

## Lý Thái Tổ During the Tiền Lê Dynasty



Before ascending to the throne, he came from a martial family of the Tiền Lê Dynasty. After King Lê Hoàn passed away, his sons fought each other for the throne. In 1006, Lê Long Việt gained the throne, but only three days later, he was killed by his younger brother, Lê Long Đĩnh.

When the king died, only Lý Công Uẩn remained by the side of King Lê Trung Tông. Recognizing his loyalty, Lê Long Đĩnh highly esteemed him and appointed him as the Deputy General of Tứ Phương.

After the death of King Lê Long Đĩnh in 1009, Lý Công Uẩn was elevated to the throne by the Buddhist monk Vạn Hạnh and the faction led by Đào Cam Mộc, taking the title Lý Thái Tổ.

The king ascended the throne during turbulent times, so he had to spend a lot of time stabilizing and consolidating the dynasty. Once the rebellions were quelled, he noticed that the former capital, Hoa Lư, was cramped in its location. Therefore, Lý Thái Tổ decided to relocate the capital from Hoa Lư to the citadel of Đại La, which was later renamed Thăng Long in July 1010. This marked the beginning of a prosperous era for the Lý Dynasty that lasted for 216 years.

In the eleventh year of Thuận Thiên, Lý Công Uẩn ordered his son to lead the troops to attack enemy fortresses and achieved victory. He also focused on reforming outdated laws. The country was divided into 24 ministries, with Hoan Châu and Ái Châu referred to as camps.

He inherited the administrative system of the Lý Dynasty, which included two branches of civil and military with nine ranks. There were three Thai positions: Thai su (Grand Preceptor), Thai phó (Vice Grand Preceptor), and Thai bảo (Grand Guardian). Three Thiệu positions included Thiệu su (Junior Preceptor), Thiệu phó (Junior Vice Preceptor), and Thiệu bảo (Junior Guardian). Outside the court, there were district governors and other officials responsible for governing a province. A Tri Châu was an official governing a district.

King Lý Thái Tổ followed Buddhism closely and attached great importance to building temples and pagodas. When relocating the capital to Thăng Long, he allocated funds to build the Cổ Pháp Pagoda. In December 1010, the king sent envoys to the Song Dynasty to request Buddhist scriptures. In the same year, he also ordered the construction of the Hung Thiên Temple and the Ngũ Phụng Pavilion.

He established six Queens, among them Lý Phật Mã, the eldest son of Lý Công Uẩn, was appointed as the Prince Khai Thiên. Other sons were granted princely titles. An Quốc Princess Lý Thiềm Hoa, the eldest daughter, was married to Đào Cam Mộc, while Lĩnh Nam Princess Lý Bảo Hòa was married to Giáp Thừa Quý.

