

Screenplay

FADE IN:

EXT: Midday – cold

Long high angle camera shot over a tribe's camp – the tents of the camp blow in the wind

CAPTION APPEARS: Mongolia, 1204 – Central Mongolia

*Genghis and two lieutenants, his loyal dogs, Jebe and Subutai, walk slightly behind him at either side into the main tent. They are greeted by the leader of the Kwarizmian tribe.*

**Shah Alaad-din Mhammad**

[Arrogant confidence] Ah, the Great Genghis Kahn - I half expected you to be tardy.

*Genghis looks into Shahs eyes with no break of emotion on his unamused face.*

**Genghis**

[Dispassionately] Do you take me for some disorganised fool?

**Shah Alaad-din Mhammad**

[Shah, fidgets with the disparate slithers of whiskers on his face while passing on Genghis' question] Do your rabid dogs need to be here or will you graciously send them away so we can consult in solitude?

**Genghis**

[Immediate response] Consult? [Pause] I'm not here to aid your weak brain in the direction of a strategy... moreover, uhsnei hiej do you believe you are able to spout bile towards my dogs? Jebe, educate the Iljirsen baas of how you were remoulded into the top ranks of the world.

*[Shah Alaad-din Mhammad's smug dissipates]*

**Jebe**

It began in a similar position as yours – mild acquaintances with the Great Kahn, and I masking my fear with arrogance, again, as you are, however, entirely in knowledge of his ruthlessness and determination.

*[Shah shuffles in his seat and **quietly** scoffs to himself. Jebe continues in hopes of manipulating]*

**Jebe**

When I go back to this, I always feel wholehearted regret of not laying down my sword to the Great Kahn during that meeting therefore avoiding bloodshed. In the

battle of the twelve sides in 1201, shortly after our first meet, the Great Kahn and his men brutally eradicated 95% of my warriors – holding the other 5% as captives. It was my ignorance that allowed me to believe I could rule Mongolia, which killed thousands of my own. I've never let go of my guilt for the cost of these men's lives.

*[Jebe is truly solemn by his retrospection and Genghis notices this]*

### **Genghis**

[Stern] Now tell him how you came to be by my side.

### **Jebe**

*[Shocked]* the whole story?

*[Genghis nods in Jebe's direction]*

### **Jebe**

*[Jebe reluctantly continues]* Well. During that immense battle I fired an arrow into the neck of The Great Kahn.

*[Genghis looks towards Jebe admirably]*

### **Jebe**

Addressing his captives after the battle, wearing a scarf to cover his wound, he demanded the one to fire the arrow at him come forth and face him. To stand up from my knees and come face to face, in hostility, with the Infamous Genghis Kahn is a moment I never want to repeat [looking into Shah's eyes] and I wouldn't wish it upon my worst enemies - I swear my heart stopped beating while he paused before speech – as though time stopped. He proceeded to declare and offer to me, loud enough so all could hear: 'Never, in the entire history of me, has an enemy managed to make contact in with me in vain. Be it with a rock or the swipe of a sword. I knew it was you before the arrow even left the string of your bow... I formerly inquired the culprit to come forward to confirm your loyalty and respect to the cause. You passed and now you will not die today. In fact, you will be promoted to the top of my own ranks and we together will conquer. Not just Mongolia but the world'. I was then summoned to my feet.

*[Shah swiftly interludes]*

### **Shah Alaad-din Mhammad**

*[Addressing Genghis]* This little love story between you and your dog means to move me? *[Genghis turns red with fury]* I didn't come here today to listen to two gomos relive the time they fell in love.

*[Genghis marches towards shah, shah quickly gets to his feet and is met by a sharp head butt which places him back into his seat, clutching his wounded head, quietly moaning]*

### **Genghis**

*[Containing his anger through speech {venting}]* When I was nine years old, just after me and my family had been banished from our camp due to the poisoning of my father, we were fighting to survive, me and my younger brother would go and hunt food for the whole family, most days we wouldn't even find a rabbit. However, the days food did find us we kept it hidden near to a tree about a mile from our tent while we would go and fish in the closest lake, to maximise our success. However, one day we found a marmot and three rabbits. At the age of 9 to capture a marmot was a great success, I didn't want to wait to show mother, but we went to fish as we always aimed to bring home as much as possible... *[Divulgence]* we wanted to thrive, not survive. When my brother and I returned to the tree **my** marmot was gone *[pause]*. The situation of the leaves revealed a hulgaich. I smacked the tree as hard as I could – my knuckles bled *[Genghis looks towards them and strokes the former damage as though a fond memory {one he knows helped make him who/what he is}]*. I followed the tracks for a mile, eventually leading to a clearing on a hill where I found my Ijirsen half-brother scum feeding like a toad on my game.

*[Coming back from his enthralled state of focus on his history, Genghis moves his attention to Shah]*

### **Genghis**

That is the last time I heard such disrespect as you have displayed this day.

*[Concluding the reflection of his childhood, Shah sits on tenterhooks]*

I killed my half-brother with two arrows. One to the heart [placing a hand over his own], One to the head [point to his temple] and left him there in the grass to rot. [Pause] So, what do you think I am going to do with you?

[Ghengis arises and places his hand on his saber]

FADE OUT

Max Haddow-Mendes  
Student number - EC1821461