



• LEGENDS OF LIVELIHOOD

There are legends and stories concerning the way of life of the Mongols, depicting nomadic pastoralism, culture, daily life with the livelihood, struggle, wish and aspiration of ordinary people, which usually found with the reflection of individual thoughts. The protagonist of such types of legends can be anyone, such as wise judge, famous wrestler, beautiful woman, swift horse, dexterous artisan, and ordinary herder.



• LEGEND OF CULTURE AND CUSTOM

The legend of HORSE HEADED FIDDLE

Namjil, a horse breeder of the eastern periphery, was conscripted into the army and served at the western periphery. When he sang a song in the tuneful voice, local mounted men dismounted and listened to his singing. People stopped walking and listened to his singing.

They extolled and called him Cuckoo Namjil after the singing ability of the cuckoo bird. Cuckoo Namjil served there for a long time and fell in love with a daughter of the local nobleman. But when his term of military service ended, he had to go back to his birthplace. The daughter of the nobleman gave him a horse with concealed wings and asked him to fly with this horse to meet her. Namjil did this, coming back to his birthplace during the day, where he tended horses and looked after his parents, but then flying back to see the daughter of the nobleman each night.

A slave girl noticed that he was away at night and suspected him. She checked Namjil's horse. That night, Namjil had forgotten to conceal his horse's wings. The slave girl examined the horse standing at its hitching-pole, and saw the two wings of the horse fluttering. She cut off those wings. As soon as the

wings of the horse were cut off, the horse died. Namjil grieved greatly at the loss of horse and clipped his horse's mane and tail and twisted the hairs. And then he flayed the thin skin of his dead horse and stretched it.

He cut off wood from a tree and sawed and lumbered it. Then he put all of the pieces together in a good arrangement and found a way to make a melodious sound from the instrument. He fixed the horse's shaped head on the top of his fiddle and two pegs on the neck of his fiddle. He attached two lines of hair-strings on the front of his fiddle to the bottom of box of his fiddle.

He made a bow by tying two ends of his narrow willow. The bow was covered with the tar of pine. By this he produced melodious and various sounds. In recognition of his good horse he invented the horse-headed fiddle, which can produce the sounds of neighing and whinnying; it can produce the sounds of trotting and clopping. From that time on, Cuckoo Namjil was happy to play this fiddle and was in ecstasy hearing these tuneful sounds. This is how the horse headed fiddle originated.



3. GROTESQUE EXAGGERATIONS

• The ridiculous behaviours, oddities and absurdities in society, and ill-dispositions of individual people are described humorously in terse and sarcastic manners. But their critical meanings are mostly hidden. These are called as amusing stories.