

Saint Václav, Duke of Bohemia

Valentina Hájková

Today is December 14-th, 2127 and professor Halama's team has got only a week more to finish their plans for next year. They must send all these plans to the Dean of Charles University.

Professor Adam Halama is the head of the Institute of World History at Charles University in Prague and his team counts 16 people. His closest and the most favourite colleagues are Dr. Michael Nejezchleba and Dr. Dominika Turecki, the both young scientists, who love Czech history. That is why they are the most favourite professor's assistants. Michael and Dominika are very ambitious, they would not like to stay in Prague only and they think about an adventure.

Next year is the 1200-th anniversary of the death of Václav I. Adam, Dominika and Michael very often talk about the Duke and his life. They often fight against each other and discuss about the Přemyslid Dynasty. Adam believes Václav was killed by his brother's people, Michael is sure he wasn't killed by his brother and Dominika is not sure if he lived at all.

Dominika pushed professor to write a book about Saint Václav. He finally agreed, and they started 3 years ago. Everything went well till the time they started write the chapter "How Saint Václav Was Killed". Dominika and Michael were a bit angry with professor because of his "old views", they really could not believe the Duke was killed by his brother. Dominika told the professor: "I know we didn't plan it, but we can use University's old teleport and travel to the Middle Ages." Adam began to laugh, and he said: "How can we do it? It's impossible, the Dean can't agree with this very dangerous trip and nobody gives us money for that." Michael was ashamed that he had not come up with the idea first, because he also thought about this mission and he said: "Sir, I agree with Dominika, we have to teleport ourselves to 10-th century to be a part of that time. This will be the best for our investigation. I know, it will be very dangerous, but we must go there." Adam was thinking, but nobody believed he would agree with this crazy plan. But he said: "Guys, what can we do? We are scientists, we need to be always right, we have no possibility to find any more information in literature about that time. This is why we have to go!" Dominika and Michael were shocked, they could not believe what happened. Anyway, they decided to start work.

Adam divided tasks very early. "Dominika you are young lady, interested in fashion, you will work on our clothing. We must look like they. It is up to you, who we will be. Michael, you are more technically orientated, you will study all teleport

manuals", said Adam. "OK, we have lot of time to prepare everything", said Michael.

"Sir, I found a problem with the teleport", said Michael few days later very sadly, "I am afraid we are not able to go to the Middle Ages." Professor Adam was shocked. "Why Michael? What happened?" Michael started explaining, "Sir, you already know that nowadays world is all online and well connected. As well is our teleport. However, during the Middle Ages, there was no internet, nor online cloud servers. Once we get there, our teleport machine will disconnect to offline mode and I will not be able to reconnect it again and go back." Professor was destroyed by this information. Even though he knew it is very dangerous, he was looking forward to proving everyone, that Duke of Bohemia lived and was killed by his own brother.

That is why professor Adam called his team. "Guys, I am an old man, but you two have a lovely and long live ahead of you. I hope you will understand, that I cannot agree to let you go to the Middle Ages, when there is no way back. Instead I will be the one going there." Michael and Dominika did not believe their own ears. "Sir, you cannot do it! What will do here without you? We still have so much to learn from you," said Dominika while having tears in her eyes. "It's decided my dears. You know how much I love history and I really need to know what happened that time. I can make everything clear," Adam said. "But Sir, how will we know what happened?" asked Michael. Adam only smiled, "I was thinking about everything. I will teleport myself to the Middle Ages and observe as much as I can. I will also take this metal safe with me. When I finish my observation, I will write a chronical about Václav I, then I will put it to this safe and hide it somewhere so only you two can find it. Then you finish our book and whole world will know how things actually happened!"

The day was here. Professor Halama changed his clothes for ones Dominika prepared and he was ready to find the truth. Everything was prepared and professor was ready to board the teleport. Before he did so, he told his colleagues. "Guys, it was a great pleasure to work with you for such a long time. When I finish the chronical, I will hide the safe on the very top of the Říp mountain, so you can easily find it. Now it is time to say goodbye, my friends." They said goodbye to each other, and Adam boarded the teleport. It took only few moments and professor was gone.

Dominika and Michael jumped to their car and drove to the Říp mountain. "Do you think professor will make it?", Dominika asked Michael. "I have no doubt about him, he always knows what to do," replied Michael. They arrived at the mountain and started to go up. When they got up, they found on the very top a memorial stone where was written "In memory of my two great colleagues, Adam". "This must be it," Dominika said, and they started digging. In few moments they really found the safe. They opened it and found a beautiful old book.

Michael and Dominika took the book and went to their car. They were looking forward to reading everything at home, not here. On the way back they met Adam

and they were shocked again. "Professor, that's great you are here. How did you do that?", asked him Dominika with wide eyes. "Did you think I would not be able to live offline?", replied Adam.

If you want get to know more about Saint Václav's murder try to teleport yourselves to the Middle Ages or wait till year 2129, when the book will be printed.