

250 Contd.

He signs to the ALCHEMIST who produces a primitive cracker, lights it, and ALL watch as it splutters round the courtyard.

KAM LING

There are many other variations.

TEMUJIN and BORTEI exchange looks, and then she smiles.

BORTEI

I can tell what you are thinking.

He nods, smiles faintly, looks to the OTHERS, puts his hand on GEEN'S shoulder.

TEMUJIN

It is your duty, both as a holy man
and as a man of wisdom, to profit
from all this knowledge.

He gestures to the ALCHEMISTS. GEEN catches on, nods.

TEMUJIN

(slowly)

So that one day the world will
beat to the Mongol heart.

His mind is far away and he turns, to see that BORTEI is watching him. The next moment her hand has reached out to take his. Now both are smiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PEKING STREET. FAVOURING JAMUGA'S CAGE.
DAY. (LOT)

251

JAMUGA is in a suspended cage, a few feet off the ground. He is being derided by a group of CHINESE CHILDREN shouting at him and pelting him with small stones, which he ignores.

BORTEI, holding the hand of her two-year-old son, JOCHI, suddenly comes into the scene moving toward JAMUGA.

JAMUGA'S glance follows her and suddenly shifts to the child.

CLOSE. JAMUGA.

252

As his sardonic expression slides from the child's face to BORTEI'S, O.S. -- his meaning quite clear.

REVERSE CLOSE SHOT. MOVING. BORTEI AND JOCHI. 253

As she reacts, literally yanking the CHILD along as she passes JAMUGA.

ANGLING BACK PAST BORTEI AND JOCHI TOWARD JAMUGA 254

As his gaze, arrogant now, still follows her for a moment.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TEMUJIN'S ROOM. NIGHT. 255

TEMUJIN, wearing a heavily brocaded silk robe, is seated, chewing on a fruit. His feet are raised comfortably on a rest. He is a picture of easy living except that his whole bearing is still barbarian - something nothing can destroy.

As we come into the SHOT, TEMUJIN'S eyes are following a pacing BORTEI, who is wearing a revealing silk negligee - and angrily expounding:

BORTEI

And I tell you again, it has to be done ...

TEMUJIN moves impatiently.

BORTEI

But you won't listen! ... As long as this man lives, none of his tribe will join with you ... they cannot ... you know their laws, and our laws, too.

TEMUJIN

To kill him would be an act of mercy.

BORTEI

I'm not talking of mercy, but of common sense ...

225 Contd

She drops down on her knees before him.

BORTEI

Listen to me, Temujin, hear me well, and one day remember that I warned you ...

He is listening to her now because the conviction in her voice is unmistakable.

BORTEI

There are only two things you can do with Jamuga ... put him under the ground for all time - or put him at your side, and have the Merkits ride with you.

He stares at her unbelieving. The next moment his anger explodes, and he gets to his feet, pushing her away.

TEMUJIN

Are you out of your mind, woman? Jamuga! ... who killed my father, kept me in chains ... or is this all forgotten, all forgiven...? And you... the scar he put on your back ... has that also disappeared with the passing of time?

She looks at him steadily. Then quietly.

BORTEI

Neither the scar on my back, nor the memories of how it came there... no, Temujin, these I do not forget, nor the hatred I have for this man.

She is going towards the doorway to her own room.

BORTEI

And yet, to help you make what you want to come true ... to make our people into a nation, I could set aside my hatred ... because it would be necessary.

255 Contd.

TEMUJIN

(still angry)

Then it shows how little you know
of me, to think that I could, too.

BORTEI

(smiles sadly)

I know you better than you think.

As she turns away she catches sight of a lance near the doorway.
She picks it up, throws it across to TEMUJIN.

BORTEI

Break it across your knee, Temujin.

Puzzled, yet to humour her, he does what she asks.

BORTEI

Now the two pieces together.

Again he complies, although with more difficulty. As he puts
the four pieces together and looks at them, we see him smile.

TEMUJIN

(shakes his head)

No, probably not ... but I know what
you are trying to tell me ... that we
are only strong when we are undivided.

BORTEI

And one day you will listen.

She goes on into the next room, leaving TEMUJIN staring
after her.

CLOSE SHOT. TEMUJIN.

256

Standing, a thoughtful frown on his face. A beat. He looks down
at the broken pieces of the lance, throws them into a corner, then,
still undecided, he makes for the draped doorway, CAMERA
MOVING with him.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

257

The room is lit by a single lamp near the bed that BORTEI
already occupies.

TEMUJIN enters and crosses to her.

CLOSER SHOT. AT BED. 258

CAMERA follows TEMUJIN'S robe as it slides to the floor.

ANGLE ON TEMUJIN AND BORTEI IN BED. 259

He kisses her hair and her naked arms go about his neck in a tight grip. Still kissing her, his face suddenly freezes:

WHAT HE SEES. 260

Lit by the flickering lamp, the cruel scar, the Bear's Head of the Merkits, is still livid on BORTEI'S naked back.

REVERSE ANGLE. TEMUJIN. 261

His eyes narrow in hate. He puts out his hand to the lamp.

CLOSE SHOT. LAMP AND HAND. 262

As TEMUJIN'S hand slowly and deliberately smothers the flame. . . .

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTYARD. GROUP. DAY. 263

JAMUGA, wearing his chang, and bound as we have last seen him, is being led into the courtyard by the BROTHERS.

CAMERA PANS the GROUP toward TEMUJIN, who has been waiting.

ANOTHER ANGLE 264/5

TEMUJIN
(to BROTHERS)
Leave us!

The BROTHERS do not like the idea - but a swift gesture from TEMUJIN, and they depart.

CAMERA MOVES IN as the TWO ENEMIES, hatred flashing from their eyes, study each other.