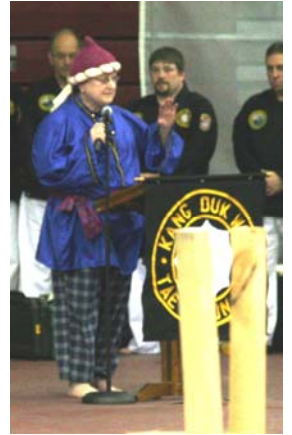


# The Mongolian Invasion of Japan, 1274 and 1281

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Presented by the  
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Rashid al-Din Tabib, born 1247, a Persian, is who I am. I became a physician, writer, and historian. The Ilkanid court is where I serve as Grand Vezier. I have access to the Golden Book, now lost to the world today, which is a Mongol chronicle for the period of Ghengis Khan, also, my own compositions of the world, some of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and some of the 14<sup>th</sup>, "The Collected Works of Rashid".

By the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Mongol armies had been in action in countries as far apart as Poland, Japan, Hungary, Russia, Palestine, Persia, India, Burma, and Vietnam. Teutonic Knights of Germany, and Samurai of Japan, while ignorant of each other's existence had in fact fought a common enemy.



The following historical accounts were inspired by the two Mongolian invasions of Japan, the first in 1274, and the second in 1281.

By 1268, Korea and Sung China have been conquered by Khubilai Khan. He then looked to Japan as his next conquest. In 1274, a fleet of 900 vessels carrying more than 44,000 troops and seamen set out from southern Korea. This included Mongols, Tartars, Chinese, and Koreans. They landed troops on Hakata Bay shore, Kyushu Island. After only two days, the Japanese forced them to retreat back to their ships. That night a fierce gale sank many ships and scattered the Mongolian fleet. Khubilai decided to cut his losses and return to China.

Seven years later the Great Khan decided to mount a second invasion, again at Hakata Bay. This time the Japanese were prepared with a fifteen foot high wall twenty five miles along the bay. The Khan put together an armada consisting of two fleets, with 4400 war ships and 140,000 men. The commander of one fleet arrived at Hakata bay before the other and against orders began engaging in sea battles with the Japanese boarding-craft. During this engagement, many Mongols, and Korean, and Chinese conscripts were killed aboard their own ships. Each night Japanese soldiers would swim to the ships and kill as many of the Mongols and their conscripts as they could. Small groups of soldiers did make it ashore, but many without horses and many without their primary weapon, the bow and arrow.

When the second fleet arrived in August, they were struck by a typhoon. Twice the Japanese were saved by what they call "divine winds".

The Mongolian army was made primarily of light and heavy cavalry. China supplied the infantry and most of the infantry consisted of impressed men from China and Korea.

Here we find an infantry unit training camp.



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Matsuura no Shima uma was battle weary. He just wanted to see his granddaughter again, but a second threat from the Mongolians cancels all release from service. Taking his naginata with him, Shima uma decides to meditate to clear his mind before the battle. The naginata is a curved spear used against sword and straight spear. It was also used to hamstring the horse so the rider was more reachable to the infantryman.

Shima uma not being a rich foot soldier wears do-maru armor. It has the benefit of being lighter than other armors and is easier to move and fight in. It is, however, plainer, which makes it unsuitable for warriors of rank. The metal face protector that covers the forehead and cheeks, provides some defense against a sword slash. His shoulder protectors are covered by a dyed leather similar to that used for a breastplate of a samurai's armor.



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On August 15, 1281 a Chinese Warrior and a Japanese Warrior begin battle as a powerful wind blows through Hakata Bay wreaking havoc on the Mongolian Fleet.

With the invasion of the Mongol army, Emperor Gong of Song dynasty, Zhào Xian, fled with hundreds of thousands of Song people into the province of Guangdong in 1276. In 1279 the Mongols invaded from the north. Ziao wen ma, the granddaughter of Ziao yuan ma, was conscripted by the Mongols to be a foot soldier. Her proficiency with the broadsword became evident to the Mongols, and she was chosen to accompany their army in the invasion of Japan.

The Chinese broadsword or Dao was commonly issued to infantry due to the expense of the Chinese straight sword, or jian. Its popularity on the battlefield earned it the name "General of all Weapons" while the spear was commonly deemed as the "King of the Battlefield". The Dao is powerful and swift. The swordsman has to have flexible movements with his arms and hands so that he and the Dao seem to be merged. He must exert the force to the tip of the movements of the Dao and use it as fast as lightning. The basic movements of the Dao are sweeping, hacking,



striking straight on, slicing, tapping, and swirling. Stepping patterns, leg movements, jumping, somersaults, and balancing are required for a master swordsman.

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The first Mongolian invasion began to change some of the Japanese methods of battle. After the first invasion, samurai of all classes fought alongside on foot. Ise no Saburo Tora was a samurai of the middle class and a bit of a rustic as well. He went to battle dressed more like a coastal pirate, because he liked the freedom of movement it allowed.



Tora fought with a straight spear. The spear length used in battle was anywhere from six to twenty-five feet. Techniques used were thrusting (both ends), cutting, blocking, some throwing, and striking. A favorite was the temporal strike. Whip the spear around and hit the opponent on the side of the head.

When Tora faced off with the Chinese Warrior and discovered a woman, to use a Chinese expression, he thought it was bad joss. If he killed her, he will have lost, and if she kills him, he will have lost. It was bad joss.



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"And to this day when a powerful wind blows up a storm you can hear two warriors in combat."

In 1274, before landing at Hakata Bay, the Mongols took the smaller island of Tsushima. During this time the most influential clan of Tsushima Province was the So Clan. Their leader was So Sukekuni. At the beginning of the first invasion, he enlisted the aid of a smaller clan on the island, the Roiyaru Clan, by promising an increase in their lands and a more prominent role in the governing of the province. Roiyaru Sasori served the Lord of this smaller clan as one of its higher ranking samurai.

During the invasion, Sukekuni the So Lord died in the fight against the Mongols. He was succeeded by So Moriakira. Moriakira blamed the Roiyaru Clan for failing to stop the Mongols. The Lord of the Roiyaru clan was executed. This left Sasori leaderless, so he traveled to Kyushu Province as a Ronin. He saw much combat, but did not acquire much



wealth. After several years he heard of preparations being made to defend against a possible return of the Mongols. He decided to put his skill to use and join this effort to defend his homeland.

In the year 1247, 10 datos, or leaders of tribal regions in Borneo, fled their native island to avoid an assassination attempt by the powerful Sultan Makatunaw. Datu Puti, leader of the 10 and their fiercest warrior led them to settle in the lowlands of the Island of Panay at the mouth of the river Malandog. Once established, Datu Puti placed the other 9 Datus in charge of the various tribes that eventually formed the major tribal groups of the central Philippines.



Datu Puti chose to return to Borneo around 1250, to seek revenge on the Sultan. The remaining Datus later learned that the Sultan had indeed been killed and, since Puti was never heard from again, they believed he had died while getting revenge for the Dayak Datus.

In truth, after gaining his revenge on the Sultan, Puti decided to seek out his martial heritage and traveled the region, eventually arriving in Cambulac, China. In Cambulac, Puti met and befriended the great Mongol leader Kublai Khan. The martial skills and unique style of fighting demonstrated by Puti so impressed the Khan that he placed him in charge of a Hundred. The Khan also asked him to help train his shock troops in his shield and sword skills.

Puti decided to join Kublai Khan and his army in the invasion of Japan, another island chain supposedly inhabited by highly skilled warriors. Landing at Hakata Bay in 1281, he distinguished himself in many early skirmishes. Eventually he met and challenged a lone samurai that looked much like many of the numerous he had already beaten. Unknown to him, the samurai was a highly skilled ronin who chose to help defend the Japanese homeland.



In a brief but intense battle, Puti managed to slay the samurai, but not before he receives a wound to his side that eventually leads to his death.

Datu Puti's choice of weapon is the barong. Traditionally, the barong was an indispensable part of the Moro's attire, specifically Tausug, Samal, and Yakan warriors of the Sulu Archipelago. The unique leaf-shaped blade makes the barong distinguishable from other Filipino weaponry. So the barong will not slip out of the hand of the wielder during the heat of the battle, it is stylized with a "cockatoo beak" handle.





The style of the Samurai was totally different from that of the Mongols. When the Mongols attacked, they attacked en masse while the Samurai attacked individually, long range, with arrows on horse back. At the time of the Invasion by the Mongols, Japanese Samurai became adapted to using swords and a different style of warfare.

Samurai, knights of feudal Japan, retainers of the daimyo. This aristocratic warrior class arose during the 12th century wars between the Taira and Minamoto clans and was consolidated in the Tokugawa period.

Samurai were privileged to wear two swords, and at one time had the right to cut down any commoner who offended them. They cultivated the martial virtues, indifference to pain or death, and unflinching loyalty to their overlords.



## The End

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## The Cast



**Mongolian soldier: Temur - Master Rose Carpenter**

**Mongolian officer: Burilai - Mr. Ed Carpenter**

**Mongolian soldier: Chinua - Mr. Steria**

**Mongolian #4 - Mr. Bulluck**

**Mongolian #5 - Mrs. Bulluck**

**Matsuura no Shima uma - Mrs. Eva Marino**

**Ziao wen ma - Mrs. Charlene Rydgren**

**Ise no Saburo Taro - Master Debbie Hintopoulos**

**Roiyaru Sasori - Mr. Daniel Retajczyk**

**Datu Puti - Master Daniel Jones**

**Hirado Akume (Wild Horse) - Mr. Sears**

**Rashid al-Din Tabib - Mrs. Ada Bartlett**

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