

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this work is to evaluate the post-mortem journey of the soul theory in the Warring States and early Han dynasty periods. Since this theory is presented by its proponents as an alternative to the so-called „happy-home“ theory, before starting his own analysis the author first introduces both theories citing the main arguments of their proponents. Author's own analysis consists of two parts: interpretation of archeological sources consisting of four tombs and translations of passages from textual sources connected to burial ritual dating to said period. Throughout the work, the author views all sources from the standpoint of both theories and evaluates their applicability of said theories to those sources. Through his own analysis, the author reaches the conclusion that neither the theory of post-mortem journey, nor the „happy-home“ theory prove suitable when it comes to explaining the presence burial articles in tombs of said period and their theses do not seem to be reflected in the period's literature. The author considers the role that the deceased played in their society to be a better key to explaining burial articles than either of the theories concerning what the ancient people thought followed after death.

**Keywords:** journey, post-mortem journey, „happy home“, afterlife, Warring States, Han, Zenghou Yi, Baoshan, Mawangdui.