

A crown of thorns, made of dry, sharp, light-colored branches, is draped over the horizontal beam of a wooden cross. The cross is made of dark, weathered wood. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Theories of the Atonement

Christology: The Person & Work of Jesus

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • BibleStudyDownloads.org

What is "Atonement"?

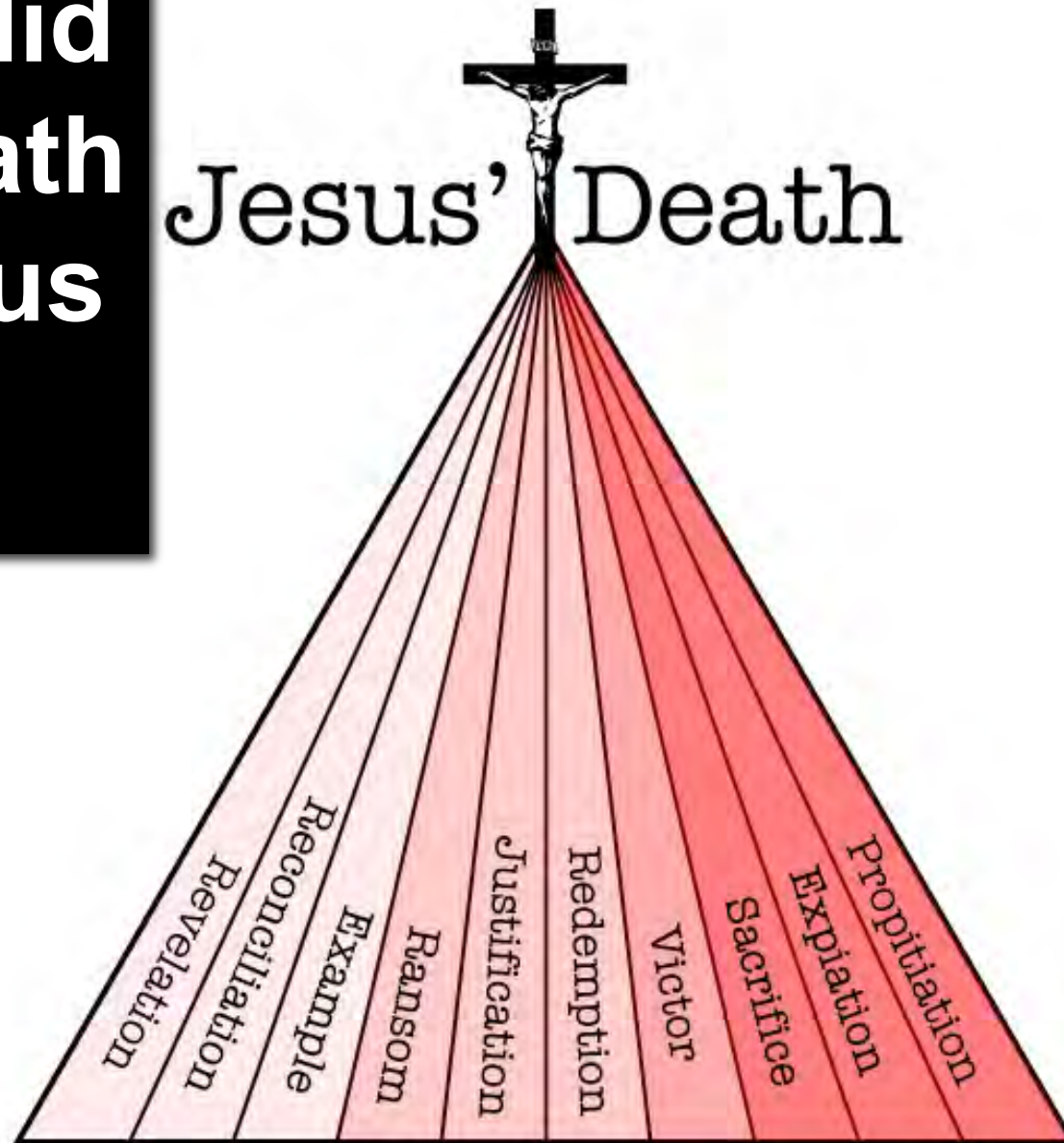
**"The word atonement comes from 16th-century English and literally means
at-one-ment.**

Atonement is the process of reconciliation between God and human beings (either on a communal or individual basis) with the goal of righting a wrong or injury, i.e. sin."

A Skeptic Muses...



**What did
the death
of Jesus
do?**



Purpose & Fulfillment

Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*

Three Main Atonement Theories

SATAN

Views Relating
Christ's Death to
Satan



PUNISHMENT

Views Owing to God's
Justice & Substitution

EXEMPLARY

Views Seeing Christ's
Death an Example to
Influence

Three Main Atonement Theories

SATAN

**BATTLE AGAINST
SATAN**



PUNISHMENT

**SATISFACTION FOR
HUMAN SIN**

EXEMPLARY

**ILLUSTRATION OF
GOD'S LOVE**

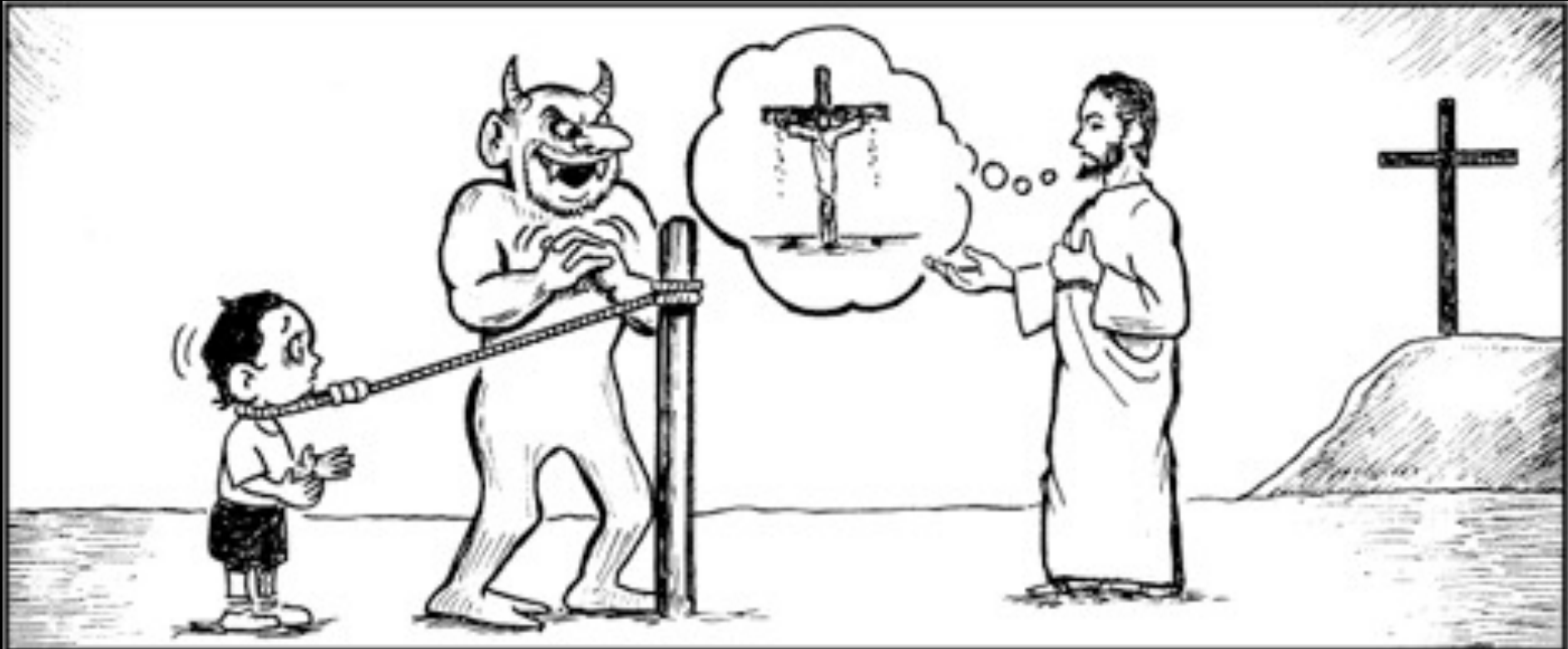
Three Main Atonement Theories

SATAN

Views Relating
Christ's Death to
Satan



The Ransom to Satan View ⁴⁹



"For even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)

First Proposed by Origen (185-254)

Recently by Jack Chick of Chick's Tracts

Dramatic **(Aulen, 1879-1978)**



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**"Christ in His death
gained victory over
the powers of evil."**

**—Ryrie, *Basic
Theology*, 356**

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Satan**



EXEMPLARY

**Views Seeing Christ's
Death an Example to
Influence**

Moral Influence

(Peter Abelard, 1079-1142)

The "death of Christ was not an expiation for sin but a suffering with His creatures to manifest God's love. This suffering love should awaken a responsive love in the sinner and bring an ethical change in him. This, then liberates from the power of sin."



—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356

Governmental (Grotius, 1583-1645)

49



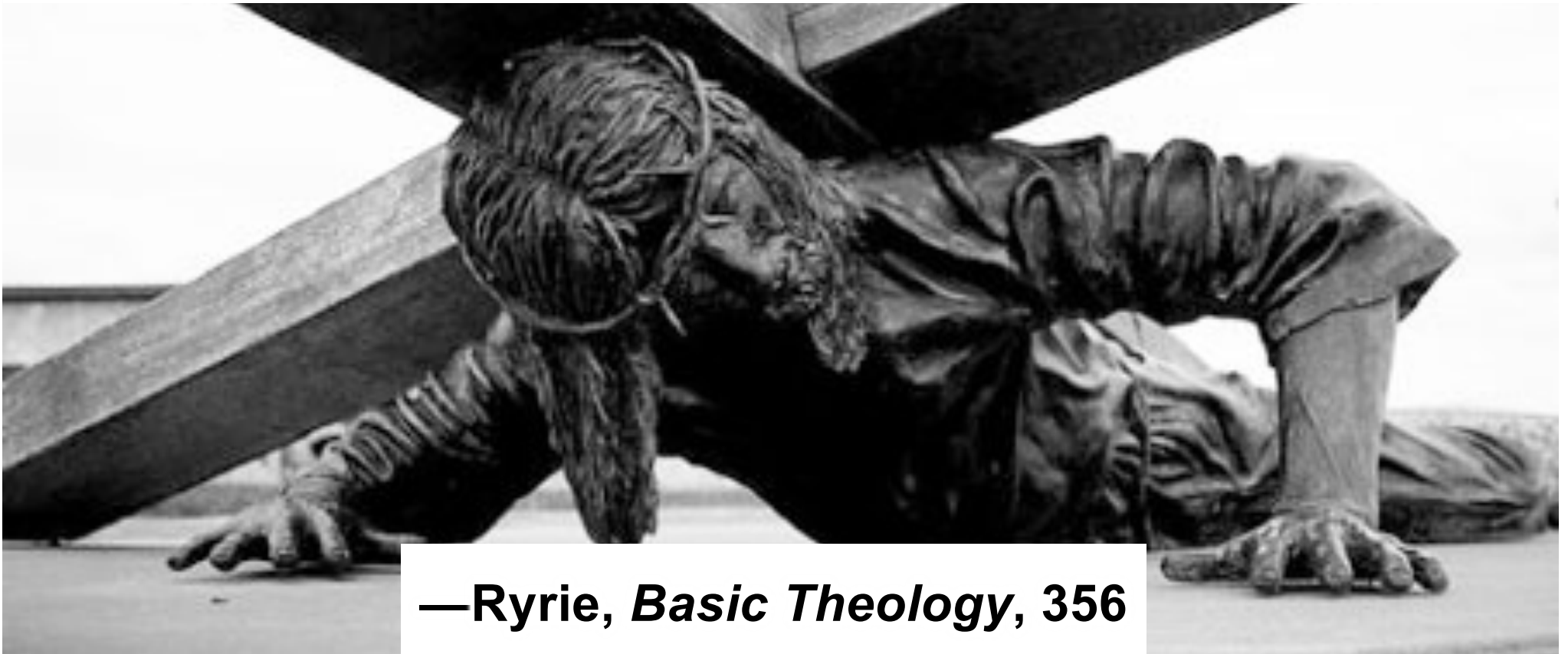
"God's government demanded the death of Christ to show His displeasure with sin. Christ also did not suffer the penalty of the Law, but God accepted His suffering as a substitute for that penalty."

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356

Example

(Socinus, 1539-1604)

"Christ's death did not atone for sin, but revealed faith and obedience as the way to eternal life and inspiring people to lead a similar life."



—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356

Barthian

(Karl Barth, 1886-1968)

**"Christ's death was principally a revelation of
God's love and His hatred of sin."
—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356**



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Life Stages



Recapitulation (Irenaeus, 130-202)

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"Christ recapitulated in Himself all the stages of life including what belonged to us as sinners. His obedience substituted for Adam's disobedience, and this should effect a transformation in our lives."

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355





"Sinful man robbed God of His honor. God rewarded the death of Christ by viewing it as a work of supererogation so that He can pass on its stored-up merits to us. Faith is necessary to appropriate this."

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355

Satisfaction

(Anselm, 1033-1109)



JESUS **PAID** IT ALL

ISAIAH 53:5

Penal Substitution View



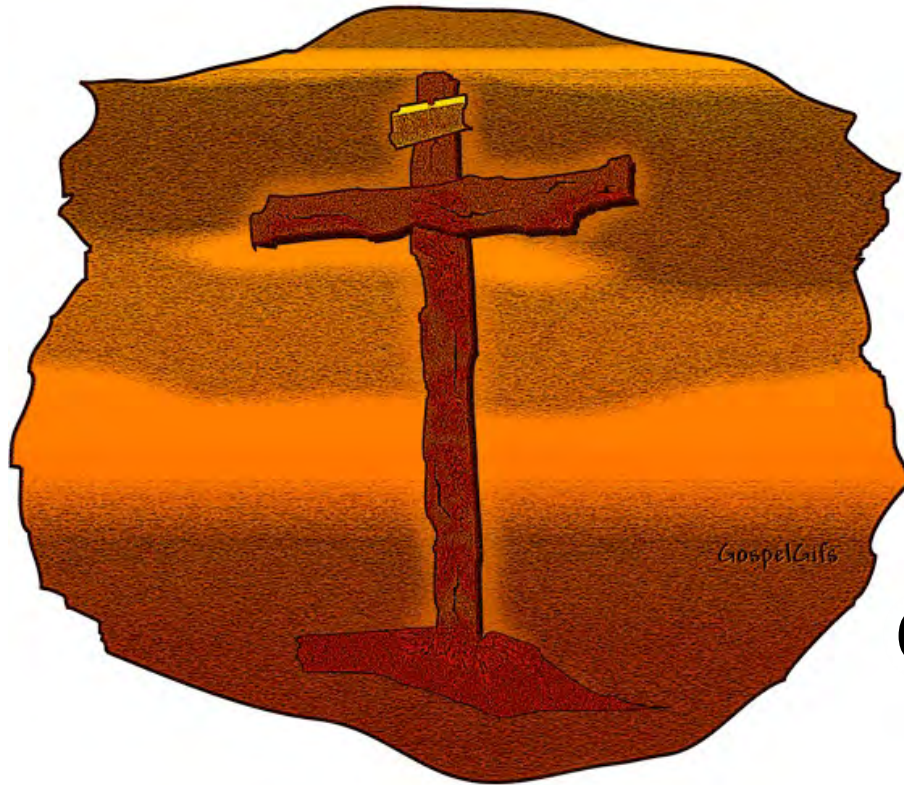
**"Christ the sinless
One took on
Himself the penalty
that should have
been borne by man
and others"**

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356

Conclusion

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"While there may be truth in views that do not include penal substitution, it is important to remember that such truth, if there be some, cannot save eternally. Only the substitutionary death of Christ can provide that which God's justice demands and thereby become the basis for the gift of eternal life to those who believe."



—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355

Preach the Gospel



**Christ died for our sins
He was buried
He was raised
He appeared
(1 Cor. 15:1-8)**

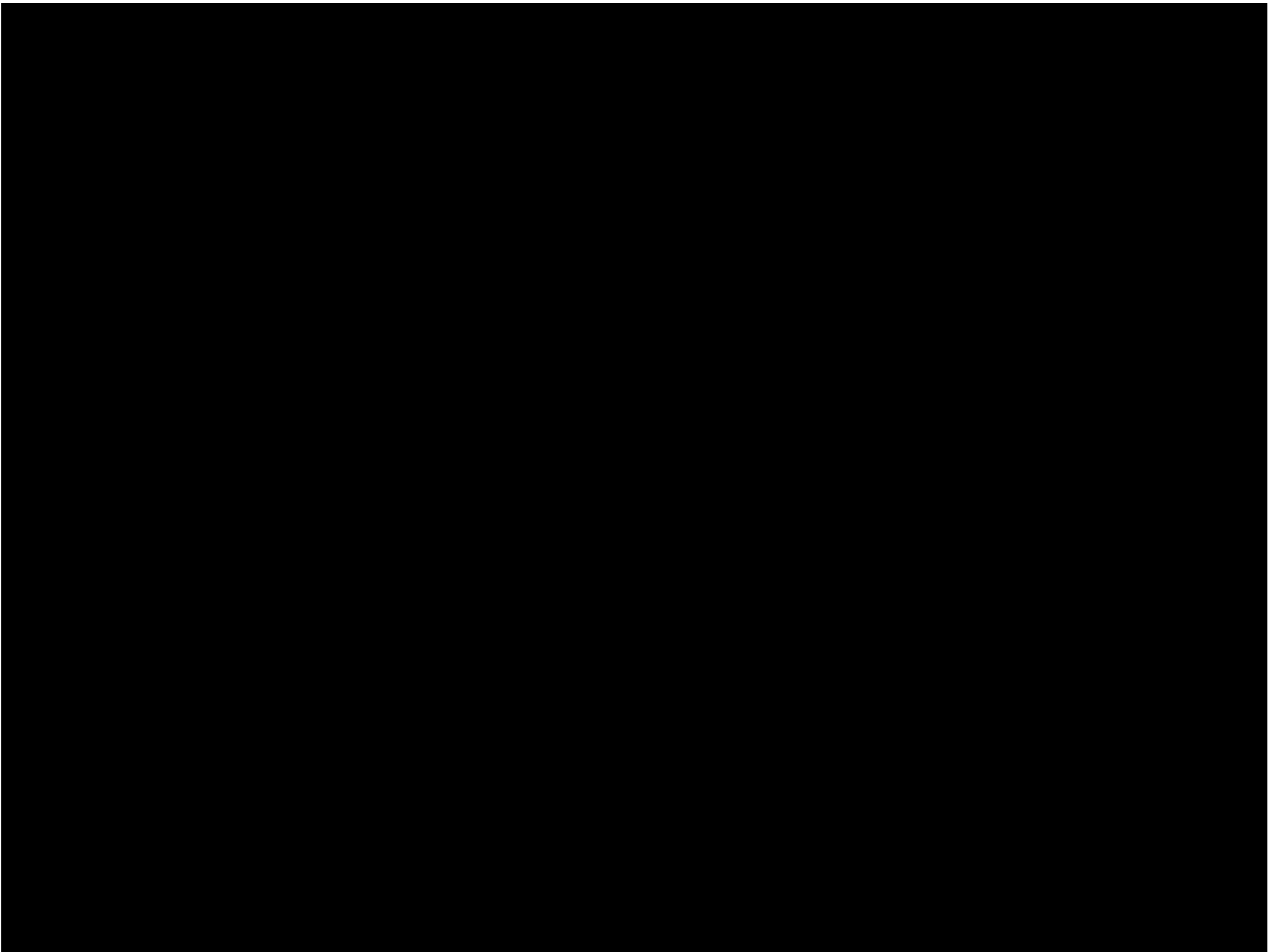
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SUBSTITUTION
ILLUSTRATION**

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- ✓ **Cancer**
- ✓ **Kai**
- ✓ **Snake**
- ✓ **Drawbridge**

Most–The Movie

- **A father must make the painful decision whether to kill his own son in order to save the lives of people on an oncoming train**

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