

❖ CUSTOM OF WEARING A NEW DEEL

The general clothing of the Mongols is a traditional costume called a *deel* (gown). Mongols sew *deels* for their children mostly with sharp coloured fabrics, beautiful edging, and adornments. The following verse is told during the first wearing a child's new *deel*:

*Your front skirt is maybe accompanied by foals and colts
 Your back skirt is maybe accompanied by sheep and lambs
 Your inner skirt is anointed by fat and oil
 Your outer skirt is decorated with thongs;
 This year your clothing is cotton
 Next year your clothing shall be silk;
 May your clothing never be dirty
 May your clothing never become frayed
 But may you yourself be eternal!*

Afterwards, the quilting of the *deel* is removed. The child is kissed and the new *deel* is blessed. A child wearing the new *deel* gets excited. It makes the parents happy. The child can show off the *deel* to the children of his or her neighbours, and their parents reward the child with sweets. The adult neighbours traditionally encourage children with sweets on the occasion of his or her new *deel*.

