

OF HUMANS AND GRAVES
THE ROLE OF THE PLACE OF BURIAL IN LATE
MEDIEVAL URBAN LIFE

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This contribution deals with the question what importance their place of burial had for those living in an urban environment during the late middle ages. Hitherto international as well as Czech scholars have held the view that only for the nobility was the place of entombment of any relevance. Written sources and artefacts, even though their number may be rather small, permit a different interpretation. Hints pointing to special ideas having been entertained about where one would like to be buried and the desired looks of grave and gravestone allow conclusions (which are not further elaborated upon) to be drawn about what was common. Thus, analysis of sources from several Bohemian towns of differing religious orientation proves

that to attach importance to one's eventual place of burial was not an exclusive prerogative of the nobility. Similar to what was common in aristocratic circles, respectful remembrance of deceased family members and ancestors was among the central considerations to be taken into account.