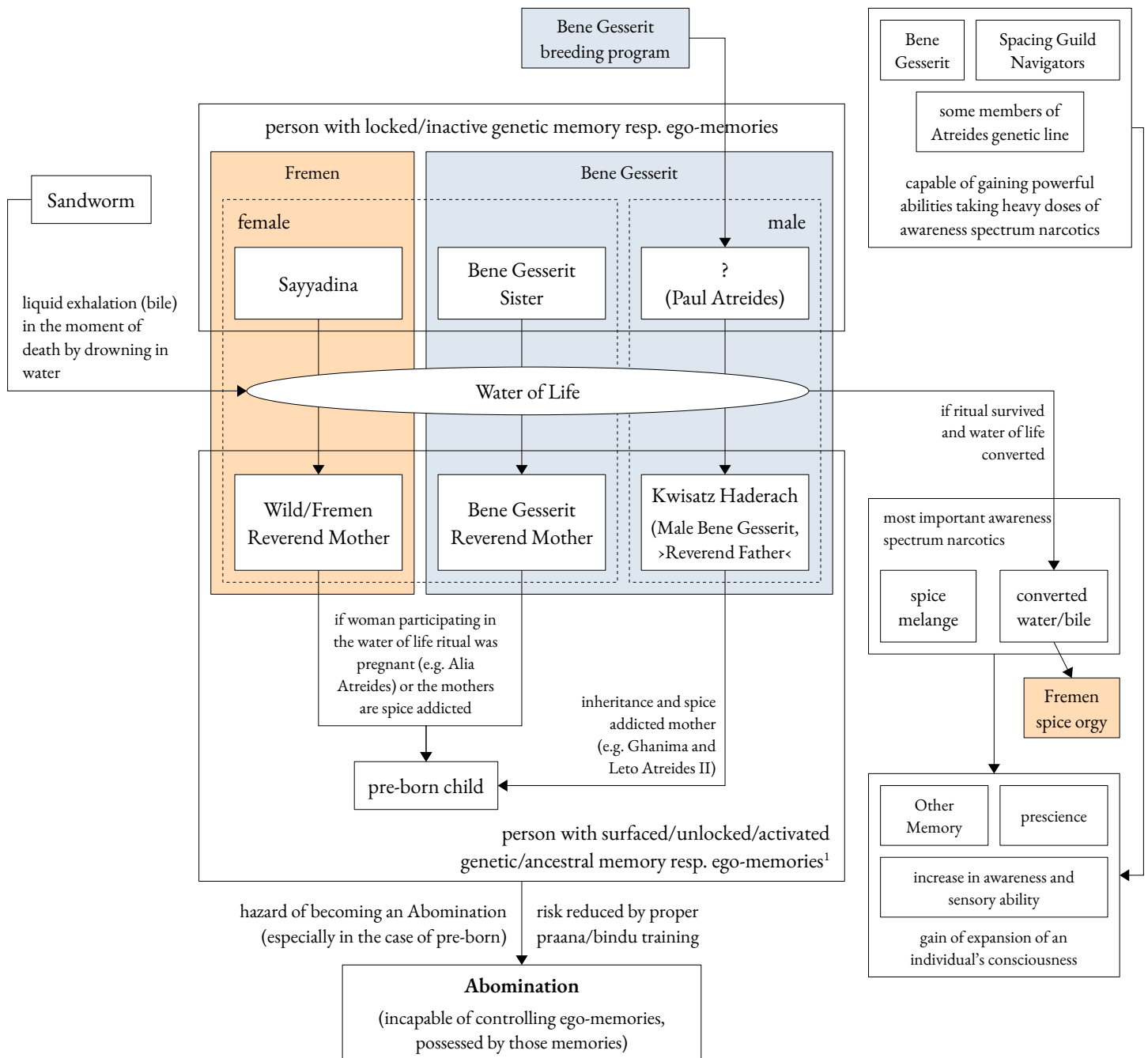


Frank Herbert: Dune Universe

Abomination



Note on the relationship of, on the one hand, a functional transfer of collective memories and, on the other hand, a substantial-genetic activation of ancestral memories: There seems to be a conceptual gap between *Dune* and the later novels regarding the effect of drinking the *water of life* from which the »Reverend Mothers« result. In *Dune*, drinking the *water of life* ensures the functional succession of Reverend Mothers and provides the drug for the Sietch orgies. During the ritual the memories of all antecedent Reverend Mothers are being transferred to the new Reverend Mother (and in Jessica's special case to her unborn daughter, Alia, too). In this conception, each new Reverend Mother's own genetic ancestral memories are *not* activated. However, in later volumes the Reverend Mothers and Alia do possess own ancestral memories, which have not been activated during the initial ritual. But just that is one of the prerequisites for the conflict of abomination. Thus, it seems as if the concept of becoming a Reverend Mother has changed into the activation of own ancestral genetic memories and consciousness in the course of the books.