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Sommario/riassunto	Contrary to a common conviction, original sin is one of the fundamental Patristic issues, because it is the starting point of Patristic anthropology and sets the stage for the need for salvation. The Church Fathers before Augustine did not use the term "original sin", but described its reality, having the greatest possible feeling for the mystical unity of mankind with its first ancestor. As regards the issue of the unity of human nature in Adam, the East and the West speak with one voice, which is first to be found in Irenaeus' works.