

Kingdom of

Champa



A great homage to Cham civilization Cham vanished in the turbulence of history

Chiêm Thành

It is an ancient kingdom of Indochina known in the past as "Lâm Ấp" (or Lin Yi), then Chiêm Thành (or Tchancheng in Chinese) and located in what is now central Vietnam between Đà Nẵng and Phan Thiết. The amazing Cham towers in red bricks and sandstone found in Đà Nẵng and Phan Thiết are the sole silent witnesses of a civilization vanished in the turbulence of history.

The Chams were no doubts of Indonesian origin and occupied the coasts of central and south Vietnam. In 2nd century, this people of sailors adopted Hinduism on contact with

Indian merchants, which gave birth to the kingdom of Champa.

A Chinese traveller of 4th century described them with a particular typical physique: Big straight nose, black and curly hair, practicing a funeral ritual that consists of cremation at the sound of the drum.

The Chams were not only excellent sailors but also formidable builders and ingenious farmers. The Chams arrived at achieving the unity of the country at the beginning of 5th century after having resisted several rounds of Chinese domination attempt. Their



Lâm Ấp

Viet-Nam mon pays natal. Terre des dragons et des légendes.

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capital was located at Indrapura (Trà Kiêu), near Đà Nẵng (former Tourane of the French) from 7th to 9th century.

Thanks to the silk, spices, and ivory trade between China on one hand and India and the Muslim world on the other, this kingdom experienced a period of prosperity that was troubled first by the conquest of the Khmers in 1145-1147 then next by the policy of expansion of Kubilai Khan's Mongols. To face this domination, the Chams sought alliance with Vietnam, which allowed the Chams and the Vietnamese to come out victorious during this confrontation.

To seal this union, a Vietnamese princess of the name Huyền Trân of the Tran dynasty, sister of king Trần Anh Tôn was proposed to become in 1306 the wife of the Champa king Chế Mân (Jaya Simhavarman) in exchange for the two Cham territories Châu Ô and Châu Rí, located at the Hai Vân Pass. These are no other than the two northern provinces Quảng Trị and Thừa Thiên of presently Vietnam (Huế). This union was of short term. The Vietnamese continued to claim more land toward the South and the death of king Che Man a year after his marriage without an heir was only an additional pretext

in the conquest of Champa. The king of Vietnam set up a plot by sending his general Trần Khắc Chung to rescue his sister, who had to be sacrificed according to the Cham tradition, at the funeral of her husband. The provinces of Châu Ô and Châu Rí' became then the subject of discord between Champa and Vietnam. The Chams had a burst of energy with king Chế Bồng Nga (Binasur) who struck the Vietnamese several times by ransacking the capital Thăng Long in 1372 and 1377. But he was assassinated in 1389 during a new invasion of Vietnam and his death marked the decline of the Chams. The Vietnamese annexed this kingdom around 1470 under the Lê dynasty with king Lê Thánh Tôn.

Valley of Chams kings

Today, Chams are dispersed as a diaspora from Kampuchea to Malaysia and constitute one of the ethnic minorities of Viet-Nam. (less than 100000 Chams).



Mỹ Sơn

