

**torture**  
**by Adam Maue**

i asked the telephone company to unplug me,  
the lock fitters to double the bolts,  
the birds to stop singing.  
there was a morning flower blooming,  
that i needed to cut.  
the work was bleeding my body,  
my spine was raw.  
exhausted,  
i hung up my crucifix,  
followed the easy path:  
i ate pancakes and watched a movie;  
it was only slight torture.