

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2016  
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**Queen Seondeok (r. 632 - 647) of Silla: Korea's First Queen**

Kumja Paik Kim, March 10, 2017

**Study Guide**

Queen Seondeok 선덕여왕 善德女王 (r. 632-647)

Queen Seondeok's given name Deokman 덕만 德曼; born in Gyeongju 경주 慶州

King Jinpyeong 진평왕 眞平王 (r. 579-632) and Lady Maya 마야보인 摩耶夫人

**Monuments built with Queen Seondeok's Support:**

1. **Cheomseong-dae** 첨성대 瞻星臺 (star observing platform or star gazing tower)
2. **Bunhwang-sa** 분황사 芬皇寺, Gyeongju – Venerable Jajang 자장 慈藏 (590–658)
3. **Nine-story pagoda** 구층탑 九層塔, 645 at Hwangyong-sa 황용사 皇龍寺, 553-569, Gyeongju, architect: Abiji 아버지 阿非知 – Venerable Jajang
4. **Tongdo-sa** 통도사 通度寺, 646, Yangsan near Busan – Venerable Jajang

*Samguk Sagi* 삼국사기 三國史記 (History of the Three Kingdoms) by Kim Bu-sik 김부식 金富軾 (1075-1151), 1145  
*Samguk Yusa* 삼국유사 三國遺史 (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms) by monk Iryeon 일연 一然 (1206-1289), 1285

Queen Seondeok's three predictions = *Jigi Samsa* 지기삼사 知幾三事

Two other Silla Queens = Jindeok 진덕여왕 眞德女王 (r. 647-654) and Jinseong 진성여왕 眞聖女王 (r. 887-897)

Silla's Ruling Clans: Pak 박 朴; Seok 석 昔; and Kim 김 金

Bak (Pak) Hyeokkeose 박혁거세 朴赫居世 (r. 69 BCE – 4 CE)

Seok Talhae 석탈해 昔脫解 (r. 57 – 80) 鵲 – 鳥 = 昔 (Seok)

Kim Alji 김알지 金閼智 (67 - ?)

Michu 미추 味鄒 (r. 262-284), the first Silla ruler from the Kim clan

Queen Seondeok's Sisters: Princess Seonhwa and Princess Cheonmyeong (King Muyeol's mother)

Silla's Bone-rank (golpum 골품 骨品) system:

- 1) sacred-bone (seonggol 성골 聖骨)
- 2) true-bone (jingol 진골 眞骨)
- 3) head-rank (dupum 두품 頭品)

The Great Tomb of Hwangnam, Northern Mound: Hwangnam Daechong Bukbun 황남대총북분 皇南大塚北墳

Tomb of the Auspicious Phoenix: Seobong-chong 서봉총 瑞鳳塚

Seoseo 서서 瑞西 (瑞); Bonghwang 봉황 鳳凰 (鳳); chong 총 塚

**Maripgan** 마립간 麻立干:

Naemul (356-402); Silseong (402-417); Nulji (417-458); Jabi (458-479); Soji (479-500)

**Wang 왕 王**: From King Jijeung (r. 500-514) onwards all Silla rulers were called Wang.

Venerable Wongwang 원광 圓光 (?-630)

Kim Chunchu 김춘추 金春秋, the 29<sup>th</sup> ruler, King Muyeol 무열왕 武烈王 (r. 654-661) or King Taejong Muyeol

태종무열왕 太宗武烈王

Kim Yu-sin 김유신 金庾信 (595-673), the most decorated Silla general and descendant of King Suro of Gaya

Venerable Jajang, brought Buddha's relics and introduced the Rules Doctrine, Gyeyul 계율 戒律. Worked closely with

Queen Seondeok

King Munmu 문무왕 文武 (r. 661-681), Four Heavenly Kings monastery, Sacheonwang-sa 사천왕사 四天王寺, 679

**Television Drama:** [www.youtube.com/koreanqueenseondeok](http://www.youtube.com/koreanqueenseondeok)

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