



*We beseech an offering
Of the group of camels ruled by the camel stallion
And of the herd of cows ruled by the bull
From the lambent fire
Khurai, khurai, khurai!
We beseech an offering of gold, silver and money
For the family and individuals
A harem of horses
From lambent mother-fire
Khurai, khurai, khurai!*

*We beseech a flock of sheep, a source of happiness
From the holy fire-heaven
Which is the origin of hearth and altar;
Dear fire-mother*

*Please give a piece from
Your body like a mountain;
Dear mother-fire
Split a piece
Of your body like rock and give it to us;
Dear light-mother
Break off a piece
Of your body like the Geser and give it to us;
Sanctified mother
Cut off a piece of
Your body like the ocean and give it to us;
The spirits of
The thick maned stallion
And of the mare with the caked udder
Khurai, khurai, khurai!*

❖ TABOOS CONCERNING FIRE WORSHIP AND THE FAMILY HEARTH

Mongolians venerate the fire and hearth as holy and have many taboos originated from the rites and customs concerned with it. For instance:

- Non-members of a family or strangers are not entitled to stoke a family's fire. If he or she stokes a fire of another family, it can be considered as an insult to a family's hearth;
- It is forbidden to cross the northern part of a family's hearth. If this happens, it is a sign of disrespect or humiliation;
- It is forbidden for one to go around the hearth in a counter-clockwise direction;
- It is forbidden to stoke a fire with an iron poker within a week of the ceremony of worshipping fire (this is considered to be a period of the absence of the fire-god);
- Maternal nieces are forbidden to enter when the maternal uncle's ceremony of worshipping fire is performed;
- It is forbidden to give dairy products and grains to somebody within three days of the ceremony of worshipping fire;
- Mothers who recently gave birth are forbidden to come near the burning fire;
- It is forbidden to burn anything that can defile a fire or make it dirty;
- It is forbidden to pour water on a fire (If we need to extinguish a fire with water, we say, "Please take off your legs, dear god of fire," in advance and extinguish the fire);
- It is forbidden to spit into a fire;
- It is forbidden to play with fire (If one does this, it is considered as the loss of animals);
- It is forbidden to trample a fire in extinguishing it;
- It is forbidden to sit down with parted legs near a hearth or fire place;

-It is forbidden for a pregnant mother to be present during the ceremony of worshipping fire when milk-vodka and melted grease are dropped onto a fire (It is believed that the pregnant mother would be at risk of a miscarriage. So it is considered as a danger.);

- It is forbidden to go cross over a fire;
- It is forbidden to drop milk on a fire (It is believed that the udder of cow might break.);
- It is forbidden to wave a red cloth over a fire;
- It is forbidden to stab a fire with a knife;
- It is forbidden to burn dog faeces and the skins of onion and garlic;
- It is forbidden to burn Artemisia.

There is a saying:

*Do not sanctify your fire with artemisia.
Do not infect your corral of sheep with parasites.*

- It is forbidden to drop salt on a fire (Only when we drive out evils, do we burn salt);
- It is forbidden to point one's finger at a fire (It is believed that the god of fire might get angry.); and
- It is forbidden to stand or sit on the stove or trivet.

There are many forbidden practices concerning fire and the fire-worship ceremonies in ancient law. People were subjected to severe punishment if they assaulted someone's hearth. We, Mongolians, venerate fire, sun and moon in our genius and wish our hearth and altar to be holy forever and as prosperous as the flames of fire.