

## Mitres or turbans?



**Yanush, the Assyrian fish-god, who was similar to the Philistine god Dagon.**

In Exodus and Leviticus we are told that the high priest was attired with a mitre. But was this a hat like that worn by the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church and her daughter churches? Certainly not! The Hebrew word translated 'mitre' in the AV is *mitsnepheth*, based on the root *tsneph*, which the lexicon tells us means "to roll or wind around, to wrap around". The word used in the Septuagint is *kidarin*, which Liddell and Scott's Lexicon suggests refers to something similar to the peaked tiara worn by Persian monarchs. Therefore 'turban' seems to be the most accurate translation.

According to an article in Wikipedia, "The turban is a headdress, of Asian origin, consisting of a long scarf wound round the head or an inner hat. The turban comes in many shapes and sizes, and the colour of turbans vary, with the cloth's length being up to 45 metres. Early Persians wore a conical cap sometimes encircled by bands of cloth, which may be considered one of the origins of the modern turban. The turban did not become common among the Turks, but was common among Ottoman sultans".

So why do the bishops of Rome wear a mitre? The drawing on the left is of a relief of the Assyrian fish-god, who is very similar to the Philistine version known as Dagon. The headdress looks remarkably like the mitre of Rome, which as usual followed pagan tradition. In no way would God have told His priests to emulate the idols of the nations.

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