

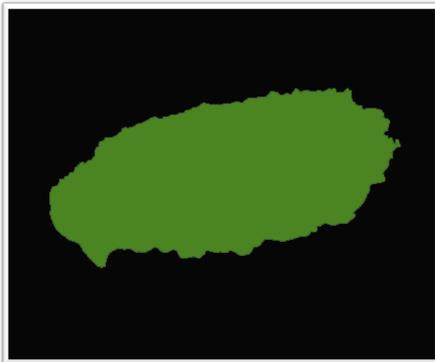


Honinji, where the three demigods got marriage (Jeju, Korea)

Tamna

The Country that Ruled the Beautiful Island, Jeju

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Period | 3 rd c.? - 1404 | Government | Tributary State |
| Capital | Jeju | Population | 100K (in 1400) |
| Language | Jeju Language | Religion | Shamanism |



Jeju Island

Location & History

Tamna ruled Jeju Island until the Joseon Dynasty claimed it in 1404. Before the Joseon rule, Tamna ruled Jeju as a tributary state or local autonomous administration under Baekje, Silla, Goryeo, and Yuan for a thousand years.



Samseonghyeol. (Jeju, Korea)
Legend tells demigods emerged here.

An Eulna Legend

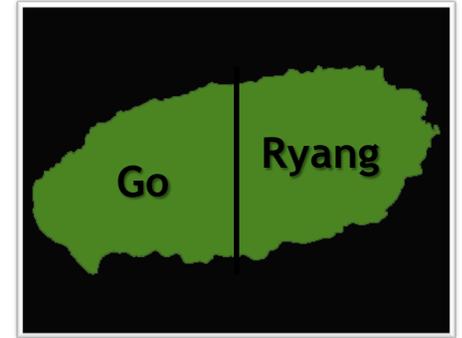
According to legend, three demigods emerged from the ground and became the founding fathers of Tamna.

These three demigods -- Eulnas -- are 'Go Eulna,' 'Ryang Eulna,' and 'Bu Eulna.' Since Go, Ryang, and Bu are very rare surnames in Korea, people who have these surnames mostly have ancestors from Jeju.

Two Leaders

There were two leaders in Tamna. 'Go' ruled the western side, and 'Ryang' ruled the other.

They fought each other heavily. One result of the fight was loss of independence, and becoming a locally autonomous region administered in Goryeo.



The picture that illustrates two leaders



Office of the Jeju Governor of Joseon (14th c., recovered 2002, Jeju, Korea)

Anti-Yuan Rebellion

In the 13th century, there was an anti-Yuan rebellion in Tamna, called the Sambyeolcho rebellion. The army of Goryeo fought against their invader, the Yuan.

However, on the view of the Tamna, the rebels were invaders. There are legends that the leader of the rebel suppressed the Tamna people.



Historical site of the Anti-Yuan rebellion. (Jeju, Korea, picture by Yonhap News)

Jeju Island

Goryeo and Yuan controlled Jeju island as an autonomous administration with the name 'Tamna.'

Later, however, Joseon erased the name 'Tamna,' and ruled it under the new name 'Jeju.' With the new name, Tamna became assimilated into the larger Korea.

Three Keys to Tamna

1. Some experts think Tamna means "the island country" - Tam as "island", and Na as "country".
2. It's hard to find archaeological sites of Tamna.
3. Dol hareubang, a well-known statue in Jeju, is not from Tamna.