

Forward the Foundation Study Guide

Forward the Foundation by Isaac Asimov

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Plot Summary

Isaac Asimov's last novel, *Forward the Foundation*, continues the story line of *Prelude to Foundation*, showing mathematician Hari Seldon in middle and old age continuing the struggle to turn his theory of psychohistory into a tool capable of restoring human civilization after the Galactic Empire destroys itself. The book sets the stage for Asimov's seminal *Foundation*.

Forward the Foundation by Isaac Asimov looks in on the life and work of Hari Seldon at roughly ten year intervals. Hari's concern about aging and not perfecting his brainchild, psychohistory, as a reliable tool for predicting the future sweep of history, deepens with each passing decade. Hari is in his forties as the novel opens. He finds himself drawn to help his old robot friend and benefactor, Eto Demerzel, First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, to survive a populist political crisis as the Empire begins eroding badly. Thanks to undercover work by son Raych, they defeat the Joramunites, but Eto then unburdens himself, placing the heavy mantle of office on Hari's shoulders, and vanishes.

Hari in his fifties is a reluctant First Minister, feeling that the time he gives to the job robs the vital psychohistory project. When remnants of the Joramunites target Hari for death, Raych again goes underground to infiltrate them. He is recognized and drugged to do the actual killing, but his soon-to-be wife, Manella, a security officer posing as a prostitute, comes to the rescue. The Emperor, however, is killed by a disgruntled gardener and Hari must resign in disgrace. He resumes full-time scientific research.

As he faces the trauma of turning sixty, Hari is at odds with the military junta that succeeds Cleon and heads a large staff in the Psychohistory Project in which some think he is due to retire. The Project is making great strides, thanks to a new invention, the Prime Radiant. Dors Venabili, Hari's protector and mate, uncovers a plot but only too late finds that it is aimed at her. Hari is never the same after losing his beloved, if frustrating, Dors. Growing infirm at 70, but is still vigorous in mind, Hari fights against budget cuts that threaten to end the Project. He leans on granddaughter Wanda, whom he discovers to be psychic. She provides the key to a Second and hidden Foundation to guide the Galaxy to restoration over 1,000 years. Having arranged the future, Hari dies alone at work at the age of 81.



Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 1-9

Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 1-9 Summary

Although he dislikes Eto Demerzel, First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, Yugo Amaryl warns Hari Seldon, who admires Eto, about the danger of Jo-Jo Joranum's preaching of social justice in hopes of supplanting Eto. Hari must keep abreast of politics. Doubting that they can perfect psychohistory in time to prevent the Empire's downfall, Hari and Yugo hope to minimize the effects. In Chapter 2 Hari obsesses about turning forty and lacking means of verifying any of their assumptions. Taking a normally-restful stroll, Hari comes upon a rowdy pro-Joranum demonstration led by Namarti. Hari uses force on Namarti's goons to disperse the illegal gathering.

Being charged by Eto to protect Hari, Dors Venabili in Chapter 3 is angry that her husband has tangled with Joranum's right-hand man, Hari is proud to have averted a riot that could have closed the University. Hari knows that because he can alter minds, Eto is untouchable, but Dors, in Chapter 4, argues that Joranum must be handled by the same law of minimalism that binds Eto, along with the Zeroth Law of Robotics: allow no harm to humanity as a whole. Eto cannot blithely change Joranum's mind. In Chapter 5 as soon as Hari arranges a meeting with Eto, Joranum requests one first.

In Chapter 6, after Namarti apologizes, Joranum dismisses Hari's disclaimers about psychohistory and looks forward to supporting his work when he replaces Eto. As a patriot, Hari must support him. In Chapter 7, Joranum and Namarti reflect on the success of their movement on Trantor. Joranum rejects pressuring Hari, lest Eto be alerted, and intends to work through Raych. In Chapter 8 Raych and Hari talk about Joranum's danger. In Chapter 9, Hari explains why Joranum cannot be a native of Nishaya but of Mycogen, and in Chapter 10, he continues his explanation where a would-be First Minister from Mycogen would be laughed at, but the information could bring an upsurge in bigotry.

Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 1-9 Analysis

Forward to Foundation opens with Hari Seldon and his closest collaborator in the psychohistory project discussing contemporary politics. It establishes that Hari is suffering under the administrative burden of heading the mathematics department at Streeling University and that this plus the patronage of the First Minister of the government allow the outwardly fruitless project to continue. The psychohistorians doubt that they can render their tool effective to head off a collapse of Imperial power, but want to ameliorate the effects on humanity in the wake of the fall. Yugo Amaryl, whom Hari acknowledges as the more perceptive and energetic worker, is a partisan of letting intuition supplement theory and calculation. Part 1 observes how Hari gradually adopts the same attitude.



Hari recalls four indispensable figures from *Prelude to Foundation*, which takes place some eight years earlier. These are Eto Demerzel, who serves currently as the First Minister, Dors Venabili, who is Hari's protector and beloved spouse, Yugo Amaryl and Raych Seldon, who is Hari's and Dors' adopted son. Each is developed as a rounded character in the course of Part 1, gradually, in layers of paint-like description.

Yugo sets up the conflict in Part 1, when he warns Hari, who admires the First Minister, that he is inadvertently courting rebellion and playing into the hands of one Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum, an insincere advocate of social justice and political equality. Part 1 is dominated by Hari's part in bringing down Joranum before he can replace Eto and dominate the Emperor whose ineffectualness is taken for granted. Whenever Cleon appears in person, however, he objects to this characterization and in large measure shows that it is untrue. He wants to take more decisive action than popular sentiment will allow, but he would rather do right than be beloved.

Hari and Eto spend much time promoting minimalism, a doctrine that stems from application of the Three Laws of Robotics and is applicable in all situations in a complex and chaotic universe. One must not inadvertently make things worse by taking precipitous actions whose side effects have not been calculated. Both the Court and Joranum want to control psychohistory - and refuse to believe that it cannot be developed into a practical political tool because they fear the unpredicted. Emperor Note that Yugo favors using intuition to supplement insufficiently precise psychohistory. Hari is at this point a scientific purist, but will come to find the key to ameliorating the future in enlisting the talents of psychics.

Hari and Cleon are the same age, and Hari from Chapter 2 onwards obsesses about aging. The theme that grows steadily more prominent and gloomy as the novel progresses. Hari at several points observes the ravages of time on Cleon in Part 1. On his home planet, Hari had mastered a martial art called Twisting, and uses it to good effect in the preceding novel, *Prelude to Foundation*. In this novel, Hari's declining abilities to defend himself physically form a yardstick. In Chapter 2, he encounters Namarti, a fiery follower of Joranum, whose political threat Hari has largely overlooked as he obsesses about having turned forty. After reacting instinctively in a macho fashion to break up an illegal rally on campus, Hari is troubled by the need to resort to physical force, which conflicts with his vocation as a scholar, but proud to have singlehandedly done something to prevent a scene that could have harmed the university and government. Furthermore, he notices that he is stiff and sore after. He grows morose later in the novel as his powers further diminish but never loses the macho attitude of his youth. Note that the incident leads to vengeance on Namarti's part later in the novel.

The scuffle allows Hari's wife, Dors Venabili to be introduced with maximum drama. She is charged in *Prelude to Foundation* to protect Hari by none less than Eto Demerzel. In Chapter 3 Dors is appalled that he puts himself at risk in public. Their long relationship is described in terms of a childless marriage, although they have together adopted Raych, now a twenty-year-old, who is as dear to them as any biological offspring. Their discussion, which continues in Chapter 4, deals obliquely with the fact that Eto is a robot. This becomes central as Part 1 draws to a climax. The childlessness of their



marriage points to the fact that Dors also is a robot, but this is not made explicit. Clearly they avoid the subject of robots whenever possible. It arises now because Hari assumes that because he is able to alter minds, Eto is untouchable. Dors disagrees.

They discuss a key concept of psychohistory, which is minimalism. Because any action can have unpredictable, chaotic effects, all actions must be as close to zero as possible. Dors talks in terms of the three Laws of Robotics, which run throughout Isaac Asimov's science fiction writing, and explains that Eto holds himself to an even more stringent Zeroth Law, which makes him responsible not just for the safety of individual humans but also for all of humanity. He has been burdened for millennia and now as First Minister must move with the greatest discretion, because his power is so vast. Hari decides, rather impetuously, to step in on Eto's behalf and do something about Joranum, as he has no such limitations. He suggests that he has avoided being seen with Eto for years and that this foolishness must end.

Chapter 5 finds Hari grouching about how being a department head complicates getting anything done; coordinating his and Eto's busy calendars is difficult. He yearns for the old days, when he could simply act. When the date is set, Hari is surprised to receive a request from Joranum to meet. It is couched in archaic and flowery language whose intent is not obvious. Dors explains the rationale for meeting: Hari has become a threat and Joranum wants to size him up in person. She opposes a meeting, but Hari argues that it will be held in his office, on campus, with strong, young Raych present.

Over the next five chapters, Hari (seconded, as it were by Raych) meets with Joranum (seconded by Namarti) and all of the principals plus Dors then reflect on the meaning of the meeting and how to move forward to promote their various goals. Pompous Joranum is candid about his political goals and assures Hari that he will support psychohistory when he takes office. Like the Emperor and First Minister, Joranum refuses to believe that psychohistory in eight years of intense work has yielded no practical tools. He appeals to Hari's patriotism to help him better the Galaxy. Talk about the Empire's accelerating decay points to the scenario that will grow throughout the novel and render psychohistory all the more vital to whomever rules.

Alone in Chapter 7, Joranum and Namarti discuss the progress of their movement and look forward to concentrating efforts on the most important world, Trantor, rather than placating the unimportant outer worlds as Eto does. The rest of Part 1 will illustrate how they execute their plans. Joranum targets Hari's son Raych, a native of the downtrodden Dahlian Sector, to win over Hari without direct pressure. Joranum illustrates this with a Nishayan folktale about a woodcutter's magic ax that no one but Venn can wield; by analogy, Hari alone is able to wield psychohistory. Joranum often uses tales from this obscure world to illustrate his points, a habit that eventually suggests to Hari a way to blunt his power. Hari will infiltrate Raych into Joranum's organization to plant disinformation.

In Chapter 8, Raych concedes to his father that as a Dahlian he naturally finds Joranum's populist message attractive but also believes that he is dangerous. Hari reduces it to a matter of charisma, which in later chapters will be shown to be only



partially true. Chapter 9 opens with an aside, as Dors muses that for all its frustrations, psychohistory will probably lengthen Hari's life. She has confided in Eto that she worries about the inevitable day when she will lose Hari. She has come unexpectedly to need this mortal. Mention is made that her hair has not begun to gray, another hint that she is a robot.

Joranum having earlier researched Hari in public records, now becomes the subject of Hari's research, expensive both in terms of time and money - which shows how intent Hari is on the question into Joranum's past. Hari is convinced that Joranum cannot hail from remote Nishaya as he claims. The reasons include his accent-free use of the Galactic Standard language, whereas Hari retains traces of his home dialect and the Nishayans he has called all have heavy accents. Furthermore, Joranum's perfect hair suggests that it is artificial. Mycogenians, Hari and Dors know from their sojourn in the sector in the previous novel, depilate their entire bodies as a religious duty. When some leave the sector, which earns them the label Breakaway as traitors or heretics who wear wigs. That would be too easily proven in Joranum's case and so he has transplants.

Hari describes objectively the good qualities of the Mycogenians before noting that no one outside Mycogen would accept a Mycogenian First Minister because of perceptions of that culture's closed, fanatic religion. Even Breakaways are laughed at for this, and laughter is death to a politician. Note this maxim as Hari uses laughter as a political tool at the end of Part 1. Hari worries, however, about how this information could promote bigotry and returns to the necessity of practicing minimalism at all times, to avoid calamitous unforeseen consequences. Claiming that while psychohistory is not yet functional, he has visited and researched enough sectors of Trantor to understand the complex movements that are in play. The dirty politics of rumor and innuendo, playing on passions, takes center stage in the second half of Part 1.



Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 11-25

Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 11-25 Summary

In Chapter 11, Hari and the reclusive Eto meet, with the Emperor's blessing. Eto asks Hari to call him Daneel. They talk about Dors, Raych, and Yugo before turning to Joranum, who Eto accepts is a great danger. He claims to be working to thwart Joranum, and approves of Hari's worry about unleashing bigotry and anarchy by revealing Joranum's origins. Eto needs guidance from psychohistory to avert disaster. Hari leaves the meeting in despair. In Chapter 12 Hari spends days on the computer to sample news that might signal imminent collapse. Dahl for the first time has elected three Joranumites to its Council. Raych has already seen this and thinks it just, as Dahllites have no equality or anything to lose. Hari asks Raych to meet Joranum in Dahl and cajole him into revealing his true thoughts. In Chapter 13, Dors reacts with cold disapproval when Hari reveals that he expects Raych's famous charm to win over Joranum and save the Empire. Hari is working on intuition.

In Chapter 14, Raych finds vile Billibotton unchanged from eight years ago. Huge holes fill his memory. Only the smells are familiar. In a bakery he splurges on a rare treat in his youth, when another customer, backed by two armed toughs, questions why he is there and demands a pay-off. Raych warns them of his Twisting abilities before attacking, disabling two. Uniformed members of the Joranum Guard arrive, and take Raych into custody for carrying knives. In Chapter 15 the Emperor summons Eto to talk about Joranum. Eto cautions against removing the politician, whose danger lies in his growing popularity. The times are delicate. Cleon recalls hearing about Hari's action against a troublemaker, asks about progress on fortune-telling, and demands to see him. In Chapter 16 Raych sits in a cell listening to Guardsman Sander Nee's rote lecture about civil order, agrees with him, and asks to see Joranum. Nee doubts that Raych has a famous professor as his foster father, but Cpl. Quinber recognizes Yugo's story and agrees to pass along a coded message to Joranum.

In Chapter 17, Hari feels nostalgic as he rides through the rain to the Palace. He finds Cleon sadly aged. They meet in private and without formalities. Hari maintains that while he continues to toy with psychohistory he has made no progress in forming a tool. Chaos is too pervasive. Cleon wants Joranum dealt with, but Eto is too cautious. When Cleon mentions the incident at the University and is convinced that psychohistory is behind it, Hari reveals that Raych is in Dahl, looking for something of use. Cleon expects action. In Chapter 18 Raych meets Joranum asks Raych why Hari would have sent him. Declaring himself an oppressed Dahllite, Raych reveals that Eto is a robot. Namarti declares robots legends and nonsense, but Joranum realizes perceptions mean more than reality. As a human, Raych does not want robots running the Empire, a sentiment that Joranum decides to use in a media blitz against Eto, who will be powerless to respond. Promising equality of sectors and a good position for Raych when he comes to power, Joranum returns him to his father, asking for news about psychohistory.



In Chapter 19, Cleon goes to Eto's office to ask about the anti-robot flier, which denigrates them both. He demands that ancient capital punishment laws be quickly enforced, preferring to be feared rather than loved. Hearing that this will cause rebellion, Cleon demands to talk with Hari who, in Chapter 20, is nervous as the holographic connection is established. Cleon orders Hari to drop his games and fix things. Hari advises ignoring Joranum and biding their time. Convinced that psychohistory is at work, Cleon signs off, not realizing that Hari is guided only by intuition. In Chapter 21 Dors worries that Joranum could soon seize power, but Hari predicts that his movement will collapse, partly because Raych has leaked the information about Eto, who will end a press conference by laughing off the claims and Sunmaster Fourteen will quietly deal with Joranum. In Chapter 22 Eto practices laughing on cue for Hari and Dors before performing on camera, infectiously. In Chapter 23, Hari believes that the ploy has worked.

In Chapter 24, Hari and Cleon discuss Sunmaster's denunciation of Joranum. Hari advises to make Joranum choose between Mycogenian justice and cowardly exile to Nishaya. Overjoyed at this clever solution, Cleon announces that Hari is the new First Minister. In Chapter 25, Eto tells Hari that the Three Laws have crippled him and Hari is the logical successor because Cleon believes in psychohistory and will readily follow Hari's intuition. Raych should be put to work instituting social justice to lessen his guilt over helping bring down Joranum. Daneel is off to protect humanity elsewhere in the Galaxy.

Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapters 11-25 Analysis

The next fifteen chapters, some as short as one page, show how Hari directs the Joranum crisis to a happy solution, largely based on instinct. Having concealed their friendship for eight years, Hari and Eto meet outside the Palace grounds, with the upcoming Decennial Convention as a cover. Eto is an amateur mathematician and involved in planning, should anyone question. A number of times the previous Convention is described as the beginning of Hari's fame but also of his frustration that the paper he presented cannot be put into practice. He also recalls meeting the Emperor in informal conditions and being charged to work hard on the secret project.

During the meeting it is revealed that Eto is R. Daneel Olivaw, the most frequently encountered character in Asimov's extensive body of science fiction. Daneel, as he likes Hari to call him in private, asks about Dors and about Hari's protégés, allowing Hari to describe how Yugo is surpassing him as a practitioner of psychohistory, thanks in part to Yugo's reliance on intuition. Hari worries that Raych, having sprung from an underprivileged sector, is susceptible to Joranum's propaganda. Hari thanks Eto for giving him Dors as a protector who has evolved into a beloved spouse. Eto is pleased that this has happened, but is also surprised. Eto recalls Raych's charm, which gets them all out of deadly danger in the previous novel. That charm will be put to the test in coming chapters.



As they turn to business, Eto accepts with frustrating dispassion that he is in danger both as a person and as a politician from Joranum, but claims to be doing all he can to avert the threat. He agrees that he is guided by minimalism and restrained by the Three Laws of Robotics. He needs Hari to provide some guidance, however imperfect from psychohistory that will prove better than mere guesswork. Hari is depressed that he must work out the entire system before any part of it can be of practical use. Eto warns Hari that the Emperor is still interested in him and may invite him to a meeting, as he had eight years earlier.

Chapter 12 establishes that Hari is taking valuable time away from both research and administration to study news from around the Galaxy and finds the most troublesome developments in Dahl Sector, a Joranumite stronghold. Knowing that everyone close to him will object, he enlists Raych for an undercover political mission to Dahl. Hari is concerned that as a Dahlite, Raych could be perverted by Joranum's slogans. The chapter alludes to Hari's and Dors' visit to Dahl in the previous novel. Growing conflicts with Dors seem inevitable. Recall that Joranum intends to use Raych as a way to enlist Hari. This too guarantees complications if not outright conflicts.

The first conflict comes in Chapter 13, as Dors adopts a cold, analytic tone about Hari's harebrained scheme. Hari is surprised that she is not more emotional - perhaps another sign of robot nature - and at how readily she accepts the prejudiced stereotypes about Dahl as criminals. Dors responds by citing easily-verified statistics and Hari must admit a correlation between poverty and crime everywhere in the Galaxy. Hari is loath to reveal the reasons for Raych's mission, but eventually declares that it is an intuition-based gamble that he has taken because no one else has any ideas. He expects of Raych nothing less than the salvation of the Galaxy, the means going largely unstated. Hari's reticence becomes clear at the end of Part 1, when the boldness of his reverse psychology is revealed. The chapter ends with Hari fighting worries about Raych's abilities and beliefs.

Chapter 14 shows Raych back in his native Billibotton, the roughest part of Dahl Sector. He reminisces, finding it much the same but not quite consistent with memories from his youth. The one thing that is the same are the sweet smells of confections. Predictably, Raych is accosted in a bakery, recalls how he, his mother, and his father had defeated ten muggers in Billibotton long ago (an adequately detailed reference to a key incident in *Prelude to Foundation*), and then lashes out with speed more blinding than Hari had used at the University to disable two armed toughs. The authorities are immediately on the spot and arrest Raych as an outside troublemaker, even as he demands to see Joranum. The sector no longer has a police force. Joranum's forces keep the peace, wearing uniforms that Raych finds vaguely amusing.

Chapters begin alternating between focus on Raych dealing with his situation in Billibotton and Cleon and, Eto, and Hari ruminating about the growing crisis. Chapter 15 portrays Emperor Cleon feeling his forty years and resenting Eto's unchanging appearance. Recall that Cleon and Hari are born in the same year and share concerns at the midlife point. The chapter conveniently summarizes Cleon's long reign, assisted as had his father been by Eto. Cleon is anxious not to feel like a figurehead, as many



emperors have been. He worries that Joranum might want to overthrow him and wants him simply eliminated. Without citing the doctrine of minimalism, Eto cautions against removing the popular politician and assures the monarch that he is on top of the matter. Cleon surprises Eto by revealing that he has heard about and approves of Hari's bold actions on the University grounds. He claims to have retained for eight years interest in this remarkable mathematician, whom he had met at the last Decennial Convention. He cannot believe that Hari has made no progress on what he calls his fortune-telling project.

Chapter 16 returns to Raych's story line as he deals with a less-than-intelligent police investigator and realizes that there is no one left in Billibotton to verify his identity. Sander Nee has never heard of Hari Seldon and doubts that a local boy could have been adopted by a famous mathematician. Hearing that a second denizen of the heatsinks now works at the University, Nee is even more doubtful. Raych does not remember the streets well enough to hope that an escape attempt might work, but finds the arresting officer, who had seemed obtuse, more intelligent and cooperative. Yugo's story has become a local legend. Cpl. Quinber agrees to carry a three-line message to Joranum's camp: his name, his father's name, and the single word psychohistory. Raych can only hope that it reaches someone who understands the significance. Recall again that Joranum wants to make contact with Raych to use him as his own tool, so the chances are far better than Raych might suspect. Hari, who plans this gambit, is unaware of Joranum's plans, but everything falls into place.

Chapter 17 opens with Hari riding to the Palace, recalling his first trip there under armed guard and feeling nostalgic for true weather. He had experienced that on his home planet and briefly in the Palace grounds eight years before, but most of his time on Trantor has passed under domes in artificial weather. Hari is shocked at how Cleon has aged and is wary about saying anything that could get him eliminated - although he notes that Cleon has no reputation for violence. Hari again maintains that psychohistory cannot be made into a useful political tool, because chaos is pervasive. Cleon demands that Hari do something to prevent a takeover by Joranum. He refuses to be a figurehead emperor. Hari reveals that Raych is on a mission. Cleon wants to be kept up to date and rejects the possibility of failure.

In Chapter 18, somehow freed, Raych attends a public event where Joranum is scheduled to speak and gives him information to use against Eto: he is a robot. The reasons for Raych's belief are shallow, but Joranum instantly sees the political advantage: Eto cannot respond to the charge. The chapter brings out how robots had once been common in Mycogen Sector before being wiped out. They now inhabit Mycogenian folklore. Salient features are that some robots are human-like and live forever. Namarti objects but is overridden. Note that Raych has taken mental note of the fact that Namarti is the brains of the operation and Joranum the charisma. Joranum is being set up for a fall that he cannot anticipate. Raych blurts out a slogan that Joranum exploits, having common folk from every downtrodden sector declare in their own accent that as humans they refuse to be ruled by a robot.



Chapter 19 emphasizes that, having received a copy of the flier that Joranum produces against Eto, Cleon drops all pretension of office to hurry to Eto's office rather than to demand that he, per protocol, appear in the Small Palaces. His entourage is amazed. The scene begins laying out the Palace grounds, preparatory to Part 2's dramatic conclusion. Cleon is enraged that anyone would claim that Eto is a robot and again wants to take action. Eto cautions against the dangers of anarchy and claims to be considering how best to respond. He sees that Joranum has painted him into a corner, threatening his official dignity. Cleon orders that Eto to set up holographic communications with Hari.

Chapter 20 reinforces the image of Cleon as subject to snap decisions and unwilling to believe that psychohistory is impossible. He misunderstands Hari's intuition that Joranum, if given enough rope, will hang himself, and concludes that Hari has matters actively under control. One wonders how carefully father and son have prepared the robot angle that Raych has successfully fed to Joranum until the answer appears in Chapter 21. His mind's ability to disclose to anyone that Eto is a robot being blocked hypnotically long ago, Hari has forced himself to convince Raych that Eto is not a robot. Raych is naturally suspicious and lies to Joranum on purpose, declaring that Eto is a robot. Joranum readily swallows the story because robots so fill Mycogenian folklore. Hari meanwhile works behind the scenes to gather detailed, damning information on Joranum, which he has turned over to Sunmaster Fourteen. When Sunmaster deals with his Breakaway, no one will care because Dahl Sector is so despised. The danger of bigotry and rioting is averted. To complete the package, Hari has convinced Eto to end a press conference by laughing at the question of his being a robot. This is so un-robotic a thing to do that people will be convinced. Hari emphasizes that he is operating on the basis of intuition, but no one will accept that psychohistory is not involved.

Brief Chapter 22 provides levity as Hari and Dors coach Eto on how to laugh convincingly. Eto is suddenly a stereotypically naïve machine intelligence, missing all but the literal sense of things. They explain the need to produce tears to make his eyes sparkle. Eto speaks seriously throughout a detailed press conference and then laughs off the question about being a robot. In even briefer Chapter 23, Hari tells Dors why he thinks that the ploy has worked, but cautions that it will take time for the public to abandon Joranum fully. In Chapter 24, Hari discloses to Cleon that he has denounced Joranum to Sunmaster and plans to make Joranum choose between being turned over to Sunmaster for summary Mycogenian justice (which could include a death sentence) or accepting exile on Nishaya. Either way, Joranum seems finished as a politician, but his followers could rally. History knows many such instances. As will be seen later in the novel, this in fact happens with Namarti at the helm. Hari argues against making a martyr of Joranum, without explicating the expediency of that position.

Cleon reveals that Eto's retirement is a *fait accompli* and names Hari as his successor. In the final chapter, Eto, who has reverted to the named Daneel, explains why Hari is the logical successor and goes off to other duties on behalf of humankind. He disappears before Hari can say a proper goodbye. The increase in Hari's burden can only be imagined.



Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 1-9

Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 1-9 Summary

When Gardner Mandell Gruber meets Hari in the Palace gardens, they talk about the glories of nature. Gruber does not want to be promoted to Chief Gardener and be forced to work indoors. Chapter 2 describes how the high level of security guards against outside threats, but not disgruntled insiders. Dors swiftly disarms a would-be assassin and gets him to name his cohorts, by threat of torture. Outraged, Cleon sentences them to death as an example. Dors' reputation as a Tiger Woman grows.

In Chapter 3, Hari is happy with how ten years of advanced computers have advanced the project. Recently they have begun getting around chaos through a device, the Prime Radiant, that allows fuzzy glimpses into past. When Yugo concludes that civil war can break out on Trantor or in the Outer Worlds, but not in both, Hari is willing to let the Periphery go, to ensure their own vital work. Having studied the almost-universal phenomenon of industrialization, Hari concludes that it is overheating the Galaxy. They hope, after the Fall, to restore humanity on a different path. In Chapter 4, when Dors questions why the Periphery must be lost, Hari says that conditions are right for a crisis. He is actively stabilizing Trantor's crumbling infrastructure. Cleon is young but has no adequate heir and, while Joranum is dead, his followers could repeat the survival of the Globalists on Helicon some 2,400 years ago. Hari rejects the idea that remnant Joranumites might plot to kill Cleon.

In Chapter 5, Namarti gathers the surviving Joranumite leadership, including old Kaspal Kaspalov, who questions the wisdom and morality of Namarti's policy of fostering and exploiting breakdowns in the infrastructure around Trantor to foment popular discontent, preparatory to a surgical strike against the government. Ordered to destroy ventilation in Anemoria Sector any way he wishes, Kaspalov reluctantly agrees. Namarti keeps to himself that his network has begun infiltrating the Palace.

In Chapter 6, when Dors explains how the Palace grounds come to be undomed, Hari wonders how psychohistory would deal with such whimsy. Chatting in the Garden with Hari, Cleon laments getting older and is amazed that Hari knows Gruber by name and considers him a friend. When Hari tells of Gruber's bravery during the murder attempt, Cleon insists on rewarding Gruber. When Cleon asks psychohistory's perspective on growing trouble on Trantor, Hari speaks only about what common sense indicates. This is just what he needs to prevent. In Chapter 7 Raych enjoys a rare dinner with his parents. Working in the Ministry of Population, Raych is frustrated by every sector's jealousy and greed. Hari talks of historical conditioning and admits feeling guilty about getting Raych to entrap Joranum. Now Raych is seeing first hand how hard it is to implement equality and justice. Raych realizes that Hari must stack the cards, including through the use of psychohistory. Hari excludes Dors from an after-dinner meeting about state secrets. She hopes that Hari will not throw Raych to the wolves, but Hari must.



In Chapter 8, behind closed doors, Hari reveals that automatic damage control has failed in three recent minor earthquakes, resulting in costly damage to the dome, and worries about sabotage during a more dangerous event like a volcano. Using a computerized map, Hari shows suspicious patterns of breakdowns targeting the most heavily populated sectors in clusters and sequences chosen to maximize disruption and popular frustration. The recent murder in Wye, where no disruptions have occurred, of one Kaspal Kaspalov, whose last word is "Chief," suggests a resurgence of the Joranamites. Unable to order Security to investigate, Hari send Raych to under cover, shorn of his mustache and disguised, in case he runs into Namarti. In Chapter 9 Cleon informs Gruber of his elevation to Chief Gardener. Cleon favors swift execution for anyone caught tampering, but Hari argues that it would lead to insurrection requiring an inefficient military takeover of industry.

Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 1-9 Analysis

Part 2 jumps forward to ten years into Hari's tenure as First Minister. It opens by introducing Gardner First Class Mandell Gruber, a man content with his work, talking in the glorious gardens of the Imperial Palace. These grounds are the only parts of Trantor not covered by domes. Gruber hopes that Hari will not, as rumored, promote him to Chief Gardener, an indoors job. In terms of the unfolding plot, note that natives of Trantor are ineligible to work in the gardens. It will later be explained that this is because those who live under domes never develop a feel for nature. In practical terms, it will require that a new team of recruits will enter the Palace with minimal security checking.

Chapter 2 reveals that long ago emperors used to walk among their subjects, but now security is so strict that danger to the Emperor and his First Minister can only come from the staff itself. After briefly noting that Dors has increased the level of her protection for her husband, Asimov shows her in action, subduing a would-be assassin. She is blindingly fast and utterly savage. She objects, however, to his and his cohorts being sentenced to death by show trials. Hari surprisingly approves, because he still represents the best hope of perfecting psychohistory. More surprisingly, he is showing pride in his invention and wanting credit for it. Dors is said to be developing a reputation as a Tiger Woman, an aspect that is emphasized in Part 3, "Dors Venabili." Note the gardener who tries to help Dors subdue the assassin with his rake.

Chapter 3 reviews progress made on psychohistory over the last decade and introduces a tool, the Prime Radiant, that Hari and Yugo hope will allow at least fuzzy determination of alternate futures that might be manipulated for the optimum. The moral question of doing so is only lightly touched upon. Yugo is developed as a character reaching middle age, slowing mentally, and deteriorating physically as a result of being a bachelor and workaholic. Hari is kept trim by Dors. When Yugo uses the Prime Radiant to display why he thinks that civil war can occur only on Trantor or in the Outer Worlds but not in both, Hari is willing to let the Periphery go, because it is vital that psychohistory, being developed on Trantor, cannot be endangered. This suggests, through dark glass as it were, that the project must move off Trantor to be perfected. Hari and Yugo disagree about the the value of nature where Hari's views have already



been well-developed and how industrialization is at odds with nature. Hari sees an overheated Galaxy that must fall and be reconstituted. When Yugo does miss his reference to Sisyphus in Greek mythology, Hari talks about pushing a bolder repeatedly - endlessly - uphill. Yugo is uninterested in history, but hopes a completely new civilization can be forged. In the meantime, Hari, the First Minister responsible for managing the Galaxy, resolves to let the Periphery break away. Note that the chapter begins with Hari envying Yugo's detachment and fearing that he himself cannot treat humanity as faceless masses. Note also that Gruber is identified as Hari's defender during the assassination attempt and is a breath of fresh air in his bureaucratic life. By keeping Gruber in the reader's mind, Asimov points to his unlikely importance later in Part 2.

Chapter 4 continues examining the theory of inevitable Fall either on Trantor or in the Periphery. Dors is Hari's foil for explaining, after Asimov summarizes why she is less than pleased that Hari is First Minister: it makes her job of protecting him harder. Assassination is much on her mind and, when it applies to Cleon, is declared by Hari to be a taboo subject. This points ominously to the likelihood of it occurring. Note that Cleon's son has no aptitude for ruling. As always, Hari maintains psychohistory's imperfection as a tool. It points only to conditions being ripe for trouble. Rebellion and civil war in the Outer Planets or a massive breakdown of the infrastructure on Trantor could spark the final fall. Right for something out there to precipitate a crisis. Hari is making manual adjustments to stabilize Trantor, while purposefully doing nothing to direct the Periphery. This is a conscious step beyond mere observation.

Having shown no penchant for parables or historical anecdotes before his reference to Sisyphus, Hari now recalls the case of the Globalists on his native Helicon. They are thoroughly benighted xenophobes who deny that humanity exists beyond their own planet. The description closely matches those Americans who denied that NASA put astronauts on the moon; they argue without proof that it is a carefully-staged deception. These Globalists flourish some 2,400 years earlier, never exceeding 10% of the population, but by their fanaticism come close to dominating the vast, apathetic majority. The movement fails when Globalist policies destroy Helicon's economy, but still, millennia later, remnants occasionally gather to celebrate the ideology. Hari warns that Joranumites could again rise, after their leader's death. Dors warns that if this is so, they might want to assassinate Cleon.

Chapter 5 looks at the core of a restored Joranumite movement, headquartered in Wye Sector, historically known for rebellion against the current Emperor. Namarti is the self-appointed Chief and resents many of the useless old-timers who had gathered around Joranum. Chief among these is Kaspal Kaspalov. His questioning both the practical wisdom and the morality exploiting breakdowns in the infrastructure around Trantor to foment popular discontent against the government, helps the reader understand the nature of the rebellion. Note that Namarti considers psychohistory a figment of superstitious Joranum's imagination. He sees no way that blame can fall on anyone other than Hari, who is a mere mathematician and no administrator. Kaspalov reluctantly accepts his role but leaves Namarti suspicious. That violence will befall him as it did dissidents like Leon Trotsky against Stalin seems inevitable. Namarti readily



admits that the venerated founder of the party had made foolish, fatal mistakes, something the old guard denies. The chapter ends with Namarti musing on his tentative penetration of the Palace staff itself.

Chapter 7 shows Raych visiting the plush First Minister's Palace for a rare dinner with his parents. He contemplates how he is now roughly Hari's age when they first meet and wonders at how he could have come so far, to have a job in the Ministry of Population. In a few, packed paragraphs, Asimov summarizes their meeting and adventures from the previous novel. He wonders why Hari is so much aged while Dors is virtually unchanged. Over dinner they discuss the emotions raised in both father and son by Raych's mission to entrap Joranum. Raych wonders candidly if he has been placed in his frustrating job to teach him a lesson about the idealism he had shared with Joranum. Dors tells him that he can only do his best to fight the worst evils in society. Raych sees everyone in every sector talking big but seeking its own gain. Hari talks about history never before facing up to implementing equality and justice. The Chapter ends with Hari taking Raych aside to talk about something that may well throw Raych to the wolves. Additional conflict between Hari and Dors is certain.

In Chapter 8, Hari uses yet another high-tech gadget, a military-quality computerized map of Trantor, to demonstrate patterns in disruptions in the infrastructure that are most certainly caused by humans. He describes automated defenses against natural disasters caused by volcanism and earthquakes, providing further background on the development of Trantor as a vastly overpopulated planet. Oddly, Wye Sector is unaffected and disruptions elsewhere suggest that someone wants to maximize the discomfort to the population. The discovery of Kaspalov's body - which comes as no surprise after his confrontation with Namarti - leads Hari to send Raych in to investigate. Hari's reasons for not using the Security forces (he lacks Eto's stature within the government) seem shallow, but that solution would lack drama. When Hari insists that Raych shave his prized mustache as part of a disguise, lest Namarti recognize him, Raych melodramatically declares that he would rather die. He likens it to castration. His father wins and Raych heads out on a second undercover mission.

Chapter 9 opens with a disquisition on Cleon's priding himself in having a democratic spirit and resenting that his advisors equate forceful action with despotism. He longs for the days when emperors could walk safely among the people. To prove his democratic spirit, Cleon orders Gruber brought into the Gardens at his own convenience, to bestow upon him elevation to Chief Gardener. Cleon idealizes the desk job, caring not at all that Gruber is unhappy. In the course of the meeting, Cleon advises Hari that a few exemplary executions of saboteurs would be useful, Hari argues that this will only lead to insurrection, which will require military takeovers that will render industries even less efficient and productive, causing further turmoil. Gruber's reintroduction and increased bitterness at being a helpless pawn should be seen in light of Namarti's moving to infiltrate the Palace staff. Security concerns have run throughout Part 2, suggesting that something is about to happen. Cleon laughs at Hari's reluctance even to speak the word assassination. Cleon fails to see that benign despotism is still despotism. Gruber is powerless to keep from losing the work that he loves. Notice that Cleon is unaware of the requirement that gardeners be recruited from outside Trantor.



Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 10-25

Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 10-25 Summary

In Chapter 10, Raych feels baby-faced and disgusted as he settles into the hotel in Wye in which Kaspalov had lived. Overworked and corrupt, local authorities make nothing of Kaspalov's murder, so Raych plans to ask around about Kaspalov, hoping to attract someone's attention. In Chapter 11 Raych in a bar is approached by an attractive prostitute, Manella, who after claiming nervously not to recognize the name Kaspalov or the word Joranumite, walks away to talk to a clean-shaven, middle-aged man at another table. This man comes over to talk about Joranum.

In Chapter 12, Raych, calling himself Planchet, sizes up the man who doubts that he is old enough to be a Joranumite. Raych parrots the party line, avoiding pitfalls and feigning ignorance as needed. He claims to be willing to fight for his beliefs. Presently, he only needs a job and is willing to take anything. In Chapter 13 Gleb Andorin reports to Namarti his confidence that this idealistic youth will do anything required of him. Andorin doubts that the gods are, indeed, guiding his destiny to eliminate Joranum's arch-enemy, Hari Seldon, and take over his office. Having learned that there is to be a new Chief Gardener, Namatri prepares to infiltrate the multitude of new gardeners who will be brought in, subject to minimal security. Talking after sex in Chapter 14, Manella refuses payment and is loath to talk much about Andorin. She offers to help Raych get a better job working directly for him.

In Chapter 15, Hari complains to Dors about not having known about Andorin until recently. He has too much to deal with. Security has files on him but doubts that he or the Joramunites in general pose any threat. Hari intends to analyze whatever data there are by psychohistorical equations. Hari admits to having received a roundabout message from Raych, a risk he hopes Raych will not repeat. Adding that Raych is involved with a prostitute who also knows Andorin, Hari reminds Dors that Raych is a grown man and doubtless not a virgin.

In Chapter 16, a decade of planning has left Namarti agitated and sour. Andorin, before introducing Raych, wants assurance that he will become Emperor at the same time as Namarti becomes First Minister. As the senior member of the Wyan royalty and a massive contributor to reviving the movement to demand this. He fears a Kaspalov-like double-cross, however. Namarti points out the personal danger to Andorin from the Imperial Guard unless he is first installed as First Minister and promises to expedite the change on the throne once in office. Andorin claims that the new man that he has enlisted is an idealist, not bright, but fearless and trust-inspiring. Raych is brought in Chapter 17 and he and Namarti instantly recognize one another but give no sign. Namarti is satisfied with Raych's coached answers but in private tells Andorin that the gods have favored him, for this is Hari's son, doubtless a spy, whom they will use.



In Chapter 18, Manella is sorry that Andorin forbids her to see Raych any more, lest he talk during sex. Depressed at this parting, Raych concentrates on learning Namarti's plan. He is too closely watched to risk communicating with Hari. In Chapter 19, Hari is frustrated to have heard nothing more from Raych. Gruber, distraught, comes to beg his way out of the appointment. Hari fails to point out the good aspects of the job, declares that he dislikes his own job and is powerless to get Cleon to change his mind. In Chapter 20 Hari asks what Gruber means by hiring new gardeners. Gruber explains the tradition of new hiring when there is a change in Chief Gardeners. Applications are taken from the outer worlds but never Trantor. Hari demands data on all new hires, believing that he has narrowly averted disaster.

In Chapter 21, Namarti says that Andorin and Hari will infiltrate the Palace as gardeners. Raych will kill Hari at a welcoming ceremony and Andorin will dispatch Rayce. Everything is planned, but there is risk. In Chapter 22 Andorin keeps Raych separate from the other gardeners before revealing that Raych has been dosed with Desperance, an illegal chemical that stimulates hopelessness and that Namarti knows his identity. Andorin convinces Raych that he cannot escape shooting Hari. In Chapter 23, Hari forbids Dors to accompany him to the garden ceremony, acknowledges Tantorians among the gardeners, but forbids arresting them until he knows why, and reveals that Raych is among them. Hari refuses to give away their hand.

In Chapter 24, a glazed Gruber introduces Hari to the lines of recruits. Raych stands rigid in the first row, showing no recognition of Hari, which Hari takes as a good sign. As Hari gives his speech, he recognizes Andronin from holographs, as Raych and Andronin draw blasters. In Chapter 25 Hari is amazed to hear a shot and yet remain alive. Raych stands motionless but Andorin has collapsed, shot dead by Manella, disguised as a gardener. She identifies herself as a security officer and tells Hari about treating Desperance. Hari races to see Cleon, whom he finds dead. Gruber has grabbed Andorin's blaster and used it, to avoid becoming Chief Gardener.

Part 2, Cleon I, Chapters 10-25 Analysis

Chapter 10 moves the focus to Wye Sector, where Raych stands in front of a mirror in his seedy hotel, bemoaning his appearance. It features a civics lesson on how for centuries murder rates have risen while police pay has fallen. To survive, officers practice graft. Taxpayer opposition has prevented Hari from raising salaries while demanding honesty, so it is little surprise that Wye police view Kaspalov as just another statistic and perform a minimal investigation. Raych, obeying stereotypes, plans on acting conspicuous in the places that Kaspalov had haunted, hoping to attract someone's attention.

Raych is immediately successful in Chapter 11, attracting a pretty woman who calls herself Manella and asks if he is new in town. She is nervous when Raych asks his questions, inwardly wishing that his assignment does not allow him to get involved, but claims ignorance. She quickly goes off to pass information to someone who wants to talk about the Joranumites. The Chapter opens with observations about how Trantor is



generally a puritanical planet, with the details of puritanism varying from place to place. Wye bans alcohol but has other stimulants that are not to Raych's taste. Asimov goes out of his way at this point not to call Manella a prostitute while making clear that she is one. Macho Raych has never had to pay for sex and is offended at the idea, when she asks if he is broke. He forgets that he has said he needs a job.

In Chapter 12, Raych, calling himself Planchet, born in Millimaru but brought up in Dahl, unemployed, willing to do anything, and believing that there are many Joranumites in Wye, talks with Manella's friend. In writing that is much improved over the hackneyed set up in previous chapters, they circle one another in a verbal bout that coyly reveals that the rebellion is indeed alive. Raych carefully avoids openly treasonous talk about Cleon and claims ignorance of Hari Seldon, although Hari is at least as prominent on holovision as Joranum had ever been where a holovision is Raych's claimed source of knowledge about the man who preaches equality. Raych feigns ignorance of what democracy might mean. He is willing to kill for his beliefs, if he can settle on any beliefs.

Chapter 13 introduces Gleb Andorin, another of Namarti's cohorts, who like Kaspalov disputes Namarti's policies of disrupting services. Most of the chapter is given over to Namarti's new-found mysticism. He describes to Andorin how billions of humans believe in supernatural beings that help them realize their destiny. Many humans also believe in a single home planet for the entire human race, an idea that Hari earlier mentions when talking about mythologies on his home planet. Andorin dismisses all such myths as baseless. He is confident, however, that the naïve young man whom Manella has brought to him, will prove a good worker for the cause. Namarti, drooling with enthusiasm, outlines how he will you relaxed security surrounding a change in the gardening staff to eliminate Hari. The pieces of Part 2's puzzle begin falling swiftly into place. Note that Cleon is to be retained as a figurehead. The patterns of disruption are meant to ruin Hari's reputation so that when he is eliminated, the people will approve. Namarti is revenging his late boss.

Brief Chapter 14 serves only to establish that Manella and Raych enjoy a non-professional sexual friendship. She is tight-lipped about Andorin, but offers to help Raych get a better job with him. Recall that Andronin, who knows nothing about their relationship, is intent on using Raych as an assassin. This can only serve his purposes.

In Chapter 15, Hari talks to Dors, who remains cold as a result of Raych's latest mission. He describes Andorin as an aristocrat who seems out of place among the lower-class Joranumites and complains a second time about the laxity of Security and how many important matters slip through the cracks in the massive bureaucracy. When Dors suggests sarcastically that Hari might not be a good First Minister, he readily agrees that there have been few less suited throughout history. Hari is on the defensive about using Raych for the mission anyway, but particularly about revealing his relations with Manella. Dors is angry, but he reminds her that Raych is not likely a virgin. It would seem that Dors shares the planetary puritanism. Spotty security data shows that Andorin is related to the infamous Mayor Rashelle, whose rebellion against Cleon some 18 years earlier has already been mentioned. Hari had recalled how Raych's youthful charm had been instrumental in saving their lives during the attempted coup.



Chapter 16 reveals the essence of Namarti's plan, ten years in the making. He denies to Andorin that it is simply a vendetta against Hari. Hari must be killed and replaced by Andorin. They can spread rumors that Cleon has grown tired of his incompetent First Minister and eliminated him. Most people can be made to approve. Andorin will then find a safe means of eliminating Cleon and putting Andorin on the throne, to reestablish the ancient Wyan Dynasty. Proceeding in the opposite order would endanger Andorin, as the loyal Imperial Guards will purge would-be successors. Namarti's view colorfully echoes the cold pragmatism of Niccolo Machiavelli and the experience of Byzantine and Ottoman rulers and usurpers. The one factor that he misses is the military, which as will be seen in Part 3, does indeed step in and run the Empire for a period before restoring a weak monarchy. Neither Andorin nor Namarti realize what the reader does at this point: Raych/Planchet is the tool that Namarti and Joranum before him have long been looking to control. Waiting for the next chapter to reveal this is delightful.

Chapter 17 focuses on Raych's concerns as he instantly recognizes the only slightly-aged Namarti. He keeps his eyes averted, hoping that a man of such character will not look anyone in the eye. Andorin questions Raych, accepts his declaration of loyalty, and orders him taken care of by henchmen. Namarti has, of course, recognized the young man who is the cause of Joranum's downfall, which he reveals privately to Andorin. Andorin is instantly afraid for his life and surprised when Namarti smiles and even laughs, congratulating Andorin on being the agent of the gods, giving them the final key to victory. It is a wonderful and nuanced depiction of the manic swing in bipolar disease. The reader senses that something horrible is already planned for whomever is selected to kill Hari Seldon.

Chapter 18 shows a last intimate encounter between Raych and Manella, who has been told by Andorin to break it off. She supposes that he is afraid of pillow talk, observing that males are always interested in what others say and do. Raych cannot speak his feelings, although when Manella observes that Andorin seems to be getting tired of her, Raych gallantly declares that that is impossible. He realizes that the order probably indicates that the secret mission is near and he has no way of warning Hari. Note that Manella talks with awe about the Imperial Sector, which she claims never to have seen.

Chapters 19 and 20 focus on Gruber, who wants desperately not to be promoted to Chief Gardener. Hari is too busy to see him but feels obliged to comfort his old defender and friend. In the end, Hari claims that the state of the vast gardens and parks is the only hands-on decision that Cleon is allowed to make and he guards the right jealously. Cleon cannot honorably change his order and Hari would suffer if he suggested it. Gruber has simply to accept his fate and make the best of it. After the interview, Hari catches something that Gruber had said and calls him back for a clarification. Gruber explains the tradition of importing new gardeners at such a transition. Why Trantorians may not serve as gardeners is finally explained but no one seems to have realized what a security gap this policy opens. Hari is so upset that he threatens to fire Gruber and withhold his thirty-year pension if he fails to document all of the new arrivals. Such hard-heartedness and heavy-handedness is utterly out of character for Hari. Hari believes that he has narrowly averted disaster. Counter-measures begin to be developed.



In Chapter 21, Namarti itemizes his plan and the rationale for each part. Andorin is nervous about killing Raych, but is told that he alone can be depended on because he has the most to gain - and to lose. Rayce will kill his father and the act will be painted (somehow) as a family feud so disgusting to the public that a new government will be demanded. Namarti claims that while he will not be physically present in the Palace grounds, he runs the greatest risk of being killed should any of the conspirators be taken alive and tortured into disclosing the plot. Andorin so wants to be Emperor that he goes along.

In Chapter 22, Andorin reveals that Namarti has recognized Raych and that they have been doping him to make it impossible for him to resist the order to kill his father. Until Andorin runs out of patience, the two spar about the morality of killing. In the end, might makes right. Raych could easily disable the older man with Twisting, but Andorin holds a neuronic whip, a staple of Asimov's science fiction. It is a weapon that inflicts unforgettable pain on the victim and can cripple limbs, but Andorin assures Raych that he will leave his firing hand able to operate. Earlier in the chapter, when Raych asks for Manella, Andorin assures him that all women are interchangeable. Raych naively wonders if Wye adheres to special mores about males who have had sex with the same female. It is important that Asimov keep Manella in the reader's mind for the final action in Part 2.

In Chapter 23, Dors learns from Hari that a conspiracy of Trantorians has been uncovered, including Raych, and that Hari is determined to make them play their hand, because it is vital that psychohistory be protected for the good of the human species. Hari refuses various precautions, most particularly her accompanying him to the ceremony. Dors accuses Hari of being heartless. He pleads that his heart is breaking. He will never forgive himself if his plans go wrong. The festering conflict between the spouses deepens as Dors accepts.

The climax of Part 2 stretches over two chapters. Chapter 24 leisurely sketches the Imperial pomp of the welcoming ceremony. It emphasizes how glazed both Gruber and Raych appear. Hari delivers an oration about the new gardeners' high calling, the Emperor's pride in them, and begins to describe their upcoming training, when he recognizes Andorin from holographs. Andorin catches the change in Hari's expression and launches the assassination. He and Raych both draw blasters. Hari is said dramatically to realize that he is seconds from death by his own son's hand.

In Chapter 25, Hari is amazed to hear a shot and yet to remain alive. Manella, disguised as a gardener, kills Andorin before identifying herself as a security officer. By the time Hari runs unceremoniously across the garden to the Small Palace, Cleon has been reduced to an unrecognizable mess, his royal robes serving as a shroud. The chapter opens with an aside on the operation of a blaster: it vaporizes and causes implosion. This seeming diversion helps the reader visualize the graphic carnage. Gruber confesses to having grabbed Andorin's dropped blaster and uses it to avoid becoming Chief Gardener. Hari is amazed how something so inconsequential as a gardening job could bring about the end of a dynasty. Psychohistory has been justified: the center will hold, but Hari cannot imagine what comes next.



Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 1-13

Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 1-13 Summary

Wanda Seldon, almost eight, has had a bad dream about her grandfather turning sixty. Her mother, Manella, and Hari assure her that he is not about to die. In Chapter 2, as Hari laments the signs of aging in him but not in Dors, Manella sees that focusing on psychohistory has kept him out of contact with people, particularly children. Manella's desire to protect Hari puts her at odds with Dors. In Chapter 3, Manella recalls the aftermath of the assassination: Gruber's execution without trial, Cleon's son renouncing the throne, the likelihood of military rule, and possibility that Manella might face death for having inadvertently providing Gruber's weapon. Rationality does not operate. When he retires from politics and returns to Streeling University, Hari gives Manella a security job. In Chapter 4, Raych arrives, complaining about how weather control is deteriorating and noting that Wanda is talking about Hari dying. Manella plans to get to the bottom of Wanda's problem.

In Chapter 5, Raych recalls recovering from Desperance depression and dealing with Dors' odd hostility towards Manella. Hari favors letting Raych live his own life, including marrying Manella, who saves both of their lives. Dors resents having been forbidden to do her duty to keep Hari safe. She refuses to like Manella and her attitude nearly alienates Raych. She attends the wedding, but is a dark cloud there, and does not give Manella a chance, even after Wanda is born, two years later.

In Chapter 6, no one understands Hari's depression at turning sixty with so little to show for the last thirty years. He accepts mortality but would regret leaving psychohistory unfinished. Yugo is nearly fifty, has lost his spark, and lacks outside interests. He has hired Tamwile Elar, a brilliant but annoying scientist, who contributes equations to the Prime Radiant that may allow them to predict the future, and who, with help from Cinda Monay, develops the Electro-Clarifier to squeeze data into the lines and curves of the future. Elar is a possible successor to Hari and Yugo, although both want to perfect psychohistory in their lifetimes. It has successfully predicted that the center will hold after Cleon's death. They are pursuing Yugo's idea of establishing non-governmental Foundations to facilitate restoring the Empire after the dark ages. Hari, however, is limited by advancing age and frustrated by the bureaucracy that has built up around the Project. The birthday celebration planned by Elar has Hari upset, both because it emphasizes his age and because it breaks his normal routines by taking over his office.

In Chapter 7, Dors annoys Hari with details of Wanda's dream. He and her parents want to drop the matter. Wanda has the dream in Hari's vacant office. It involves two men using the phrase "lemonade death." Wanda is not certain that she had been asleep. Dors reminds him of two attempts on his life, but Hari insists that he is no longer important and forbids her to speculate about the junta. Hari hates the burden of being protected. In Chapter 8, Manella complains to Hari about Dors' obsession and offers an innocent explanation: Wanda likes lemonade. Hari agrees to warn Dors off of Wanda.



In Chapter 9, Hari is uneasy facing Elar, whose equations he believes he should have developed himself, and resents hearing that Elar has postponed Hari's meeting with Gen. Tennar, new head of the junta. Elar claims that Hari does not know how to handle people, particularly so powerful and stupid a man. In Chapter 10 Hari complains to Yugo about the postponement, but Yugo welcomes a week to perfect a prediction on which he is secretly working. In Chapter 11 the glittering three-day celebration flatters Hari. Dors points out that his reputation spans the universe but advises him to learn to grow old gracefully. When Wanda warns him away from his office and repeats her story, Hari begins to believe that she may have heard an actual conversation. Dors offends Hari by demanding to go along to meet the terrible general. Everyone seems to think Hari incompetent.

Chapter 12 describes how after a decade of the junta letting the Palace run as though there were a ghost Emperor, Tennar yearns to occupy the Small Palace and establish himself as Emperor. His lackey, Col. Hender Linn, recommends caution, because some Outer Worlds still have the military power to rebel. He suggests that Hari is Tennar's greatest danger, because of psychohistory and his strong cult following. Linn explains how the meeting he has arranged with Tennar has been postponed because of Hari's birthday celebration, scenes from which he shows and comments upon from hidden cameras. Tennar wants to meet this popular person to evaluate whether he can be controlled or eliminated.

In Chapter 13, Hari concedes that it is a wonderful party and he has enjoyed himself. He is also exhausted. He and Dors continue to argue about whether he will meet Tennar alone. Hari supposes that Tennar wants what Cleon always had and will be as disappointed with the abilities of psychohistory. Elar suggests that a number of mathematicians accompany Hari as a triumphal conclusion to the celebration, staying in the Dome's Edge Hotel on the edge of the Imperial Sector. This will demonstrate Hari's popularity and perhaps head off unpleasantness. Dors approves but Hari objects. Twenty of the upper echelon of the Project check in as Hari is whisked to the meeting. No one notices Dors disappear.

Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 1-13 Analysis

Part 3 jumps forward another decade to describe the aftermath of Hari's political life, as he returns to full-time mathematical research and the culmination of Dors Venabili's life. It begins with five chapters sketching the irrationality that reigns in society and in the Seldon family in the wake of Cleon's assassination. Asimov skillfully summarizes the events that return Hari to civilian research as the military takes over governing. It introduces granddaughter Wanda Seldon, who remains a key figure through Part 4. Wanda is introduced as she turns eight about her grandfather, who is turning sixty, dying. Her mother, Manella, Raych's and Hari's savior, wants to get to the bottom of Wanda's depression, which centers around a nightmare about Hari dying. Much of Part 3 is devoted to making sense of this mystery. Manella ascribes Wanda's depression to Hari's mourning about his approaching birthday. This motif, present throughout the first



two parts, virtually takes over Part 3. The various adults talk about how to deal with mortality when talking with children.

A second theme is Dors' obsessive and irrational dislike of Manella. Part of it stems from the fact that Manella has encroached on Dors' territory in preserving Hari's and Seldon's lives, and both ask pointedly whether she would prefer that they were dead. That her attitude at least comes close to violating the Three Laws of Robotics is never mentioned. Chapter 5, depicts how Dors' treatment of Manella threatens to rupture the family bonds. Even the birth of a granddaughter does not heal the rift, as Manella remains "that woman" and Raych resents it. When Dors spitefully reminds Raych that he had been her client as a prostitute and warns that this will eventually come up in domestic quarrels, Raych coolly responds that she and Hari never revert to name-calling when they fight.

Note Hari's fear when Dors criticizes the junta. He warns of anonymous denunciations by bystanders and unmerciful treatment. He and Eto had both, presumably, made use of spies, human and electronic, as each in Parts 1 and 2 took care to speak only in secure rooms. Chapter 4 in particular makes clear that the infrastructure is deteriorating at a faster rate.

Chapter 6 is dense with information but succeeds in succinctly describing the evolution of the Psychohistory Project from a two-man operation to a ponderous bureaucracy whose lavish funding survives Hari's political downfall. Like Cleon and Eto, the generals need this political tool. Hari is jealous of vigorous, younger scholars who threaten to take over his brainchild. This mental attitude has been mentioned before but not as clearly articulated. On the whole, Hari is pleased with how psychohistory is approaching the point where it can predict the future, but it is already getting away from him. The chapter describes recent developments, including contributions by a brilliant but annoying scholar, Tamwile Elar, author of crucial equations and a device, the Electro-Clarifier, that considerably improves operation of the Prime Radiant, whose dramatic display of lines of logic is again described. Note that Cinda Monay contributes to the building of the Electro-Clarifier. She and Elar will fall out over this going forward. Elar is also behind the gala birthday party for Hari, which Hari wishes were over. Note that the party organizers have exiled everyone by Yugo from their offices.

This disruption ties into Wanda's dark dream, described in In Chapter 7 and dominating the following chapters. Protective Dors refuses to drop Wanda's story of falling asleep in Hari's vacant office and hearing, either in a dream or while drowsy, two men talking about "lemonade death." Dors still Wanda is not certain that she had been asleep. hates the burden of being protected. Dors is given to speaking her mind about the ruling junta, which regularly draws Hari's warnings to watch her mouth. There is a new sense of paranoia about who might turn in whom for what idle words.

A new complication arises for Hari when Elar, who is further described as a flamboyant young man, takes it upon himself to postpone a meeting with the newest of a series of leaders of the military junta, which is described as a typical revolving office. Elar knows from his home planet Tennar's reputation for violence. It has already been established



that Hari's decades in ivory towers has given him few people skills, and people concerned about him and the Project try gently to warn him to prepare for the interview. When he objects that he has served as First Minister, several characters remind him that it had not been an auspicious career. Hari grows particularly angry in Chapter 11 when Dors demands to accompany him, whose equations he believes he should have developed himself. Always respectful, Elar informs Hari that he has arranged postponing Hari's meeting with Gen. Tennar, new head of the junta, until after the party. Because Hari does not know how to handle people, he needs time to prepare to meet this powerful but stupid man, lest his life and the Project be endangered.

In Chapter 10, when Hari complains to Yugo about the postponement, Yugo mentions that he is working on a perfection that still takes time to perfect. Hari earlier mentions off-handedly to Elar that they are playing around, plugging the junta into his equations. Clearly something is afoot, but well hidden by Asimov at this point.

Chapter 12 fleshes out the character of Gen. Tennar and introduces his adjutant, Col. Hender Linn. They are a rather stereotypical would-be dictator and his lackey. The chapter opens by describing the junta's decade-long "ghost rule" (pg. 268-269), allowing the Palace to keep up the Imperial routines without there being an Emperor, while the military reside in tacky but secure quarters. Tennar wants as badly as Andorin to be Emperor, but has no royal credentials and would have to seize the throne and start a new dynasty. This would be far from unprecedented in history, but it generally takes a few generations for the people to accept the new reality. Tennar, of course, is unwilling to wait. Linn suggests that the reality of power is more important than its trappings, but this falls on deaf ears. Linn is given credit for suggesting prudent actions whenever it seems personally safe to do so.

Linn has clearly been studying Hari Seldon and sets up the now-postponed audience with Tennar. He maintains that Hari is Tennar's greatest danger, because of psychohistory and a strong cult following, and cautions against removing him. He reviews failed movements against both Eto and Hari. Tennar is amazed that his colleagues let Hari live after the Emperor dies on his watch. Linn tries to explain the value of psychohistory, which Hari alone controls. Recall the story the woodcutter Venn's magic ax. Tennar wants to size up this man in person. Note they speak of Hari's personality cult, a keyword from the time of Joseph Stalin. Note also that the junta has infiltrated the University and takes covert holographs of the birthday party. Linn mentions that like celebrations are taking place all around Trantor.

Chapter 13 sets up a compromise whereby some twenty senior members of the Project check into the Dome's Edge Hotel Hari Dome's Edge Hotel to demonstrate Hari's popularity during the meeting. Dors, who wants to be at Hari's side but is again overridden. The two assassination attempts again are reviewed for the reader. She agrees to the plan but disappears from the pack unseen. This signals a new episode in the development of her reputation as a Tiger Woman and a new conflict with her husband.



Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 14-27

Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 14-27 Summary

Entering the Imperial Palace grounds unarmed, Dors takes down an unwary guardsman, highjacks his car, speeds to army headquarters, disarms half of the contingent that blocks her demands to see Linn, and threatens to kill him before reinforcements can arrive. Having proved that she can reach Linn, in Chapter 15 Dors threatens him and Tennar, should harm befall Hari. Linn claims that the junta merely shares the interest of previous rulers in psychohistory, which has been government-funded and must show practical results. Linn insists that Hari has private enemies for whose actions he wants not to be blamed. Dors demands to join her husband.

In Chapter 16, because billions of credits have brought no progress, Tennar threatens to cut off funding. He has heard from Project insiders that psychohistory expects his rule to collapse, rejects Hari's objections, and asks about how the perception that psychohistory predicts a downfall weakens his rule. Hari confirms that a verdict either way could sway people, but offering one prematurely would destroy psychohistory's credibility. Hari talks about perceptions that taxation delivers insufficient value to citizens, complicates tax codes, balloons the bureaucracy, and promotes corruption. Tennar rejects the idea that Hari needs time to study a solution, insisting that the obvious opposite of complexity is simplicity. Linn and Dors appear on holovision.

In Chapter 17, Linn claims to know someone who can eliminate Dors, allowing them to get on with the Project free of Hari. In Chapter 18 Hari is angrier than ever at Dors, who begins interviewing Project members. In Chapter 19 Yugo demonstrates the Prime Radiant and explains that the equations are computer-generated and their meaning can only be conjectured. Yugo favors building a third Prime Radiant and putting Elar in charge of it, while Hari sees this causing staff jealousies. Yugo is surprised that Linn has seen the Prime Radiant, denies that anyone would collaborate with the junta, and claims that overall friction in the staff always strikes an equilibrium. Yugo knows of no personal threat to Hari.

In Chapter 20, Hari visits Raych to unwind and bounce off him his subtly convincing Tennar to institute a poll tax, which is sure to cause riots that will upset his government. Analyses show that the junta is doomed and can fall in many ways. Taxation could be the gentlest. The Project needs a test case. Dors knows nothing of this, being involved in looking for conspiracies. Raych is sure that Wanda's dream is at the base of Dors' unease.

In Chapter 21, Dors meets Dr. Cinda Monay, builder of the Electro-Clarifier. Should Hari retire as Project Director, Monay favors Elar to succeed him. In Chapter 22 Dors is surprised at how vehemently Yugo wants to succeed Hari if he retires. In Chapter 23, Dors visits Raych, considering whether Wanda hears "layman-aided death" as "lemonade death." This could point to Linn, a layman, being in Hari's office to see the



Prime Radiant in the company of a mathematician. In Chapter 24, Dors is angry that Hari has spent four days unprotected, working in the Galactic Library. She mentions her talks with Yugo and wonders if the Electro-Clarifier could be affecting both of their healths and mental states.

In Chapter 25, Yugo says that if violence does not follow announcement of a poll tax, this proves that all of their equations are wrong. In Chapter 26, Elar rejects Dors' suspicions, declaring that one can find proof of anything, given enough ingenuity. Dors agrees and lists situations in which Elar is involved: organizing Hari's party, which alerts the junta to Hari's power and danger; clearing the offices to gain total privacy to meet a member of the Junta; postponing Hari's meeting with the general and trying to take his place; organizing the Dome's Edge gathering, perhaps to tempt Dors into invading the Palace grounds and further turning the junta against Hari. Elar does not know that a little girl overhears him in Hari's office. She conjectures that clarifier's nickname, Elar-Monay, sounds like lemonade.

Suddenly Dors has trouble speaking. Elar assures her that the machine has no ill-effect on humans but is lethal to robots, which he is convinced that she is. With her dead, Hari and Yugo can be eliminated. Dors kills Elar before he can turn the power to full and, in Chapter 27, finds Hari to explain everything. Dors attributes part of her dread appearance to having killed her first human. Daneel, who alone could fix her is gone. Hari finally understands everything. As Dors ceases to function, declaring that Hari's love has made her human, Yugo enters, excited that rioting has begun, but Hari cares about nothing any more.

Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapters 14-27 Analysis

Dors reaches military headquarters faster than Hari's official motorcade. Although she insists that her reputation is overblown, Asimov shows why Dors is known as a Tiger Woman, entering the Imperial Palace grounds unarmed, using a pass from the days of Hari's First Ministership that she knows will be detected and invalidated once she uses it, disarming a guard and commandeering his official car, driving at the maximum speed calculated not to draw attention, evading inevitable pursuers once Security figures out what has happened, and collecting two more blasters from guards who now require hospitalization. When finally she gets her way and Linn appears, she believes that she has provided ample reason to be taken seriously. Her message is simple: harm Hari and she will get revenge on Linn and the General. When Linn points out that it is dangerous for her to declare that he is the brains of the junta operation, she responds that it is more dangerous for him than for her to have that spread around and recommends he suppress it. This is a variant on Hari's worries about Dors' candidness. Note that Dors seems proud never to have killed a human being, which, of course, is impossible for her according to the First Law of Robotics. She is stretching the law by causing physical harm, but Hari and psychohistory are her highest priority.

Linn predictably claims that the junta only wants to know about psychohistory. He points out that the previous regime have shown the same interest in obtaining a useful tool, but



adds an ominous twist: years of government funding must be repaid by practical results. Linn makes a second ominous assertion: Hari has private enemies as dangerous as the government might be. Note Linn's vivid but inadvertent description of the Prime Radiant in operation. This will shortly combine with the remark about Hari's enemies to alert Dors' sense of danger.

In Chapter 16, during Hari's audience, Tennar is from the start a bully, threatening to cut off massive government funding and suggesting that he sources inside the Project who are saying potentially subversive things. Specifically, he demands to know Hari's views of how a declaration pro or con regarding his regime, based on psychohistory, would affect potentially volatile public opinion. Hari repeats his standard arguments about psychohistory's failure as a predictive tool - an argument that the reader is learning has become rather hollow, as the mathematicians are narrowing their focus on fruitful procedures and anticipate success relatively soon. Hari is forthright about it taking time to produce any given report on alternative prospects. He admits that a specific verdict either way could sway people, but is unwilling prematurely to risk psychohistory's credibility. Towards the end of the novel, Hari's caution is borne out as he is repeatedly assaulted as a great nay-sayer based on hocus-pocus theories - a far cry from the adulation that is demonstrated at his sixtieth birthday.

Hari offers the general a sop: taxation can and should be simplified to maximize revenues (some of which could continue to flow to the Project) while minimizing resistance from a population that feels it is not getting enough services for their contributions. The other traditional way of raising money - conquering neighbors militarily and seizing their riches - is no longer viable. The chapter delivers a substantial aside on political economics.

The next few chapters suggest events to come: dealing with Dors, who has kept herself undercover, in order to free the Project from Hari's procrastination, and Dors examining safety issues. Her surprise appearance at junta headquarters, dealt with in a single sentence, worsens the conflict between the spouses.

Chapter 19 show Dors cajoling old friend Yugo into demonstrating the top-secret Prime Radiant. He then explains what still stands in the way of making psychohistory a viable predictive tool, despite recent progress. High-power computers are producing the actual equations, whose application the humans who program the computers cannot yet comprehend. Dors asks facetiously how they can hope to predict the future of the Galaxy if their equations cannot pick out the 5%-6% of Project personnel are responsible for 90% of the friction. Yugo insists that they are working on this and, perhaps not surprisingly, a "conservation of personal problems" analogous to the basic laws of conservation of energy in physics seems to be at work. He admits that he has briefly considered how this law could be used to preserve the Empire by increasing destruction somewhere else. Recall the mathematicians' virtual certainty that breakdown will occur in the center or in the periphery but not in both. This is partially realized at the time of Cleon's death.



Elar's name comes up again as a point of contention. Yugo favors putting him in charge of a third Prime Radiant if one is built, while Hari worries that more senior staff would be jealous. No one argues that two units are sufficient for a larger staff. Clearly, Elar is to play a leading role in Part 3, which, if the pattern of the previous two parts is continued, is to end in Dors' elimination. Linn, who at the time of Dors' invasion of his domain promises not to forget, is dedicated to making this happen.

In Chapter 20, Hari reveals the idea that he has planted in the general's ear, and which he hopes Dors' escapade has not endangered. The rest of Part 3 shows how Hari and Yugo have decided that public reaction to a poll tax will be the test case for whether psychohistory is valid. Poll taxes have been notorious throughout human history for the ability to spark discontent, often violent and revolutionary. Rulers, therefore, tend not to take the gamble, but it has been established that Tennar is stupid and head-strong. He will doubtless take it as a challenge. Hari accepts Raych's judgment that Hari is rather bloodthirsty where psychohistory is concerned, but notes that this is likely to be the least violent way in which the junta can fall. Its fall in the near-term is inevitable.

Dors continues collecting information about a conspiracy, having to keep low-key in order not to alarm any of Hari's high-strung staff and bring his wrath down on her. Chapter 21 introduces Dr. Cinda Monay and describes her work with Elar on the Electro-Clarifier. Monay backs Elar to succeed Hari, should Hari retire, an eventuality that Hari often indicates he favors. When Dors mentions Hari retiring, in the context of them both being overworked, Yugo is uncharacteristically animated and testy. Dors begins considering what Wanda's "lemonade death" might actually have sounded like. She begins to see a link between Linn (a layman) and some mathematicians, even considering Yugo. She begins considering the possibility that the two-year-old Electro-Clarifier is affecting Yugo's and Hari's health and mental states.

Finally, in chapters 26 and 27, Dors confronts Elar. He declares haughtily that one can always find proof of anything that one pursues with enough ingenuity. Dors gives a litany of events linked to Elar as a for-instance, illustrating this premise. At every pause Elar insists that Dors is speaking paranoid nonsense. She ties all of the strings together, improving on the theory that "lemonade" derives from "layman-aided" to having it come from the Electro-Clarifier's unofficial nickname, "Elar-Monay."

Dors is wrong in only one detail: the electromagnetic field that the machine gives off is harmless to humans. Hari and Yugo have indeed only been overworking. Elar has from her tiger-like reflexes deduced that Dors is a robot. Recall that Elar has taken over the more powerful second-generation clarifier, which presumably he has activated. He speaks about Mycogenian legends without reference to the campaign against Eto. Elar's chain of evidence is far skimpier than Dors'. At any rate, he is about to turn up the power to dispatch her when Dors kills him. Sufficient damage has been done to her systems that she cannot recover and she dies in Hari's arms. She says that breaking the First Law is complicating her condition.

Asimov suggests, far-fetchedly, that Hari has not to this point fully known that his beloved wife is a robot. In the final chapters, the warring spouses each describes the other to



Raych as the most wonderful person in the world but impossibly stubborn. Now they are fully linked by love and Hari is left not only defenseless, as Dors fears, but utterly desolate. Rioting over the poll tax, which proves psychohistory's utility, means nothing to him.



Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 1-17

Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 1-17 Summary

In the Galactic Library, Hari watches three strangers, whom he nicknames Hook Nose, Baldy, and Red Cheeks, studying a three-dimensional model of the Galaxy, and debating a recent Imperial military action that psychohistory shows is useless. Hook Nose claims that Anacreon is harmless and should be left alone. Baldy feels that other border provinces will follow its lead but prefers a compact Empire on which the outer regions remain economically dependent. Humans are sure to reestablish order for their own good. Red Cheeks foresees endless warfare as in the time of the Kingdom of Trantor and notes that this is no ordinary crisis, because the Inner Worlds are so impoverished that they will fall of their own weight, with the government not seeing that the end has come. As talk turns to Hari's theory, Hari steps in to invite Red Cheeks to meet next day at 4 PM. It is important. While anything is possible, it is certain that the Empire will fall.

In Chapter 2, where the Librarian Guild is oldest on Trantor and preserves some comical traditions ranging from odd silk costumes to beards, and square hats that denote rank and specialization, Chief Librarian Las Zenow summons Hari to give the good news that he has located just outside Anacreon Province an appropriate world on which to establish his proposed Foundation. Terminus is too distant for anyone to have colonized, but it is capable of supporting human life. {pain when Hari remembers his sixtieth birthday because of connection with Dors' death... pang of conscience for concealing even from Zenow his true intentions}

Chapter 3 describes how after thirty years of slow, straight-line development, psychohistory takes an unexpected, 90° turn when Wanda, upset at at age twelve to have been upstaged by a new sister, Bellis, turns to lonely Yugo. To amuse her, he activates the Prime Radiant and Wanda quickly identifies an equation that looks wrong. In Chapter 4 Yugo reports this to Hari, saying that this bit of code had been bothering him. Hari believes that Wanda has read Yugo's mind and suspects that she may also be able to alter minds, as Daneel had been able. Dimly, Hari sees a revolution in psychohistory beginning.

In Chapter 5, Hari orders Raych to drop everything and assist him in plotting a full genome for the family, particularly Wanda. Raych dismisses the idea that Wanda is psychic, but Hari claims to have known a psychic and cites an ancient legend. Hari suspects that the small number of psychics that exist hide their abilities. He wants to identify them by DNA and recruit them for psychohistory. Raych wants his daughter to lead a normal life. In Chapter 6, Hari learns from biophysicist Mian Endelecki about the cost and limitations of DNA testing and obtains Wanda's parents permission. His newest brainchild, a Second Foundation, depends on the results of Wanda's testing.



A month later, in Chapter 7, Endecki reports 100 defective genes. Explaining genetics is as hard as explaining psychohistory, but the bottom line is that this is about par for any individual and is unlikely to cause problems. Fixing genes is expensive and society in general now distrusts science and medicine. Mysticism is gaining ground. Hari understands this through psychohistory. Endecki frustrates Hari by saying that the genes controlling brain function are so numerous that she cannot pinpoint anything exceptional in Wanda's brain. Hari declines to say how Wanda is different. Finding anyone with a similar brain will be accidental.

Chapter 8 describes Hari's first face-to-face meeting with Zenow, who thanks him for helping to eliminate the brutal junta, but cannot give him more space to accommodate his colleagues, because the Library Board, and Gennaro Mummery in particular, is pushing to limit patron access. Shocked, Hari asks to meet the Board. Soon afterwards, in Chapter 9 Hari mentions this to Yugo as he sits at Yugo's deathbed. Yugo dislikes the library. He claims that psychohistory would have stopped had he not worked so hard making up for Hari's absences. Hari cheers Yugo by describing progress on developing Yugo's idea of two separate, isolated Foundations serving as nuclei for a Second Galactic Empire, one serving as encyclopedists and the the other, mentalists like Wanda, serving as guardians, adjusting psychohistory as time goes on. Yugo believes that this is the right time to die. Hari weeps and wonders if he can make this revolution succeed.

In Chapter 10, Mummery keeps Hari waiting on purpose, assures him that no more space will be provided for his colleagues, because funding is short. Only if Hari squeezes more appropriations out of the Emperor can greater services be considered. In Chapter 11 Hari pays a call on the new Emperor Agis XIV, who like Mummery mentions the nickname Raven Seldon and lists those who have fallen after believing in his theory. Agis sees the point of the Encyclopedia Galactica but points to chronic deficits and cutting corners everywhere. He cannot dictate to the Library Board but is willing to visit the Library with Hari to demonstrate their friendship. In Chapter 12, Zenow is duly impressed and figures the Board will let Hari keep his office. His colleagues, who are not friends of the Emperor, get nothing. Having found no psychic colleague like Wanda, Hari must launch a full search.

In Chapter 13, Hari meditates on how Trantor has declined over 38 years. Despite rampant street crime, Hari continues his daily walks. In the six years since Wanda's gift is revealed she grows indispensable and accepts her role in the Second Foundation. As he worries about funding, Hari is accosted by eight toughs who mock him as Raven and demand credits. Hari is too old to use his cane as a weapon and there are no security or even passers-by to call. Raych comes to the rescue, killing the leader with a thrown knife stabbing two others. As the survivors drag away the bodies, Raych drives Hari home. They miss Dors. In Chapter 14, Raych forbids Hari to walk unguarded, as he is obviously a specific target, and announces that he has taken a job at safer Santanni University on the opposite side of the Galaxy. Raych urges him to admit failure and go along, but Hari refuses to move his research to Santanni, claiming loyalty to his team, even though they are abandoning him over pay.



Chapter 15 shows how Hari's unsmiling life revolves around beautiful Wanda. He cannot bear the thought of her leaving with her family and is overjoyed when she announces that she is staying to care for him. She has pushed her parents' minds to get them to agree. She wants to master psychohistory, whose rudiments she has picked up from reading Hari's and Yugo's minds. She wants a Prime Radiant and systematic training to succeed Hari some day. In Chapter 16, Raych, Manella, and little depart, tearfully. In Chapter 17 Hari is determined to resume his walks but has promised not to go out without a bodyguard. Wanda volunteers and they head out. On the way, Wanda perceives two men approaching behind them, warns Hari when they are within range of his weighted cane, and Hari fells one of them. The other escapes. A security officer approaches, claiming to have seen everything, and arrests Hari for assault and battery.

Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 1-17 Analysis

Part 4 follows Hari through his declining years. It jumps four years forward from Dors' death. At age seventy, Hari is spending much of his time in the Galactic Library, where he enjoys rare office privileges. Note that he now limps and uses skitters to ride around the library. The story opens with him overhearing a discussion by three strangers about how the Empire should deal with breakaway Anacreon Province, located a vast distance from Trantor. The discussion loosely resembles Plato's dialectics, with participants ranging from a hands-off, they are harmless position to a domino, slippery-slope effect: as goes Anacreon, so goes the Empire. One finds echoes of the process whereby the Kingdom of Trantor once evolved into the Trantor-centered Empire. One sees that humanity always manages to see its own benefits and adapt. The one revelation is that the junta is gone and a new figurehead emperor has been enthroned. He will soon be introduced and become close to Hari. Hari also summons one of the debaters, Hook Nose, who comes up with the right prognostication without benefit of psychohistory to meet with him. Chapter 1 also describes in some detail population patterns in the vast Milky Way. Very few planets of 25 million planets are actually inhabited by humans.

Chapter 2 describes the Galactic Library and the antiquarian traditions of the Librarian Guild. It introduces the kindly Chief Librarian, Las Zenow, who has found for Hari an extremely isolated planet on which to establish his Foundation, where an Encyclopedia Galactica will be published, preserving human knowledge contained in the Library to help restore civilization after the dark ages. Hari feels bad about withholding from Zenow his true intentions, which are to guide humanity through psychohistory. The reasons for this deception and the means of guidance gradually come clear as Part 4 progresses. Terminus is an appropriate name for the planet chosen. When Zenow recalls Hari's sixtieth birthday a decade before, Hari reacts painfully, since it is inevitably connected with Dors' death. He remains deeply wounded by her passing, as is repeatedly shown in Part 4.

Chapter 3 depicts the radical turning point in psychohistory, which centers around Hari's granddaughter Wanda, who is nearing puberty when a new baby usurps her position in the family. The psychological angst of such an event is exploited and throws her together with 57-year-old Yugo, who still cannot be convinced to rest. There are subtle



references to physicians' concerns about his health. Yugo is amazed by Wanda's identifying on aesthetic grounds a problem in one of his equations and it takes Hari, who knows from Daneel and Dors something about mind control to suspect that Wanda has a hidden gift. Asimov again describes the beauty inherent in Prime Radiant displays. It now appears that it is not tangential. Ugly displays reveal defective code. Hari contemplates a revolution in psychohistory.

Chapter 5 shows Raych and Manella hostile to the idea of plotting Wanda's DNA to serve - should she manifest more psychic abilities - as a norm for identifying and recruiting additional psychics. Suddenly Hari foresees a cadre of them forming a Second Foundation. Already seen to be a devotee of folktales, Hari cites another, from the planet Nemesis, whose name seems to have been divorced from Greek mythology. Biophysicist Mian Endelecki talks at length about the complexity, expense, and limitations of DNA mapping. It had been universally prescribed at some point in history but proved too expensive and many people feared learning that they might have dangerous genes. It seems by this period largely to be restricted to pinning down the reason for life-threatening diseases.

A frustrating month passes before Endelecki gives the results. Wanda's genome shows about 100 defective genes, par for the course, which are unlikely to cause any life problems. When Hari asks about fixing them, she talks about how mysticism is displacing science and medicine, particularly since Emperor Cleon's death. The connection is not developed. In a novel written ca. 1990 it is hard not to see here Asimov's commentary on a society that ideologically limits research. Stem cell research had just begun to look promising and would not be severely limited in the U.S. for a decade. Asimov uses a more benign example: Hari now suffers painful sciatica. Fifty years earlier it could have been cured, but no longer. Hari claims to understand all of this through psychohistory. It is part of an ever-accelerating pattern of social decline throughout the Empire leading to a complete collapse. Endelecki offers no hope of identifying someone genetically with Wanda's special brain functions and Hari leaves the office frustrated.

The novel next introduces attempts to limit academic freedom, which becomes an on-going theme that fits in with anti-scientism. The Library Board wants librarians to select appropriate materials for patrons rather than allowing them free access to data. The name Gennaro Mummery is first brought up. He will prove a key figure when he succeeds the cooperative with the weak Las Zenow as Chief Librarian. Asimov's description of Hari's first meeting with Zenow seems at odds with the meeting described in Chapter 2, a rare case of problems in continuity control. Mummery's importance - and menace - is reinforced with Yugo on his deathbed recalling a quarrel. Yugo considers him a misanthrope. Chapter 9, depicting Yugo's death, describes Hari's view of the two Foundations' roles and attributes them to Yugo. Yugo is happy to hear about these developments and dies comforted, although Hari is unsure how to bring them about. Hari again feels his age, being eleven years older than his departed friend.

Chapters 10-12 show Hari in defense of liberty of information and, more directly, space for his teach of encyclopedic workers to work under hurried conditions. The unifying



element is Hari's nickname, "Raven Seldon," referring to a mythological bird said to bring bad luck to those it encounters. Two new characters are introduced, the rude, instantly-unlikable Mummery and the rather likable "Citizen Emperor" Agis XIV. Both emphasize the inevitability of cutbacks in face of deficits, a far cry from time when Hari is younger. Even the Imperial Garden is being somewhat neglected, which is a sure sign of crisis. Background is provided on the tradition of Library autonomy from the Throne, dating back hundreds of years to a political struggle over whether the Emperor should have online access to the collection from his Palace. Now, being seen in his company inspires even opponents of Hari keeping his office space, but does not extend beyond him to his colleagues. Having lost Yugo and probably wanting not to turn Wanda into an introverted researcher, Hari has no one to fill offices even if they were available. Again discouraged, he begins a search for psychics.

The next two chapters bring a new crisis. They begin with Hari meditating on Trantor's decline over 38 years from the grand city that awes him in his youth to a crumbling shell whose streets are owned by the criminal class. The description sound much like Dahl. On a daily walk that Hari takes largely in defiance of this situation, he is mugged by hoodlums who obviously target him specifically. Raych, still armed with illegal knives, rescues him and tries to talk him into moving across the Galaxy with his family to Santanni. One has to agree with Raych that Hari is simply being a stubborn old codger in refusing. There is no reason that he cannot continue his already limited work there, helping loyal Wanda develop her gift and recruit other psychics. Hari has two months to reconsider.

Part of the crisis is resolved in the next three chapters as Wanda uses mind-control to make her parents let her remain with Hari, whom she asks to teach her systematically about psychohistory so she can some day succeed him. She reveals that she has been studying his and Yugo's minds, resulting in a hodge-podge of information. Wanda is all that remains to Hari after the family leaves. He again recalls all the people whom he has lost. Wanda reads the minds of two would-be muggers during a walk. Hari tries with a weighted cane to kill one but only wounds him. He is swiftly arrested for assault and battery by an officer who happens on the scene and Wanda refuses to leave Hari's side. One need not be psychic to see signs of renewed conspiracy to eliminate Hari.



Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 18-34

Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 18-34 Summary

Hari rails at his lawyer, Civ Novker, about being arrested for self-defense while months ago being abandoned to eight muggers. Novker advises against waiving a jury trial and appearing before a magistrate as Wanda suggests, but she pushes both men into agreeing. In Chapter 19, the dubious magistrate allows Hari to talk about his previous mugging and accepts the theory that someone is trying to kill him because of his predictions of doom. As Hari's victim is a repeat offender, Hari is freed. In Chapter 20, Wanda being unable to disable the attackers or to push the magistrate's mind. Hari resolves to ask Agis XIV's help to prevent the project from folding.

In Chapter 21, Agis bemoans his office, admires Wanda's beauty, and laments that he is powerless to increase public safety. The Empire is now a democracy in which 7,500 battling legislators prevent anything even trivial from happening. They will block him funding Hari, however much Agis might want to. After Wanda stares at him insistently, Agis suggests that Hari turn to private entrepreneurs. In Chapter 22, Terep Bindris greets Hari and Wanda cordially in his plush office but turns cold when told that Agis has suggested tapping him and colleagues for several million credits. In Chapter 23, having failed to bend four more executives' minds, Wanda vows to practice her art, while in Chapter 24, Hari meets Red Cheeks, whose real name is Stettin Palver, grandson of the Hari's late friend, Joramis, whom Hari had failed to recruit. A history major, Stettin is a manual laborer and happily accepts a chance to study psychohistory and serve as Hari's bodyguard.

In Chapter 25, Hari and Stettin on a stroll come upon a litterer who scoffs at Hari's order to pick it up. Suddenly, Stettin warns of approaching attackers whom he swiftly fells. An eyewitness reports this to security forces, and in Chapter 26 Hari and Stettin face Judge Tejan Popjens Lih in a hostile courtroom. A tough judge, she has heard of the earlier incidents. Novker reviews Hari's long career and asks what he could gain from attacking these young people. Lih hypothesizes that he might be illustrating his theories of decay. Hari talks about preserving society. The eyewitness, Rial Nevas, who had been the litterer, breaks down as Wanda and Stettin stare at him, forcing him tearfully to confess that he is lying.

In Chapter 27, Hari and Stettin visit the Galactic Library, Hari elated that Lih in dismissing the charges had thanked him for providing an old-fashioned example of honesty, decency, and good will. The Emperor had congratulated him by holograph. Zenow has retired as Chief Librarian and been succeeded by the progressive Tryma Arcanio, who Zenow hopes will be better able to support the Hari's projects. Hari tells Arcanio about progress towards moving the Encyclopedia Project to Terminus but needing unlimited access to the Galactic Library's vast resources in preparation. Arcanio would have been happy to oblige except for the recent trial. Even with a not-guilty verdict, Hari appears to the masses as a lunatic with whom the Library cannot afford to



be associated. In fact, his office space must be relinquished. Hari may not address the Board on appeal. Cut off from the Library, Hari fears that his work is finished.

In Chapter 28, Wanda has taken over Yugo's old office and Prime Radiant and has reprogrammed the Terminus equation elegantly. An urgent message comes from Raych on Santanni, where the government has fallen. Manella and Bellis are bound for Anacreon aboard the Arcadia VII. Raych is staying to defend the University. The holograph breaks off. For hours Hari is frustrated trying to confirm Arcadia VII's arrival. Fighting had been heavy. Wanda is afraid, no longer sensing her family is alive. In Chapter 29 Hari places an emergency call to Agis XIV about his family, who promises to share confidential information with him but is otherwise helpless. An hour later Agis describes Raych's heroic death in defense of knowledge but knows nothing about Arcadia VII's fate.

In Chapter 30, Wanda gardens to distract herself and when working on the Prime Radiant, lacks the strength to figure out the equations about Terminus. The Project is down to fifty dispirited members and Hari has given up. When Stettin tries to motivate Wanda to move on after her losses, she realizes that he can handle minds. He confesses that similar minds are all around them but he cannot identify them. Seeing what they can accomplish together, Wanda leads Stettin to Hari who, in Chapter 31, is amazed. Wanda and Stettin have never crossed paths except at the trial, when both push Nevas to confess. Realizing this, they are going into training together. This is the breakthrough that psychohistory has needed. Hari is reinvigorated.

In Chapter 32 Arcanio receives Hari, Wanda, and Stettin coldly. He is surprised by Hari's good mood rather than groveling. He gives Wanda five minutes to talk about psychohistory as a preservation tool and is charmed. He grants permission for Project members to use the Library, because this Encyclopedia will improve its stature and bring in funding. Arcanio is lost in reverie about how he will be remembered for this. He will handle the Board. After leaving, Wanda and Stettin laugh at how easy it had been to push Arcaio. Hari plans to install the 32 remaining Encyclopedists in the Library and turn to finding benefactors. Alliance with the Library should help. Wanda and Stettin must also walk the streets searching for psychics. In Chapter 33, Hari goes up to the observation deck for the first time in years. He no longer needs a bodyguard. He is saddened that the domes must be torn apart by battles and nature allowed to take over before a new Empire can emerge. Wanda and Stettin have become a couple. Hari recognizes the signs from his first intense days with Dors. They can speak without words. Hari has not yet shared even with them his vision for the Foundation.

In Chapter 34, Hari meets a new psychic, Bor Alurin, whom he invites to the team. He then reveals to Wanda and Stettin Yugo's idea for a Second Foundation of mentalists, strictly secret, to serve as a fail-safe for the First Foundation on Terminus. Hari wants them to be the pioneers. They will recruit as many more psychics as it takes. Hari, who will remain on Trantor, will miss Wanda, his last relative, badly. He invites Wanda to touch his mind to learn their destination: Star's End.



Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapters 18-34 Analysis

Hari undergoes two legal crises as unknown persons seek to eliminate him. He has become a figure of derision because of his doomsday predictions. A minor character, Lawyer Civ Novker, is introduced to describe to courts Hari's contributions to a crumbling society. Wanda pushes Novker's mind but she is frustrated that she cannot push anyone she pleases - the mugger or the magistrate. Wanda seems not to be offended when men find her attractive. This includes Emperor Agis XIV, who claims Imperial privilege to study her up and down. He has so few other powers, including the power of the purse to fund Hari's research. He complains about having not one top-quality First Minister like Hari or Eto before him, but 7,500 self-interested ministers in the democratic legislature. Recall the arguments earlier in favor of democracy. Hari finds that private entrepreneurs are no less willing to part with funds than legislators. Furthermore, they have a secret network, so word about what Hari and Wanda want spreads ahead of them and their welcome cools. Wanda is further frustrated

A break comes in Chapter 24 as Hari meets Red Cheeks from Chapter 1 of Part 4. Stettin Palver accepts to study psychohistory and serve as Hari's bodyguard. As Part 4 advances he becomes Wanda's psychic partner and eventually her husband, as they leave Trantor to head the clandestine Second Foundation. At his introduction he is a history graduate and manual laborer, strong enough to become Hari's bodyguard. Note that Hari refuses to break his promise to Raych never to go out unguarded.

In Chapter 25, Hari and Stettin are attacked, fight back, and are arrested for assault and battery on the word of a scruffy young man whom Hari has just rebuked for littering. Hari and Stettin ruminate on how littering is a telling symptom of society's decline. Chapter 26 shows the trial before one of Trantor's most respected and harshest judges, Tejan Popjens Lih. Word of Hari's harming more innocent people has generated a strong public sentiment against him and the gallery in the courtroom is hostile. Novker, Lih, and Hari all give speeches about Hari's career before the eyewitness, Rial Nevas testifies. He breaks down as Wanda and Stettin both stare at him. This is the first time that their paths have crossed, although they both work for the Project, and it is a while longer before they realize that it is their joint pushing that makes Nevas tearfully confesses that he is lying. That realization provides the impetus to developing the Second Foundation.

In Chapter 27, Hari is told that he will have to vacate his office at the Galactic Library, despite his acquittal at trial. The new Chief Librarian, Tryma Arcanio, is unwilling to risk turning public opinion against the institution for which he is responsible. He says that Hari is considered a lunatic. Chapter 28 brings word of Raych's certain death and Manella's and Bellis' probable death during a revolution on supposedly-safe Santanni. The Periphery is falling apart even faster than the center, which is what Hari predicts and needs to happen, but the loss of his family is a high price to play. He ceases functioning and Wanda, his greatest hope, is little better emotionally. She is on the verge of vital findings, which are now a moot point.



In Chapter 30, Wanda and Stettin finally cross paths and recognize the other's mental abilities. They rush to Hari who is instantly brought out of his funk. Wanda and Stettin prove their combined abilities by convincing Arcanio to grant Project members Library access and work space. Hari surprises Arcanio by not looking dejected as they enter, or as Arcanio tries to maneuver him into feeling despite his good mood. The couple laughs about how easy this has been.

Hari pays a last visit to the topside observatory above the domes of Trantor, mirroring the nearly lethal adventure he has decades ago, which he survives thanks to Dors' stubbornness. He recalls how they fall in love, much as Wanda and Stettin clearly are doing. He also mourns for what Trantor still must endure, even to the tearing apart of the domes that define it.

Chapter 34 introduces another psychic whom Wanda and Stettin have identified. Bor Alurin becomes important only in the novel Foundation to which the present novel is swiftly Hari finally reveals how he intends to implement Yugo's vision of a Foundation, creating a second, secret Foundation both as a ultimate fail-safe for the First, but also as guardians of the processes of psychohistory. Hari sadly sends Wanda and Stettin to the secret location that he has in his mind: Star's End. Only in the third of the Foundation novels does Asimov reveal the physical location of Star's End.



Part 5, Epilogue

Part 5, Epilogue Summary

After reviewing his impressive credentials, Hari at age 81 wonders about his mistakes. He has finished recording the Crisis holograms that will guide the Foundationers after his death. Utterly alone, he works every day from a wheelchair in a building full of memories, with the Prime Radiant cheering him that 30,000 potential years of chaos will shrink to 1,000. The Encyclopedia Galactica documents Hari falling asleep at his desk with the Prime Radiant in hand. It is sent to Terminus and his body is jettisoned in space as he wished. Eto attends the memorial service and again vanishes, while Wanda cannot be reached. Hari dies with the future unfolding around him.

Part 5, Epilogue Analysis

The brief Epilogue lets Hari describe what he has accomplished in his lifetime. He has regrets and unanswered questions, but is comforted that psychohistory will shorten the dark ages substantially. He gloats over how his psychics push the real power behind the throne to "exile" the Foundation to Terminus, the place that it needs to be to fulfill its destiny. Nothing can be done to spare the good Emperor Agis XIV, however, whose fate is not known to Hari but whose replacement by an unnamed child puts Linge Chen, Chief Commissioner of Public Safety, in control of the disintegrating Empire. Look for him in Foundation. Hari's final meditation is thus bittersweet. His last recorded thought is: Dors. It appears that he sees her as he dies.

Unlike the other four parts, where a quotation from The Encyclopedia Galactica precedes Chapter 1, in the Epilogue the excerpt concludes the text and the novel. It puts him dying at his desk in 12,069 GE, the Prime Radiant in his hand, describes how his final requests are handled, and notes that Eto appears to attend his friend's memorial service and then slips through the fingers of Public Safety after. One wonders how close Daneel had been when Hari had most needed him, as Dors lay dying. Wanda cannot be reached. The article, written 1,020 years after Hari's death, declares that he dies with the future unfolding around him.



Characters

Hari Seldon

The protagonist of both Foundation prequels, *Prelude to Foundation* and *Forward the Foundation*, Hari Seldon is a mathematician from an obscure outer world, Helicon, who at age 32 travels to the center of the Galactic Universe, Trantor, to deliver a theoretical paper on psychohistory. Hari is adept in both mathematics and the manual arts such as "Twisting" but knows little history until he meets Dors Venabili at Strelling University, who takes him under her wing. In a complex plot, Dors is assigned in the first novel as Hari's protector, accompanying him around the vast planet, avoiding the clutches of the true power behind the Imperial Throne, Eto Demerzel.

As the present novel begins, Dors and Hari have adopted a waif from Dahl Sector named Raych, who becomes Hari's bodyguard. Also in Dahl they liberate a lowly heatsink worker whom they discover to be a gifted self-taught mathematician. Yugo Amaryl becomes Hari's closest collaborator and heir apparent in the psychohistory project, but tragically dies before him.

During the course of *Forward the Foundation* Hari grudgingly ages into the white-haired demigod confined to a wheelchair whom history remembers millennia in the future. In his forties, Hari struggles to turn psychohistory into a useable scientific tool, while serving as chairman of the mathematics department. He helps Eto quell the Joranumite rebellion. In his fifties, Hari succeeds Eto as First Minister in the government of Emperor Cleon I and holds the unsatisfying office for a decade. Residual Joranumites plot to assassinate him at the hand of Raych, but both narrowly survive when an undercover officer intervenes. An insane gardener who refuses a promotion seizes a blaster, runs to the palace, and kills Cleon. Disgraced for letting the Emperor perish on his watch, Hari must resign and resumes full-time research on psychohistory.

Hari obsesses about age as his sixtieth birthday approaches, but endures a gala party given by his colleagues at the university. Hari and Dors become increasingly estranged as she follows clues to another murder plot. Too late she learns that it is aimed at destroying her so that Hari can be safely put aside, he being conceived as slowing progress on the Project. Hari is never the same after Dors' death. He continues a controversial figure because of the perceived negativity of psychohistory and several times is mugged on the streets. Once he is forced to face a judge but charges are dropped when his psychic granddaughter silently convinces the lying eyewitness to confess. Wanda becomes Hari's primary caretaker and greatest hope for the future, as she hones her psychic abilities and recruits associates.

Hari is despondent as he sends her away to Star's End to set up his Second Foundation. After recording holograms to be played to guide the scientists on Terminus through the crises that he foresees, Hari dies, alone, at 81, at his desk in his wheelchair, with the Prime Radiant in his hand. Dors appears to him as he dies. The year of his



death, 12,069 GE (Galactic Era) comes to be designated 1 FE (Foundation Era). Hari's body is jettisoned in space according to his wishes. Eto appears for Hari's memorial service and then slips away again. Wanda cannot be reached.

Dors Venábili

Hari Seldon's mate, variously described as wife and consort, Dors in Prelude to Foundation is assigned by Eto Demerzel to serve as Hari's protector while on the planet Trantor. When they meet, Dors is a professor of history at the prestigious Streeling University. She is of average height, slim, and well built; her hair is reddish-gold and curly; she is not amazingly beautiful but pleasant. In the earlier novel, Dors explains to Hari historical contexts and patterns and urges him not to jump to conclusions - or to give up. In *Forward the Foundation*, Dors is still encouraging and protecting Hari and they bounce ideas back and forth to get a non-specialist's view of their theories. Dors has returned to her own research, but watches Hari closely and does not hesitate to step in if she sees him in any way endangered.

Conflict arise between the loving spouses and intensify virtually to the end of Dors' life. When Hari enlists their adopted son Raych for two dangerous undercover political missions, Dors objects strenuously and their relationship is strained. It reaches its low-mark when Hari, serving as First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, forbids Dors to accompany him to a reception for a new crew of groundskeepers. Hari narrowly escapes assassination and is forced to relinquish his office. Even worse, Raych marries the ex-prostitute who saves his life. Until her last breath Dors is unable to accept or even tolerate Manella.

As Hari resumes full-time work on psychohistory, Dors remains wary for his safety. She makes a daring raid into the Imperial sector, disarming soldiers and commandeering an official car, to confront Col. Hender Linn, adjutant to Gen. Dugal Tennar, head of the junta, and warn them against harming Hari in any way during his interview. Dors develops a reputation for being a Tiger Woman. Her ferocity convinces the junta and Dr. Tamwile Elar that she must be eliminated before Hari can be set aside to accelerate the pace of the Project. Dors relentlessly follows clues about a plot and eventually confronts Elar. He has somehow deduced that she is a robot and uses his Electro-Clarifier to disrupt her circuits. Dors dispatches Elar - her first human killing and tells Hari what has happened before dying.

Hari has somehow missed clues that Dors is a perfectly humaniformed robot. She does not age like Hari or his colleagues. As Dors ceases to function she thanks Hari for making her human by his love. Her fierce devotion to his well-being stem from the basic program in her positronic brain: she must make sure that a human is never harmed: the First Rule. Killing Elar contributes to her demise. The *Encyclopedia Galactica* states that Dors simply disappears from history.



Eto Demerzel (a.k.a. R. Daneel Olivaw)

First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, Eto watches over Hari Seldon as the famed mathematician labors to turn his theory of psychohistory into a viable political tool. The relationship begins in *Prelude to Foundation*, where it is complex and mysterious, involving multiple personae. Only in the final chapters does Hari figure out that his friend and protector is a robot, R. Daneel Olivaw, so perfectly humaniformed that his nature has gone undetected for twenty millennia.

Daneel is, of course, governed by Three Laws of Robotics to which adds a stringent "Zeroeth Law," which makes not harming humanity at large the primary duty of a robot. Daneel struggles for millennia with protecting humanity with minimal interference. When Hari comes along to Trantor to deliver a paper about psychohistory, Eto sees it as a tool for identifying what is good or evil for humanity and convinces Cleon to be Hari's patron. He also arranges for historian Dors Venabili to serve as Seldon's protector. Eto is somewhat surprised when they fall in love and marry. Hari figures out that Eto and Dors are robots, but Eto gently manipulates his mind to prevent him from every revealing this to anyone.

Eto facilitates Hari's research during the eight years that pass between novels but by mutual agreement they rarely communicate and never see one another. When Hari breaks up a treasonous assembly on the university grounds, news reaches Eto and he and Cleon contact Hari and push him to accelerate his progress on psychohistory. The rebellion is quashed but it is rumored that Eto is a robot. He happily retires from office and disappears, nominating Hari to be his successor. When Dors dies Hari wishes that Eto were around to fix her. Eto shows up for Hari's memorial service when he dies, but evades capture by security agents who are watching for him.

Yugo Amaryl

A native of the Dahl Sector of Trantor, Yugo is a brilliant self-taught mathematician languishing as a heatsink worker when Hari Seldon and Dors Venabili encounter him in *Prelude to Foundation*. Hari brings Yugo to the university, sees to his education, and brings him into the psychohistory project as his assistant and planned successor. Yugo can be abrasive, but has a quick, imaginative mind, proves indispensable to the project, but is incapable of rest or relaxation. As a result, he works himself to death at the relatively young age of 55. Before he dies, Yugo is happy to learn that his proposal for a Foundation is being developed. Hari's granddaughter, Wanda, whom Yugo befriends, is found to be psychic and helps create the revolution in psychohistory that makes it a useful tool of prediction.

Emperor Agis XIV

The Emperor put on the throne after ten years of military rule following the assassination of Cleon I, Agis is Cleon's maternal third cousin. He names himself after



after Agis VI who some 2,000 years earlier rules for 42 years without tyranny. Holographs do not make Agis look particularly royal. He is short with bulging eyes, but has a good speaking voice and shows intelligence. He dubs himself the "Citizen Emperor" (pg. 384) and dispenses with as much protocol as possible. Agis shows a sense of humor, talking of how brave he is to see Raven Seldon, a nickname connoting bad luck. He lists those who have fallen after associating with Hari. Agis is unimpressed by psychohistory but believes that Hari's saying that the Empire will fall somehow makes it happen. Hari convinces Agis of the need for the Encyclopedia Galatica but no funding is available. Agis is a true friend to Hari when his son Raych and his family die in a revolution. Agis himself is eventually dethroned and Hari does not know what becomes of him.

Dr. Bor Alurin

A psychologist and fan of Hari Seldon, Alurin has psychic powers that Wanda Seldon and Stettin Palver detect near the spaceport. Hari accepts Alurin into the Psychohistory Project and assigns him to lead the Foundationists on the planet Terminus.

Gleb Andorin

A middle-aged man, clean-shaven, with golden hair that is slicked back, Andorin is a leading Joranumite in Wye Sector. He criticizes Chief Gambol Deen Namarti's decision to kill Kaspal Kaspalov. While he respects Namarti's sense of drive, Andorin disparages his intelligence. Andorin does not believe in supernatural influences, which interest Namarti. Andorin is a friend of the prostitute Manella Dubanqua, who introduces him to Raych Seldon while Raych is working undercover under the name of Planchet. Andorin has a long talk with the idealistic youth and believes him perfect to infiltrate the Palace to assassinate Emperor Cleon I, whom Andorin wants badly to succeed. Namarti objects that they need Cleon as a figurehead for a while. The immediate target is First Minister Hari Seldon, whom Namarti intends to succeed. Andorin hates having constantly to second-guess Namarti's intentions.

Andorin is independently rich, a nephew of the infamous Mayor Rashelle of Wye. Security has files on him but believes him too much a playboy to do anything dangerous. Hari is surprised that such an aristocrat is involved in a proletarian movement. During the attempt on Hari's life, Andorin is assigned to kill Raych after Raych kills Hari. Instead, Andorin is blasted by Manella, who is an undercover security officer.

Emperor Cleon I

The last Galactic Emperor of the Entun dynasty, Cleon is born the same year as Hari Seldon, whose psychohistory he patronizes for decades, expecting practical results. Cleon is frustrated by how little he gets. Cleon detests the trappings of office and it is rumored that Eto Demerzel, first Cleon's chief of staff and later First Minister, is the



power behind the throne. When it is rumored that he is a robot, Eto resigns and disappears, having suggested that Cleon name Hari as his successor. Hari struggles in the thankless job for a decade until during an attempt on Hari's life, Cleon falls victim to a deranged palace gardener. A military junta rules for years before an even less competent distant relative, Agis XIV, assumes the throne.

Dr. Tamwile Elar

A tall, brilliant, long-haired, self-assured 36-year-old Senior Mathematician, recruited four years ago from West Mandanov University by Yugo Amaryl for the Psychohistory Project, Elar contributes so-called "achaotic equations" (pg. 244) to the Prime Radiant. Elar has an annoying laugh that gets on Yugo's nerves. With help from Dr. Cinda Monay Elar develops the Electro-Clarifier that squeezes material into the lines and curves of the future. Elar is a possible successor to Hari and Yugo, although Hari feels humiliated to have been upstaged over the achaotic equations, even though they grow out of Hari's body of work. Hari dislikes being called Maestro, as Elar insists.

Elar on his own authority postpones a meeting called by Gen. Dugal Tennar with Hari, fearing that Hari will need preparation to deal with this powerful and dangerous new head of the junta. Tennar also comes from Mandanov. Elar is responsible for suggesting a gala sixtieth birthday party for Hari, which allows a member of the junta to study the Prime Radiant. He uses a more powerful prototype version of the Electro-Clarifier to kills the annoying Dors Venabili, Hari's wife and protector, having determined that she is a robot and the electromagnetism will disrupt her circuits. This will leave him and the junta free to eliminate Hari and accelerate the progress of psychohistory. Dors rallies to kill Elar and tell the story to Hari before herself ceasing to function.

Dr. Mian Endelecki

The white-haired but youthful-looking biophysicist whom Hari Seldon selects to map his granddaughter Wanda's genome, Endelecki explains the complexities and the enormous cost. She is unwilling to lose her license by testing a minor without her parents' permission, forcing Hari to convince Wanda's parents. Endelecki explains the painless procedure and lengthy analysis and a frustrating month later presents the reports to Hari. There is nothing remarkable about the DNA responsible for Wanda's brain structure.

Mandell Gruber

A Gardner First Class, Gruber is content with his lot in life, having over the course of thirty years risen to his present rank. He is dismayed at the prospects of being appointed Chief Gardener, an office that precludes hands-on gardening. A native of the remote, wild planet Anacreon, Gruber is a bit younger than Hari Seldon when Hari serves as First Minister to Emperor Cleon I. They frequently meet in the garden and chat about the wonders of nature. Gruber hopes that his lack of formal education will



protect him against promotion, but Hari sees in him a natural philosopher. When Cleon announces the promotion and Hari recommends that Gruber simply accept his fate and make the best of it, Gruber assassinates Cleon and is summarily executed, despite obvious mental instability.

Lasken (Jo-Jo) Joranum

A demagogic, 42-year-old politician born in the Mycogen Sector of Trantor, Joranum claims to hail from the obscure planet Nishaya, lest his message of social justice and political equality for all be laughed at by the masses who consider Mycogenian religion ridiculous. His claim that "Government is the people" (pg. 10) is a ploy that generates great popular support, but will end when he succeeds in replacing Eto Demerzel as First Minister and gains control of the weak Emperor Cleon I.

Joranum is large and soft, with sandy hair, blue eyes, and a practiced smile. In person he does not resemble his holograms. He speaks with an orator's voice and compulsively gnaws a thumb while thinking. Hari deduces from his accent and too-perfect hair that Joranum is from Mycogen and succeeds in thoroughly documenting his deceptions. Offered a choice between facing Mycogenian justice, with the possibility of a death sentence and exile to Nishaya, Joranum chooses the latter, where he dies a few years later, a pathetic figure. His lieutenant, Dr. Gambol Deen (G. D.) Namarti, for a while resurrects the movement in Wye Sector, but is also ultimately unsuccessful.

Kaspal Kaspalov

An Old Joranumite, Kaspalov frequently questions and challenges Joranum's right-hand man and successor, Gambol Deen Namarti, as they reconstitute the movement in Wye Sector. Kaspalov denies that Joranum had made mistakes and resents being considered an old fool. The three other members of the inner circle are willing to follow Namarti as Chief, so Kaspalov goes along, tries to be reconciliatory, but insists on having his say, particularly about the wisdom and morality of Namarti's policy of fostering and exploiting breakdowns in the infrastructure around Trantor to foment popular discontent. The discovery of Kaspalov's knifed body in Wye Sector and his last word, "Chief," leads Hari Seldon to send his son Raych undercover into Wye to investigate signs of conspiracy and rebellion.

Tejan Popjens Lih

The judge who presides at Hari Seldon's and Stettin Palver's assault and battery trial, Lih is one of Trantor's leading judges. She demands that the hostile gallery come to order. A native of the Outer World of Lystena, Lih has a striking bluish complexion that darkens to purple when she is angry. She wears red robes to set it off. She knows Hari's reputation as a predictor of doom and his two previous claims of self-defense and wonders if he might be dramatizing his theory about the decay of civilization. She allows Hari to speak in his own defense before the alleged eyewitness, Rial Nevas, who admits



to lying. Lih then dismisses the charges and thanks Hari for providing an old-fashioned example of honesty, decency, and good will.

Dr. Cinda Monay

A slim, long-faced, intelligent-looking researcher in the Electro-Clarification Laboratory of the Seldon Psychohistory Project at Streeling University, Monay resents non-mathematicians being considered second-class. Her doctorate is in radiational physics. She has worked two and a half years on the Project and been promoted twice. As a skilled technician, Monay builds the Electro-Clarifier, which is theoretically developed by Tamwile Elar. Elar gives her full credit for her share of the work. She has turned over to him the prototype of a more powerful version. She favors Elar succeeding Hari should he retire as director over fossilized old Yugo Amaryl.

Gennaro Mummery

A short, plump, insincerely-smiling, yellow-toothed Librarian, Mummery purposefully keeps Hari Seldon waiting for their first meeting, as Hari requests to keep his office in the Galactic Library. Mummery heads the faction of Library Board members who want to close access to the collection. Mummery rejects the plea, disparages psychohistory for thirty years of failure, and declares that because Library funding is short, and only if Hari gets the Emperor to increase appropriations - a long-shot - can increased office space be discussed. Mummery is the first person to use the nickname Raven Seldon in Hari's face, referring to the bird of ill omen.

Dr. Gambol Deen (G. D.) Namarti

A loud, sallow man of moderate height, with a wide mouth and dark hair, Namarti is the right-hand man of the political demagogue Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum. Namarti is first seen addressing a student rally on the campus of Streeling University. Hari Seldon has to use physical force against two of Namarti's goons to break up the illegal gathering. Although he apologizes to Hari in Joranum's presence, Namarti remembers the incident and holds a grudge.

Namarti, who has a doctorate in ancient literature and no sense of humor, advises Joranum against charging that First Minister Eto Demerzel is a robot. The revelation is successfully denied and Joranum is exiled. Namarti moves the remnants of his movement to Wye Sector, where he enjoys being addressed as Chief. He orders the murder of an Old Joranumite, Kaspal Kaspalov, who opposes his tactics, and fosters and exploits breakdowns in the infrastructure around Trantor to foment popular discontent.

Another lieutenant, Gleb Andorin, who respects Namarti's sense of drive but disparages his intelligence, has a claim to royal blood and demands to replace Emperor Cleon I whenever Namarti seizes the post of First Minister. Namarti begins reading about gods



and the supernatural influences in which billions of humans believe. A decade of planning leaves him agitated and sour.

When Hari infiltrates his adopted son Raych into the organization, Namarti sees through his disguise and orders him drugged to prepare him to assassinate his father. Andorin dies in the attempt and Hari is saved by a prostitute friend of Andorin's who is working as an undercover security officer. The plot unravels and the rebels, including Namarti, are executed.

Rial Nevas

A smart-alecky young man whom Hari Seldon reprimands for littering, Nevas claims to be an eyewitness to Hari's and Stettin Palver's unprovoked attack on three young people. As he testifies at the trial, Nevas feels his throat tighten as he lies. Finding himself stared at by Wanda Seldon and Stettin Palver, Nevas breaks down and tearfully confesses the truth, resulting in an acquittal.

Civ Novker

Hari Seldon's lawyer, who twice represents him on trumped up assault and battery charges against a mugger. Novker gives long, passionate speeches. In the first case, Novker claims that waiving a jury trial is foolish and threatens to withdraw, but gives in to mental pressure from Hari's psychic granddaughter, Wanda, and the case is dismissed. The second one is more difficult but also ends in acquittal.

Stettin Palver

One of a trio of young men whom Hari Seldon overhears discussing the fate of the Galaxy in the Galactic Library, Palver is the grandson of the renowned Joramis, now deceased, Hari's friend who he once tries to recruit for the Psychohistory Project. Before learning their names, Hari nicknames them Hook Nose, Baldy, and Red Cheeks. Red Cheeks (Palver) foresees endless warfare as in the time of the Kingdom of Trantor and notes that this is no ordinary crisis, because the Inner Worlds are so impoverished that they will fall of their own weight, with the government not seeing that the end has come. He mentions Hari's theory to his colleagues before Hari, impressed with his position, invites him to meet. Palver studies history at Langano University but returns to a manual labor job on Trantor. Palver keeps the job while learning psychohistory from Hari. He also serves as Hari's bodyguard. He is 24 years old. Palver is tried as Hari's collaborator on assault and battery charges, but working in unison with fellow psychic Wanda Seldon, gets the eyewitness to recant his story. Only afterwards do they recognize their shared power, fall in love, and become the pioneers of Hari's secret Second Foundation at Star's End.



Manella Dubanqua Seldon

A tall, attractive prostitute who shows interest in Raych Seldon in a bar in Wye Sector on the planet Trantor, while he is working undercover for his father, First Minister Hari Seldon, Manella helps Raych, who calls himself Planch, infiltrate the rebellious Joranumite movement. They fall in love but are ordered apart just before infiltration into the Palace grounds to assassinate Hari. Disguised as a gardener, Manella shoots dead Gleb Andorin, the man assigned to silence Raych by killing him, and reveals that she is undercover security. Forced to retire, she soon marries Raych, whose mother Dors Venabili accepts her only on her own deathbed. Manella and younger daughter Bellis accompany Raych to the planet Santanni, where civil war breaks out and they are presumed lost when all trace of the Arcadia VII is lost.

Raych Seldon

A tough 12-year-old street urchin whom Hari Seldon and Dors Venabili encounter by accident in the wretched slums of Billibotton "Dahl Sector" during Prelude to Foundation, Raych has an ingratiating quality that convince Hari and Dors to adopt him. It also helps them survive a coup hatched in Wye Sector. Eight years later, as Forward the Foundation begins, Raych is a young adult, proudly wearing the thick, dark mustache of Dahl males and serving as Hari's bodyguard. Twice Hari volunteers Raych for dangerous undercover missions to thwart rebellion against Emperor Cleon I, the first time in Billibotton, where he plants the seeds for the downfall of the demagogue Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum, whose promises of equality for all Raych had sincerely admired. It thwarts the overthrow of First Minister, Eto Demerzel. As a reward and to sooth his conscience, Raych is given a job in the Ministry of Population, where he learns that every sector is governed by jealousy and greed.

Raych's next mission, during his father's stint at First Minister, requires that he temporarily remove his mustache and wear elevator shoes to disguise his short stature. It takes him to Wye sector where he operates under the pseudonym Planch. He is befriended by a prostitute, Manella, and introduced to the Joranumites, who take him in, knowing full well who he is, and drug him to make him to assassinate his father. Manella thwarts the attempt and they soon marry, much to Dors Venabili's consternation.

Raych writes a badly-needed book about Dahl Sector and begins lecturing. About this time a second daughter, Bellis, is born. Hari orders Raych at age 49 to leave off lecturing to assist in determining if first daughter Wanda, age twelve, is genetically predisposed to mind-reading and altering. Raych wants Wanda to live a normal life, but is convinced to allow testing. It reveals nothing unusual about Wanda's brain. Near the end of the novel, Wanda uses her psychic powers to convince Raych to allow her to remain on Trantor to care for Hari when Raych, Manella, and Bellis leave for Santanni, where Raych is employed in the University. Violent rebellion unexpectedly breaks out. Manella and Bellis disappear while fleeing towards the planet Anacreon, and Raych



perishes during the defense of the university. Hari is devastated and for a long time cannot work.

Wanda Seldon

Hari Seldon's granddaughter, Wanda is the eldest child of Raych and Manella Seldon. Always a precocious child, Wanda at an early age reveals an ability to read minds, hearing during her grandfather's sixtieth birthday celebration about a plot to kill him. She still lacks the language skills to interpret what she hears, but is upset and reports it to her parents and grandmother, Dors Venabili. Dors figures it out, confronts and kills the would-be assassin, but herself also succumbs. Dors feels responsible.

At age twelve, Wanda feels ignored when baby sister Bellis arrives and attaches herself to lonely the lonely mathematician Yugo Amaryl. When she spots a bit of bad coding in the Prime Radiant, Hari to suspects that she can read minds. Soon it appears that she can mentally push susceptible people into doing her will. When Hari is arrested for assault and battery, Wanda is able mentally to push the alleged eye-witness into admitting his lie. She does this in concert with Stettin Palver, Hari's bodyguard and student, who is destined to become Wanda's husband. They discover after the trial that he too is psychic and together they push the eye-witness to confess. The couple begins looking for fellow psychics to form the nucleus of Hari's secret Second Foundation located at Star's End. Although Wanda is his primary care giver in his old age after Dors' death, Hari orders her to perform her duty. As a result, Wanda is away during Hari's death and funeral.

Gen. Dugal Tennar and Col. Hender Linn

The newest head of the military junta that for a decade rules the Empire after Emperor Cleon I's assassination and Hari Seldon's retirement from the office of First Minister, Tennar establishes a reputation for ignorance, superstition, and violence on Mandanov before rising to the top. Senior Mathematician Tamwile Elar, also from Mandanov, warns Hari about him before a meeting and Dors Venabili calls Tennar a monster. Tennar is a stocky man with a carefully-clipped, reddish mustache and cold blue eyes. He has grown pudgy. He lives in secure but rundown housing on the outskirts of the Palace grounds, but yearns to occupy the Small Palace and establish a dynasty of his own.

Tennar's sycophantic lackey, Col. Hender Linn, suggests that holding absolute power over millions of words matters more than surroundings but concedes that this has happened in Imperial history. Tennar's power is unquestioned on Trantor and most Inner Worlds. Linn cautions that most Outer Worlds have adequate armed forces of their own, requiring caution. Linn urgently and frequently maintains that Hari is Tennar's greatest danger, because of psychohistory and his strong cult following. Latching onto the possibility that psychohistory could predict the future, Tennar wants to control it. On the day of the meeting, Dors Venabili invades the Palace grounds and confronts Linn about the consequences should any harm come to Hari. Hari convinces Tennar to introduce a



poll tax to shore up revenues, knowing that this should cause a popular uprising. It does and the junta is swept away.

Las Zenow and Tryma Arcanio

Successive Chief Librarians of the Galactic Library during the final phase of Hari Seldon's life, Zenow has a gray beard turning to white. He cooperates with Hari in locating an appropriate world on which to establish a Foundation to preserve human knowledge by publishing the Encyclopedia Galactica. Zenow wishes that he were young enough to participate. Frustrated by opposition by Librarian Gennaro Mummery, Zenow retires to his home planet Wencory and is succeeded by Tryma Arcanio, also a progressive but more popular with the Library Board. Zenow hopes that Arcanio will be better able to help Hari's Foundation projects. Arcanio is short and stocky, with eyes damaged by a childhood operation; this masks a powerful intelligence and awareness. While acquainted with the Psychohistory Project and Zenow's views, Arcanio is unable to give Hari more space and ends up having to withdraw his privileges completely. These are restored when psychic Wanda Seldon pushes Arcanio's mind.



Objects/Places

Anacreon

A province of the Milky Way Galaxy, having few stars and no political importance, Anacreon is located some 10,000 parsecs from Trantor. During the era of military junta, Anacreon becomes the target of an Imperial show of force that psychohistory shows will matter nothing. Hari Seldon tries to overhear talk about an Imperial incursion meant to bring the Governor in line. Late in the novel, in troubled times throughout the Galaxy, Hari's daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Manella and Bellis Seldon, are lost on a flight to the planet Anacreon and are presumed killed. Anacreon is also home to Mandell Gruber, the gardener who assassinates Emperor Cleon I.

Dahl

An economically depressed sector of the planet Trantor, Dahl produces energy in heatsinks dug deep underground near the superheated planetary magma. The work takes place under terrible physical conditions and the workers suffer severe class prejudices. The men all grow dense black mustaches and are shorter than average. Touring a heatsink in *Prelude to Foundation*, Hari Seldon meets a self-taught mathematician, Yugo Amaryl, who is languishing in the heatsinks, and promises to place him in a university program. In *Forward the Foundation*, Yugo has become Hari's closest collaborator and heir apparent. Yugo does not speak with the characteristic accent of Dahl or wear the mustache.

The step son whom Hari and wife Dors Venabili adopt at the same time grows up to assist his father in several missions, one of which takes him undercover to Dahl's worst section, Billibotton, to search for signs of rebellion. Raych finds the area unchanged a dozen years later: hangdog, irreverent, resentful, and filled with false pride.

The Galactic Empire

The Galactic Empire consists of 25 million inhabited worlds, all colonized so long ago that no one remembers a time when all humans inhabit a single tiny planet. Some cultures memorialize a mythical "Aurora," while others remember an "Earth." The emblem of the Empire is the Spaceship and Sun. Its capital is the planet Trantor, a complex of 800 semi-autonomous sectors at the center of the Galaxy. The Galactic Empire succeeds a 2,000-year virtual empire ruled by the Kingdom of Trantor, and has in its 10,000-year existence, survived occasional rebellions, dynastic wars, and periods of serious breakdown, but appears to prosper. As this novel proceeds, the Galactic Empire begins disintegrating, as psychohistory predicts, with the Outer Worlds breaking away first and the Center failing physically and morally. Psychohistory aims to preserve the core of human knowledge to facilitate the birth of a Second Galactic Empire from the ruins of the first.



The Galactic Library

Located on Imperial grounds in the capital planet of the Milky Way, Trantor, the Galactic Library is the largest single structure on the planet and perhaps in the Galaxy. It features a magnificent grand entryway surrounded by gardens. Among the Library's other impressive features is a three-dimensional computerized model of the Milky Way Galaxy. The Library has faded by the time Hari Seldon as an ex-politician and widower establishes himself in a private office there to conduct research for his Psychohistory Project, but it is still open to all citizens. Budget cuts are beginning to require cutbacks, and a growing faction of the Library Board, headed by Librarian Gennaro Mummery, favors closing down direct access to information.

The Chief Librarians in this time period are Las Zenow and later Tryma Arcanio, the former relinquishing his position due to opposition from Mummery. He fully supports Hari Seldon's research and recommends that Arcanio support it. Arcanio would, but worries that after several arrests, Hari is a dangerous character to be associated with his institution. Only when treated to psychic pushing does Arcanio relent and research goes forward at a rapid clip, bringing about establishment of the two Foundations.

Helicon

The outer world of the Milky Way Galaxy on which mathematician Hari Seldon is born, raised, and educated, Helicon is located on the opposite side of a Galactic center from the capital planet, Trantor. Hari notes that after eight years on Trantor he still cannot overcome one characteristic of Helicon's accent. Hari tells of a political movement on Helicon some 2,400 years ago, the Globalists, that declares Helicon the only inhabited planet in the universe. It is the universe and anything that apparently comes from outside is a mirage. They are immune to reason. At their peak of influence, the Globalists represent a rabid 10% of the population. As a result of rejecting trade with the Empire, Helicon's economy suffers and people reject Globalism. Remnants remain and occasionally meet in congresses.

Mycogen

A strongly xenophobic sector of the planet Trantor, Mycogen is led by the authoritarian Head Elder Sunmaster Fourteen. Inhabitants have been trained over generations to consider facial hair - including eyebrows and even lashes - as an abomination. Sexual segregation is severe. In *Prelude to Foundation* Hari Seldon falls afoul of Mycogenian taboos and narrowly escapes a death sentence. Mycogen also preserves a legend about robots. In *Forward the Foundation*, the rebel politician Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum is discovered to have been born in Mycogen, although he claims to be a native of Nishaya. Being found to be a Mycogenian would subject him to planet-wide ridicule because of perceptions of the sector's religion. The Sunmaster Fourteen is called upon to adjudicate his fate according to draconian Mycogenian law dealing with Breakaways (traitors or apostates). Mycogen's ancestors rule Aurora for three centuries as lords of



the Fifty Worlds of the Galaxy. Those remote forebears are responsible for creating the only humaniform robot, R. Daneel Olivaw, who in the guise of Eto Demerzel serves as First Minister.

Nishaya

Nishaya is the obscure outer planet, disparagingly said to specialize in goat herding, where the demagogic politician Lasken (Jo-Jo) Joranum claims to have been born. Joranum recalls the folktale of a woodcutter, Venn, who alone can wield his magic ax. He applies this to Hari Seldon, who alone can wield psychohistory. Hari talks with many Nishayans and decides that Joranum could not have shed the characteristic heavy accent after living there nearly two decades. This suggests that he has laundered his life history. When Joranum is found out, he chooses exile on Nishaya over trial in Mycogen Sector, which could bring the death penalty. Joranum dies on Nishaya not many years later.

Prime Radiant

A compact device whose circuitry Hari Seldon designs and Yugo Amaryl cleverly assembles, the Prime Radiant for the first time allows psychohistorians to glimpse darkness and light in their science, still as though through frosted glass, but better than through lead. The Prime Radiant looks like a dark, opaque cube but until activated. Then it displays equations, relationships, and numbers, shimmering in the air. The inventors foresee displaying rivers of mathematical symbolism that charts both the historical past and possible futures that can be compared and possibly manipulated. Both worry about the responsibility of making decisions about the future. The subsequent invention of the Electro-Clarifier allows greater packing of data into the Prime Radiant.

Psychohistory

Hari Seldon's combination of history, sociology, and mathematical statistics, first described in a paper delivered at the Decennial Mathematics Convention on the capital planet of Trantor, psychohistory to yield accurate results requires 1) very large groups of people, and 2) ignorance of the results by the population. The Galactic Empire, whose population numbers in the quadrillions, meets these criteria but is too massive to be practical. After decades of work by Hari and his colleagues, psychohistory still can do no more than predict probabilities among options.

First Minister Eto Demerzel on behalf of Emperor Cleon I, consistently supports the research, encouraging Hari in his seemingly impossible task. Eto is, in fact, R. Daneel Olivaw, a robot who has for millennia been seeking a way to make it safe for robots like himself to watch over the safety of humanity. Hari as Eto's successor and the military junta that takes over after Cleon's assassination, increase funding for the project, expecting but never seeing results. The Seldon Psychohistory Project at Streeling



University, usually call simply the Project, swells in size until funding dries up completely.

By then the invention of the Prime Radiant device, which makes possible the organization and graphical display of the complex mathematics that underly psychohistory, begin to allow practical applications. The Electro-Clarifier allows denser data packing of the Prime Radiant. Introduction of a poll tax produces as expected a rebellion. A revolution in psychohistory occurs when first Wanda Seldon and then Stettin Palver are found to have psychic powers, the ability both to read minds and to push them into desired actions. Hari splits the Foundation that he intends to guide use of psychohistory over the next thousand years into a scholarly First Foundation on the planet Terminus and a psychic Second Foundation, hidden on the mysterious Land's End.

Santanni

An outer world located across the Milky Way Galaxy from Trantor, Santanni has an Imperial University that late in the novel hires Raych Seldon. Raych, his wife and younger daughter go to Santanni. When civil war breaks out, Raych puts Manella and Bellis on a flight to Anacreon aboard the Arcadia VII, which mysteriously never reaches its destination. Raych dies heroically defending the Library.

Streeling University

The Galactic Empire's premier educational institution, Streeling University employs historian Dors Venabili when mathematician Hari Seldon first arrives on the planet Trantor in Prelude to Foundation. She obtains a leave of absence to serve as Hari's bodyguard and, after their flight around the planet, they settle at Streeling, each enjoying professorships. Hari chairs the mathematics department, which occupies much of his time but provides a cover and funding for the clandestine psychohistory project. As a middle-aged professor in the current novel, Hari enjoys strolling the campus under a high dome. It offers the illusion of openness. During one such walk, Hari singlehandedly breaks up a rebel demonstration on University Field by followers of the demagogue, Jo-Jo Joranum. During his ten years as First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, Hari lives in the Imperial Sector rather than at the University, but returns to Streeling upon his retirement and heads the Seldon Psychohistory Project, usually call simply the Project. He lives as a lonely widow in an apartment at the University, continuing his work until his death.

Terminus

A planet of mild climate and a high water/land ratio located on the fringes of the Milky Way Galaxy, Terminus becomes home to Hari Seldon's First Foundation under the guise of the scholars compiling the Encyclopedia Galactica. He sets up equipment needed to



appear posthumously in holograms to guide the scholars through the so-called Seldon Crises that occur during the novel Foundation.

The Three Laws of Robotics

The basic precepts programmed into all positronic robots, the Three Laws of Robotics specify that: 1) a robot may not injure a human or allow one to come to harm; 2) a robot must obey human orders unless such orders would conflict with the First Law; and 3) a robot must protect its own existence, unless this conflicts with the First or Second Law. R. Daneel Olivaw postulates a "Zeroeth Law" that : a robot may not harm humanity at large, or allow it to come to harm. After serving for decades in the Imperial Court as Eto Demerzel, Daneel reverts to his true nature and disappears to concentrate on the troublesome Zeroeth Law, which humans themselves make so difficult to obey. Over millennia Daneel has intervened in history only when absolutely necessary. He is the force behind Hari Seldon's science of "psychohistory."

Trantor

The capital of the First Galactic Empire, Trantor has the distinction of being entirely domed, except for the grounds of the Imperial Palace. It is a culturally complex world located as near the center of the Milky Way Galaxy as is physically possible, given high radiation in the central black hole. Trantor's technological wonders are in a sad state of decline in this novel.

Imperial Sector enjoys the highest standard of living anywhere in the Galaxy and is populated entirely by government officials. The Palace grounds include 500 square kilometers of gardens and park lands, maintained by a large staff and heavily guarded. The rest of the planet's forty billion people are divided into 800 semi-autonomous regions whose civilizations and subcultures differ widely. Always largely free from Imperial pressure, they are tending towards open rebellion as the economy fails and taxation becomes more burdensome. Rebels exploit minor breakdowns in the infrastructure to build separatist tensions.

Wye Sector

The sector of the planet Trantor that for centuries provides servants to and rivals for power with the Entun Dynasty, Wye is led by a Mayor, one of the most famous of whom, Rashelle, had challenged the Emperor Cleon I, and nearly prevailed. Gambol Deen Namarti and other surviving followers of the exiled and deceased demagogue Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum gather in Wye as a safe place to continue the movement. As patterns of social disruption spread around Trantor, Hari Seldon notes that Wye seems exempt. When an old Joranumite, Kaspal Kaspalov, is then found murdered in Wye, Hari sends his son Raych, incognito, to look for signs of rebellion.



Themes

Chaos

Although Isaac Asimov's novel *Forward to Foundation* a few times touches on mythology, when he refers to chaos it is not to explain how the universe comes about from nothingness, but how mathematicians are limited in their ability to predict how events will unroll from a given starting point. Chaotic systems are dynamic, with new variations constantly developing. It is particularly difficult when one deals with free-will actors reacting and behaving to stimuli.

Hari Seldon, who as a young mathematician reads a paper about psychohistory, is as he reaches age forty still frustrated that he cannot predict the future. Emperor Cleon I has for ten years been demanding results that Hari fears will never become possible. Chaos is simply too pervasive. Hari has enjoyed ten years of advanced computers, which have advanced the project, but not to the extent that he can help Cleon out of his immediate political bind. Hari's partner, mathematician Yugo Amaryl, whom Hari acknowledges to be the more perceptive and energetic worker, is a partisan of letting intuition supplement theory and calculation. Hari eventually adopts the same solution, short-term.

Hari and Yugo conceptualize and build a device, the Prime Radiant, that allows fuzzy glimpses into the future. Tamwile Elar contributes the so-called "achaotic equations" (pg. 244) that considerably advance the Prime Radiant by sidestepping the effects of chaos. Elar and Cinda Monay perfect an Electro-Clarifier that squeezes data into the lines and curves of the future plotted by the Prime Radiant. Tests suggest that civil war can break out on Trantor or in the Outer Worlds, but not in both. Hari industrial overheating will destroy the Galaxy, and he looks to psychohistory to restore humanity on a different path after a dark age - a return to more intense chaos. Conditions are right for a crisis.

Hari suggest to the military junta that succeeds Cleon instituting a poll tax to stabilize finances. Psychohistory predicts that, as is frequent in history, bloody revolt will result, ending the junta. How this plays out will be a crucial test case for psychohistory. The revolt occurs and Hari is encouraged. A revolution occurs when Hari's granddaughter, Wanda, is found to be psychic. She is able not only to read minds but to push them into prescribed behaviors. This is an obvious step away from chaos. Hari envisages a team of psychics (mentalists) who can keep psychohistory on track by minor adjustments throughout the thousand years of chaos that will follow the fall of Empire. The chaos would last 30,000 years without this intervention. Hari organizes Foundations, one public on the planet Terminus and one strictly secret at Star's End. It is an enigmatic and mystery location and records Crisis holograms to guide the Foundationers after his death. He then dies, satisfied that he has done his part.



Politics

Isaac Asimov in *Forward the Foundation* depicts the Galactic Empire as theoretically an absolute monarchy. Limitations on the monarch's power depend both on the character of the incumbent and the qualities of his First Minister. Cleon I, Emperor when Hari Seldon arrives on the capital planet of Trantor in *Prelude to Foundation*, remains on the throne in the current novel, ably assisted by Eto Demerzel, who in actuality is a robot, R. Daneel Olivaw, who for thousands of years has been trying to watch over humankind and prevent harm coming to it. Eto is widely rumored to be the real power behind the throne. Eto works carefully behind the scenes, avoiding observation.

Perhaps thanks to Eto, Cleon avoids the one-in-two chance of falling victim to assassination during a long reign. The threat arises in the novel, although the target is in both cases the sitting First Minister. Lasken "Jo-Jo" Joranum, a demagogic, 42-year-old politician preaches social justice and political equality for all humans that attracts a large following. He claims that "Government is the people" (pg. 10.) His goal is to replace Eto Demerzel and gain control over Cleon. To achieve this, he spreads rumors that Eto is a robot, which in contemporary Imperial society would be unthinkable. The movement falls apart when Hari discovers secrets about Joranum that discredit him worse. Politics is very much an exercise in mud-slinging.

Joranum's lieutenant, Dr. Gambol Deen "G. D." Namarti, resurrects the movement but is also ultimately unsuccessful. In both case, when provoked, Cleon is quick to call for judicial executions both as punishment and as example to would-be rebels. Eto and Hari urge patience and are particularly loath to make martyrs out of opponents. Cleon bristles at having to avoid looking tyrannical and brutal, envying earlier emperors who could rule with an iron fist. Paradoxically, Cleon dispenses with ceremonial whenever possible. He rules absolutely only his private gardens. Otherwise, the security services keep him inside the secure Imperial Sector, away from the people.

Despite tight security, a deranged employee assassinates Cleon and a military junta takes over for a decade. It succeeds in impoverishing Trantor and leaving its infrastructure in ruins. It uses covert methods to spy on the Psychohistory Project. Even in mild Cleon's day, however, everyone takes pains to speak about sensitive matters only under secure conditions. Spying seems to be endemic to all forms of rule. Based on calculations of psychohistory, Hari convinces the head general to impose a head tax, figuring that this will spawn a bloody revolt and bring the regime down. As it so often has in history, this theory proves true.

After the junta, Cleon's maternal third cousin is put on the throne as Agis VI, named in honor of an emperor who 2,000 years before rules for 42 years without tyranny. Agis dubs himself the "Citizen Emperor" (pg. 384) and dispenses with protocol even more than Cleon. He also is quick to retaliate in blood and bemoans the fact that he deals not with a First Minister of the caliber of Eto or Hari, but with 7,500 self-interested legislators under the new system of democracy. It appears that Joranum's self-serving doctrines have taken root after all. The legislator holds the power of the purse strings, preventing



Agis from funding Hari's vital Psychohistory Project. Agis suggests that Hari turn to private entrepreneurs, but they are no less willing to part with funds than the legislators. Agis is eventually dethroned and the child emperor who replaces him, is entirely under the control of Linge Chen and the Commission of Public Safety.

Duty

Isaac Asimov in *Forward the Foundation* is full of Duty-inspired characters. The novel covers the last four decades of protagonist Hari Seldon's life. The frustration of formulating a science of psychohistory but being unable to turn it into a practical tool for guiding humankind grows continually as the Galactic Empire declines in all areas, ranging from infrastructure to the economy, civility and morality. For a decade Hari is immediately responsible for the state of the Empire, while he serves as First Minister to the weak Emperor Cleon I. Hari never feels himself an adept politician and others are happy to point this out to him. He finds time to work on psychohistory while serving and is pleased when he loses the post and he returns to research full-time. The Psychohistory Project is for years well-funded by the government and later is cut-off in a general cutback on funding. Hari does whatever he can to raise money and maintain that although the Project has not yet yielded fruits, bankrupting it will be akin to cutting off the future.

Hari is assisted in the Psychohistory Project by Yugo Amaryl, whom he considers the superior scientist. Yugo refuses to take time off, which compromises his health, and leads to a premature death at age 55. He prides himself on taking up the slack during Hari's political career.

Twice Hari's adopted son, Raych, accepts dangerous undercover missions for his father. He even obeys the order to shave off the mustache that is the symbol of his virility if not his entire being. In the first mission, Raych sets up for political destruction a man whose philosophy of equality he sincerely admires. Nevertheless, he loyally carries out his mission. Later, he quits the lecture circuit to serve as his father's bodyguard and agrees to have his daughter Wanda's DNA studied, although he worries that this could lead to her becoming another Yugo, working herself to death in the laboratory. Raych also remains loyal to his wife, Manella, in opposition to his mother, who finds no end of reasons to criticize that woman. Manella had saved his life, for which he is eternally grateful. When Raych moves his family to another planet, Wanda remains to care for her grandfather and study psychohistory, eventually to succeed Hari. When Hari needs her to move to a secret location, Star's End, to head the Second Foundation, she obeys, despite her concerns to the increasingly decrepit man.

The most dutiful character in the novel is Dors Venibili, assigned on Hari's arrival on Trantor by Eto Demerzel/R. Daneel to guarantee Hari and psychohistory's survival. Dors, like Eto, is a robot, programmed above all to prevent humans from coming to harm. In the course of their marriage, Dors annoys Hari by her tenacious dedication to duty. She gains a reputation as a Tiger Woman when she evades security to warn the military junta not to harm Hari and follows obscure clues to uncover a plot to kill Hari.

Unfortunately, she does not realize that the means of sickening him to death does not affect humans, but only robots. Somehow, the killer has figured out that she is a robot, a realization that has eluded her family. Wanda's dedication helps rally Hari out of depression after Dor's demise, and he is able to complete his life's mission, establishing the Foundations that will lead to humankind's restoration after a new dark age.



Style

Point of View

The narrator of *Forward the Foundation* is anonymous but entirely sympathetic and empathetic to the final decades in the life of Hari Seldon, inventor of psychohistory, as he strives to turn his impractical theory into a tool that will shorten the dark age that is coming upon the Galactic Empire. The novel is told in the third-person narrative and the past tense, largely through narrative connecting extensive dialogue, without delving into the characters' inner thought processes.

Isaac Asimov continues the story begun in *Prelude to Foundation* and assumes that the reader is familiar with the adventures of Hari and his beautiful bodyguard, historian Dors Venabili, as they flee the Emperor's supposedly evil and manipulative chief of staff, Eto Demerzel. It is critical to realize that Eto, in this novel risen to the rank of First Minister, is in fact a robot, R. Daneel Olivaw, Hari's consistent protector and promoter. Daneel is Asimov's most consistent character, appearing throughout his writings.

Towards the end of the previous novel, Dors is also revealed to be a robot and, despite the difficulty they fall in love. In *Forward the Foundation* they are married ten years. She remains a bit too protective of him, but beloved and irreplaceable. She does not, of course, age. Much of the novel is devoted to Hari aging into the white-haired, wheelchair-bound cultural icon seen in the original *Foundation* novel. *Prelude to Foundation* and *Forward the Foundation* serve as a prelude to the *Foundation* series.

Much is made in this novel of the depressing process of aging. One can sense Asimov's own sense that the end is approaching in Hari's sadness over inevitable losses and wondering about his legacy.

Setting

Like *Prelude to Foundation*, *Forward the Foundation* is set in the final years of the Galactic Era, beginning during the rocky reign of the Emperor Cleon I and continuing through the years of rapid decline under a military junta and two weak emperors. Mathematician Hari Seldon, who in *Prelude to Foundation* comes as a young man to the planet Trantor, the Galactic center, to deliver a theoretical paper about "psychohistory" before the Decennial Mathematics Convention, has matured into a respected scientist with important contacts in the Imperial Court. Emperor Cleon I continues to reign ten years later and still wants Hari to turn this theory into a practical tool to shore up his reign.

The novel refers to various sectors of the enclosed planet that Hari and consort Dors Venabili visit in *Prelude* such as Streeling, the Galaxy's premier university, Mycogen, a closed, conservative enclave; Dahl, an economically challenged region that includes a squalid slum, Bellibotton, and Wye, the powerhouse sector that most challenges



Imperial power in *Forward the Foundation*. Most of the action takes place in Streeling, Hari's research base, in the Palace compound, to which Hari's unexpected political career draws him, and in the Galactic Library, where Hari at the end of his life seeks to organize the Encyclopedia Galactica project, which is a cover for his two Foundation organizations on the remote planet Terminus. Hari intervenes in a street demonstration on campus and is three times mugged by agents of political enemies and dragged through the judicial system. These events illustrate the decline of civil society. Hari pays a last, nostalgic visit to the observatory above the domed city, recalling a major scene in *Prelude*.

A bit of variety is introduced as Hari's adopted son, Raych, a native of Dahl, undertakes two dangerous undercover political missions for his father in Dahl and Wye sectors. Late in the novel Raych emigrates with his wife and daughter to the outer planet, Santanni, which is supposedly stable and prosperous, only to be caught up in a bloody revolution, which claims their lives and deepens Hari's sense of loss. The Epilogue shows Hari wheelchair-bound, preparing for the holograms in which, eighty years dead, he will guide the Encyclopedists on Terminus through the first crises of the dark ages in Foundation.

Language and Meaning

Forward the Foundation is told in smooth and flowing English. The dialogue is abundant and vivid. There are references to the dialect differences around the planet Trantor that figure so prominently in the previous novel, *Prelude to Foundation*, but these are at most passing, as when adopted son Raych Seldon is said to revert to the touch speech of the Billibotton slum whenever he returns from a visit.

There is also less concentration on the methods and vocabulary of history, which fill the early novel, because Hari has gone beyond the learning stage. It is replaced by science, as Hari faces a variety of political characters who want to exploit his much spoken about but little understood psychohistory and the population at large identifies him as a naysayer and denounces him without appreciating what psychohistory aims to do. The invention of the Prime Radiant, a tool for storing and mapping the myriad of mathematical formulas that will someday make actual prediction and guidance of history possible, helps make understanding by the people to whom Hari speaks and the reader a bit more possible. Several times Hari admits that the concepts are nearly beyond him himself. Politicians and would be colleagues serve as foils for describing difficulties, limitations, and vast potential as the Galaxy's political and social structures and very infrastructure are fast disintegrating.

Frustrated by physical debility and saddened to have lost everyone near and beloved, Hari is hopeful that he has not conceived a mere pipe dream. At the end, as an old man confined to a wheelchair, Hari records the holograms to guide humanity through the Seldon crises in the original *Foundation* novel. Thousands of words later, in Isaac Asimov's last book, the mechanism of psychohistory is still a mystery, but the reader has a sense of completion.



Structure

Forward the Foundation consists of five titled parts, each of which is broken into multiple numbered chapters. Each part begins the chapter numbering at One. The present novel, Isaac Asimov's last, continues the story line of Prelude to Foundation, relating how mathematician Hari Seldon in middle and old age continues to struggle with a practical application of "psychohistory," has a brief political career, and worries about living long enough for his theories to have an impact on the restoration of the Galactic Empire after its inevitable destruction. Because many of the characters from Prelude to Foundation return some years later, there is minimal attention to character development.

The five sections are: 1) "Eto Demerzel," 2) "Cleon I," 3) "Dors Venabili," 4) "Wanda Seldon," and 5) "Epilogue." Hari Seldon is the main character throughout the novel, but each part focuses on the character for which it is named, in particular how he or she affects Hari's life and then disappears. Each section is headed by an excerpt from the 116th edition of the Encyclopedia Galactica published in 1,020 F.E. or the Federation Era. They serve as a handy introduction to the character in focus.

The novel proceeds in a strictly linear fashion at roughly ten year intervals. Hari's concern about aging are a constant and growing concern. In "Eto Demerzel," Hari in his forties helps his robot friend and benefactor, also known as R. Daneel Olivaw, the current First Minister to Emperor Cleon I, manage a populist political crisis as the structure of the Empire begins eroding badly. It consists of 24 chapters. As it ends, Eto bids farewell to his political career and vanishes, having recommended that Hari succeed him as First Minister.

In "Cleon I," Hari in his fifties serves reluctantly as First Minister, feeling that the time he gives to the job is stolen from the psychohistory project. Remnants of the opposition to Eto revive and target Hari for assassination. He is spared by his future daughter-in-law, but the Emperor is killed in his palace. Hari resigns his office in disgrace and resumes full-time scientific research.

In "Dors Venabili," Hari faces the trauma of turning sixty and worries about the military junta that succeeds Cleon. At the end of Part 4, Hari loses the love of his life, Dors, and with her much of his will to live. He is still determined however to leave psychohistory a usable tool.

In "Wanda Seldon," Hari is growing infirm in body but is still strong in mind. Wanda is his granddaughter. She remains to care for him when her parents and brother relocate to a supposedly prosperous outer planet. When Wanda shows mind-reading and -pushing abilities, Hari sees the nucleus for his Second (hidden) Foundation, that will guide the Galaxy to restoration. In the Epilogue, Hari in the first person talks about his life and career. An excerpt from the Encyclopedia Galactica describes his death.

Quotes

"Forty! He was not young any longer. Life no longer stretched before him as a vast uncharted field, its horizon lost in the distance. He had been on Trantor for eight years and the time had passed quickly. Another eight years and he would be nearly fifty. Old age would be looming. And he had not even made a decent beginning in psychohistory!" (Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapter 2, pg. 12.)

"Demerzel said, 'I do not expect the technique to have been perfected, but you may have some sketch, some skeleton, some principle that you can use as guidance. Imperfectly, perhaps, but better than mere guesswork.'

'No more than I had eight years ago,' said Seldon mournfully" (Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapter 12, pg. 63.)

"Joranum turned to Namarti with a gesture of eager approval. 'Do you hear that, G.D.? "I'm a human being. I don't want no robot in charge of running the Empire." Put him on holovision and have him say it. Have him repeat it over and over till it's drummed into every person on Trantor"' (Part 1, Eto Demerzel, Chapter 18, pg. 95.)

"Seldon said, 'Wonderful. Someday, if we live long enough, we'll have the Prime Radiant produce a river of mathematical symbolism that will chart past and future history. In it we can find currents and rivulets and work out ways of changing them in order to make them follow other currents and rivulets that we would prefer"' (Part 2, Cleon I, Chapter 3, pg. 130-131.)

"And there, with an appalled group watching in stupor - there, on the semicircular stairway - was the body of His Imperial Majesty, Cleon I, smashed all but beyond recognition. His rich Imperial robes now served as a shroud. Cowering against the wall, staring stupidly at the horrified faces surrounding him, was Mandell Gruber. 'Seldon felt he could take no more' (Part 2, Cleon I, Chapter 25, pg. 221-222.)

"It is hard to believe, but Seldon has become somewhat of a cult figure here on Trantor - and in certain places in the Outer Worlds. Now psychohistory - if it can be used to predict the future or if even people merely think it can be so mused - can be a powerful tool with which to uphold the regime" (Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapter 12, pg. 272.)

"'In other words, psychohistory simply tells you what you would know without psychohistory and it is that in which the government has invested uncounted piles of credits.'

'The time will come when psychohistory will tell us what we could not know without it and then the investment will pay itself back many, many times over"' (Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapter 16, pg. 289.)

"Dors' head shook feebly and she smiled even more feebly. 'Good-bye, Hari, my love. Remember always - all you did for me.'
'I did nothing for you.'



'You loved me and your love made me - human.'

"Her eyes remained open, but Dors had ceased functioning" (Part 3, Dors Venabili, Chapter 27, pg. 333.)

"Yes, of course, but I brooded about it and I spent some time going over it and, Hari, there was something wrong with it. The programming was inexact and that area, the precise are to which Wanda pointed, was no good. And, really, it wasn't pretty.'

Seldon sat up rather stiffly, frowning. 'Let me get this straight, Yugo. She pointed to something at random, said it was no good, and she was right?'

'Yes. She pointed, but it wasn't at random; she was very deliberate'" (Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapter 4, pg. 355-356.)

"Yes, I admit that. But after all that time, you've failed, Dad. There's no crime in failing. You've tried so hard and you've gone so far, but you've run into a deteriorating economy, a falling Empire. It's the very things you've been predicting for so long that's stopping you at last. '

"No. I will not stop. Somehow or other, I will keep going'" (Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapter 14, pg. 398.)

"But, Grandfather,' Wanda said as she stood with Palver, preparing to leave. 'Where shall we go? Where is the Second Foundation?'

"Seldon looked up and said, 'The Prime Radiant has already told you, Wanda.'

Wanda looked at Seldon blankly, searching her memory.

Seldon reached out and touched his granddaughter's hand.

'Touch my mind, Wanda. It is there.'

'I see,' Wanda whispered to Seldon.

"Section 33A2D17: Star's End'" (Part 4, Wanda Seldon, Chapter 34, pg. 470-471.)

"It has been said that Hari Seldon left this life as he lived it, for he died with the future he created unfolding all around him" (Part 5, Epilogue, pg. 480.)

Topics for Discussion

How does Hari Seldon's ten-year political career affect the Psychohistory Project, positively and negatively?

Of the two rebels, Joranum and Namarti, which poses the greater danger and why? Would either or both have made a good First Minister?

What is the role of the Prime Radiant in the Psychohistory Project? How does it function? How does it bring psychohistory closer to serving as a practical tool?

How is mythology used in the novel? Pick one and describe its role in the storyline.

What are the Laws of Robotics and how do they serve to constrain Daneel and Dors?

How do Wanda's mental powers affect the course of psychohistory?

How do the two Foundations that Hari Seldon establishes at the end of his life compare and contrast? How do they operate? How are they his legacy?