

was the devil deceived when through hatred to the goodness of Jesus, he caused him to be murdered. He was then obliged to accept his soul as a ransom for sinners. The death of Christ differs from that of other martyrs only in this, that his death brought good to *all* men.

The theory, thus developed by Irenæus and Origen, held its place for many centuries with little alteration. The *right* of the devil over men was fully admitted. Augustine regarded it as the right of property. According to him, Adam was conquered by the devil in fair fight, and made his slave by the laws of war, and according to the same laws all his descendants were slaves also.* Leo the Great considered the devil to have only a tyrannical right. Others thought man to be only in the power of the devil. Some as Theodoret and Hilary of Poitiers, spoke of redemption as a battle, in which Christ has conquered the devil, and set free his prisoners. The notion of a *contract*, however, was more usual, and it was accurately explained how the devil was deceived into accepting the life of Christ as a ransom. Gregory of Nyssa tells us that he was attracted by the sublimity of Christ's works, and did not perceive the divinity under the veil of the flesh. "Under the bait of the flesh," he says, "the hook of the divinity was concealed." This figure

believed that cities and nations had been saved by the voluntary devotion of some heroic characters. Origen also regards the death of Christ as a sacrifice offered to God, and contends that sin can never be forgiven without a sacrifice. Yet this necessity is not deduced from the notion of divine justice, consequently it contains no idea of *substituted suffering*. The purity of the sacrifice takes away the sin, and in its beauty the evils of men vanish away. The beauty of the sacrifice would lead God to forgive, but the devil's claim remains, and that is satisfied by the soul of Jesus as a ransom. We must not look for perfect consistency in these early fathers.

* Augustine wavers in his view, and in some places seems to take an opposite one.