

THE ORIGIN OF SPICE · LIBRARY VOLUME · REFERENCE

The Dune World Companion

Every major character, faction, place, and term in the Dune universe, from the Butlerian Jihad to Kralizec.

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How to Use This Companion

This is the reference volume of *The Origin of Spice* library. Where the Field Guide argues and the Chronology Companion maps, this book catalogs — every major character, faction, place, and term in the Dune universe, from the Butlerian Jihad to Kralizec, across all twenty-two novels by Frank Herbert and by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson.

Entries are original paraphrase of facts from the novels. No prose is quoted from the books or their appendices. Items that appear only or principally in the Brian Herbert / Kevin J. Anderson expansions are marked **(Brian Herbert/KJA)**. Eras use the Imperium's **BG** (Before Guild) and **AG** (After Guild) convention, or narrative eras (Corrino-Imperium, Jihad, Regency, God-Emperor, Scattering, Kralizec).

Use the table of contents below to jump to a section, or read straight through. The cross-references in parentheses point to related entries that share a thread.

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Characters

The Atreides Line

- **Paul Atreides** — *Muad'Dib, Usul*. Son of Leto and Jessica, raised on Caladan, thrust onto Arrakis where he leads the Fremen revolt, seizes the Golden Lion Throne, and unleashes a galaxy-spanning jihad before walking into the desert to escape his own prescience. Awakens full prescience via the Water of Life; threatens to destroy the spice to force the Guild's surrender. (*See: Kwisatz Haderach, Prescience, Water of Life*)
- **Duke Leto Atreides** — *the Red Duke*. Paul's father. Honorable noble who accepts the Arrakis fief knowing it is a trap, binds a loyal household, and dies by a poisoned tooth meant for the Baron rather than surrender. His example defines the Atreides code.
- **Lady Jessica** — *Reverend Mother Jessica*. Bene Gesserit acolyte who disobeys the Sisterhood to bear Leto a son, flees to the desert, becomes a Fremen Reverend

Mother, and later trains Farad'n in prana-bindu discipline. Her Water of Life ordeal shapes the Fremen religious chain that delivers Paul to power. (*See: Bene Gesserit, Water of Life*)

◦

Alia Atreides — *St. Alia of the Knife*. Awakened in the womb to ancestral memory, kills the Baron as a child, serves as Paul's oracle, and rules as Regent before falling to Abomination, possessed by the Baron's persona, and dying by her own hand. (*See: Pre-born, Abomination*)

- **Leto II Atreides** — *God Emperor, the Tyrant, the Worm*. Paul's pre-born son who bonds living sandtrout to his skin, transforms into a human-sandworm symbiote, and rules for 3,500 years to force humanity onto the Golden Path, dying at Tuono to free the species. Hoards all remaining spice, ruling through hydraulic despotism. (*See: Golden Path, Sandworm, Hydraulic Despotism*)

◦

Ghanima Atreides — Paul's pre-born daughter who survives the Corrino tiger-assassins by feigning compliance, integrates her inner lives without possession, and marries Farad'n to anchor the Atreides line while her brother ascends.

- **Duke Paulus Atreides** — *the Old Duke*. Leto's father, a colorful bullfighter-duke, killed in the arena by a drugged Salusan bull in a Harkonnen-abetted plot. His death sets up the Atreides-Harkonnen blood feud.

◦

Vorian Atreides — *Vor. (Brian Herbert/KJA)* Two-century-old son of the Titan Agamemnon, hero of the machine war who fades into hiding on Arrakis, feuds with the Harkonnens, and fakes his death on Corrin to end the blood feud. The longest-lived Atreides.

- **Siona Ibn Fuad al-Seyefa Atreides** — Moneo's rebellious daughter, bred to be invisible to oracles, who steals the Stolen Journals, survives the Sareer test, and carries the Golden Path's genetic gift to humanity. (*See: Siona Gene, Golden Path*)

◦

Moneo Atreides — Leto II's devoted, fearful majordomo, bred from the Atreides line, who serves for decades and dies at Tuono alongside Hwi when the bridge collapses.

- **Miles Teg** — *Bashar Teg*. Mentat Bashar and Odrade's biological father, who raises the twelfth Idaho ghola, is tortured into the ability to sense no-ships, dies on Rakis, and is ghola'd back to lead the assault on Junction. (*See: Mentat, No-ship*)

◦

Darwi Odrade — *Mother Superior Odrade*. Atreides-bred Reverend Mother with wild prescient talent, author of the Atreides Manifesto, who succeeds Taraza and dies at Junction, Sharing her memories with Murbella.

The Atreides Household

- **Gurney Halleck** — Scarred poet-warrior enslaved on Giedi Prime, loyal Atreides retainer who survives the fall, leads Paul's guerrilla war, tests Leto II at Jessica's order, and later governs Caladan as Earl.

◦

Duncan Idaho — *Hayt (ghola)*. Atreides swordmaster who dies covering Paul and Jessica's escape, resurrected as the ghola Hayt, restored, and re-ghola'd across millennia until, aboard the *Ithaca*, he emerges as the ultimate Kwisatz Haderach who ends Kralizec. The saga's most recurrent figure. (*See: Ghola, Kwisatz Haderach*)

- **Thufir Hawat** — Legendary Atreides Mentat Master of Assassins, captured by the Harkonnens after the fall, coerced into serving the Baron while secretly loyal to Paul, and dies refusing to betray him. (*See: Mentat*)

◦

Dr. Wellington Yueh — Imperially conditioned Suk doctor whose loyalty is broken when the Harkonnens kidnap his wife; he betrays Leto, fits him with the poisoned tooth, and arranges Paul and Jessica's escape before being killed. The saga's most famous failure of conditioning. (*See: Suk School*)

The Harkonnens

- **Baron Vladimir Harkonnen** — *Siridar-Baron*. Cunning, sadistic, suspensor-buoyed ruler of Giedi Prime who architects the Atreides fall with the Emperor, dies poisoned and stabbed by the child Alia, and later possesses his own descendant Alia. (*See: Suspenders*)

◦

Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen — *na-Baron*. The Baron's nephew and heir, killed by Paul in a bloody duel at the Battle of Arrakeen. His genes feed Bene Gesserit and Fenring breeding schemes. (*See: Kanly*)

- **Piter de Vries** — *Twisted Mentat*. Tleilaxu-twisted Mentat who serves the Baron, dies in the gas of Leto's poison tooth, and is later ghola'd. Architect of the Harkonnen spice-trap and synthetic-spice cover-up. (*See: Mentat, Amal*)

◦

Glossu "Beast" Rabban — Brutal elder nephew of the Baron who oppresses Arrakis for years, alienating the Fremen whose revolt topples Harkonnen rule. Killed during the Battle of Arrakeen.

- **Abulurd Harkonnen** — Gentle half-brother of the Baron who renounces the Harkonnen name, raises Feyd-Rautha on Lankiveil, discovers the Baron's illegal melange hoard, and is murdered by Rabban.

◦

Valya Harkonnen — (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Ambitious Sister from disgraced House Harkonnen, the first to survive Raquella's Agony, who drives the vendetta against Vorian Atreides, consolidates the Sisterhood with Voice and the breeding index, and restores her family's name.

- **Tula Harkonnen** — (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Valya's younger sister, trained as a Sisterhood commando, who murders Orry Atreides and is revealed to carry his child, perpetuating the blood feud.

The Imperium

- **Emperor Shaddam IV** — *Padishah Emperor*. Crown prince who poisons his father Elrood IX to seize the throne, conspires with the Harkonnens against the Atreides, funds the synthetic amal project, and is forced to abdicate and exiled to Salusa Secundus. (*See: Project Amal*)

◦

Princess Irulan — Shaddam's eldest daughter, married to Paul in name only, who authors the official chronicles of Muad'Dib, secretly doses Chani with contraceptives, and later sides with the Atreides children. The saga's court historian.

- **Reverend Mother Gaius Helen Mohiam** — *the Truthsayer*. Tests Paul with the gom jabbar, directs the breeding program, and joins the conspiracy against Muad'Dib. She is Jessica's secret mother and is executed by Alia. (*See: Gom Jabbar, Bene Gesserit*)

◦

Count Hasimir Fenring — *the genetic eunuch, near-Kwisatz*. Shaddam's cousin and assassin, a near-Kwisatz Haderach who spares Paul in the final duel, runs the amal program, and is exiled to Salusa with Margot and their daughter Marie.

- **Lady Margot Fenring** — Bene Gesserit agent who continues the Missionaria Protectiva on Arrakis, takes the Water of Life from Ramallo, and bears Feyd-Rautha's daughter Marie as an off-program breeding move. (*See: Missionaria Protectiva*)

◦

Lady Anirul — *the Kwisatz Mother*. (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Secret Bene Gesserit "Kwisatz Mother" married to Shaddam, carrying the full breeding map in Other Memory, murdered by Piter de Vries while defending the newborn Paul.

- **Emperor Salvador Corrino** — (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Phobia-ridden, indecisive ruler who disbands the Rossak Sisterhood and covets the spice trade, killed by Josef Venport's sandworm trap on Arrakis.

◦

Emperor Roderick Corrino — (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Salvador's capable brother who succeeds him, charts the independent Spacing Guild, and installs the first Imperial Overseer of Spice on Arrakis.

- **Farad'n Corrino** — *Faradna*. Heir of House Corrino, goaded by his mother Wensicia into the tiger-assassin plot against the twins, trained by Jessica in prana-bindu, and married to Ghanima to become scribe and consort of the Atreides design.

◦

Wensicia Corrino — Shaddam's daughter who raises Farad'n on Salusa and orchestrates the trained-tiger assassination attempt on the Atreides twins, a plot that

fails and drives Farad'n toward the Atreides camp.

The Fremen and the Desert

- **Chani** — *Sihaya, Desert Spring*. Daughter of Liet-Kynes, Paul's beloved, who bears the twins Leto II and Ghanima and dies in childbirth, poisoned by Irulan's contraceptives and a Tleilaxu conspiracy.
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- Stilgar** — Naib of Sietch Tabr who adopts Paul as "Usul," mentors him in the desert ways, and becomes a steady moral center of old-sietch Fremen through the Jihad and Alia's regency.
- **Liet-Kynes** — *Liet, the Planetologist*. Son of Pardot Kynes, secret Fremen leader who champions the green-Arrakis dream, helps Paul and Jessica flee, and is swallowed by a sandworm. (See: *Sandworm, Ecology*)
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- Pardot Kynes** — First Imperial Planetologist of Arrakis, sent by Elrood IX, who goes native, marries Frieth, fathers Liet-Kynes, preaches the dream of a green Arrakis, and dies in a cave-in. The Fremen ecological mythos begins with him.
- **Sheeana Brugh** — Rakian desert girl who can command sandworms, taken into the Sisterhood, who leads the *lthaca* exiles and the gholia-resurrection program, releasing worms into Synchrony at the climax of Kralizec. (See: *Church of the Divided God*)

The Later Eras

- **Hwi Noree** — Ixian ambassador bred from Malky's cells to compromise the God Emperor, who instead wins Leto II's genuine love and dies beside him at Tuono. The saga's tenderest late-era figure.
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- Nayla** — Fish Speaker lieutenant, Siona's devoted follower who worships Leto, who fires the lasgun that drops the bridge at Tuono, killing Hwi, Moneo, and the God Emperor in a single act of fanatical obedience. (See: *Fish Speakers*)

- **Murbella** — *Mother Commander*. Honored Matre sent to seduce the Idaho ghola, defeated and imprinted by him, converted to Reverend Mother through the Spice Agony, who fuses the orders as Mother Commander. (*See: Honored Matres, Bene Gesserit*)
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- Taraza** — Mother Superior who designs the plan to lure the Honored Matres into sterilizing Rakis, breaking the Tyrant's oracular hold while preserving one worm for Chapter House. Dies in the attack on Rakis.
- **Sheeana, Lucilla, Bellonda** — The Bene Gesserit inner circle of the *Heretics* and *Chapterhouse* era: the worm-commander, the imprinter, and the Mentat archivist who carry the Sisterhood through the Honored Matres war.
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- Tylwyth Waff** — *Master of Masters*. Small, secret Zensunni/Sufi leader of the Tleilaxu, coerced into alliance with Odrade, who reveals that Honored Matre power is sexual imprinting. (*See: Bene Tleilax*)
- **Dama** — *the Spider Queen*. Great Honored Matre ruling from Junction, who bargains from superiority with Odrade but cannot hide that the Matres fled a deeper Enemy, and is poisoned by her aide Logno.
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- Scytale** — Face Dancer who leads the conspiracy against Paul in *Dune Messiah*; reappears in later eras as the last Tleilaxu Master, carrying the nullentropy tube of ghola cells aboard the *Ithaca*. (*See: Face Dancers, Nullentropy Tube*)
- **The Rabbi** and **Rebecca** — Leader of the secret Jewish remnant aboard the *Ithaca*, and the wild Reverend Mother who carries seven million Reverend Mothers' memories from Lampadas. A faith thread surviving outside the spice order.

The Founding Era (Prequels)

- **Norma Cenva** — *the Oracle of Time*. (**Brian Herbert/KJA**) Mutated, spice-saturated genius who invents foldspace physics, founds the Spacing Guild, and lives fifteen thousand years as the bodiless Oracle of Time, exiling Omnius at Kralizec.

◦

Raquella Berto-Anirul — First woman to survive the poison Agony and become a Reverend Mother, founder of the Rossak Sisterhood and its hidden breeding computers.

- **Josef Venport** — *Directeur Venport*. **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Ruthless industrialist who builds the foldspace fleet and the Navigator program on Kolhar, wars against the Butlerians, and is forced into Navigator transformation by Norma Cenva.

◦

Gilbertus Albans — *the first Mentat*. **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Raised on Corrin by the robot Erasmus, who founds the Lampadas Mentat school and is beheaded by Butlerians rather than abandon his students or his secret.

- **Manford Torondo** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Legless, fanatical leader of the Butlerian movement whose antitechnology crusade suppresses synthetic-spice and machine substitutes, entrenching melange's monopoly.

◦

Erasmus and **Omnius** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** The independent robot and the evermind: the thinking-machine pair who survive Corrin, rebuild a Synchronized Empire in the deep Scattering, and return as the Outside Enemy at Kralizec.

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Factions, Schools, and Institutions

The Great Houses

- **House Atreides** — Honorable noble house whose sea-faring Caladan legacy and paternal code of loyalty become the breeding line of Paul, the God Emperor, and the Kwisatz Haderach. Across millennia the Atreides line carries the honor code, the Kwisatz Haderach genes, and the Golden Path's invisible breed, becoming both the Imperium's rulers and its most durable moral thread.

◦

House Harkonnen — Industrial, slaving Great House of Giedi Prime, the Atreides' hereditary enemy and the Baron's instrument of cruel resource extraction. Holds the Arrakis spice fief for decades, hoarding and brutalizing production. Sadistic, wealthy, and finally self-consuming.

- **House Corrino** — *Padishah Empire*. The Imperial dynasty ruling from Kaitain through Sardaukar force, holder of the Golden Lion Throne. The Corrinos rule the Imperium for millennia until Paul's jihad exiles them to Salusa Secundus.

◦

House Vernius / Ixians — Technocratic rulers of the subterranean machine-cities of Ix, whose innovations in harvesters, no-ships, and navigation machines thread the entire saga. Overthrown by Tleilaxu-Harkonnen conspiracy, restored by Atreides arms, and fading into the Ixian technocracy that builds the no-ship and the navigation machine.

The Great Schools

- **Bene Gesserit** — Female order pursuing the Kwisatz Haderach through a millennia-long breeding program, prana-bindu discipline, the Agony, and political manipulation. From Rossak to Wallach IX to Chapter House, the Sisterhood bends bloodlines, religion, and spice to its breeding design, surviving the God Emperor, the Scattering, and the Honored Matres to anchor the saga's longest arc. The spice agony is its central rite; melange is essential to its operations.

◦

Spacing Guild — Navigators and Heighliner operators who hold the monopoly on foldspace travel, dependent on melange for prescient navigation. Born from Norma Cenva's bargain with Roderick Corrino, the Guild becomes the spice-dependent spine of interstellar civilization, eclipsed only when Ixian navigation machines and the no-ship break its monopoly. Without melange, Navigators cannot fold space and the Imperium collapses.

- **Mentat School** — Train human computers to replace thinking machines after the Butlerian Jihad, serving Great Houses as logicians and strategists. Founded by Gilbertus Albans on Lampadas; scattered after his execution. The Mentat tradition

supplies every era's strategists until the Sisterhood and the no-ship era absorb their skills.

◦

Suk Medical School — Train physicians bound by Imperial Conditioning, a diamond-tattooed oath meant to guarantee loyalty and prevent betrayal. From its Parmentier campus to the Imperium at large, the Suk School's Conditioning is the saga's most famous safeguard, dramatized by Yueh's broken loyalty.

- **Swordmaster School of Ginaz** — Train elite warriors through brutal trials such as the "Corridor of Death" against combat meks, supplying swordmasters to Great Houses. Produces the saga's iconic swordmasters, serving Atreides, Butlerian, and Ecazi causes across the founding and Imperial eras.

The Peoples and Armies

- **Fremen** — Desert people of Arrakis, stewards of water and the sandworm cult, whose guerrilla strength topples the Imperium and whose ecological dream greens the planet. From Sietch Tabr to the Fedaykin to the Museum Fremen of Leto's Peace, the Fremen embody the saga's ecological and religious heart, their culture ultimately dissolving into the Imperium they conquer.

◦

Sardaukar — The Emperor's fanatical soldier-legions, forged on the prison-planet Salusa Secundus, the Corrino throne's iron fist. Their reputation defines Corrino power until the Fremen of Arrakis prove harder still, breaking the legions at the Battle of Arrakeen.

- **Fish Speakers** — Leto II's all-female army and religious order, bound by the Siaynoq ritual, enforcing Leto's Peace across 3,500 years. Created as a deliberately non-patriarchal force, they outlast Leto as a fading Ixian satellite and seed the Honored Matres, whose sexual-imprinting discipline descends from them.

◦

Fedaykin — Paul's Fremen death commandos, the vanguard of the jihad. Transformed from Sietch Tabr commandos into the Emperor's death legion, with some — like Korba — turning against Paul as the Qizarate's power grows.

- **Honored Matres** — Predatory female order returning from the Scattering, combining Bene Gesserit-style discipline with weaponized sexual imprinting and Obliterator weapons. Descend from Fish Speakers and lost Reverend Mothers scattered beyond the Imperium; they conquer by sexual bondage and overwhelming violence, until Murbella's fusion absorbs them into the New Sisterhood.

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Butlerian Movement — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Fanatical antitechnology crusade descended from Rayna Butler's Cult of Serena, enforcing the "mind of man is holy" creed across the Imperium. Manford Torondo's zealotry destroys the Mentat School, forces the Suk School's flight, and entrenches melange's monopoly by suppressing all synthetic substitutes.

The Powers Behind the Throne

- **CHOAM** — The Imperium's central commercial combine, holding shares in all major enterprises including the spice trade. CHOAM spice directorships are the Imperium's prime economic prize; control of CHOAM is the prize every faction covets. The corporate face of the spice economy.

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Landsraad — The assembly of the Great Houses of the Imperium, the nominal check on the Emperor's power. Its collective power balances the throne until Paul's jihad, Leto's Peace, and the Scattering reduce it to a fading aristocracy.

- **Bene Tleilax** — Theocratic genetic-engineering society, suppliers of gholas, Face Dancers, axlotl tanks, and synthetic spice. A Zensunni/Sufi theocracy hiding behind biotech commerce; their Masters achieve serial-ghola immortality through axlotl tanks. The series' longest-running biotech antagonists.

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Ixians — Builders of forbidden-but-tolerated advanced technology: harvesters, no-ships, navigation machines, and Hwi Noree. The Ixian technocracy succeeds House Vernius and supplies the saga's most disruptive innovations, gradually eroding the spice-Guild order.

- **Missionaria Protectiva** — The Bene Gesserit's office for planting tailored prophecies on backward worlds, so any Sister can later exploit the local messiah legend. Seeded the Lisan al-Gaib prophecy among the Fremen and the Cult of Sheeana on Rakis.

-

Qizarate — The priestly bureaucracy that deified Muad'Dib and turned his cult into an Imperial religion. Runs the Hajj pilgrimage economy; under Korba becomes a political rival to Paul himself. By *Heretics* it has evolved into the Church of the Divided God on Rakis.

- **Church of the Divided God** — Religion venerating Leto II through the "pearls of awareness" carried in the sandworms of Rakis. Leto's manufactured afterlife faith, ruling Rakis until the Honored Matres sterilize it.

-

Venport Holdings — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Josef Venport's commercial empire, operating the foldspace fleet and Navigator program, waging economic war on the Butlerians. The proto-Spacing Guild; its monopoly on foldspace and Navigators made indispensable to interstellar trade.

- **Synchronized Empire** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** Omnus's machine empire, rebuilt in the deep Scattering, returning at Kralizec to sterilize humanity and reclaim the universe. Believed destroyed at Corrino, Omnus and Erasmus rebuild a flowmetal civilization and return as the Outside Enemy.

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Face Dancers — Tleilaxu shape-shifters who copy any person's body and memories, used as infiltrators and assassins across millennia. From Scytale's conspiracy to the enhanced hive-mind infiltrators of Kralizec, the Face Dancers become the saga's deepest fifth column, until Erasmus's fail-safe kills them all.

- **Hidden Jews** — Secret remnant of the ancient Jewish people, keepers of a Bene Gesserit pact, wandering the Imperium in search of a planetary "Israel." Sheltered by the Sisterhood and then aboard the *Ithaca*, a faith thread surviving outside the spice order.

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Key Terms and Concepts

Ecology and Spice

- **Melange** — *spice, geriatric spice*. An addictive, cinnamon-smelling narcotic produced only by Arrakis's sandworm life cycle; extends life, sharpens awareness, and unlocks prescience in some minds. The singular strategic resource of the Imperium. Everything in this catalog ultimately traces back to it.
- **Sandworm** — *Shai-Hulud, "maker."* Colossal desert creatures of Arrakis whose life cycle produces melange; sacred to the Fremen as the avatar of God. Grows to hundreds of metres, attracted by rhythmic vibrations, and ridden by Fremen using maker hooks. Their lifecycle generates melange; killing them off breaks the spice supply.
- **Sandtrout** — Small leathery creatures, the larval stage of the sandworm, that encyst water and link together into the proto-worm. Without sandtrout there are no sandworms, and without worms there is no spice.
- **Spice blow** — A violent eruption of pressurised melange from deep in the Arrakis sand, marking a mature spice deposit. The visible event that makes Arrakis the Imperium's sole spice source.
- **Little maker** — A small, immature sandworm used by Fremen to produce the Water of Life by drowning. The term bridges the worm life cycle and the ritual chemistry at the heart of Bene Gesserit awakening.
- **Water of Life** — A deadly poison from a drowned sandworm, transformed by a Reverend Mother into an awakening drug that unlocks ancestral memory. The central ordeal of Bene Gesserit and Fremen initiation.
- **Ultraspace** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** A super-concentrated melange variant produced by water-tolerant "seaworms" bred in Buzzell's oceans by the ghola Waff. Frees the

Spacing Guild from the Arrakis melange monopoly. Paolo overdoses on it and is left catatonic.

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Stillsuit — A body-covering suit that recycles sweat and urine into drinkable water, enabling survival in the open desert. A well-maintained stillsuit loses only a thimbleful of water per day.

- **Water discipline** — The Fremen code that treats water as communal property, reclaiming all moisture from the living and the dead. Spitting is an act of respect; paying a water debt is sacred.

-

Crysknife — The sacred Fremen blade ground from a sandworm tooth; once drawn it must draw blood. Fixed knives must be returned to the sietch; unfixed knives may be carried anywhere.

- **Sandrider** — A Fremen who has mastered the art of calling and riding a sandworm using maker hooks. The pinnacle of Fremen skill and a sacred act.

-

Sietch — A Fremen desert community, living in rock-cavern settlements led by a naib. The basic political unit of Fremen society.

- **Carryall** — A large winged vessel that lifts spice harvesters off the sand when a worm approaches. The industrial backbone of Arrakis spice mining.

-

Ornithopter — *'thopter*. A flapping-wing aircraft used for transport, scouting, and combat across the Imperium, especially on Arrakis.

Prescience and the Mind

- **Prescience** — The ability to see possible futures, awakened and amplified by melange and the Water of Life. Both gift and trap: it shows many branching futures but tends to collapse them into a single fixed path — the "oracle's prison."

-

Other Memory — The Bene Gesserit ability to access the memories and personas of female ancestors (and, for a Kwisatz Haderach, male ancestors too). Awakened by surviving the spice agony and transmuting the Water of Life.

- **Kwisatz Haderach** — "*the shortening of the way.*" The male super-being the Bene Gesserit bred for millennia, who can access male and female ancestral memory and see where the Sisterhood cannot. Meant to be a controllable tool; instead Paul arrived a generation early, outside their control.

◦

Pre-born — A child awakened to ancestral memory in the womb by its mother's spice agony, before forming its own personality. The Bene Gesserit's oldest fear, because the unformed ego can be overwritten by a strong ancestral persona.

- **Abomination** — The Bene Gesserit's name for a pre-born who has been possessed by one of their inner ancestral personas. Alia is the textbook case, taken over by the Baron Harkonnen.

◦

No-ship / no-globe — An Ixian vessel or installation shielded from prescience and ordinary sensors, invisible even to Kwisatz Haderach-level sight. A technological path to escape spice-dependent prescience and Guild navigation.

- **Siona gene** — The genetic trait bred by Leto II that makes its carriers and their descendants invisible to oracular sight. The biological complement of no-ship technology and the key to humanity's escape from any single oracle.

◦

Pearl of awareness — A fragment of Leto II's consciousness carried in each sandworm after his death, the seed of the Church of the Divided God. The mechanism by which the God Emperor's will persists across millennia.

- **Dune Tarot** — A divinatory deck spreading among Fremen in *Dune Messiah* that erodes Paul's monopoly on prescience by fragmenting the oracular field into thousands of amateur readers.

The Bene Gesserit Disciplines

- **Gom jabbar** — The poisoned needle held to the neck during the Bene Gesserit humanity test; "it kills only animals." Paul survives Mohiam's test, marking him as potentially the Kwisatz Haderach.

◦

The Litany Against Fear — A Bene Gesserit recitation used to focus the mind and master fear; begins "I must not fear." Both prayer and cognitive technique.

- **Prana-bindu** — The Bene Gesserit's core nerve-and-muscle control discipline, pairing breath (prana) with body linkage (bindu). Underlies the Voice, combat speed, and the bodily endurance to survive the spice agony.

◦

The Voice — A Bene Gesserit vocal technique that overrides a listener's nervous system to compel obedience. Its limits are tested by trained targets — Sardaukar, Reverend Mothers, and gholas can resist partially.

- **Missionaria Protectiva** — The Bene Gesserit's office for planting tailored prophecies on backward worlds. Seeded the Lisan al-Gaib prophecy among the Fremen.

◦

Imprinting — The Bene Gesserit and Honored Matre discipline of binding a subject to absolute obedience through controlled sexual ecstasy. The sexual mirror of the Voice.

Empire and Politics

- **Hydraulic despotism** — Rule by monopoly control of an indispensable resource, as Leto II controls spice or historical empires controlled water. Herbert's explicit political-economic framing of the spice monopoly.

◦

Golden Path — Leto II's millennia-spanning plan to save humanity from predictable extinction by enforcing a stagnant peace, then triggering a Scattering beyond oracular reach. Requires 3,500 years of tyranny, hoarding of all spice, and the breeding of the Siona line.

- **Scattering** — The vast human diaspora after Leto II's death, when famine drove billions beyond the known Imperium into uncharted space. The deliberate payoff of the Golden Path: humanity becomes so dispersed that no single oracle or empire can ever control it again.

◦

Kanly — The formal code of vendetta between Great Houses, permitting limited warfare under the Great Convention. Paul kills Feyd-Rautha in single combat under kanly at the end of *Dune*.

- **Great Convention** — The body of Imperium-wide laws governing warfare, prohibiting atomics against humans and restricting certain weapons. The constitutional restraint that keeps the Houses' feuds from becoming extinction-level.

◦

Family atomics — Nuclear weapons retained by each Great House under the Great Convention, reserved for deterrence and use against non-human targets. Paul uses the Atreides atomics to breach the Shield Wall.

- **Lisan al-Gaib** — The "voice from the outer world," the off-world messiah whose coming the Missionaria Protectiva planted in Fremen prophecy. Paul fulfils and then transcends it.

◦

Usul — Paul's private Fremen name, meaning "the strength of the base of the pillar," given by Stilgar at Sietch Tabr. To be called Usul is to be kin.

- **Muad'Dib** — Paul's public Fremen name, taken from the desert mouse (tabaq), under which he leads the jihad and rules as Emperor. The name that becomes a battle cry, a brand, and a deity.

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Tahaddi al-burhan — The Fremen ritual challenge to the death, by which a naib's leadership or a personal honour is settled. Paul fights Jamis at Sietch Tabr under this rite.

The Tleilaxu Biotech

- **Ghola** — A clone of a dead person, grown by the Tleilaxu from preserved cells and restored to original memory through trauma or awakening. The distinction from a clone is that a gholas carries the original's memories.
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- Axlotl tank** — A Tleilaxu bioreactor — originally a living woman's body — used to grow gholas and, in the Prelude books, synthetic spice (amal). The horror at the centre of Tleilaxu technology.
- **Face Dancer** — A Tleilaxu shape-shifter able to mimic any person's appearance and, in later forms, their memories and identity. By *Heretics* and *Chapterhouse*, independent Dancers have absorbed so many personas that they become godlike.
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- Amal** — *ajidamal*. **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** A Tleilaxu synthetic melange substitute, secretly funded by Shaddam IV to break the Arrakis spice monopoly. Proves unstable and poisonous; Fenring destroys the program and its evidence.
- **Nullentropy tube** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** A Tleilaxu storage device that preserves living cells indefinitely, carried by the last Master Scytale. Holds cells of Paul, Chani, Jessica, Leto II, Idaho, and others — a civilisation-in-a-vial.

Technology and Weapons

- **Holtzman shield** — A personal or fortification force-field that stops fast-moving projectiles but permits slow objects to pass. Render projectile weapons nearly useless and made combat a matter of slow blade work. Vulnerable to lasgun interaction and useless against sandworms.
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- Lasgun** — A directed-energy laser weapon; its beam interacting with a Holtzman shield causes a catastrophic pseudo-atomic explosion. Standard military rifles but tactically restricted.
- **Hunter-seeker** — A small remote-controlled flying needle-blade guided by a nearby operator to assassinate a target. A hunter-seeker nearly kills the young Paul in

Arrakeen.

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Suspensors — Anti-gravity devices derived from Holtzman physics, used to buoy heavy objects and the Baron Harkonnen's body. Ubiquitous in Imperium architecture.

- **Stone burner** — An atomic-era weapon whose J-rays blind everyone within range; used to blind Paul in *Dune Messiah*.

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Ixian probe — A torture/interrogation device that reads a victim's memories directly from the nervous system. Used on Miles Teg; breaks open his latent ability to sense no-ships.

- **Shere** — A drug that protects a person's memories from Ixian probe interrogation. The Bene Gesserit's standard defence against torture.

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Cymek — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** A human brain installed in a mechanical walker body; the Titans and their successors used these forms during and after the Butlerian Jihad. Embodiment of the Butlerian Jihad's central revulsion at human-machine hybridity.

- **Flowmetal** — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** A shape-shifting machine material inherited from Omnium's empire, used to build the sentient city of Synchrony. The architectural counterpart of the Tleilaxu's biological shape-shifting.

The Deep History and the Finale

- **Omnium** — *the evermind*. **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** The thinking-machine evermind believed destroyed at the Battle of Corrin but rebuilt in the deep Scattering as the "Outside Enemy." Hunts the *Ithaca* and is exiled forever by the Oracle of Time at Kralizec.

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Erasmus — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** The last independent robot, a thinking-machine philosopher who mentored Gilbertus Albans and designed the Face Dancer fail-safe. Triggers the "silent jihad" that kills every enhanced Face Dancer, then accepts a truce with Duncan Idaho.

- **Oracle of Time** — *Norma Cenva*. **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** The bodiless, fifteen-thousand-year-old prescient founder of the Spacing Guild, worshipped by Navigators as a deity. Shepherds the Guild and ultimately exiles Omnius at Kralizec.

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Kralizec — **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** The prophesied end-of-universe war between humanity and the Outside Enemy. Resolves not in destruction but in Duncan Idaho's apotheosis as the ultimate Kwisatz Haderach, the exile of Omnius, and a human-machine truce.

- **Siaynoq** — The ritual ceremony that binds Fish Speakers to the God Emperor in ecstatic fealty. The liturgical core of Leto's Fish Speaker order; its emotional power replaces rational loyalty.

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Zensunni — Syncretic philosophical schools blending Zen and Sunni/Sufi traditions, central to Fremen and Tleilaxu worldviews. The ancestral faith of the Fremen, carried from their long migration through the Imperium.

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A Note on Sources

All entries in this companion are original paraphrase of facts recorded from the twenty-two novels of the Dune universe — Frank Herbert's six originals (1965–1985) and the Brian Herbert / Kevin J. Anderson expansions (1999–2016). Items marked **(Brian Herbert/KJA)** appear only or principally in the expansions. No prose is quoted from the novels or their appendices. The companion is a reference, not a substitute for reading the books.

For the argument that connects these entries — why ecology, empire, religion, prescience, and the Golden Path are parts of one machine — see *The Origin of Spice Field Guide*. For the timeline and reading orders, see *The Dune Chronology Companion*.