

# **Guide to the Imperium**

**By Jumah Ullam**

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Being a guide to the people, institutions and planets of the Imperium.

## ***Arrakis***

Home of the spice melange, Arrakis is almost entirely made up of desert and rock, with ice caps at the poles. Great worms roam the desert, devouring anything they find, so desert travel should only be undertaken by ornithopter.

## ***Bene Gesserit***

A secretive all-female order, the Bene Gesserit trains its members to become "Reverend Mothers", commonly known as witches. The Bene Gesserit are believed to have many abilities, including the power to read a person's mind or to force someone to do their will.

## ***Butlerian Edicts***

Many years ago, mankind was enslaved by machines. A woman named Jehanne Butler led a jihad against the machines, and once the machines had been beaten, the Butlerian Edicts were enacted. They forbid the manufacture of any machine in the likeness of a human mind.

## ***CHOAM***

The Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles, an economic entity made up of all the Houses Major and some Houses Minor. It controls much of the trade in the imperium.

## ***Corrida***

A popular sport, where a man enters an arena with a bull, then proceeds to enrage and taunt it, causing it to charge him repeatedly until it is weary, when the man kills it with a sword.

## ***Anirul Corrino***

Lady Anirul Corrino is the wife of Emperor Shaddam IV Corrino, and a Bene Gesserit of hidden rank.

## ***Emperor Shaddam IV Corrino***

His Imperial Majesty Emperor Shaddam IV was born Shaddam Corrino in 10,134 AG. He married a Bene Gesserit of hidden rank named Anirul Sadow-Tonkin, in 10,155 AG and succeeded his father, Elrood IX, in 10,156 AG.

He has four daughters: Irulan (born 10162 AG); Chalice (born 10,164 AG); Wencisia (born 10,170) and Josifa (born 10,172 AG)

## ***Ecaz***

An uninhabited planet where many famous plants grow.

## ***Face Dancer***

A Tleilaxu creature that can alter its form, so that it looks like another. Face dancers can change their whole appearance to look like another individual.

## ***Gholas***

Gholas are creatures manufactured by the Tleilaxu. They take a dead person's cells and use them to make an identical copy. The Tleilaxu will not reveal the details of how they make their gholas, and it should be noted that though the ghola looks exactly like the original person, it has none of the original person's memories.

The similarity of the name to that of the ghül of folklore should be noted. It is not known if either Tleilaxu or gholas rob graves and feed on corpses, like the ghül, but the possibility cannot be ignored.

## ***Gamont***

A planet noted for its hedonistic culture and exotic sexual practices. It is a popular tourist destination.

## ***Great Houses***

A Great House refers to a dynastic seat of power, sometimes limited to a single world and sometimes spanning several worlds. There are numerous houses, the more important ones, that rule one or more planets, are Houses Major, the less important ones being Houses Minor. Collectively, they form the Landsraad, which rules the imperium with the emperor.

## ***Heighliner***

A ship used by the Spacing Guild to transport people and materials between planets. Each heighliner can carry many smaller vessels, and is guided on it's journey by a Spacing Guild navigator.

## ***Holtzman Shield***

A personal protective device used by those with money but little courage, it protects the wearer from attack, but is vulnerable to weapons that travel slowly.

Holtzman shields are rarely used on Arrakis, as they drive the great worms into a frenzy. Also note that if a shield comes into contact with the beam from a laser weapon, the resultant explosion rivals that of an atomic device.

## ***Ix***

The planet of Ix is the primary source of technological products in the imperium. There is some suspicion that some of their products defy the Butlerian Edicts

## ***Landsraad***

The Landsraad is the collection of Great Houses, who collectively rule the imperium under the guidance of the emperor.

## ***Laser Weapons***

Laser pistols and rifles, once common in the imperium, are now quite rare, due to the preponderance of Holtzman shields. They project a laser beam capable of burning a target's flesh.

## ***Maula Pistol***

A small, light handgun that uses a spring mechanism to fire a small dart.

## ***Melange***

Found only in the deserts of Arrakis, melange is highly prized throughout the imperium for its life-extending properties. Although attempts have been made to create an artificial version, none have yet been successful.

## ***Mentat***

A mentat is a person with a super-human ability to process and store information.

## ***Opafire***

A precious jewel of immense value, found mainly on the planet of Aarafan. Opafire is noted for its soft, iridescent colours, ranging from pink to blue. Blue or turquoise gems are most highly prized.

## ***Orange Catholic Bible***

The standard religious scripture of the imperium.

## ***Richese***

Ix's primary competitor in the production and sale of technological products, Richese's products are generally considered to be inferior and less innovative than those of Ix.

## ***Salusa Secundus***

The emperor's prison planet. No-one sent there has ever returned, but it is rumoured to have various breeds of vicious wild animal.

## ***Sardaukar***

Elite soldiers of the emperor. They are feared throughout the imperium, as they are known to be the greatest fighters in the galaxy.

## ***Semuta***

A highly addictive narcotic drug, which produces feelings of "timeless ecstasy" when taken.

## ***Spacing Guild***

The spacing guild control all inter-planetary travel in the imperium. Their navigators guide huge heighliners, each carrying many individual ships, safely to their destinations.

## ***Suk Doctors***

Suk doctors are the most highly-trained and trustworthy doctors in the imperium. Their rates are so high that only Great Houses can afford to employ them.

## ***Tupile***

Tupile is a highly secretive planet, populated by disgraced Houses Minor and Major. Only the Spacing Guild knows it's location, which they refuse to reveal even to the Emperor himself.