

ĐINH TIÊN HOÀNG



Đinh Tiên Hoàng was the king credited with unifying the land and establishing the nation of Đại Cồ Việt, with the capital at Hoa Lư.

The Đinh Dynasty ruled during the historical period from 968 to 979. Đinh Tiên Hoàng's given name was Đinh Bộ Lĩnh. He was born in Đại Hữu village, Gia Phương commune, Gia Viễn district, in what is now Ninh Bình province. Hence, there is a saying among the people: 'Đại Hữu Gives Birth to Kings.'

In his youth, Đinh Bộ Lĩnh had exceptional swimming skills, often diving into deep rivers to catch fish or capture turtles as he pleased. Along with his friends, he herded buffaloes around the area and engaged in various 'games.' One of the famous ones was the 'Reed Flag Military Training' game (where children herding buffaloes divided into two teams and simulated battles using reed flags as banners).

These training sessions often took place in the Thung Lau and Thung Lá valleys, nestled among the mountains of their homeland

When he reached adulthood, Đinh Bộ Lĩnh, a noble and courageous figure, emerged during a period of chaos and fragmentation caused by the twelve warlords (after the era of the Ngô Dynasty). Đinh Bộ Lĩnh took the initiative to gather loyal troops and embarked on a great endeavor. His loyal forces, along with those of General Trần Lãm, suppressed the turmoil caused by the warlords at that time, bringing unity and stability to the realm.

In 968, Đinh Bộ Lĩnh ascended to the throne as emperor, naming the country Đại Cồ Việt and designating Thái Bình as the national motto. He established the capital at Hoa Lư.

The 'Four Pillars of the Court' under the Đinh Dynasty consisted of Đinh Điền, Nguyễn Bặc, Trịnh Tú, and Lưu Cơ - all of whom were close companions of King Đinh since his youth, having endured many hardships together, facing life and death.

There are many fascinating and unique legends surrounding Đinh Bộ Lĩnh (Đinh Tiên Hoàng during his youth), with one of the most notable being the legend of "The Tale of the Sword Stuck in the Mountain". It can be considered a remarkable and enduring legend.

The story goes that during his youth, Đinh Bộ Lĩnh often herded buffalo in the Thung Lau and Thung Lá valleys. The buffalo herders would often engage in a game called "Lau Flag Training". One day, Đinh Bộ Lĩnh's troops won the game and proceeded to slaughter a buffalo for their feast.

Đinh Bộ Lĩnh took the buffalo's tail and wedged it into a crevice in the mountain. Later, he sent his troops to inform the buffalo's owner (his uncle), named Đinh Thúc Dự, that "the buffalo had been captured by the mountain god and only its tail remained". Thúc Dự hurriedly grabbed his sword and rushed into the valley, following the directions of the children, and pulled on the buffalo's tail with all his strength, causing it to suddenly fall over. Realizing it was a trick orchestrated by Đinh Bộ Lĩnh and the children, Thúc Dự became furious and chased after Đinh Bộ Lĩnh with his sword. Bộ Lĩnh ran desperately until he reached the edge of a large river, with nowhere else to go. He then cried out to the river god for help.

Suddenly, a large golden dragon emerged, winding and rising up. Đinh Bộ Lĩnh rode the dragon across the river to safety. When Thúc Dụ chased after him and witnessed this scene, he was filled with fear. He quickly planted his sword into the ground and knelt down in reverence. The place where Thúc Dụ planted his sword later transformed into a mountain, now known as Mount Cấm Gươm. Mount Cấm Gươm is located in Gia Tiên commune, Gia Viễn district, opposite the ancient capital of Hoa Lư. The river that runs beside it was later named the Hoàng Long River (Golden Dragon River). This is a folk legend that recounts the extraordinary past of the national hero Đinh Bộ Lĩnh, later known as Emperor Đinh Tiên Hoàng.

