

Verbal manifestation of ecclesiastical symbolism in The Life of Constantine

At the beginning of this thesis we become acquainted with a numerical symbolism that is clarified from two different points of view; the ecclesiastical symbolism and the history that differentiates the real historical events from the moments meant solely for the reader accustomed to Byzantine literature of the ninth century. After the introduction we apply ourselves to a chronological analysis of the text. The historical facts elucidating the use of the clauses written by the author of The Life of Constantine are always thoroughly analysed. The main part of the text focuses on three disputations representing a logical complex culminating in the last disputation. This last disputation defends the use of the Slavic language in liturgy.

A political situation on the Byzantine throne and both the Constantinople and the Roman papal throne is explained in the thesis. Moreover, the reason why Rostislav the prince of Great Moravia asked for priests from the Byzantine Empire and not from Rome, and why did Byzantium, at least partially, grant his request. We will then learn what theological dangers Constantine faced while creating the new writing system and translating the Bible into the Old Church Slavonic.

The text also concentrates on the miracles performed by God which affect not only Constantine's life, but also the life of his followers and his opponents. A clarification of the complicated position of patriarch Photius is enclosed as well. The impact of patriarch Photius pervades the whole text of The Life of Constantine mainly allusively, but strongly affects Constantine's life. There is also given a description of a political struggle between the Byzantine Empire and Rome for the division of power over the new territory. One of the chapters deals with Saint Clement relics, their importance for the then man and their acceptance of the new liturgy, which affected the history of all Slavs. ...