

Abstract:

This thesis deals with late antiquity literary work, dating probably from second half of 2nd century CE, known as *Chaldaean Oracles*. These are written in Greek and preserved only in fragments. It's content is a philosophical and religious system, which fuses together middle-platonic philosophy and oriental religious traditions

The aim of this thesis is to present doctrine of the literary work in question as well as the associated ritual practice (called theurgy) and then to analyze this system and compare it with similar movements, especially with Hermetism and Gnosticism. To achieve this, I use the methodology of R. Chlup, based on the concept of so called „worldviews“. These are implicit assumptions and choices in ideological systems. I then try to connect the Chaldaean worldview with it's supposed social context. The result of this analysis is that the image of the world in the *Chaldaean Oracles* is considerably positive, with the emphasis on the unity of all. It thus constitutes an antipole of certain sort to the largely negative and dualistic Gnosticism, with which it shares similar metaphysical concepts.

The supplement of this thesis contains the Greek original of extant fragments together with author's original Czech translation.

Key words:

Chaldaean Oracles, theurgy, late antiquity, worldview