

The diploma thesis called Approaches to using the potential of the human mind towards a respectful and participative lifestyle is the independent approach of student Zdenka Sokolíčková, to the question of man's place in nature. The topic is mainly connected with the academic field of cultural ecology but extends further, into the field of philosophy as well. It is generally based on three sources of relevant literature: contemporary natural sciences, philosophy and social sciences throughout history, and selected literary works including both prose and poetry. The thesis itself is structured as follows: at first the main widely used terms and expressions in the text (such as mind, consciousness, reality, subject and object) are defined. Then the crucial hypothesis of the alternative conception of man's place in nature is formulated. Above all the student accents the role and potential of the human mind which offers large possibilities for the cognition and understanding of the subject through a holistic apprehension of the world.

To illustrate the argument, there are presented several selected works of reputable natural scientists, such as Fritjof Capra, James Lovelock, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Gregory Bateson or Konrad Lorenz. This chapter is followed by similar commentary on social scientists and philosophers, such as Blaise Pascal, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling, Henry David Thoreau, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Arne Næss or Timothy Leary. Finally there are chosen some well-known writers and poets to show a clear connection between the cultural ecological appeal and the value of worthwhile literature for present society. Words written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Richard Bach, Gary Snyder, Nanao Sakaki or William Blake express in an imaginative way the same ideas as those written by the natural and social scientists.

The main thesis of the diploma paper criticizes the rationalistic.