

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on polar qualities of Good and Evil in the work of the Neo-Platonic philosopher Plotinus. Plotinus' metaphysics tries to integrate these contrary principals into a monistic system. The first part of the thesis deals with Plotinus' metaphysics in general. The central term is *One* – the primal principal and the source of the whole reality – which Plotinus argues for as the *only real Good*. Another basic term in his work is *tolma* – the will to separate – being the cause of plurality and providing the other with existence. New kinds of realities arise through *tolma* and each kind has its own specifics. The Plotinus' hierarchical scale, One – Intellect – Soul, descends to the lowest level of reality – *Matter*. Matter closes the whole cosmological process. Plotinus characterises Matter as the *only real Evil* and *the originator of all evil*. Nevertheless, this weakens his monistic concept. The second part of this thesis, therefore, focuses on Matter. The question is how the infinitely good One may give rise to its own opposite. Thus, this work primarily aims at difficulties connected with this dualism evoking concept and it also introduces various, sometimes highly different ways of interpretation of Plotinus' metaphysics.