

HÙNG ĐẠO VƯƠNG TRẦN QUỐC TUẤN

(King Grand Marshal Trần Quốc Tuấn)



Trần Hưng Đạo, whose real name was Trần Quốc Tuấn, was the son of An Sinh Vương Trần Liễu, the grandson of King Trần Thái Tông. He hailed from Tức Mặc village, Mỹ Lộc district, Hà Nam Ninh province (now part of Nam Định province). His exact birth year is unclear, with some documents suggesting it was in 1228. He was exceptionally intelligent, excelling in both literary and martial arts. He was known for his ability to suppress domestic enemies and unite his family members in national matters. He studied military strategies and was adept at utilizing talented individuals like Trương Hán Siêu, Phạm Ngũ Lão, Yết Kiêu, and Dã Tượng,

considering soldiers as essential as hands and feet. He embodied virtues such as Humanity, Righteousness, Wisdom, Courage, and Trustworthiness. During all three campaigns against the Mongol - Yuan army, he achieved significant victories. He passed away on the 20th of August in the year of Canh Tý (1300). There is a temple dedicated to him in Vạn Kiếp, Chí Linh.

Trần Quốc Tuấn possessed military talent and held high status within the Trần dynasty. Therefore, in all three invasions by the Yuan-Mongol army, he was appointed by King Trần as the commander to resist the enemy. Particularly during the second and third resistance against the Yuan-Mongol invasions, King Trần Nhân Tông appointed him as the Admiral of the naval forces. Under his leadership, our forces achieved victories at Chương Dương, Hàm Tử, Vạn Kiếp, and Bạch Đằng, driving the enemy out of our country, earning him the title of Hưng Đạo Vương.

Trần Quốc Tuấn was a pillar of the royal court, known for compiling two military manuals: "Binh thư yếu lược" and "Vạn Kiếp Tông bí truyền thư" to instruct generals on military strategies against the enemy. When the intentions of the Yuan invaders became clear, Trần Quốc Tuấn wrote the "Hịch tướng sĩ," issuing orders to the generals, teaching them the principles of winning battles, advancing and retreating, rallying troops, and inspiring patriotic fervor to resist the enemy.

Trần Quốc Tuấn was a general of impeccable integrity, dedicated to eliminating internal strife for the sake of the nation and the king.

- As a humane general, he cared for the people and the soldiers, guiding them towards the right path. As a righteous general, he prioritized duty over personal gain. As a wise general, he understood the consequences of his actions.
- As a courageous general, he fearlessly led his troops into danger to fight the enemy, creating legendary battles like the one at Bạch Đằng.
- As a faithful general, he displayed unwavering loyalty to his king. Consequently, in all three battles against the Yuan invaders, he was entrusted with leading the army and achieved significant victories.

In the autumn of 1300, on the 20th day of the eighth lunar month, Trần Quốc Tuấn, the "Grand Marshal of the Pacified North," passed away. The king posthumously

honored him with the title "Hung Đạo Grand Marshal." The royal court erected a temple in his honor at Vạn Kiếp, Chí Linh, the place of his birth and upbringing.

After his passing, Trần Hưng Đạo was revered and worshiped in many places, with the largest festival held at the Kiếp Bạc temple in Chí Linh district, present-day Hải Dương province (formerly his hometown). He was venerated by the people for generations as the Saintly Trần, a rare honor in history reserved only for distinguished generals of the Trần dynasty. The official ceremony is held on the anniversary of his death (the 20th day of the 8th lunar month each year). People do not directly call his name but refer to him as Hưng Đạo Vương, Hưng Đạo Đại Vương, Đức thánh Trần, or simply as Father (Father's Commemoration in August, Mother's Commemoration in March).

The Bạch Đằng River is where Hưng Đạo Đại Vương commanded the Trần army to defeat the Mongol invaders. Today, the Tràng Kênh historical site on the banks of the Bạch Đằng River in Thủy Nguyên, Hải Phòng, is a place for visitors to pay homage to and worship King Lê Đại Hành, King Ngô Quyền, and General Hưng Đạo Đại Vương.

