

WHO WAS CHOONG-MOO?

Choong-Moo was the name given to the great Admiral Yi Sun-Shin. In Korean history, which spans over five millennia, there have been many national heroes, but none compares to Yi Sun-Shin who saved Choson Korea from the brink of collapse during the Japanese invasion of 1592. He is still dearly cherished in the hearts of Koreans today.

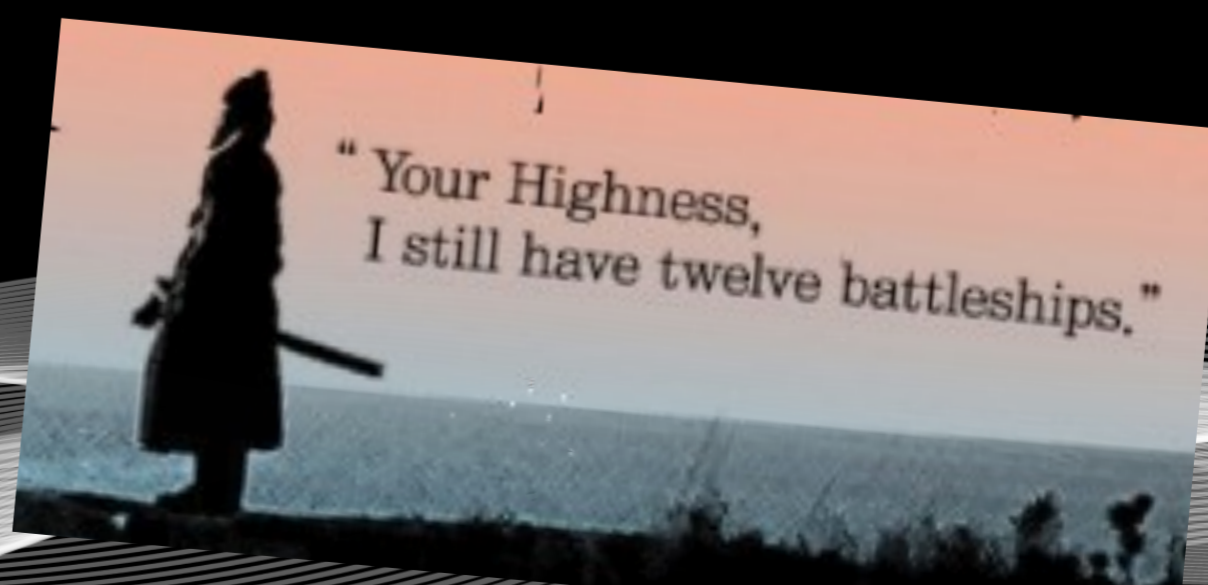
In a nationwide survey conducted by Soonchunhyang University in April 2005, Yi Sun-Shin was chosen as the greatest figure in Korean history by 43.8% of the vote. It is, therefore, very regrettable that Yi's noble life and the marvelous deeds he performed for his country and people are not well-known outside of Korea. Admiral Yi achieved a battle record that no one in history has ever matched. Genghis Khan lost two battles out of the twenty that he fought, Napoleon Bonaparte four battles out of twenty three, Emperor Frederick four battles out of twelve, and Hannibal one battle out of five. Yet in all of the twenty three battles that he fought at sea, Admiral Yi was never once defeated.

Overcoming formidable odds in terms of numbers of ships and troops, he led his navy to victory in every engagement he fought during seven years of war with the Japanese, losing in total only two ships of his own. The Battle of Myongnyang is one of the most famous, in which he defeated 130 enemy ships with 13 ships his own, is regarded among maritime historians as nothing less than a miracle.

In ITF Taekwon-Do, Choong-Moo is the ninth Pattern or Tul. Students learn that the pattern ends in a left hand attack, representing Admiral Yi's regrettable death and his unwavering loyalty to his king.



Do not weep, do not notify my men of my death. Beat the drum, blow the trumpet, wave the flag for advance. We are still fighting; finish the enemy to the last one.



CHOONG-MOO