

= Ladislaus IV of Hungary =

Ladislaus the Cuman (Hungarian : IV . (Kun) László , Croatian : Ladislav IV . Kumanac , Slovak : Ladislav IV . Kumánsky ; 5 August 1262 ? 10 July 1290) , also known as Ladislav the Cuman , was King of Hungary and Croatia from 1272 to 1290 . His mother , Elizabeth , was the daughter of a chieftain from the pagan Cumans who had settled in Hungary . At the age of seven , he married Elisabeth (or Isabella) , a daughter of King Charles I of Sicily . Ladislaus was only ten when a rebellious lord , Joachim Gutkeled , kidnapped and imprisoned him .

Ladislaus was still a prisoner when his father , Stephen V , died on 6 August 1272 . During his minority , many groupings of barons ? primarily the Abas , K?szegis , and Gutkeleds ? fought against each other for supreme power . Ladislaus was declared to be of age at an assembly of the prelates , barons , noblemen , and Cumans in 1277 . He allied himself with Rudolf I of Germany against Ottokar II of Bohemia . His forces had a preeminent role in Rudolf 's victory over Ottokar in the Battle on the Marchfeld on 26 August 1278 .

However , Ladislaus could not restore royal power in Hungary . A papal legate , Philip , Bishop of Fermo , came to Hungary to help Ladislaus to consolidate his authority , but the prelate was shocked at the presence of thousands of pagan Cumans in Hungary . Ladislaus promised that he would force them to adopt a Christian lifestyle , but they refused to obey the legate 's demands . Ladislaus decided to support the Cumans , for which Philip of Fermo excommunicated him . The Cumans imprisoned the legate , and the legate 's partisans captured Ladislaus . In early 1280 , Ladislaus agreed to persuade the Cumans to submit to the legate , but many Cumans preferred to leave Hungary .

Ladislaus vanquished a Cuman army that invaded Hungary in 1282 . Hungary also survived a Mongol invasion in 1285 . Ladislaus had , by that time , become so unpopular that many of his subjects accused him of inciting the Mongols to invade Hungary . After he imprisoned his wife in 1286 , he lived with his Cuman mistresses . During the last years of his life , he wandered throughout the country with his Cuman allies , but he was unable to control the most powerful lords and bishops any more . Pope Nicholas IV planned to declare a crusade against him , but three Cuman assassins murdered Ladislaus .

= = Childhood (1262 ? 1272) = =

Ladislaus was the elder son of Stephen V , son of Béla IV of Hungary , and Stephen 's wife , Elizabeth the Cuman . Elizabeth was the daughter of a chieftain of the Cumans who had settled in Hungary . She was born as a pagan and was only baptized before her marriage to Stephen . Ladislaus was born under the sign of Mars in 1262 , according to Simon of Kéza , who was his chaplain in the 1270s .

Conflicts between Ladislaus 's father and grandfather developed into a civil war in 1264 . Béla IV 's troops , which were under the command of Ladislaus 's aunt , Anna , captured the castle of Sáropatak , where Ladislaus and his mother were staying , and imprisoned them . Ladislaus was initially kept in the Turóc Castle , but two months later , he was sent to the court of Boleslaw the Chaste , Duke of Cracow , who was Béla IV 's son @-@ in @-@ law . After his grandfather and father made peace in March 1265 , Ladislaus was set free and returned to his father .

Ladislaus 's father made an alliance with Charles I , King of Sicily , in September 1269 . According to the treaty , Charles I 's daughter , Elizabeth , who was about four years old at that time , was engaged to the seven @-@ year @-@ old Ladislaus . The children 's marriage took place in 1270 .

Béla IV died on 3 May 1270 and Ladislaus 's father was crowned king two weeks later ; the new monarch , however , could not stabilize his rule . Béla IV 's closest advisors ? Duchess Anna , and Béla IV 's former palatine , Henry K?szegi ? left Hungary and sought assistance from Anna 's son @-@ in @-@ law , King Ottokar II of Bohemia . The newly appointed Ban of Slavonia , Joachim Gutkeled , also turned against Stephen V and kidnapped Ladislaus in the summer of 1272 . Gutkeled held Ladislaus in captivity in the fortress of Koprivnica in Slavonia . Historian Pál Engel suggests that Joachim Gutkeled planned to force Stephen V to divide Hungary with Ladislaus .

Stephen V besieged Koprivnica , but could not take it . Stephen fell seriously ill and died on 6 August .

= = Reign = =

= = = Minority (1272 ? 1277) = = =

Joachim Gutkeled departed for Székesfehérvár as soon as he was informed of Stephen V 's death , because he wanted to arrange the boy 's coronation . Ladislaus 's mother joined him , infuriating Stephen V 's partisans who accused her of having conspired against her husband . Stephen V 's master of the treasury , Egyed Monoszló , laid siege to her palace in Székesfehérvár , but Gutkeled 's supporters routed him . Monoszló fled to Pressburg (now Bratislava , Slovakia) ; he captured the town and ceded it to Ottokar II of Bohemia .

Archbishop Philip of Esztergom crowned Ladislaus king in Székesfehérvár on about 3 September . In theory , the ten @-@ year @-@ old Ladislaus ruled under his mother 's regency , but in fact , baronial parties administered the kingdom . In November of that year , Henry K?szegi returned from Bohemia and assassinated Ladislaus 's cousin , Béla of Macsó . Duke Béla 's extensive domains , which were located along the southern borders , were divided among Henry K?szegi and his supporters . In retaliation for Hungarian incursions into Austria and Moravia , Austrian and Moravian troops invaded the borderlands of Hungary in April 1273 . They captured Gy?r and Szombathely , plundering the western counties . Joachim Gutkeled recaptured the two forts two months later , but Ottokar II of Bohemia invaded Hungary and seized many fortresses , including Gy?r and Sopron in the autumn .

Peter Csák and his allies removed Joachim Gutkeled and Henry K?szegi from power , but Gutkeled and K?szegi seized Ladislaus and his mother in June 1274 . Although Peter Csák liberated the king and his mother , Gutkeled and K?szegi captured Ladislaus 's younger brother , Andrew , and took him to Slavonia . They demanded Slavonia in Duke Andrew 's name , but Peter Csák defeated their united forces near Polgárdi at the end of September . K?szegi was killed in the battle . Peter Csák then launched a campaign against K?szegi 's son and Ladislaus accompanied him . At the end of 1274 , Rudolf I , the new King of Germany , and Ladislaus concluded an alliance against Ottokar II of Bohemia .

Ladislaus contracted an unidentified serious illness , but recovered from it . He attributed this recovery to a miracle by his deceased saintly aunt , Margaret , and approached the Holy See to promote her canonization in 1275 . In the same year , a new civil war broke out between Joachim Gutkeled and Peter Csák . Ladislaus took part in Csák 's military expedition against the K?szegis , who were Gutkeled 's supporters . However , Gutkeled and his supporters removed their opponents from power at an assembly of the barons and noblemen at Buda around 21 June 1276 .

Taking advantage of the war between Rudolf I and Ottokar II , Ladislaus made an incursion into Austria in the autumn . Sopron soon accepted Ladislaus 's suzerainty and Ottokar II promised to renounce of all towns he occupied in western Hungary . However , new armed conflicts began in Hungary during 1277 : the Transylvanian Saxons captured and destroyed Gyulafehérvár (now Alba Iulia in Romania) , the see of the Bishop of Transylvania , and the Baboni?i rose up in rebellion in Slavonia .

= = = First years of majority (1277 ? 1278) = = =

Joachim Gutkeled died while battling against the Baboni?i in April 1277 . A month later , an assembly of the prelates , barons , noblemen , and Cumans declared Ladislaus to be of age . The Estates of the realm also authorized the fifteen @-@ year @-@ old monarch to restore internal peace with all possible means . Ladislaus then invaded the K?szegis 's domains in Transdanubia , but could not defeat them . He met Rudolf I of Germany in Hainburg an der Donau on 11 November to confirm their alliance against Ottokar II of Bohemia .

After the royal army captured the rebellious Nicholas Geregye 's fortress at Adorján (now Adrian in Romania) , Ladislaus held a " general assembly " for seven counties along the River Tisza in early summer of 1278 . The assembly condemned two rebellious local noblemen to death . In Transdanubia , Ivan K?szegi attempted to play off Ladislaus 's father 's first cousin , Andrew the Venetian , against Ladislaus . Andrew demanded Slavonia for himself , but returned to Venice without success .

Ladislaus joined forces with Rudolf I of Germany to launch a campaign against Ottokar II . Ladislaus 's troops played a decisive role in Rudolf 's victory in the Battle on the Marchfeld on 26 August . Ottokar was killed in the battlefield . After the battle , King Rudolf I gave Ladislaus " his thanks , declaring that through his help all Austria and Styria had been restored to him " , according to Ladislaus 's chronicler , Simon of Kéza .

= = = The Cuman question (1278 ? 1285) = = =

Pope Nicholas III sent Philip , Bishop of Fermo , to Hungary to help Ladislaus restore royal power on 22 September 1278 . The papal legate arrived in Hungary in early 1279 . With the legate 's mediation , Ladislaus concluded a peace treaty with the K?szegis . Bishop Philip soon realized , however , that most Cumans were still pagans in Hungary . He extracted a ceremonious promise from the Cuman chieftains of giving up their pagan customs , and persuaded the young King Ladislaus to swear an oath to enforce the keeping of the Cuman chieftains ' promise . An assembly held at Tétény passed laws which , in accordance with the legate 's demand , prescribed that the Cumans should leave their tents and live " in houses attached to the ground " . The Cumans did not obey the laws , however , and Ladislaus , himself a half @-@ Cuman , failed to force them . In retaliation , Bishop Philip excommunicated him and placed Hungary under interdict in October . Ladislaus joined the Cumans and appealed to the Holy See , but the Pope refused to absolve him .

On Ladislaus 's demand , the Cumans seized and imprisoned Philip of Fermo in early January 1280 . However , Finta Aba , Voivode of Transylvania captured Ladislaus and handed him over to Roland Borsa . In less than two months , both the legate and the king were set free and Ladislaus took a new oath to enforce the Cuman laws . However , many Cumans decided to leave Hungary instead of obeying the legate 's demands . Ladislaus followed the moving Cumans as far as Szalánkemén (now Stari Slankamen in Serbia) , but could not hinder them from crossing the frontier .

Ladislaus launched a campaign against Finta Aba and seized his castles in the summer of 1281 . According to the Austrian Rhymed Chronicle , Bishop Philip of Fermo left Hungary around the same time , stating that he would never come back , " not for the sake of the Holy Father " . A Cuman army invaded the southern parts of Hungary in 1282 . The Illuminated Chronicle writes that Ladislaus , " like the brave Joshua , went out against " the Cumans " to fight for his people and his realm . " He vanquished the invaders 's army at Lake Hód , near Hódmez?vásárhely .

At the end of 1282 , Ladislaus laid siege to Borostyánk? (now Bernstein im Burgenland in Austria) , which was held by the K?szegis . The K?szegis resisted , forcing the king to lift the siege in early 1283 . Ladislaus even reconciled with Ivan K?szegi and appointed him palatine before 6 July . Ladislaus abandoned his wife , Isabella , and settled among the Cumans by the end of the year .

= = = Last years (1285 ? 1290) = = =

The Mongols of the Golden Horde invaded Hungary under the command of Khans Talabuga and Nogai in January 1285 . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , they " spread a terrible devastation of fire throughout the whole country " to the east of the Danube . Local forces resisted the invaders at many places , including , for example , at Regéc . The invasion lasted for two months before the Mongols withdrew .

Ladislaus 's favoritism towards the Cumans made him so unpopular that many of his subjects accused him of inciting the Mongols to invade Hungary . In fact , Ladislaus employed Mongol prisoners of war , known as nyögérs , when he subjugated a rebellion in the Szepesség in September 1285 . The king preferred the Cumans ' way of life , including their costumes and

hairstyle , and took Cuman girls as his mistresses . According to Lodomer , Archbishop of Esztergom , Ladislaus copulated with his favorite concubine , Aydua ? whom the Archbishop described as a " poisonous viper " ? in public .

In September 1286 , Ladislaus imprisoned his wife and granted all her revenues to his mistress . Archbishop Lodomer liberated Queen Isabella the following September . The Archbishop summoned the prelates , the barons , and the noblemen to an assembly in Buda and excommunicated Ladislaus . In response , the infuriated king stated that " beginning with the Archbishop of Esztergom and his suffragans , I shall exterminate the whole lot right up to Rome with the aid of Tartar swords " , according to Archbishop Lodomer .

The barons captured Ladislaus in the Szepesség in January 1288 . Although his partisans soon liberated him , he acquiesced in concluding an agreement with Archbishop Lodomer . The Archbishop absolved Ladislaus on condition that the king would live in accordance with Christian morals . However , Ladislaus broke his promise . He abducted his sister , Elizabeth , Prioress of the Dominican Monastery of the Blessed Virgin on Rabbits ' Island and gave her in marriage to a Czech aristocrat , Zavis of Falkenstein . According to Archbishop Lodomer , Ladislaus even stated , " If I had fifteen or more sisters in as many cloistered communities as you like , I would snatch them from there to marry them off licitly or illicitly ; in order to procure through them a kin @-@ group who will support me by all their power in the fulfillment of my will " .

Ladislaus spent the last years of his life wandering from place to place . Hungary 's central government lost power , since the prelates and the barons ruled the kingdom independently of the monarch . For example , Ivan K?szegi and his brothers waged wars against Albert I , Duke of Austria , but Ladislaus did not intervene , although the Austrians captured at least 30 fortresses along the western borders .

The K?szegis offered the crown to Andrew the Venetian , who arrived in Hungary in early 1290 . One of their opponents captured the pretender , however , and surrendered him to Duke Albert . Ladislaus appointed Mizse , who had recently converted from Islam to Christianity , palatine . Pope Nicholas IV was even planning to proclaim a crusade against Ladislaus . However , Ladislaus , who had always been partial towards his Cuman subjects , was assassinated by three Cumans , named Árbóc , Törtel , and Kemence , at the castle of Körösszeg (now Cheresig in Romania) on 10 July 1290 . Mizse and the Cuman Nicholas , who was the brother of Ladislaus 's Cuman lover , took vengeance for Ladislaus 's death , slaughtering the murderers .

Upon Pope Nicholas IV 's orders , an enquiry was carried out to find out " whether the king died as a Catholic Christian " . The results of the investigation are unknown , but the Chronicon Budense writes that Ladislaus was buried in the cathedral of Csanád (now Cenad in Romania) . His successor , Andrew the Venetian , and Pope Benedict VIII recalled Ladislaus as " of renowned memory " .

= = Ancestors = =