

# **Heretics of Dune Study Guide**

## **Heretics of Dune by Frank Herbert**

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## Plot Summary

Heretics of Dune tells of life 3,500 years after the death of the Tyrant, Leto II, as ferocious "Honored Matres" stream in from the "Scattering," and the Bene Gesserit work to unite a gholia, Duncan Idaho, and a Fremen girl, Sheeana, who has the power to command worms. The Tleilaxu, who have been hiding for millennia behind self-built walls, are ready to claim their place in the universe, aided by a document prepared by the Sisterhood. Ancient Dune - Rakis - is destroyed and a lone worm is rescued to begin a new cycle on Chapter House Planet.

Some 3,500 years after the death of the Tyrant, Leto II, the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood is preparing a new gholia of Duncan Idaho on Gammu and on Rakis, the Sisterhood is watching a young girl, who can command worms. An unorthodox offshoot, the "Honored Matres," is returning violently from the "Scattering," and the situation is so dire that Reverend Mother Superior Taraza travels personally to bring Bashar Miles Teg back from retirement to train and protect Duncan. Meanwhile, on Bandalong, cradle of Tleilaxu civilization, Tylwyth Waff, proposes using the "Atreides Manifesto" to restore humankind to the true faith, which the Tleilaxu alone preserve.

The Reverend Mother Lucilla, an Imprinter, is sent to Gammu to train Duncan but quarrels with the local commander, Schwangyu, who fears a new Kwisatz Haderach. Taraza and Darwi Odrade allow themselves to be captured by Honored Matres and brought to Gammu, where Teg is prepared to blow them up rather than surrender. On Rakis, Sheeana becomes the stuff of legends and creates a rift in the priesthood, which ends in Stiros trying to kill Sheeana. Odrade begins her Bene Gesserit training, captures Waff and convinces him that the Sisterhood shares the Great Belief and wants an alliance. On Gamma, Schwangyu sells out to the Tleilaxu, forcing Teg to take Duncan and Lucilla to refuge in a no-chamber, where Duncan resists Lucilla's advances, forcing Teg to awaken pre-gholia memories prematurely. On Rakis, the High Priest Tuek is assassinated and replaced by a Face Dancer, creating a fragile alliance among the Sisterhood, priesthood and Tleilaxu. Brought to wits' end, Taraza sends Burzmali to bring the refugees to Rakis, where Leto II's vast horde of melange is finally discovered, and Odrade reads troubling inscriptions left by the Tyrant. She admits authorship of the "Atreides Manifesto" and commits the Sisterhood to a partnership. Taraza hurries to Rakis to investigate possible treason.

On Gammu, the refugees emerge and are attacked by Face Dancers, but Burzmali spirits Duncan and Lucilla away, while Teg falls into the Honored Matres' hands. He is tortured with such intensity that his physical reactions are sped up, escapes and rallies former comrades for a mission on Rakis. An Honored Matre acolyte, Murbella, captures Duncan and "marks" him, and then finds Lucilla and Burzmali and brings them to watch Duncan's further subjugation. Duncan, however, has learned all the sexual mysteries and turns the tables on her. The Honored Matres attack the Sisterhood Keep on Rakis, killing Taraza. Odrade takes Sheeana into the desert to meet Duncan and Lucilla, brought by Teg, who remains behind as they and a lone worm are flown to safety on Chapter House Planet. There the new Reverend Mother Superior, Odrade, sets out to

complete her plans to turn the planet into a new Dune, facing opposition within the Sisterhood and fearing accidental discovery by the enraged Honored Matres.



# Pages 1-50

## Pages 1-50 Summary

On the planet Gammu, Reverend Mother (RM) Schwangyu notes bitterly that they are on their twelfth Duncan Idaho ghola, shocking the RM Lucilla by such impersonal language. They are observing the sturdy, black-haired, well-tanned 12-year-old exercising in the courtyard below under armed guard. Lucilla's task as an Imprinter is to awaken his original memories and turn him over to her look-alike, Darwi Odrade, the Bene Gesserit's Senior Security Mother, in preparation for mating with Sheeana Brugh of Rakis. Sheeana may be the "Sandrider" predicted by the Tyrant Leto II 3,500 years earlier.

Meanwhile, on Chapter House Planet, tall, supple, graceful Taraza makes a final decision on sending Odrade to Rakis. Taraza remarks that while conflicts under the Golden Path are a mere 2% of those before, there are forces at work seeking to return to pre-Tyrant conditions. Tleilaxu arms are being stockpiled on Gammu. Taraza is in charge of bringing along the younger girls, including Odrade, but the two become too close. Taraza cautions against digging in Other Memories (after learning that things will be worse if they fail to act swiftly), warns against breeding without permission and sends Odrade to Rakis.

Teg does not want to leave retirement to train a ghola child, but as Military Mentat, he cannot disobey. Taraza personally visits him at his farm, Lernaesus, to ask him to accept the task, but cannot. Taraza needs Teg not as a Mentat but for his military abilities and likeness to the original Duke Leto Atreides, to help restore Duncan's memories when the time comes.

## Pages 1-50 Analysis

The opening chapters show life 3,500 years after the death of the Tyrant, Leto II. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood is continuing its breeding program, taking special care with dangerous Atreides genes. Two of the characters introduced are Atreides, involved in the preparation of a young "ghola" of Duncan Idaho for a special purpose - perhaps even to produce a new Kwisatz Haderach - the male "Reverend Mother," who can be multiple places at once. From Chapter House Planet, the Reverend Mother Superior is arranging crucial events on two key worlds: Gammu and Rakis, while worrying about an increasing external threat from the "Honored Matres" or "Lost Ones," who are returning from the "Scattering." Taraza's personal trip to Lernaesus to bring back from retirement the retired Supreme Bashar, Miles Teg, is proof that he faces a dangerous task and that the divisions in the Sisterhood Council are ominous indeed.



# Pages 51-103

## Pages 51-103 Summary

The Mahai and Master of Masters, Tylwyth Waff, enjoys the morning chill in Bandalong, the cradle of Tleilaxu civilization. Over the course of millennia, a myth is created that the Tleilaxu are stupid, vile, detestable, predictable and impetuous, when, in fact, they have been biding their time.

Elderly Mirlat, Waff's chief rival, demands to know what happens when the author of the manifesto is identified. Waff thinks about the CHOAM representative at the conference emphasizing this same point; since most CHOAM people are secret atheists, they ought not to care about the Atreides as a potent religious force. Everyone agrees that the manifesto comes from the pen of a single Atreides and it calls into question every religion based on science, while declaring that the universe is magical and transient, which is the essence of the hidden Shariat.

In her third year among the Rakian priests, Sheeana lies atop a dune listening to the approach of a 70-meter worm. She does not share the priests' belief that the worm is Shai-Hulud, God of the sands, containing a pearl of Leto II's awareness; to her, the worms are Shaitan or "they who spared me" three years ago, when a large one makes it through the water barriers and swallows her entire impoverished village.

Sheeana wakes up frightened, surrounded by white-clad priests and priestesses. Sheeana studies the trembling males and orders them sent away. Taraza orders that the proper moment be awaited; there is no doubt: Sheeana is the one.

Lucilla confronts Schwangyu over Duncan's fear of the mystical forces that are the key to the Bene Gesserits' essential knowledge. Lucilla perceives that her rival wants Duncan to escape so he can be hunted down and killed. That is why Lucilla has been sent to imprint Duncan as all acolytes are imprinted; he will undergo everything but the spice agony.

## Pages 51-103 Analysis

This section continues building the extensive cast of characters. It first introduces Tylwyth Waff, leader of the Bene Tleilax and shows life among that civilization's elite, all of whom have been repeatedly reborn as gholas. It is revealed that the Tleilaxu themselves have for millennia formed the myth of their being vile and stupid, waiting for their opportunity to conquer the universe in the name of God using the "Atreides Manifesto," which claims that all religion is magic. The nature of Face Dancers is described by a Bene Gesserit trained to distinguish them before Waff meets with the fearsome leader of the mysterious Honored Matres, who is unable to identify the infiltrators. The Bene Gesserit origin of these violent women and ability to use Voice is shown.



The child, Sheeana, mentioned at the beginning of the novel, is introduced fully and shown settling among the priests, whom she loathes and fears. The priest who wonders most about the legends of Siona and Duncan Idaho at the time of Leto II is eliminated. Meanwhile on Gammu, Lucilla has it out with Schwangyu over the ghola Duncan Idaho, revealing that she intends to treat him like a normal female Bene Gesserit acolyte and is increasing his dose of melange. Schwangyu raises the specter of the Atrides Kwisatz Haderachs, who have so disturbed history. It seems clear already that another fateful mating is ahead.



# Pages 104-150

## Pages 104-150 Summary

Tamalane, earlier Duncan's mentor, is Mother Commander of the Rakian Keep in the fourth anniversary of Sheeana's coming to the priests. Tapped into the 'thopter's channel, Tamalane watches the middling, 50-meter worm arrive. Sheeana demands to know why her village is destroyed and receiving no answer, sends it away.

With trepidation, Teg obeys Taraza's order to report to an Ix-branded Guild Transport orbiting Gammu. His gut tells him that the gholia is in danger. Although everything on board appears serene, Teg is poised for combat. He smells shere and is surprised to see Taraza looking unusually fatigued; she alerts him to a foe by the keyword "appreciated." Motioning him not to respond, Taraza orders the gholia awakened immediately. Teg whips aside the hangings to reveal a tall man with a wide jaw and green eyes, armed and wearing military-style clothing. The stranger enters, looking angry, addresses Taraza as "Honored Matre" and is rebuked.

As Teg and Taraza repeat the ritual words at the approach of death, the stranger capitulates and orders them escorted to their lighter. Teg rebukes the man for valuing his own skin too highly, but he replies that he is sworn to protect the true Honored Matres aboard ship. Looking just like Lucilla, Odrade joins them along with an entourage. Taraza explains that she has allowed them to be captured, ostensibly escorting Odrade to Rakis. The Council is certain that intruders from the Scattering will take them to Teg to pick up all the pieces of the gholia project, that Teg will rescue them, and they have Burzmali standing by in case.

Odrade spares only part of her awareness to Teg and Taraza's conversation. She prepares for the coming rough landing and thinks about the persistence - even the inviolability - of time. She studies Teg's strong face and wonders if he knows how the Sisterhood uses him. He has no idea how many memories she holds of him; it would be so easy to love him. Odrade feels that kind of tug with the first man she is sent to seduce, going contrary to what the Breeding Mistresses and Training Males have taught her, allowing his sexual excitement to enter her.

Opening her eyes, she listens to Teg and Taraza discuss the "dependency infrastructure" - all that is "necessary for a human population to survive at existing or increased numbers." Everyone that can afford melange is happy it prolongs life, but like water, electricity, etc., it can fall subject to "hydraulic despotism," i.e., central control. Teg's thoughts are in turmoil as they land. Taraza has dislodged him from familiar Mentat processes and shaken his predictable course. Gammu now looks strange. Teg has seen many planets with many variants. Natives of Gammu have distinctive Atrides and Harkonnen features and recognize them in one another, without admitting such ancestry. The Bene Gesserit have back-bred selected traits here, particularly seductive





eyes in women, which they realize are vital in sexual matings. Lucilla has such eyes, and now Odrade does.

Tuek is angry with cynical Stiros, who wants a male relative to succeed Tuek. As leader of the "scientific community" within the priesthood, Stiros is dangerously close to heresy. Knowing that more than one predecessor has died mysteriously in the desert, Tuek declines an invitation to observe Sheeana's next venture. Stiros goes away frustrated and Tuek, vested in his finest robes, visits Sheeana in the breezeless roof garden of the priestly complex. At that time, Odrade gets her Van Gogh sensations: wild inspiration and chaos brought to order. Sheeana is to be her canvas. Odrade orders the room cleared and Tuek's questions answered elsewhere.

## Pages 104-150 Analysis

A young Bene Gesserit acolyte, Kipuna, is infiltrated into the priestly complex to report on Sheeana, who becomes the stuff of legends, to the dismay of the Priest Stiros, who fights with the High Priest Tuek, about Sheeana's role in the religion of the Divide God, Leto II. As Sheeana becomes the object of prayer - "expanding worship" - the Sisterhood's question becomes when to send in the ghola. Religion is always one of Herbert's favorite subjects, and the tempo of his musings begins to pick up.

Taraza and Odrade allow themselves to be captured by Honored Matres en route to Rakis and brought to Gammu to retrieve the prized ghola. By codes, Taraza warns her Bashar Teg of danger, and he uses his Mentat facilities to figure out what is happening. Herbert has not in earlier novels showed the process working with incomplete data as carefully as here. Tuek is willing to blow up the Ix-branded transport rather than surrender. The strange military figure who confronts him is unwilling to sacrifice the Honored Matres and lets his prey depart. The tension between Schwangyu and her superiors deepens. Odrade reveals that she is Teg's biological daughter, and from her and Taraza, he receives signs of a coming great event in which he must play a pivotal, but undisclosed, role. Van Gogh's painting, Cottages at Cordeville, becomes a symbol of true humanity, which recurs throughout the novel. Never before in the Dune novels has Herbert suggested the Bene Gesserit have ceased being human.

Tuek and Stiros again face off theologically, and Tuek goes to talk to Sheeana. Her questions bring up many of the characters and events in *The God Emperor of Dune*. The seeker trailing shigawire that martyrs Kipuna harkens back to the first assassination attempt on young Paul Atreides in the original *Dune*. Odrade, at the head of a fearsome phalanx of women warriors, is on the scene even as the plot unfolds, saving the invaluable Sheeana for her historic purpose.



# Pages 151-198

## Pages 151-198 Summary

When Taraza and her party depart, Teg isolates Schwangyu from the gholas as ordered, while wondering about the troubling things he has heard. Teg diverts Taraza to melange, and Taraza, for the first time, shares stories from Other Memories about 50-100 year lifetimes before spice. Without it, there would be no Bene Gesserit, Guild, Muad'dib or Tyrant. Taraza observes that Mentats are rarely philosophers like Teg and believes that his ability to doubt is a major strength.

Teg comes out of these memories feeling everything is familiar again, although only minutes have passed. This creates a magical universe of amplified abilities.

Within four hours, Odrade sets up a command center in Sheeana's quarters and launches retaliation, while observing the girl.

Sheeana tries a new approach, asking about Face Dancers. Odrade considers what the emptiness needs filled in this child's education. The new ones, tested against the Bene Gesserit and here for the first time, are very difficult to detect, and the key - unique pheromones - must be kept secret. The listeners, therefore, must die.

At Lucilla's command, Duncan undergoes intense, self-directed practice in the eightfold Bene Gesserit combat exercises. Soon, Teg will arrive and take Duncan to the practice room to use deadly weapons. Inside the Weapons Room, Duncan asks who has let the Face Dancer in, showing he can cut to the heart of problems. Teg's bedroom is filled with the detestable stench of burnt human flesh, and Lucilla recognizes the dead perimeter guard, killed and dressed in Teg's uniform to fool the Face Dancer. Lucilla is angry to be responsible for Duncan's protection alone, but accepts Teg's analysis that she can hold out for a minute and sacrifice herself for Duncan if necessary. All stiffen as Schwangyu enters at gunpoint, demanding she be allowed to survey the carnage.

Teg insists they leave the Keep immediately, taking nothing. In a supposedly "spy-proof" room aboard a neutral Guild no-ship, Taraza reminds herself against prejudice facing the elfin Tylwyth Waff for the first time. Waff knows Taraza is far more dangerous than any Honored Matre. To keep Waff off balance, Taraza changes the subject to Gammu, causing him to flare and declare that when Schwangyu hires them as mercenaries, they teach her a lesson. Taraza declares the price for silence: share everything that he learns about the Honored Matres. Shuddering at revealing powerful sexual secrets, Waff warns that the Sisterhood is outnumbered by 10,000 to one but cannot dismiss Taraza's boast that one can defeat them all, for the Sisters have often blunted the Shariat.

Finding no way to use his concealed dart-throwers with more Reverend Mothers waiting outside, Waff announces he will share. He has no illusions what will happen if the



Honored Matres learn what happened to their envoys. Waff calms himself and declares the Bene Tleilax will not be Bene Gesserit "satellites." She denies the intention, says one does not share with unequal partners and asks why he has come to meet her. When he returns the question, she says she has come to strengthen the Sisterhood.

Taraza contemplates how the Zensunni probe about, not resolving problems by rational means lifts Waff out of himself. She vows to find out if he is a secret Zensunni.

Odrade occupies four small, but efficient, rooms on the sixth floor of a building overlooking the Great Square of Keen, at a distance from both the Temple and the Bene Gesserit Keep. Below, Odrade sees naked dancers about whom she has heard. She knows a bloody melee will follow and then subside without interference by the trio of Priest Guardians who are watching. T

## Pages 151-198 Analysis

Teg's memories of an early meeting with Taraza leaves his powers amplified and wondering at what terrible challenge awaits him. Odrade on Rakis begins retaliating for Kipuna's murder, concentrating on capturing Waff. For a second time, the dreaded nature of specialized Bene Gesserit punishments is mentioned. Sheeana is proving to be a brat, who Odrade must quickly control. As the scene shifts to Gamma, where Lucilla prepares to imprint Duncan, Schwangyu is found to have sold out to the Tleilaxu, and Teg forces Duncan and Lucilla to flee the Keep. This string is left hanging while Taraza confronts the captive Waff and convinces him that although she is powindah, she shares the Great Belief with his chosen people. Much detail is brought out about the ancient Zensunni and Sufi beliefs, which underlie Bene Gesserit ways and those of the Tyrant, Leto II. Odrade's background is further filled in, preparatory to her training Sheeana. Odrade watches an ancient dance perverted into the occasion for a wild melee, and from the sight, sound and odors realizes how to deal with Waff when he arrives on Rakis.



# Pages 199-247

## Pages 199-247 Summary

After three cold nights following Patrin's track by Mentat Memory, Teg knows that Schwangyu will not expect them to be only 30 km from the Gammu Keep. Teg cannot believe that Taraza has allowed such disobedience. Recalling Taraza's behavior on the Guildship, Teg realizes that she does not care what happens to any of them except the ghola, and wants him to do the unexpected.

Teg recalls Odrade and Lucilla side-by-side, identical in face and voice except for age. As Teg listens to the night, Duncan feels secure, and Lucilla wonders at the overall plan.

On Rakis, Tuek feels inadequate to the demands imposed. He stands in the Temple audience chamber, an irregular room whose structure transmits sound to listeners outside and tries to mask his thoughts from Odrade. He is determined not to discuss the "Atreides Manifesto" while Waff and his Face Dancers listen. Figuring that Waff has heard enough, Odrade invites Waff in and almost pities Tuek as he tries to explain the situation.

Standing up to pace, Tuek asks if the Tleilaxu are the authors of the "Atreides Manifesto." Assured they are not, Tuek informs Odrade that he has refused to increase melange prices for the Sisterhood as Waff desires, out of deference to God's grandmother.

Taraza's long table is covered with reports, summations and other tidbits from Archives. Angry at the inside jokes and dependence on computers, Taraza looks at the bust of Sister Chenoeh, never a Reverend Mother, but able to make wise decisions. Taraza must act fast on Odrade's request for military reinforcements, but Teg, Lucilla and Duncan are missing. Taraza contemplates how, after 1,400 years the Chapter House Planet is still unnamed and considered temporary. Teg's guardian no-ships orbit overhead protecting them, but they are vulnerable to "accidental discovery." In times of crisis, Taraza thinks of Odrade, who so easily cuts to the heart of matters using her dangerous Atreides prescience.

Eight days after entering the no-globe's access tube, Duncan appears to have calmed. He wonders why Teg is obviously keeping him apart from Lucilla. Observing that Duncan fails to call him "Sir," Teg sees independence coming earlier than expected. When Teg warns that intense pain is needed to restore original memories, Duncan claims he will be grateful. Teg regrets that Duncan may soon hate him.

When Duncan declares that they will never be comrades because he has surpassed Teg, the Mentat realizes Duncan is now a man.



Teg has no idea what the Sisterhood has planned, but assumes a Reverend Mother will explain. Lucilla approaches and observes that for making her task more difficult, Teg should be roasted - quite literally.

## Pages 199-247 Analysis

This section focuses on Teg, Lucilla and Duncan's flight through the forest and Duncan's awakening to his pre-ghola memories. Note his subliminal reaction to Harkonnen artifacts; after he awakens, he explains how Harkonnens torture and kill his family. He comes to recognizing the Atreides face of Leto I, his first Duke, in that of Teg. The psychological and physical crises required to bring about the merging of old and current memories are described most vividly. Meanwhile, on Rakis, the old High Priest Tuek is assassinated by the Tleilax Master, and replaced by a Face Dancer. Waff is pulled ever more strongly into alliance with the Bene Gesserit, and Odrade convinces him she practices the Great Belief. She must make do while the Sisterhood's forces rally to Gammu to find and rescue the refugees.



# Pages 248-295

## Pages 248-295 Summary

Waff paces silently behind Odrade and Sheeana in the spice-storage yard at Dar-es-Balat. Odrade considers that Taraza may be right about the Tleilaxu using the gholia system to prolong personal memories. Waff calls Sheeana "Al-Yama," "Blessed One" in an ancient language. They step out onto the faery causeway over the moat, with Waff 20 paces in the lead. Sheeana smells Shaitan nearby and races ahead a kilometer, saying they must hurry. As Odrade and Waff recuperate from the run, Sheeana begins her dance on the sand. The sound of 'thopters overhead is drowned out by a hiss below that grows into a roar. A gigantic, crystal-ringed mouth emerges, crests the dune and dips toward Sheeana. Sheeana resumes her dance and the worm curls up beside her. Odrade cannot tear her eyes away from the "cave of mysterious fire" burning within the worm. With fists clenched at her sides, Sheeana introduces her companions. Odrade senses nonverbal communication between them. Sheeana leads them to the worm's tail and scrambles atop the beast. Odrade and Waff follow more cautiously. She orders Shaitan to move and then begs, and the creature lurches forward, makes a tight curve, and heads away from Dar-es-Balat into the open desert.

Duncan is in his 20th day of mastering an intricate training exercise, and Teg realizes Duncan is mixing old techniques with new ones. Duncan realizes that the Tleilaxu have done something to him that has not been supposed. Lucilla, who has been listening, comes forward. Duncan seems wired with a new kind of vigor and shows a new kind of poise. Lucilla is confident she can ignite his hormones and assures Duncan that this is no game.

Waff's gloating gets on Odrade's nerves as they ride across the desert. As she calls up the cant of the Shariat, "Let God do the judging and not men," Waff scowls. Odrade is satisfied that the risk of assassination she has accepted has paid off: Albertus is carrying "a directed hysteria" into the heart of the Rakian priesthood, and it will submit. Only a few heretics must be feared.

Duncan has another fight with Lucilla over attempts to seduce him, while Teg struggles to understand the "other forces" in the outside world. Hearing Lucilla approach, Duncan fastens his tunic and without turning, warns he will try to kill her if she touches him again. Lucilla guesses that the Sisterhood needs to recruit a teenager who the worms obey. Teg announces his deduction: control the worms and revive the old religion. Teg believes that her orders are to turn Duncan irresistible to most women, but to what end he cannot say. Teg then announces that he has been outside and seen signs of Burzmalis. Before trying to rendezvous, he must memorize maps in the library, synchronizing Duncan's pre-gholia memories of place names with Teg's modern knowledge.



## Pages 248-295 Analysis

This section depicts movements in the fragile alliance on Rakis, conflicts among the three Gammu refugees, and dissent in the Sisterhood. In the background, there is a growing need to understand why the Honored Matres are returning in massive numbers at this time. The trip into the desert strongly evokes God Emperor of Dune, and the descriptions of the worm that they ride are among the most detailed in the Herbert corpus. Duncan, who feels strange in young flesh, wonders why Leto II brings him back so many times. Lucilla is confident that she can ignite Duncan's hormones, but she melts as he insists he is no stud for the Sisterhood. Taraza is at wits' end in a way no Bene Gesserit has thus far been portrayed. She relies on what Burzmali imagines his teacher might have done to get some movement into the stalled plans. Burzmali returns to Gammu and leaves a sign for the refugees to emerge and join him.



# Pages 296-344

## Pages 296-344 Summary

The worm slows towards dusk, leaving Odrade still ignorant of how Shaitan and Sheeana communicate. The worm stops with its body parallel to the wall's base and twitches, telling Sheeana that they must get off. Waff is afraid to dismount, but accepts Odrade's quotation from the Sharia. Having told Sheeana that it wants them to be here, the worm returns to the desert. They walk towards a dark fissure in the wall, which opens into a large, polished chamber that smells of melange.

This in the main gathering chamber where Stilgar once presided, Muad'dib trained fighters, and both the original Duncan Idaho and first gholia Duncan have been here. Odrade slips into a small room reeking of melange and in the dust finds a thin, deep etching that in Chakobsa declares, "You have found me!" This is the work of the Tyrant.

When Odrade kicks the threshold beside the etched word, the floor tips and deposits her five meters down into the unknown, into tons of spice. She reads words cut into stone steps above her. Odrade knows the heart of the worm's language.

Watching a teaching Sister work with Sheeana, Odrade wonders if Taraza has considered their accidental - or not accidental - discovery on Rakis. The enormous Bene Gesserit presence defies the agreement with Tuek but is needed after the discoveries at Sietch Tabr. As Waff waits calmly near the door, guarded by two Sisters, Odrade wonders if she has opened a large enough crack in his psychic armor to get him talking. His beliefs are telling him that God is preserving him, but beneath the surface, Waff sees he has compromised and jeopardized his people.

To convince Waff that they have a true affinity, Odrade shares a damaging secret: they plan on planting worms of the Prophet throughout the Scattering. To overcome Waff's fears of being overheard, Odrade switches to Islamiyat. Eyes gleaming, Waff's personality shifts with the language - precisely as she hopes. Odrade mentions foolish fears of producing another Kwisatz Haderach. On the Honored Matres, Waff describes techniques of orgasmic amplification, which allows them to rule by sex. Odrade claims the whores are stupid to ride to power on such a dangerous conveyance, which will shatter of its own momentum. By contrast, the Prophet always knows what he is doing, providing millennia of peace, during which he destroyed neither of their people.

Odrade launches into her deception: Schwangyu and her supporters break from the Great Belief, so killing them is a service. The Tleilaxu return from the Scattering changed; they have children by the whores and cannot believe that the whores will ever honor an agreement. Odrade proposes a united front with neither of them submissive, in order to convert the Scattering to the true faith. People will pay a great price for gholia-immortality. She offers breeding records and breeding mothers in exchange for unrestricted melange. Waff is awed and inspired to think that God has given him such





powerful services. Odrade believes the Prophet's words at Sietch Tabr and that they must breed the new Duncan and Sheeana to spread descendants of the Prophet everywhere. Odrade sees that she has pushed as far as she dares and the Sisterhood is committed. When Waff asks if the Sisterhood will help spread the Atreides Manifesto, Odrade reveals she is its author and an Atreides. Waff is shocked but instantly convinced that together they can defeat the whores of the Scattering. Although nearly past the age of breeding, Odrade is at his command.

Grabbed near a giant pilingitam, Lucilla is ready to respond in berserker mode until she hears, "Friends!" in Chakobsa. Lucilla sees that this is a typical Teg maneuver, and Duncan taps in the old Atreides battle language, "Let them lead," briefly surprising her. They are loaded into an armored ground car that explodes out of the great tree and crosses Teg's holdout position, while away from them, moves a diversionary convoy of 28 ground cars and 11 flutter-thopters. After a short flight, Burzmali orders them out, across a road, and into a ditch, where he covers them with a life-shield blanket.

They disappear underground into a large, richly furnished room. Burzmali's conversation ends when an old woman enters. She is sharp-featured, wrinkled, with straggling gray hair and wears a black robe worked with mythological dragons in gold. The woman strips off her dragon robe, gives it to Lucilla and warns her to wear it with respect, for they have killed an Honored Matre postulant to get it for her. Burzmali urges Lucilla to trust the old woman, who demands her clothing in exchange. Burzmali assures them that this is his and Teg's plan. Old Sirafa explains: Lucilla will wear the robe while accompanying Burzmali into Ysai; Duncan will be disguised and taken in separately. People are watching for the two of them, but not for a playfem and her companion of the night or a Tleilaxu Master and his entourage.

Before leaving, they must have sex in order for there to be evidence inside Lucilla, whose street name is Pirá. Burzmali will be dressed as a field worker named Skar.

## Pages 296-344 Analysis

The worm carries Odrade, Sheeana, and Waff to Sietch Tabor, the central location in the original Dune trilogy, and the staccato recitation of names and events will warm the hearts of established fans. Tabor turns out to be the hiding place for Leto II's vast horde of melange that has evaded treasure hunters from the time of his demise. Odrade finds inscriptions from the Tyrant that begin to haunt her and convince her to break Taraza's orders to find a better path. She uses the sacred language of Islamiyat to calm Waff and allow him to make Master decisions. She reveals everything about the "Atreides Manifesto" and commits the Sisterhood to a partnership.

Meanwhile, on Gammu, the three refugees emerge and are instantly surrounded by Face Dancer warriors. Teg falls, having held them off long enough for Burzmali to whisk Duncan and Lucilla away. Plans within plans are executed. They are taken to another underground hiding place and separated. A mysterious, ancient woman explains how

Lucilla and Burzmali are to make their way into Ysai. Herbert dwells on sexuality far more than in previous novels, very much tongue-in-cheek.



# Pages 345-388

## Pages 345-388 Summary

Odrade's reports from Rakis are ominous. Bellonda points out that during the Scattering, the Sisterhood lost 20% of its failures, as the Tyrant surely knew would happen, and, wanting diversity, he did not exterminate the Tleilaxu. That the Tleilaxu continues to produce the Tyrant's favorite ghola proves they are still in his trap, and the Sisterhood must get out.

Taraza returns to the genetic data on the Duncan gholas. Each is slightly different, showing that the Tleilaxu are perfecting something unknown. She wonders if the secret lies in the new Face Dancers, which the Tleilaxu intend to be undetectable. I

Gagged and bound, Teg awakens to realize he is being carried on a litter to a shack ready to collapse. People who conceal their faces carry him inside and leave him alone with a table, three chairs and an Ixian Probe. Knowing the agony he faces, Teg realizes she will protect his thoughts. Three inquisitors enter. The functionary sets up a comeye and talks to his superiors. The woman calls for a T-probe and Teg, who has never been captive, experiences déjà vu. They position a hood and fix contacts to his scalp. The functionary orders the Gammu-type, Yar, to begin and Teg hears himself grunt with pain for which he is unprepared, even as a Mentat.

Teg struggles to lift his awareness above his fears and stay in control. They take over his muscles. He smells terrible things. Teg decides not to think like himself, in order to thwart the machine. Teg opens his eyes, blinks, and realizes that he is tied with ordinary rope. In an instant, he has himself free, and his Mentat sense tells him he is moving at a dangerous speed. In a blur he kills his captors and watches them sink slowly to the ground. He examines the non-Ixian console, erases the data, extinguishes the lights, and launches out into the night in a blur of motion that kills those who bring him here in an instant. Teg returns to normal time as he walks across the valley, somehow knowing where to go: to Ysai, where the puppet masters are.

Several times since coming to Rakis, Odrade recalls the Van Gogh painting and wonders who is painting whom. As Odrade expects, Taraza arrives, exhausted, observing that they finally meet as strangers. Odrade knows that she has crossed a line and can be killed but not defeated. Icily, Taraza observes they may never have been Dar-and-Tar and that Odrade thinks she has been quite clever. Once Odrade realizes Taraza's true intention, no alternative exists to allying with the Tleilaxu.

Taraza cannot say where Lucilla is in imprinting Duncan, but Teg has reawakened his original memories. Plans have been made to bring them all out. Taraza is worried about this particular ghola, with augmented abilities and the unknown Tleilaxu factor. Knowing that Taraza rejects "simpatico," Odrade nevertheless imagines waking up as a ghola, remembering one's death - not only the extraordinary Duncans, but also the Tleilaxu



Masters. Taraza needs certainty about whether the current Duncan will bind with Odrade because she is Atreides and worries if Waff's interest in the Sisterhood's breeding records indicates they are working on a Kwisatz Haderach.

Waff is asleep and under guard. Taraza asks to see Sheeana, to decide whether her part of the project should be aborted. Sheeana shakes off sleepiness when introduced to the powerful woman about whom she has heard. Taraza and Sheeana discuss Sheeana's long-term future and whether she could kill Duncan, since they doubt Lucilla or Teg could. Odrade sees no noble purpose in that, but is reminded that the Tyrant killed many times.

Duncan follows his old but tireless guide through vistas he does not remember from Giedi Prime days. He is perfectly disguised as a dirty Tleilaxu Master named Wose. In public, he is to treat his taciturn guide, Ambitorm, as a Face Dancer, but otherwise obey his orders. Ambitorm ties them together, the better to spill him quickly if they run into danger. As they crisscross frozen wetlands, Duncan is troubled by pre-ghola memories and wonders if his debt to the Atreides extends to Teg and the Sisterhood. Towards dawn, they climb to a ledge and small pit where they can eat. Ambitorm tells Duncan to call him Tormsa; everyone living under the Harkonnens learns to change their identities. He hands Duncan a powerful monoscope to look at their destination: hated Barony/Ysai. Duncan wonders about expensive weather satellites and orbiting security monitors but no comfort - like Rakis. He wonders about his companions' fate. Tormas advises Duncan that when 'thopters pass over, he should imitate the browsing animals and be overlooked by the lazy patrolmen.

## Pages 345-388 Analysis

This slow section provides background and support information to advance the story. Chapter House is sketched more fully, and unattractive Bellonda emerges as the center of internal rebellion. Meanwhile, on Gammu, Teg's torturous ordeal leaves him as fast and strong as Duncan - and amazed by the powers. On Rakis, Taraza and Odrade face off and make up, but the difference in their temperaments is more marked than ever. Back on Gammu, Duncan is on the road to Ysai disguised as a Tleilaxu and receiving little information from a taciturn guide.



## Pages 389-429

### Pages 389-429 Summary

Teg finds himself in the luxurious upholstered backseat of a ground car with tinted windows. In Ysai, the car heads into a gaudy neighborhood built from scraps. The driver drops Teg at the windowless bolthole he has specified. Sensing no immediate menace, Teg darts into the bright foyer and up a lift tube to the 57th floor, where he recalls a private dining room.

A tall man enters, obviously military and mercenary: Jafa Muzzafar, Regional Commander for the Forces of Dur (of which Teg has not heard). With caution bordering on fear, he assures Teg that nothing that has befallen him is his fault, seemingly believing that an attack force frees Teg.

As Lucilla and Burzmali enter Ysai at 11 PM, the denizens of the still-busy streets fascinate her. Burzmali guides Lucilla into an unappetizing eating establishment, where she gets into character and complains about losing business. When they leave, the street is emptier but more menacing. The dragons on her robe make people part.

They step into a doorway protected by antique comeys and smell of melange, semuta and cooking meant to mask the preparation of explosives. A gray-haired hag in a yellow smock admits them. Shabbiness masks quality and precision inside. Lucilla recognizes that she is from Rakis, and she admits she is a priestess, a Hormu Lady. Lucilla shudders to think of her as a descendant of the tall, proud, brave Freemen. Left alone, Burzmali asks why Lucilla has insulted one of those who will take them to Rakis. Lucilla realizes she hates the people of Gammu, which is dangerous in a Reverend Mother. Tasting her own tears, Lucilla realizes that Gammu has touched her more deeply than any experience since school.

In the penthouse atop Dar-es-Balat, tension marks a meeting of Taraza, Odrade, Waff, False-Tuek and his nine contentious counselors. Fierce guardians attend Taraza and Waff. Odrade insists Sheeana attend because of her influence on Waff and some priests. Taraza listens amusedly to the foolish priests argue. Waff, near the doorway with his entourage, betrays uncertainty as he shifts attention among the participants. Sheeana, who is filling out and growing lovely, asks Odrade if there will be fighting and what Taraza will do. Taraza explains that the Sisterhood releases its grip on the Tleilaxu and demands to know how the Duncan gholia is altered and to what purpose. She warns herself not to underestimate this petulant man and asks him if he would dare dishonor himself in the Land of the Prophet by failing to share openly. Taraza wonders what kind of brain works inside a Tleilaxu Master and whether distrust of emotions might unite them.

Taraza suspects that "Something Out There" is subverting them and insults Waff by claiming the Tleilaxu have dirty hands. Waff wants to bring False-Tuek under control,



because Rakis is the Scattered Ones' goal. Taraza moves closer to Waff, alone and vulnerable, and announces they will serve the Tleilaxu in every way except as receptacles for gholas - as axlotl tanks. Waff pales and signals an attack to his Face Dancers, but Taraza in Islamiyat warns him that Sheeana, the Messenger of God, will turn against him and dash the Tleilaxu plans. She offers Odrade as an Atreides breeder, with more to follow. Waff reveals that the Honored Matres know how to induce total sensual involvement in males, allowing multiple orgasms lasting hours and gloats about experiencing it using Face Dancers.

As dark falls on Ysai, Burzmali and Lucilla head for a rendezvous with Duncan in a supposed safe-place. Lucilla prepares for the worst, suspecting there are support forces concealed around them. They come to a cracked brick structure covered with vines and fungus. They enter by a cellar door and are met by a young woman with observant green eyes and a willowy body under a dragon robe. She talks to Lucilla but treats Burzmali as scum and would have killed him had Lucilla not dropped her with a standard Bene Gesserit move. Gasping, the woman identifies herself as Murbella and addresses Lucilla as "Great Honored Matre." Murbella reports that the ghola has been captured, marked and partly subdued. She invites Lucilla to watch them in their next sexual encounter.

## Pages 389-429 Analysis

Teg heads into Ysai, sought by unknown enemies and protected by loyal, former troops. He meets a Field Marshal from the Scattering and knows he will face the Honored Matre who commands him in an epic battle. Lucilla and Burzmali also enter the city, which repulses her, dangerously unbalancing her through hatred. Meanwhile, on Rakis, Albertus "outs" False-Tuek, precipitating a crisis in the alliance, which is settled when Taraza commits the Bene Gesserit to the original deal. Odrade is to be a breeding mother and they learn the Honored Matres' amazing sexual secrets. For Herbert, the scene is lascivious and daring. Note how completely the Face Dancer portraying Tuek has assimilated and is allowed to remain in power. Meanwhile, back on Gammu, Lucilla confronts Murbella, an Honored Matre novice, who, assuming Lucilla is a superior, takes her to watch sex with the ghola who is "fair game."



## Pages 430-480

### Pages 430-480 Summary

Teg rides with Muzzafar through a beam enfiling system to one of the places wrongly deemed safe by Bene Gesserit Security. Teg registers the differences in the system since his first tour. Scanlyzers read every space and at the push of a button turn intruders into small chunks of meat. Muzzafar warns Teg that the Honored Matre is most powerful and intolerant of disobedience. He has taken the liberty of having a new uniform made for Teg, but there is no time for a bath. Double vision alerts Teg to danger but not imminent violence. The room is clearly designed for high-level business, with melange the probable currency. Teg knows that the Honored Matre is observing them as he notes no great changes since his previous visit. There is a narrow table and four admiral's chairs. There are no windows and those in the outer space are escape-proof.

Teg goes on alert as an old woman sweeps in, her face a wrinkled mass around deep-set green eyes and an elongated beak of a nose. A black skullcap almost covers her gray hair. She dismisses Muzzafar, describes herself as a banker, and asks why Teg is studying her. She laughs when he is surprised at her age, and says if he is lucky, a younger Honored Mater will mark him. He nods without understanding. She orders him to look into her eyes and warns that if they ever turn completely orange, he will have pushed too hard. She needs him to command "the muck" outside her walls, who care only about food, shelter, protection from vermin, and must be kept in "protective ignorance." Teg brings orange flecks to her eyes by his tone, but she continues to chuckle. With Muzzafar again behind her, eyes aglow, the Honored Matre offers Teg the choice of obedience or death. Teg feels something evil in the pair but is reassured that neither enjoys life. She sends Muzzafar to fetch the one chosen to mark the Bashar, who understands. As power grows within him, he sees that he must rampage bloodily like the Tyrant.

Rakis holds many surprises still for Taraza, who is disquieted by news from Gammu. They wait for 'thopters from Keen bearing "Very Important Observers" (VIOs) before going out into the desert for Sheeana's dance. Taraza and Odrade wonder about Tyrant's old lamentation that the Sisterhood is close to what it should be but still far off. Taraza is sure that he remains in the desert and that Sheeana talks to him. The Sisterhood must recover his full plan. The night before, in the Museum, Sheeana dances, convincing Taraza that this is her language. They have spent a busy, disturbing week, tending to Sheeana after the whores' demonstration. Yesterday, she asks why she may not use the Face Dancers' techniques. What do the whores do wrong? Odrade struggles to answer: they ignore the species at work in the Golden Path by using sex to control worlds by force. As with the Sisterhood's use of Voice to control people, the whores' sex will lose effectiveness. The whores will come to Rakis in the core of the Old Empire, which they seek to conquer. Because the core has been static for millennia, life here needs rejuvenation by those of the Scattering who resist the whores. Resistance must be strengthened. When the VIOs' 'thopters arrive, Taraza sees treachery before





the first shot slices off her legs. She staunches the blood flow but knows she is doomed. Odrade takes in all of her and Other Memories, and then, moving with purpose, hurries Sheeana to safety in the desert.

Recognizing the Honored Matres' threat, Teg turns into a blurred whirlwind, slaughtering everyone he meets. The Sisterhood is right to call them whores, goading humans into actions that seem impossible, redirecting energies to sweep over everything in its path like religions. Teg is aware of leaving over 50 bodies behind, and wonders if he should be consoled by the surprise on the Honored Matre's face as she dies or congratulate himself on keeping Muzzafar from seeing his frame bush house again. Teg runs five kilometers, panting more than the exertions seem to require and wondering what is happening to him. He enters an old-fashioned eatery and is seated in a corner with his back to the wall. Nearby, the man he knows he needs to see is dining alone, laughing with a shabbily-dressed waiter. Teg requests a lot of food heavy on carbohydrates and stimulant-free, studies the man with whom the waiter speaks en route to the kitchen; Tek asks that Prof. Delnay join him for dessert.

Delnay comments on Teg's gastronomic performance and accepts without hesitation his request to take him to old colleagues. He disguises Teg as a Bordano overseer, plastering him with sewage and taking him after dark to a cozy bar, where he has laid out a cleaned, pressed uniform with full regalia. Emerging, Teg is the center of hushed attention. Everyone wants the Honored Matres off their necks. He recognizes a few officers and soldiers. When Teg asks for attention, silence falls. Experience and doubled vision tell him which men are most reliable, and he knows Burzmali, Lucilla, and Duncan need help. Teg announces that they will capture a no-ship from the Scattering. Some men are to remain and hold off an expected attack and the rest to follow Teg.

Teg's no-ship comes in low and unseen over the Rakian sands. Armored 'thopters and cars are readied for deployment. No one has any choice now but fight or die. It is easy to fall into the Honored Matres' attitude towards the masses, which are easily hoodwinked. Lucilla sweeps in, angrily demanding an explanation. Teg says that the Honored Matres with Tleilaxu companions from the Scattering have killed Taraza and hold most Rakian centers. Teg is waiting for Mother Superior Odrade, Sheeana and the worm. They and Lucilla will be whisked away, while he creates a diversion that will provoke the Honored Matres to leave Rakis a charred ruin incapable of sustaining life. Having the key to axlotl tanks, the Bene Gesserit will soon produce gholas. Teg contemplates how the "depraved whores" are like addicts, continually requiring greater pleasure. How they must rage inside, knowing they are trapped and neither good nor evil enough to escape. They are dangerous because they forget life before their transformation. Mentats see this flaw in themselves.

When the worm appears with two riders, Teg gives orders to effect swift action. Odrade sees the change in his eyes that Lucilla has reported. Declaring that finding them is "gambler's choice," he tells her to take the ship to "the place you know best." Contrary to Taraza's plan, the gholas must accompany them, for his new talents are needed to counter the whores; he is no longer merely bait to bring on Rakis' destruction. He will never be able to leave the no-ship's concealment, lest Guild navigators find him. With a





wave to Burzmali and an impulsive, perhaps vindictive, kiss on his daughter's cheek, Teg leads the "ground hogs" out. Odrade realizes that Teg knows Taraza's complete design and orders it carried out.

On Chapter House, in Taraza's workroom, Odrade works on integrating memories, feeling that they are fully Dar-and-Tar at last. Odrade sees in Other Memories the father she never knows, even at the end and recalls the Tyrant's warning about answers from the past. Odrade expects to be replaced and is sure she will be reviled. Only the Sisterhood's survival matters. Odrade looks at the statue of St. Chenoeh and wonders why sisters coming through the spice agony (unlike Chenoeh) always invoke the grace of God. Reminding herself that she is neither superstitious nor compulsive, she leaves the bust in place, realizing she will never be so honored.

Odrade thinks about all the dead on Rakis and how the blundering Honored Matres are bloodying the Old Empire. The Council session draws no conclusions except that anyone who allies with the whores must be punished. Sheeana's cells show "proof of Siona," meaning she can safely exit the no-ship, but Duncan is must stay confined. Murbella is pregnant. The worm in the no-ship's hold is nearing metamorphosis, at which point Sheeana will lure it into a bath of water and melange to produce sandtrout that will turn Chapter House Planet into a wasteland habitat for Shai-Hulud. Teg's Last Will and Testament must be followed: reform the Archives and dig in Other Memories to eliminate diversions and reveal secret influences. Historians obscure events by destroying copies, ridiculing accounts, ignoring and sometimes killing authors. The Bene Gesserit has a base of information on which better to understand its past and know its less-than-noble purpose.

Odrade visits the no-ship, a comfortable prison for Duncan, who occupies Teg's quarters. When he again refuses to be a stud, Odrade asks whether Duncan has read her father's - Teg's - last words about breaking out of the Tyrant's trap. They are satisfied with having Murbella's child. Duncan cannot believe that Murbella has taken the Sisters in. Odrade knows Murbella thinks that she can learn from them and escape, but that never happens - not even with Lady Jessica. Odrade tells Duncan Taraza's full plan: eliminate the worms to free humankind from the pearls of the Tyrant's awareness. By the time this last worm divides and matures, humankind will be beyond control by any single force. Odrade wants Duncan to lead a useful life because her ancestors - and her father - have loved him. Before leaving the hold, Odrade looks at the worm and shares a laugh with Taraza-within, seeing evidence of noble purpose.

## Pages 430-480 Analysis

In the finale, Murbella captures Duncan and his "marking" brings out serial gholia incarnations and gives him the secret to the sexual powers that the Honored Matres use to dominate worlds. Murbella finds herself trumped and mystified following a very graphic depiction of orgasm. Duncan's programming to kill his Imprinter - recalling the climax of Dune Messiah, when an earlier gholia Duncan is programmed to kill Paul Atreides - fails because the wrong woman seduces him. The sexual demonstration that



Sheeana earlier witnesses leaves questions for the Reverend Mothers to answer, but talk is suspended when Honored Matres swoop down and kill Taraza. Odrade takes her memories and flees with Sheeana. Meanwhile, on Gamma, Teg destroys the Honored Matres who have captured him and rallies loyal forces to make a suicidal stand on Rakis. There is an extended meditation on the nature of male bonding followed by a look at the need for scapegoating. As Teg mounts a diversion, Odrade, Duncan, Sheeana and a lone worm are flown to safety on Chapter House Planet. There the new Reverend Mother Superior integrates her predecessor's memories and sets out to complete her plans: turning the planet into a new Dune. The opposition she faces and fears of discovery by the Honored Matres set up the next novel in the series.



# Characters

## Sheeana Brugh

A Fremen child born on the planet Rakis, Sheeana is collecting melange in the desert when a worm penetrates the water defenses and swallows her village. She rides the worm to Keen, where the Rakian priests take her in, awed at her seeming ability to control the giant worms, whom they worship as Shai-Hulud, but she insists on calling Shaitan. The Bene Gesserit has long awaited a "Sandrider," and begins keeping tabs on Sheeana. The priests are divided in their opinions about her, with the High Priest Hadley Tuek revering her but others wanting to test her. In her third year with the priests, Sheeana at eleven standard years is slender and dark-skinned, with sun-streaked brown hair and precocious. The Priest Stiros tests her in the desert, after which adults fulfill her every whim. In the popular mind, Sheeana becomes a protector and the Sisterhood amplifies and directs a new mythology. Sheeana questions the worms and refuses to be drawn into theological discussions with the priests.

Kipuna takes over Sheeana's physical training and they bond. During Tuek's visit on the rooftop, Sheeana shocks him by her topics and demands to meet the Reverend Mother. Kipuna sees the assassin's missile fire and dies, giving Tuek time to drag Sheeana to safety. She is isolated from the priests and begins formal Bene Gesserit training. Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade pictures wild Sheeana as a canvas. She has taught herself intermediate-level Voice, sufficient to control most people and resents being called child and petulantly demands to be taught everything. Odrade applies the whip of full Voice, which sends Sheeana rigid. When she comes around, she says warmly she is glad Odrade has come to relieve her boredom. Sheeana becomes Odrade's co-conspirator in dealing with the Tleilaxu. Sheeana dances to communicate with the worms. At Dar-es-Balat, she draws a big one that takes her, Odrade and Waff to Sietch Tabr, where they find Leto II's lost treasury of melange. Taraza visits to see decide whether Sheeana's part of the project should be aborted, but Sheeana passes the test. She passes into the Sisterhood without the pains of the agony box and gom jabbar. When Taraza is mortally wounded, Sheeana watches the ultimate Bene Gesserit mystery of sharing memories with Odrade, with whom Sheeana flees to a no-ship. The no-ship takes the survivors to Chapter House Planet with a worm in the hold. When it reaches metamorphosis, Sheeana will lure it into a bath of water and melange to produce sandtrout that then begin a long transformation.

## Duncan Idaho

A "ghola" reincarnation of the great sword master of House Atreides in the original Dune, 3,500 years ago, Duncan begins this novel as a 12-year-old boy being physically trained under the direction of the renowned Bashar Miles Teg. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, which has commissioned eleven previous Duncan gholas from the Bene Tleilaxu, is guarding this one heavily. The predecessors have all been killed before an



Imprinter could bring back their pre-ghola memories. The first Duncan is born on Giedi Prime, the home world of the vicious House Harkonnen, archrivals of House Atreides, which ruled on Caladan before succeeding the Harkonnens on Arrakis (Dune, now named Rakis). Duncan's family members are tortured and killed, and he is turned into human hunting prey. Escaping the nightmare planet, Duncan enters Atreides service and gives his first life in allowing Paul and Lady Jessica to escape the bloody coup d'état. Some cells from his corpse are preserved by the Tleilaxu and revived, and he again serves Paul-Muad'dib as Emperor. Paul's son, Leto II, the God Emperor (and Tyrant) repeatedly orders Duncan gholas, many of whom he murders. The Bene Gesserit's current plan is to revive this Duncan's memories and mate him with a remarkable young woman, Sheeana Brugh, on Rakis. She has the ability to control worms. As a descendant of the famous Siona Atreides and an earlier Duncan, Sheeana is believed to be genetically safe from prescience.

The current Duncan develops physically beyond expectations, taking full advantage of genetic modifications to increase his muscle and nerve speed. The Reverend Mother Lucilla is sent to imprint him, but Duncan resists her sexual advances. He sees visions of a beautiful young woman in his room, whom he takes for his late mother. No one is allowed to discuss the meaning of gholas around him, and the library has been sanitized, all of which increases his curiosity. Lucilla and Teg thwart one assassination attempt, but when a full-fledged assault on the Keep begins, Teg takes Duncan and Lucilla into the forest, following a prepared plan that brings them to an ancient Harkonnen no-place. There, Duncan is briefly troubled by the lewd glyphs and atmosphere, but begins using the training equipment and again advances rapidly. Following detailed, painful instructions from Chapter House, Teg awakens Duncan's memories of his first life. Duncan continues to resist Lucilla's advances.

When Teg determines it is time to leave the no-chamber, Face Dancers are waiting in ambush. Teg's assistant, Burzmalis, takes charge of Duncan and Lucilla, and spirits them to Ysai City, which Duncan remembers as Barony. It is as revolting as ever. He is entrusted to a partisan, Tormsa, who he sees die before experiencing strange visions from his original life and the face in his dreams appears. He awakens to see the Honored Matre acolyte Murbella naked beside him, touching him with clear purpose. Flames engulf Duncan's mind and hidden places within him come alive. He sees each of his serial gholas selves passing and being crushed by a giant worm with a human face. Duncan re-experiences each of his violent deaths and other experiences. The memory that the Tleilaxu have planted in him are awakened, including knowledge of all sexual secrets. He applies the techniques to Murbella, making her quiver in unimagined ecstasy. When they finish, he is programmed to kill Lucilla, not Murbella. Murbella cannot bring herself to kill this dangerous, naked youth but tries unsuccessfully to do her duty. They are spirited to Rakis to pick up Sheeana - Duncan's original intended - and a worm and continue to Chapter House Planet. There, the Sisterhood hopes Duncan can live a useful life in a no-ship but cannot allow him outside, where prescient Guild navigators might see him. Murbella is pregnant and wants to become a Reverend Mother. Duncan refuses to serve any more as her stud and broods.



## Reverend Mother Bellonda

An old, fat, florid and vicious Bene Gesserit Archivist, Bellonda opposes the Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza in Council, demanding that the Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade be summarily killed for treason because of her actions on Rakis. No decision is reached. Bellonda insists that the Tyrant would have crushed such a traitor. Bellonda's brief appearance prepares for her substantial role in the next novel, *Chapterhouse: Dune*.

## Burzmali

Bashar Miles Teg's chosen successor as Supreme Bashar, Burzmali has yet to have the appointment ratified by the Bene Gesserit. With a very young, triangular face, blond hair sweeping across his forehead, widely-spaced, alert green eyes and a deep voice, Burzmali is dispatched to Gammu when Teg, the Reverend Mother Lucilla and the young ghola Duncan Idaho go missing after an attack by the Honored Matres. Burzmali talks with the family of Teg's subaltern, who devises the escape and dies as a decoy. Burzmali reviews all the lessons Teg has taught him to figure out where they are hidden in an ancient Harkonnen no-chamber deep in the forest. Teg stays behind to hold off attacking Face Dancers as Burzmali takes his charges away. His double-decoy plan works wonderfully. In Ysai City, Duncan goes off with another rescuer, while Burzmali poses as a customer of high-priced Honored Matre "playfem," played by Lucilla. For authenticity, Burzmali must have sex with her before the mission and seems more pleased about it than she. When they reach the supposed safe place, an Honored Matre postulant, Murbella, approaches, insults Burzmali as a filthy male, and would have been killed him, had Lucilla not intervened with lightning speed. With Lucilla, he watches Murbella have massively orgasmic sex with Murbella, and organize the guard to take them to a no-ship. When Burzmali lands on Rakis, he is hastily given command of another no-ship by Teg, charged with flying Idaho, Sheeana, Odrade and a Rakian worm to Chapter House Planet.

## Kipuna

A Rakian native serving as an acolyte in the Bene Gesserit Keep on Rakis, Kipuna has the typical round, soft features of her people, but a sharp mind. She works as a spy inside the priestly precincts. Kipuna takes over Sheeana's physical training, earning the jealousy of Cania, who the priests give to Sheeana as a servant. Kipuna sees the seeker fired at Sheeana on the roof of the priestly complex, pushes the girl into the high priest's arms, throws herself in the path and is decapitated by shigawire. The Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade greatly mourns her loss.



## Reverend Mother Lucilla

A trained Bene Gesserit "Imprinter," Lucilla is sent by the Reverend Mother Alma Mavis Taraza to the planet Gammu to take over training of the latest Duncan Idaho ghola from the skeptical old Reverend Mother Schwangyu. Lucilla is a brown-haired, large-breasted, motherly charmer who has already borne three children for the Sisterhood. Her mission is to teach Duncan "love in all of its forms" in preparation for turning him over to Senior Security Mother Darwi Odrade, who strikingly resembles Lucilla. Both are descendants of Siona Atreides. Lucilla depends on the Lady Jessica persona in Other Lives.

Frustrated that Duncan resists her attempts at seduction and enraged when Teg dares awaken his pre-ghola memories before the imprinting, Lucilla finds herself being dragged through the forests and into Ysai as they flee Face Dancers. Lucilla hates the depraved city and its denizens. She is introduced to a Rakian priestess, a Hormu Lady, Sirafa, who changes clothes with her and instructs her in how to impersonate an Honored Matre "playfem" out to service Burzmali, her companion of the night or a Teilaxu Master and his entourage. Sirafa will take Lucilla's place as a decoy while they get to a no-ship and safety. Tasting her own tears, Lucilla realizes that Gammu has touched her more deeply than any experience since school. She plays her assigned role with pride that her sexual skills exceed the role. At the assumed safe place, they are met by a young woman dressed in the same kind of dragon robe, who Lucilla prevents from killing Burzmali. Murbella addresses Lucilla gallingly as "Great Honored Matre." Murbella reports that the ghola has been captured, marked and partly subdued him. She invites Lucilla to watch their next session. As Murbella and Duncan weakly try to kill one another, Lucilla knocks Murbella out and orders them put under guard.

## Murbella

A young Honored Matre postulant on Gammu, Murbella has observant green eyes and wears a a dragon robe over her willowy body. She insults Burzmali and would have killed him as male scum, had the Reverend Mother Lucilla not dropped her with a standard Bene Gesserit move. Gasping, Murbella addresses Lucilla as "Great Honored Matre," and explains that she is newly robed and thankful for the lesson. She had earlier knocked out the fugitive Duncan Idaho and sexually "marked" him. She invites Burzmali and Lucilla to witness the next round. The first experience, however, has opened to Duncan the reality of his serial ghola lives, and he learns the secrets that heretofore only Honored Matre females have know. Having also brought in the Reverend Mother Lucilla, Duncan's intended Imprinter, and the Bashar Burzmali, Murbella deigns to demonstrate once more her powers on Duncan. He surprises her by anticipating every move and forcing her to lose herself in endless orgasms. As she recovers her strength, she knows she must kill this dangerous male, but cannot bring herself to do it. Duncan's implanted instinct to kill his Imprinter fails because the wrong woman seduces him. Pregnant and under heavy guard, Murbella is taken to a no-ship for escape to Chapter House Planet, where she hopes to undergo Bene Gesserit training and become a





Reverend Mother. Duncan refuses to be her "stud" in the future, but both are confined to the no-ship. Murbella becomes a central character in the next novel, *Chapterhouse: Dune*.

## Jafa Muzzafar

The tall, ruddy-faced Regional Commander for the Forces of Dur and titular Field Marshal, Muzzafar awaits Bashar Miles Teg in Ysai after Teg escapes from Honored Matres torture. He assures Teg that nothing that has befallen him is Muzzafar's fault. He talks about his beloved "frame bush" at home, orders a medical checkup and massive meal for Teg, who Muzzafar watches in amazement at the quantity that Teg eats. Next day, Muzzafar takes Teg to meet his mistress, a fearsome and aged Honored Matre, behind whose chair he is honored to stand. When Teg's Mentat mind convinces him he has no other option, he kills Muzzafar, the Honored Matre and everyone else in the compound and escapes.

## Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade

The Bene Gesserit Senior Security Mother who bears a striking physical resemblance to the Imprinter Lucilla, sent to Gammu to prepare the ghola Duncan Idaho for his mission to Rakis, Odrade is a descendent of the legendary Siona Atreides. Born to a Bene Gesserit Sister and raised until age six by foster parents on Gammu, Odrade is then claimed by the Sisterhood and undergoes standard training, survives the spice agony, and is sent to Al Dhanab for intense physical conditioning to prepare for service on the desert planet Rakis (Arrakis/Dune). Tall, supple, muscular Odrade is a tough survivor. She has borne 19 children for the Sisterhood by the time the Reverend Mother Alma Mavis Taraza, one of her instructors, with whom she becomes inordinately close, to the point that they still sometimes relate as "Dar and Tar," approves an assignment on Rakis. Before going there, Odrade visits Gammu to inspect the ghola and reveals to the Bashar Miles Teg that she is his biological daughter.

As a master of "memory work," pulling up pieces of the past to help deal with the developing present and as an Atreides, Odrade has anonymously prepared a revolutionary document, "Atreides Manifesto," which the Bene Tleilax begin spreading throughout the universe. Succeeding the Reverend Mother Tamalane as Mother Commander of the Rakian Keep, Odrade wards off the assassination attempt against Sheeana led by the Priest Stiros, the Ixians and Face Dancers. When Odrade forces Taraza's hand by forming a three-way alliance with the Bene Tleilax and Rakian priesthood and committing the Sisterhood to providing breeding mothers to the Tleilaxu, there are calls in the Sisterhood, led by Bellonda, for her elimination. Taraza declares they can no more eliminate Odrade than they can eliminate the ghola. Taraza sides with Odrade—only the Tleilaxu are vulnerable, but Taraza quickly arranges a showdown with her old friend. Taraza is talking with Sheeana on an exposed rooftop when another attempt is made on Sheeana's life. Sheeana is unharmed, but Taraza is mortally wounded. She has time to share her memories with Odrade before expiring. As



temporary Reverend Mother Superior, Odrade arranges for a rescue mission by Teg. Just ahead of the Honored Matres "sterilizing" Rakis, Odrade, Duncan, Taraza and a lone worm, are spirited off the doomed planet. On Chapter House Planet, working in Taraza's old office and gradually assimilating Taraza's memories with her own, Odrade resolves to carry out Taraza's plans and her father's Last Will and Testament, which calls for a reevaluation of how the Sisterhood treats history.

## Patrin

A native of Gammu, Patrin is the Bashar Miles Teg's most trusted aide, who he puts in charge of protecting the latest Duncan Idaho ghola. With a long, pale and wrinkled face, Patrin stands guard in the exercise courtyard with a heavy lasgun at the ready. As the danger to Duncan increases, Patrin devises a plan to hide Teg, Duncan and the Reverend Mother Lucilla, Duncan's intended Imprinter, in an ancient Harkonnen no-chamber that he finds as a boy exploring the forest but reveals to no one. Teg does not realize that part of Patrin's plan is to serve as a decoy, pretending to blast off in a no-ship to obliterate signs of the no-chamber. Teg mourns for his old friend and hopes he died swiftly and painlessly.

## Reverend Mother Schwangyu

The small, skinny, wizened old commander of the Bene Gesserit Keep on Gammu, Schwangyu stands unilaterally opposed to the training of gholas after eleven failures. Curt and abrupt, Schwangyu keeps to herself more than most Reverend Mothers. Faced with the deadly challenge of the Honored Matres, Schwangyu believes the Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza is crazy to be "dallying" with the ghola. She conflicts with Reverend Mother Lucilla, who Taraza dispatches to imprint the ghola, with Taraza's Bashar, Miles Teg, who is strongly warned about her attitudes, and with Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, Lucilla's look-alike, when she visits. When the Keep is attacked, Schwangyu is taken into custody as a collaborator, but allowed to return to her quarters. Teg, Lucilla and Duncan flee into the forest as another assault begins. Unable to share her memories with another Reverend Mother, Schwangyu nevertheless does her duty to the Sisterhood by identifying the attackers - the whores of the Honored Matres.

## Stiros

A Rakian priest, Stiros pushes for a scientific study of the young desert girl Sheeana, opposing the High Priest Hadley Tuek, who regards her reverentially as God's Holy Child. Too old to succeed Tuek, Stiros wants one of his sons, grandsons or nephews to inherit the position of High Priest some day. Cynical, Stiros has a final confrontation over theology with old Tuek before leading a failed assassination attempt against Sheeana.





## Reverend Mother Tamalane

The gholia Duncan Idaho's first teacher on Gammu, Tamalane explains to him the unforgettable pain of a Bene Gesserit punishment. She goes on briefly to become Mother Commander of the Rakian Keep, charged with keeping watch on young Sheeana but is soon replaced by Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade.

## Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza

The Reverend Mother Superior of the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood when the novel opens, Taraza is tall, supple and graceful. No longer trusting the Reverend Mother Schwangyu to train and protect the twelfth Duncan Idaho gholia on Gammu, Taraza sends the Reverend Mother Lucilla to imprint the boy sexually. Taraza sees clearly that whatever benefits the Sisterhood is good and whatever opposes it - particularly the "Honored Matres" returning from the Scattering, is bad. Taraza remarks that while conflicts under the Golden Path are a mere 2% of those before, there are forces at work seeking to return to pre-Tyrant conditions.

In her early days, Taraza is charged with supervising younger girls, including Darwi Odrade, with whom she becomes inordinately close, and the two sometimes still relate as "Dar and Tar." With a high-pitched voice that she uses with devastating effectiveness, not easily ignored, Taraza plays the perpetual devil's advocate until this attitude pervades the Sisterhood by the time she is elevated to the top office. Sending Odrade to Rakis to take charge of a young Fremen girl, Sheeana, Taraza cautions her against consuming too much spice and digging excessively in Other Memories. When Odrade forces Taraza's hand by establishing a three-way alliance with the Bene Tleilax and the Rakian priesthood, Taraza rushes to the planet to investigate, willing if necessary to kill her old friend as some top councilors urge. Taraza is talking with Sheeana when the Honored Matres attempt to assassinate the girl and is mortally wounded. She transfers her memories to Odrade, who effects an escape and becomes the temporary Mother Superior. Odrade escapes Rakis with Sheeana, Duncan Idaho and a lone worm, ahead of the planet's complete sterilization. On Chapter House Planet, feeling Taraza's memories meld with her own, Odrade carries out Taraza's plans to create a new habitat for the worm and the excising of the Tyrant's influence on the Sisterhood.

## Miles Teg

A brilliant Supreme Bashar retired from commanding the Bene Gesserit military forces, Teg reluctantly returns to service on the planet Gammu to train and protect the latest Duncan Idaho gholia, placing his most trusted aide, Patrin, in immediate charge. The son of Reverend Mother Janet Roxbrough, who has Fish Speaker blood, and a CHOAM minor functionary, Loschy Teg, Teg inherits the house on Lernaeus when Roxbrough dies. Suspecting Mentat abilities, Roxbrough sends her son to Chapter House Planet for training beyond the things she teaches him illicitly à la Lady Jessica. At the time he is brought back into service by the Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza, who



impressively comes to Lernaeus in person, "Old Reliability" Teg remains a regal figure at 296 Standard Years old. He wears a light-gray uniform with no insignia but uses his Bashar's sunburst as a belt buckle. He shows some signs of stiffness but has stayed active in his research garden. Teg's face is long and typically Atreides, strongly resembling Duke Leto I, and this is a major factor in selecting him to teach the young ghola Duncan Idaho. The original Duncan receives refuge by Leto from Harkonnen brutality and dies defending Leto's son Paul and concubine Lady Jessica. The newest ghola has had his muscles and nervous system accelerated and soon attains Teg's level.

When the Honored Matres attack the Gammu Keep, Teg leads Duncan and Reverend Mother Lucilla, the Imprinter sent to help with awakening Duncan's pre-ghola memories, to safety in an ancient Harkonnen no-chamber, where he follows Taraza's orders to use physical and mental torment to awaken Duncan. This puts him in conflict with Lucilla, who insists she should go first. As pressures mount, they plan an escape off-planet, but as they step out, a ferocious Face Dancer assault is launched. Teg remains to protect Duncan and Lucilla's backs and kills many attackers before being dropped with a non-lethal weapon. His captors hook Teg up to an Ixian T-probe, which takes control of all his senses, muscles and nerves. Filled with shere, Teg holds out and realizes that the torture has given him immense speed and a double vision about the reality surrounding him. In a breath's time, Teg kills his three torturers, guards outside, and effects his escape. Hunted all over Gammu, Teg is spirited to supposed safety, to be confronted by an Honored Matre, who expects him to join her staff. In high speed, Teg kills everyone in the complex and flees to a restaurant, where a former comrade arranges for him to meet with other military men. Teg enlists them to steal a no-ship for a suicide mission to Rakis. As Honored Matres close in to "sterilize" the planet, Teg leads a diversion to let the no-ship proceed with Odrade - revealed as one of Teg's biological children - Duncan, Sheeana and a lone Rakis worm to escape to Chapter House Planet. Odrade, who has become Reverend Mother Superior, insists that the Sisterhood heed Teg's Last Will and Testament, which criticizes the current use of history.

## Hedley Tuek

The tall, stout, imposing gray-haired High Priest of the Divided God and titular ruler of the planet Rakis, Tuek, receives a report about a young girl, Sheeana, who has ridden in from the desert atop a great sandworm. Tuek allows a test in the desert, which the terrified girl survives. Tuek vacates his quarters and moves her in, believing that she is God's tool for weeding evil out of the priesthood. Sheeana gradually realizes she has great power over those around her, particularly Tuek, who she addresses by his first name. Knowing that more than one predecessor has died mysteriously in the desert, Tuek nevertheless insists that the High Priest must be the final interpreter. Leaving a contentious meeting with Stiros, Tuek vests in his finest robes to visit Sheeana on the guarded roof. Tuek senses danger. When an assassin fires a seeker trailing shigawire, Tuek, a former athlete, rushes Sheeana to safety, rightly fearing a wider plot centering on Stiros.



During a meeting about the "Atreides Manifesto" with Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade and the Tleilaxu Master Tylwyth Waff, Tuek is assassinated and replaced by a Face Dancer. The cover-up forces Bene Tleilax to ally with the Bene Gesserit, which begin an enormous buildup of forces on Rakis, in defiance of their agreement with Tuek. False-Tuek can say nothing to jeopardize himself. Old Tuek opposes modernization and his replacement opposes Councilors involved in the "Tleilaxu plot," who gloat about getting their way. Rituals are shortened and modernized and fewer ventures are made into the desert. The replacement is so good that the family consolidates power, and the Bene Gesserit suspect that the Face Dancer may be unable to shake loose from the shape, behavior and belief it mimics. This becomes evident when the Priest Albertus reveals the substitution, but False-Tuek dares call Waff "filth" and denies being a Face Dancer. The Bene Gesserit affirms False-Tuek's priesthood and offers him guards.

## Tylwyth Waff

The Tleilaxu Mahai and Master of Masters, "Waff of the Entio" presides over a council of nine contentious counselors, who he convinces that the "Atreides Manifesto" supports the Great Belief and will weaken all rival religions in the universe. Waff meets an Honored Matre on a neutral Ixian no-ship, is shocked at her seeming ability to read his mind, kills her with concealed darts, and orders the no-ship blown up with no survivors. Waff next meets the Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother Superior, Alma Mavis Taraza, who comments on the interesting new Face Dancers. Taraza bluffs knowing about what he has done to the Ixian conference ship and as the price for silence demands that Waff share everything he learns about the Honored Matres. With no illusions as to what will happen if the Honored Matres learn the truth, Waff agrees. Using a Sufi phrase, Taraza determines Waff is a secret Zensunni.

On Rakis, Reverend Mother Odrade, the secret author of the "Atreides Manifesto," conspires with Waff before meeting the High Priest Tuek and is shocked when Waff assassinates Tuek and tries to kill her. He is too slow and suffers broken arms. Waff realizes he has no choice but to ally with the Bene Gesserit, whose spokeswoman speaks of preserving the Great Belief, knows secret hand signs and is fluent in the sacred Islamiyat language. To convince Waff of their true affinity, Odrade shares a damaging secret: they plan on planting worms of the Prophet throughout the Scattering. When Tuek's death comes out, Waff sees that the deception puts a wedge between the priests and the Bene Gesserit and removes a dangerous hold on himself and agrees to revealing the Honored Matres' sexual secrets, on which he has first hand experience. Waff and his Face Dancers die when the Honored Matres "sterilize" Rakis.



# Objects/Places

## The Atreides Manifesto

The "Atreides Manifesto" appears anonymously, calling into question every religion based on science while declaring that the universe is magical and transient. Because that is the essence of the hidden "Shariat," the Bene Tleilax embrace it and look forward to the "powindah" (non-Tleilaxu) expending great energies trying to suppress it, knowing that this will only further empower the words. The document is the work of the Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, a descendent of Siona Atreides, written at the direction of the Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza. It has the intended effect. The Rakian High Priest Tuek collapses and reports that both the Ixians and Fish Speakers are upset by it. Tuek laments that the terrible document claims that God and his works are human creations - something no high priest can let go unchallenged. By contrast, the Tleilaxu Master of Masters, Tylwyth Waff, says that the document rightly sees prescience as causing believers' minds to stagnate. By writing the Manifesto, Odrade achieves insight that Waff appreciates. She reveals everything about the "Atreides Manifesto" and commits the Sisterhood to a partnership.

## Bene Gesserit

A secular Sisterhood that makes use of religion for its own ends, the Sisterhood has for millennia manipulated human genetics, less to insure the survival of the species than its own survival. Novices undergo years of physical and intellectual training, at the end of which the most adept are administered the potentially deadly "spice ordeal" using melange. Those who survive become full Reverend Mothers to whom "Other Memories" are opened, allowing them to consult Reverend Mothers back to the start of time. The Bene Gesserit is organized as a monarchy, with the Reverend Mother Superior accepting advice from a council, but then making definitive, binding decisions. The current Mother Superior is Alma Mavis Taraza, who reigns on Chapter House Planet. An unorthodox offshoot of the Bene Gesserit calling itself "Honored Matres," but referred to by Bene Gesserit sisters scornfully as "whores," are searching for the Sisterhood's headquarters, hoping to eliminate the Bene Gesserit.

In this novel, the Sisterhood, allowed by the God Emperor Leto II, to survive despite his disappointment at the degree to which the Sisterhood has not lived up to expectations, is looking for a way to minimize its continuing influence. It has for an undisclosed but lengthy period of time waited to mate an Atreides girl descended from the legendary Siona with a Duncan Idaho gholia. Eleven such gholias have been purchased from the Bene Tleilax but killed before maturity. The Sisterhood has fortified a Keep on the planet Gammu to defend and educate Duncan, but the administrator, Reverend Mother Schwangyu, disagrees with Taraza on the gholia project. A faction in the Sisterhood fears repetition of breeding a Kwisatz Haderach, a male version of a Reverend Mother,



who can be multiple places in time simultaneously. Paul-Muad'dib Atreides and his son, Leto II - the Tyrant - achieved this status with disastrous results.

## Bene Tleilax

A highly technological, but universally detested, race that produces gholas, the Tleilaxu are divided into Masters and Face Dancers. The Masters, whose ruling council is called the Masheikh, are short, gray beings with small mouths filled with sharp teeth. It is common for the rulers to undergo the axlotl tank at death to be grown again from their cadaver cells and have their previous memories restored. The Masters control a race of sterile mules, most often known as Face Dancers. These beings can take on the form and mannerisms and absorb the memories of those they kill. The latest versions are undetectable by anyone except trained Bene Gesserit Reverend Mothers, who know their characteristic pheromones. For millennia, the Tleilaxu have been providing gholas, first for the God-Emperor Leto II, and after him for the Bene Gesserit. The clients always suspect some sort of tampering, but for some reason cannot resist having Duncan Idaho's around. The Tleilaxu have killed the last eleven after delivery, and the Bene Gesserit is taking extra precautions with the twelfth, whom they have asked to have his muscle and nerve speed accelerated. The Tleilaxu insist that they meet their contracts.

Heretics of Dune reveals that the mysterious Tleilaxu are religious zealots. They insist that Leto II is not God, but God's Prophet, and has prepared the universe for the Bene Tleilax to spread his true faith throughout the universe. They refer to the process of regeneration in gholas and restoring memories as the "Language of God." The inner circle speaks ancient Islamiyat, the tongue of the original Zensunni migrants who find sanctuary on Arrakis (Rakis/Dune) and become the Fremen people. They refer to themselves as "un-nameable" - a label for gods. Whenever they venture out among the "powindahs," they defile themselves and must undergo purification in the "ghufran" upon return, particularly before entering the salmliks of the women to distribute sperm. Khasadars police the frontiers. To preserve this separation from the rest of humanity, the Tleilaxu have for millennia nurtured the myth that they are stupid, vile, detestable, predictable and impetuous. The current Master of Masters, Tylwyth Waff, knows that the powindahs find him an odd figure, but does not care, for he is doing the will of God. Reluctantly, and largely because a Reverend Mother is able to speak Islamiyat, Waff agrees to share the secret of the axlotl tanks and the sexual secrets he has learned from the Honored Matres with the Sisterhood in exchange for obtaining Atreides "breeding mothers."

## Chapter House Planet

The central administrative center of the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood for 1,400 years, Chapter House Planet remains unnamed and is considered temporary. Guardian no-ships planned and commanded by recently retired Bashar Miles Teg orbit overhead offering protection against anything but "accidental discovery." Only descendants of Siona Atreides and an earlier gholas of Duncan Idaho may visit the planet because a



genetic quirk renders them invisible to prescience. Fragrant orchards surround the sprawling complex. Retired sisters and select loyal families occupy estates nearby, and the spacefield is located 20 km. eastward. On the open plains, graze cattle specially bred to stampede and bellow if approached by anyone with odors they do not recognize. An early Bashar organized the buildings so no one can move about unobserved. The novel ends with refugees arriving from "sterilized" Rakis. Reverend Mother Superior Odrade regrets having to sequester Duncan aboard forever, fearing his Atreides genetic line may not provide complete protection. The no-ship also carries the last surviving worm of Rakis, which will soon be killed in water and melange to separate into sandtrout, which in turn will multiply and develop, transforming the beautiful planet into another wasteland like Dune, where new great worms can develop as the end stage of the sandtrout life cycle.

## Gammu

The planet formerly known as Giedi Prime, Gammu has been repopulated from the planet Dan (earlier known as Caladan, the Atreides' home planet) after the Famine Times and Scattering. Gammu is the home world of Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, who heads the Bene Gesserit Keep on Rakis, and of Duncan Idaho in his original natural birth. As a House Harkonnen slave world, Gammu acquires a bitter, oily smell that survives, despite reforestation. The old capitol, Barony - renamed Ysai - is dominated by a massive, ugly Harkonnen Keep, 950 stories, 45 X 30 km. of plasteel and armour-plaz. Much of the rest of the city is built up helter-skelter from scrap materials. Gammu has a yellow-green variant sun, a 31.27 standard-hour day and a 2.6 standard year. Atreides and Harkonnen genotypes are visible in the Gammu population, but few admit to it.

The novel's early action takes place in the heavily-fortified Bene Gesserit Keep. When the Honored Matres level the compound in an effort to kill the ghola Duncan Idaho, his protectors, Bashar Miles Teg and Reverend Mother Lucilla take him on a wild dash through the forests to a long-abandoned Harkonnen no-chamber. There, obscene glyphs in the Harkonnen style elicit horrors in the former slave. The antique equipment and weapons in the no-chamber are in perfect condition. Another Gammu native, Teg's trusted aide, Patrin, leads them to this spot, which he found in his childhood and never before revealed. When the trio steps out of hiding, they are instantly attacked by Tleilaxu Face Dancers. Teg is taken prisoner and tortured in a way that amplified his power and speed, and he makes his way to Ysai, where he again falls into Honored Matres' hands but escapes. He meets up with officers and men formerly in his command and leads them on a mission to Rakis. Duncan and Lucilla are also captured by the Honored Matres in a supposed safe house. An Honored Matres novice, Murbella, marks Duncan sexually before Lucilla is able to imprint him. Murbella accompanies them to Rakis when rescued.





## Honored Matres

An alternate sisterhood to the Bene Gesserit, the Honored Matres are offspring of the "Lost Ones" of the Scattering, originating from Reverend Mothers fleeing Arrakis/Rakis. Allied with scattered Bene Tleilaxu, the Honored Matres - who insist on the use of that title but are called "whores" by the Bene Gesserit - use sexual secrets to gain power over males, insinuate themselves to the point that people's survival depends on them and then rule by simply threatening to withdraw their gifts. The Honored Matres appear to have found some (untold) alternative to the spice melange, which effects the transformation of Bene Gesserit postulants into Reverend Mothers and gives them access to Other Memories. When angered, their eyes turn orange (rather than melange blue-in-blue) and they go berserk. Like the Bene Gesserit, they react to threats through the peripheral nervous system rather than requiring direct brain intervention. Their physical speed is incredible, but not fast enough to match Bashar Miles Teg when his responses are accelerated through torture by an Ixian T-probe. The Honorable Matres' sexual techniques, which subject males to repeat orgasms of such intensity that they become slaves, is learned through the Bene Tleilaxu and by observation of a captured postulant, Murbella, who "marks" Duncan Idaho before the Imprinter Lucilla is able. The angry women are frustrated to the point that they "sterilize" Rakis in an effort to kill Duncan and Sheeana. The surviving Bene Gesserit, hidden on Chapter House Planet, know the whores are intent on finding and eliminating them.

## Ix

A technological planet in the Old Empire that plays an important role in earlier Dune novels, Ix is seen in *Heretics of Dune* as a satellite of the Guild. Ix for millennia skirts the Butlerian Jihad, which iconoclastically bans mechanical computers and succeeds in developing navigational devices that free the Guild from dependence on the spice melange. Ixians in the Scattering are shown developing a new T-probe that is used without success on Bashar Miles Teg to find the location of the gholha he protects. The agony somehow enhances Teg's reflexes and gives him double vision.

## Lernaeus

Supreme Bashar Miles Teg's ancestral home, Lernaeus is still furnished in the manner of his late mother, the Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother, Janet Roxbrough. Teg inherits the house when she dies and leaves it in the care of his eldest daughter and son-in-law when he comes out of retirement at the request of Reverend Mother Superior Taraza to provide training and security for the gholha Duncan Idaho on Gammu.

## Rakis

The planet formerly known as Arrakis and colloquially as Dune, Rakis has recovered its desert ecology after Paul-Muad'dib and his son the God-Emperor Leto II, turn it into a



lush world, except for a small patch of desert. As a result, the giant worms, called Shai-Hulud or Shaitan, virtually extinct at Leto II's death, have recovered. One gets through water defenses to devour an entire village, and placidly carries the lone survivor, Sheeana Brugh, to the city of Keen (formerly Arrakeen), to live among the priests of the Divided God. Keen exhibits remnants of the monumental architecture of earlier days, but efforts are being made an modernization. The Bene Gesserit's Keep is in the deep desert, at Dar-es-Balat, where the Tyrant's museum is maintained. Having waited a long but undefined time for a promised "Sandrider" to appear, the Bene Gesserit take Sheeana Brugh under their protection and make her an acolyte when she proves able to communicate with the great worms. At the conclusion of the novel, Rakis is "sterilized" by the jealous Honored Matres, fulfilling the Bene Gesserit plan to destroy the worms' habitat and free humanity from the Tyrant's control until sandworms can transform Chapter House Planet into another Dune.

## The Scattering

A great outward movement of humans from the Old Empire into unexplored regions of space, the Scattering is the key to the God Emperor Leto II's Golden Path. Human genetics need to be enriched by intermixing and the human spirit needs liberation in new inventions and philosophies. The Scattering follows Leto II's 3,500-year rule, which enforces peace, and the terrible Famine Times. Neither are described in detail. The most important aspect of the Scattering is that 20% of the Reverend Mothers who go out never return and form an unorthodox sisterhood that calls itself Honored Matres. They recruit descendants of the Bene Tleilax. Bands of these "whores" are returning to the core planets of the Old Empire, wreaking havoc. Members of the Scattering refer to themselves as "The Seeking."





# Themes

## Sex

Sex is a major concern in all of Frank Herbert's Dune novels, but assumes centrality in *Heretics of Dune*. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood has for millennia maintained a genetic project aimed at producing a Kwisatz Haderach - a male with the powers of a Reverend Mother whose access to Other Memories is not limited to female predecessors. Extensive databases of genotypes are maintained, with authorized Sisters being assigned to seduce males having appropriate heredity. Few offspring are allowed to remain with their biological parents; most females go immediately to foster parents chosen by the Sisterhood to be raised until formal training begins. Defective Sisters are sterilized. Education includes methods of seducing males to obtain their sperm without becoming emotionally affected. A corps of attractive males is maintained in each Bene Gesserit Keep to provide the Sisters recreational pleasure on demand.

*Heretics of Dune* introduces several twists. The Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade is shown having some difficulty distancing love from sex, while her younger look-alike, the Reverend Mother Lucilla, is an Imprinter, sent to seduce young Duncan Idaho's pre-ghola memories. Although she is an adept in all sexual positions and practices poses that are sure to attract, she fails to seduce the teenager, who refuses to be a "stud." The aged Bashar Miles Teg, who also resists her charms, uses physical and mental torture to affect the goal of restoring Duncan.

Meanwhile, an unorthodox offshoot of the Sisterhood that evolves during the "Scattering," comes pouring back into the Old Empire, using extreme methods of sexual control to turn males into slaves. The threat of withdrawing this pleasure prevents rebellion. The Sisters are amazed at a demonstration of hours of continual male orgasm arranged by the Tleilaxu Master of Masters, Tylwyth Waff, who has experienced it and had the greatest difficulty killing the demonstrators, lest they enslave him. Having failed to imprint Duncan, Lucilla has to watch as an Honored Matre, Murbella, "marks" Duncan. During their first encounter, Duncan's understanding is awakened, and the second time he anticipates Murbella's every move, drawing her - to her horror- into endless ecstasy. She is left too weak to kill the dangerous gholas, who Lucilla rescues for his ultimate purpose: to mate with an Atrides descendant on Rakis.

The Tleilaxu, meanwhile, are shown to have the same functional attitude towards sex. They must be purified ritually when returning from visits to the "powindah" before they can enter the harems and distribute sperm. No one outside the Tleilaxu home worlds has seen a Tleilaxu female. Part of Duncan's revelations is that the mysterious "axlotl tanks" are human females attached to machinery, who grow gholas from cadaver cells.



## Religion

Religion is a major concern in all of Frank Herbert's Dune novels, and the legacy of the Bene Gesserit's cynical "Missionaria Protectiva," whose task is to custom design religions for various people in various eras, is shown as toned-down but still effective. Gone are the jihadists who carry the faith of Muad'dib throughout the universe with the sword, and the complex, crowd-pleasing rites of his son, the God Emperor, Leto II. The remnant priesthood on Rakis is a hereditary hierarchy marked by much infighting. The rituals are being shortened and simplified, and some priests even question such fundamental orthodox doctrines as Leto II's Holy Metamorphosis. When a young Rakian girl, Sheeana, is orphaned by a great worm and carried to Keen, the conflicts deepen. The High Priest sees her as a Holy Child, while the modernists want to study how she communicates with the worms, offspring of Leto II, each said to contain a pearl of his consciousness. The Bene Gesserit creates and spreads among the common folk a mythology of Sheeana as protectress. The Priest Stiros grows so frustrated that he attempts to assassinate Sheeana and is himself killed. The Sisterhood takes custody of the girl and begins her systematic education.

Meanwhile, the Bene Tleilaxu are revealed to be true religious zealots. Isolated for millennia, they have built up a mythology of dissimulation, encouraging other humans to dismiss them as stupid, filthy and obnoxious. They hold the Great Belief with roots in the same Zensunni mysticism that drives the Bene Gesserit (albeit in secular terms) and the ancient Fremen on Dune (Rakis). That faith is manipulated by the Missionaria Protectiva to advance Paul Muad'dib's role as messiah. Now, the Tleilaxu Master of Masters, Tylwyth Waff, ventures out among the "powindah" to learn about an anonymous document, the "Atreides Manifesto," which calls into question every religion based on science, while declaring that the universe is magical and transient. Because that is the essence of the hidden "Shariat," the Tleilaxu embrace it and look forward to the "powindah" expending great energies on suppressing it, knowing that this will only further empower the words. The document is the work of the Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, a descendent of Siona Atreides, written at the behest of the Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza. It has the intended effect. The Rakian High Priest Hedley Tuek laments that the terrible document claims that God and his works are human creations - something no high priest can let go unchallenged.

## Technology

Technology reaches a low-point in the previous novel, God Emperor of Dune, where the Tyrant Leto II forces humanity back to primitive conditions and restricts travel, in order to minimize causes of warfare. Leto II uses Ixian and Bene Tleilaxu technology, marginally legal since the time of the Butlerian Jihad, which outlaws anything that artificially simulates human thought and the use of atomic weapons, but allows the outlawed technology to no one else. In Heretics of Dune, weather and spy satellites are in operation, horribly-wounded soldiers walk, talk and see again thanks to artificial parts; the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood is using computers to maintain genetics databases and



holographs to present the information. Space travel again seems routine, but the Ixians have perfected navigational systems that render obsolete the melange-saturated prescient Guild Navigators needed earlier to "see" safe paths through time.

Antique armaments and training equipment dating from the time of Leto II, that are discovered in a Harkonnen no-chamber in the forest of Gammu are fully functional and remarkably efficient. No-chambers and no-ships, invisible to Guild Navigators, a novelty in Leto II's day - the museum at Dar-es-Balat is the prototype - appear to be commonplace. The Bene Gesserit wish they could make Chapter House Planet a no-planet, but the technology has not advanced that far. Instead, they accept only descendants of Siona Atreides, who have a special gene that makes them individually invisible to prescients. At the end of the novel, the ghola Duncan Idaho, who lacks the gene, is doomed to spend his life in a no-ship to prevent detection by the Honored Matres. Gholas, human beings regrown from cadaver cells, figure in every novel after *Dune*, and Duncan Idaho, the Atreides swordmaster, is a recurring character in ghola guise. Gholas are produced in mysterious "axlotl tanks" by the Bene Tleilaxu. The Bene Gesserit wants to learn the secret, and in this novel forms an alliance to obtain a functioning tank in exchange for "breeding mothers." When Duncan is seduced by an Honored Matre, he regains not only the memory of his first life, but each ghola reincarnation and sees that axlotl tanks are comatose human females linked to machines, presumably computers, that allow for selective genetic modifications.

At the same time, it is suggested that the people of the "Scattering" have produced frightening new technologies. The worst is the T-probe to which Bashar Miles Teg is connected to pull information from his brain. Ix has long marketed such devices, but this one, produced by the Lost Ones, would break anyone without Mentat training. The ordeal unexpectedly gives Teg "double vision" of threats and an incredible acceleration of his muscular and nervous systems that allows him to escape. The old soldier is amazed and shocked. On Gammu, Lucilla and Burzmali see a sinister Futar, a Tleilaxu experiment that is a cross breeding of hunting animals with humans. While it plays no role in this novel, it stands for the frightening ways technology is being used in the Scattering.



# Style

## Point of View

Frank Herbert uses a third-person, past-tense perspective throughout the narrative portions of *Heretics of Dune*, being omniscient to the character's unexpressed thoughts. Much of the novel is driven by dialog and inner musings. Having a young Duncan Idaho gholia at the center of the story allows emotional comparisons with conditions on the planets Gammu (previously Giedi Prime) and Rakis (previous Arrakis/Dune). Meditations about what the God Emperor (or Tyrant) Leto II, intends by his "Golden Path" fill the novel, clarifying by distancing some items in the previous novel, *God Emperor of Dune*, which is told largely from Leto II's perspective.

The beleaguered, exhausted, but singularly devoted Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza unites the various story lines and her viewpoint provides the central perspective. Her intentions come out slowly, as other characters intuit what she has in mind. Particularly important in this respect is her unusually intimate, but tense, relationship with Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, to whom she entrusts a crucial mission on Rakis. The relationship allows the introduction of an unusual amount of detail about life in the Bene Gesserit schools.

The Bene Tleilax emerge from the periphery of the Herbert universe to be seen as a zealous religious force, allowing extensive philosophizing over the nature of faith. At the same time, a violent offshoot of the Bene Gesserit, the self-styled "Honored Matres" is introduced as a major threat to the Sisterhood and any peoples in the Old Empire upon whom they descend. Their tool of domination is erotic sex, which Herbert describes with unexpected vigor and skill.

## Setting

Set 1,500 years after the death of the God-Emperor Leto II, "the Tyrant," related in the fourth Dune novel, *God Emperor of Dune*, *Heretics of Dune* examines how the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, headquartered on the hidden Chapter House Planet works to shore up its future.

The action opens on the heavily-wooded planet Gammu, formerly known as Giedi Prime, the home world of House Harkonnen, the hated rivals of House Atreides, which in *Dune* rules the planet Arrakis, the only known natural source of the spice melange, key to human longevity, space travel and the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood's prescience. The Bene Gesserit have built a defensive Keep on Gammu, where they are training a gholia of Duncan Idaho, a famous Atreides warrior, who was born a slave on Giedi Prime. Through him the old and new states of the planet are compared and its continuing sinister nature confirmed. Duncan is taken from the besieged Keep to a Harkonnen medieval-sounding no-chamber and then to the depressing environs of Ysai



(formerly known as Barony). The first glimpse of the Bene Tleilax home world of Bandalong is also glimpsed— a first in the series.

The Sisterhood also keeps an Embassy deep in the Rakian desert at Dar-es-Balat. The equatorial band of old Arrakis has reverted to desert beyond the limited reserve, where the God Emperor met his demise. That dramatic scene is revisited in this story. The priesthood in Keen (formerly the capital of Arrakeen) is shown divided into factions over modernization of the city and rituals. A worm carries Sheeana Brugh, with whom it communicates wordlessly, Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade and the Tleilaxu Master of Masters Tylwyth Waff, to long-forgotten Sietch Tabr, whose splendor is described with loving care. The Honored Matres attack the Sisterhood Keep at Dar-es-Balat, but a no-ship is dispatched to the deep desert to pick up Odrade, Duncan, Sheeana, Murbella and a lone worm to take them to sanctuary on Chapter House Planet, setting up the action of the next novel, *Chapterhouse: Dune*.

## Language and Meaning

*Heretics of Dune* continues Frank Herbert's philosophical investigation of the meaning of life, power and religion. It draws heavily on the mythologies built up in the original trilogy and most particularly in *God Emperor of Dune*. With the God Emperor (or Tyrant) dead for 1,500 years and humankind swept into a great Scattering, Herbert indulges less than usual in political musings and the religious threads look backwards more than forward. The Bene Tleilax emerge as primary characters, speaking a rich language of religious symbolism drawn from the Zensunni philosophy that sustains the first humans who leave Earth and end up on Arrakis (Dune/Rakis). Their sense of mission and separateness is filled with pious quotations and rituals. Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade realizes she can break down suspicions by speaking the language of Islamiyat, which, supposedly, none of the "powindah" (outsiders) understands. Otherwise, the strong Arab/Muslim ambiance of the earlier novels fades into the background.

Through the gholia Duncan Idaho, the novel looks back at the bad old days of Harkonnen oppression and describes a planet that has recovered from ecological torture but remained a sinister place. Through the "Honored Matres," an unorthodox offshoot of the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, the dangers of sexuality mixed with power are examined. The reticence about matters sexual that marks earlier *Dune* novels vanishes in powerful descriptions of sexual intimacy and orgasm. Throughout, the plan that the harried, exhausted Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza has in mind to preserve the Sisterhood's survival in troubled times is revealed with exquisite slowness, often as other characters gain insights to various aspects. In the end, Reverend Mother Odrade, having taken in Taraza's memories at her death, explains why Rakis is exterminated and suggests how the Sisterhood will continue her mission.



## Structure

Like Frank Herbert's previous four Dune novels, *Heretics of Dune* consists of unnumbered and untitled scenes, each headed by an epigraph drawn from ostensibly historical resources that help set the mood for what is presented. The sources are far more diverse than in previous novels. The Bene Gesserit Sisterhood is central to the story, being the last institution of the Old Empire to maintain integrity. Under the leadership of Reverend Mother Superior Alma Mavis Taraza, the Sisterhood faces a growing threat from an evil and violent spin-off calling itself "Honored Matres." The sisters, considered "witches" by other humans, routinely refer to the Honored Matres as "whores." Operating from the hidden Chapter House Planet, they are coordinating the preparation of a new, enhanced Duncan Idaho gholia (restored human) to mate with an extraordinary Fremen girl, Sheeana Brugh, on the planet Rakis. She is an offspring of the legendary Siona and an earlier Duncan gholia, whose genetic legacy of being invisible to prescience, is key to the Tyrant God-Emperor Leto II's "Golden Path," whose goal is the preservation of humankind.

The Sisterhood rightly suspects that the Bene Tleilaxu, who produce their gholias, have hidden something sinister in the current model's genetics. A faction within the Sisterhood wants the experiment terminated, lest a new Tyrant be produced. Taraza, however, has a master plan in mind to end the Tyrant's influence over the Sisterhood. This plan is clarified with exquisite slowness throughout the long novel, giving it the feel of a mystery. Conflicts within the Sisterhood are constant and shifting. Reverend Mother Darwi Odrade, who as a postulant is unusually close to Taraza, finds herself forming an alliance on Rakis with the hated Tleilaxu and the hereditary Rakian priesthood left over from the Tyrant's day.

The Tleilaxu, previously seen as repulsive, minor characters, emerge as a zealous religious force determined to return humankind to the worship of the one true God. On Duncan's home planet of Gammu (formerly the Harkonnen stronghold of Giedi Prime), Taraza's Supreme Bashar (field marshal rank commander), Teg, undertakes the training of the gholia and restoring his pre-gholia memories, aided (and sometimes thwarted) by the Reverend Mother Lucilla, who physically resembles Odrade, who happens to be Miles Teg's biological daughter. As the Honored Matres seek to kill Teg and Sheeana, each intended victim's keepers strive to keep them safe and unite them on Rakis. All the threads move relentlessly forward, with Taraza's overarching intentions gradually emerging as insights to various characters. In the end, Odrade asks the lone surviving worm of Rakis whether this is the Tyrant's purpose - and receives no answer, setting up the next novel, *Chapterhouse: Dune*.





## Quotes

"Taraza told you, did she not, that we have gone through eleven of these Duncan Idaho gholas? This one is the twelfth."

The old Reverend Mother Schwangyu spoke with delicate bitterness as she looked down from the third-story parapet at the lone child playing on the enclosed lawn. The planet Gammu's bright midday sunlight bounced off the white courtyard walls filling the area beneath them with brilliance as though a spotlight had been directed onto the young ghola.

Gone through! the Reverend Mother Lucilla thought. She allowed herself a short nod, thinking how coldly impersonal were Schwangyu's manner and choice of words. We have used up our supply; send us more!" Page 9.

"Study your lessons. All will be made clear to you in time."

"Shut up and study!" Another familiar answer.

He obeyed because he had learned to recognize when the doors were closed on him. But now his questing intelligence met other accounts of the Famine Times and the Scattering, the no-chambers and no-ships that could not be traced, not even by the most powerful prescient minds in their universe. Here, he encountered the fact that descendants of Duncan Idaho and Siona, those ancient who had served the Tyrant God Emperor, also were invisible to prophets and prescients. Not even a Guild Steersman deep in melange trance could detect such people. Siona, the accounts told him, as a true-bred Atreides and Duncan Idaho was a ghola.

Ghola?

He probed the library for elaborations on this peculiar word. Ghola. The Library produced for him no more than bare-boned accounts: 'Gholas: humans grown from a cadaver's cells in Tleilaxu axlotl tanks.'

Axlotl tanks?

'A Tleilaxu device for reproducing a living human being from the cells of a cadaver.'

'Describe a ghola,' he demanded.

'Innocent flesh devoid of its original memories. See Axlotl Tanks.'

Duncan had learned to read the silences, the blank places in what the people of the Keep revealed to him. Revelation swept over him. He knew! Only ten and he knew! I am a ghola." Pgs. 37-38.

"Not once did Sheeana reveal her true origins nor what Shaitan had done to her family and neighbors. That was a private thing between Shaitan and herself. She thought of her silence as payment for having been spared.

Some things paled for Sheeana. She made fewer trips into the desert. Curiosity continued but it became obvious that an explanation of Shaitan's behavior toward her might not be found on the open sand. And although she knew there were embassies of other powers on Rakis, the Bene Gesserit spies among her attendants made sure that Sheeana did not express too much interest in the Sisterhood. Soothing answers to dampen such interest were provided and metered out to Sheeana as required.





The message from Taraza to her observers on Rakis was direct and pointed: 'The generations of preparation have become the years of refinement. We will move only at the proper moment. There is no longer any doubt that this child is the one.'" Pg. 96.

"That first seduction upon which she had been sent: She had been quite unprepared for the melting ecstasy of a simultaneous orgasm, a mutuality and sharing as old as humankind ... older! And with powers capable of overwhelming the reason. The look on her male companion's face, the sweet kiss, his total abandonment of all self-protective reserves, unguarded and supremely vulnerable. No Training Male had ever done that! Desperately, she grasped for the Bene Gesserit lessons. Through those lessons, she saw the essence of this man on his face, felt that essence in her deepest fibers. For just an instant, she permitted an equal response, experiencing a new height of ecstasy that none of her teachers had hinted might be attainable. For that instant, she understood what had happened to the Lady Jessica and the other Bene Gesserit failures.

The feeling was love!

Its power frightened her (as the Breeding Mistresses had known it would) and she fell back into the careful Bene Gesserit conditioning, allowing a mask of pleasure to take over the brief natural expression on her face, employing calculated caresses where natural caresses would have been easier (but less effective).

The male responded as expected, stupidly. It helped to think of him as stupid." Pgs. 124-125.

"Lucilla saw indecision in the face of the false Teg.

She darted toward the Face Dancer, feeling the creature's thoughts: Two of them after me!

"Failure was inevitable, though, and Lucilla knew it even as she ran. The Face Dancer had only to shift his weapon into full burn at close range. He could lace the air in front of him. Nothing could penetrate such a defense. As she cast about in her mind, desperately seeking some way to defeat the attacker, she saw red smoke appear on the false Teg's breast. A line of red darted upward at an oblique angle through the muscles of the arm holding the lasgun. The arm fell away like a piece dropping from a statue. The shoulder tipped away from the torso in a spout of blood. The figure toppled, dissolving into more red smoke and blood spray, crumbling into pieces on the steps, all dark tans and blue-tinged reds.

Lucilla smelled the distinctive Face Dancer pheromones as she stopped. Duncan came up beside her. He peered past the dead Face Dancer at a movement in the hallway. Another Teg emerged behind the dead one. Lucilla identified the reality: Teg himself.

"That's the Bashar,' Duncan said." Pgs. 169-171.

"It is happening, Odrade thought. Taraza's plan moves ahead.

Fresh in Odrade's mind was the latest communication from Chapter House. What that revealed about the Tleilaxu filled Odrade with excitement that she carefully dampened. This Waff, this Tleilaxu Master, would be a fascinating study.

Zensunni! And Sufi!



'A ritual pattern frozen for millennia,' Taraza said. Unspoken in Taraza's report was another message. Taraza is placing her complete confidence in me. Odrade felt strength flow into her from this awareness. Sheeana is the fulcrum. We are the lever. Our strength will come from many sources." Pg. 193.

"Taraza rather distrusted Archivists, which she knew was an ambivalent attitude because she recognized the underlying necessity for data. But Chapter House Records could only be viewed as a jungle of abbreviations, special notations, coded insertions, and footnotes. Such material often required a Mentat for translation or, what was worse, in times of extreme fatigue demanded that she delve into Other Memories. All Archivists were Mentats, of course, but this did not reassure Taraza. You could never consult Archival Records in a straightforward manner. Much of the interpretation that emerged from that source had to be accepted on the word of the ones who brought it or (hateful!) you had to rely on the mechanical search by the holosystem. This, in its turn, required a dependency on those who maintained the system. It gave functionaries more power than Taraza cared to delegate." Pgs. 222-223.

"The 'thopter sounds grew louder overhead. 'Listen!' Sheeana called, not pausing in her dance. It was not to the 'thopters that she called their attention. Odrade turned her head to present both ears to a new sound intruding on their rock-tumbled maze. A sibilant hiss, subterranean and muted by sand - it became louder with shocking swiftness. There was heat in it, a noticeable warming of the breeze that twisted down their rocky avenue. The hissing swelled to a crescendo roar. Abruptly, the crystal-ringed gaping of a gigantic mouth lifted over the dune direction above Sheeana. 'Shaitan!' Sheeana screamed, not breaking the rhythm of her dance. 'Here I am, Shaitan!' As it crested the dune, the worm dipped its mouth downward toward Sheeana. Sand cascaded around her feet, forcing her to stop her dance. The smell of cinnamon filled the rocky defile. The worm stopped above them. 'Messenger of God,' Waff breathed." Pg. 257.

"The worm did not slow its relentless progress until just before dusk. By then, Odrade had played out her questions and still had no answers. How did Sheeana control the worms? Sheeana said she was not steering her Shaitan in this direction. What was this hidden language to which the desert monster responded? Odrade knew that her Sister-guardians up there in the 'thopters that paced them would be exhausting the same questions plus one more? Why did Odrade let this ride continue? They might even hazard a few guesses: She does not call us in because they might disturb the beast. She does not trust us to pluck her party from its back. The truth was far simpler: curiosity. The hissing passage of the worm could have been a surging vessel breasting seas. The dry flinty odors of overheated sand, swept across them by a following wind, said



otherwise. Only open desert stretched around them now, kilometer after kilometer of whaleback dunes as regular in their spacing as ocean waves." Pgs. 296-297.

"Blink... blink... blink..."

The three sets of eyes show faint surprise.

Teg releases himself from the medusa tangle of probe contacts. Pop-pop-pop! The grippers fly away from him. He is surprised to notice a slow start of bleeding on the back of his right hand where it has brushed the probe contacts aside.

Mentat projection: I am moving with dangerous speed.

But now he is off the litter. Functionary is reaching a slow-slow hand toward a bulge in a side pocket. Teg's hand crushes the functionary's throat. Functionary will never again touch that little lasgun he always carries. Yar's outstretched hand is still not a third of the way to the probe console. There is definite surprise in his eyes, though. Teg doubts that the man even sees the hand that breaks his neck. Masterly is moving a bit faster. Her left foot is coming toward where Teg had been just the flick of an instant previously. Still too slow! Materal's head is thrown back, the throat exposed for Teg's down-chopping hand.

How slowly they fall to the floor!

Teg becomes aware of perspiration pouring from him but he could not spare time to worry about this.

It knew every move they would make before they made it! What has happened to me?

Mentat projection: The probe agony has lifted me to a new level of ability." Pgs. 366-367.

"Damn you, Leon!"

Crushed and crushed and crushed ... time and again.

"Damn you! Damn you! Damn you! ...!"

He died under a Sardaukar sword. Pain exploded into a bright glare swallowed by darkness.

He died in a 'thopter crash. He died under the knife of a Fish Speaker assassin. He died and died and died.

And he lived.

The memories flooded until he wondered how he could hold them all. The sweetness of a newborn daughter held in his arms. The musky odors of a passionate mate. The cascade of flavors from a fine Danian wine. The panting exertions of the practice floor. The axlotl tanks!

He remembered emerging time after time: bright lights and padded mechanical hands. The hands rotated him and, in the unfocused blurs of the newborn, he saw a great mound of female flesh—monstrous in her almost immobile grossness ... a maze of dark tubes linked her body to giant metal containers.

Axlotol tank?

He gasped in the grip of the serial memories that cascaded into him. All off those lives! All off those lives!

Now, he remembered what the Tleilaxu had planted in him, the submerged awareness that awaited only this moment of seduction by a Bene Gesserit Imprinter.



But this was Murbella and she was not Bene Gesserit. She was here, though, ready at hand and the Tleilaxu pattern took over his reactions." Page 435.

"We have your language now,' she said.

There were no words in the language, only a moving, dancing adaptation to a moving, dancing universe. You could only speak the language, not translate it. To know the meaning you had to go through the experience and even then the meaning changed before your eyes. 'Noble purpose was, after all, an untranslatable experience. But when she looked down at the rough, heat-immune hide of that worm from the Rakian desert, Odrade knew what she saw: the visible evidence of noble purpose.

'Softly,' she called down to him: 'Hey! Old worm! Was this your design?'

There was no answer but then she had not really expected an answer." Page 480.

## Topics for Discussion

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

How is Lady Jessica remembered in this novel? What is her ongoing significance in the Bene Gesserit?

How are love and hatred treated in this novel?

How are Miles Teg's powers maximized? Could he have withstood the T-probe without having first been fortified by the Reverend Mother Superior Taraza?

Why is so much of the novel set on the planet Gammu? What does it say about the state of human civilization?

Is Wyclif Waff a positive or negative character? Provide at least three traits to support your answer.

Who are the "heretics" in Heretics of Dune? What is the significance of the title?