

The main aim of this thesis is to present and compare the approaches of the two important Hellenistic philosophical schools – the Old Stoics and Epicurus – to the phenomenon of death in relationship to the concept of the soul. First, the problem is viewed through the perspective of physics. Epicurus and the Stoics adhere to the belief in the substantial (and not individual) immortality of the soul, resembling in some aspects the view of presocratic philosophers. The soul is understood by both schools as basis of life functions connected with heat and breath. Second, the ethical approaches to death by Epicurus and the Stoics and their different proposals for disposing of the fear of death are shortly introduced.