**The Wonders of *DUNE***

First Draft

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**Outline**

**Intro:** Brief introduction of Dune and its relevance.

**Body 1:** The world-building of Dune; the detailed world and realistic designs.

**Body 2:** The protagonist of Dune; including his powers and personality.

**Body 3:** The overarching theme of Dune, the danger of a charismatic leader.

**Conclusion:** Recap and outro.

*Dune,* the sci-fi series created by Frank Herbert,has been all the rage lately. Whether it’s the influence on modern sci-fi or the massive success of the recent movie adaptation, the series has gained recognition all over the world. Allowing people to be immersed in an exotic universe in different forms of media almost 60 years after its creation. But what makes this series stand out? The vivid world-building, the charismatic protagonist, and the cautionary theme of the series are the essential elements that made *Dune* fascinating to the audience.

The world-building of *Dune* is brimming with details, it’s futuristic yet realistic at the same time. The most interesting part of Dune’s world is its retro-futuristic vibe. Although it’s set around 10,000 years into the future, all the equipment are designed in a very pragmatic way. Combined with the highly realistic ecosystem created by the author, it made everything flow together seamlessly. The most notable example is the main planet, Arrakis. As a desert planet, its residents have developed “still suits” to keep their moisture circulating in their bodies; and the “harvesters” to collect spice (the most valuable resource in the series) from sand. All of which connect back to the harsh weather conditions, and the natural environments of the planet. Frank Herbert crafted the planets with his ecologist background, which explains the authentic feeling in his settings.

What is a good setting without memorable characters? Paul Atreides, the first protagonist, not only possessed a unique set of powers, but an equally captivating personality. Paul is trained as a great fighter with keen observative abilities, striking fear into enemies’ hearts. What’s more, he’s prophesized as a messiah, with the ability to mind control others, and see through space and time. Still, with all these powers, Paul’s seen with constant self-doubt. He’s hesitant to walk on the path fate has paved for him, showing the struggle between free will and destiny. And it is this struggle that showed us a human side of a protagonist that’s seemingly omnipotent, allowing audience to relate to him as person.

Through the messianic protagonist, the author tried to warn us about the danger of a false prophet. Paul may be rejecting his fate, but he sure is using the religious faith in his favor to manipulate the mass. In the midst of this religious frenzy, he saw friends transformed from warriors to “creatures of the savior” and is described as “a lessening of a man”. Charismatic leader like Paul cultivates loyalty but discourage any kind of individuality. Without any kind of supervision, it eventually leads to the death of liberty. Ironically, people lose their freedom with thunderous applause and smiles on their faces. That’s why we, as the audience, should remain vigilant as we navigate through social media or modern leadership, and value critical thinking.

*Dune*’s popularity, driven by its long-lasting influence and recent success, is very much well-deserved. Decades after its creation, it has remained relevant with its imaginative story, transporting us to an enchanting world of sci-fi. From the in-depth world-building, the anti-heroic protagonist, to the thought-provoking messages, *Dune* has successfully become a modern masterpiece.