



# The Legend of Vietnam's Heroes - the Trung Sisters

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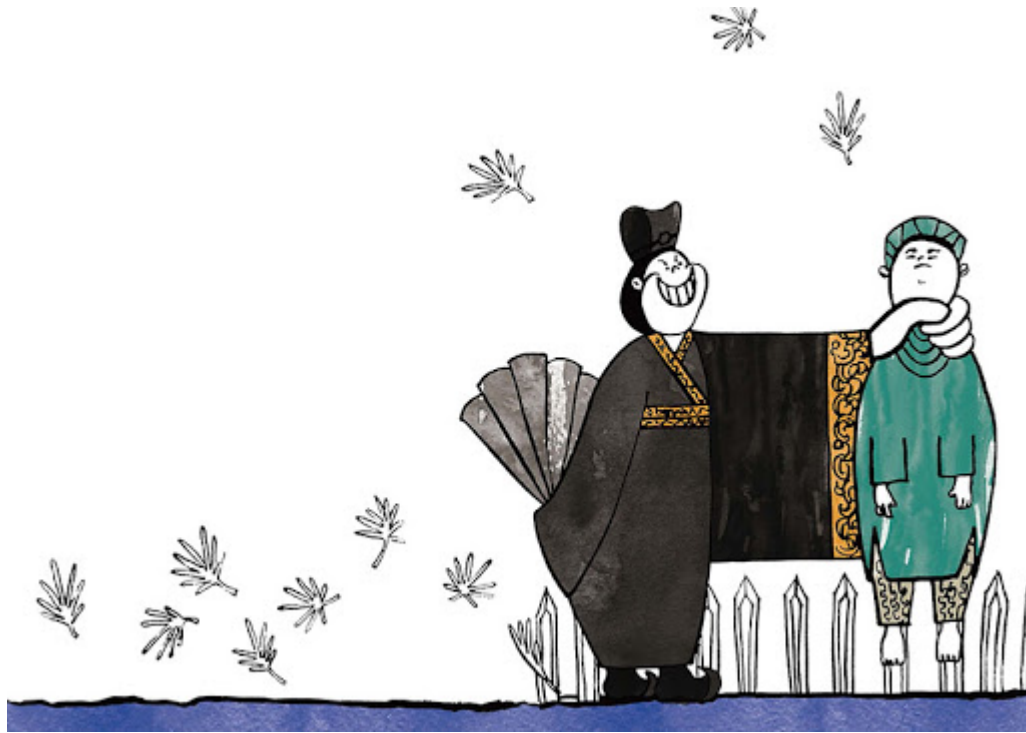
This happened a long, long time ago; more than 2,000 years ago. Vietnam was originally an independent country ruled by the Hung Dynasty. Then the Han Dynasty unified all of China and became so strong that it attacked and conquered Vietnam. Vietnam was weak then and so the Han Dynasty ruled it. At that time, Vietnam was called 'Nambiet'. The Han Dynasty



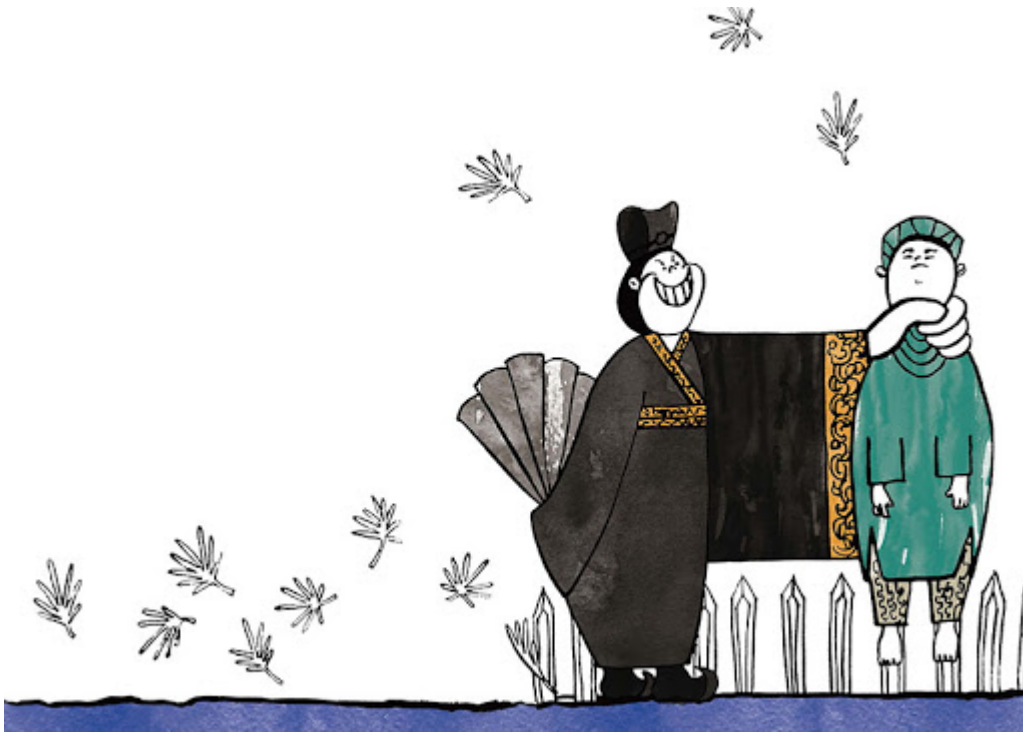
divided Nambiet into three counties. It then trampled on the traditional culture of Nambiet, destroying the traditional drums made of brass, taking the elephant tusks and pearls, precious to the Nambiet people, and even took the grain it produced. The people became poor and miserable.



ToDinh, a governor sent by the Han Dynasty, ruled GiaoChi1, one of the three counties of Nambiet. ToDinh was greedy and savage, and the people hated him. Because they couldn't stand the situation, the people in the three counties rose up in revolt. GiaoChi's revolution succeeded, and the people recovered their grain and avoided starvation, but they couldn't break free of the



Han Dynasty. ToDinh raised an army to capture and punish those who resisted him. At that time, there lived a LacTuong<sup>2</sup> who owned a large area of land in Meringhyun<sup>3</sup>. He had pretty twin daughters, named 'TrungTrac' and 'TrungNhi'. Although they were young, the sisters had always been very smart and good at martial arts, which they learned with the intention



of regaining their country's independence, after it had been taken away by the Han Dynasty. They grew up to become beautiful, imposing young women, and received the respect and love of the people.



A young man named ThiSach lived in Quizian, a town near Meringhyun. ThiSach was the son of a commander and was wise and also proficient in martial arts. In time, ThiSach met one of the sisters - TrungTrac, and they enjoyed a close and good relationship. TrungTrac and ThiSach fell in love and were married. The couple's main interest was



regaining their country's independence, which had been taken from them. They secretly gathered people to plan a massive revolution. The people supported their leadership. However, the plan was discovered by ToDinh. ThiSach was caught by ToDinh, and was viciously tortured. ToDinh threatened the Nambiet people that he would kill ThiSach if they didn't stop





their rebellion. But the people of Nambiet did not give in, and eventually ToDinh savagely killed ThiSach. TrungTrac and TrungNhi were shocked to hear the news that ThiSach was dead. TrungNhi cried out. 'Sister, let us avenge him! I can do nothing else!' TrungTrac clenched her teeth, held back her tears, and said. 'Yes, let's continue the plans that we made with



ThiSach! We must drive the enemy out of our country so my husband will feel at ease in heaven.'



They also got the support of a remarkable woman named 'Le Trun' from a nearby village. Finally, when they were ready to go to war, a soldier asked TrungTrac.

TrungTrac now led the people of Nambiet, in ThiSach's place. She persuaded the people who were afraid to join forces with her again, and their number grew larger and



stronger.



'My Lady, ThiSach has died; should we wear mourning clothes?' 'No! We need suits of armor. Getting our country back is first. We will show our strength to the enemy,' said TrungTrac. She took off her mourning clothes and put on a suit of armor. She and her sister, TrungNhi, climbed up on an elephant and moved to the front. Buu...buu... buu... The sound of a horn<sup>4</sup>



rang out loud all over the country. It was the signal for the Nambiet army to attack. The Trung sisters fearlessly attacked Rue Lao castle, which was occupied by ToDinh. The castle was quickly destroyed. The Trung sisters and the people of Nambiet shortly recovered 65 castles stolen by the Han Dynasty. The soldiers of the Han Dynasty ran away, leaving everything



behind. Fearful of the power of the Trung sisters and the soldiers of Vietnam, ToDinh fled to China by cutting his hair and disguising himself as a slave. The Trung sisters' uprising was a great success, and Nambiet threw out the Han and restored peace. The people were extremely happy and made TrungTrac their Queen. To re-establish the dignity of the country, TrungTrac



built a castle called 'CoLai<sup>5</sup>', and governed the people well. TrungNhi trained the generals and soldiers and kept the country strong. The people lived happily, farming peacefully. <sup>4</sup> A horn-like instrument made of elephant tusk <sup>5</sup> Colai is a Vietnamese word which means 'forever.'





However, the peace did not last long. The emperor of the Han Dynasty considered the Trung sisters' uprising to be a great offense, and prepared a large-scale invasion. He sent a large army to Nambiet, led by General MaVien. This was a powerful army, and the soldiers were far stronger than the combined army of Nambiet. The people of Nambiet fought bravely,



but could not defeat the invaders, who were greater in number and had better weapons. People began to fall, and many people and soldiers were killed. The Trung sisters were forced to retreat after a powerful attack by the Han. They led their army to hide in the woods far from Mering. For more than a year, MaVien chased the Trung sisters. The people of Nambiet were



constantly attacked by the Han army and suffered greatly. And the LacTuong, who lost the war, took their soldiers back home, which meant that they gave up. But the Trung sisters did not give up, and continued to face the enemy's great army. Although their army was small, they continued to fight bravely against the enemy. But the Han army was more aggressive, and



eventually, the Trung sisters' elephant died.



The fighting spirit of the soldiers gradually faded, and the Trung sisters eventually lost the fight. They stood together in front of a river. 'What should we do now, sister? More people are dying. I can't see any way through,' said TrungNhi, crying. 'Don't cry. There's nothing we can do now! But we must not get captured by the enemy. We must not become slaves,'



said TrungTrac, holding her sister's hand. TrungNhi looked at her sister and nodded. The two sisters held hands tightly and threw themselves into the river. That was their sad end. Vietnam was ruled by China for a long time after that. But the Vietnamese people have always remembered the Trung sisters. They are proud national heroes. The Trung sisters showed their



love for their country and the strength of women through their brave lives. In Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, there is a street called 'Hai Bai Trung' in honor of TrungTrac and TrungNhi. Even now, children in Vietnam grow up with the Trung sisters in their hearts.



Vu Vhi Vim Va Writer □  
Illustrator I was born in Haiphong, a beautiful beach town in Vietnam. I have lived in Korea for five years and am mother to two daughters. Currently, I am studying infant education at Korea Broadcasting and Telecommunications University to achieve my dreams. When I was young, my father told me a lot of folk tales. I liked the story of





the Trung sisters best. My father had three daughters and always taught us that women have strength and can do anything that men can do. Let me take this opportunity to introduce Vietnam's proud national heroes through 'The Legend of the Trung Sisters.' I hope this story will teach every reader, as well as my two daughters.



Scientists are still using their knowledge, wisdom and advanced technology to search for another 'Earth' in the universe where humans can live. There are too many planets in the universe to count. But surprisingly, only the Earth is uninhabitable for humans.

This fact gives us special impressions and enlightenment. I am even more impressed with



those women from other countries who came to Korea to work together to write. We live in one world. We are a 'global family' from many countries.

A family must trust each other, rely on each other, and care for each other. A family should offer a hug first, smile first, and give kindness first. A family must be together in pain, overcome suffering



together, and walk together. I admire all those who wrote great stories in these 'Multi-value, Multi-together' children's books. Because all of them, despite being tired from working, child-rearing, housekeeping, and caring for the elderly, were still able to finish their work. And it must have been even more difficult for them to write in Korean. But then, it is an astonishing power they



have, that writing one time can't compare to speaking hundred times.

The power to express one's thoughts more clearly. The power to communicate more politely with other people. The power to educate their children more fairly. They have this power.

I recommend that this project should be continued in the future, giving pride and hope to many



immigrant women and their families.

Kyung-sil Roh Writer



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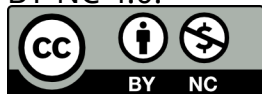
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Original Story

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