

Childhood of Temujin

Temujin was born in **1162** in **Deluun Boldog** near to the **Onon River** (Deluun Hill) in the territory of **Khentii province** (aimag) as the son of **Hoelun** and **Esukhei Baatar**.

When Temujin was 9 years old, Esukhei Baatar was poisoned by the **Tatars** on his way back home after betrothing Temujin with **Burte**, a daughter of **Dai-Setsen** of the **Hongirad** tribe. Hoelun was left alone with her children after being abandoned by the tribe of her dead husband, the Taichuud. Left with only eight yellow tailless brown horses, Hoelun was able to feed her children with berries and roots. When the children matured, they fed their mother with fish, marmots and prairie squirrels in return. Regardless of their circumstances, Hoelun brought up her children with the discipline of nobility.

There were three factors from Temujin's formative years that affected his future vision and character: First, his noble background kindled his desire to gain power and unite the scattered aimags and tribes. His first attempt at making close bonds with other factions was when Temujin took Burte's black fur coat, which was suppose to be presented as a bridal gift to Hoelun, and presented it to **Van Khan Tooril** (Ong Khan) of the **Khereidun**, a friend of his father, in order to ask for his support in the future.

Second, the childhood and teenage years of Temujin made him a man of endurance and patience. In the "**Secret History of Mongolia**" it clearly described that after killing his brother, the **Tayichiud** tribe took him prisoner. The tribe fitted him with a yoke that prevented him from moving his hands, thus limiting his ability to feed himself. He was humiliated for many days. With the help of a kind family in the tribe, Temujin was able to hide in a pile of wool and eventually flee from the camp.

Third, the hostility and vengefulness that existed between the Mongol tribes was the stimulus for his desire to conquer and unite them. For example, **Ambagai Khan** said that "I was captured by Tatars. Try to take my revenge from the Tatars until your nails and fingers break." Also Hoelun, Temujin's mother, told her children "Why are you arguing with each other, when you are the children of one father. You already know that now, you have no friends except your shadow and no whip except your horse's tail. How can we take the revenge from Taichuud, if we stay like this?" With the assistance of his friends Temujin invigorated his strength and began to conquer and unite all the Mongol tribes and aimags one after another.