The Wonderful World of Torture

A Child Friendly Guide Through Medieval Torture

Poorly Illustrated and Written with a somewhat Clever Rhyme Scheme by Makena Bennett

History 101-001
Dr. Marsh Jones
Hello my name is Penelope Hyde. I travel through space and time, I am a magical, mystery, history guide here to take you on a scary Medieval torture ride. But do not be too scared, as you will see, I can make light of the darkest parts of history. So turn to page if you dare, but please beware, there is blood and horror inside!

Follow me kids! This way to the torture chamber
People did not just end up in jail being tortured for no reason at all, crimes very big, and crimes very small could land anybody in a torture stall.

Starting in 1252 Pope Innocent IV said that torture was okay, thus the medieval Inquisition began. All that was needed was a mere half-truth, or even an accusation until soon torture was common throughout the land.

...to the dungeon...
Before we get to the good bits containing pain and gore, we much touch on the Inquisition just for a tad bit more. The power of the Church was being tested, by heretics and those deemed unholy alike, the Church felt threatened and wanted to fight, so torture methods took flight. So, the accused were brought to trial where they tested and tried, despite the accused pleading, the court always took the Church’s side. The accused were then taken to the dungeon to be punished or to confess their sins, coming up are some torture devices, that’s were the real fun begins...
Back in the day a heretic was one of the worst things you could be, and so anyone against power received an awful penalty. The Heretic Fork was a two side prong with sharp and pointed ends, attached on your neck. It dug into your chest and chin.

"Ehlaik, oww, the pain, my neck! That’s the last time I’ll be a heretic!"

(This digs into your chest bone!)
Two small but effective tools used for heretics and criminals alike, were the Cats Paw and the Knee Splitter which took pain to a new height! The Cats Paw tore away your flesh and the Knee Splitter ruined your leg! To be tortured by either device would be an awful drag!

Just because I am a witch! The Pain!

Ouch! Oh no! Goodbye knee! Ow ow ow oh!
This is a Judas Cradle, a painful torture device that everyone should fear, for that pointed top is made to go up your rear. You would have been harnessed in, there was no escape! Plus the pain was made more severe from heavy ankle weights!

Oh no! I cannot show a picture, it's too graphic!

A harness for the waist!

Weights for the ankles

A sharp point to numb your bum.

'Three strong legs to hold up a triangle.
There was one torture device designed to kill you, it was called the Head Crusher. The head was placed under a cap, and the chin along a bar, a top screw slowly turned crushing the skull under huge pressure. First your teeth would shatter, followed by your jaw, until there was nothing left of your head at all.

I really am not happy, or at all prepared, this is going to hurt so much, and I am very scared.

* often the eyes would pop out early on from pressure, later version had eye catchers, yuck!
The two last devices we will examine are the Lead Sprinkler and the Choke Pear. The Lead Sprinkler was a handle filled with molten metal or tar, little holes at the end covered you in the hot filling everywhere! The Choke Pear was a gruesome device, it was inserted into victims' bums, or even down their throats, the pear then expanded causing tearing or the victim to choke!

- Sharp edges
- That expanded
- Inside the victim.

The holes at the top is where the liquid would come out.

-Around here it would open allowing it to
- The hand be filled

*Picture too graphic for kids*
I am afraid that I must go now, our journey now must end. But I hope you learned a ton and made a couple friends. The Medieval times were dark, and torture was the worst, but luckily for you and I, we will never feel the hurt. My time machine is now awaiting, it is time for me to flee, I will see you next time we explore history.

It was a real slice!

... until next time
Works Cited


