

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with Jewish burial rituals in Central Europe and their forms, especially in the Bohemia, Hungary and Poland, in history and in the present times. It is divided into four parts and includes an introduction and conclusion. The introductory part deals with a different approach of today's secular and Jewish communities to death and burial. It also determines the target and methods of this work. The first part describes the Jewish perception of death and resurrection and its development. It also deals with the connection between the perception of death and faith in the coming of the Messiah, which also undergone some development in history. The second part describes the Jewish burial society called Hevra Kadisha, the reasons for its creation, governance structure, its development and importance in the Jewish community and its activities including their ritual objects. A separate chapter is devoted to the literature of Jewish funeral rites. The third part concerns especially with funeral, but also describes the care of sick and dying. A funeral is divided into chapters on the different stages of its progress, including the differences between communities in different countries. The individual phases includes preparation of the deceased from the moment of death to the lowering into the grave. They also describe the preparation of items needed for the ritual funeral. The fourth section covers the rituals of survivors, their course and duration in accordance with the relationship to the deceased. Conclusion summarizes the attitude of the Jewish community to the funeral rites in history and today, and the influence of social and cultural development on their course.