

= Solomon , King of Hungary =

Solomon , also Salomon (Hungarian : Salamon ; 1053 ? 1087) was King of Hungary from 1063 . Being the elder son of Andrew I , he was crowned king in his father 's lifetime in 1057 or 1058 . However , he was forced to flee from Hungary after his uncle , Béla I , dethroned Andrew in 1060 . Assisted by German troops , Solomon returned and was again crowned king in 1063 . On this occasion he married Judith , sister of Henry IV , Holy Roman Emperor . In the following year he reached an agreement with his cousins , the three sons of Béla I. Géza , Ladislaus and Lampert acknowledged Solomon 's rule , but in exchange received one @-@ third of the kingdom as a separate duchy .

In the following years , Solomon and his cousins jointly fought against the Czechs , the Cumans and other enemies of the kingdom . Their relationship deteriorated in the early 1070s and Géza rebelled against him . Solomon could only maintain his rule in a small zone along the western frontiers of Hungary after his defeat in the Battle of Mogyoród on 14 March 1074 . He officially abdicated in 1081 , but was arrested for conspiring against Géza 's brother and successor , Ladislaus .

Solomon was set free during the canonization process of the first king of Hungary , Stephen I , in 1083 . In an attempt to regain his crown , Solomon allied with the Pechenegs , but King Ladislaus defeated their invading troops . According to a nearly contemporaneous source , Solomon died on a plundering raid in the Byzantine Empire . Later legends say that he survived and died as a saintly hermit in Pula (Croatia) .

= = Early life = =

Solomon was a son of King Andrew I of Hungary and his wife , Anastasia of Kiev . His parents were married in about 1038 . He was born in 1053 as his parents ' second child and eldest son .

His father had him crowned king in 1057 or 1058 . Solomon 's coronation was a fundamental condition of his engagement to Judith , a sister of Henry IV , King of Germany . Their engagement put an end to the more than ten @-@ year @-@ long period of armed conflicts between Hungary and the Holy Roman Empire . However , Solomon 's coronation provoked his uncle , Béla , who had until that time held a strong claim to succeed his brother Andrew according to the traditional principle of seniority . Béla had , since around 1048 , administered the so @-@ called ducatus or duchy , which encompassed one @-@ third of the kingdom .

According to the The Hungarian Illuminated Chronicle , a 14th @-@ century chronicle :

Because carnal love and ties of blood are wont to prove a hindrance to truthfulness , in King Andreas love for his son overcame justice , so that he broke the treaty of his promise , which in kings should not be ; in the twelfth year of his reign , when he was worn out with age , he caused his son Salomon , who was still a child of five years , to be anointed and crowned king over all Hungary . He pretended that he did this to prevent injury to his kingdom , for the Emperor would not have given his daughter to his son Salomon unless he had crowned him . When therefore they sang at Salomon 's coronation : " Be lord over thy brethren , " and it was told to Duke Bela by an interpreter that the infant Salomon had been made king over him , he was greatly angered .

According to the Illuminated Chronicle , in order to secure Solomon 's succession , his father arranged a meeting with Duke Béla at the royal manor in Tiszavárkony . The king proposed that his brother choose between a crown and a sword (which were the symbols of royal and ducal power , respectively) , but had previously commanded his men to murder the duke if Béla picked the crown .

The duke , whom a courtier had informed of the king 's plan , chose the crown , then left Hungary after the meeting . He sought the assistance of Duke Boleslaus the Bold of Poland and returned with Polish reinforcements . Béla emerged the victor in the ensuing civil war , during which Solomon 's father was mortally injured in a battle . Solomon and his mother fled to the Holy Roman Empire and settled in Melk in Austria .

Béla was crowned king on 6 December 1060 , but the young German king 's advisors , who were

staunch supporters of Solomon (the fiancé of their monarch 's sister) , refused to conclude a peace treaty with him . In the summer of 1063 , the assembly of the German princes decided to invade Hungary in order to restore Solomon . Solomon 's uncle died in an accident on 11 September , before the imperial army arrived . His three sons ? Géza , Ladislaus and Lampert ? left for Poland .

= = Reign = =

Accompanied back to Hungary by German troops , Solomon entered Székesfehérvár without resistance . He was ceremoniously " crowned king with the consent and acclamation of all Hungary " in September 1063 , according to the Illuminated Chronicle . The same source adds that the German monarch " seated " Solomon " upon his father 's throne " , but did not require him to take an oath of fealty . Solomon 's marriage with Henry IV 's sister , Judith ? who was six years older than her future husband ? also took place on this occasion . Judith , along with her mother @-@ in @-@ law Anastasia , became one of her young husband 's principal advisors .

Solomon 's three cousins - Géza and his brothers - returned after the German troops had been withdrawn from Hungary . They arrived with Polish reinforcements and Solomon sought refuge in the fortress of Moson at the western border of his kingdom . The Hungarian prelates began to mediate between them in order to avoid a new civil war .

Solomon and his cousins eventually reached an agreement , which was signed in Gy?r on 20 January 1064 . Géza and his brothers acknowledged Solomon as lawful king , and Solomon granted them their father 's one @-@ time ducatus . In token of their reconciliation , Duke Géza put a crown on Solomon 's head in the cathedral of Pécs on Easter Sunday . Their relationship remained tense ; when the cathedral burned down during the following night , they initially accused each other of arson . The episode is described in the Hungarian Illuminated Chronicle as follows :

[Sudden] flames seized that church and the palaces and all nearby buildings , and they collapsed in one devastating conflagration . Everyone was gripped with fear at the shock of the roaring flames and the terrible shattering of the bells as they fell from the towers ; and none knew where to turn . The King and the Duke were in an amazed stupor ; terrified by the suspicion of foul work , each went his separate way . In the morning they were apprised through faithful messengers that in truth there had not been on either side any evil intention of treachery , but that the fire had been happening of chance . The King and the Duke came together again in the goodness of peace .

The king and his cousins closely cooperated in the period between 1064 and 1071 . Both Solomon and Géza were , in 1065 or 1066 , present at the consecration of the Benedictine Zselicszentjakab Abbey , established by Palatine Otto of the Gy?r clan , a partisan of the king . They invaded Bohemia together after the Czechs had plundered the region of Trencsén (present @-@ day Tren?in , Slovakia) in 1067 . During the following year , nomadic tribes broke into Transylvania and plundered the regions , but Solomon and his cousins routed them at Kerlés (present @-@ day Chirale? , Romania) . The identification of the marauders is uncertain : the Annales Posonienses and Simon of Kéza write of Pechenegs , the 14th @-@ century Hungarian chronicles refer to Cumans , and a Russian chronicle mentions the Cumans and the Vlachs .

Pecheneg troops pillaged Syrmia (now in Serbia) in 1071 . As the king and the duke suspected that the soldiers of the Byzantine garrison at Belgrade incited the marauders against Hungary , they decided to attack the fortress . The Hungarian army crossed the river Sava , although the Byzantines " blew sulphurous fires by means of machines " against their boats . The Hungarians took Belgrade after a siege of three months . However , the Byzantine commander , Niketas , surrendered the fortress to Duke Géza instead of the king ; he knew that Solomon " was a hard man and that in all things he listened to the vile counsels of Count Vid , who was detestable in the eyes both of God and men " , according to the Illuminated Chronicle .

Division of the war @-@ booty caused a new conflict between Solomon and his cousin , because the king granted only a quarter of the booty to the duke , who claimed its third part . Thereafter the duke negotiated with the Byzantine Emperor 's envoys and set all the Byzantine captives free without the king 's consent . The conflict was further sharpened by Count Vid ; the Illuminated Chronicle narrates how the count incited the young monarch against his cousins by saying that as "

two sharp swords cannot be kept in the same scabbard " , so the king and the duke " cannot reign together in the same kingdom " .

The Byzantines reoccupied Belgrade in the next year . Solomon decided to invade the Byzantine Empire and ordered his cousins to accompany him . Only Géza joined the king ; his brother , Ladislaus , remained with half of their troops in the Nyírség . Solomon and Géza marched along the valley of the river Great Morava as far as Ni? . Here the locals made them " rich gifts of gold and silver and precious cloaks " and Solomon seized the arm of Saint Procopius of Scythopolis . He donated the relic to the Orthodox monastery of Symium (present @-@ day Sremska Mitrovica , Serbia) .

After their return from the campaign , both Solomon and Géza began to make preparations for their inevitable conflict and were seeking assistance from abroad . They concluded a truce , which was to last " from the feast of St Martin until the feast of St George " , from 11 November 1073 until 24 April 1074 . However , Solomon chose to attack his cousin as soon as the German troops sent by his brother @-@ in @-@ law arrived in Hungary . The royal army crossed the river Tisza and routed the troops of Géza , who had been abandoned by many of his nobles before the battle , at Kemej on 26 February 1074 .

A strong army soon arrived in Hungary , headed by Géza 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , Duke Otto I of Olomouc . In the decisive battle , which was fought at Mogyoród on 14 March 1074 , Solomon was defeated and forced to flee from the battlefield .

= = Abdication = =

After the battle of Mogyoród , Duke Géza 's soldiers pursued Solomon and his men " from dawn to dusk " , but they managed to take refuge in Moson , where his mother and wife had been staying . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , the queen mother blamed her son for the defeat , which filled Solomon with so much anger that he wanted to " strike his mother in the face " . His wife held him back by catching his hand .

Thereafter , Solomon preserved only Moson and the nearby Pressburg (Bratislava , Slovakia) . Other parts of the kingdom accepted the rule of Géza , who had been proclaimed king after his victory .

Solomon sent his envoys to Henry IV and promised " six of the strongest fortified cities in Hungary " if his brother @-@ in @-@ law would help him to depose Géza . He was even ready to accept the German monarch 's suzerainty .

Henry IV invaded Hungary in August . He marched as far as Vác , but soon withdrew from Hungary without defeating Géza . Nevertheless , the German invasion strengthened Solomon 's rule in the region of his two fortresses , where he continued to exercise all royal prerogatives , including coinage . His mother and wife left him and followed Henry IV to Germany . According to Berthold of Reichenau 's Chronicle :

That summer [Henry IV] undertook an expedition into Hungary to help King Salomon , who also because of his insolent and shameful crimes had been deposed from his office by his father 's brother (sic) and the other magnates of the kingdom , for whose counsels he cared little . [Henry IV] , however , was able to achieve nothing of what he wished there , namely to restore Salomon . Finally , bringing back his sister , Queen Judith , the wife of Salomon , he returned home to Worms

Solomon attempted to convince Pope Gregory VII to support him against Géza . However , the pope condemned him for having accepted his kingdom " as a fief from the king of the Germans " and claimed suzerainty over Hungary . Thereafter it was Henry IV 's support which enabled Solomon to resist Géza 's all attempts at taking Moson and Pressburg . The German monarch even sent one of his main opponents , Bishop Burchard II of Halberstadt into exile to Solomon in June 1076 . Solomon 's wife , Queen Judith , who was about to return to her husband , undertook to take the imprisoned bishop to Hungary , but the prelate managed to escape .

Géza decided to start new negotiations with Solomon . However , he died on 25 April 1077 and his partisans proclaimed his brother , Ladislaus , king . The new king occupied Moson in 1079 , thus Solomon could preserve only Pressburg . In 1080 or 1081 , the two cousins concluded a treaty ,

according to which Solomon acknowledged Ladislaus as king in exchange for " revenues sufficient to bear the expenses of a king " .

= = Later life = =

Solomon did not give up his ambitions even after his abdication . He was arrested for plotting against his cousin , then held in captivity in Visegrád . He was released " on the occasion of the canonization of King St. Stephen and the blessed Emeric the confessor " around 17 August 1083 . According to Hartvik 's Legend of King Saint Stephen , King Ladislaus ordered Solomon 's release , because nobody could open the grave of the saintly king until Solomon was held in captivity .

Having been liberated , Solomon first visited his wife in Regensburg , " although she was not grateful for this " , according to the nearly contemporaneous Bernold of St Blasien . From Germany , Solomon fled to the " Cumans " ? in fact Pechenegs , according to the historians Gyula Kristó and Pál Engel ? who were dwelling in the regions east of the Carpathian Mountains and north of the Lower Danube . Solomon promised one of their chiefs , Kutesk , that " he would give him the right of possession over the province of Transylvania and would take his daughter as wife " if Kutesk and his people would help him to regain his throne . They invaded the regions along the Upper Tisza " with a great multitude " of the " Cumans " , but King Ladislaus routed and forced them to withdraw from Hungary .

At the head of " a large contingent of Dacians " (Hungarians) , Solomon joined a huge army of Cumans and Pechenegs who invaded the Byzantine Empire in 1087 . The Byzantines routed the invaders in the mountains of Bulgaria . Solomon seems to have died fighting in the battlefield , because Bernold of St. Blasien narrates that he " died courageously after an incredible slaughter of the enemy after he bravely undertook an enterprise against the King of the Greeks " in 1087 .

Reports of later sources prove that Solomon became the subject of popular legends . For instance , the Illuminated Chronicle writes that Solomon " repented of his sins , so far as human understanding may reach " after the battle , and passed the last years of his life " in pilgrimage and prayer , in fastings and watchings , in labour and contrition " . According to these sources , Solomon died in Pula on the Istrian Peninsula where he was venerated as a saint . However , he was never officially canonized . His alleged tombstone is now in a local museum . Simon of Kéza wrote in his *Gesta Hunnorum et Hungarorum* :

[Solomon] was now completely at a loss , and after returning to his queen at Admont he spent a few days with her before returning to Székesfehérvár in monk 's habit . There , the story goes , his brother (sic) Ladislas was distributing alms to the poor with his own hands on the porch of the church of the Blessed Virgin , and Solomon was among the recipients . When Ladislas looked closely he realised who it was . After the distribution was over Ladislas made careful inquiries . He intended Solomon no harm , but Solomon assumed he did , and quit Székesfehérvár , making for the Adriatic . There he passed the rest of his days in complete poverty in a city named Pula ; he died in destitution and was buried there , never having returned to his wife .

= = Family = =

Solomon 's wife , Judith , who was born in 1048 , was the third daughter of Henry III , Holy Roman Emperor and his second wife , Agnes de Poitou . Their wedding took place in Székesfehérvár in June 1063 . The marriage remained childless . They first separated from each other around 1075 . According to Bernold of St Blasien , neither Solomon nor his wife had " kept the marriage contract : on the contrary , they had not been afraid , in opposition to the apostle , to defraud each other . " Having been informed on Solomon 's death , Judith married Duke Władysław I Herman of Poland in 1088 . In contrast with all contemporaneous sources , the late 13th @-@ century Simon of Kéza writes that Judith " spurned all suitors " after her husband 's death , although " many princes in Germany sought her hand " .

The following family tree presents Solomon 's ancestors and some of his relatives who are mentioned in the article .

