

Annotation:

The topic of my thesis is 'suicide' and 'self-sacrifice'.

The main target of the paper is to become familiar with the terms 'suicide' and 'self-sacrifice' and to find a difference between the two terms with reference to the ethical assessment.

The paper has two theoretical parts. In the first part I briefly define terms 'suicide' and 'self-sacrifice' based on literature exploring some common myths and I present medical, psychological, sociological and theological knowledge on the subject.

I also study historical, as well as cultural development of a suicide classification, methods, forms and means of the suicidal act and its specifics according to age, gender and different motives.

The second part of the paper is dedicated to the Jan Palach case. In this part, I am trying to answer the question of whether the Palach's act is to be considered a suicide or self-sacrifice and I am also considering its ethical acceptability. I am examining motives of Palach's act, his life story, conducts and opinions, and I am dealing with responses of contemporary as well as present authors and the church representatives. At the same time, I also carry on my own critical evaluation and I am trying to answer the question whether the Palach's burn-to death act is for me an acceptable form of a protest against former political and social conditions.

The main terms:

suicide, self-sacrifice, medicine, psychology, sociology, theology, Jan Palach, burn-to-death act