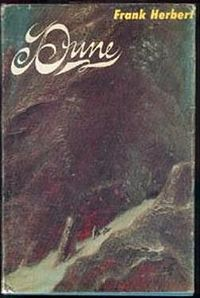
**Dune (novel)**

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune\_(novel)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_(novel))

***Dune*** is a [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction) novel written by [Frank Herbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Herbert) and published in [1965](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965_in_literature). Winner of the 1966 [Hugo Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Award) and the inaugural [Nebula Award for Best Novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebula_Award_for_Best_Novel),[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-0) *Dune* is popularly considered one of the great science fiction novels of all time, is frequently cited as the best-selling science fiction novel in history,[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-RIF-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Touponce_119-2) and was the first bestselling hardcover science fiction novel.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Touponce_119-2)

*Dune* is set in the far future amidst a sprawling [feudal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudal) interstellar empire where planetary [fiefdoms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiefdom) are controlled by noble Houses that owe allegiance to the Imperial [House Corrino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Corrino). The novel tells the story of young [Paul Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Atreides) (heir apparent to [Duke Leto Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leto_Atreides_I) and [scion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinship_and_descent) of [House Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Atreides)) as he and his family accept control of the [desert planet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_planet) [Arrakis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrakis), the only source of the spice [melange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melange), the most important and valuable substance in the universe. The story explores the complex and multilayered interactions of politics, religion, ecology, technology, and human emotion, as forces of the Empire confront each other for control of Arrakis and its spice.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-3)

*Dune* engendered five [sequels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequel) written by Herbert before his death in 1986: [*Dune Messiah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_Messiah), [*Children of Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_of_Dune), [*God Emperor of Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_Emperor_of_Dune), [*Heretics of Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heretics_of_Dune) and [*Chapterhouse Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapterhouse_Dune). It also inspired a [1984 film adaptation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28film%29) by [David Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lynch), a 2000 [Sci Fi Channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sci_Fi_Channel_%28United_States%29) [miniseries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Herbert%27s_Dune) and its [2003 sequel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Herbert%27s_Children_of_Dune), [computer games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_computer_and_video_games), a [board game](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28board_game%29) and a series of [prequels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prequel) and sequels co-written by the author's son [Brian Herbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Herbert) and [Kevin J. Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_J._Anderson) starting in 1999.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-4)

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## Origins

After the publication of [*The Dragon in the Sea*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dragon_in_the_Sea) in 1957, Herbert began the initial stages of planning his next novel. He took a plane to [Florence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence,_Oregon), [Oregon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon), at the north edge of the [Oregon Dunes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Dunes_National_Recreation_Area) where the [USDA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture) was sponsoring a lengthy series of experiments in using [poverty grasses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_grass) to stabilize and slow down the damaging [sand dunes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune), which could "swallow whole cities, lakes, rivers, highways."[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-5) Herbert's article on the dunes, "They Stopped the Moving Sands," was never completed (and only published decades later in an incomplete form in [*The Road to Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Road_to_Dune)), but it sparked Herbert's interest in the general subject of ecology and related matters. Herbert spent the next five years continuing research and writing and rewriting[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-6) what would eventually become *Dune*,[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-7) later serialized in [*Analog*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analog_Science_Fiction_and_Fact) magazine from 1963 to 1965 as two shorter works, *Dune World* and *The Prophet of Dune*. Herbert dedicated the work "to the people whose labors go beyond ideas into the realm of 'real materials'—to the dry-land [ecologists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecology), wherever they may be, in whatever time they work, this effort at prediction is dedicated in humility and admiration." The serialized version was expanded and reworked, and ultimately rejected by twenty publishers before it was published. At least one or realized the possible mistake: "I was unhappy to learn that Scribner's rejected *Dune*. The or's comment that he may have been mistaken (in doing so)—let us hope that's prophetic."[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-8)

## [] Synopsis

### [] Setting

Thousands of years in the future, the human race has scattered throughout the galaxy, populating numerous planetary systems ruled by aristocratic royal houses who themselves answer to the galaxy's ruler, the [Padishah Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padishah_Emperor) [Shaddam IV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaddam_Corrino_IV). The [CHOAM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CHOAM) corporation is the major underpinning of the Imperial economy, with shares and directorships determining each House's income and financial leverage. Key is the control of the desert planet Arrakis, the only source of the valuable spice melange, which gives those who ingest it extended life and prescient awareness. Melange is crucial as it enables space travel, which the [Spacing Guild](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spacing_Guild) monopolizes. [Navigators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guild_Navigator) use the spice melange to safely plot a course for the Guild's [heighliner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heighliner) ships via prescience using ["foldspace" technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holtzman_effect), which allows instantaneous travel to anywhere in the galaxy.

The spice is also crucial to the powerful [matriarchal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matriarchy) order called the [Bene Gesserit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Gesserit), whose sole priority is to preserve and advance the human race. The secretive Bene Gesserit, often referred to as "[witches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch)," possess mental and physical powers developed through conditioning called [*prana-bindu* training](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Gesserit#Prana-bindu_training_and_the_Weirding_Way).

A Bene Gesserit acolyte becomes a full [Reverend Mother](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverend_Mother_%28Dune%29) by undergoing a deadly ritual known as the [spice agony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spice_agony), in which she ingests a lethal dose of an [awareness spectrum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prescience) [narcotic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcotic) and must render it harmless internally. Surviving the ordeal unlocks her [Other Memory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Gesserit#Other_Memory), the ego and memories of all her female ancestors. Reverend Mother is warned to avoid the place in her consciousness that is occupied by the [genetic memory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_memory) of her male ancestors, referred to as "the place we cannot look." In light of this, the Bene Gesserit have a secret, millennia-old [breeding program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Gesserit#Breeding_program), the goal of which is to produce a male equivalent of a Bene Gesserit whom they call the [Kwisatz Haderach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwisatz_Haderach). This individual would not only be able to survive the spice agony and access masculine Other Memory, but is also expected to possess "organic mental powers (that can) bridge space and time."[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-9)The Bene Gesserit intend their Kwisatz Haderach to give them the ability to control the affairs of mankind more effectively.

The planet Arrakis itself is completely covered in a desert ecosystem, hostile to most organic life. It is also sparsely settled by a human population of native [Fremen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fremen) tribes. Tribal leaders are selected by defeating the former leader in combat. The Fremen also have complex rituals and systems focusing on the value and conservation of water on their arid planet. They conserve the water distilled from their dead, consider spitting an honorable greeting, and value tears as the greatest gift one can give to the dead. Their culture also revolves around the spice melange, which is created as part of the life cycle of the giant sandworms who dominate the deserts. Bene Gesserit missionary efforts have implanted a belief in a male [Messiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah) who will one day come and transform Arrakis to a world more hospitable to humans.

### [] Plot

Emperor Shaddam IV has come to fear House Atreides, partly due to the growing popularity of [Duke Leto Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_Leto_Atreides) and also because the talent of Leto's fighting force is beginning to rival the effectiveness of the Emperor's own dreaded Imperial [Sardaukar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardaukar) guard. Shaddam decides that House Atreides must be destroyed, but cannot risk an overt attack on a single House, which would by necessity unite the other Houses against him. The Emperor instead uses the centuries-old [feud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feud) between [House Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Atreides) and [House Harkonnen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Harkonnen) to disguise his assault, enlisting the brilliant and power-hungry [Baron Vladimir Harkonnen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Harkonnen) in his plan to trap and eliminate the Atreides. Shaddam forces Leto to accept the lucrative [fief](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fief) of the desert planet Arrakis, the only known source of the spice melange, previously controlled by the Harkonnens.

Complicating the political intrigue is the fact that the Duke's son [Paul Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Atreides) is an essential part of the Bene Gesserit's secret, centuries-old breeding program to create a superhuman called the [Kwisatz Haderach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwisatz_Haderach). There are signs that Paul might actually *be* the Kwisatz Haderach, born one generation earlier than expected, though this remains in doubt.

The Atreides suspect foul play, and are able to thwart the initial Harkonnen traps and complications while simultaneously building trust with the local population of [Fremen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fremen). Ultimately, however, the Atreides are unable to withstand a devastating Harkonnen attack, supported by Imperial Sardaukar disguised as Harkonnen troops and aided by a traitor within House Atreides itself — the [Suk doctor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suk_School) [Wellington Yueh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington_Yueh). Captured, Duke Leto dies in a failed attempt to assassinate Baron Harkonnen; Paul and Jessica, his mother, escape into the deep desert. With Jessica's Bene Gesserit abilities and Paul's developing skills, they manage to join a band of Fremen, ferocious fighters who ride the giant sandworms of Arrakis.

Paul and his mother quickly learn the ways of the Fremen, while teaching them the weirding way, or Bene Gesserit method of fighting. Jessica becomes a Reverend Mother, taking the concentrated spice while pregnant with her second child. Daughter [Alia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alia_Atreides) experiences all that her mother does from the spice, gaining prescience and the wisdom of all her ancestors before even being born. Years pass, and Paul increasingly recognizes the strength of the Fremen fighting force, and recognizes their potential to overtake even the Sardaukar and win back [Arrakis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrakis). Living on the spice diet of the Fremen, Paul's prescience increases dramatically, enabling him to foresee future events and gaining him a religious respect from the Fremen, who regard him as their prophesied Messiah. As Paul grows in influence, he begins a [jihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihad) against Harkonnen rule of the planet under his new Fremen name, [Muad'Dib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muad%27Dib).

Both the Emperor and the Baron Harkonnen show increasing interest in the fervor of religious fanaticism shown on Arrakis for this "Muad'Dib," not guessing that this leader is the presumed-dead Paul. Harkonnen plots to send his nephew and heir [Feyd Rautha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feyd_Rautha) as a replacement for his other and more ruthless nephew [Glossu Rabban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossu_Rabban) — who is currently in charge of the planet — to gain the respect of the now-troublesome Fremen. Winning them over as a fighting force, he hopes, will give him enough power to overtake the Emperor himself. The Emperor, however, is highly suspicious of the Baron and sends spies to watch his movements.

On Arrakis, Paul is reunited with an old ally of the Atreides, [Gurney Halleck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurney_Halleck). Completely loyal to the Atreides, Gurney is convinced that Jessica is the traitor who had caused the House's downfall. He nearly kills her, but for Paul's last-minute intervention. Disturbed by his lack of complete prescience and the near-loss of his mother, Paul decides to take the water of life, an act that could kill him. After three weeks in a near-death state, Paul emerges as the Kwisatz Haderach. His powers are much more focused, and he is able to see past, present and future at will. Looking into space, he sees that the Emperor and the Harkonnens have amassed a huge armada to invade the planet and regain control. Paul also discovers the way to control spice production on Arrakis; saturating spice fields with water will cause a chain reaction that will destroy all spice on the planet.

Alia is captured by Sardaukar and brought to the planet's capital [Arrakeen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrakeen), where the Baron Harkonnen is nervously attempting to thwart the Fremen jihad under the close watch of the Emperor. The Emperor is surprised at four-year-old Alia's defiance of his power and her confidence in her brother, whom she reveals to be Paul Atreides. At that moment, under cover of a gigantic sandstorm, Paul and his army of Fremen attack the city. Alia kills the Baron Harkonnen with a poisoned needle during the confusion. Paul quickly overtakes the city's defenses and confronts the Emperor, threatening to destroy the spice and thereby effectively end space travel and cripple both the Imperial power and Bene Gesserit in one blow. Feyd Rautha challenges Paul to a knife-duel in a final attempt to stop his overthrow of power, but is defeated despite an attempt at treachery. Realizing that Paul is capable of doing all he has threatened, the Emperor is forced to abdicate and to promise his daughter [Princess Irulan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irulan_Corrino) in marriage to Paul. Paul ascends the throne, his control of Arrakis and the spice establishing a new kind of power over the Empire which will change the face of the known universe.

## [] Characters

The characters are listed by primary allegiances. In some cases these allegiances change or reveal themselves to be different in the course of the novels.

### [] House Atreides

* [Duke Leto Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leto_Atreides_I), head of [House Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Atreides)
* [Lady Jessica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Jessica), [Bene Gesserit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Gesserit) and [concubine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concubinage) of the Duke, mother of Paul and Alia
* [Paul Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Atreides), the Duke's only surviving son
* [Alia Atreides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alia_Atreides), Paul's younger sister
* [Thufir Hawat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thufir_Hawat), [mentat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mentat) and Master of Assassins to House Atreides
* [Gurney Halleck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurney_Halleck), staunchly loyal troubadour warrior of the Atreides
* [Duncan Idaho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_Idaho), Sword Master for House Atreides, graduate of the [Ginaz school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_Masters_of_Ginaz)
* Dr. [Wellington Yueh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington_Yueh), [Suk doctor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suk_School) for the Atreides

### [] House Harkonnen

* [Baron Vladimir Harkonnen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Harkonnen), head of [House Harkonnen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Harkonnen)
* [Piter De Vries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piter_De_Vries), twisted [Mentat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mentat)
* [Feyd-Rautha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feyd-Rautha), nephew and heir of the Baron
* [Glossu 'Beast' Rabban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossu_Rabban), also called Rabban Harkonnen, older nephew of the Baron
* Iakin Nefud, Captain of the Guard

### [] House Corrino

* [Shaddam IV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaddam_Corrino_IV), the [Padishah Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padishah_Emperor) of the Known Universe
* [Princess Irulan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irulan_Corrino), the Emperor's eldest daughter and heir, also a historian
* [Count Hasimir Fenring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasimir_Fenring), a genetic [eunuch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunuch) and the Emperor's closest friend, advisor, and errand-runner.

### [] Bene Gesserit

* Reverend Mother [Gaius Helen Mohiam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaius_Helen_Mohiam), Bene Gesserit schemer, the Emperor's [Truthsayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truthsayer)
* [Lady Margot Fenring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margot_Fenring), Bene Gesserit wife of Count Fenring

### [] Fremen

* The [Fremen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fremen) as a collective
* [Stilgar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stilgar), Fremen Naib (chieftain); Stilgar is a skilled politician.
* [Chani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chani), Paul's Fremen concubine.
* [Liet-Kynes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liet-Kynes), the half-Fremen son of Imperial Planetologist [Pardot Kynes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardot_Kynes) on [Arrakis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrakis) and his Fremen wife Frieth; Liet is the father of Chani, and a revered figure among the Fremen.
* Esmar Tuek, leader of the smugglers who befriend [Gurney Halleck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurney_Halleck).

## [] Analysis

### [] Environmentalism and ecology

*Dune* has been called the "first planetary ecology novel on a grand scale".[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-James-10) After the publication of [*Silent Spring*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_Spring) by [Rachel Carson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Carson) in 1962, science fiction writers were confronted with the problem of biological-human relations. *Dune* responded in 1965 with its complex descriptions of Arrakis life, from giant sandworms (for whom water is deadly) to smaller, mouse-like life forms adapted to live with limited water. The inhabitants of the planet, the Fremen, must compromise with the ecosystem they live in—sacrificing some of their desire for a water-laden planet in order to preserve the sandworms which are so important to their culture. In this way, *Dune* foreshadowed the struggle the world would have following Carson's book in balancing human and animal life. *Dune* was followed in its creation of complex and unique ecologies by other science fiction books such as [*A Door into Ocean*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Door_into_Ocean) (1986) and [*Red Mars*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Mars) (1992).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-James-10) Environmentalists have pointed out that *Dune'*s popularity as a novel depicting a planet as a complex—almost living—thing, in combination with the first images of earth from space during the same time period being published, was instrumental in environmental movements such as the creation of [Earth Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day) in many nations worldwide.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-11)

### [] Declining empires

Scholars have compared *Dune'*s portrayal of the downfall of a galactic empire to [Edward Gibbon's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Gibbon) [*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decline_and_Fall_of_the_Roman_Empire), which portrays the corruption, division, and circumstance which led to the fall of [Ancient Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome). Lorenso DiTommaso, for example, outlines similarities between the two works by highlighting the excesses of the Emperor on his home planet of Kaitain and of the Baron Harkonnen in his palace. The Emperor is said to have lost his effectiveness as a ruler in the name of ceremony and pomp. The hairdressers and attendants which he brings with him to Arrakis are even referred to as "parasites" in the novel. The Baron Harkonnen is similarly corrupt, completely decadent and given over to sexual pleasures. In a parallel manner, Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* blames the fall of Rome on the inflow of decadent ideas from conquered states, and on the excesses that followed therefrom. Gibbon claimed that these luxuries weakened the soldiers of Rome and left it open to attack. Similarly, the Emperor's Sardaukar fighters are little match for the Fremen of Dune because of the Fremen's lack of luxury, comfort, and overconfidence with which the Sardaukar have become familiar. The Fremen also are more capable of self-sacrifice, putting the community before themselves in every instance, while the world outside wallows in personal comfort at the expense of others. In all these characteristics, *Dune* is not alone in drawing from Gibbon's work, as [Isaac Asimov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Asimov) creates a similarly declining empire in his [*Foundation*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foundation_series) series, as does [Arthur C. Clarke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_C._Clarke) in his [*The City and the Stars*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_City_and_the_Stars).[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-12)

### [] Gender issues

Kathy Gower criticizes *Dune* in the book *Mother Was Not a Person*, arguing that although the book has been praised for its portrayal of people in a mystical world, the women get left behind. In her view, women in *Dune* culture are largely left to domestic duties, and the exclusively-female Bene Gesserit religious cult resembles age-old notions of witchcraft. Women in this religion are feared and hated by the men. They also never use their power to aid themselves, only the men around them, and their greatest desire is to bring a man into their religion.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-13) Margery Hourihan echoes this sentiment, calling the main character's mother Jessica "by far the most interesting character in the novel"[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Hourihan-14) and pointing out that while her son approaches a power which makes him almost alien to the reader, she remains human. Throughout the novel, she struggles to maintain power in a male-dominated society, and manages to help her son at key moments in his realization of power.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Hourihan-14) Other gender critics argue that the book's portrayal of homosexuals, as in the case of the Baron Harkonnen, is highly negative and one-sided.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-15)

On the other hand, Jessica's son's approach to power consistently requires his upbringing under the female-oriented Bene Gesserit, who operate as a long-dominating shadow government behind all of the great houses and their marriages or divisions. A central theme of the book is the connection, in Jessica's son, of this female aspect with his male aspect. In a Bene Gesserit test early in the book, it is implied that men are generally "inhuman" in that they irrationally place desire over self-interest and reason. This is neither anti-male, nor pro-female, but instead applies Herbert's philosophy that humans are not created equal, but that equal justice and equal opportunity are much higher ideals than mental, physical, or moral equality.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-16)

### [] Heroism

Throughout Paul's rise to superhuman status, he follows a plotline common to [many stories describing the birth of a hero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monomyth). For example, as in other hero stories, he has unfortunate circumstances forced onto him. After a long period of hardship and exile, he confronts and defeats the source of evil in his tale.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-17)[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-18) As such, *Dune* is representative of a general trend beginning in 1960s American science fiction in that it features a character who attains godlike status through scientific means.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-19) Eventually, Paul Atreides gains a level of omniscience which allows him to take over the planet and the galaxy, and also causes the Fremen of Arrakis to worship him like a god, leading to varying results. Author Frank Herbert said in 1979, "The bottom line of the *Dune* trilogy is: beware of heroes. Much better rely on your own judgment, and your own mistakes."[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-20)

Juan A. Prieto-Pablos asserts that Herbert achieves a new typology with Paul's superpowers, differentiating the heroes of *Dune* from earlier heroes, such as [Superman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman), [van Vogt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._E._van_Vogt)'s Gilbert Gosseyn, and [Henry Kuttner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Kuttner)'s telepaths. Unlike previous superheroes who acquire their powers suddenly and accidentally, Paul's are the result of "painful and slow personal progress." And unlike other superheroes of the 1960s—who are the exception among ordinary people in their respective worlds—Herbert's characters grow their powers through "the application of mystical philosophies and techniques." For Herbert, the ordinary person can develop incredible fighting skills (Fremen and Sardaukar) or mental abilities (Bene Gesserit and Mentats). The reader, then, may feel himself projected into these characters if he is open to evolution through his own efforts.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-prieto-21)

### [] Zen

Early in his newspaper career, Herbert was introduced to [Zen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen) by two Jungian psychologists; ever after, Zen and [Jungianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jungianism) influenced him.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-22) Throughout the *Dune* series and particularly in *Dune*, Herbert employs concepts and forms[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-23) borrowed from [Zen Buddhism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen_Buddhism) as a further religious influence on his characters; the Fremen are [Zensunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zensunni) adherents, many of his epigraphs are Zen-spirited.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-24) In "*Dune* Genesis", he writes of his use of Zen themes:

What especially pleases me is to see the interwoven themes, the fuguelike relationships of images that exactly replay the way *Dune* took shape. As in an [Escher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._C._Escher) lithograph, I involved myself with recurrent themes that turn into paradox. The central paradox concerns the human vision of time. What about Paul's gift of prescience-the Presbyterian fixation? For the Delphic Oracle to perform, it must tangle itself in a web of predestination. Yet predestination negates surprises and, in fact, sets up a mathematically enclosed universe whose limits are always inconsistent, always encountering the unprovable. It's like a koan, a Zen mind breaker. It's like the Cretan [Epimenides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epimenides) saying, "All Cretans are liars."[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Genesis-25)

Zen also appears in other Herbert works outside the *Dune* series; [*The Jesus Incident*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jesus_Incident) cites Zen by name, and Tim O'Reilly has identified strong Zen elements in the preceding novel, [*Destination: Void*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destination:_Void).[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-26)

## [] Reception

Reviews of the novel have been largely positive. Tamara I. Hladik wrote that the story "crafts a universe where lesser novels promulgate excuses for sequels. All its rich elements are in balance and plausible -- not the patchwork confederacy of made-up languages, contrived customs, and meaningless histories that are the hallmark of so many other, lesser novels."[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Hladik-27) The only weak point, he says, is the ending, in which Paul "becomes remote and a shade boring" as a result of his almost godlike status.[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-Hladik-27)

## [] First ion points

The first ion of *Dune* is one of the most notable and valuable first ions in science fiction book collecting, and copies have gone for in excess of $10,000 at auction.[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-28) It is also frequently misidentified; a true Chilton first ion of the novel should be 9.25" tall, possess bluish green boards and a price of $5.95 on the dust jacket, and note Toronto as the Canadian publisher on the copyright page. [[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-29)

## [] Adaptations

The [first film adaptation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28film%29) of *Dune* was released nearly 20 years after the book's publication. The depth and symbolism of the novel, Herbert said, seemed to intimidate many filmmakers. Herbert, however, was pleased with the film, saying that "They've got it. It begins as *Dune* does. And I hear my dialogue all the way through. There are some interpretations and liberties, but you're gonna come out knowing you've seen *Dune*."[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-30) Reviews of the film were not as optimistic, saying that it was incomprehensible to those unfamiliar with the book, and that fans would be disappointed by the way it strayed from the book's plot.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-31)

In 2000, the [SciFi Channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sci_Fi_Channel_%28United_States%29) adapted the novel into [a miniseries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Herbert%27s_Dune) starring [William Hurt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Hurt). A new film based on the book was announced in 2008, directed by [Peter Berg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Berg) and produced by [Paramount Pictures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramount_Pictures).[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-32)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-33)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-34)

## [] Cultural influence of *Dune*

*See also:* [*List of fiction inspired by Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fiction_inspired_by_Dune)*and* [*Dune (film)#Influence on popular culture*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28film%29#Influence_on_popular_culture)

*Dune* has been widely influential, inspiring other novels, music, films (including [*Star Wars*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Wars)[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-35)[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-36)), television, videogames, and comic books. The novel was parodied in 1984's [*National Lampoon's Doon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Lampoon%27s_Doon) by [Ellis Weiner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellis_Weiner), and inspired [*The Dune Encyclopedia*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dune_Encyclopedia) (1984) by [Dr. Willis E. McNelly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_E._McNelly).[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-37)

*Dune* inspired the [Iron Maiden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Maiden) song "[To Tame A Land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Tame_A_Land)." However, when songwriter [Steve Harris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Harris) requested permission from the author to name the song "Dune," his request was met with a stern refusal — backed up with a legal threat — which noted that "Herbert doesn't like rock bands, particularly heavy rock bands, and especially rock bands like Iron Maiden." The song was renamed "To Tame a Land" and released in 1983.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-38)[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-39)

"Traveller in Time" from the 1991 [Blind Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_Guardian) album [*Tales from the Twilight World*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tales_from_the_Twilight_World) album is based mostly on the character Paul Atreides' visions of future and past.[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-40)[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-41)

The novel is also the likely inspiration for the lyrics "Walk without rhythm, it won't attract the worm" in the song "[Star 69 / Weapon of Choice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_69_/_Weapon_of_Choice)" by [Fatboy Slim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatboy_Slim). In the novel, Paul notes "We must walk without rhythm" to avoid notice by a sandworm as he and Jessica cross the desert; Lynch's *Dune* (1984) features Paul's line "If we walk without rhythm, we won't attract the worm" 82 minutes into the film.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-42)

In [1997](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997), a [Romanian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian) author, Florin Chirculescu, wrote a sequel to the Dune series called Dune 7 - House of Brundurs (Cartea Brundurilor in Romanian) using the pseudonym Patrick Herbert. In his vision, humanity had returned to Earth, now a frozen planet, and built large organic cities underneath the surface. Occasional skirmishes with Scattering forces were still occurring on orbit but with only unmanned ships fighting for the humans. All humans had implants which enabled them to create and navigate a huge virtual reality network called "the vortex". Beneath the surface, there were small pockets of humans grouped in "legions", completely isolated from the cities' population, using their own version of vortex and pursuing the goal of eliminating each other so that only one legion remain on Earth. The story ignored the cliffhanger of Chapterhouse Dune. The book was released in Romania only and it's not recognized as an official sequel to Dune series.[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_note-43)

## [] See also

* [*Dune* universe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_universe)
* [List of Family Houses in *Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Family_Houses_in_Dune)
* [List of *Dune* characters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Dune_characters)
* [List of *Dune* terminology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Dune_terminology)
* [List of fiction inspired by *Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fiction_inspired_by_Dune)
* [Fictional works invented by Frank Herbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fictional_books#Works_invented_by_Frank_Herbert)

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#### [] Notes

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2. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-RIF_1-0) "["SCI FI Channel Auction to Benefit Reading Is Fundamental"](http://pnnonline.org/article.php?sid=4302)". Retrieved on [2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006)-[07-13](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_13). ""Since its debut in 1965, Frank Herbert’s *Dune* has sold over 12 million copies worldwide, making it the best-selling science fiction novel of all time ... Frank Herbert's *Dune* saga is one of the greatest 20th Century contributions to literature.""
3. ^ [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-Touponce_119_2-0) [***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-Touponce_119_2-1) Touponce, William F. (1988), *Frank Herbert*, [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston,_Massachusetts), [Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts): Twayne Publishers imprint, [G. K. Hall & Co](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=G._K._Hall_%26_Co&action=edit&redlink=1), pg. 119, [ISBN 0-8057-7514-5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0805775145). [*Locus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locus_%28magazine%29) ran a poll of readers on [15 April](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_15) [1975](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975) in which *Dune* "was voted the all-time best science-fiction novel...It has sold over ten million copies in numerous ions."
4. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-3) "During my studies of deserts, of course, and previous studies of religions, we all know that many religions began in a desert atmosphere, so I decided to put the two together because I don’t think that any one story should have any one thread. I build on a layer technique, and of course putting in religion and religious ideas you can play one against the other." Frank Herbert, from an [interview](http://www.sinanvural.com/seksek/inien/tvd/tvd2.htm) with Dr. Willis E. McNelly
5. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-4) [Official *Dune* website - DuneNovels.com](http://www.dunenovels.com/)
6. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-5) [*The Road to Dune*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Road_to_Dune) (2005), p. 264, letter by Frank Herbert to his agent Lurton Blassingame outlining "They Stopped the Moving Sands."
7. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-6) *The Road to Dune*, p. 272."...Frank Herbert toyed with the story about a desert world full of hazards and riches. He plotted a short adventure novel, *Spice Planet*, but set the outline aside when his concept grew into something much more ambitious."
8. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-7) *The Road to Dune*, pp. 263-264.
9. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-8) *The Road to Dune*, p. 277.
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23. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-22) "This move, in April 1949, was to prove significant, for it was in Santa Rosa that Herbert met Ralph and Irene Slattery, two psychologists who gave a crucial boost to his thinking. Any discussion of the sources of Herbert's work circles inevitably back to their names as to no others. They are the one exception to the principle that books loom larger than people as influences on his self-educated mind. Perhaps it was because they guided his reading into new avenues as well as sparked thoughtful conversation. "Those wonderful people really opened a university for me," he says. Ralph had doctorates in philosophy and psychology. Irene had been a student of Jung in Zurich. And both of them were analysts... . They really educated me in that field."...The Slatterys also introduced Herbert to Zen, the teachings of which have had a profound and continuing influence on his work." O'Reilly, *Frank Herbert*[[1]](http://tim.oreilly.com/herbert/ch02.html)
24. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-23) WM: Well, I caught those Zen elements from time to time, I thought ... in *Dune*, and in fact, the whole Zensunni school line thought was an aspect of that ...  
    FH: You know, don’t you, that one element of the construction of this book ...it’s all the way through there…that I wrote certain parts of it in haiku and other poetical forms, and then expanded them to prose to create a pace.[[2]](http://www.sinanvural.com/seksek/inien/tvd/tvd2.htm)
25. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-24) "They also introduced Herbert to Zen, the teachings of which had a profound influence on his life and work. The *Dune* series is full of Zen paradoxes that are intended to disrupt our Western logical habits of mind." pg 10, Touponce 1988
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27. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dune_%28novel%29#cite_ref-26) "Zen Buddhism shows up in the emphasis on hyperconscious awakening in the crewmembers. At one point Flattery notes, "The question of Western religion is: What lies beyond death? The question of the Zen master is: What lies beyond waking?" (It is interesting to note in this context that the original magazine title for this piece was "Do I Wake or Dream?")...  
    Another concealed tribute to Zen is the name Bickel gives to the device he hooks up to the computer: the Ox. One of the most famous works of Zen is the "Ten Bulls" of the twelfth-century Chinese master Kakuan, in which the individual search for enlightenment is mirrored in the mastery of man over ox. The ox, in one interpretation, represents the body, and the man who rides him, consciousness. This is reflected exactly in the computerized solution to the consciousness problem. Bickel at first thinks that the Ox is the computer's "organ of consciousness," but later, Prue realizes that the seat of consciousness is actually the AAT module, "the manipulator of symbols." She adds, "The Ox circuits are merely something this manipulator can use to stand up tall, to know its own dimensions." One could say that the Ox is the "body" of Kakuan's metaphor."[[3]](http://tim.oreilly.com/herbert/ch05.html)
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## [] External links

* [Official website for *Dune* and its sequels](http://www.dunenovels.com)
* ["*Dune* Genesis" by Frank Herbert](http://www.dunenovels.com/news/genesis.html) ~ Originally published in [*Omni*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omni_%28magazine%29) ([July 1980](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_1980))
* [DuneAudio.com - The Offical Dune Audiobook Site](http://www.duneaudio.com) ~ news and contests for Dune audiobooks
* [Spark Notes: *Dune*](http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/dune/context.html), detailed study guide
* [Audio Review](http://www.sfbrp.com/archives/15) at [The Science Fiction Book Review Podcast](http://www.sfbrp.com/)
* [DuneQuotes.com - Comprehensive collection of quotes from the *Dune* series](http://www.dunequotes.com)
* [Works of Frank Herbert](http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/Genres/Science_Fiction/Authors/H/Herbert,_Frank/Works/) at the [Open Directory Project](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Directory_Project)