

*The Thumb of Fate*

As he approaches age 60, how does Genghis Khan regard his past, especially his killing many men, women, and children? Which of his foes remain? What has happened to the Khwarizm dynasty, especially Jalal-ad-Din?

What do GK's children do as they ponder their inheritance? Who is GK's favorite? Why?

Where is Bamiyan? What do we associate with this valley?

What does GK make of the threat that if he keeps killing, no one will remain to remember and celebrate him?

What happens to Shigi-Khutukhu and his army? Why? And how does GK respond? How does the rest of the world respond?

Describe the death of Mutugen and the aftermath for GK.

*Wild Man from the Mountain*

What do we find ironic about this Taoist holy man calling himself a "wild man from the mountain" when he journeys to visit GK? When and where and why did he come? And he stayed how long? Doing what?

Why did GK send for Qiu Chuji?

Who wrote the two contradictory accounts of GK's meetings with Qiu Chuji? Why do the accounts differ so much?

Identify the basic Taoist beliefs propagated by Qiu Chuji. How do these beliefs differ from Mongol beliefs in basic ways? See page 235, long middle paragraph: what parallels do we find in Taoist myths to other mythologies, including Hebrew and Greek and Roman?

What was Yelu Chucai's background? How did he come to serve GK? What did he find wanting in Qiu Chuji?

Identify the "spiritual quackery" this Taoist practiced—and GK's attitude toward him and his beliefs.

What is "boastful humility"?

What did the Taoists object to about human sexuality? About various foods?

What was a *gerege*? How did it work? How did the Tiger *gerege* serve Qui Chuji?

Why did women not participate in spiritual rituals and development?

Ultimately what did GK hope to win from or achieve by Qiu Chugi and the Taoists? Ultimately, what did the Taoists win from or achieve by their visit to GK?

What information in these two chapters surprised you?