

The thesis focuses on the theme of the pact with the devil in the Czech literature between 1968 and 1989. It deals in detail with eight selected literary works from this period, mostly from self-publishing (samizdat) or exile. This is mainly due to the fact that the topic of the pact with the devil seems to be a perfect means of a critical reflection of the period, which was understandably not possible in the official literature.

The thesis distinguishes two main types of the theme: a Faustian type and the pact with the devil resembling Dostoevsky's legend about the Grand Inquisitor. The Faustian type of the pact is represented by the works of Daniela Fischerová, Ludvík Aškenazy, Ivan Binar, Jan Trefulka, Josef Šafařík and Václav Havel. They build on puppet and literary Faustian tradition in Bohemia as well as follow the Czech tradition of philosophical reflection of the Faustian story (Jan Patočka, Zdeněk Neubauer). In contrast to the works inspired by The Grand Inquisitor, they focus on existential conflict of

individuals and evil, individual motivation to sign a pact with the devil and the resulting punishment or positive solution of the situation. A positive solvent, the possibility to withdraw from the pact with the devil, suggests D. Fischerová in her play *Myth (Báj)*, Trefulka in his novel *Misled and Abandoned (Svedený a opuštěný)* and Havel in his play *Temptation (Pokoušení)*. Fischerová stresses the importance of

the future; Trefulka sees a source of power to permanently resist the devilish temptation in the ability to deeply experience pain of significant losses, Havel in the courage to "live in truth".

Reminiscence on Dostoevsky's legend about the Grand Inquisitor may be found in the novels of Karel Pecka *Kites to a Missing Friend (Motáky nezvěstnému)* and Ivan Kříž *The Truth about the Fall of Sodom (Pravda o zkáze Sodomy)*.