

Shang-tu (see «Chemeinfu» and «Ciandu»); from that moment, he acted almost as if he was independent of Qara-qorum.

Qubilai having died on February 18, 1294, the news of his death must have been known to the Mongols in Persia before the end of that year. At that time, the three Polos had probably left Persia, but the report may have reached them on their way home, at or near Trebizond or Constantinople. It seems hard to believe that the news of the death of the Great Khan, mentioned in RAMUSIO's text, was an arbitrary addition which corresponded to the truth by a mere coincidence (cf. Vol. I, 92). Of course, this is difficult to reconcile with the passages in which, in 1298, Polo speaks of Qubilai as if he were still alive. It may be that, after having heard the news, Polo disbelieved it for lack of more precise confirmation.

Polo says that Qubilai had twenty-two sons from his four wives, and twenty-five from his concubines (cf. Vol. I, 206-207; Y, I, 356-360). Like all the early Mongol Emperors, Qubilai had four *ordo*, or, in the plural, *ordos*, a term which Chinese texts either transcribe phonetically, or render 行宮 *hsing-kung*, lit. «moveable palace» (see «Cinghis», p. 309); so PALLADIUS's statement, reproduced in Y, I, 358, that Chinese authors translate *ordo* by «harem» is not quite accurate. The four *ordos* of Qubilai's principal wives were those of (cf. YS, 106, 2-3; also 95, 7-8. BLOCHET's translation [Bl, II, 353] is useless, because he has mixed up the order of the *ordos*, and mistaken 右 *yu*, here meaning «what has been mentioned above», for a designation of *ordos* «of the right» which never existed) :

(1) 帖古倫 T'ieh-ku-lun, *i. e.* Tägülün (not «Toughloulk» as in Bl, II, 353), a feminine name in *-lün* derived from the same *tägü-* as in Tägüdär (see «Caraunas»). From YS, 106, 2 *b*, we know that Tägülün, head of the «Great Ordo», had received the title, certainly posthumous, of «Great Empress» (*Ta Huang-hou*); nothing more is said of her in the general table of empresses and concubines, nor is she even so much as named in the biographical notices of Qubilai's empresses (YS, 114, 1 *b*). Rašidu-'d-Din ignores her. In YS, 118, 2 *b*, we are told that Tägülün was the daughter of To'oril, himself a grandson of the Qonyrat Alčîn-noyan (Alčîn-noyan was the elder brother of Börtä, Chinghiz's principal wife; on the name, cf. my paper *Sur un passage du 'Cheng-wou ts'in-tcheng lou'* [disfigured by misprints], in *The Ts'ai Yüan P'ei Anniversary Volume*, Peiping, 1934, I, 907-938). The *pên-chi* of Qubilai (YS, 4, 5 *b*) give a list of members of the Imperial family who, according to an edict of January 14, 1261, were henceforth to receive an annual grant in silver and silk; amongst the beneficiaries was «the former Empress (先朝皇后 *hsien-ch'ao huang-hou*) Tägülün». The wording is strange, and *hsien-ch'ao* would suggest that we have here to deal with a consort of a former emperor; I agree, however, with T'u Chi (19, 7 *b*) that the Tägülün of the table of empresses is certainly meant. If she really was Qubilai's consort, she must have died before Qubilai's accession to the throne, or at any rate before January 14, 1261, and *hsien-ch'ao* would be a clumsy rendering from the Mongolian. The grant was made to her *ordo*, which must have continued its separate existence after her death, but the texts give no indication as to who was in charge of it after her. But this solution is open to doubt, and there may be an error in the YS as to Qubilai's first *ordo* (cf. YANAI, 692-694).

(2) 察必 Ch'a-pi, چابوی Čabui in Rašidu-'d-Din, altered to Čambui in «Sanang Setsen».