

0. THE JUDAS CRADLE - Story Preface

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In medieval times, people were subjected to pain in order to help their torturers extract "confessions." After the "confessions" were obtained, the lives of the tortured individuals were often ended. This image, from a medieval manuscript, depicts women undergoing such treatment. An image of this document—which originated in France—is maintained at the British Library, among other places, where it is identified as "[Royal 16 G VI f. 64.](#)"

[Judas Cradles](#) were used to extract confessions.

The accused was stripped, placed inside the iron harness and then lowered on to the point. It doesn't take much imagination to figure-out where the point of the Judas Cradle and the human body made contact. The [illustration](#) says it all.

Judas Cradles were used in several countries. Called "culla di Giuda" in Italian, "Judaswieg" in German, and "la veille" (the wake) in French, the device was unchanged since the Middle Ages.

Also unchanged since the Middle Ages, but destroyed in air raids over Nuremberg in 1944, was the "Iron Maiden of Nuremberg," a horrific instrument of torture.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-JUDAS-CRADLE-Torture-Instruments-from-Medieval-Times>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-JUDAS-CRADLE-Torture-Instruments-from-Medieval-Times>

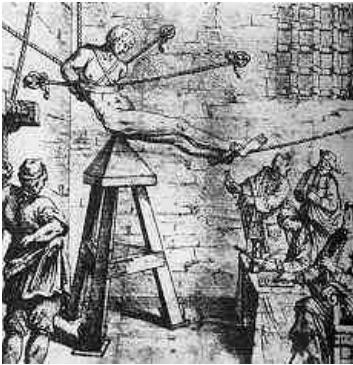


A Confessional - Middle Ages

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Judas Cradle - Unchanged Design in Medieval Times

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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