

# *Secrets of the Sands*

## *Glossary and*

### *Pronunciation Guide*

*A number of the words in the southern language include the glottal-stop, which is rendered here as ^. A glottal stop involves closing, to some degree, the back of the throat, resulting in a near-coughing sound when released. Sometimes this sounds as though a hard "H" has been inserted.*

**Aqeyva** (ack-ee-vah, alt. ahh-keh-vah): A combination of martial-arts training and meditation disciplines. The combat training is often referred to as a 'dance' as it involves smooth, flowing motions that have no apparent resemblance to any fighting mode.

**Asp-jacau** (asp-jack-how): A slender canine with long, thin snout and legs. Its short-haired coat tends toward fawn or brindle coloring. Its excellent sense of smell is primarily used to detect dangerous snakes and (in some cases) drugs. In Bright Bay, only royalty or King's Guard patrols may own an asp-jacau, but

below the Horn the asp-jacau is a common companion animal.

**Callen (call-en):** One sworn to the service of a southern god.

**Comisti (cohm-mist-ee):** Criminal working out his/her punishment through service to the god Comos.

**Comos (Cohm-ohs):** One of three gods honored in the southlands. Represents the neutrality/balance/questioning energies; also linked to the season of winter, the colors white and brown, and curiosity. Callen of Comos, if male, must be castrated; women must be past menopause to be allowed out in the world at large.

**Datda (Dat-dah):** One of three gods honored in the southlands, Datda represents the negative/death/change energies; also linked to the season of high summer, the colors red and black, and the emotion of anger. Commonly called “the Sun Lord”; saying the name aloud is held to be bad luck. Only Datda’s Callen may safely pronounce the holy name, but they tend to be reluctant to advertise their affiliation; everyone knows that most Callen of Datda have trained extensively as assassins and spies.

**Dathedain (dath-heh-dane):** Followers of the god Datda.

**Dista (diss-tah):** Southern term for *mistress*; implying a dishonorable arrangement or a woman without honor.

**Esthit (ess-thitt):** A drug.

**Ferahd (fheh-rahhd):** Illegitimate child, implications of dishonor on the part of the mother.

**Ha’ra’ha (hah-^rah-^hah);** plural ha’ra’hain (hah-^rah-^hayn): Person of mixed blood (human and ha’rethe).

**Ha’ra’hain (hah-^rah-^hayn):** Plural of ha’ra’ha.

**Ha’rai’nain (hah-^ray-^nayn):** Plural of ha’rai’nin.

**Ha’rai’nin (hah-^ray-^nin);** plural ha’rai’nain (hah-^ray-^nayn): One who has dedicated his or her life to serving the ha’reye.

**Ha’rethe (hah-^reth-ay);** plural ha’reye (hah-^ray): Lit. translation: golden eyes. An ancient race, predating humanity.

**Ha’reye (hah-^ray):** Plural of ha’rethe.

**Hayrar (hay-rahrr):** Southern term for judge.

**Hee-ay, hee-ay (hee-ayyy):** Lit. translation: *Hey! Water! Hey! Water!* Common water-seller’s cry.

**Iiii, iii-sass, iii-sass (eeee, eeee-sahhhh, eeee-sahhhh):** Rough translation: *My woman would castrate me!* A typical exaggerated protest by a merchant about lowering the price of his wares.

**Ish (isshh):** Prefix indicating feminine/female aspects.

**Ish-tchiki, ha’rethe esse chaka (issh-chick-ee, hah-^reth-hay esss chack-ka):**

Lit. translation: *I gave of myself to a ha'rethe and it granted me a boon.*

**Ishai-s'a** (ishh-ai-ss-^ah): Lit. translation: *sister under Ishrai*; implies shared service to or understanding of the god Ishrai.

**Ishell** (ishh-ell): A room in which women worship.

**Ishrai** (Ish-wry): One of the three gods honored in the southlands; represents the positive/feminine/birth energies. She is also connected to the season of spring, the color green, and the emotion of love.

**Ishraidain** (ishh-wry-dane): Women serving penance for various crimes, under the protection of Ishrai.

**Ishrait** (ishh-rate): High priestess of Ishrai.

**Justice-right**: The right of a desert lord to intervene in a situation and see it resolved according to his own opinion of justice.

**Ka** (kah): Honored (generic term).

**Ka-s'a** (kah-ss-^ah): Honored lady (generic term).

**Ka-s'eias** (kah-ss-^ey-as): Honored (mixed gender) group (generic term).

**Kaen** (kay-en): Honored leader/supreme authority.

**Ke** (keh): Prefix or suffix indicating masculine/male aspects.

**Ketarch** (kee-tarsch): Organized groups of healers in the south who focus on preserving old healing lore and researching new ways of healing.

**Mac'egas** (mack-^ayy-gahs): Slaves.

**Machago** (mah-chahh-go): Slavemaster.

**Micru** (mick-rue): Rough translation: *small death*; a small, black and tan striped viper found in rocky desert areas, whose poison is instantly fatal to large animals. Also the call-name of a member of the Hidden Cadre.

**Nu-s'e** (noo-ss-^eh): *Honored man of the south*; generic honorific in the absence of specific indicators.

**Perroc-s'etta** (pay-roke-ss-^et-tah): Fermented cactus "milk".

**Perocce** (pay-roach-ay): A kind of cactus, one that is used as a source of water by desert travelers.

**Qisani** (key-sahn-nee): A rocky cavern in the southern desert, which was given, under a Conclave decision, to the Callen of Ishrai many years ago as a haven of their own. All the desert Families contribute to supporting the Qisani. The followers of Datda and Comos also have central havens, but they are more secretive about the locations. Blood trials conducted at any of the havens are considered the hardest of all possible.

**S'a / S'e / S'ieas / S'ii**: Respectful address designators, analogous to sir and madam; specific to gender, and frequently parts of complex and highly specific expressions of relationship between the speaker and the person being

addressed.

**S'a** (ss-<sup>^</sup>ah): feminine

**S'e** (ss-<sup>^</sup>eh): masculine

**S'ieas** (ss-<sup>^</sup>eh-ahs): a group of mixed gender

**S'ii** (ss-<sup>^</sup>ee): neuter; generally used to address a eunuch.

**S'a-ke** (ss-<sup>^</sup>ah-kay): Familiar *mother's-brother*.

**S'ai-keia** (ss-<sup>^</sup>ayy-key-ah): Roughly, *sister's-child*; used only to address children less than a year old. Used against adults as an insult to suggest the person addressed is behaving like a child.

**S'e deaneat** (ss-<sup>^</sup>eh day-ah-nit): Lit. translation: *male of a desert family*. Usually inferred as 'son of'.

**S'e-keatan / S'a-keatan** (ss-<sup>^</sup>eh-keh-tan / ss-<sup>^</sup>ah-keh-tan): A complex relationship designation. The rough translation is uncle: father's side/mother's side, but depending on inflection and surrounding modifiers, it can indicate status, legitimacy, and even bloodline. Aunt would be s'e-katan (father's side) or s'a-katan (mother's side). To add a little more confusion, the casual use or slang cuts the last few letters off, resulting in s'a-ke, s'a-ka, and so on.

**S'a-nashan-kai** (ss<sup>^</sup>eh-nah-shan-kai): Mother's-side cousin, twice removed.

**S'e-netan / S'a-netan** (ss-<sup>^</sup>ehh-neh-tan, ss-<sup>^</sup>ahh-neh-tan): Another complex relationship designation. The rough translation is *grandfather*, but depending on inflection and surrounding modifiers, it can indicate status, legitimacy, and even bloodline.

**S'iope** (s-<sup>^</sup>igh-o-pay): Lit. translation: *beloved of the gods*; implications of being neuter, all energy devoted to the gods. Term used to refer to the priests of the Northern Church. Disrespectful nickname: soapy.

**Sa'adenit** (sah-<sup>^</sup>ad-den-nit): Rough translation: blood of the sand. Some sages claim it should read blood on the sand. It comes from a very old song about blood-feud and vengeance.

**Saishe-pais** (say-shh-paws; alt. say-she-pays): An expression of heartfelt gratitude, indicating that the one so addressed has shown great honor in his/her actions.

**Sessii ta-karne, I shha** (sessy tah-carney, ee shh-ha): Rough translation: *You noxious, useless (castrated) little prick!*

**Se'thiss, t'a-karnain** (sehh-<sup>^</sup>this, tah-<sup>^</sup>ah-kar-nayn): Rough translation: *beloved child of the northern relatives*.

**Shall** (shawl): A temporary, portable desert shelter.

**Shass-shass** (shaass-shaass): Lit. translation: *move, move!* Used by superiors to

inferiors.

**Sheth-hinn** (shethh-hnn): Assassin.

**Su-s'a** (sue-ss-^ah): Northern lady.

**Ta (tah)**: Prefix implying masculine aspects; usually involved in insults (see ta'karne).

**Ta-karne** (tah-carn-ay): Insult. Rough translation: asshole.

**Taishell te s'a-lalien** (tie-shell teh ss-^ah-lahh-lee-en): Lit. translation: *This woman has emptied herself/has no more to give you now.*

**Taishell te s'a-naila** (tie-shell teh ss-^ah-nail-ah): Lit. translation: *This woman offers her blood to you/opens herself to you now.*

**Tas-shadata** (tahz-shah-dah-ta): Rough translation: *fool, coward, idiot.*

**Taska** (task-ah; alt. tah-skah): Courier and guide.

**Te** (teh): Prefix indicating formality and honor; no gender.

**Teth hanaa silayha** (tehth hah-nah sill-igh-ah): Lit. translation: *You (female) grace us (male or mixed company).*

**Teth-kavit** (tehth-kah-vitt): Lit. translation: *Gods hold you, and blessings to your strength.*

**Teyanin** (tay-ah-nin); plural: **teyanain** (tay-ah-nayn): A very old, small tribe which retreated to the mountains of the Horn after the Split. Originally the judges and law determiners of the desert, they're now considered the guardians of the Horn.

**Thass** (tass; alt. thass): A person with great status, beyond even noble rank.

**Thio** (thee-oh): Status.

**Toi, te hoethra** (toy, teh hoe-thrah): Lit. translation: *I swear to you I am speaking truth.*

**Ugren** (oo-ghren): a very rare universal bonding mixture; also used in the southlands to imply unbreakable permanence in an arrangement or situation.