

= Géza I of Hungary =

Géza I (Hungarian pronunciation : [ʒeːz] ; Hungarian : I. Géza ; c . 1040 ? 25 April 1077) was King of Hungary from 1074 until his death . He was the eldest son of King Béla I. His baptismal name was Magnus . When his father died in 1063 , Géza 's cousin Solomon acquired the crown with German assistance , forcing Géza to leave Hungary . Géza returned with Polish reinforcements and signed a treaty with Solomon in early 1064 . In the treaty , Géza and his brother , Ladislaus acknowledged the rule of Solomon , who granted them their father 's former duchy , which encompassed one @-@ third of the Kingdom of Hungary .

Géza closely cooperated with Solomon , but their relationship became tense from 1071 . The king invaded the duchy in February 1074 and defeated Géza in a battle . However , Géza was victorious at the decisive battle of Mogyoród on 14 March 1074 . He soon acquired the throne , although Solomon maintained his rule in the regions of Moson and Pressburg (present @-@ day Bratislava , Slovakia) for years . Géza initiated peace negotiations with his dethroned cousin in the last months of his life . Géza 's sons were minors when he died and he was succeeded by his brother Ladislaus .

= = Early years (before 1064) = =

Géza was the eldest son of the future King Béla I of Hungary and his wife Richeza or Adelheid , a daughter of King Mieszko II of Poland . The Illuminated Chronicle narrates that Géza and his brother Ladislaus were born in Poland , where their father who had been banished from Hungary settled in the 1030s . Géza was born in about 1040 . According to the historians Gyula Kristó and Ferenc Makk , he was named after his grandfather 's uncle Géza , Grand Prince of the Hungarians . His baptismal name was Magnus .

In about 1048 , Géza 's father returned to Hungary and received one third of the kingdom with the title of duke from his brother , King Andrew I. Géza seems to have arrived in Hungary with his father . The king , who had not fathered a legitimate son , declared Béla as his heir . According to the traditional principle of seniority , Béla preserved his claim to succeed his brother even after Andrew 's wife Anastasia of Kiev gave birth to Solomon in 1053 . However , the king had his son crowned in 1057 or 1058 . The Illuminated Chronicle narrates that the child Solomon " was anointed king with the consent of Duke Bela and his sons Geysa and Ladislaus " , which is the first reference to a public act by Géza . However , according to the contemporaneous text *Annales Altahenses* , Géza was absent from the meeting where Judith ? the sister of the German monarch Henry IV ? was engaged to the child Solomon in 1058 .

Géza accompanied his father , who left for Poland to seek assistance against King Andrew . They returned with Polish reinforcements in 1060 . Géza was one of his father 's most influential advisors . Lampert of Hersfeld wrote that Géza persuaded his father to set free Count William of Weimar , one of the commanders of the German troops fighting on Andrew 's side , who had been captured in a battle .

The king died during the civil war ; his partisans took Solomon to the Holy Roman Empire and Géza 's father Béla was crowned king on 6 December 1060 . Although Géza remained his father 's principal advisor , King Béla did not grant his former duchy to his son . According to the *Annales Altahenses* , Béla even offered Géza as hostage to the Germans when he was informed that the German court decided , in August 1063 , to invade Hungary to restore Solomon . However , the Germans refused Béla 's offer and he died on 11 September 1063 , some days after the imperial troops entered Hungary .

Following his father 's death , Géza offered to accept Solomon 's rule if he received his father 's former duchy . This offer was refused , which forced him and his two brothers ? Ladislaus and Lampert ? to leave Hungary for Poland . King Bolesław II of Poland provided them with reinforcements and they returned after the German troops withdrawn from Hungary . The brothers wanted to avoid a new civil war and made an agreement with King Solomon . According to the treaty , which was signed in Győr on 20 January 1064 , Géza and his brothers accepted Solomon 's rule

and the king granted them their father 's duchy . The king and his cousins celebrated Easter together in the cathedral of Pécs , where Duke Géza ceremoniously put a crown on Solomon 's head .

Being a newcomer and not yet established in his kingdom , King [Solomon] was afraid that [Géza] would perhaps attack him with a Polish army , and he therefore retired for a time with his forces and took up a safe station in the strongly fortified castle of [Moson] . The bishops and other religious men strove most earnestly to bring about a peaceful settlement between them . Especially bishop Desiderius softened Duke [Géza] ' s spirit with his gentle admonitions and sweet pleadings that he should peaceably restore the kingdom to [Solomon] , even though he was the younger , and should himself assume the dukedom which his father had held before him . [Géza] listened to his words of wise persuasion and laid aside his ill feeling . At [Gy?r] , on the feast day of SS Fabian and Sebastian the martyrs , King [Solomon] and Duke [Géza] made peace with each other before the Hungarian people .

= = Duke in Hungary (1064 ? 1074) = =

According to Ján Steinhübel and other Slovak historians , Géza only retained the administration of the region of Nyitra (present @-@ day Nitra , Slovakia) and gave the eastern territories of their father 's duchy , which were centered around Bihar (present @-@ day Biharia , Romania) , to his brother , Ladislaus . The Hungarian historian , Gyula Kristó likewise says that this division of Béla 's one @-@ time duchy is " probable " . The historians Gyula Kristó and Ferenc Makk write that Géza seems to have married a German countess , named Sophia around this time . Géza had the right to coinage in his duchy . The silver half @-@ denars minted for him bore the inscriptions DUX MAGNUS (" Duke Magnus ") and PANONAI (" Kingdom of Hungary ") .

Géza closely cooperated with the king between 1064 and 1071 . For instance , they jointly routed an invading army which had plundered the eastern territories of the kingdom at Kerlés (present @-@ day Chirale? , Romania) in 1068 . The identification of the invaders is uncertain : the Annales Posonienses writes of Pechenegs , the Illuminated Chronicle and other 14th- and 15th @-@ century Hungarian chronicles refer to Cumans , and a Russian chronicle identifies them as Cumans and Vlachs . Modern historians have concluded that they were Pechenegs .

Géza 's and Solomon 's relationship only began to worsen during the siege of the Byzantine fortress of Belgrade in 1071 . Its commander preferred to surrender to Géza instead of the king and the Byzantine envoys who arrived in the Hungarian camp after the fall of Belgrade only negotiated with Géza . The division of the booty also gave rise to a new conflict between Solomon and Géza . Although Géza accompanied the king on a new campaign against the Byzantine Empire in 1072 , but his brother , Ladislaus stayed behind with half of the troops of their duchy .

The conflict between the king and his cousins was sharpened by Solomon 's main advisor , Count Vid who wanted to acquire the dukes ' domains for himself . However , Solomon and Géza , who were convinced that they needed foreign reinforcements before attacking the other party , concluded a truce which was to last from 11 November 1073 to 24 April 1075 . Géza sent his brothers to Poland and Rus ' to seek assistance against Solomon . At a meeting in the Szekszárd Abbey , Count Vid persuaded the king to break the truce in order to unexpectedly attack Géza who was " hunting in Igfan Forest " to the east of the river Tisza . Although the abbot of the monastery , which had been established by Géza 's father , warned the duke of the king 's plans , the royal army crossed the river and routed Géza 's troops in the battle of Kemej on 26 February 1074 .

From the battlefield , Géza and his retinue hastened towards Vác where he came upon his brother , Ladislaus and their brother @-@ in @-@ law , Duke Otto I of Olomouc . The latter , accompanied by Czech reinforcements , arrived in Hungary in order to assist Géza against Solomon . In the ensuing battle , fought at Mogyoród on 14 March 1074 , Géza " with the troops from Nitria was stationed in the centre " , according to the Illuminated Chronicle . During the battle , Géza and Ladislaus changed their standards in order to bewilder Solomon who was planning to attack Géza . Géza and his allies won a decisive victory and forced the king to flee from the battlefield and to withdraw to Moson at the western frontier of Hungary . Géza " made " Kapuvár , Babót ,

Székesfehérvár and " other castles secure with garrisons of the bravest soldiers " , thus taking possession of almost the entire kingdom .

= = His reign (1074 ? 1077) = =

According to the Illuminated Chronicle , Géza accepted the throne " at the insistence of the Hungarians " after Solomon had taken refuge in Moson . However , he was not crowned because the royal jewels were still in the dethroned king 's possession . The German monarch Henry IV , who was Solomon 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , launched an expedition against Hungary in mid @-@ 1074 . The Germans marched as far as Vác , but Géza applied scorched earth tactics and bribed German commanders , who persuaded the German monarch to retreat from Hungary .

[Géza] , hearing that the Emperor had come to Vacia , with prudent policy gave instructions to approach and win over the patriarch of Aquilegia , to whose counsels the Emperor most readily listened , and also all the [German] dukes , promising them much money if they would make the Emperor turn back . The patriarch , therefore , and the dukes , seduced by the gifts and possessed with love of gold , invented various false stories to induce the Emperor to turn back . The patriarch pretended that he had a dream whose interpretation most plainly was that the Emperor 's army would be wholly destroyed by the divine vengeance unless he returned with the utmost speed . The dukes pretended likewise to be awestricken by divine warnings ...

In early 1074 , Géza had approached Pope Gregory VII to obtain international recognition of his rule . However , the pope wanted to take advantage of the conflict between Solomon and Géza and attempted to persuade both of them to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Holy See . Géza did not obey the pope and asked the Byzantine Emperor Michael VII Doukas for a crown . The emperor sent Géza a gold and enamel diadem , which bore the legend " Géza , the faithful king of Hungary " on one of its plaques . This " splendid work of art " became the lower part of the Holy Crown of Hungary by the end of the 12th century . Géza was crowned king with this diadem in early 1075 . In this year he styled himself as " anointed king of the Hungarians by the grace of God " in the charter of the foundation of the Benedictine Abbey of Garamszentbenedek (present @-@ day Hronský Bežadik , Slovakia) .

Géza married a niece of Nikephoros Botaneiates , a close advisor of Emperor Michael VII . However , Solomon still controlled Moson and Pressburg ; the royal troops ? which were under the command of Géza 's brother , Ladislaus ? could not take Pressburg in 1076 . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , Géza considered renouncing the crown in favor of Solomon from the end of the year . Géza died on 15 April 1077 and was buried in the cathedral of Vác , which he had erected in the honor of the Holy Virgin . His brother , Ladislaus succeeded him . A grave discovered in the center of the medieval cathedral in August 2015 was identified as Géza 's burial site by Zoltán Batizi , the leader of the excavations .

[King Géza] celebrated Christmas at [Szekszárd] When the Mass had been celebrated and all observances had been duly performed , the King instructed that all should leave except the bishop and the abbots . Then the King prostrated himself with tears before the Archbishop and the other ecclesiastical personages and prelates . He said that he had sinned because he had possessed himself of the kingdom of a lawfully crowned king ; and he promised that he would restore the kingdom to [Solomon] , and that these would be the conditions of firm peace between them : He would by lawful right hold the crown with that third part of the kingdom belonging with the duchy ; the crowned [Solomon] would hold the two parts of the kingdom which he had held before Then King [Géza] sent messengers to King [Solomon] with letters setting forth the terms of peace . Messengers passed to and fro , but feelings on this side and that were at variance , and so the reconciliation found no consummation . Meanwhile King [Géza] fell gravely ill , and on April 25 , adorned with virtues , he went the way of all flesh . He was most devoted to God in the Catholic faith , and he was a most Christian Prince .

= = Family = =

Géza married twice . The family of his first wife Sophia , whom he married in the late 1060s , is unknown . After his coronation in 1075 , he married his second wife , who was the niece of the future Byzantine Emperor Nikephoros III .

It is uncertain which wife bore Géza 's children , but the historians Gyula Kristó and Márta Font say that Sophia was their mother . Kristó adds that Géza fathered at least six children . Although only two of them ? Coloman and Álmos ? are known by name , the Illuminated Chronicle states that Coloman had brothers who " died before him " . Both Coloman and Álmos were apparently born around 1070 .

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

* Whether Géza 's first or second wife was his children 's mother is uncertain . * * Géza had at least two further children , but their names are unknown .