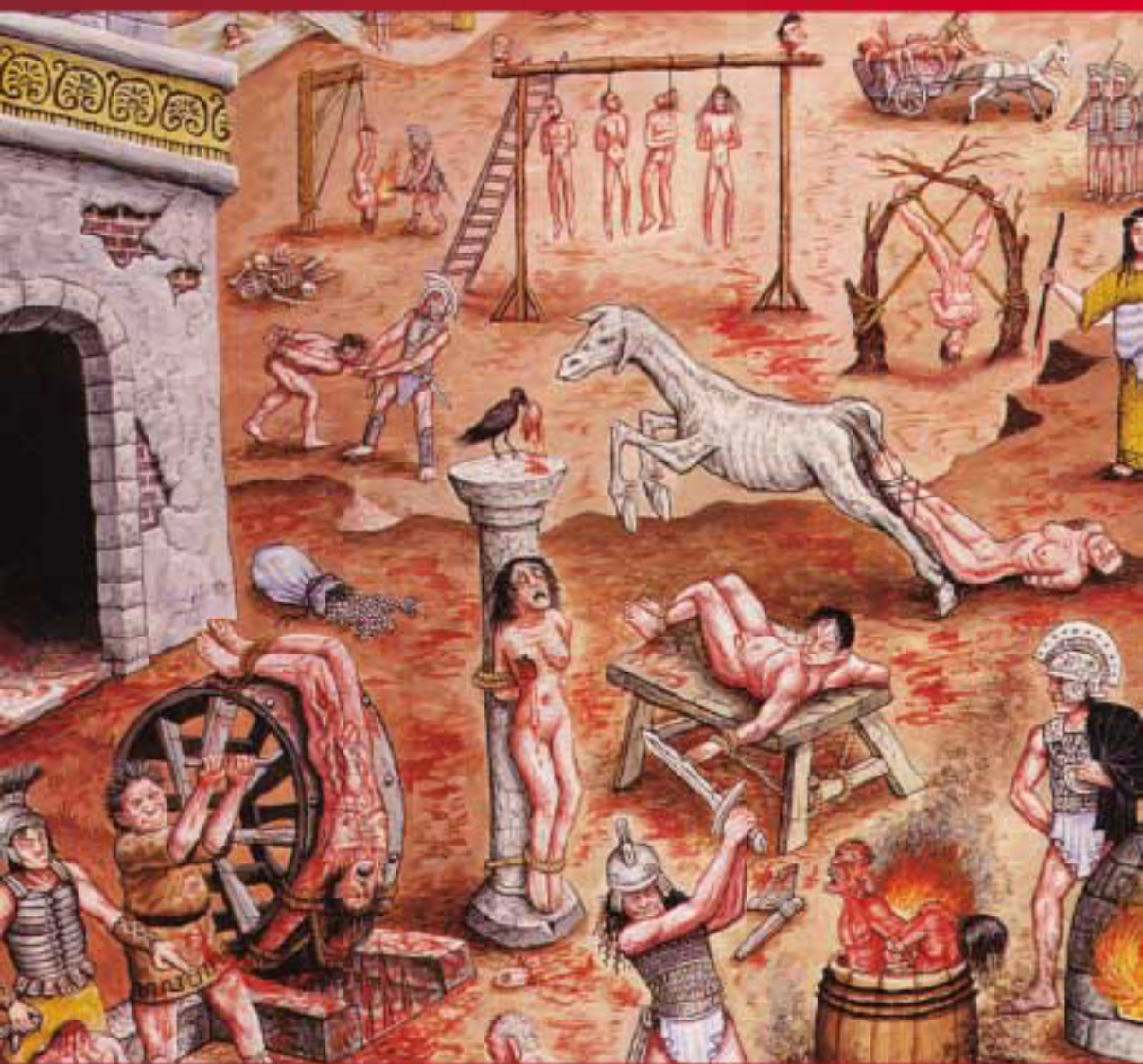


Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs



The Classic Martyrology

By Rev. Antonio Gallonio

The new edition includes historic & contemporary illustrations,
and a forensic investigation into the Crucifixion
that inspired Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*

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Publisher's Note to the Holy and Unholy

This revised version of the 1989 Feral House edition of *Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs* has made its way to print once again in recognition of Mel Gibson's use of its contents for his controversial film, *The Passion of the Christ*.

The text and engravings for this book have been offset from the limited Fortune Press version (circa 1930), which was itself a photographic copy from the first, very rare English language folio, published in 1904 by William Brendon & Son for "private subscribers." The Brendon edition gives its location as Paris, but, as Gershon Legman notes in *The Horn Book*, many American and British publishers of salacious material gave a Paris or Mexican address as a ruse to sidestep prosecution.

The Feral House issue is augmented with an illustrated forensic monograph on the physical death of Jesus Christ by physicians of the Mayo Clinic. This is the article used by Mel Gibson, as acknowledged by a detailed article in the *Sunday New York Times Magazine*. Nearly two dozen illuminations were executed specifically for the Feral House volume by contemporary artists, some of whom gained substantial recognition for their work since the 1989 edition. A couple mass murderers have furnished this project with psychologically insightful sketches to reflect their own "hands-on" experiences.

As the original English translator states in his introductory note, *Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs* was written solely to "edify the Faithful." Despite the book's Papal approval, more than a few pirated, knock-off editions have circulated throughout the centuries among sensation seekers and feral recidivists.

Gallonio's book may be the document that best reveals the spiritual colon of Christianity. The central icon for the Nazarene cult of suffering remains the tattered Son of God. As reward for worshipping the image of God-as-victim, the muzzy minions are allowed to have their blood and eat their host, too, on a level that must be envied by the current crop of pagan penile piercers, tattooists and titty-tweakers. Few latter-day gorehounds could compete with the noxious encyclopedia of bloodsport enumerated by Gallonio's catholic pen. And throughout his officially sanctioned document, Reverend Gallonio establishes a tone of unimpeachable moral rectitude, an attitude cultivated by intoning archaic phrases and salivating upon a wafer of transubstantiated Jesus meat.

It's worthwhile to note that officers of the Inquisition may have been the most avid readers of *Tortures*. Perhaps the text inspired the Holy to redouble their efforts during the waning years of the Holy Purge. Turn-the-other-cheek was a principle rarely heeded by the Faithful when encountering the Demonic (a term deployed upon political opponents, the unruly poor, or anyone whose property seemed ripe for the picking).

The Publisher of this new edition admits his penchant for the cheap and tawdry thrill, and in his pantheon of heroes, Ripley and Barnum shine more brilliantly than St. John of the Cross. We dearly hope that the republication of *Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs* does not frighten the vulnerable toward the dubious comfort of the Church's alms-seeking arms. Rather, we appeal directly to the Reader's survival instinct, so long repressed by the burden of humanitarian guilt.

Adam Parfrey
Feral House
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Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs

From the *De SS. Martyrum Cruciatibus* of

The Rev. Father Antonio Gallonio

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Bill Ward and S. Clay Wilson

A Special Appendix

On The Physical Death of Jesus Christ

by William D. Edwards, MD, a Pathologist at the Mayo Clinic

Notes on the Origin and Scope of the book by

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