



Knez Lazar

Stefan Lazar, Prince Lazar Hrebeljanovic or Knez Lazar (1329 - June 28, 1389), also known as "Tsar Lazar", was a Serbian noble who fought and perished at the Battle of Kosovo,

to which his name and life are inextricably tied.
He is a heroic figure in Serbia, and a saint
of the Serb Orthodox Church.

Around 1380 Lazar founded the monastery of Ravanica and around 1388 Ljubostinja. By 1387 he was raising a massive force to meet the invading forces of the Ottoman Empire, which would include every Serbian knight in his kingdom. The two large forces met in the 1389 battle of Kosovo, and Lazar was one of those killed during that battle, along with much of Serbia's political elite.

Following Lazar's death, his widow assumed control of Serbia. Lacking in military or economic strength, she pledged suzerainty to Murad I's successor, his son Bayezid, who had taken as his wife the daughter of Lazar. Meanwhile, Milica turned to internal matters, where she dealt with her few remaining political opponents. It was her propaganda campaign, via the epic poetry composed at her court, that resulted in Lazar's quick resurrection, and the subsequent portrayal of their son-in-law Vuk Brankovic as the traitor responsible for the Serbian defeat.

Lazar is portrayed as having been visited by an angel of God on the night before battle, and offered a choice between an earthly or a Heavenly kingdom, which choice would result in a victory or defeat, respectively, at the Battle of Kosovo. Lazar, naturally, opts for the Heavenly kingdom, which will last "forever and ever" ("Perishable is earthly kingdom, but forever and ever is Kingdom of Heaven!"), but has to perish on the battlefield. "We die with Christ, to live forever" tells he to his soldiers. That Kosovo destination and that Testament, it is a union which Serb people made with God and sealed it with martyrs blood. On Kosovo Serbs voted with their souls for Kingdom of Heaven and that was and has been their right destination. Since then all Serbs truthful to that Testament are becoming people of God, Christ's New

Testament nation, heavenly Serbia, part of God's New Israel. This is why sometimes Serbs refer to themselves as the people of Heaven.

Serbian Orthodox Church canonised Lazar as Saint Lazar. He is celebrated at June 15 of the Julian calendar, which is June 28 (Vidovdan) of the Gregorian calendar. Several small Serbian Orthodox Church churches and missions throughout the world are named after him. His alleged remains are kept in Ravanica Monastery where miraculous cures have been attributed to them.

Source: <http://www.blinkx.com/watch-video/christian-orthodox-worldwide/5ugBG-D-xmIeze2A8RbiXw>