

Cite as: *Altýn zaysýn – The old man and the goldfish*; performer: Darijav Bembän, camera/ interview: Thede Kahl, Ioana Aminian, interview assistant/ transcription/ translation/ editor: Chingis Azydov, retrieved from [www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH), ID-number: jung1241CNV0001a.

## Metadata Participant

family name	Bembän
birth name if different	
given name	Darijav
sex (M – F – O)	F
year of birth	1940
ethnic/we group	Oirat Mongol, Torguud, [Bay Barún]
✪ ✨ ✨ ✨ religion	Buddhism
🗨 mother tongue	Oirat Mongolian
🗨 🗨 further languages	Chinese, Kazakh
📖 📖 education	Secondary school
✂ profession	
👤 born in	[Zuryán], Hoboksar, Xinjiang, China
	location country/region
🏠 grew up	[Zuryán], Hoboksar, Xinjiang, China
	location country/region
👤 👤 origin/parents	Oirat, Torguud
👤 👤 origin/grandparents	Oirat, Torguud
family status	
location(s) where living	Motge / [Mötgá]

## Subtitles

### Oirat

1

00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:16,120

Yazád dalán kövädé

2

00:00:16,120 --> 00:00:18,640

neg jadú emgín-övgín hojír bääğ giná.

3

00:00:18,640 --> 00:00:20,480

Ġarysýn kövún, küükín (u)gá.

4

00:00:20,480 --> 00:00:24,720

Tigád, mel dalagás zaysé šüüǵı ämdı(r)ǵ  
βääǵı giná.

5

00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:29,240

Neg ödir, övgín dalán zaysé šüüd(ıg)  
bolád odhlá,

6

00:00:29,240 --> 00:00:32,440

neg altýn zaysýn šüügdá[d] yarč irič.

7

00:00:32,440 --> 00:00:34,880

Ted [tigád] ter ard, altýn zaysýn

8

00:00:34,880 --> 00:00:37,000

bärád avčkáđ odá, tord unyačklá,

9

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,200

tigád altýn zaysýn evgín(d) gentkín keldíg  
ǵıg:

10

00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:41,560

<Odá ämigím avyré.

### English translation

1

00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:16,120

On the coast of the outer ocean

2

00:00:16,120 --> 00:00:18,640

lived a poor old man and woman.

3

00:00:18,640 --> 00:00:20,480

They had no children.

4

00:00:20,480 --> 00:00:24,720

They lived by catching fish in the ocean.

5

00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:29,240

One day, when the old man went fishing,

6

00:00:29,240 --> 00:00:32,440

a goldfish was caught [by him].

7

00:00:32,440 --> 00:00:34,880

After that, the goldfish,

8

00:00:34,880 --> 00:00:37,000

when [he] took it and threw it in the net,

9

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,200

the goldfish suddenly said to the old man:

10

00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:41,560

<Spare my life.

11  
00:00:41,560 --> 00:00:44,200  
Jamár jumé amnáv gihlá, türügán av.

12  
00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:46,520  
Bi terügičí-l [?] бүтэг өгнэв, zugár.

13  
00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:49,600  
Altýn ämigím ävirhnáš, bolná,> giğ.

14  
00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:52,920  
Tigád odá, ter övgín

15  
00:00:52,920 --> 00:00:56,040  
züürimdä[d] ter ödrín: <Odá altýn zaysýg bi  
---.>

16  
00:00:56,040 --> 00:00:58,400  
Jamár (j)um amnáv gidgán emgín medhš'é  
--

17  
00:00:58,400 --> 00:00:59,440  
övgín medhš'é.

18  
00:00:59,440 --> 00:01:00,760  
Ti(g)ád gertán häriğ.

19  
00:01:00,760 --> 00:01:02,080  
Gertán härlhá,

20  
00:01:02,080 --> 00:01:04,320  
emgín ɣancharýn bäähé odá. Emgín  
ɣancharýn.

21

11  
00:00:41,560 --> 00:00:44,200  
Say what you want and take it.

12  
00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:46,520  
I will easily fulfil any of your wishes.

13  
00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:49,600  
You get that if you spare my life,> said the  
fish.

14  
00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:52,920  
So, the old man

15  
00:00:52,920 --> 00:00:56,040  
hesitating at that moment: <Now [what to  
do] with the goldfish ---.>

16  
00:00:56,040 --> 00:00:58,400  
What thing to ask for, the old woman  
doesn't know --

17  
00:00:58,400 --> 00:00:59,440  
the old man doesn't know.

18  
00:00:59,440 --> 00:01:00,760  
So, he returned home.

19  
00:01:00,760 --> 00:01:02,080  
When he came back home,

20  
00:01:02,080 --> 00:01:04,320  
his old wife was there alone. The old  
woman is alone.

21

00:01:04,320 --> 00:01:07,720

Emgındán odá(d) keldím: <O:, öndír bi  
dalán zays šüühlám,

22

00:01:07,720 --> 00:01:09,840

neg säähín altýn zaysýn ɣarvá.

23

00:01:09,840 --> 00:01:12,800

(Tigád) odá en altýn zaysýg jaydým bolva  
gäd [gigád] iigğätíl,

24

00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:14,040

zaysýn biín' kelvá:

25

00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:17,040

<Oj, oltýn [altýn] ämigím avırhlačí, aavé  
odá bi

26

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:19,440

jamár jum kerıgtá bolhyla [?], terügíc  
hanyánáv,>

27

00:01:19,440 --> 00:01:21,000

giğ kelvá,> giná.

28

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:23,760

Tigád emgín od[á]: <Uj, jaysýn gärgtä  
övgimčí!

29

00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:25,000

Jamár šig [čig] jum es avhú.

30

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:27,400

Türülád en har urcás getlijá,> giğ.

31

00:01:27,400 --> 00:01:29,480

00:01:04,320 --> 00:01:07,720

[He] says to the old woman: <Oh, when I  
was fishing today,

22

00:01:07,720 --> 00:01:09,840

a beautiful goldfish appeared.

23

00:01:09,840 --> 00:01:12,800

So, while I was thinking what to do with this  
goldfish,

24

00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:14,040

the fish itself said:

25

00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:17,040

<Oh father, if you spare my precious life, I  
now

26

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:19,440

give you anything, whatever you need,>

27

00:01:19,440 --> 00:01:21,000

said the fish,> said the old man.

28

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:23,760

The old woman replied: <Oh, what a silly  
man you are!

29

00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:25,000

Take something [at least].

30

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:27,400

First of all, let's get rid of this old hut,> said  
[the woman].

31

00:01:27,400 --> 00:01:29,480

<Ord bär [bäríg],> giğ.

<Let it build us a palace,> said [the woman].

32

00:01:29,480 --> 00:01:31,480

Tigád, maṅdyrtýn' odá(d) šüühná,

32

00:01:29,480 --> 00:01:31,480

So, the next day, when the old man was fishing,

33

00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:33,680

bas odák altýn zaysýn yarč irdím ğig.

33

00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:33,680

the goldfish appeared again.

34

00:01:33,680 --> 00:01:36,200

Tigád odák övgín: <Ğá: odá,

34

00:01:33,680 --> 00:01:36,200

Then, the old man [said]: <Well,

35

00:01:36,200 --> 00:01:37,640

häärtá zays miní odá,

35

00:01:36,200 --> 00:01:37,640

my dear fish,

36

00:01:37,640 --> 00:01:39,600

hamýg бүkníg ögnáv ğiláč.

36

00:01:37,640 --> 00:01:39,600

you told me that you would give me anything [I ask for].

37

00:01:39,600 --> 00:01:42,840

Harym-- harymčí mu emgín odá: <Hamýg tére

37

00:01:39,600 --> 00:01:42,840

My greedy old wife [says]: <First of all

38

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:43,840

har urcás salád,

38

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:43,840

let's to get rid of the old hut,

39

00:01:43,840 --> 00:01:45,840

ordýn(d) suunáv,> ğiğäná,> ğäd iigdím ğigís.

39

00:01:43,840 --> 00:01:45,840

I want to live in a palace,> she says,> said [the old man].

40

00:01:45,840 --> 00:01:48,320

Ord zagt. Iké ord bol'ğahó(v) odá.

40

00:01:45,840 --> 00:01:48,320

In a big palace.

41

00:01:48,320 --> 00:01:51,480

Tigád: <Ğä, aav min' odá härád-ätín.

41

00:01:48,320 --> 00:01:51,480

So [the fish replied]: <Okay, my father, please go home.

42  
00:01:51,480 --> 00:01:53,960  
Taná kelsín josár bütná,> gäd [gigäd]  
iigdím ğigé.

43  
00:01:53,960 --> 00:01:56,040  
Tigäd odaké, övgé härhlá,

44  
00:01:56,040 --> 00:01:59,280  
emgín säähín ik ord suučsýn bäädíg  
ğigín.

45  
00:01:59,280 --> 00:02:02,000  
E:, ğă, tigäd negdígč ödrín' ger büthé odá.

46  
00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:04,320  
Hojirdýgč ödir dakádə odhné,

47  
00:02:04,320 --> 00:02:05,800  
odaké emgín kelği:

48  
00:02:05,800 --> 00:02:07,720  
<Odá altýn zaysýn haryldhlá,

49  
00:02:07,720 --> 00:02:11,640  
nandé han boldýg süür ög,> giğ kelği.

50  
00:02:11,640 --> 00:02:14,120  
Odaké emgín keldím bol'ğaná.

51  
00:02:14,120 --> 00:02:17,320  
E:. Odá harcə ardasýn odá

52  
00:02:17,320 --> 00:02:19,200

42  
00:01:51,480 --> 00:01:53,960  
Your words will come true,> said [the fish].

43  
00:01:53,960 --> 00:01:56,040  
So, when the old man returned,

44  
00:01:56,040 --> 00:01:59,280  
the old woman was sitting inside a beautiful  
palace.

45  
00:01:59,280 --> 00:02:02,000  
Yes, so on the first day [they] got a house.

46  
00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:04,320  
On the second day, when he was going  
again,

47  
00:02:04,320 --> 00:02:05,800  
the old woman said:

48  
00:02:05,800 --> 00:02:07,720  
<If you meet the goldfish,

49  
00:02:07,720 --> 00:02:11,640  
tell it to give me Khan's throne.>

50  
00:02:11,640 --> 00:02:14,120  
That's what the old woman says.

51  
00:02:14,120 --> 00:02:17,320  
Yes, from the old hut

52  
00:02:17,320 --> 00:02:19,200

ordosé-harš'[d] suu(v). Odá

[she] moved to a palace. And now,

53

00:02:19,200 --> 00:02:23,120

ord-harš'[d] suuhlá, odá han bolnáv giǵi  
kelgád oddým ğig.

53

00:02:19,200 --> 00:02:23,120

after moving there, she demands the title of  
Khan for herself.

54

00:02:23,120 --> 00:02:25,760

Tikklá: <Odák altýn zayşýn basýl  
haryldhná,

54

00:02:23,120 --> 00:02:25,760

So [she said]: <When you meet the goldfish  
again,

55

00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:29,000

basýl altýn zayşé bütähín tölá [?]. Altýn  
zayşé haryldhná.>

55

00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:29,000

[release] it again, to fulfil [my wish]. If you  
meet the goldfish.>

56

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,480

Odakýn': <Oj odá avrýlt zays min' odá,

56

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,480

The old man said: <Oh, my savior fish,

57

00:02:31,480 --> 00:02:33,240

odák hárcə emǵín odá,

57

00:02:31,480 --> 00:02:33,240

my commoner old wife

58

00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:36,680

han ordýn suuv, odá han ---.

58

00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:36,680

having got a khan's palace, now a Khan ---.

59

00:02:36,680 --> 00:02:38,720

<Nand han süür öǵthá,> giǵäná:>

59

00:02:36,680 --> 00:02:38,720

<Let the fish give me a Khan's throne,>  
says she,>

60

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:39,720

gidím ğig.

60

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:39,720

said [the old man].

61

00:02:39,720 --> 00:02:42,520

Tigád altýn zayşýn orǵ avád, bosád:

61

00:02:39,720 --> 00:02:42,520

So, the goldfish reappeared:

62

00:02:42,520 --> 00:02:44,840

<Ğä, odá aav min' häräd-ä.

62

00:02:42,520 --> 00:02:44,840

<Okay, go home my father.

63  
00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:47,560  
Činí sansýn jumn saatkó bütná,> gäd iigǵ.

63  
00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:47,560  
Your wish will be fulfilled without delay,> said [the fish].

64  
00:02:47,560 --> 00:02:48,920  
Tigád aavé härǵ irhlá,

64  
00:02:47,560 --> 00:02:48,920  
So, when the old man returned home,

65  
00:02:48,920 --> 00:02:52,320  
emgín han bolád suučksýn bääđím bolná.

65  
00:02:48,920 --> 00:02:52,320  
his old wife was already sitting as a Khan.

66  
00:02:52,320 --> 00:02:54,280  
Odá. Han bolád suusnás --

66  
00:02:52,320 --> 00:02:54,280  
Now. After becoming a Khan --

67  
00:02:54,280 --> 00:02:56,440  
han bolád suučkád, odá maṅgdýtýn'  
basýlǵ,

67  
00:02:54,280 --> 00:02:56,440  
having become a Khan, on the next day  
again,

68  
00:02:56,440 --> 00:02:58,920  
ödír bolýýn zaýs šüüdíg kün jovád odhú  
odá.

68  
00:02:56,440 --> 00:02:58,920  
the man, who catches the fish everyday,  
goes for it again.

69  
00:02:58,920 --> 00:03:00,320  
Darú udadán odhlá:

69  
00:02:58,920 --> 00:03:00,320  
At the next time:

70  
00:03:00,320 --> 00:03:04,120  
<Oj odá harc ard(ýg) miní kelsín üg  
[jaragár?] bolhá gi.

70  
00:03:00,320 --> 00:03:04,120  
<Now, tell [the fish] to make the  
commoners do what I say.

71  
00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:07,400  
Harc ardé-l ügín' zarnáv giǵ kel,> giǵ  
keldím ğig.

71  
00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:07,400  
Say that I [want to] command over the  
commoners,> she said.

72  
00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:10,120  
Ted, harc ardýg odá zarhulád odhlá,

72  
00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:10,120  
So, starting to command over the  
commoners,

73

73



00:03:10,120 --> 00:03:12,840  
emgín iké ---. Emgín hatýn bolád  
suučksýn:

74

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:14,400  
<Harc ardé, zarh bääh ardé-l ugá.

75

00:03:14,400 --> 00:03:17,040  
Miní ügár bolthá,> giğ kelğí.

76

00:03:17,040 --> 00:03:20,480  
Ğá:, tigád bol'ğ odá. Harc ardé irhlá,

77

00:03:20,480 --> 00:03:21,960  
emgín hatýn bolád suučksýn,

78

00:03:21,960 --> 00:03:23,800  
övgín han bolád suučksýn,

79

00:03:23,800 --> 00:03:24,840  
harc ardán zarčksýn.

80

00:03:24,840 --> 00:03:28,040  
Bajín önír ötkín ääl bolád suudým ğig.

81

00:03:28,040 --> 00:03:31,000  
Däkád tigá(d) odá en älvá bükín bütvä.

82

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:34,000  
Tikklá odá, odá ené e-- jayná.

83

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,480  
Od en bäähé jumýn sansýn bo-- bodlár  
bütvä.

00:03:10,120 --> 00:03:12,840  
the old woman a big ---. The old woman  
became a queen:

74

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:14,400  
<There are no commoners, servants.

75

00:03:14,400 --> 00:03:17,040  
Let them obey my word,> she said.

76

00:03:17,040 --> 00:03:20,480  
So, this wish came true. When the  
commoners arrived,

77

00:03:20,480 --> 00:03:21,960  
the old woman being a queen,

78

00:03:21,960 --> 00:03:23,800  
the old man being a Khan,

79

00:03:23,800 --> 00:03:24,840  
have got the servants to command.

80

00:03:24,840 --> 00:03:28,040  
They became very rich.

81

00:03:28,040 --> 00:03:31,000  
So, all their wishes came true.

82

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:34,000  
Now, [look] what the old woman does next.

83

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,480  
Now, [when] everything she wanted came  
true.

84  
00:03:37,480 --> 00:03:39,520  
<Odá altýn zaysé nandé zarygdád

85  
00:03:39,520 --> 00:03:42,240  
äl'vá bükníg bütáğ ögthá,> giğ.

86  
00:03:42,240 --> 00:03:45,760  
Tigád altýn zaysnýg odá keldím bol'ğaná  
emgínd-- emgín,

87  
00:03:45,760 --> 00:03:48,080  
övgíndán. Övgín odá kelhó(v), odá: <Oj odá

88  
00:03:48,080 --> 00:03:50,440  
miní sansýn [?], saad go bütvä.

89  
00:03:50,440 --> 00:03:52,600  
Odá čamägé: <Miní zä--

90  
00:03:52,600 --> 00:03:54,800  
kelsár bütägád, miní üülé-ağilyán [ugtýn'?]

91  
00:03:54,800 --> 00:03:57,360  
zütkád jovğ ögthá,> giğäná,> giğí giná.

92  
00:03:57,360 --> 00:04:00,280  
Tigád odaké, övgé-- övgín odá tiighlá,

93  
00:04:00,280 --> 00:04:02,160  
altýn zaysýn gărád -- yarád irčkád,

94  
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:04,960

84  
00:03:37,480 --> 00:03:39,520  
<Now let the goldfish itself serve me

85  
00:03:39,520 --> 00:03:42,240  
and fullfil all my wishes,> said [the old  
woman].

86  
00:03:42,240 --> 00:03:45,760  
So, this is what the old woman said about  
the goldfish

87  
00:03:45,760 --> 00:03:48,080  
to her old man. He then says [to the fish]:  
<Oh,

88  
00:03:48,080 --> 00:03:50,440  
my every word came true, without delay.

89  
00:03:50,440 --> 00:03:52,600  
Now, about you: <My --

90  
00:03:52,600 --> 00:03:54,800  
completing all of my orders, taking over my  
duties

91  
00:03:54,800 --> 00:03:57,360  
may it execute them diligently,> she says,>  
said [the old man].

92  
00:03:57,360 --> 00:04:00,280  
When the old man said that,

93  
00:04:00,280 --> 00:04:02,160  
the goldfish emerged,

94  
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:04,960

süülán negí-l igád šarvá(t)čɪ, go bol'ǵ oddýč ǵig. shook its tail and then disappeared.

95  
00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:07,120  
Tikklá, odák emǵín,

95  
00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:07,120  
After that, the old woman

96  
00:04:07,120 --> 00:04:09,320  
altýn odaké han ordýč (u)gá,

96  
00:04:07,120 --> 00:04:09,320  
lost her golden palace,

97  
00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:10,920  
alyvtýč (u)gá,

97  
00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:10,920  
lost the servants,

98  
00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:12,120  
hanč (u)gá.

98  
00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:12,120  
lost the Khan status.

99  
00:04:12,120 --> 00:04:14,160  
Har urctayán har(c) suuyá[d] hocýrǵ giná.

99  
00:04:12,120 --> 00:04:14,160  
She turned back into a commoner and was left with her old shack.

100  
00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:15,880  
Altýn zaysýn ülgúr ter ǵig.

100  
00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:15,880  
This is the tale about the goldfish.