

= Peter , King of Hungary =

Peter Orseolo , or Peter the Venetian ( Hungarian : Velencei Péter ; 1010 or 1011 ? 1046 , or late 1050s ) , was King of Hungary twice . He first succeeded his uncle , King Stephen I , in 1038 . His favoritism towards his foreign courtiers caused an uprising which ended with his 1041 deposition . Peter was restored in 1044 by Henry III , Holy Roman Emperor . He accepted the Emperor 's suzerainty during his second reign , which ended in 1046 after a pagan uprising . Hungarian chronicles are unanimous that Peter was executed by order of his successor , Andrew I , but the chronicler Cosmas of Prague 's reference to his alleged marriage around 1055 suggests that he may also have survived his second deposition .

= = Life = =

= = = Before 1038 = = =

Peter was born in Venice , the only son of Doge Otto Orseolo . His mother was a sister of Stephen I , the first king of Hungary ; historian Gyula Kristó suggests that he was born in 1010 or 1011 . The Venetians rose up and deposed Otto Orseolo in 1026 . Peter did not follow his father , who fled to the Byzantine court in Constantinople ; he instead went to Hungary , where his uncle appointed him commander of the royal army .

Emeric , Stephen 's only son to survive infancy , died in an accident in 1031 . Stephen 's cousin Vazul had the strongest claim to the throne , but the King overlooked him and named Peter as his heir . On Stephen 's order , Vazul was blinded shortly thereafter and his three sons ? Levente , Andrew and Béla ? exiled , which strengthened Peter 's right of succession . The King asked Peter to take an oath respecting the property of his wife , Queen Giselle , suggesting that Peter 's relationship with his aunt was tense .

= = = First rule ( 1038 ? 1041 ) = = =

Peter succeeded King Stephen I , who died on 15 August 1038 , and adopted an active foreign policy . Hungarian troops plundered Bavaria in 1039 and 1040 , and invaded Bohemia in 1040 to assist Duke Bretislav I against Holy Roman Emperor Henry III . Hungarian chronicles recount that Peter preferred the company of Germans ( " who roared like wild beasts " ) and Italians ( " who chattered and twittered like swallows " ) , which made him unpopular among his subjects . He introduced new taxes , seized Church revenue and deposed two bishops .

Audaciously , Peter confiscated Queen Giselle 's property and took her into custody . She sought help from Hungarian lords , who blamed one of Peter 's favorites ( Budo ) for the monarch 's misdeeds and demanded that Budo be put on trial . When the King refused , the lords seized and murdered his unpopular advisor and deposed the monarch in 1041 . They elected a new king , Samuel Aba , who was a brother @-@ in @-@ law or another nephew of King Stephen I.

As soon as he began to rule , Peter threw aside every trace of the forbearance befitting a monarch 's majesty , and in consort with Germans and Latins raged with Teutonic fury , treating the nobles of the kingdom with contempt and devouring the wealth of the land " with a proud eye and an insatiable heart . " Fortifications , castles , and every office in the kingdom was taken away from the Hungarians and given to Germans or Latins . In addition , Peter was extremely debauched , and his hangers @-@ on behaved with shameful and unbridled lust , violently assaulting the wives and daughters of the Hungarians wherever the king travelled . No one at the time could feel sure of the chastity of his wife or daughter in the face of the importunity of Peter 's courtiers .

= = = Exile ( 1041 ? 1044 ) = = =

Peter first fled to Austria , seeking the protection of his brother @-@ in @-@ law , Margrave

Adalbert . He approached Emperor Henry III for help against Samuel Aba . The new Hungarian monarch invaded Austria in February 1042 , but Adalbert routed Aba 's troops . Henry III launched his first expedition against Hungary in early 1042 . His forces advanced north of the Danube to the river Garam ( Hron , Slovakia ) . The Emperor planned to restore Peter , but the locals were strongly opposed . Accordingly , the Emperor appointed another ( unnamed ) member of the Hungarian royal family to administer the territories .

In the autumn King Henry also invaded Hungary , destroyed Hainburg and Pressburg and either laid waste or received the surrender of the northern region of the Danube as far as the River Gran , because rivers and marshes protected the southern region . Part of the army twice encountered attacking Hungarians and wrought great slaughter . After the subjection of the Hungarians of that territory , since they refused to accept Peter , he installed for them as duke one of their number who was at that time in exile among the Bohemians .

The Emperor returned to Hungary in the early summer of 1044 , and was joined in his advance by many Hungarian lords . The decisive battle was fought on 5 June at Ménfő ( near Győr ) , where Samuel Aba 's forces were defeated . Although Aba escaped from the battlefield , Peter 's supporters soon captured and killed him .

= = = Second rule ( 1044 ? 1046 ) = = =

Following Samuel Aba 's death , Emperor Henry entered Székesfehérvár and restored Peter . Peter introduced Bavarian law in his realm , which suggests that Hungary became an imperial fief . He accepted the Emperor 's suzerainty on Whitsun 1045 , giving his royal lance to his overlord ( who returned to Hungary ) . A number of plots to overthrow Peter indicate that he remained unpopular . Two of King Stephen I 's maternal cousins ( Bolya and Bonyha ) conspired against Peter in 1045 , but the King had them arrested , tortured and executed . Bishop Gerard of Csanád invited Vazul 's exiled sons to the country . An uprising by pagan commoners ended Peter 's second rule in 1046 . Peter planned to flee again to the Holy Roman Empire , but Vazul 's son Andrew ( who had returned to Hungary ) invited him to a meeting at Székesfehérvár . The deposed king soon realised that Andrew 's envoys actually wanted to arrest him . He fled to a fortified manor at Zámoly , but his opponent 's supporters seized it and captured him three days later . All 14th @-@ century Hungarian chronicles attest that Peter was blinded , which caused his death . However , the near @-@ contemporary Cosmas of Prague relates that Judith of Schweinfurt , widow of Duke Bretislaus I of Bohemia who was expelled by her son , fled to Hungary and married Peter about 1055 " as an insult to " her son " and all the Czechs " . If the latter report is reliable , Peter survived the ordeal and died during the late 1050s . He was buried in the cathedral of Pécs .

The following autumn the Hungarians remembered their former treachery and set up a certain Andreas as their king . They killed the many foreigners who had fought for King Peter ; they inflicted various injuries on him and his wife and finally they deprived Peter of his eyes and sent him , together with his wife , to be kept in a certain place . At the same time many foreigners in that country were despoiled , exiled and killed .

King Peter , seeing that the Hungarians had with one mind taken the part of Dukes Andreas and Levente , took flight with his [ Germans ] towards Musun , intending to cross from there into Austria , but he could not escape . For the Hungarians had been beforehand and had occupied the gateways and egresses of the kingdom ; moreover the ambassador of Duke Andreas called King Peter back under the pretext of wishing to come to a peaceable and honourable agreement with him . Believing him , King Peter returned [ ... ] . When he turned aside to the village of Zamur , the aforesaid ambassador wished to take him in an ambush and to bring him bound to Duke Andreas ; but having knowledge of this , Peter took refuge in a mansion and defended himself bravely for three days . At last all his soldiers were killed by arrows and he himself was taken alive ; he was blinded and brought to Alba , where in great pain he soon ended his life .

= = Family = =

The name and family of Peter 's wife are unknown , but Gyula Kristó suggests that she was of German origin . Historians debate the validity of Cosmas of Prague 's report of Peter 's second marriage to the widowed Judith of Schweinfurt . Lisa Wolverton , the chronicle 's translator , says that Cosmas misinterpreted his sources ( which describe the marriage of Judith of Swabia to King Solomon of Hungary ) . On the other hand , Kristó writes that Cosmas 's report may suggest that Peter survived his blinding . The following family tree presents Peter the Venetian 's ancestors and his relatives who are mentioned in the article :

\* A Khazar , Pecheneg or Volga Bulgarian woman . \* \* Samuel Aba might have been Géza 's grandson instead of his son @-@ in @-@ law . \* \* \* Cosmas of Prague 's report on Judith of Schweinfurt 's marriage to Peter the Venetian is not unanimously accepted by historians .