

= Andrew I of Hungary =

Andrew I the White or the Catholic ( Hungarian : I. Fehér or Katolikus András or Endre ; c . 1015 ? Zirc , before 6 December 1060 ) was King of Hungary from 1046 to 1060 . He descended from a younger branch of the Árpád dynasty . After spending fifteen years in exile , he ascended the throne during an extensive revolt of the pagan Hungarians . He strengthened the position of Christianity in the Kingdom of Hungary and successfully defended its independence against the Holy Roman Empire .

His efforts to ensure the succession of his son , Solomon , resulted in the open revolt of his brother , Béla . Béla dethroned Andrew by force in 1060 . Andrew suffered severe injuries during the fighting and died before his brother was crowned king .

= = Early life = =

= = = Childhood ( c . 1015 ? 1031 ) = = =

Medieval sources provide two contradictory reports of the parents of Andrew , and his two brothers , Levente and Béla . For instance , the Chronicle of Zagreb and Saint Gerard 's Life write that their father was Vazul , a grandson of Taksony , Grand Prince of the Hungarians ( r . c . 955 ? c . 970 ) . The Illuminated Chronicle and other medieval sources write of Vazul 's relationship with " some girl " from the Tátony clan who bore his sons , who thus " were not born of a true marriage @-@ bed " . According to a concurrent tradition , which has been preserved by most chronicles , the three princes were the sons of Vazul 's brother , Ladislav the Bald . Modern historians , who reject the latter report , agree that Andrew and his brothers were the sons of Vazul and his concubine from the Tátony clan . According to the historian Gyula Kristó , Andrew was the second among Vazul 's three sons . He writes that Andrew was born around 1015 .

= = = In exile ( 1031 ? 1046 ) = = =

According to medieval chronicles , Vazul was blinded during the reign of his cousin , King Stephen I , the first Christian monarch of Hungary ( r . 997 ? 1038 ) . The king ordered Vazul 's mutilation after the death , in 1031 , of Emeric , his only son surviving infancy . The contemporary Annals of Altaich writes that the king himself ordered the mutilation of one of his kinsmen , who had strong claim to the throne , in an attempt to ensure a peaceful succession to his own sister 's son , Peter Orseolo . The same source adds that the king expelled his blinded cousin 's three sons from Hungary . According to the contrasting report of the Hungarian chronicles , King Stephen wanted to save the young princes ' lives from their enemies in the royal court and " counselled them with all speed " to depart from Hungary .

Having his own son died in his father 's life , and having no other sons , Stephen , the king of good memory , who was the maternal uncle of [ Peter Orseolo ] , adopted and appointed him as heir to his kingdom . For his kinsman 's son disagreed with him on this , [ Stephen ] had him blinded , even if he was worthier of the kingdom , and sent his little sons into exile .

Exiled from Hungary , Andrew and his brothers settled in the court of Duke Oldřich of Bohemia ( r . 1012 ? 1033 ) . Here they came across King Mieszko II of Poland ( r . 1025 ? 1031 , 1032 ? 1034 ) who likewise took refuge in Bohemia after his opponents had expelled him from his kingdom . The Polish monarch regained his crown and returned to Poland in 1032 . Andrew , Béla and Levente , whose " condition of life was poor and mean " in Bohemia , followed Mieszko II who received them " kindly and honourably " in Poland . After the youngest among them , Béla , married a daughter of Mieszko II , Andrew and Levente decided to depart from Poland , because they " felt that they would be living in Poland under their brother 's shadow " , according to Simon of Kéza .

Hungarian chronicles have preserved a story full of fabulous or anachronistic details of the two brothers ' ensuing wanderings . For instance , they narrate that Andrew and Levente were captured

by Cumans , but the latter only arrived in Europe in the 1050s . Having faced many hardships , Andrew and Levente established themselves in the court of Yaroslav the Wise , Grand Prince of Kiev ( r . 1019 ? 1054 ) in the late 1030s . The grand prince gave his daughter , Anastasia in marriage to Andrew . Kristó writes that Andrew , who had up to that time remained pagan , was baptized on this occasion .

Having received permission from [ the Polish monarch , Andrew and Levente ] left their brother [ Béla ] behind and made their way to the King of Lodomeria , who did not receive them . Since they had nowhere to lay their head , they went from there to the [ Cumans ] . Seeing that they were persons of excellent bearing , the [ Cumans ] thought that they had come to spy out the land , and unless a captive Hungarian had recognized them , they should certainly have killed them ; but they kept them with them for some time . Then they departed thence to Russia .

= = = Return to Hungary ( 1046 ) = = =

In the meantime , King Peter Orseolo , who had succeeded King Stephen in Hungary in 1038 , alienated many lords and prelates from himself , especially when he solemnly recognized the suzerainty of the Holy Roman Emperor , Henry III in 1045 . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , the discontented lords , " seeing the sufferings of their people " , assembled in Csanád ( Cenad , Romania ) . They agreed to send envoys to Andrew and Levente to Kiev in order to persuade them to return to Hungary . Fearing " some treacherous ambush " , the two brothers only set out after the agents they had sent to Hungary confirmed that the Hungarians were ripe for an uprising against the king .

By the time the two brothers decided to return , a revolt had broken out in Hungary . It was dominated by pagans who captured many clergymen and mercilessly slaughtered them . Andrew and Levente met the rebels at Abaújvár . The Illuminated Chronicle narrates how the pagans urged the dukes " to allow the whole people to live according to the rites of the pagans , to kill the bishops and the clergy , to destroy the churches , to throw off the Christian faith and to worship idols " . The same source adds that Andrew and Levente gave in to all their demands , " for otherwise they would not fight " for them against King Peter .

The Annals of Altaich states that Andrew " savagely raged against the flock of the Holy Church " . Even so , Bishop Gerard of Csanád and four other prelates were ready to join Andrew , but the pagans captured and slaughtered three of them ( including Gerard ) at Buda . King Peter decided to flee from Hungary and take refuge in Austria . However , Andrew 's envoys tricked the king to return before he reached the frontier , and they captured and blinded him .

= = Reign = =

= = = Coronation ( 1046 ? 1047 ) = = =

Most Hungarian lords and the prelates opposed the restoration of paganism . They preferred the devout Christian Andrew to his pagan brother Levente , even if , at least according to Kristó and Steinhübel , the latter was the eldest among Vazul 's three sons . The Hungarian chronicles write that Levente , who died in short time , did not oppose his brother 's ascension to the throne . The three bishops who had survived the pagan uprising crowned Andrew in Székesfehérvár in the last quarter of 1046 or in the spring of 1047 . Historian Ferenc Makk writes that Andrew was crowned with a crown that the Byzantine Emperor Constantine IX Monomachos had sent to him . Nine enamelled plaques from this golden crown were unearthed in Nyitraivánka ( Ivanka pri Nitre , Slovakia ) in the 19th century . Andrew soon broke with his pagan supporters , restored Christianity and declared pagan rites illegal . According to Kosztolnyik , Andrew 's epithets ( the White or the Catholic ) are connected to these events .

Having now been made secure against all disturbances from enemies , Duke Andreas received the crown of kingship in the royal city of Alba . No more than three bishops who had escaped that great

slaughter of the Christians performed the ceremony of coronation in the year of our Lord 1047 . He made proclamation to all his people that under pain of death they should lay aside the pagan rites which had formerly been permitted to them , and that they should return to the true faith of Christ and live in all things according to the law which King St Stephen had taught them .

= = = Wars with the Holy Roman Empire ( 1047 ? 1053 ) = = =

The contemporaneous Hermann of Reichenau narrates that Andrew " sent frequent envoys with humble entreaties " to Emperor Henry III , proposing " an annual tribute and faithful service " if the emperor recognized his reign . Andrew persuaded his brother , Béla , to return from Poland to Hungary in 1048 . He also granted his brother one third of the kingdom with the title of duke . Béla 's duchy comprised two regions which were centered on Nyitra ( Nitra , Slovakia ) and Bihar ( Biharia , Romania ) .

Skirmishes on the frontier between Hungary and the Holy Roman Empire first occurred in 1050 . Emperor Henry invaded Hungary in August 1051 , but Andrew and Béla successfully applied scorched earth tactics against the imperial troops and forced them to withdraw . Legend says that the Vértes Hills near Székesfehérvár were named after the armours ? vért in Hungarian ? which were discarded by the retreating German soldiers .

Andrew initiated new peace negotiations with the emperor and promised to pay an annual tribute , but his offers were refused . Next summer , the emperor returned to Hungary and laid siege to Pressburg ( Bratislava , Slovakia ) . Zotmund , " a most skilful swimmer " scuttled the emperor 's ships . After Pope Leo IX mediated a peace treaty , the emperor lifted the siege and withdrew from Hungary . Andrew soon refused to fulfill his promises made under duress , and even allied with Conrad I , Duke of Bavaria , a prominent opponent of Emperor Henry III .

Because Andreas , the king of the Hungarians was less and less inclined to send envoys and to make promises concerning a peace treaty , [ the emperor ] laid siege to the fortress of Pressburg and for a long time attacked it with various machines of war . Since , however , God aided the besieged , who anxiously called on Him , his efforts were always frustrated and he could by no means capture it . Meanwhile the lord Pope Leo had intervened at the request of Andreas to make peace and he called on the emperor to end the siege . Since [ the pope ] found [ the emperor ] in all respects in agreement with him , while discovering that Andreas on the contrary was less obedient to his advice , he was angry and threatened the latter with excommunication for mocking the apostolic see .

= = = Succession crisis and death ( 1053 ? 1060 ) = = =

Andrew 's queen , Anastasia , gave birth to a son , named Solomon in 1053 . Andrew attempted to make his son 's succession secure , even against his brother , Béla , who had strong claim to succeed Andrew according to the traditional principle of seniority .

The brothers ' relationship did not deteriorate immediately after Solomon 's birth . In the deed of the foundation of the Tihany Abbey , a Benedictine monastery established in 1055 by Andrew , Duke Béla was listed among the lords witnessing the act . This charter , although primarily written in Latin , contains the earliest extant text ? Feheruaru rea meneh hodu utu rea ( " on the military road which leads to Fehérvár " ) ? written in Hungarian . Andrew also established a lavra for Orthodox hermits in Tihany and an Orthodox monastery near Visegrád . The Third Book of Law of King Ladislaus I of Hungary ( r . 1077 ? 1095 ) refers to an " estate survey of the judge Sarkas " under " King Andrew and Duke Béla " . According to György Györffy , the serfs of the royal domains were registered during this survey which took place around 1056 .

Andrew suffered a stroke which paralyzed him . In an attempt to strengthen his son 's claim to the throne , he had the child Solomon crowned in the one @-@ year @-@ long period beginning in the autumn of 1057 . For the same purpose , Andrew also arranged the engagement of his son with Judith ? a daughter of the late Emperor Henry III , and sister of the new German monarch , Henry IV ( r . 1056 ? 1105 ) ? in September 1058 . Thereafter , according to an episode narrated by most

Hungarian chronicles , the king invited Duke Béla to a meeting at Tiszavárkony . At their meeting , Andrew seemingly offered his brother to freely choose between a crown and a sword , which were the symbols of the kingdom and the ducatus , respectively . Duke Béla , who had previously been informed by his partisans in Andrew 's court that he would be murdered on the king 's order if he opted for the crown , chose the sword .

However , Béla , who actually had no intention of renouncing his claim to succeed his brother in favor of his nephew , fled to Poland and sought military assistance from Duke Boleslaus II of Poland ( r . 1058 ? 1079 ) . With Duke Boleslaus 's support , Béla returned to Hungary at the head of Polish troops . On the other hand , the Dowager Empress Agnes ? who governed the Holy Roman Empire in the name of her minor son , Henry IV ? sent Bavarian , Bohemian and Saxon troops to assist Andrew .

The decisive battle was fought in the regions east of the river Tisza . Andrew suffered injuries and lost the battle . He attempted to flee to the Holy Roman Empire , but his brother 's partisans routed his retinue at Moson . The Annals of Niederaltaich narrates that wagons and horses trampled him in the battlefield . Deadly wounded in the battlefield , Andrew was seized and taken by his brother 's partisans to Zirc where " he was treated with neglect " , according to the Illuminated Chronicle . Andrew died in the royal manor there before his brother was crowned king on 6 December 1060 . Andrew was buried in the crypt of the church of the Tihany Abbey .

= = Family = =

Andrew 's wife , Anastasia , was the daughter of Grand Duke Yaroslav I the Wise of Kiev by his wife , Ingegerd , who herself was the daughter of King Olof Skötkonung of Sweden . Andrew married Anastasia , who was born in about 1020 , around 1038 . Their first child , Adelaide was born around 1040 . She became the wife of Vratislaus II of Bohemia , who was initially Duke and , from 1085 , King of Bohemia . Andrew and Anastasia 's first son , Solomon , was born in 1053 , their second son , David , some years later . Neither Solomon nor David fathered sons ; the male line of Andrew 's family died out with their death by the end of the 11th century .

King Salomon and David , his brother , never had children , and the seed of King Andreas perished with them . We believe that this was by an act of God ; for on his first return with Levente , his brother , to Hungary , Andreas with the purpose of gaining the kingdom permitted the ungodly Vatha and other most evil men to kill the saintly Gerard and many Christians .

Medieval chronicles write that Andrew had a natural son , named George , " by a concubine " from the village of Pilismarót . Since his name was popular among Orthodox believers , Gyula Kristó says that his mother may have been a Russian lady @-@ in @-@ waiting of Andrew 's queen . The theory that the Clan Drummond in Scotland was descended from George is not widely accepted by scholars .

The following family tree presents Andrew 's ancestry , his offspring , and some of his relatives mentioned in the article .

\* A Khazar , Pecheneg or Volga Bulgarian lady . \* \* Györffy writes that she may have been a member of the Bulgarian Cometopuli dynasty .

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