

Torture

- During the Dark Ages, torture was used to punish offenders.
- Whether they were spies, traitors or thieves, torture was the most common method used to punish them.
- If a criminal's offense was bad enough, he could be sentenced to death after a long painful death.
- Most punishments were given in the town's main square; to show villagers what happened if they committed a crime.

- We have the misconception of thinking that the church was against these practices.
- While some archbishops were actually against torture, many others used these methods as a way to punish blasphemers and people who insulted God--or the church--somehow.

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The Inquisitional Chairs

- This instrument of torture comes in different versions. All of them are covered with spikes on the back, the arm-rests, the seat, the leg-rests and the foot-rests.
- One version has a bar screwed on the lower portion of the chair, by the victim's feet, which by a screw mechanism forced the back of the legs against the spikes, thus penetrating the flesh of the victim.



- Another version had two bars immobilizing the victim's wrists forcing his forearms against the arm-rests resulting in the flesh being penetrated by the spikes.
- Another version had a bar at chest height, to immobilize the victim's bust, while the spiked seat had holes to allow the victim's bottom to be "heated" by hot coals placed under the seat, causing painful burns, but still keeping the victim conscious.

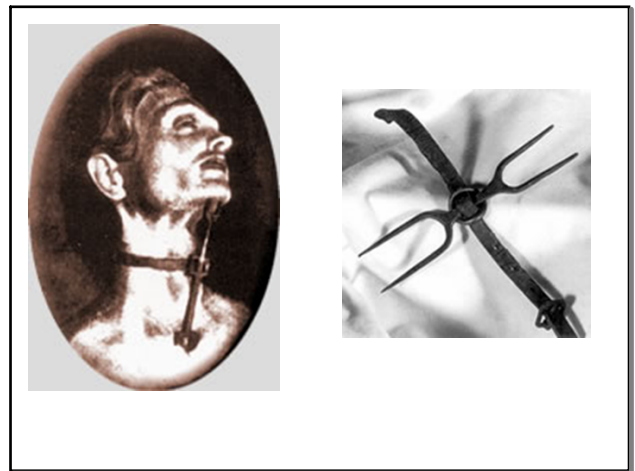


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The Heretics Fork

- This instrument consisted of two little forks one set against the other, with the four prongs rammed into the flesh, under the chin and above the chest.
- A small collar supported the instrument in such a manner that the victims were forced to hold their head erect, thus preventing any movement.
- The forks did not penetrate any vital points, and thus suffering was prolonged and death avoided.

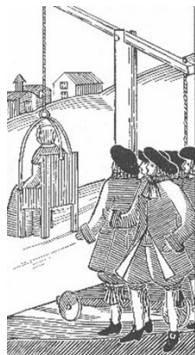


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Dunk Stool

- The Dunk Stool was a torture commonly used to make witches confess their witchery and heresy.
- It consisted of a simple chair tied to a three or a stick.
- The victim would be intermittently submerged in a river or pond.
- Eventually, the victim died.



Impaling Torture

- Vlad the Impaler, commonly referred to as Dracula, impaled thousands of people during his reign.
- During his reign, a thief could be impaled just for stealing bread - or even worse - Vlad impaled many thousands of captured soldiers to inspire fear upon his enemies.



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- The victim's hands would be tied to prevent any chance of escaping. The stick was fixed to the ground and it was too big for the victim's feet to reach the ground. Finally, it took many hours - or days even (depending on the victim's strength and weight) for the stick to reach a vital organ.
- The most common way of impalement was through the anus - but variations existed. Vlad impaled people from the chest, legs, arms and; surprisingly, from the skull.

- In rare cases, the stick would go perfectly from the anus to the mouth - in other cases the stick would stay stuck with a bone - it would go out through the chest or, more commonly, through the neck.
- Vlad was so cruel that he would sometimes impale children and then make their mothers eat them. At the same time, he would be having a feast while watching the victims be impaled right in front of him.



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Breast Ripper Torture

- When a woman slept with a man, who wasn't his husband, she could be sentenced to "The Breast Ripper."
- Consisting of ripping a woman's breasts, this torture very often caused infections and death within a few months. If the woman was lucky enough to survive, she would never be the same.



Pear of Anguish

- The Pear of Anguish was an extremely painful device used to punish homosexuals, witches and women accused of inducing a miscarriage.
- As a handle was turned, the spoon-shaped lobes opened; increasing pain. Even though the Pear of Anguish was mostly used for oral punishments, homosexuals had it fixed in their anus and women in their vagina.



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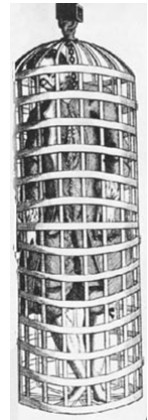
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- Causing severe pain, after this torture was employed on the mouth; the victim's teeth would get destroyed; making blood pour out of the victim's mouth often causing death.
- If introduced in the anus or vagina, death was a step away. The Pear of Anguish was rarely washed, thus causing infections very frequently.
- If the victim didn't die by an infection however, he would die by other diseases caused by the severe damage of his or her intestines.

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The Keep

- A victim would be sometimes fixed with iron nails to the cage and the door would be shut forever.
- The small openings in "The Keep" were big enough for hungry birds to eat whatever they could.
- The defenseless victim, having his arms tied with a rope, had nothing better to do than to hysterically stare at the birds--and other animals--eating him alive.



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- After many days of agonizing and severe pain, the unlucky person would finally pass out.
- In the most severe punishments, the victim would be let down; and after a week or so of resting, he would be put up there again.

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Stoning

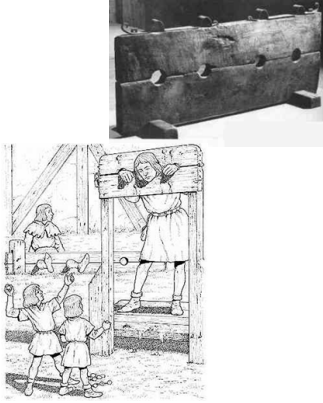
- When a woman was accused of being a witch, she would be tied to a horse and would be taken all around town.
- Villagers would throw stones and whatever sharp items they could find to increase the victim's pain.



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The Stocks

- The victim would place his or her hands and feet in the open device later to be closed.
- Depending on the crime, a person could be sentenced to many days, or even weeks of staying confined by the stocks.
- The victim would be subject to the public's harm. In a mild case, the sentenced person would leave with just a few punches in the face and a lot of urine in his or her face.



The Iron Maiden

- Normally, the big door would be shut slowly; the tips would crush a person in an agonizing pain.
- There was a tube in the bottom that made the victim see his own blood as it poured out of his body.
- The few people that did make it to this device, lasted more than 2 days before passing out.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Re5ewE5dHpQ&feature=related>

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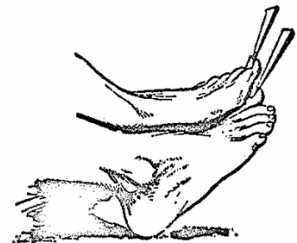
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The Exposure

- Heretics and witches were condemned to be fixed to the ground with iron nails.
- Spreading arms and legs while being naked under the sun resulted in having very strong sunburns all around a person's body.
- Wild animals used to eat the victim alive
- The victim was lucky if the closest animal was a bear; for there were smaller animals, such as mice; who would eat him slowly.

Toe Wedge

- Wooden wedges were forced underneath the toenails to help urge a confession from the criminal.
- The toenails often became infected and other tortures were applied if this was not enough for confession.

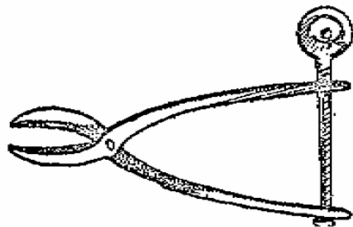


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Tongue Slicer

- This scissor type instrument was used to slice the tongue up after the victims mouth was forced open.



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Copper Boot

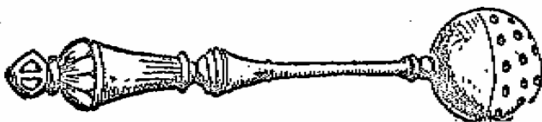
- The copper boot was placed around the foot of the victim and filled to the brim with molten lead causing first degree burns.



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The Sprinkler

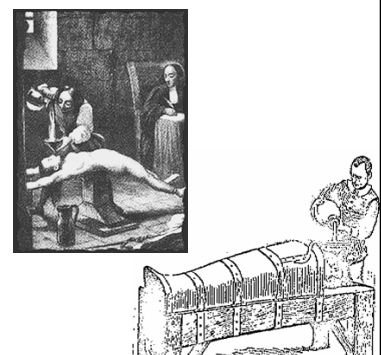
- The sprinkler was filled with molten metal and dripped on the stomach, back, and other body parts of the victim.



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Water Torture

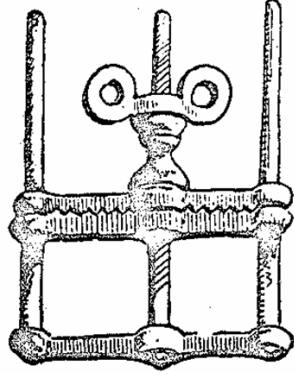
- During the water torture, the victims nostrils were pinched shut and fluid was poured down his throat.
- Instead of water, sometimes vinegar, urine, or urine and a combination of diarrhea were forced down the throat.



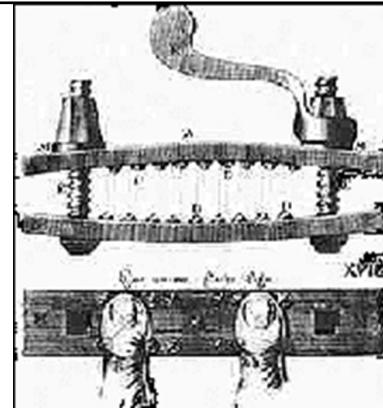
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Thumbscrew

- The thumbscrew was simple placed on the thumb and tighten until it crushed the thumb. The tool was also used on toes.



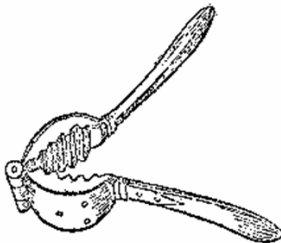
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May 29-2:57 PM

Toothed Squeezers

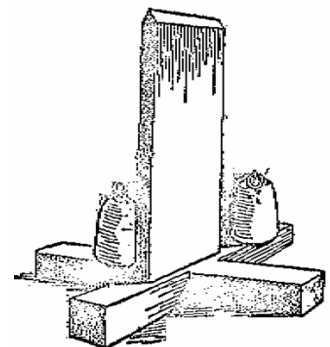
- These toothed bars squeezed the victim's testicles until they were destroyed.



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Spanish Donkey

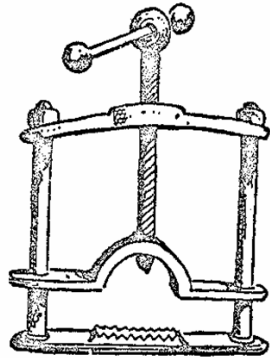
- The victim was placed on the Spanish donkey and then had extremely heavy weights tied to his or her legs until the force was so great that it destroyed the are between the legs.



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Foot Press

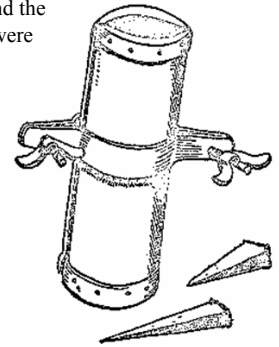
- The Foot Press slowly squeezed the naked foot between the iron plates lined with sharp spikes to crush the bones of the foot.



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The Scottish Boot

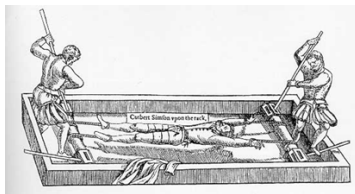
- The Scottish Boot was placed around the ankle of the victim and then wedges were forced into the ankle.



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The Rack

- The victim was bound on an oblong wooden frame with a roller at each end.
- If the victim refused to answer questions, the rollers were turned until the victim's joints were pulled out of their sockets.



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Juda Cradle

- The Juda Cradle is a horrible torture.
- The victim is hung above a cone pyramid type object and then is lowered upon it.
- The sharp tip of the cone or pyramid is forced into the area between the legs.



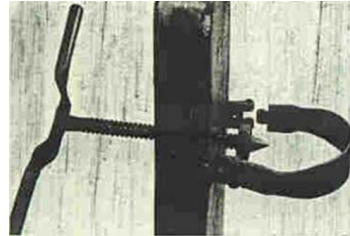
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May 29-2:58 PM

The Headcrusher

- The headcrusher simply crushed your head.



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The Whirligig

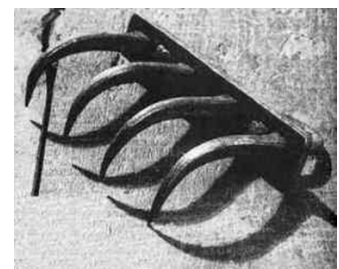
- The whirligig was not that bad of a torture.
- It just spun the victim until they puked.



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The Cat's Paw

- The cat's paw was a short pole with a pitch fork at one end.
- It was used to tear the the flesh of the victim.



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May 29-2:59 PM

The Brazen Bull

When a victim is placed inside the brazen bull, he or she is slowly burned to death.

The Greek invented a complex system of tubes in order to make the victim's screams sound like an infuriated ox.



May 22-8:21 AM

The Rat Torture

The victim was completely restrained and tied to the ground or any horizontal surface. A rat was then placed on his stomach covered by a metallic container. As the container was gradually heated, the rat began to look for a way out - through the victim's body.

Digging a hole usually took a few hours of agonizing pain for the victim. This almost invariably resulted in death.



May 22-8:23 AM

The Saw Torture



The victim was tied to an inverted position. This had several "benefits": it assured sufficient blood diverted to the brain, and, it slowed down the loss of blood and third, it humiliated the victim.

When a confession was required, the victim was frequently forced to watch someone else be subject to this method. If he didn't confess, he'd be slowly cut in half.

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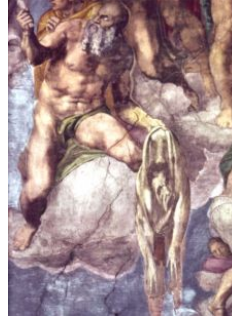
The Wheel Torture

The device consists of a large wooden wheel with many spokes. The victim's limbs were tied to the spokes and the wheel itself was slowly revolved. Through the openings between the spokes, the torturer usually hit the victim with an iron hammer that could easily break the victim's bones. Once his bones were broken, he was left on the wheel to die, sometimes placed on a tall pole so the birds could feed from the still-living human.



May 22-8:28 AM

Flaying Torture



In one version of the Flaying Torture, the victim's arms were tied to a pole above his head while his feet were tied below. His body was now completely exposed and the torturer, with the help of a small knife, peeled off the victim's skin slowly. In most cases, the torturer peeled off his facial skin first, slowly working his way down to the victim's feet. Most victims died before the torturer even reached their waist.

In another version, the victim was exposed to the Sun until his skin reddened. This was followed by the torturer peeling off his flesh with the same method described above.

In yet another version, the victim was submerged into boiling water and was taken out after a few minutes. He was slowly flayed.

May 22-8:30 AM

The Knee Splitter



Even though the name implies that this instrument was only used for "splitting" knees, it was also used in other body parts including: the elbows, arms and even the lower legs.

As the torturer turned the handle, the claws slowly slammed against each other mutilating any skin in between. The number of spikes the knee splitter contained varied from three to more than twenty.

May 22-8:32 AM