Yulgok and his biography of Kim Si-seup (金時習: 1434 – 1493)

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Abstract

Yulgok wrote many biographical texts: funeral inscription, epitaph, text of memory, necrology... The Yulgok jeonseo 栗谷全書 (Complete works of Yulgok) includes A biography of Kim Si-seup (Kim Si-seup jeon 金時習傳), the unique one in the category of jeon傳. The text which is devoted to Kim Si-seup, a famous thinker and writer in the 15th century, was composed at the request of king Seonjo (reign from 1567 to 1608) in 1582.

Kim Si-seup is the author of the Geumo sinhwa 金鳌新話 (New Accounts of the Mount Golden Turtles), an anthology of novels written in classical Chinese. Yulgok shares some philosophical ideas of Kim and considers him “master of one hundred generations” (baekse ji sa 百世之師).

The paper will study the characteristics of the biography of Kim Si-seup by Yulgok and its originality in comparison with other biographical texts by Yulgok.