

In the present Euro-American society "Eating disorders" are widespread. It can be caused by a specific personality or social and cultural contingency, a family situation or it can be triggered also by a stressful situation. However, a similar phenomenon was also known in the Middle Ages. It was not called anorexia nervosa but it was introduced almost in the same way. Women who deeply believed, wanted to prove that abnormal fasting and ascetic behaviour could show to society that it was not necessary to eat in order to live. You can live just from Gods power and love. The similar phenomenon appeared in the past as well as in the present. However the cause is different today. The second and third part is about two main strains of "Eating disorders". They are anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. A historical view is taken as well as explanations of resulting consequences due to these two disorders. The fourth part contains a description of personality of anorectic and bulimic patients. In the fifth part I wrote about social and biological factors which can cause "Eating disorders". For example "Culture bound syndrom". "The theory of social womb" is analyzed in the sixth part. Two therapists V. Chvála and L. Trapková discovered this theory. The social womb is metaphor for a family system and it describes similarities in the development of the biological and social womb. This theory is very important in treatment, it can show regularities which are repeated in family records. When a phenomenon is frequent it indicates a probability that a disorder may be present. I interned for one month at The Centre Gaudia and still continue my research at the centre. This experience enables me to gather an understanding of the phenomenons of these disorder.