

Eulogy:

A god descended from a mountain peak;
Thereby was born this sage.
[He] carried himself with dignity;
[He] combined elegance with the essentials.
[He] had both wisdom and courage;
[He] assisted his generation and soothed the people.
[He] encouraged poetry and established good manners;
[He] trod the way of morality and dwelled in the house of humanity.
[He] descended from highest-ranking ministers of state;
[He] became the master of both humans and deities.
[He] went in to decide ten thousand affairs;
[He] went out to proclaim the Five Injunctions.
The Văn Đán invaders were scattered and went back;
The border towns were swept of strange customs.
Thượng Suy was killed without delay;
Dust was no longer stirred up at the frontier passes.
His merit occupies the first place;
Among those of his rank, who has there been to equal him?
His vitals were suddenly struck with disease;
Drugs and acupuncture were without effect.
He flew far away to the palace of the immortals;
The Emperor wept, soaking his handkerchief with tears.
Gifts presented at his funeral were abundant and excellent;
His burial ceremony was prepared with full honors.
This stone is engraved to record his merit;
For all eternity

Questions:

1. How did a man rise to power in the court of Đại Việt at this time?
2. What was the role of women in the court?
3. Where did the power lie in this court? And how was this power applied in the realm?