

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis outlines the view of women's life in traditional Judaism on the territory of the capital city of Prague. The work is not only focused on Jewish history from the First Republic to the present, the development of the social coexistence of Czechs and Jews over the last two centuries, but also on the preserved traditions and contemporary practices of Jewish women.

The aim of my work is to clarify the traditions and customs that have been observed and changed in Prague and have evolved over time, under the influence of the surrounding world or migration. All this, with the emphasis on the fact that even though the life of pious Jewish women is full of statutes and provisions, these women are still given great respect, family, religion, culture, or society.

Many years of thought and attitudes have persisted in the Jewish population in the form of dogmatism. On the part of the Czech population, motivated religious, social and even superstitious prejudices persisted.

An unobtrusive observer may seem from the outside view that the lives of women in traditional Judaism or the practices of women in Prague since the First Republic are stable and unchanging. These ceremonies and practices have passed in the past with some developments that have culminated in the territory of Prague in the last twenty years after 1989.

All rituals related to the life cycle of Jewish women have their deep roots in Tanach (the Old Testament). The period of liberation of restrictive legal norms in the second half of the 19th century was the biggest influence on the Jewish population. At that time, we can see more penetration of the assimilation effects. Some of the customs have been altered over time, forgotten if they have retreated from them.

The most significant changes occurred during the period of the so-called Czechoslovak Republic. The emphasis of the society at that time on the free expression and will of the individual manifested itself in the gradual departure from religious ceremonies and practices.

The religious rights of the Jewish minority have been greatly diverted as a result of the tragic events of World War II and the regime's ruling since 1948. Furthermore, the regime has prevented the Jewish population from living in traditional ceremonies. This has resulted

in the diversion of the Jewish population from traditional ceremonial practices to almost totally secular social expression. Due to post-war repatriates from the Carpathian region, significant influencing has occurred in the area of life-cycle ceremony, originally living in a completely orthodox and specific religious environment.

In the period of post-revolutionary changes, the Prague Jewish population hardly returned to the traditional ceremonial habits of their ancestors. In the current period, therefore, we often encounter infiltration of non-original modern Israeli, American or Sephardic customs, which significantly affect not only the lives of Jewish women.