

= Taksony of Hungary =

Taksony (Hungarian pronunciation : [ʦakʃon] ; before or around 931 ? early 970s) was the Grand Prince of the Hungarians after their catastrophic defeat in the 955 Battle of Lechfeld . In his youth he had participated in plundering raids in Western Europe , but during his reign the Hungarians only targeted the Byzantine Empire . The Gesta Hungarorum recounts that significant Muslim and Pecheneg groups settled in Hungary under Taksony .

= = Early life = =

Taksony was the son of Zoltán (the third grand prince of the Hungarians) , according to the Gesta Hungarorum (written around 1200) . The same source adds that Taksony 's mother was an unnamed daughter of Menumorut , a local ruler defeated by the conquering Hungarians shortly before 907 . Its unknown author also says that Taksony was born " in the year of Our Lord 's incarnation 931 " . The Gesta Hungarorum reports that Zoltán abdicated in favor of Taksony in 947 , three years before his own death .

However , modern historians have challenged existing information on Taksony 's early life . A nearly @-@ contemporaneous source ? Liudprand of Cremona 's Retribution ? narrates that Taksony led a plundering raid against Italy in 947 , which suggests that he was born considerably earlier than 931 . His father 's reign was preserved only in the Gesta Hungarorum ; its anonymous author lists Zoltán among the grand princes , and all later Hungarian monarchs were descended from him . The Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus wrote around 950 that Fajsz , Taksony 's cousin , was grand prince of the Hungarians at that time .

In that time Taxis , king of the Hungarians came to Italy with a large army . Berengar gave him ten measures of coins not from his own money , but from an exaction on the churches and paupers .

= = Reign = =

A later source , Johannes Aventinus , writes that Taksony fought in the Battle of Lechfeld on August 10 , 955 . There , future Holy Roman Emperor Otto I routed an 8 @, @ 000 @-@ strong Hungarian army . If this report is reliable , Taksony was one of the few Hungarian leaders to survive the battlefield . Modern historians , including Zoltán Kordé and Gyula Kristó , suggest that Fajsz abdicated in favor of Taksony around that time . After that battle the Hungarians ' plundering raids in Western Europe stopped , and they were forced to retreat from the lands between the Enns and Traisen rivers . However , the Hungarians continued their incursions into the Byzantine Empire until the 970s .

According to the Gesta Hungarorum , " a great host of Muslims " arrived in Hungary " from the land of Bular " under Taksony . The contemporaneous Abraham ben Jacob also recorded the presence of Muslim merchants from Hungary in Prague in 965 . Anonymous also writes of the arrival of Pechenegs during Taksony 's reign ; he granted them " a land to dwell in the region of Kemej as far as the Tisza " . The only sign of a Hungarian connection with Western Europe under Taksony is a report by Liudprand of Cremona . He writes about Zacheus , whom Pope John XII consecrated bishop and " sent to the Hungarians in order to preach that they should attack " the Germans in 963 . However , there is no evidence that Zacheus ever arrived in Hungary . Taksony arranged the marriage of his elder son Géza to Sarolt , daughter of Gyula of Transylvania , before his death during the early 970s .

= = Family = =

Taksony 's marriage to a woman " from the land of the Cumans " was arranged by his father , according to the Gesta Hungarorum . Although this reference to the Cumans is anachronistic , Gyula Kristó and other historians argue that the Gesta seems to have preserved the memory of the Turkic ? Khazar , Pecheneg or Volga Bulgarian ? origin of Taksony 's wife . The names of two of their sons

(Géza and Michael) have been preserved . The following family tree presents Taksony 's ancestry and his offspring .

* Whether Menumorut is an actual or an invented person is debated by modern scholars .

* * A Khazar , Pecheneg or Volga Bulgarian woman

* * * Kristó writes that she may have been a member of the Rurik dynasty from Kievan Rus'