

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with divination in ancient China. The first part defines the theme and method, gives criticism of the primary source and presents a brief overview of the current state of research. The second part presents divination practices before the Eastern Zhou period. The third section provides a summary of divination practices in the Eastern Zhou period, categorizes the various oracles and provides related information. The fourth part introduces persons who performed divination practices and puts them into a broader framework. In the fifth section there is a quantitative and qualitative analysis of data collected from Zuo Zhuan's oracle texts, which are then confronted with the knowledge of divination from archaeological excavations of oracle's texts. The work concludes that during the Eastern Zhou period there were at least two concepts of access to divination standing side by side that are mutually intertwined – religious concept and ethical-philosophy concept.

Keywords: Divination, Early China, Religion, Eastern Zhou.