

Teachings of the Maharal

The Turban Atones for Arrogance

28:4 - And these are the garments you shall make ... a turban [mitznefet] ...

Rashi - The kind of hat called koipa, later called migba'ot [29:9].

Netiv HaAnava 4:10:2 - Our rabbis said that the mitznefet atones for arrogance. Let something tall, like the turban on the forehead atone for the tall and haughty [Z'vachim 88b]. The metzach [forehead or top of head] relates to the rest of him as the heaven relates to the earth. The "heaven" of the turban must cover the "heaven" of the metzach of the Kohen Gadol. Arrogant people consider themselves lofty and important. They cannot connect with others whom they consider ordinary. Thus, they build a private altar to themselves, which, God forbid, could supplant Hashem's Altar. Arrogance is the key that unlocks all the other transgressions.

MDK - Gayut, pride, is a word of praise when used with respect to Hashem, as in "Hashem ruled, He donned gayut [pride, grandeur] [T'hilim 93:1]. But gaava, the same word applied to man, is arrogance, which creates a detachment [pirud] from His Unity. Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi in his Tanya says that arrogance enhances anochiut [ego], such that a person could say or think that they could go against Hashem's Will. This could be a prerequisite for the person's transgression, and detachment from Hashem.

Column prepared by Dr. Moshe Kuhr

