

Description

The physical relics of King Ladislaus I have been preserved for centuries in Győr Cathedral: his head and his right hand were maintained as sacred objects by the Hungarian church for nearly a thousand years. DNA analysis from sample SZTL has allowed modern genomics to study the biological profile of this foundational figure of the Árpád line. He ruled Hungary in the 11th century and died leaving behind a legacy that blended fierce military power with deep religious devotion — earning him the title "Athlete of Christ."



Traditional icon of Saint Ladislaus I of Hungary.

Ladislaus I was born in exile in Poland and returned to reclaim his family's throne, securing it after the decisive Battle of Mogyoród in 1074. As king, he consolidated power through strict legal measures and expanded Hungarian territory by invading Croatia in 1091. His reign became the subject of extraordinary hagiographic legend — medieval chronicles describe him curing a plague by shooting an arrow into the sky and striking a "magical herb." Stories like these reflect the reverence in which his people held him.

His daughter Piroska became Empress Irene of Byzantium, extending the Árpád genetic and political legacy deep into the heart of the Greek empire — a remarkable reach for a dynasty that had consolidated power only a generation before. The preservation of Ladislaus's head and right hand in a cathedral speaks to how profoundly his people venerated him as both king and saint. Those same relics, held sacred for a millennium, now serve as a bridge between the mythological knight-saint of medieval legend and his empirical genetic profile.

Modern population	Distance
Mordvin (Moksha)	3.811
Ukrainian (Zakarpattia)	3.978
Mordvin	4.052
Moldovan	4.117
Mordvin (Erzya)	4.164
Russian (Ryazan)	4.228
Hungarian	4.317
Slovakian	4.430
Ukrainian (Poltava)	4.502
Russian (Kostroma)	4.590

Source

Date: 1743–1793 CE

Y-DNA: R-ARP11*

mtDNA: T2

Location: Hungary

Research: The archaeogenomic validation of Saint Ladislaus' relic provides insights into the Árpád dynasty's genealogy

Sample(s): SZTL