

Leave. Leave countryside life behind in favor of amenities provided by the city : from illusion to disillusion. « The climate is cold, life is hard in the yurt, I was tired to the trip to access the well ». Tsevelmaa recounts their first years together, when they lived with her husband, Batbold, in Bogd sum center. She was then 21, mother of two children. They rented a house in the village, Batbold divided his time between his life as a herder, an hour from home, and his family. « I did not want to leave my children to my mother », she wanted to be there for their education.

Their life was fragmented, for ten years. In 2013, the family decided to move to « the city, the capital », so that Zaya, their eldest son, could study. They yearn for a better future for their offspring, they believed that life in Ulaanbaatar would give them « a comfortable life : we will do anything, even finding a job will be easy ». They lived for two years with Tsevelmaa's brother, cluster around the yurt district of Chingeltei, « near the meat market » Batbold pursued alternate employment, between supermarket and construction, which he readily describes as « bullshits jobs with no future ». He recalls « the horrible and foul smell of coal ». During this time, health problems appeared : Tsevelmaa gained weight due to stress, she suffered from headaches. All of them suffered from coughs and flu « due to the pollution ». They missed « the pure and refreshing country air ». Their life in UB was « the saddest », dominated by an infernal routine where the call of « countryside freedom was felt daily ». One morning in 2015, Zaya told them that he wanted to go back to Bogd : "I'm sick of this unpleasant, friendless life, I finally want to become a herder ». His mother adds today "his grandparents were herders, his parents too, it may be his fate. He is a man of the earth, of the nutag. It is with these words, after living city life and discovering its negative aspects, that they returned to herding. heys till wonder today : « Why did we leave our ancestral way of life ? Why did we look for a better life elsewhere and denigrate the one we had ? Youthful error ? »

Back to sources, on their camp in Surhaitin, between lake and mountain : weight loss and feeling of serenity came back. Tsevelmaa felt pregnant again after unsuccessful attempts, which she considers as "a gift from the master of the place". During their absence, their large family took care of 1/4 of their former herd and they bought back more heads. Now, being a herder only gives them "happiness : no stress, clean air, organic food ; out of the question to return to UB. Being a herder remains the best job in the world if the climate is good ". Their only concern is the future of their son. Tsevelmaa is worried that he does not find a wife because "they are all attracted to the city and the white complexions of the women who live there". This porcelain complexion which is the country's beauty indicator.

- Nutag's call. Bogd sum. Bayankhongor aimag. 2020 -