

# WHEN IN ROME

By Jason Klein

**Safety Rating:** **X Highly Restricted:** To be attempted only by an experienced Top. See Editor's Notes #1 and #2 at end of article.

Very few experiences can be as totally mind blowing—short of being roasted or boiled alive or some other tortures that are strictly terminal—as crucifixion. You have to remember that crucifixion was meant to be terminal. It did not matter if you lost your nerves or how uncomfortable it became. I had to actually remind myself of that the first time I crucified myself. I had hammered two giant nails into the wall of my apartment, climbed up onto a chair, and bound my wrists to both nails with thick rope (having also wrapped my wrists with elastic bandages). As soon as I stepped off the chair and hung by my outstretched arms, I had to hop back onto the chair to catch my breath and relieve my arms and chest. I thought, "Goddamn, how did they deal with it?" Then I had to laugh, realizing they weren't supposed to deal with it. They were supposed to die from it. I tried it again, and again, and finally, after a few weeks—forcing myself to hang there longer each time—I hung there long enough to come. All I had to do was squeeze my balls between my thighs and the pain did the rest.

If the Romans nailed you to a cross, they were merciful. You bled to death, and comparatively quickly. You cannot use nails unless you want whoever you crucify to lose hands and/or feet, die of tetanus, blood loss, or whatever. I hear there are some sterile, specially-designed nails—the only kind you can use—but I don't know where and how to get hold of them, although I would like to.

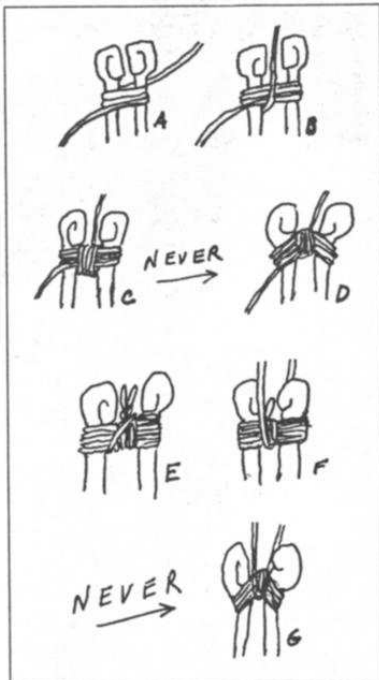
When the Romans used ropes instead of nails, they were truly without mercy. You hung there for days under the sun, starving and thirsting and completely at the mercy of the bugs (already I'm getting a hard-on). That was true if you had the little stand for your feet so you were not hanging totally by your arms. If you couldn't give yourself any support at all, just hanging there eventually collapsed your lungs and you suffocated to death before you starved or were eaten alive.

In the illustration are seven basic crucifixion positions, drawn from least to most painful.

## Positions 1 to 3:

Having arms directly overhead or hanging by feet is far easier than hanging by outstretched arms. Hanging upside down does a number on your guts and sends so

much blood and secretions to your head that (usually) you need somebody to at least grab you every 10–15 minutes and hold your torso horizontal long enough for you to breathe normally and clear your head. (Sinuses clog and lungs weird out.) With such assistance I have hung upside down for up to two hours, but getting me down was a real trip. My legs went totally spastic and hurt a thousand times more once released than they had before. All you can do is hold the poor thing down and deal with the screams and thrashing. I loved it. It took me a day or two, however, for my guts to stop complaining, as they tried to settle back



into normal position. There have been a couple of times when I have hung upside down for a long time and not needed any assistance (just a LOT of tolerance for noise because I had no choice but to make a lot of it.) You may or may not need assistance in breathing, but someone should ALWAYS be present in case you do. The very real need for air or relief can hit you very suddenly, and when it does the need will be immediate. You will not want to hang around waiting to be rescued.

MUCH MORE IMPORTANT is how you tie the wrists or ankles—whichever you're hanging from. The wrists are especially vulnerable, but regardless of which body part, it is usually best to wrap the

joints in a thick swaddle of elastic bandages. With my hands directly overhead, I've hung for a half hour or so with just rope around my naked wrists, but I have been doing it for 20 years and have calloused joints, AND I know how to tie safely with rope. Somebody else tied the rope all wrong once, and in just five minutes I lost the use of my hands for a month.

The right way to tie is to put the wrists or ankles together and wind a fairly thick rope around them, not too tight, not too loose, four or more times. Then bring the same length of rope in between the wrists and wind the rope around until it is so tight that it will NOT shift into a slant which cuts across the joints, but not so tight that the victim is losing circulation while still standing on the ground. If you cannot do one or the other, than give up and use elastic bandages. Circulation will be lost when you're hanging—either you get into it or you don't. (See Figures A-D).

Once you've gotten it right, tie the rope into a knot that won't slip. A slipping knot will cause everything to squeeze tighter and tighter as the poor victim hangs there suffering something fierce. The end result will undoubtedly be crushed nerves. A separate length of rope helps assure the first rope won't tighten and cut circulation any worse than necessary. Again, the main danger is that the rope will crush nerves if you don't do it right. I might add that even doing it right may not be a guarantee. Generally, also, the heavier you are, the more vulnerable your wrists are.

## Positions 4 to 7:

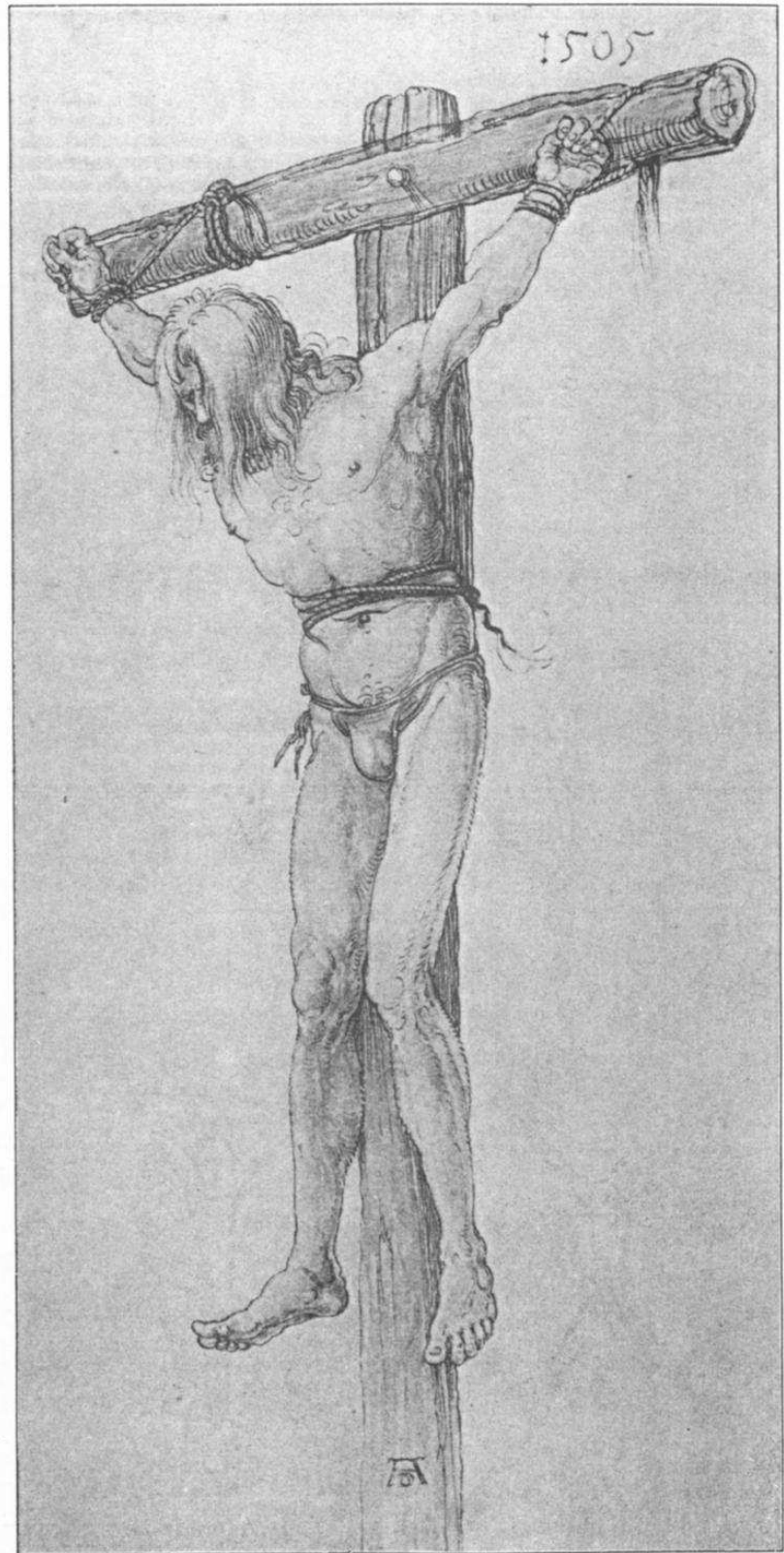
These are the truly brutal positions. Position 4 is easier to handle because most of the arms are supported by having wrists and arms to the armpits bound to the cross beam, BUT it is also in a way the most dangerous, partly because it can be dealt with longer than the others (5-7), and partly because the ropes cut across the arms at more than one place. It is absolutely necessary to use ace bandages or other padding before using ropes, wrapping the bandages thickly around the arm wherever the rope will cross it in tying it to the beam. Even with elastic bandages, it is tricky. The thicker the wrap, the safer it is. I did this once with just elastic bandages binding me to the cross and I hung there for over an hour in absolute agonizing glory, no problem afterward. Another time I did it with a minimum of bandages, lots of rope (how my heart fluttered!), and made the mistake of struggling (not that there was

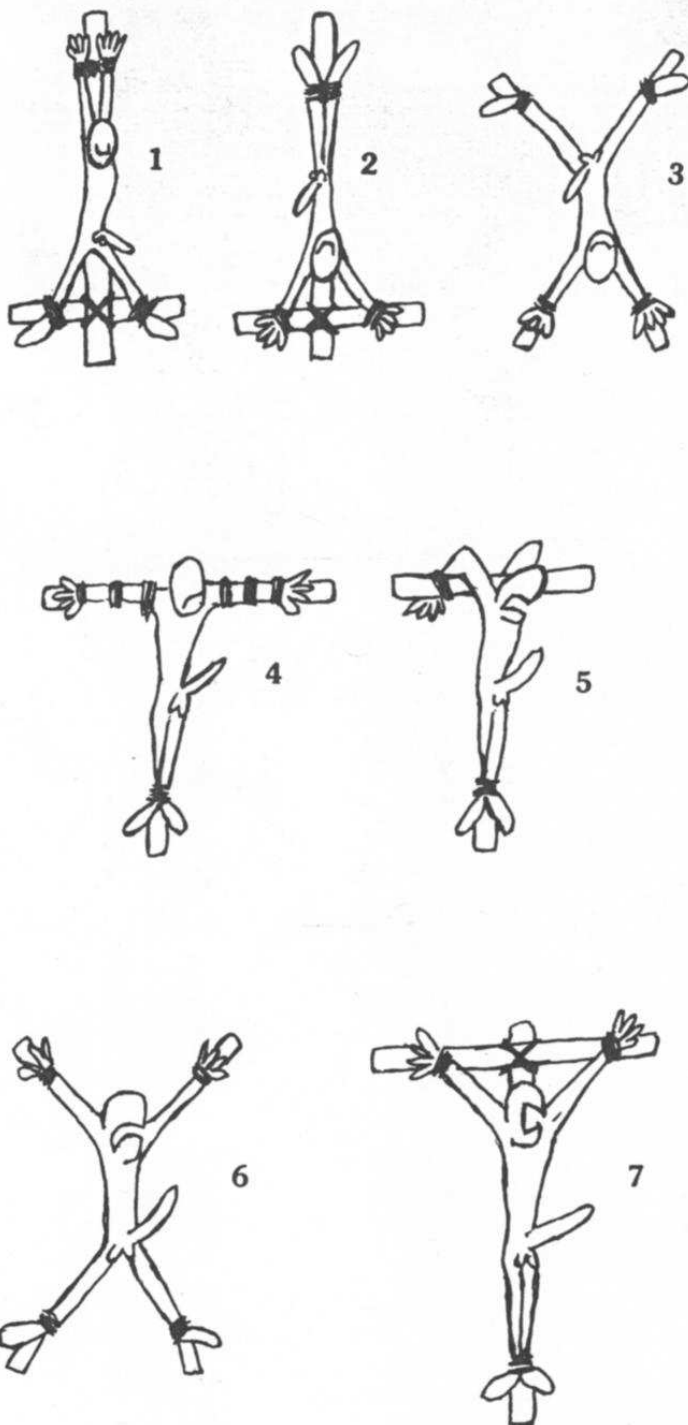
much choice about it!). I loved every minute (about 30-45 excruciating minutes worth), but I also paid for it dearly. Within the first fifteen minutes, I had done my arms in and for two months I had, for all practical purposes, NO arms! I couldn't lift them for two weeks, and for all ten weeks I couldn't dress myself, couldn't hold silverware and feed myself. Having "limp noodle" arms is not funny, not after the first day, and certainly not after two months. And for 1-2 months afterwards, I could use my arms and hands again, but they tingled a lot and were still fairly weak. I had to go to a neurologist who squirmed at the news of how I'd gotten myself into this mess. Then he jabbed needles deep into my arm from wrist to bicep, taking readings that even I could interpret—the nerves were crushed and unable to transmit messages. The nerves had to regenerate totally. No picnic, believe me.

Position 5 is also especially bad about cutting into the arms, and I only tried it once, by myself, so cannot say much about the experience. I suspect that it is relatively less dangerous because I have seen a lot of photographs of people dealing with it without padding, but I would strongly suggest the beam be wrapped with towels for heavy padding. Believe me, hanging that way will hurt enough. Position 5 is probably less dangerous than Position 4 because the body hangs with more support and less likelihood of affecting the more vulnerable portions of the arm.

Positions 6 and 7 are my favorites, and I'll cum very fast if my cock is played with at all, and sometimes even without it being touched. I have only lasted 5-10 minutes, but would love to be forced to stay there until I was a blubbering mess. After cumming, the agony is much worse, so much so that anyone would be a blubbering mess very quickly. As long as the wrists are wrapped in lots of ace bandages, there is little risk of damaging nerves. I always wrap the wrists so they are buried under about a half-inch thick swaddle, from halfway across the palm (thumb sticking out) to about four inches past the wrist bones up the forearm. As many times as I've engaged in it, Position 7 has never damaged me.

Because you are hanging only by your wrists, the tension on your arms and armpits especially is so intense you feel as if you are tearing your pecs and lats out, and the possibility of doing just that must be kept in mind. You cannot afford to whip or otherwise rough up the person unless the binding to the cross includes good support for the feet, so she or he is standing, rather than hanging. An added freakout, and with it, danger, is grabbing the poor soul's feet and tying them down as far as they hang (NOT as far as they will stretch—you will surely tear the muscles doing that). The panic and feeling of complete helplessness-





ness of not being able to bend knees and at least "grab" the post with the feet is really unsurpassable. Because the strain on the muscles is so intense, somebody has to be right there and always ready to get a stool or chair under the victim's feet IMMEDIATELY when it's asked for. If the feet are tied down, they should be tied in a way that will untie very quickly, one person being there to untie and a second to immediately bring the chair while, once the feet are untied, the victim is held up by the legs.

Whether you use a tree, a beam, a cross, or just hooks in the wall, it ain't a joy ride, and a Top should try it on her or himself before nonchalantly doing it to others. Activities such as clothespins all over the body, hot wax, tit clamps, etc., should be done extremely cautiously in Positions 1-5, due to the short amount of time the bottom can stay there and the muscle strain. One of my favorite tricks is to hammer nails between the victim's fingers and/or toes. The sensation is extremely unnerving, especially if the victim is blindfolded. Even knowing the nails won't actually be hammered through the skin does not keep one from getting the jitters every time the hammer strikes the nail so close to home. Of course blindfolding the victim is especially effective in disorienting and exaggerating the experience. My own personal opinion holds that if the victim wants to see, this should not be allowed until after he or she has come to blindly appreciate the new position in life.

*Editor's Note #1: A method for relieving some of the strain of the suspension is to tilt the cross back at an angle rather than having it totally vertical. Particularly with a St. Andrew's Cross (X-shaped), the friction of the body against the cross offers considerable support. A good way to build up experience with this scene is to start with the cross at about a 45 degree angle and gradually bring the cross closer to vertical with repeated scenes.*

*Editor's Note #2: This is advanced suspension and should not be attempted by anyone who does not have considerable experience with both bondage and suspension in other positions. While Jason makes it plain that he has done this to himself frequently, his cautions that it SHOULD NOT be done solo are important! Someone must be present to help get the victim down quickly and to support the body weight while doing so. Heavy bandage shears or other cutting tools should be at hand to cut the bindings if necessary for rapid lowering.*

*Jason was very experienced in self-bondage, he knew the dangers. This article was first published in DungeonMaster #11 in 1981. Not long after its publication Jason Klein died as a result of a self-bondage scene.* □