

Witchcraft in Mexico - Sanat Muerte Death Cult - Catholic Skull Worship & the Catholic Inquisitions

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Ephesians 5:11, 13-16: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove** them. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest**, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **See then that ye walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

The **1828 Noah Webster Dictionary** defines:

Reprove: To blame, to convince of a fault, or to make it manifest, to excite a sense of guilt.

Circumspectly: Cautiously; with watchfulness every way; with attention to guard against surprise or danger.

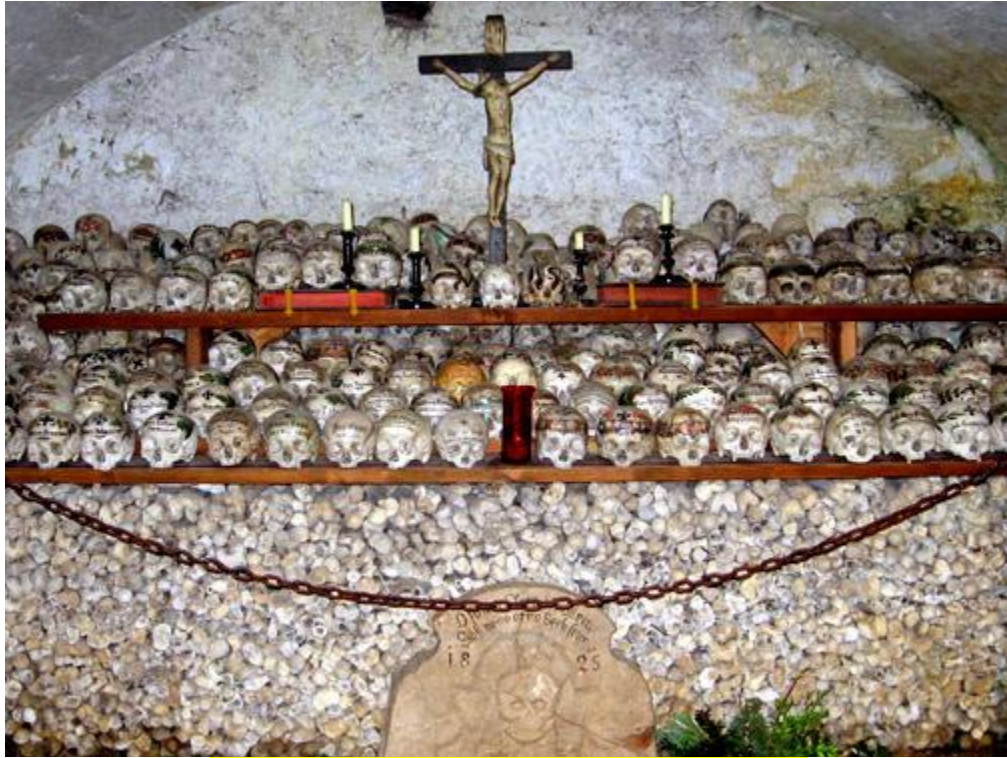
Matthew 24:24: "...if it were possible, they shall deceive **the very elect.**"

II Corinthians 2:11: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we **are not** ignorant of his devices."

II Chronicles 7:14: "If **my people**, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

[1200 skulls in the Bone House of Hallstatt in Austria](#)

by [ivarfeld](#)



Another Satanic Catholic Trophy Room

The Worship of skulls is not only prominent in Mexico and Bolivia, but also in Hallstatt in Austria. The Miners in Hallstatt were massacred during the reformation. The Roman Catholics took skulls up from the grave, exposed them to moon light, and decorated them.

The official story of the bone house in Hallstatt Austria, **have omitted that the Roman Catholic bishop of Salzburg used Papal troops to massacre Christians.**

This is the story written on a Hallstatt.net.

*But the Archbishop of Salzburg's troops quelled the rebellion: **the leaders were condemned to death and their houses burned.***

Source: Hallstatt.net

Another [website](#) has also recorded the massacre of Christians in the area:

*There was so much resistance and upheaval in the Salzkammergut during this period of religious Reformation. In 1601, all bridges were destroyed, transportation of wood and boats were made impossible.... **Christian preachers appealed against the Catholic Church. Yet the Archbishop of Salzburg's supporters suppressed this rebellion, and condemned the opposition to death and set their homes on fire.***

Here are some more pictures:



The Roman Catholic priests in Hallstatt killed Christians cut their heads off thier bodies and decorated some of those they had beheaded.



Only completely demon possessed people would do this, and still be called "fathers" and "Holy priests".



A synagogues of Satan, with a dead counterfeit Jesus in the center.

Yet the Roman Catholic Church does not recognize any wrongdoing behind the existence of the "bone house" of Hallstatt.

This is the official story:

The Beinhaus (bone house) in Hallstatt dates back to twelve century AC. There are over 1200 skulls in the charnel, of them 610 have been painted in flowery designs, they are neatly stacked in rows along with next of kin and have the date of decease written on them.

Since the cemetery is so small without the possibility to expand and due to the fact that cremations were in former days forbidden there was just not enough space. The graves were opened 10 - 15 years later and the skulls were removed along sometimes with other bones.

*The skull was cleaned and **exposed to the sun and moon light for weeks** until they were bleached ivory white. As one would decorate a grave with flowers the skulls were painted symbolically with a crown of flowers.*

This tradition began in 1720 AD.

Source: Hallstatt.net

Let us compare this with the worship of "Santa Muerte" in Mexico, and "the feast of the day of the dead". Here are some pictures:



The worshipers of Santa Muerte decorate their skulls, to honor the spirit of death.



There is no lack of skills in art in regards to claimed "spirituality" in Mexico.



Sanat Muerte on the cross in Catholic Mexico. The skulls are on the altar



The Mexican kingdom of "god" is full of decorated and dressed skulls, skeletons and bones.

Read more about the worship of Santa Muerte in [Mexico](#):

Read also the Vatican [skulls](#) and bones files.

My comment:

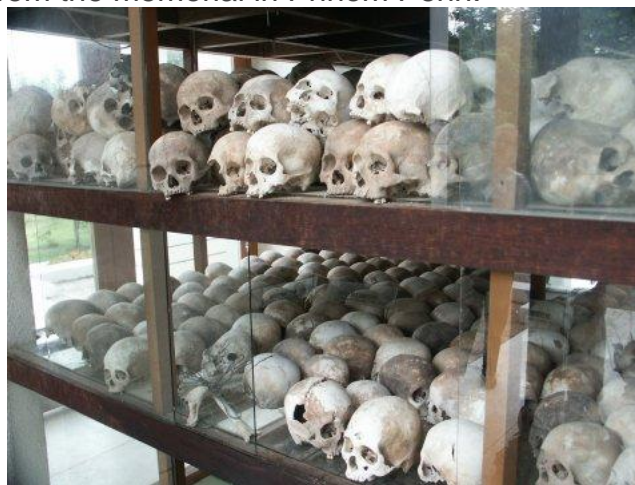
The skull and bone collectors of the Roman Catholic Church, are grave looters. Instead of letting the remains of a dead person go back to dust, the Roman Catholic priest likes to keep their skulls for display, veneration and worship.

It must have been an awesome display of wickedness, looking at the priest cleaning the skulls, and even exposing them to the "light of the moon" to make them look "bleached ivory white".

It reminds me about the "the day of the dead" in Mexico, were skulls and bones are also bleached, adored and venerated. The Spirit of death reigns there.

When I see pictures of the "Bone House" in Catholic Hallstatt, it can be compared to the Killing field National memorial in Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

Here are some pictures from the memorial in Phnom Penh:



More than a million people were slaughtered. The skulls have been recovered from mass graves.



The butchers believed they were doing a great service for "god".



The People in Cambodia who did not submit to their leaders, were slaughtered.



The slaughtered in Cambodia wanted to live in freedom. Their skulls are now displayed to condemn the butchers who massacred them. **But this is really no different than the Catholic inquisitions when the Papal butchers massacred millions of people who refused to bow down to "Catholic Mary", and submit to the authority of the Pope and His priests. More on this later in this report.**

Written by Ivar

Catholics in Mexico worship the "saint of death"

November 1, 2011--*A bad tree can not bear good fruits. Take a look of the fruits of Roman Catholicism in Mexico.*



Catholics in Mexico parade their saint of death through the streets.

They pray their rosaries to the “Mother of God”, and they do their worship in Catholic shrines & they worship “Santa Muerte”, **the saint who brings “holy death”**, is nothing less than the devil himself. Just when you thought you knew all about the evil chaos the Vatican has spread all over Earth. *How on Earth could claimed “true Christianity”, produce insanity like this?*

If you did not know **that the Pope himself is a worshipper of skulls, skeletons and corpses, you might not have been able to find the correct answer:**

The spiritual source of this deception lies with the Papacy in Rome. The chair of their Catholic “Holy Father”, who has been elevated to the Power seat of God himself.



These Catholics have put an idol of this devil inside the family altar to worship him.

The Vatican claim that this religious movement in Mexico, is a cult. The reason behind the Pontiff’s rejection of **them is only because that they do not adore and venerate the Papal approved bones.** They are viewed as a kind of freelancers within the Roman Catholic movement.

No wonder why thousands of people in Mexico have been slaughtered in their drug wars.

On the first of November the anniversary of the altar to Santa Muerte constructed by Enriqueta Romero is celebrated. **The Santa Muerte of Tepito is dressed as a bride and wears hundreds of pieces of gold jewelry given by the faithful to show gratitude for favors received, or to ask for one.** The celebration officially begins at the stroke of midnight of November 1. **About 5,000 faithful turn out to pray the rosary. For purification, instead of incense, there is the smoke of marijuana.**



Devil worshippers gather in the streets of Mexico while a cult member wants join his idol in the eternal death.

As of 2009, devotion to Santa Muerte has been on the rise in the United States for the past ten years or so, mostly following the millions of Mexicans who have illegally immigrated to the country. Evidence of devotion to her can be seen anywhere there is a large Mexican community, such as New York City, Houston, Tucson and Los Angeles. There are fifteen officially registered religious groups dedicated to her in Los Angeles alone which includes the Temple of Santa Muerte.

Source: [Wikipedia](#).

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections:

First published 22.12.2010. Written by Ivar--Posted by ivarfjeld

The Vatican Pope is head of a death cult

June 30, 2011



The Pope visits the corpse of Pope Calixtus V, that is kept in a Church in Central Italy. The most perverted religious people on Earth, are the Vatican approved clergy who worship skulls, corpses and bones.



A papal bishop adores a 'beautified' skull.

The Bible is available for the Papal clergy.

But since they have rejected the truth of God's Word He has handed them over to Satan and a reprobate mind with their consciences seared with a hot iron, to become the devils of the Catholic priesthood.

They live by their sinful nature are led into all kinds of falsehoods and perversions.



This is not fiction. This is a Roman Catholic chapel in Poland.

The Holy Spirit will never be part of this kind of religious movement.

Vatican appointed priest's and bishop's are promoted as "holy men" and honored in public life. But behind closed door's they have indulged in almost unbelievable Satanic worship of the dead.

The hidden evils of the Roman Catholic Church seems to have no limits.

Now the internet and alternative news outlets are exposing what has been hidden in darkness and only has been known to a limited numbers of insiders in Rome.

Take a look at the fruits of this death cult, who has the Pope in Rome as its head.

Here is a **list** with **links** to examples of the worst religious practices of the Vatican:

- [Headless Mary Magdalene hailed in Catholic Church in France](#)
- [Pope calls Catholics to venerate 1600 year old skull](#)
- [4.000 skeletons in crypt in Roman Catholic Church in Rome](#)
- [The Vatican full of dead Popes kept for display](#)
- [Two Churches and a Mosque claim to have head of John the Baptist](#)
- [Pope: Escape Purgatory by prayer in front of corpse of Bosco](#)
- [Catholic chapel with rotten man and child hanging from chains](#)
- [Holy Catholic skulls watch over Madonna and child](#)
- [Pope pray in front of skeleton dressed up as a nun](#)
- [Roman Catholic chapel in Poland with 24.000 skulls and skeletons](#)
- [Saint from Malta kept both mummified and in wax](#)
- [The Vatican is the biggest collector of bones and skulls](#)
- [Catholic saint got blue eyes and dental treatment 1300 years after death](#)
- [Santa Muerte hailed in Catholic Church in Rome](#)
- [Catholics adore skeleton and "feast of its tongue"](#)
- [The Papal butchers who killed true Christians](#)
- [Catholics in Ireland worship bones and a "holy head"](#)

The God of the Bible will surely not let Catholic priests off the hook. They must renounce this evil religious system and get saved or perish. Still one billion people refuse to see the writing on the wall, and leave this false Church behind.

[Pope prays in front of skeleton corpse dressed up as a nun](#)



This is the skull of St. Rose, adored and venerated by the Roman Catholic Church. Even a metal ring has been put around her head, to symbolize her divinity.



What is the Pontiff doing in front of this skull and mummified body in Viterbo in central Italy?
Pope Benedict XVI looks at the mummified body of St. Rose inside the St. Rose's shrine during his visit at Viterbo, central Italy, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

What kind of spirits do the Popes submit to when they pray in front of a mummified corpse that has been "preserved" and dressed up like a nun? The most bizarre pictures you might ever see are those of St. Cathrine dressed up like a nun, even with the black head cover.



ST. CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA

*Her incorrupted Body is venerated in «Corpus
Domini» Sanctuary named «La Santa»
(the Saint)*

St. Catherine or whoever this skeleton might be was never laid to rest, but put for public display by the Vatican.



The mummified relic of St. Catherine, patron saint of artists and temptation



Saint Catherine holding a crucifix. The head of Catherine is sometimes moved, and kept separately for display. The priests have also changed her dress. Please visit this [Catholic](#) web-site a look around for yourself.



The so-called incorruptible hand of St. Catherine
Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier [matters] of the law, [judgment, mercy, and faith](#): these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 23:24 [Ye] blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Mat 23:26 [Thou] blind Pharisee, cleanse first that [which is] within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead [men's] bones, and of all uncleanness.

Mat 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Written by Ivar

Santa Muerte hailed in Catholic Church in Rome

December 30, 2010



An idol of Santa Muerte displayed and blessed **inside a Church in Rome.**

Catholics in Mexico pray their rosaries to the "Mother of God", they worship in Catholic shrines while many also pray to "Santa Muerte", the saint who brings "holy death".



Mexican Catholics parade "Santa Muerte" through their streets.

The Roman Catholic Church supposedly does not accept the Mexican worshipers of "death". The Vatican Bishops calls them members of a cult.

But the same "saint of death" is found in a Roman Catholic Church in Rome, The Church of St. Peter's chains. "Santa Muerte" is watching over a dead Roman Catholic, enshrined at the

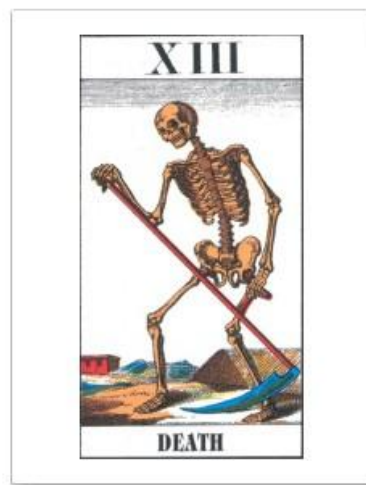
Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli. That the “Santa Muerte” ‘saint of death’ has been blessed and acknowledged by a Church in the “eternal city” is another example of injustice and double standards of the Roman Catholic Church.



Display of Satanism inside a Catholic church in Rome. The same church site in a different color setting. Take a look at Lucifer's feet. The Angel of Death has wings, and can walk.

Comment: The “Angel of Death” Azrael will appear as a shadow or a hooded figure grim reaper or as a skeleton, sometimes with hood. The number 13 tarot card is the death card and is portrayed as a skeleton on a horse. There is a whole cult devoted to Azrael at: <http://www.westgateneocromantic.com/index.html> Proceed with extreme caution and prayer as this material is beyond morbid. They even had a museum for this cult but Praise the Lord Jesus Christ it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

See Scott Johnson’s Teaching: [My Testimony and Supernatural Experiences](#)



SANTA MUERTE



From the website listed above we read: *Santa Muerte is the Mexican interpretation of our own beloved Angel of Death. She is a deity or saint-like figure worshiped and venerated in Mexico, a syncretism between Mesoamerican and Catholic beliefs. Mexican culture since pre-Hispanic times has always maintained a certain reverence towards Death, which can be seen in the widespread Mexican **celebration of the Day of the Dead**. Santa Muerte generally appears as a skeletal figure, clad in a long robe and carrying one or more objects, usually a scythe and a globe. **As the worship of this deity was clandestine until recently, most prayers and other rites were done privately in the home. However, for the past ten years or so, worship has become more public, especially in Mexico City. The number of believers in the deity has grown over the past ten to twenty years, to approximately two million followers in Mexico and has crossed the border into Mexican communities in the United States.** Mesoamerica had always maintained a certain reverence towards Death, which manifested itself among the religious practices of ancient Mexico, including in the religion of the Aztecs. Death became personified in Aztec and other cultures in the form of humans with half their flesh missing, symbolizing the duality of life and death. **The Aztecs inherited from their ancestors the gods: The Lord and Lady of Mictlan, the realm of the dead. In order for the deceased to be accepted into Mictlan offerings to the Lord and Lady were necessary. Many of the offerings given then are the same as those offered to Santa Muerte today.***



The day after Westgate Necromancy went on the real estate market.... **Katrina hit..**and destroyed this abomination.



The "Angel of death" is a patron saint for many Roman Catholics in Mexico.



Lucifer with wings a Mexican copy of the idol venerated in a Church in Rome.

Mr. Pope: Why single out only Mexican Catholics, as worshipers of Satan when you do the same?

The Roman Catholics are gravely misusing the name of "Jesus". They mock the truth every day. The Catholic religion also keeps millions of non-believers away from the Messiah as the paganism in Rome seems to be unlimited.

The Pope himself is a worshiper of skulls, skeletons and corpses.



Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli in Rome. Catholics have put some rusted chains inside this church and demand us to believe they are "holy" and were used to arrest Peter.

That Peter ever was in Rome is debatable, but inside the Church of St. Peter's chains, you will also see that the **Catholics adore and venerate the claimed chains that were used during the arrest of the Apostle Peter.**

What is adorable about chains?

And in particular, if they were ever used by satanic anti-Christian butchers?

What a shameful, totally distasteful site of extreme wickedness.

Read more about the worship of "Santa Muerte" in [Mexico](#)

A drought has dried up drinking water supplies for an estimated 2.5 million people in more than 1,500 small communities in northern Mexico.

Social Development Secretary Heriberto Felix Guerra says water has to be trucked in, treated on the spot and stored in tanks for many of those towns.

Felix Guerra said Friday that seven Mexican states are suffering from drought while other parts of the country have been troubled by such severe weather as floods or hail.

The secretary notes that the trucked-in water is for drinking and doesn't help problems with crops and cattle. He estimates farmers have lost 2.2 million acres (900,000 hectares) of crops to dry conditions this year.

[Search](#): Boston.com

Ivar's comment:

There are presently few more wicked places on Earth, than Catholic Mexico.

The local worship of Santa Muerte brings curses down over a nation that has lost more people in the gang & drug wars, than the loss of life in the war in Afghanistan.

Multiple famines will be just one of the signs of the end of the age.

Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Read more about the worship of *Santa Muerte* in [Mexico](#):



Multitudes of Catholics in Mexico worship the spirit of death.

From: Jonathan F

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 12:31 PM

To: drjohnson@ix.netcom.com

Subject: "La Virgen de Guadalupe"

Dr. Johnson, me, as a former mexican catholic, once worshipped this false image(thank God that He told me it was wrong). In Mexico, they call her " La Virgencita de Guadalupe"(The Little Virgin of Guadalupe),

"La Santisima Madre"(The Sacred Mother), and so many other blasphemous titles. According to Mexican Catholics, she is the image of an apparition of the false Mary mother of Jesus. **I went to Mexico several times and HER IMAGE IS IN ALMOST EVERY SINGLE HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS PLACE. THIS IS A DEMONIC IMAGE ROOTED INTO AZTEC MYTHOLOGY(much like La Santa Muerte).** The Virgin supposedly grants wishes and performs miracles and appeared to a poor peasant in 1531 to an Aztec peasant and everyone has worshipped her since because **IT REMINDED THEM OF THEIR FORMER MOTHER GODDESS, TONANTZIN.**

(2 Th 2:9 KJV) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with *all power and signs and lying wonders*

(2 Th 2:10 KJV) And with *all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

(2 Th 2:11 KJV) And for this cause God shall send them ***strong delusion, that they should believe a lie***

(Duet. 13:2 KJV) And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, **Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;**

Here is her blasphemous image.



Here is Tonantzin

The DISGUSTING Santisima Muerte.

GOD HAVE MERCY ON MEXICO!

God bless, Jonathan.

The unHoly Catholic Inquisitions

"Anyone who attempts to construe a personal view of God which conflicts with Church dogma must be burned without pity."

- Pope Innocent III

The Inquisition was an ecclesiastical court and process of the Roman Catholic Church setup for the purpose towards the discovery and punishment of heresy which wielded immense power and brutality in medieval and early modern times. The Inquisitions function was principally assembled to repress all non-Catholics of rights, depriving them of their estate and assets which became subject to the ownership of the Catholic treasury, & relentlessly sought to destroy anyone who spoke, or even thought differently than the Catholic Church. This system for close to over six centuries became the legal framework throughout most of Europe that orchestrated one of the most evil religious orders in the course of mankind.

In the *Dark Side of Christian History*, **Helen Ellerbe** describes **how the same men who had been both prosecutor and judge decided upon the sentence of heresy. Once an Inquisitor arrived to a heresy-ridden district, a 40 day period of grace was usually allowed to all who wished to confess by recanting their faith.**

After this period of grace had finished, the inhabitants were then summoned to appear before the Inquisitor. Citizens accused of heresy would be woken in the dead of night, ordered, if not gagged, and then escorted to the unholy edifice, or Inquisition prison for closer examination.



In 1244, the Council of Harbonne ordered that in the sentencing of heretics, no husband should be spared because of his wife, nor wife because of her husband, and no parent spared from a helpless child. Once in custody victims waited before their judge anxiously, while he pondered through the document of their accusation. **During the first examination, enough of their property was likewise confiscated to cover the expenses of the preliminary investigation.**

The accused would then be implicated and asked incriminating and luring questions in a manner of trickery calculated to entangle most.



The inquisition put their victims to the test (here using the rack)

Most defendants confessed in the long run in order to escape the great anguish and bitter torture. Once found guilty they were handed over to the civil authorities to be "relaxed" (that is of course, burnt alive)

Refusing to confess at the first hearing, **saw heretics being remanded to the prisons for several months. The dungeons were situated underground, so that the outcries of the subject might not reach other parts of the building. In some medieval cells, the inauspicious were bound in stocks or chains, unable to move about and forced to sleep standing up or on the ground. In some**

cases there was no light or ventilation, inmates were generally starved and kept in solitary confinement in the dark and allowed no contact with the outside world, including that of their own family.

In 1252, **Pope Innocent IV** officially authorized the creation of the **horrifying Inquisition torture chambers**. It also included a new perpetual imprisonment or death at the stake without the bishops consent. Acquittal of the accused was now virtually impossible. Thus, with a license granted by the pope himself, Inquisitors were free to explore the depths of horror and cruelty. Dressed as black-robed fiends with black cowls over their heads, Inquisitors could extract confessions from just about anyone. The Inquisition invented every conceivable device to inflict pain by slowly dismembering and dislocating the body. Many of the devices were inscribed with the motto "*Glory be only to God.*" **Bernardus Guidonis**, the Inquisitor in Toulouse instructed the layman as to never argue with the unbeliever, but as to "thrust his sword into the man's belly as far as it will go." **George Ryley Scott** describes how the inquisitors, gorged with their inhumanity, and developed a degree of callousness rarely rivaled in the annals of civilization...condemning every faith outside of *Catholicism* as demonic.

Even the very fact of having a charge brought against you, and of being summoned to the Inquisition was sufficient to strike abject terror into the bravest man or woman. For very few who entered the doors of that halls of torment emerged whole in mind and body. If they escaped with their life, they were, with rare exceptions, maimed, physically or mentally forever. Those who did happen to endure the dungeons generally went mad in captivity, screaming out in despair to escape their purgatories. Others willingly committed suicide during their confinement.

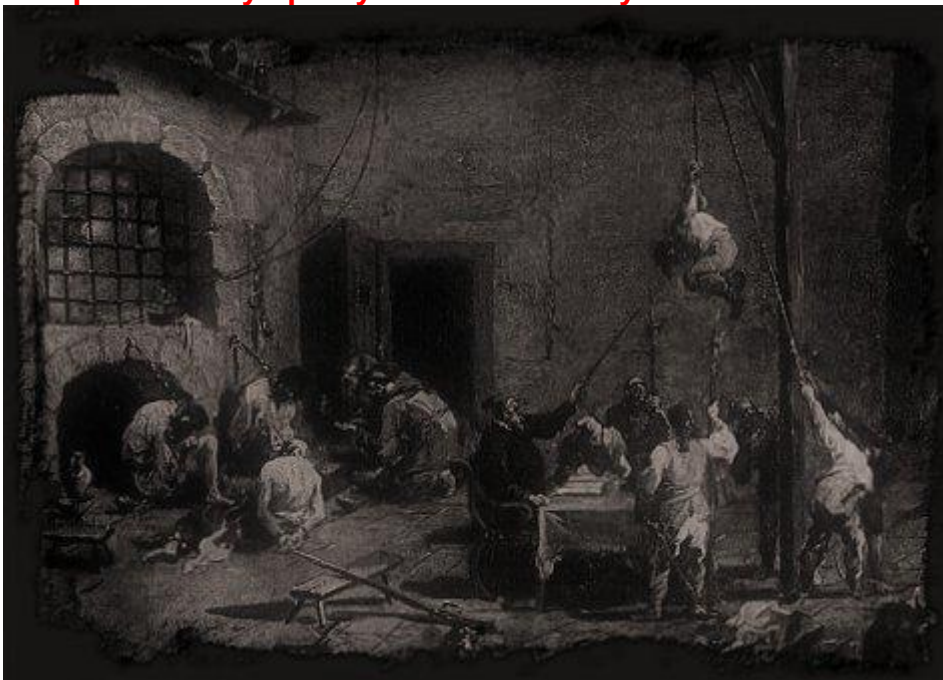
The defendant were known to incriminate themselves at any chance they had to escape the horrors. As **Henry Charles Lea** describes, one of the conditions of escaping the penalties was that they stated all they knew of other heretics and apostates, under the general terror, there was little hesitation in denouncing not only friends and acquaintances, but the nearest and dearest kindred--parents, children, brothers and sisters--this ultimately and indefinitely prolonged the Inquisitions through their associates. In the ages of faith, when the priest, was proclaimed a little less than a *God* himself, a curse from his lips was often more feared than physical torments. To even establish an accusation against a bishop itself required 72 witnesses; against a deacon was 27; against an inferior dignitary was 7, and for non-members of the clergy, 2 was sufficient to convict. Whole communities went mad with grief and fear of the thought towards being denounced to the Inquisition. It spread all over Europe. Men, women, and children, all legally murdered on evidence by a church, which today would only be accepted unless the court and jury specifically was composed inmates from an insane asylum.



During the course, defendants had no rights to counsel or advice, and was even denied the right to know the names of their accusers. No favorable evidence or character witnesses were permitted. In any case, one who even spoke for an accused heretic would be arrested as an accomplice. Never would a prisoner of the Inquisition have seen the accusation against himself, or any other. All efforts relating to time, place, and person were carefully concealed.

Henry Charles Lea describes however that evidence **was accepted from witnesses who could not legally testify in any other kind of trial; such as condemned criminals, other heretics, or children even as young as the age of two.** The Inquisitor **Jean Bodin** (1529-96) author of *De La Demonomanie des Sorciers* (*Of the Demonomania of Witches*) **especially valued child witnesses for extracting confessions, as they were easily persuaded to confess. Children though, were no exception for being prosecuted and tortured themselves.** The treatment of witches' children was particularly brutal.

Suspicion alone of witchcraft would warrant torture. Once a girl was nine and a half, and a boy was ten and a half, they were both liable to inquiry. Younger children below this age were still nevertheless tortured to elicit testimonies that could be used against their own parents. A famous French magistrate was known to have regretted his leniency when, instead of having young children accused of witchcraft burned, he had only sentenced them to be flogged while they watched their parents burn. **The children of those parents murdered usually were force to beg in vain upon the streets, for no one dared feed or shelter them thus incurring a suspicion of heresy upon themselves. The suspicion was sufficient enough to drive away even the closest kindred and friends of the unfortunate. Sympathy for them would be interpreted as sympathy with their heresy.**



Put to the torture using the Pulley-the accused usually confessed to anything and everything that their tormentors wanted them to admit.

The pulley or *strappado* was the first torture of the Inquisition usually applied. Executioners would hoist the victim up to the ceiling using a rope with their hands tied securely behind their back. They were then suspended about six feet from the floor. In this position, heavy iron weights, usually amounting to about 45 kg, were attached to their feet. The executioners would then pull on the rope, then suddenly allowing it to slack causing the victim to fall.

The rapid descent would then come to an abrupt stop, dislocating every joint and nerve in the system. This process was repeated again and again heavier and more intense until the culprit confessed or became unconscious. *Catholic Monks* would stand by to record any confessions, with even records today displaying the monks steady handwriting.

If a supposed heretic refused to recant and endure the torture, the poor sufferer was then carried to the scaffold and his body bound to a wooden cross. There the executioner, with a bar of iron, would break each leg and arm in two places and left to die. If the heretic was slow to expire, the executioner would then partake to strangulation, and their body was bound to a stake and burnt outside.

Papal Inquisition (1233)

At the close of the 12th century, heresy was spreading rapidly in Southern France. Papal legates were sent by Pope Innocent III into the disaffected district to increase the severity of repressive measures against the Waldenses. In 1200, **Peter of Castelnau** was made associate inquisitor for Southern France. The powers of the papal legates were increased so as to bring non-compliant bishops within the net. In 1206, Peter and Raoul went as spies among the Albigenses.

The Inquisition was also destined to become a permanent institution. The vigor and success of the *Papal Legatine Inquisition* assured this. The Council of Toulouse in 1229 adopted a number of canons tending to give permanent character to the Inquisition as an institution.

It made or indicated the machinery for questioning, convicting, and punishing. Heretics were to be excluded from medical practice; the houses in which they were found to be razed to the ground; they were to be delivered to the archbishop, or local authorities; forfeiture or public rights could be removed only by a papal dispensation; any one who allowed a heretic to remain in his country, or who shielded him in the slightest degree, would lose his land, personal property, and official position; the local magistracy joined in the search for heretics; men from the ages of 14, and women from 12, were to make oath and renew it every two years, that they would inform on heretics.

This made every person above those ages a bloodhound to track to torture and kill. Local councils added to these regulations, always in the direction of severity and injustice. The organic development of the Papal Inquisition proceeded rapidly. It was found that bishops, for the various reasons, would not always enforce the cruel canons of the councils.

So **Pope Gregory IX** in August, 1231, put the Inquisition under the control of the Dominicans, and order especially created for the defense of the church against heresy.

One of the leading head Inquisitors of Germany was **Conrad of Marburg**. Stern in temper and narrow in mind, his bigotry was said to be ardent to the pitch of near insanity. Conrad murdered and terrified countless people in pursuit of his duties, **regarding mental and physical torture as a rapid route to salvation.** He was given full discretionary powers, and was not required to hear the cases, but to pronounce judgment, which was to be final and without appeal-justice to those suspect of heresy. During his reign, he claimed to have uncovered nests of "Devil worshippers" and adopted the **motto "I would gladly burn a hundred innocent if there was one guilty among them."** Stimulated by this shining example, many Dominicans and Franciscans merged with him, and became his eager assistants. **He also sentenced the feline cat to be forever viewed as a tool of manifestation for witches and sorcerers.**

During the persecution of heresy in the Rhineland's by Conrad, one obstinate culprit actually refused to burn in spite of all the efforts of his zealous executioners. **A thoughtful priest**

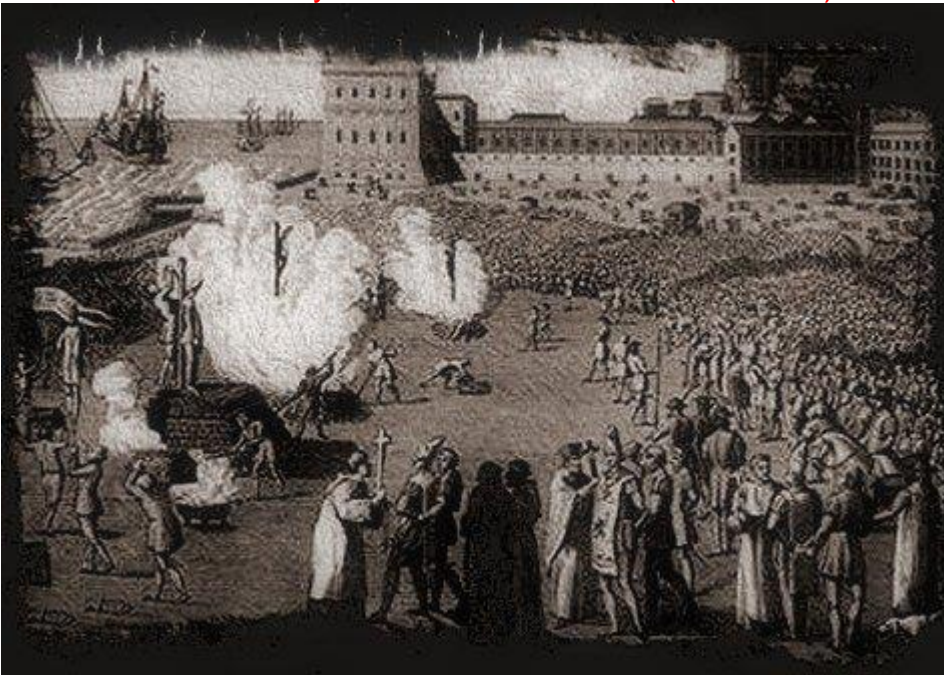
brought to the roaring pile a consecrated host. This at once dissolved the spell by a mightier magic, and the luckless heretic was speedily reduced to ashes.

Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834)

In 1478, the Spanish Inquisition was established with the papal approval of **Pope Sixtus IV**. The conduct of this unholy office greatly weakened the power and diminished the population of Spain. It was considered the most deadliest and notorious of all Inquisitions, as firstly being, it was the most highly organized and secondly, it was far more exposed and open with the death penalty than that of the papal Inquisition. This unholy office became veiled by secrecy, unhesitatingly kept back, falsified, concealed, and forged the reports of thousands of trials.

The first two **Inquisitors** in the districts of Seville were appointed in 1480 by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to **round up the most wealthiest heretics; the reason for this, was that the property of those accused, were shared equally between the Catholic throne and the Dominicans.**

Those refusing to accept Catholicism were led to the stake and burnt alive in a procession and Catholic ceremony known as "auto-de-fe" (act of faith).



The conclusion of an "auto de fe". Huge public burnings took place of those convicted of Heresy.

Roman Inquisition (1542-1700)

In the early 1500's and 1600's, the Catholic Church went through a reformation. It consisted of two related movements:

(1) a defensive reaction against the Reformation, a movement begun by Martin Luther in 1517 that gave birth to Protestantism

(2) a Catholic reform which saw Protestants declare war on Catholics

The **Roman Catholic Church** called the *Council of Trent* partly as a defense against Protestantism. In 1542, **Pope Paul III** (1534-49) established the Holy Office as the final court of appeal in trials of heresy. The Church also published a list of books that were forbidden to read. Heretical books were outlawed. Every book that came was scrutinized minutely with the express object of finding some passage which might be interpreted as being against the principles or interests of the Catholic faith.

The censorship of books took three forms:

- (1) complete condemnation and suppression
- (2) the expunging of certain objectionable passages or parts
- (3) the correction of sentences or the deletion of specific words as mentioned

A list of the various books condemned upon any of these three heads was printed every year, after which anyone found to be in the possession of was deemed guilty and liable to serve punishment. **The author and the publisher of any such book often spent the remainder of their lives in the dungeons of the Inquisition. Its overall goal was to eradicate Protestant influences in Europe.**

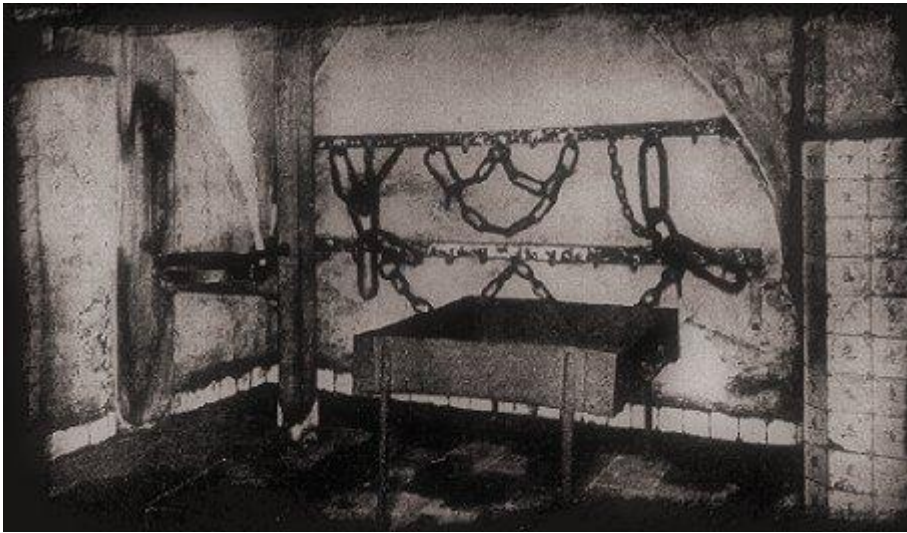
A number of wars resulting from religious conflicts broke out as well as the Catholic governments tried to stop the spread of Protestantism in the country. It was also a cause of the Thirty Years' War 1618 to 1648, which centered in Germany, that eventually involved all of the great nations of Europe **halving its population. The estimate of the death toll during the Inquisitions ranged worldwide from 600,000 to as high in the millions covering a span of almost six centuries.**

Victor Hugo estimated the number of the **victims of the Inquisition at five million**, it is said, and **certainly the number was much greater than that if we take into account, as we should, the wives and husbands, the parents and children, the brothers and sisters, and other relatives of those tortured and slaughtered by the priestly institution. To** these millions should properly be added the others killed in the wars precipitated in the attempt to fasten **the Inquisition** upon the people of various countries.

The unHoly Inquisitions

The Tortures





Torture room in the Inquisition cathedral in Nuremberg

The Rack

The Rack was an instrument of torture often used in the Middle Ages, and a popular means of extracting confession. **The victim was tied across a board by their ankles and wrists, rollers at either end of the board were turned by pulling the body in opposite directions until dislocation of every joint occurred.** According to **Puigblanch**, quoted in *Mason's History of the Inquisition*, "in this attitude he experienced eight strong contortions in his limbs, namely, two of the fleshy parts of the arms above the elbows, and two below; one on each thigh, and also on the legs." Bound, the heretic, could then be subjected to other forms of torture **for the exaltation of their faith.**

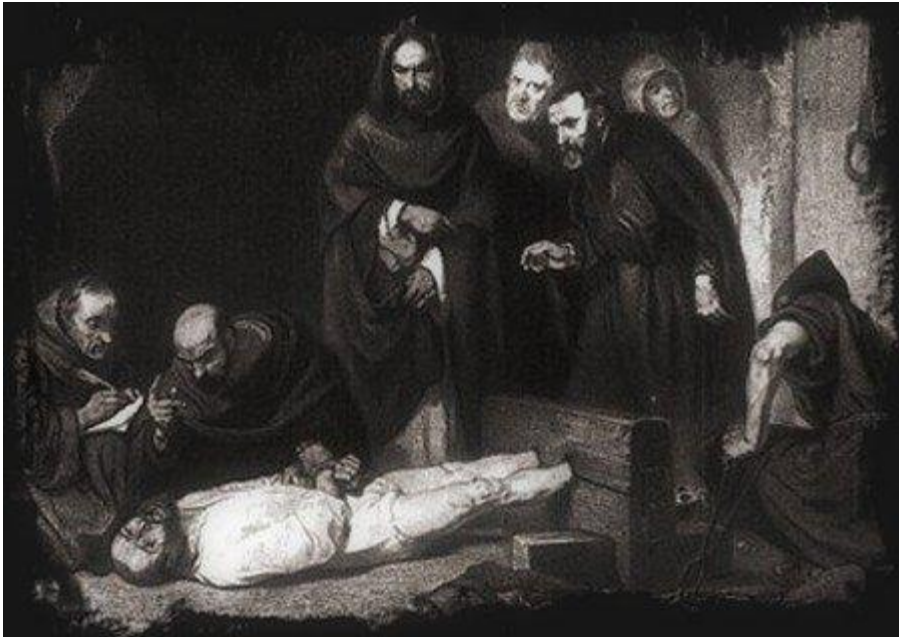


The Rack was extensively used during the Spanish Inquisition.

Other forms included the detainee being fastened in a groove upon a table on his or her back. **Suspended above was a gigantic pendulum, the ball of which had a sharp edge on the lower section, and the pendulum lengthen with every stroke. The victim sees this engine of destruction swinging to and fro only a short distance from ones eyes. Momentarily the keen edge comes nearer, and at length cuts the skin, and gradually cuts deeper and deeper, until their life has fully expired.**

The Stocks

With their feet in the stocks, two pieces of timber clamped together, over and under, both across each leg above the ankles. The soles of their feet then having been **greased with lard, a blazing brazier was applied to them, and they were first blistered and then fried.** At intervals a board was interposed between the fire and their feet and removed once they disobeyed the command to confess themselves of guilt for which they had been charged.



Being more painful, but less fatal than racking, this was the torture most in vogue when the subject chanced to be of the female sex. It was also favored in cases where children were to be persuaded to testify against their parents. Slighter tortures of removing a nail from the fingers or toes were all highly practiced upon persons of not sufficient strength to support the pulley, rack, or fire.

Water Torture

The victim's nostrils were pinched shut, and eight quarts of fluid were poured down the victim's throat through a funnel. Other techniques included forcing a cloth down the throat, while pouring water, which made a swallowing reflex pushing it further down into the stomach producing all the agonies of suffocation by drowning until the victim lost consciousness. Instead of water, the torture was sometimes conducted with boiling water or vinegar. Death occurs from distention or rupturing of the stomach.

The Pear

The pear was a torture device used on females. This device was inserted into the female private area, or mouth of the victim and then expanded by force of the screw to the maximum aperture setting of the victim body nearly always fatally, ripping the tissue, flesh and membranes.



This item became extensively applied throughout the Spanish Inquisition to force confessions from those accused of Witchcraft. The pointed prongs at the end of the segments serve better to rip into the throat, the intestines or the cervix. Many paid dearly when the Pear was their fate.

The Branks

The Branks, also sometimes called *Dame's Bridle*, or *Scold's Bridle* **comprised of a metal facial mask and spiked mouth depressor that was implemented on housewives up until the early 19th century. Many clergymen sustained in this husband's right to handle his wife, and to use "salutary restraints in every case of misbehavior" without the intervention of what some court records of 1824 referred to as "vexatious prosecutions."**



Generally a husband would need only to accuse his wife of disagreeing with his decisions, at which the Branks could be applied. The subject would then be paraded through the streets, or chained to the market cross where she was exposed to public ridicule.

The Wheel

The wheel was one of the most popular and insidious methods of torture and execution practiced. **The giant spiked wheel was able to break bodies as it rolled forward, causing the most agonizing and drawn-out death. Other forms include the "braided" wheel, where the victim would be tied to the execution dock or platform. Their limbs were spread and tied to stakes or iron rings on the ground. Slices of wood were placed under the main joints, wrists, ankles, knees, hips, and elbows. The executioner would then smash every joint with the iron-tyred edge of the wheel--however the executioner would avoid fatal blows to give the victim a painful death.**



According to a German chronicler, the victim was transformed into a huge screaming puppet writhing in their own blood. It looked like a sea monster with four tentacles, and raw slimy shapeless flesh, mixed with splinters of bone. After the smashing had taken place the victim would literally be "braided" into the wheel and hung horizontally at the top of the pole.

The Breast Ripper

The name of this device speaks for itself. Women condemned of heresy, blasphemy, adultery, and witchcraft often felt the wrath of this device as it violently tore a breast from their torso.



This device was highly put into service during the massacre of the Danes.

Hanging cages

These cages were usually hung around the outsides of town halls and ducal palaces, they were also near the town's hall of justice and surprisingly cathedrals. The victim, naked and exposed, would slowly wither from hunger and thirst. The weather would second the victims death by heat stroke and sunburn in the summer and cold in the winter.



The victims and corpses were usually previously mutilated before being put in the cages to make a more edifying example of the punishment. The cadavers were left in the cages until the bones literally fell apart.

The Garotte

Originally, the *garotte* was simply hanging by another name. However, during Medieval times, executioners began to refine the use of rope until it became as feared and as vile as any serious punishments. Executioners first used the garotte to end the suffering of heretics broken on the wheel, but by the turn of the 18th century the seed of an idea involving slow strangulation was planted in the minds of lawmakers.



At first, *garottes* were nothing more than an upright post with a hole bored through. The victim would stand or sit on a seat in front of the post and chanting crowd, and a rope was looped around his or her neck. The ends of the cords were fed through the hole in the post. The executioner would then pull on both ends of the cord, or twist them tourniquet-styled, slowly strangling the victim. Later modifications included a spike fixed into the wood frame at the back of the victim's neck, parting the vertebrae as the rope tightened.

The Head Crusher

With the victim's chin placed on the lower bar, a screw then forces the cap down on the victim's cranium. The recipient's teeth are crushed and forced into the sockets to smash the surrounding bone. The eyes are compressed from their sockets and brain from the fractured skull.



This device, although not a form of capital punishment, is still used for interrogational purposes. It was to inflict extreme agony and shock and leave the victim in its grasp for hours. Other methods included the head screw (below) which was placed around the forehead and tightened. The accused became so frantic by the extreme panic of having their head crushed that they confessed to anything.

Burnt at the Stake

If the Inquisitor wanted to be sure no relics were left behind by an accused and convicted heretic, he would select death by burning at the stake as the preferred method of execution. With few exceptions, death came from being burned alive. Frequently, burning a victim at the stake was cause for a crowd. Not content to merely learn about the spectacle after it was over, the masses wanted to be entertained.



The Iron Maiden

The Iron Maiden or *Virgin of Nuremberg* was a tomb-sized container with folding doors. The object was to inflict punishment, then death. Upon the inside of the door were vicious spikes. As the prisoner was shut inside he or she would be pierced along the length of their body. The talons were not designed to kill outright.



The pinioned prisoner was left to slowly perish in the utmost pain. Some models included two spikes that were driven into the eyes causing blindness. One of these diabolical machines was exhibited in 1892.

The Strappado

One of the most common torture techniques. All one needed to set up a *strappado* was a sturdy rafter and a rope. The victim's wrists were bound behind their back, and the rope would be tossed over the beam.



The victim was repeatedly dropped from a height, so that their arms and shoulders would dislocate. This was a punishment of the Secret Tribunal until 1820.

The Boots

Also known as the *bootkens*. The legs of the patient were usually placed between two planks of wood, which they binded with cords and wedges. The torturer used a large, heavy hammer to pound the wedges, driving them closer together.



Forceful blows were used to squeeze the legs to jelly, lacerating flesh, protruding the shins, and crushing the bones; sometimes so that marrow gushed out. Once unloosed the bones fall to pieces, rendering the legs useless. This torture was most overwhelming, as one can imagine.

Judas Cradle Warning

The victim was stripped, hoisted and hung over a pointed pyramid with iron belts. Their legs were stretched out frontwards, or their ankles pulled down by weights. The tormentor would then drop the accused onto the pyramid penetrating orifices.



As mentioned by **Anne Barstowe**, the torturers took high advantage of positions of authority to indulge in the most pornographic sessions of sexual control over heretics.

The Guillotine

The Guillotine became the official instrument of execution in France in 1792, during the French Revolution. The device was named for **Joseph Ignace Guillotine** (1738-1814), a member of the Revolutionary assembly. He regarded the device as a quick and merciful type of execution. A guillotine had two posts joined by a crossbeam at the top. A heavy steel knife with a slanting edge fit in grooves in the posts. A cord held the knife in place.



When the executioner cut the cord, the knife dropped and cut off the victim's head. It was not until 1981, that France abolished capital punishment, and that the use of the guillotine ended.

Witch Hunts

● **St. Augustine of Hippo** (354 to 430 CE). He wrote to a friend:

"What is the difference whether it is in a wife or a mother, it is still Eve the temptress that we must beware of in any woman.....I fail to see what use woman can be to man, if one excludes the function of bearing children." ¹⁰

● **St. Thomas Aquinas** (1225 to 1274 CE):

"As regards the individual nature, woman is defective and misbegotten, for the active force in the male seed tends to the production of a perfect likeness in the masculine sex; while the production of woman comes from a defect in the active force or from some material indisposition, or even from some external influence."

++ "If women become tired or even die, that does not matter. Let them die in childbirth, that is why they are there."

Martin Luther (1483-1546) Leader of the German Reformation that led to the ultimate birth of Protestantism



Burning Iron Chair:

Consisted of sharpened iron nails that could be heated red hot from below.

The victim would be bound and then slowly roasted in the open air as the coals heated the iron.

The author **Barbara Walker** notes:

"Victims were charged for the very ropes that bound them and the wood that burned them. Each procedure of torture carried its fee. After the execution of a wealthy witch, officials usually treated themselves to a banquet at the expense of the victim's estate."



Burning at the stake was the chief fate of accused witches.

(Image: Library of Congress)

Others were hanged, or crushed.

One way of determining the guilt of witches was the ducking or ducking stool, in which her hands and feet were tied up together and then her body was thrown off a bridge into the water. If she floated, she was declared a witch. If she sank, and drowned, she was declared innocent.

The process of formally persecuting witches followed the grinding inquisitional procedure. Once accused of witchcraft, it was virtually impossible to escape conviction. After cross-examination, the victim's body was examined for the witch's mark. The historian **Walter Nigg** described the process: ...she was stripped naked and the executioner shaved off all her body hair in order to seek in the hidden places of the body the sign which the devil imprinted on his cohorts.

Warts, freckles, and birthmarks were considered certain tokens of amorous relations with Satan. Should a woman show no sign of a witch's mark, guilt could still be established by methods such as sticking needles in the accused's eyes. The confession was then extracted by the hideous methods of torture already developed during earlier phases of the Inquisition. Unless the witch died during torture, she was taken to the stake. Since many of the burnings took place in public squares, inquisitors prevented the victims from talking to the crowds by using wooden gags or cutting their tongues out. The sexual mutilation of accused witches was not uncommon. They attacked breasts and genitals with pincers, pliers and red-hot irons.

Some rules pardoned sexual abuse by allowing men deemed "zealous Catholics" to visit female prisoners in solitary confinement. The people of Toulouse were so convinced that the inquisitor

Foulques de Saint-George arraigned women for no other reason than to sexually abuse them that they took the dangerous and unusual step of gathering evidence against him.



Protestant and Catholic rivaled each other in the madness of the hour. *Witches* were burned no longer in ones and twos, but in scores and hundreds. A bishop of Geneva is said to have burned five hundred within three months, a bishop of Bamberg six hundred, a bishop of Wurzburg nine hundred. Eight hundred were condemned, apparently in one body, by the Senate of Savoy. **Nicholaus Remigius**, the criminal judge in Lorraine, boasted that in 15 years he had sent to death 900 people for the crime of witchcraft. In one year alone he forced 16 witches to commit suicide.

The Archbishop of Treves burned a hundred and eighteen women and two men. Paramo boasts that in a century and a half **the unHoly Office** had burned at least 30,000 witches. Cumanus, in Italy, burned 41 women in one province alone. Strasbourg, burned 5000 in a period of 20 years.

In France, about 1520, the fires for the execution of witches blazed in almost every town; in one township in Piedmont there was not a family that had not lost a member; at Verneuil in 1561, women were burned on the charged of **having converted themselves into cats**. The delusion spread like an epidemic through the villages. Many women were murdered by mobs. At Leith, in Scotland, 9 women were burned together in 1664; the bishops' palaces of South Germany basically became shambles--the lordly prelates of Salzburg, Wurzburg, and Bamberg taking lead in the butchery.

The executioner of Neisse in Silesia even invented an oven in which he roasted to death 42 women and young girls in one year. Within 9 years he had roasted over a 1000 people, including children 2 to 4 years old. In Wurzburg many children were burned, some no older than 9 years.

Horrors of the Inquisition



by

Joseph McCabe

See Sharp Press



VARIOUS MANNERS OF TORTURING DURING THE INQUISITION.



