



Eiji khairkhan Mountain. Gobi-Altai aimag. Tsogt sum. Photo by Enkhbileg

drunk. On this occasion, Eej Khairkhan with her servant escaped. Both travelled a great distance. They arrived to the periphery of their birth places which was a vast Gobi. They saw the birth land and breathed in happily. When Burkhan buudai found out that his wife with her servant had escaped, he was enraged and sent out many soldiers to chase them. They overtook the two fugitives. Eej Khairkhan was squatting on the op-

posite side. Those soldiers took a handful of sand and sprang it. Eej Khairkhan did not stand up, but became stuck in the sand where she remained in the Gobi desert alone. Since then, many years passed by, the Eej Khairkhan in the Great Gobi remained a beautiful and odd mountain. Burkhan buudai Mountain exists to the North-east of the Eej Khairkhan Mountain and the servant Sutai Mountain is standing to the south-east.

## • LEGENDS OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The legends of the past events in Mongolian history and of renowned people in history belong to the legends of historical events. Those legends were transmitted through the oral and written forms to us. There are many legends of Chinggis Qahan, of his generals, of Mandukhai the wise queen, of Chingünjav and Amarsanaa. The written legends are the Secret History of Mongols, the *Altan товч*, *Sudryn чуулган* and others. One of the most ancient legends is the legend of Ambagai Qahan.

## THE LEGEND OF AMBAGAI QAHAN

Ambagai Qahan was the son of Sorgogdühi chono and grandson of Charhai Lyankhua. When he was a lord of the Taichuud aimag, he wanted to find a girl who might suit his inclinations and become his wife. So he went to the Tatar aimag. The Taichuud people questioned why he needed to find a girl from their aimag. They deemed it as humiliation and arrested him with military force. They sent him out to the Altan khan of the Zürchid people. The reason is that those people were under the rule of the Altan uls.

According to the law of the Altan uls, they bound the Ambagai Qahan to the wooden donkey and killed him. Ambagai Qahan contrived a means of shrewdness and sent his servant who was called Bulgachin. He conveyed the message of Ambagai Qahan to the Altan khan. It says, "You did not catch me by the valour of the doughty warrior but another person arrested me and took me to you. You decided to kill me with a great torture. Your action can stir up revenge among my kindredheaded by Khadaan taish, Hotol han, Tuda and Esükhei baatar's sons and the Mongolian people. It is inevitable that they will avenge my capture and death. So your killing of me

is dangerous." Altan han ignored it. He said derisively that the messenger Bulgachin should go and give this to your people. Altan khan killed Ambagai Qahan and gave Bulgachin the message to spread out the information about the death of Ambagai Qahan. Bulgachin, the messenger, reached four ajmags and spread out the information. The messenger asked for the replacement of a horse. They didn't supply him with a replacement horse. He, therefore, said, "If our side can not bring our troops as strong as the mountains and as abundant as a flood here tomorrow, I will not be a man. In that case you will regret this."

They did not care for his words. Bulgachin's horse was exhausted. Then Bulgachin had to go on foot. He went and came to Hadaan taish, his son Tuda, former lord of this ajmag Hotol khan and Ambagai Qahan's cousin Esükhei baatar. Bulgachin told them of Ambagai Qahan's death and other information. Since then the Mongolians have believed that the fierce spirit of Ambagai Qahan sank into the black banner of the Mongolian wars. This is why the black banner became an object of Mongolian worship.