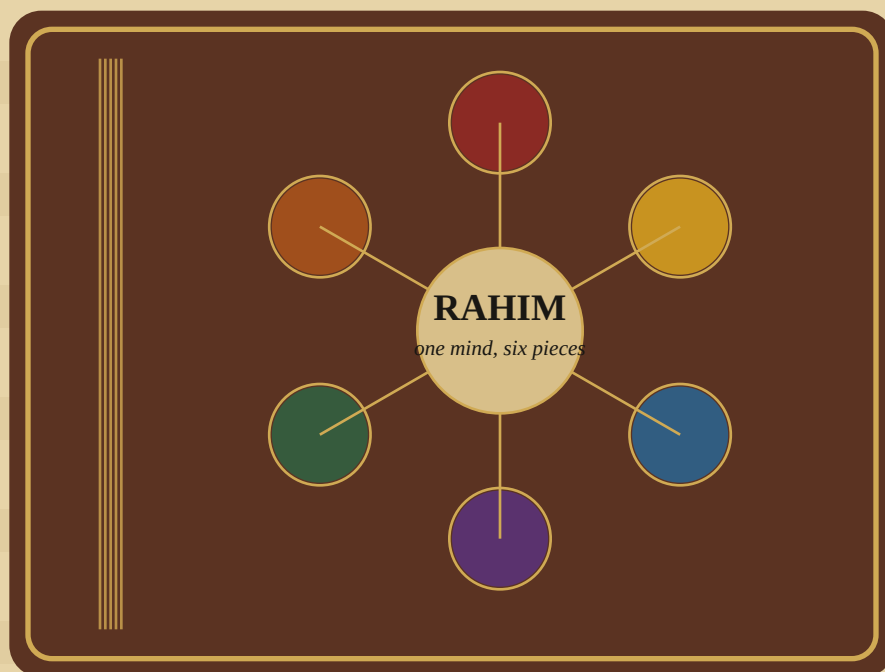


THE MIND OF RAHIM

Azil Harkness's Scholar's Companion

NOTES, CROSS-REFERENCES, CORRECTIONS, AND SEVERAL UNWELCOME CONCLUSIONS



COMPILED AFTER THE WRATH - FOR SCHOLARLY USE, NOT PUBLIC PANTHERS

*If this volume survives me,
please correct my spelling
before declaring me a prophet.*

An in-world companion to The Thirst

Why I Started This Companion

A topical index for a book that refuses to behave like an orderly history

WORKING METHOD

After the Wrath I abandoned any pretense of reading *The Mind of Rahim* from first page to last. I began topical research instead: moons, Vessels, Ethermen, the Thirst, the Fissure, and every phrase that seemed likely to become a catastrophe before supper.

RULE ONE

A passage is evidence, not proof. The book may preserve truth, commentary, corruption, or all three at once.

My problem with *The Mind of Rahim*

The text is ancient, contradictory, incomplete, and quite possibly edited by people with agendas. That makes it both dangerous and irresistible.

The Golden Aspect carries only part of Rahim's memory. When I ask a question, the answer may be certain, partial, delayed, or simply absent. A divine witness with a sixth of the archive is still an archive with missing shelves.

I therefore record not only what I think I know, but also what changed my mind. A useful scholar should leave behind the path of his errors. Preferably in a hand someone can actually read.

TOPICAL RESEARCH. Not
laziness or inefficiency.

Also: keep the book dry. This has become surprisingly difficult.

The Sixfold Problem

Rahim divided is easier to name, not necessarily easier to understand



THREE PRIMARY GIFTS

Scarlet corresponds to Sight. Golden corresponds to Swiftness. Azure corresponds to Strength. These are the basic powers from which the later combinations can be understood. A Vessel carries an Aspect and its memories, power, temperament, and influence.

THREE COMBINED GIFTS

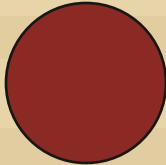
Purple combines Strength and Sight. Emerald combines Strength and Swiftness. Orange combines Sight and Swiftness. Their methods reveal the combination: illusion and penetration, force paired with motion, or perception joined to speed.

The most troubling discovery: the Aspects do not merely disagree. They can pull a Vessel's personality with them.

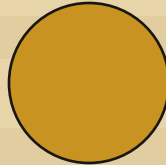
The Moons Are Not Merely Moons

A calendar problem became a cosmological problem, which is how these things usually go

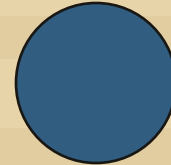
VISIBLE TRIO



Scarlet
Sight / calendar

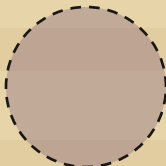


Golden
Swiftmess / calendar



Azure
Strength / calendar

HYPOTHESIZED / LATER CONFIRMED TRIO



Purple
hidden from Earthmen?



Emerald
hidden from Earthmen?



Orange
hidden from Earthmen?

THE CALENDAR CLUE

Our familiar year tracks Scarlet, Golden, and Azure. Yet an old passage carries the sequence all the way to Purple. If Purple exists, Emerald and Orange become difficult to dismiss as coincidence.

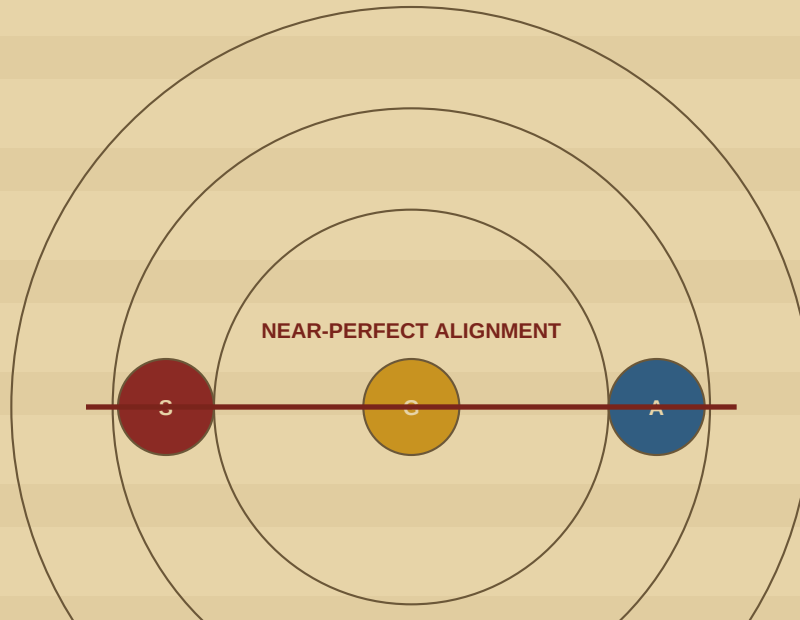
THE MAGICAL CLUE

Moon phases correspond to changes in magical effectiveness. That implies the moons are not decorative lights but reservoirs, regulators, or anchors of Rahim's power. Later observation finds structures where none should be.

There are SIX. I dislike being correct when the correction makes the world more dangerous.

Convergence

When astronomy begins behaving like a mechanism



OBSERVATION

Ancient annotations mark dates when the visible moons approach one another. One date produces an especially disturbing alignment. On the moons themselves stand structures that behave less like temples and more like machinery.

NEW VOCABULARY: DIVINE KEEP

A hidden text describes Ascension shrines, a Divine Keep, and Soul Cleavers able to bind or separate the Aspects. Once the moons, the shrines, and the Aspects are placed in the same diagram, the threat becomes obvious.

REVISED RISK ASSESSMENT

The moons are part of the system by which Aspects can be joined. A lunar convergence is therefore not just an astronomical curiosity. It is a timetable.

THIS is where I stopped calling the moon research 'academic.'

The Thirst

Not water. Not Hunger. Not metaphor.

THE HUNGER

Earthmen experience the Hunger as the demand created by magical expenditure. Sustenance replenishes Reserve and allows further casting. Familiar, measurable, inconvenient.

THE THIRST

The Thirst concerns the Etherman soul and its connection to Rahim. It is described as a deprivation worse than bodily lack, and appears to affect beings whose Etherman nature is wounded, neglected, or corrupted.

How the hypothesis changed

1

FIRST CLUE

Mals march as though summoned and cry that the Thirst drives them.

2

TEXTUAL CLUE

Ethermen writings connect the Thirst to the inability to hear or feel the Fashioner.

3

BIOLOGICAL CLUE

A Mal can be understood as an Earthman whose Etherman side has withered and distorted.

4

FINAL CONCLUSION

The Thirst can be answered in more than one way, and the choice determines whether the soul is enlivened or corrupted.

I regret that the word 'Thirst' sounded poetic when I first encountered it.

Potations

Liquid Sustenance, ancient wells, and two answers to one need

DAWN

enlivens

DUSK

corrupts

BEFORE THE ANSWER

Potation first appears as an ancient liquid form of Sustenance associated with the Eternal Well. A surviving underground stream and the Fissure suggest the Realm once circulated this life-giving substance like blood through veins.

AFTER THE ANSWER

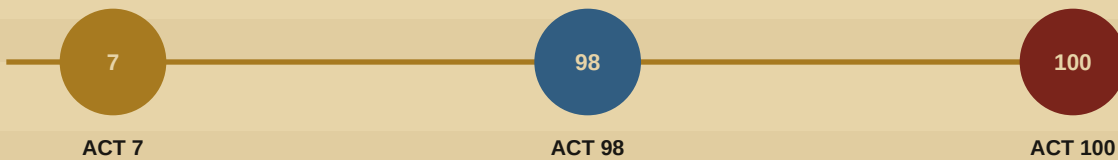
The final revelation distinguishes two Potations. Dawn Potation nourishes and enlivens the Etherman soul. Dusk Potation offers temporary power but corrupts, and it is used in the creation of the Revs.

SPOILER NOTE: THIS PAGE RECORDS LATE-BOOK CONCLUSIONS.

*A substance can be nourishing, intoxicating, or poisonous.
Apparently souls have chemistry too.*

The Acts of Returning

One hundred cautionary tales, which is at least ninety-nine too many for comfort



ACT 7

A mortal uses blood magic and greed to wrench the land out of order. Rahim eventually returns the stolen thing to its proper place.

ACT 98

The wording appears to echo Kaval's attempt to save Sarhah and predicts a worsening curse. At this point prophecy stops feeling comfortably ancient.

ACT 100

The final act concerns learning, dawning, universal recognition, and three words spoken by all. Azil reads it as future, possibly near future, and frankly terrifying.

Working interpretation

The Acts are not a simple chronology of miracles. They are a pattern: people force creation away from its intended state, and eventually something returns. The danger is realizing that the Realm itself may now be approaching its own final act of returning.

Do NOT become the subject of an Act of Returning.

The Book Has Been Touched

When scripture disagrees with itself, suspect the scribes before accusing the universe

ETHERMAN VERSION?

One passage elevates Ethermen and devalues Earthmen. The copy in hand may preserve a tradition altered to justify Etherman superiority.

COUNTER-EVIDENCE

Another passage describes Earthmen and Ethermen as complementary, like interwoven music. That sounds less like hierarchy and more like intended partnership.

The uncomfortable conclusion

There were once competing versions of The Mind of Rahim. If both races shaped the text to defend themselves, then a quotation alone cannot settle a dispute. Context, older copies, Aspect memory, material evidence, and the behavior of the world all become necessary witnesses.

This does not make the book useless. It makes it a field of evidence. The very contradictions reveal the history of fear, rivalry, and theological editing that helped divide the two peoples.

*CORRUPTED? INTERPOLATED?
POLITICAL? Compare hands.*

Important: contradiction is a clue.

Late-Book Findings

Do not read unless you have finished The Thirst or enjoy ruining your own surprises

SPOILER APPENDIX

Final notes added after the lunar binding attempt

THE ATTEMPTED BINDING

The Aspects of Ether move to bind all six Aspects through the lunar mechanism. The process begins, but intervention at the Divine Keep and the closing of the World Fissure interrupt the full union before completion.

WHAT MERGED

Scarlet, Golden, and Azure merge into the Aspects of Light. Purple, Emerald, and Orange likewise merge into a single opposing power.

WHAT DID NOT

The six-way union never finishes. The binding is weakened, leaving two greater powers rather than one total fusion and preserving a possibility of resistance.

I did not expect my moon notes to end with me standing on one.

Conclusions Written in Red Ink

The point at which research becomes contingency planning

1

THE MOONS

They are power structures as well as celestial bodies. Their alignments can be used.

2

THE ASPECTS

They retain memories, agendas, and emotional tendencies. A Vessel is not simply holding a tool.

3

THE THIRST

It is a spiritual condition of Etherman nature, not an Earthman-style magical appetite.

4

THE POTATIONS

There are at least two answers to the Thirst, one nourishing and one corrupting.

5

THE BOOK

It contains genuine ancient knowledge and evidence of mortal editing. Both facts matter.

6

THE ACTS

The sequence points toward a final event of recognition and return that may still be ahead.

*If anyone finds a SEVENTH moon, please do not tell
me until after breakfast.*

Questions Worth Surviving To Answer

A scholar is allowed to end with uncertainties. It is practically the job description.

1 What are the three words?

The hundredth Act promises that every tongue will speak them. It does not kindly supply them in advance.

2 What came before this Realm?

Rahim speaks of captivity and of traveling among the stars. The surviving record gives hints, not a full history.

3 What is the final relationship between Earthman and Etherman?

The strongest evidence points toward complementarity, but the ancient binding and later separation complicate every simple answer.

4 Can merged Aspects share more than one Vessel?

A possibility emerges at the end: Azil, Sarhah, and Evelet consider working together rather than repeating the mistake of isolation.

5 What does returning finally mean?

Restoration is not always comfortable. The Realm may be healing toward an order its people have forgotten.

Knowledge is most useful when it leaves us better prepared to choose.

- A. Harkness