

Abstract

The Concept of Death in Christianity and Islam

The present bachelor's thesis investigates the approaches to the concept of death in Christian and Islam religions. For the purpose of this work, Roman-Catholic Church and Sunni faiths are compared. The thesis analyses views on death from cultural standpoints – the experience of terminal illness and dying within families and in institutions in this country as opposed to those with Islam faith prevailing, followed by the treatment of death in sacred books, the Bible and the Quran, in both the monotheistic traditions and respective religious authorities' interpretations of death. A substantial section is dedicated to burial rituals – the funeral mass in church with liturgy which are significant for the Christian tradition, and body preparation and the burial itself which are highly elaborate in the Islam tradition. An attempt is made at detecting and delimiting the main differences in burial practices. The work then introduces the various resting places of the dead, studying burial places, graves, tombs and other places of piety in the way they are decorated and the frequency at which they are visited (a matter of ongoing discussion in Islam). The work is concluded by a description of burial practices of Moslems living in the Czech Republic.

Keywords

Christianity, Islam, death, the Bible, the Quran, burial, funeral, rite, ritual, burial place, graveyard, grave, tomb, religious studies, eschatology