiah* by Frank Herbert is set twelve years after Paul Atreides overthrows the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV, marries his daughter, Irulan, and assumes the Lion Throne. References to Genghis Khan and Adolf Hitler as distant figures from a "Golden Age" of human history on a planet named Earth suggest the novel is set far in the future. The previous novel, *Dune*, makes it clear it is 12,000 years since the twentieth century. Mankind has mastered interstellar travel, colonized myriads of planets across the universe and banned the use of atomic weapons against human populations.

Two planets play important roles in *Dune Messiah*. The primary one, where the lion's share of the action takes place, is Arrakis (most frequently referred to as "Dune"). There the Emperor, his spurned wife Princess Irulan, and his beloved concubine, Chani, cohabit a magnificent "Keep" (palace/fortress) in the capital city of Arrakeen. The city's massive architecture and lush gardens stand in sharp contrast to the rest of the planet, which largely remains a storm-swept desert. Paul, Chani, and all the free-ranging Fremen long for the old days of freedom. Chani decorates her private quarters in the Fremen manner, and begs Paul to take her back to Sietch Tabr, where she was born and they earlier lived together happily, for her to give birth. The climax of the novel occurs in the Sietch.

The second planet briefly depicted is desolate, frozen Wallach IX, located many parsecs distance from Arrakis. It is home to the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam where she gathers a nucleus of conspirators to bring down Paul Atreides. Passing mention is made of other worlds, including Caladan, Paul's homeworld, where his mother, Lady Jessica, currently lives; the former Imperial prison world of Salusta Secunda, where the exiled former emperor may be plotting military adventures; and Tupile, the last sanctuary of the fallen Great Houses and the place Paul briefly considers fleeing to with Chani.

## Language and Meaning

*Dune Messiah* is Frank Herbert's 1969 sequel to the best seller *Dune*. At 221 pages, it is miniscule compared to the first volume, whose action ends some twelve years earlier. Both are narrated in straightforward Standard American English, allowing contractions, but avoiding the tendency of many science fiction works to make heavy use of the passing idioms of the day. Thus, *Dune Messiah* escapes feeling "dated" even decades after its writing. Narrative description is far less important than dialog in developing characters and moving forward the plot. There is little use of literary or historical symbolism or other literary tools from human society before ca. 12,000 C.E. Much use, however, is made of references to the political, social, and religious life since the "Butlerian Jihad" and Paul's emergence as Muad'dab, Madhi, and kwisatz haderach.

Most notable is the novel's use of specialized cultural vocabulary. Herbert coins some more-or-less easily understood compound words (e.g., "stillsuit") for objects needed to survive on a still largely arid world. Fremen characters bear multiple names: tribal and familial (intimate) which have meanings in their language. Paul inherits many titles implanted over centuries by the Bene Gesserit to prepare the way for his coming as the Fremen's messiah. Herbert also provides a rich variety of borrowed terms that bear a distinctly Arabic flavor. Some are authentic Arabic words ("Jihad," "Hajj," "ruh") but most are the author's inventions. Arabic seems natural in such an Arabia-sounding environment, but readers must guard against attaching attitudes towards Islam and Middle Eastern culture that are far more charged today than in 1969. Parallels between the Prophet Muhammad and Paul Atreides are superficial and the religion spread by Paul's Jihad shows little resemblance to Islam at any discrete point in its history - except Jihad. *Dune* clarifies that the first inhabitants of the planet are Sunni exiles. *Dune* is, in

general, a useful reference while reading *Dune Messiah*, for its thirty-page glossary of Herbert's made-up names and terms.

## Structure

*Dune Messiah* by Frank Herbert is told in a continuous narrative, without formal chapter breaks. Scene breaks are signaled by epigrams drawn from ostensibly historical documents before, during, and after the action portrayed in the novel. Paul Atreides' spurned wife, the Princess Irulan, is the author or editor of many of these, which considerably expands her presence in the novel but seems peculiar until the ending explains her conversion.

The story begins with Irulan being invited to a meeting on a distant planet, where representatives of the Spacing Guild, the Bene Tleilaxu technologists, and the Bene Gesserit sisters need her help in removing Paul from the Imperial throne. After Irulan is won over, the conspirators fan out around the city of Arrakeen organizing details of the plan, and marital intrigues within the palace walls come to a boil. Simultaneous story lines are developed, with Scytale, a Tleilaxu "Face Dancer," playing the largest role among the conspirators. Paul receives the gift of a "ghola," a re-animated corpse, crucial to carrying out the plot. The fact that "Hayt," the gholia, looks, sounds, and acts like Paul's late friend, Duncan Idaho, adds emotion to this plot line, as a long fight is waged to let his original identity emerge. Paul's sister, Alia, is shown as high priestess, prescient political ally, and the gholia's love interest. Finally, Paul's beloved concubine, Chani, becomes pregnant but is destined to die in childbirth.

Paul loses his eyes in an atomic blast shortly after taking custody of another Tleilaxu gholia carrying full data on the traitors, but his other senses combine with his prescience for a while to maintain his ability to see intact. Action moves to Sietch Tabr in the desert, where, as Paul knows must be, Chani's death in childbirth. Hayt/Idaho overcomes his Tleilaxu conditioning and helps Paul withstand the temptation of abdicating in exchange for Chani's re-animation. Having made provision for his newborn twin's upbringing, Paul wanders off, totally blind, into the desert.

## Quotes

"How can any of this explain the facts as history has revealed them? They cannot. Only through the lethal nature of prophecy can we understand the failure of such enormous and far-seeing power. "Hopefully, other historians will learn something from this revelation." Dune Messiah, pg. 11.

"'Constitutions become the ultimate tyranny,' Paul said. 'They're organized power on such a scale as to be overwhelming. The constitution is social power mobilized and it has no conscience. It can crush the highest and the lowest, removing all dignity and individuality. It has an unstable balance point and no limitations. I, however, have limitations. In my desire to provide an ultimate protection for my people, I forbid a constitution. Order in Council, this date, etcetera, etcetera.'" Dune Messiah, pg. 54.

"*What do they find here?* Paul asked himself. "Often in their religious ecstasy, they filled the streets with screeching like some odd aviary. In fact, the Fremen called them 'passage birds.' And the few who died here were 'winged souls.' "With a sigh, Paul thought how each new planet his legions subjugated opened new sources of pilgrims. They came out of gratitude for 'the peace of Muad'dib.' "*Everywhere there is peace,* Paul thought. *Everywhere ... except in the heart of Muad'dib.*" Dune Messiah, pg. 57.

"*She reads me clearly,* Irulan thought with dismay. *She trained me and observed me in that training. She knows I realize what decision has been taken here. She only observes now to see how I will take this knowledge. Well, I will take it as a Bene Gesserit and a princess.* "Irulan managed a smile, pulled herself erect, thought of the evocative opening passage of the Litany Against Fear: "*I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear...*" Dune Messiah, pg. 74.

" 'But you accuse me of conspiring to make a god of myself," Paul said, pitching his voice that only Edric and Stilgar might hear. 'Conspire?' "A poor choice of word, perhaps, my Lord,' Edric said. "'But significant,' Paul said. 'It says you expect the worst of me.' "Edric arched his neck, stared sideways at Stilgar with a look of apprehension. 'People always expect the worst of the rich and powerful, Sire. It is said one can always tell an aristocrat: he reveals only those of his vices which will make him popular.'" Dune Messiah, pgs. 87-88.

"Paul felt himself go inwardly still, a profound caution gripping him. To who was Edric speaking? Damnable clever words, heavy with manipulation leverages - that undertone of comfortable humor, the unspoken air of shared secrets: his manner said he and Paul were two sophisticates, men of a wider universe who understood things not granted common folk. With a feeling of shock, Paul realized that he had not been the main target for all this rhetoric. This affliction visited upon the court had been speaking for the benefit of others - speaking to Stilgar, to the household guards ... perhaps even to the hulking aide." Dune Messiah, pg. 89.





"Rage rooted in boredom flickered and simmered deep within him, nurtured by decisions that couldn't be avoided. He knew which path his feet must follow. He'd seen it enough times, hadn't he? *Seen* it! Once ... long ago, he'd thought of himself as an inventor of government. But the invention had fallen into old patterns. It was like some hideous contrivance with plastic memory. Shape it any way you wanted, but relax for a moment and it snapped into the ancient forms. Forces at work beyond his reach in human breasts eluded and defied him." *Dune Messiah*, pg. 109.

"The Reverend Mother closed her eyes to hide his face. Damnation! To cast the genetic dice in such a way! Loathing boiled in her breast. The teaching of the Bene Gesserit, the lessons of the Butlerian Jihad - all proscribed such an act. One did not demand the highest aspirations of humankind. No machine could function in the way of the human mind. No word or deed could imply that men might be bred on the level of animals. " 'Your decision,' Paul said." *Dune Messiah*, pg. 120.

"Stilgar shook his head sharply. 'Sire, we must conceal your affliction from - ' "'We hide it from no man,' Paul said. "'But the law ...' "'We live by the Atreides Law now, Stil. The Fremen Law that the blind should be abandoned in the desert applies only to the blind. I am not blind. I live in the cycle of being where the war of good and evil has its arena. We are at a turning point in the succession of ages and we have our parts to play.'" *Dune Messiah*, pg. 162.

" 'You are not Hayt,' the dwarf said. 'You are Duncan Idaho. I was there when they put your dead flesh into the tank and I was there when they removed it, alive and ready for training.' "The gholia swallowed in a throat suddenly dry. The bright glowglobes of the chamber lost their yellowness in the room's green hangings. The light showed beads of perspiration on the dwarf's forehead. Bijaz seemed a creature of odd integrity, as though the purpose fashioned into him by the Tleilaxu were projected out through his skin. There was power beneath the dwarf's mask of cowardice and frivolity." *Dune Messiah*, pg. 177.

"Old memories flooded his mind. He marked them, adjusted them to new understandings, made a beginning at the integration of a new awareness. A new *persona* achieved a temporary form of internal tyranny. The masculating synthesis remained charged with potential disorder, but events pressed him to the temporary adjustment. The young master needed him." *Dune Messiah*, pg. 204.

" 'There are problems in this universe for which there are no answers,' Paul said. 'Nothing. Nothing can be done.' "As he spoke, Paul felt his link with the vision shatter. His mind cowered, overwhelmed by infinite possibilities. His lost vision became like the wind, blowing where it willed." *Dune Messiah*, pg. 214.

# Topics for Discussion

Why is the protagonist Paul Atreides so consistently bitter and caustic in *Dune Messiah*? How do you relate to him?

What is Chani's role in this novel? Can you picture her as a forceful figure in the previous novel, *Dune*? Offer examples to prove your view pro or con.

What is Stilgar's role in this novel? How does he contribute to advancing the story line?

What is Edric Guild Steersman's role in the novel? What is his motivation for joining the conspiracy?

What are Princess Irulan's roles in this novel? Is she a sympathetic character or the shallow shrew the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam believes?

What is Alia's role in the novel? Why is she considered an "abomination" by the Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam?

What is Scytale's role in this novel? What are his greatest victory and worst defeat?

What is Hayt/Duncan Idaho's role in the novel? How do you picture his relationship with Paul Atreides in the "old days"?