THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MONGOLS

CHAPTER ONE

1. The origins of Činggis Qa’an.
   At the beginning there was a blue-grey1 wolf, born with his destiny ordained by Heaven Above. His wife was a fallow doe. They came crossing the Tenggis.2 After they had settled at the source of the Onan River on Mount Burqan Qaldun, Batačiqa’n was born to them.

2. The son of Batačiqa’n was Tamača; the son of Tamača, Qoričar Mergen; the son of Qoričar Mergen, A’ujam Boro’ul; the son of A’ujam Boro’ul, Sali Qača’u; the son of Sali Qača’u, Yeko Nidın; the son of Yeko Nidın, Sem Soči; the son of Sem Soči, Qarçu.

3. The son of Qarçu, Borjigaidei Mergen, had as wife Mongqoljin Qo’a. The son of Borjigaidei Mergen, Toroqoljin Bayan, had a wife named Boroqčin Qo’a, a young lad3 named Boroldai Suyalbi, and two fine geldings, Davir and Boro.4 Toroqoljin had two sons, Du’a Soqor and Dobun Mergen.

4. Du’a Soqor had a single eye in the middle of his forehead: with it he could see for a distance of three stages.5

5. One day Du’a Soqor went up Burqan Qaldun with his younger brother Dobun Mergen. Du’a Soqor looked out

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1 See the Commentary.
2 Lit., ‘the Sea’ or (fig.) ‘a large body of water’ such as a great lake, possibly the Baikal.
3 I.e., a young manservant.
4 I.e., ‘Dusky’ and ‘Grey.’
5 A ‘stage’ (ne’üri) is the distance between two nomadic camps.