

And there was mutual hatred. "Marvel not," wrote Marco Polo, "that the Saracens hate the Christians; for the accursed law which Mohammed gave them commands them to do all the mischief in their power to all other descriptions of people and especially to Christians; to strip such of their goods and do them all manner of evil. In such fashion the Saracens act throughout the world." Dante voices the common opinion of the West in his day when he puts Mohammed in the deepest hell of his Inferno and describes his fate in such dreadful language as offends polite ears.

**Mutual
Hatred**

There were two remarkable exceptions to this general ignorance and hatred. John of Damascus and Peter the Venerable, first studied Islam with sympathy and used spiritual weapons in defense of the Christian faith against Moslems. The former died in 760, and the latter in 1157. Both were distinguished for learning and wrote books to persuade Moslems of the truth of Christianity. Their witness was not in vain, but results were meager.

**Two
Remarkable
Exceptions**

While these two men and others tried to reach Moslems by their pen, Raymund Lull was the first to go to them in person. They offered arguments; he offered his life. Eugene Stock says: "There is no more heroic figure in the history of Christendom than that of Raymund

**Raymund
Lull**