

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to create an overview of the most famous ancient figures in the Divine Comedy by the Italian author Dante Alighieri. The thesis deals with the characters appearing in all the three parts of the work: the Inferno, the Purgatory, and the Paradise. The thesis is accompanied by original citations from the text in which the discussed characters perform. One by one, the meaning of the citations within the text is analysed, as well as the meaning of the characters in the Greek and Roman mythology. Another theme of the thesis is the figure of Lucifer who – having fallen from Heaven – created not only Dante's Inferno but also the Mountain of Purgatory. The whole work follows the author's point of view on the individual characters and their possible wrongdoings. At the beginning, the thesis deals with the legacy of ancient literature in the Middle Ages, the period when Dante Alighieri lived. A separate chapter is dedicated to the figures of Virgil and Ulysses, probably one of the most noticeable names of the ancient times. What makes the figure of Virgil even more prominent is the fact that he is not only important for the work, being one of the guides on Dante's pilgrimage, but also important for the real-life author who had admired him his whole life. The closing part of this thesis presents the findings of the examination of the ancient characters within the Divine Comedy and the point of view of Dante Alighieri who had presented them in his work. A confrontation related to the question why he chose these exact figures is also included.

### **Key words:**

Dante, Lucifer, ancient History