

666

the antichrist's

almanac

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Second or Spanish Inquisition (1479)

Catholic Church (WLD)

In 1479, Sixtus IV (1471-84) committed one of history's greatest crimes when he issued a papal bull sanctioning the Second Inquisition in Spain.

A contemporary church leader, Bishop Creighton, said that in permitting the Spanish Inquisition, Sixtus "lowered the moral tone of Europe ...".

The aim of the Spanish Inquisition was not so much to persecute heretics, witches and sorcerers.

Rather, it set out to exterminate mainly Jews and Muslims.

According to the Roman Catholic writer, Llorente, who for years acted as secretary to the Spanish Inquisition, 95 per cent of the victims were Jews.

The Christians believed Jews, more than Muslims and Protestants, were nothing more than contaminants that had to be removed from society ...

The task of running the Spanish Inquisition was given to

Tomas de Torquemada (1420-98), a Dominican monk who, from 1482, allegedly carried out his job with "originality, enthusiasm and perseverance".

Not waiting to receive information on suspects, Torquemada ordered his inquisitors out into the field to track them down.

This ruthless fanaticism was said to have inspired Hitler in his treatment of Jews over 500 years later.

Torquemada established tribunals in various cities and laid down directions for the guidance of inquisitors.

It is believed the monk was personally responsible for the deaths of some 2000 people and the torturing of many others

...

Torquemada always saw to it that punishment was worse than death.

Rather than simply burning victims at the stake they were often first roasted over a slow fire and then burned.

Sometimes fat was rubbed on the soles of their feet so they would sizzle a while.

Victims were stretched on the rack or bound with cords that cut through the skin and muscle down to the bone.

Many were flailed at specified intervals with whips studded with knots or sharp blades.

Fingernails and toenails were pulled out one by one and arms and legs were broken with blows of the mallet.

Some victims were left to starve in their small, windowless cells while others had their heads covered with steel helmets containing strategically-placed screws.

These were tightened one by one, crushing noses or puncturing eardrums ...

In 1496, Torquemada retired from his position of eminence and died in peace two years later ...

In the 36 years between 1481 and 1517, Llorente estimated the victims of Spanish Inquisition included:

13,000 burned at the stake;
17,000 burned in effigy;
290,000 punished by torture, prison or financial ruin.

Some of these punishments were for piffling crimes.

A prison keeper was sentenced to 200 lashes and six years labour as a galley slave for showing kindness to prisoners in Triano, Spain.

For a similar crime, a woman was publicly whipped and branded on the forehead ...

"The inquisitors, gorged with their inhumanity, developed a degree of callousness rarely rivalled in the annals of civilisation," said George Ryley Scott in *The History of Torture*.

"Many of the inquisitors were sadists. Many were libidinous monsters. They took such women as they wanted, on trumped-up charges of heresy, and kept them for the rest of their days as mistresses."

The Inquisition in Spain was still spreading terror in 1808 when Napoleon invaded.

"When the French troops captured the city of Aragon (Spain)," said Scott, "Lieutenant-General M de Legal ordered the doors of the Inquisition to be opened, and the prisoners, numbering some 400, to be released.

"Among these were 60 beautiful young women who appeared to form a *seraglio* for the three principal inquisitors ..."

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*"Civilisation will not attain to its perfection
until the last stone from the last church
falls on the last priest"*

(Emile Zola)

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