

Summary of the drama entitled: "TRAN-KHANH DU ^{What person}"

Under King Trần Thánh Tông's reign, in Thăng Long, the capital, there was a very charming beauty named Thiên Hương (Celestial Perfume). Her parents reluctantly promised to give her hand to Ky-Lộc, son of Trần Qui-Mai, a very powerful prince.

But Thiên Hương was in love with TRAN-KHANH-DU, a handsome and talented general who had achieved many military feats in the war fought against the Chinese in 1257.

Trần Qui-Mai, desirous of getting rid of TRAN-KHANH-DU in order to ensure the marriage of his son, asked the king to send the young general to repress the barbarous Bon-Man, which mission was carried out successfully. TRAN-KHANH-DU returned victoriously to the Capital. Learning that his lover would be married to Ky-Lộc within five days, he hastily went to see her. As they were talking, Ky-Lộc entered. A quarrel between the two rivals resulted in a fight which turned out to be fatal to Ky-Lộc killing himself by falling on his own sword.

Trần Qui-Mai informed of Ky-Lộc's death, hurried to the scene. Ky-Lộc pointed an accusing finger at TRAN-KHANH-DU before breathing his last. KHANH-DU, charged with the murder, forfeited his nobility rights and all his properties and had to take refuge in Mount Chi-hinh where he earned his living as a charcoal burner.

The Mongolians ~~were~~ very glad to hear of KHANH-DU's disgrace, which they eagerly wished to take advantage of. They sent Trùng-vân-Hồ to Mount Chi-hinh to persuade KHANH-DU to go to Mongolia to be made King of the Vietnamese. KHANH-DU vehemently refused the tempting offer, preferring the charcoal-burner's miserable life to honors and riches given by the enemy. Trùng-vân-Hồ failing in his negotiations, returned empty-handed.

Just at this moment, Thiên Hường seeking for her lover in Mount Chi-Linh, arrived to beg her lover not ^{to go over to the enemy} because of resentment against the King for his unjust reduction to poverty and dishonor, but to exert his talents for the good of the country. Then, before leaving, she promised to meet him on a future glorious day.

Meanwhile, the Mongolians stationed along the borders of Vietnam lay in wait for a good opportunity to revenge their defeats in 1257. The Vietnamese King held meetings in many places to get the people's advice and to look for talented men. At that time, a poem entitled "charcoal selling" was widely circulated among the people and believed to be written by Prince KHANH-DU.

The King, moved by the contents of the poem, invited the disgraced prince to attend the "Binh than" meeting. In spite of Tran-qui-Mai's accusations, the King pardoned KHANH-DU, reinstated him to his former position, and entrusted to him the mission of covering the Vandon sea zone.

After Kỳ Lặc's death, Thiên Hường (KHANH-DU's lover) foreseeing the vengeance of Tran-qui-Mai, left her family to devote herself to the service of the country. She organized a party and held secret meetings in Tu Quang pagoda, to harass the enemy stationed in the area. But Trinh Long, her right-hand man, not requited in his ardent love for her, turned renegade and helped the Chinese capture Thiên Hường and her partisans while meeting in Tu Quang pagoda to plan the sinking of the supply boats coming from China. This fleet would encounter the resistance of KHANH-DU in charge of the Vandon sea zone. O. Ma. Nhu was ordered to escort the supply boats.

The Vietnamese King realizing the importance of the mission of KHANH-DU, ordered that he should be provided with ample means

to destroy the supply boats. Tran-qui-Mai, anxious to revenge KHANH-DU, and averse to seeing the alleged murderer of his son victorious, wished for his defeat, even if this should be disastrous to the nation, and he consequently entrusted to KHANH-DU a weak fleet manned by old soldiers. This inevitably resulted in the Vietnamese naval defeat, to Tran-qui-Mai's delight.

The King, angry on learning the sad news, sent Le phu Tran to arrest KHANH-DU and bring him back to the Court.

But Le phu Tran joined KHANH-DU instead. They gathered their men and succeeded in destroying the enemy's fleet.

Thanks to this victory, KHANH-DU was able to save the country and deliver Thien-Huong from the hands of the enemy.
