

SUMMARY

This thesis explores the view on symbol, body and freedom in Paul Ricoeur's and Olivier Clément's work. The aim is to analyse symbols and explore the benefits they can have for modern society, Western culture and how can these symbols influence people. This topic indirectly allows understanding of the role of tradition, rituals, narrations, myths and traditional wisdom in nowadays Western society. Furthermore, the thesis shows what influences the process of thinking, deciding and deepening one's faith. In particular, I am investigating whether in nowadays democratic and freedom supporting society one really has possibility of free choice. This reflection is to be completed on the basis of previous analysis of the symbol, body and freedom in the view of philosopher Paul Ricoeur and theologian Olivier Clément.

The thesis is structured into three chapters. The first chapter is dedicated to the analysis of Ricoeur's view on this subject, in the following chapter I study Clément's theology, and in the third chapter I offer the comparison of these two. In the beginning of each chapter I introduce the life of the authors and influences that they encountered. This will reveal their philosophy and theology in better context. The conclusion summarizes the findings of previous chapters, and shows how they can be applied in other disciplines.