Summary of the drama entitled: "TRAN-KHANH-DU"

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

But Thất 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 Quy-Mai, desirous of getting rid of TRAN-KHANH-DU in order to secure 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 Kỳ Lộ within five days, she hastily went to see her. As they were talking, Kỳ Lộ entered. A quarrel between the two rivals resulted in a fight which turned out to be fatal to Kỳ Lộ, killing himself by falling on his own sword.

Trần Quy-Mai informed of Kỳ Lộ's death, hurried to the scene. Kỳ Lộ 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 Chí Linh 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 Tấn Nguyễn Văn Hợp to Mount Chí Linh 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 honor and riches given by the enemy. Tấn Nguyễn Văn Hợp failing in his negotiations, returned empty-handed.
Just at this moment, Thiên Hiểu, seeking for her lover in Mount Chín Lĩnh, arrived to beg her lover not to serve the enemy against the King for his unjust reduction to poverty and dishonor, but to seek 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 "Boating 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 Nông Khiêu’s death, Thiên Hiểu (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 platoon and held secret meetings in Tru Quang pagoda, to harass the enemy stationed in the area. But Trịnh Hùng, her right-hand man, not required in his ardour love for her, turned renegade and helped the Chinese capture Thiên Hiểu and her patriots while meeting in Tru 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 Nhì 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 murder 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-Hung from the hands of the enemy.