

The Rebellion of the Trung Sisters



In the history of resisting foreign invaders and safeguarding Vietnam, there have been many heroic uprisings, exemplified by the rebellion of the Trung Sisters.

Trung Trac and Trung Nhi were twin sisters (born on the first day of the eighth month in the year of Giap Tuat, in the year 14 AD), daughters of the Lac prefect of Me Linh district (the head of the Me Linh district tribe, now part of Vinh Phuc province) belonging to the lineage of Hung Kings. Their mother was Lady Man Thien.

The Trung Sisters lost their father at an early age but were cared for and nurtured by their mother. They were taught how to grow mulberries, raise silkworms, and were instilled with a love for their country, as well as being trained in physical fitness and martial arts. Trung Trac's husband was Thi Sach, the son of the Chu Dien prefect of the Lac tribe (present-day Hà Tây province).

In historical records, the Trung Sisters are known as leaders of a rebellion against the Han Dynasty's colonial rule, establishing a kingdom with its capital in Me Linh. Trung Trac proclaimed herself as the Queen. Their era falls between the First

Chinese domination and the Second Chinese domination in Vietnamese history. Trung Trac is regarded as a queen in history, known as Trung Trac, the Queen.

At the age of 19, Trung Trac married Thi Sach, the son of Chu Dien prefect. However, just a few years after their reunion, Thi Sach was killed by Tô Định due to the fear that their marriage would unite two influential households, posing a threat to Han rule.

Fueled by anger at the cruel oppression of the invaders and the personal vendetta against the Han for the death of her husband, Trung Trac, along with her sister Trung Nhi, launched a rebellion across the Giao Chỉ region. They gathered local lords, prefects, and called upon soldiers and civilians to rise up against the invaders. Districts such as Cửu Chân and Nhật Nam all responded to the uprising led by the Giao Chỉ region.

“Một xin rửa sạch nước thù

Hai xin dựng lại nghiệp xưa họ Hùng

Ba kêu oan ức lòng chồng

Bốn xin vền vẹn sở công lênh này”

Trung Trac organized the accumulation of food supplies and called upon heroes and courageous individuals throughout the land who shared the same aspirations. She recruited soldiers and selected generals from various localities, causing more and more people to join their cause. In March of the year 40, the Trung Sisters raised the banner of rebellion in Mê Linh district.

The uprising of the Trung Sisters is divided into two phases:

Phase 1: In the year 40 AD

- The Two Trung Sisters, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, raised their rebellion in the spring of the year 40 at Hat Mon (now the village of Hat Mon, Phuc Tho, Hanoi).
- The rebellion of the Two Trung Sisters attracted heroes from all over to join. The righteous army quickly defeated the Han forces, took control of Me

Linh, and then advanced to Co Loa and Luy Chau. General Tô Định fled the city and escaped to Nam Hai. The Han forces in other districts also suffered defeats. The uprising of the Two Trung Sisters in the year 40 ended here with a complete victory.

Second Uprising: Year 42 AD

In 42 AD, the Han dynasty reinforced its support, with Ma Yuan directing the invading forces, consisting of 20,000 elite troops, 2,000 boats, and numerous civilian personnel. They attacked our forces in Hop Pho, where the local populace valiantly resisted but eventually succumbed to the Han forces.

After capturing Hop Pho, Ma Yuan divided his army into two routes:

- The land route army marched along the coastline, sneaking past Quy Mon Gate to reach Luc Dau.
- The water route army departed from Hai Mon, crossed the sea to advance directly into the Bach Dang River, then proceeded from Thai Binh to Luc Dau.

Upon receiving the news, the Trung Sisters led their forces from Me Linh to confront the enemy at Lang Bac. Our forces managed to hold onto Co Loa and Me Linh, but Ma Yuan continued to pursue, forcing our troops to retreat to Cam Khe (now part of Ba Vi, Hanoi).

The uprising of the Trung Sisters garnered widespread support from people everywhere, forming a powerful force like a storm that drove Tô Định to flee the country. Under the leadership of the Trung Sisters, many local uprisings were unified into a broad movement from the plains to the mountains, encompassing both Vietnamese and other ethnic groups within the ancient nation of Âu Lạc.

In just a short period, the Trung Sisters conquered 65 districts, which constituted the entire territory of ancient Vietnam. The successful uprising led to complete independence for the country. The sisters ascended to become queens, honored as Trung Vương, establishing their capital in Me Linh.

*"Đô kỳ đóng cõi Mê Linh
Lĩnh Nam riêng một triều đình nước ta"*

Our people have many poems praising the Trung Sisters, such as the following:

*Bà Trưng quê ở Châu Phong
Giận loài tham bạo thù chồng chẳng quên
Chị, em nặng một lời nguyện
Phất cờ nương tử thay quyền tướng quân
Ngàn Tây nổi áng phong trần
Ám âm binh mã tới gần Long Biên
Hùng quân nhẹ bước chinh yên
Đuổi ngay Tô Định dẹp yên kinh thành.
Đô kỳ đóng ở Mê Linh
Lĩnh Nam riêng một triều đình nước ta*

In March of the year 43, the rebellion failed. The Trung Sisters committed suicide at the Hát Giang River.

After the Trung Sisters passed away, in remembrance of their heroic deeds, people from many localities erected temples and shrines to worship the Trung Sisters and their generals.