

## Ngô Quyền defeated the Southern Han army on the Bạch Đằng River



Ngô Quyền was born in 898 and passed away in 944, hailing from Đường Lâm. He was born into a influential family and was highly respected by the local people. As he grew up, Ngô Quyền became known as a talented and charismatic young man, excelling in both literary and martial arts. Dương Đình Nghệ was the leader of one of the most powerful factions in the country at that time. Ngô Quyền was married to Dương Đình Nghệ's daughter and entrusted with the governance of the vast and prosperous Ái Châu region.

Dương Đình Nghệ was assassinated by Kiều Công Tiễn, who seized the position of Tĩnh Hải Quân Tiết Độ Sứ (the leader of the Tĩnh Hải Quân - the name of our country at that time). Due to his unjust usurpation, Kiều Công Tiễn faced fierce opposition from the people and powerful factions. Not only that, Kiều Công Tiễn also faced the risk of being attacked by the armies of various warlords, including Ngô Quyền - who harbored deep resentment towards Kiều Công

Tiền for killing his father-in-law. Fearing the impending darkness, Kiều Công Tiễn made the grave mistake of seeking assistance from the Southern Han dynasty. As soon as this happened, the Southern Han dynasty used this as an excuse to send troops to invade our country.

However, before the Southern Han troops could arrive to assist, Kiều Công Tiễn was eliminated by Ngô Quyền. After defeating Kiều Công Tiễn, Ngô Quyền prepared his forces and was ready to confront the Southern Han army. As a skilled strategist and warrior, Ngô Quyền understood the tides of the Bạch Đằng River very well. The Southern Han army intended to attack our country by waterway. Ngô Quyền devised a plan to use the tides to defeat the enemy.

He had wooden stakes sharpened, iron-clad, and planted them firmly into the bed of the Bạch Đằng River. Waiting for the tide to flood the stakes completely, Ngô Quyền ordered his fleet of light boats to engage in a mock battle and then feigned retreat. The Southern Han troops, thinking they had won, eagerly pursued with their large ships. When the entire fleet of the Southern Han army fell into the area of the stakes, the tide began to recede rapidly. The Southern Han ships struck the iron stakes, causing them to sink and overturn. At that moment, Ngô Quyền unleashed his full force to attack. The Southern Han army was thrown into chaos, with a significant portion either drowning or being killed by our troops. Their general, Lưu Hoằng Thao, also perished in the chaos. This battle took place in 938. After this decisive victory, the Southern Han dynasty dared not entertain the thought of invading our country again.

In the spring of 939, Ngô Quyền ascended the throne, proclaiming himself Ngô Vương, establishing his capital in Cổ Loa, ushering in a glorious era of independence and self-determination for our country. As the individual who opened the golden age of independence for the nation, Ngô Quyền is honored by historians as the 'king above all kings' or the 'founder of prosperity' of Vietnam.

To commemorate his contributions, people everywhere built temples in his honor. Today, in Đường Lâm, the temple of Ngô Quyền still stands, along with his tomb located near a grove of ancient bamboo trees, believed to be the same bamboo that Ngô Quyền once used to tie elephants in ancient times. Facing the vast waters of the Tích River, it is said that Ngô Quyền used this area to train his naval forces.