

"I AM THE PUNISHMENT OF GOD. IF YOU HAD NOT COMMITTED SINS, THEN GOD WOULD NOT HAVE SENT ME"- Genghis Khan

This statement alone is enough to give you an idea about Genghis Khan. We can write hundreds of books about him. But we need to answer the questions first

1. The challenging part

The death of his father was probably the most challenging part of Genghis Khan's childhood.

2. Marriage & Family

The aim of Mongol marriages was to strengthen clan relationships. Usually, men used to pay the bride price. At times, they even offered labor to their father-in-law. However, it wasn't uncommon for brides to bring dowry. Polygamy was also pretty common for men of higher status. Surprisingly Mongolian laws did allow a woman to divorce her man and own property.

3. Genghis Khan- Good or bad?

This is actually interesting. Was Khan a barbaric and vile human being who only had a lust for blood? Or was there something humane about him?

Let's take a look at another quote-

"THE GREATEST ECSTASY IS TO DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES AND CHASE THEM BEFORE YOU, TO ROB THEM OF THEIR WEALTH AND SEE THOSE DEAR TO THEM BATHED IN TEARS."

Well, so far he seems far from nice, doesn't he? He did indeed destroy cities and killed thousands. From that perspective, you can portray him as a crooked warlord.

But let's be a bit more critical. He grew up in an environment where you either kill or be killed. In an era where war was common, one must be ruthless to survive.

So was there no kindness in him?

Actually, Genghis at times did forgive his enemies. He had a friend named Jamuka who betrayed him. However, instead of executing Jamuka, Genghis pardoned him. Jamuka was eventually executed as he did not accept the pardon. But the point is As brutal as Genghis was, he did have a soft spot for Jamuka. It doesn't necessarily excuse his brutality but the point is that it's difficult to judge a 13th-century historical figure through the lens of 21st-century socio-political structure.

