

## STORIES OF PURIFICATION

### Prophetic Literature as Consolation for and Weapon of Catholic Opponents to Hussitism

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The present study examines prophetic texts which were read in Bohemia respectively in Central Europe in connection with the Hussite wars. Often these were texts which on the surface proposed mere reforms, but which possessed a strong subversive potential underneath, since they stimulated troubles and even violence linked to attempts at correcting the faults of the church. In the Hussite era, these texts nevertheless formed an element in the argumentation by the opponents of the Hussite reformers, predominantly outside the Bohemian Kingdom. The prophetic texts worked *ex post*, i.e. as explanation and legitimization of events that had already taken place and which were now, based on the prophecies, seen as belonging to a plan devised by God. The present contribution looks at this problem by closely examining works such as *Vade mecum in tribulatione* by Jan Rupescissa, and other

non-biblical prophecies. Two distinct waves of growing interest in prophetic literature are recognizable in 15<sup>th</sup>-century Central Europe, both being closely connected to the Hussite events. As regards the decade of the 1460s, a second cause may be discerned for the growing eschatological mindset: the Turkish threat was experienced as an imminent danger.