



Illustrated by Marcel Králík



ADVENTURES OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



# ADVENTURES OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



b4u publishing

# CAN I STROKE HIM? BETTER NOT

DO YOU LIKE ANIMALS? DO YOU HAVE PETS AT HOME? AND DO YOU KNOW HOW ALL KINDS OF CREATURES WERE USED IN THE PAST – THOUSANDS, SOMETIMES ONLY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO?



## Dogs

To be thrown to the dogs was an ignominious punishment. And it was not difficult to put into practice, as there were plenty of hungry dogs. Ashurbanipal, King of Assyria, was a ruler who liked to feed his dogs in this way.



## Bees

Beehive-thieves were left at the mercy of the bees' stings.



## Rats

The executioner placed a bucket containing a rat on the convict's belly. The executioner heated up the bucket. The rat went crazy and did everything it could to escape the bucket. In the end, its only way out led into the poor convict's belly, which it bit into. In China, the heat was applied to the buttocks. It's not hard to guess the way out in this case. Or should that be the way in?

## Ants

An army of migratory ants can gnaw anything down to the bone, so a poor criminal in chains poses no problem for them.



## Elephants

There were two options. With the first, the elephants stamped the convict to pulp; with the second, the elephants were specially trained to perform very effective acts of sadism. In Sri Lanka, an island that lies to the south of India, it was the custom for an elephant to toss the convict up in the air, catching him on its tusks as he fell.

## Horses

The hands and legs of the convict were tied to four horses, each of which was commanded to run in a different direction. The only possible outcome was the tearing of the convict's body into four pieces, known as quartering.

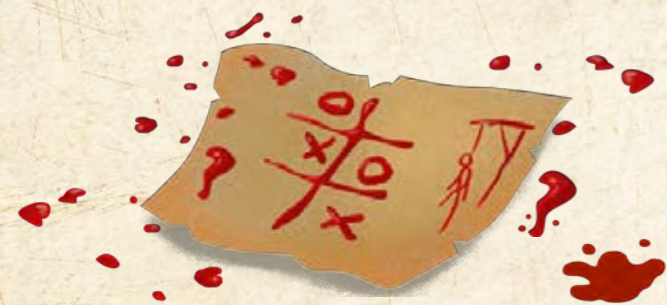


# THE ELEGANCE OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS

WE THINK OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS AS WISE PHILOSOPHERS, SENSITIVE ARTISTS AND FATHERS OF DEMOCRACY. BUT NOT ALL WAS ROSY IN THEIR GARDEN: LIFE IN ANTIQUITY, TOO, COULD BE HARSH. THERE WAS NOISE AND COMMOTION. THERE WAS UNREST AND DEFIANCE. THERE WAS CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW THINGS WERE MANAGED IN ATHENS BEFORE DEMOCRACY WAS BORN THERE? IF YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORD 'DRACONIAN', YOU WILL KNOW THAT NOTHING GOOD IS MEANT BY IT...

## Bringer of the law

Draco was an Athenian lawgiver in the 7th century BCE. His laws were so strict that he could have given Hammurabi a run for his money. It is said that they were written not in ink but in human blood.



But Draco himself didn't think up the laws. He simply wrote down the rules people were used to. In this way, no one could claim that they didn't know the law, nor could anyone take advantage of the ignorance of others.

Draco's Code is the oldest known legal code in Europe. It sentenced the perpetrators of quite commonplace crimes to death, yet it made a new distinction between murder and involuntary manslaughter.

Fortunately, Draconian laws were not long in effect before they were abolished for being too harsh. What followed was the birth of much-extolled Athenian democracy. But that, too, was not without its flaws.



## Shards of justice

'Trial by shard', better known as ostracism, was introduced around 500 BCE, as protection against tyrants (so-called autocrats) who represented a threat to Athenian democracy. Every citizen was given a pottery shard, known as an ostrakon, on which he would write his name for the purposes of a vote. If at least 6,000 such votes were cast, the person who



attracted the most could begin saying his good-byes – he was about to be sent into exile for ten years. Regrettably, ostracism was often abused in the political struggle as an instrument for getting rid of opponents. The historian Thucydides, for instance, was a victim of such treatment.

## What's your poison?

One of the most common methods of execution in Athens was forced poisoning. It would later reach other parts of Greece and even the territory of today's Spain and France. The first poison used was a decoction of hemlock. Later, a more reliable mixture of poppy and other substances was used.

## Graeco-Persian shard paradox

The military commander Aristides was a victim of ostracism. He was expelled from Athens after his conflict with Themistocles, another fine warrior. But Aristides was recalled to Athens to fight against the Persians, whom the Athenians then defeated with Aristides and Themistocles fighting side by side. A few years later, the situation was reversed: the popularity of Themistocles declined sharply, resulting in his ostracism. Unlike Aristides, Themistocles never returned: ironically, he settled in Persia for the rest of his life.



## Death of Socrates

The best-known case of death by poisoning in antiquity is probably that of the philosopher Socrates in 399 BCE. His philosophizing in the street, which included criticism of the government, was less than popular with Athenian politicians. Socrates was put on trial, charged with impiety and corrupting the young, and sentenced to death by poisoning. We still don't know exactly what was in the mixture he was forced to drink.

## Human torches

Burning was included in Draco's Code, and it continued as a punishment in later times. In Greece, it sometimes took a particularly nasty turn: convicts' outer clothing was soaked in

We can read about how Socrates defended himself before the Athenian court in Plato's treatise *The Apology of Socrates*.

resin and then set alight. Now human torches, these people must have suffered terrible pain.

## Stoning

The punishment of stoning was mostly connected with religion. In ancient times, it was practised by Jews and Christians; later (in some places, even today), it was/is used by Muslims. It was also much in favour in ancient Greece, as a means of revenge on a group or to punish errant soldiers.



It is said that all inhabitants of the Greek city of Messene were stoned to death - for having captured and executed the Greek general Philopoemen at the behest of the Romans.

IN A BAD WAY, ISN'T HE?  
AND I SEE ATLAS IS STILL  
WALKING AROUND WITH HIS  
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.



WOE IS ME! EVERY DAY  
THE SAME! WELL, PECK IT OUT  
AND GET IT OVER WITH.

## Mythological justice

For the ancient Greeks, just (sometimes unjust) retribution was so important that they incorporated it into their numerous myths. Everyone knows about Sisyphus, Prometheus and Atlas the giant.

## What does legend tell us?

According to legend, the famous King Sisyphus was one of the world's cleverest men. But when he tried to outwit the gods - including Zeus, the highest of all Greek gods - he got himself into big trouble. His punishment was to roll a huge boulder up a hill for all



Atlas led the Titans in battle against the Olympian gods. After the Titans were defeated, Atlas was sent by Zeus to the western edge of the world to hold up the sky on his shoulders forever more.

time; whenever the rock was about to reach the top, it would roll away from Sisyphus and back down the hill. And so it went on, endlessly. Prometheus was a demigod who created man. His offence was to trick Zeus, who hid fire from humans in retribution. Prometheus then went to Mount Olympus, where he stole fire and took it back with him. For this, he was bound to a rock in the Caucasus, where each day an eagle would feed on his liver, which would then grow back overnight. He was freed at last by the hero Heracles. As a reminder of his punishment, Prometheus kept a ring with a stone from the rock in the Caucasus. It is worth noting that the gods' strictest punishments favoured eternity over death. For Sisyphus and Atlas, this meant endless work, for Prometheus suffering without end.

## TALKATIVE SOCRATES

AT THE AGORA ...

YOU'RE A FOOL.  
BUT I'VE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.  
THOSE WHO RULE YOU ARE STILL  
GREATER FOOLS.



WHAT ROT  
HE SPEAKS!

Socrates is trying to teach the citizens of Athens self-knowledge. He takes the chance to criticize Athenian politicians.

APPARENTLY, THAT  
LOAFER SOCRATES IS GOING AROUND  
SAYING THAT WE'RE FOOLS!



WELL, LET'S HEAR HIM  
SAY IT TO OUR FACES.

The ruling elite is not very happy about Socrates's doings.

HOW COULD HE ...



WE HEAR, THAT  
YOU TALK ABOUT  
US AS FOOLS.

WHY SHOULDN'T I?  
IT'S NOT A SECRET, IS IT?

Socrates stands by what he has said And so he is put on trial.

AS I WAS SAYING, IT IS  
FOR THIS VERY REASON ...



BORING!

... THAT I THINK I SHOULD  
NOT BE JUDGED.

Socrates defends himself before the tribunal, but to no avail.

COME ON, SOCKY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



THE LAWS MAY BE RUBBISH,  
BUT THEY SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

After Socrates is sentenced to death, his friend offers his help.

HOW DO YOU  
FEEL, SIR?



IT DOESN'T  
TASTE TOO BAD.  
BUT WAIT ...

Socrates, surrounded by his pupils, drinks a gobletful of a deadly mixture.

## AND YOU, ROMANS?



THE ANCIENT ROMANS WERE PERFECTIONISTS BY NATURE WHO TRIED TO MAKE THE VERY BEST OF EVERYTHING. IF THEY SAW SOMETHING THEY LIKED BEYOND THEIR EMPIRE, THEY WOULD CHECK IT OUT AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO IT. THIS WAS AS MUCH THE CASE IN CERTAIN FIELDS OF ART AND CULTURE AS IT WAS IN THE AREA OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. IN THE LATTER CASE, HOWEVER, IT IS DEBATABLE WHETHER WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT 'IMPROVEMENTS' – AS THEY BROUGHT TOGETHER THE TERRIBLE WITH THE MORE TERRIBLE STILL.

## Fantastic Five

As we know, all kinds of wild animals have been used in executions since time immemorial. But the Romans wouldn't

have been the Romans if they hadn't added something of their own...

The guilty party was sewn up in a sack, which was then thrown into a river. But he wasn't alone in there – he was in the company of a dog, a cat, a monkey, a cock and a viper. Just imagine the hellish scene in the sack before the convict eventually drowned!

## Arena of death

Gladiators' amphitheatres – known as colosseums – are a story in their own right. The most famous of them is without doubt the

Poena cullei, which means 'penalty of the sack', was a punishment imposed for killing a parent.



A TICKETS FOR SIX,  
PLEASE. ONE WAY.

EVERYBODY IN!





great Colosseum in Rome. Here, execution using animals was turned into a magnificent, grandiose show for tens of thousands of avid spectators. The perverse spectacle was the most important thing. Those who died most often in arenas were slaves, deserters from the army and, after the death of Jesus, Christians.



## Pets or executioners?

Originally, convicts were chained to a pole, often with their bare arms held out towards the centre of the arena, and left at the mercy of the animals. The executioners were tigers, lions, leopards, bears, wolves, hyenas or dogs. Later, to make the spectacle last a little longer and even more gripping – convicts were given weapons for self-defence. Some of them succeeded in resisting one attacker, but rarely did they stand a chance against the bloody fangs of the others.

Not all the animals were predatory. Sometimes a prisoner was placed before raging bulls or wild pigs. And the spectacle was not always a contest in the true sense of the word. On occasion, the poor wretch would be tied to a horse or an aurochs, which would drag him around the arena.

## Crucifixion crosses to Rome

Crucifixion was used by many ancient states. It reached Rome from the Carthaginians, who had brought it from their Phoenician homeland. The Romans took to crucifixion with a gusto that was all their own. At first, it was reserved for rebellious slaves, rabble-rousers and particularly hardened criminals. Before long, however, executions on the cross were performed in great numbers.




## Spartacus's Uprising

Spartacus was a slave who became a gladiator – a professional fighter in the arena. He rebelled against his captors and led an uprising unparalleled in Roman history. Although



his forces succeeded in defeating the Roman army, they lost the decisive battle and Spartacus was killed. Six thousand of his men were crucified, their crosses stretching in a line almost 200 kilometres along the Appian Way.






# ADVENTURES OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

A history of how thieves, fraudsters and  
violent criminals were punished!

The origination  
of this book was  
achieved without  
any great loss  
of life.

The guillotine. The word itself has a strange sound. To say nothing of the brief moment with the keen whistle, the last thing the condemned would ever hear ... The French guillotine was in use for over 200 years, in the course of which it separated around 100,000 heads from their bodies! Every nation and every time punished its thieves and rogues in a different, imaginative way – as names and slang terms for popular instruments of torture (e.g. Lamentation Mount, rack, Capet's necktie, drunkard's cloak, thumbscrew, cat o' nine tails) go to show. While we're on the subject of animals, do you know what they were used for thousands of years ago? This history of painful interrogation has plenty of bite!



No animals  
were harmed  
in the making  
of this book.



ISBN + EAN

 b4u publishing

[www.b4upublishing.com](http://www.b4upublishing.com)

© Designed by B4U Publishing,  
member of Albatros Media Group. 2018.