

## GLOSSARY

Here is a glossary of key words from the manuscript "Benjamin's Choice":

**Anah, An-:** Anah is the Hebrew personal pronoun for "I." A significant leadership role within Great Zimbabwe, traditionally held by a Tannin. The Anah serves as the visible sign of God's blessing, watching over the Longevity, ensuring long life, and acting as provider and protector.

**Calling Cave:** A natural formation, used by the Longevity to transmit urgent messages throughout Great Zimbabwe. The "calling cave" facilitates rapid communication among the tribe members, acting as a critical hub for disseminating important news or alerts, such as emergencies.

**Cattle Disease:** This real threat refers to a disease borne by the African tsetse fly. If left untreated, it can be fatal.

**Chinyavda:** A scorpion found in southern Africa. One of the largest, it is nearly three inches long and yellow.

**Chuma:** Jonadab's father and a prominent figure in Great Zimbabwe, known for his arrogance and manipulative influence within the council.

**Council:** The governing body of Great Zimbabwe, composed of the oldest and wisest members of the tribe, both men and women. The "council" is responsible for making crucial decisions regarding the city's leadership, laws, and welfare, particularly in the absence of the Tanninim. Their debates and resolutions shape the future of the Longevity and the role of the Anah.

**Daga:** A term used to refer to a hut comprised of two rooms, serving as the primary dwelling unit in Great Zimbabwe. *Daga* refers to the red bricks used to build the houses. Daub is smeared over the brick to seal the structure.

**Danga:** A circular enclosure or pen specifically designed for keeping cattle.

**Elizabeth:** Shona's guardian and young wife of Joah, the missing Keeper.

**Great Zimbabwe:** A Medieval African city believed to have supported 20,000 inhabitants at its height of power.

**Healer:** A respected role within Great Zimbabwe, personified by Siloam. The "Healer" possesses knowledge of medicinal herbs and treatments, caring for the sick and injured.

**Jonadab:** A student of Benjamin and a prominent youth in Great Zimbabwe, characterized by his arrogance, ambition, and prejudice, particularly against the female sex.

**Keeper:** A specialized role within Great Zimbabwe supernaturally enabled. This Longevity maintains an oral history of the Tanninim, possessing a supernatural connection to the Tanninim in the community.

**Kilwa:** A coastal city which was a significant trading hub during the Middle Ages.

**Longevity:** Humans whose extended contact with the tanninim has activated their longevity gene.

**Melchaiyim:** The ancient and powerful king of all the tannin tribes; his name is Hebrew for king of life.

**Melek:** Hebrew for king

**Mbire:** The previous Anah and husband of Zezuru.

**Muranda:** A word from the language Shona that means a slave.

**Nguni:** A prominent Tannin, described as reckless and potentially evil, who played a role in the Tanninim's departure.

**Pfambi:** A word from the language Shona that means a prostitute

**Shona:** Elizabeth's mysterious young ward

**Siloam:** The venerable Healer and an influential elder on the council of Great Zimbabwe

**Tanninim, Tannin (singular):** The Hebrew word for dragons or sea monsters. In the novellas, tanninim are dual natured humans who possess dragon forms.

**Thought Abilities:** A unique psychic capacity possessed by the Longevity, allowing them to "see" or "hear" others' thoughts, and also to "wall" or shield their own thoughts. The ability can be acquired after long exposure (up to two years) to the tanninim.

**Veld (Middle, High, Lower):** Geographical designations referring to different elevated areas around Great Zimbabwe. These terms define the physical setting and the movement of characters within the city's environs.

**Zezuru:** The wife of Mbire, the previous Anah. A rare golden dragon and the weakest and yet most treasured of the race, she is associated with the emotional weight of the Tanninim's departure.