

Veiling in Other Religious Traditions

Even though veiling or head coverings are mostly associated with the Islamic tradition and Muslim women, veils have been used throughout history by different religions (including all three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), and are still used by many non-Muslim cultures today (like the Amish). This section will show what veiling looks like in different faiths and cultures.

Christianity



Photo: Why Women Wear Mantillas in Church. (January 2014). Retrieved from: <https://catholicismpure.wordpress.com/2014/01/15/why-women-wear-mantillas-in-church/>

Based on interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, it has been traditional in many countries for women to wear some form of Christian head covering in church. Many nuns use habits in order to cover their head as a sign of humility. Chapel veils, also called mantillas, are pieces of black or white lace that are draped over a woman's head when attending Mass. Mantillas are associated as a pious religious practice among women in the Roman Catholic Church. In some Orthodox traditions (Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox), Christian women cover their heads in church. Veiling in Christianity today varies greatly based on country, community, and denomination.

Judaism



Veiling is important in Judaism, as it is in Christianity and Islam. The veiling of women's hair is part of Jewish laws on modesty (Hebrew. tzniuth). Today, orthodox Jewish women and Hasidic women dress modestly and practice veiling as a visible reflection of their observance of the laws of the Torah. The most popular head covering for Jewish women is to wear a scarf over their head, such as the one pictured here.

Photo: How to Cover: A Head Covering Blog. (March 2013).

Source:

<http://howtocover.blogspot.com/2013/03/another-interview-andrea-of-wrapunzel.html>

Hinduism

Hindu women began to wear veils only after Muslim conquests of the Indian subcontinent. Muslim control of northern India influenced the practice of Hinduism and Indian culture, including clothing. There are not instructions about clothing for men or women in the Hindu scriptures. Today, the practice of veiling has largely disappeared in Hindu culture. It is still customary among women of the northern Indian states to wear veils (odhni or ghunghat) over their heads at the time of marriage to show modesty. The ghunghat varies in style due to personal choice and tradition. In desert areas of India and Pakistan, the ghunghat is also used to keep sand from blowing onto the face.



Photo Source: goshaenur.blogspot.com

Buddhism

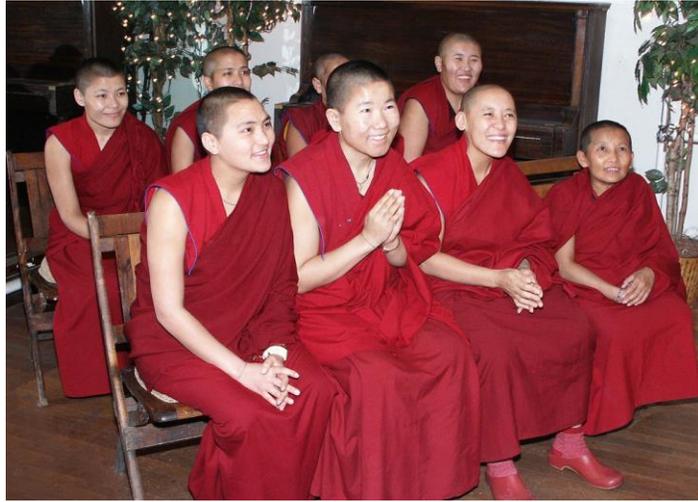


Photo: Tibetan Nuns: Karmapa- Full Ordination for Tibetan Women. (February 2015). Retrieved from: <http://www.pemakhandro.org/karmapa-supports-full-ordination-tibetan-women/>

At the time of the Buddha some women wore a veil, although more as an equivalent to a hat than to conceal the face. But by around the beginning of the first millennium it began to be considered appropriate for upper-class women and those in royal households to veil their faces. Today, only a few Buddhist female monastics wear veils in order to symbolize humility. The more traditional appearance of the Buddhist bhikkuni (female monastic) is that of the Buddhist monks including a shaved head and shaved eyebrows, like those pictured above. Head coverings are not extensively discussed in the holy texts of Buddhism.

Other Religions/Traditions

There are many other religious traditions that use veils. The infographic below shows how veils or head coverings are used by women in different religions or sects.

Women's Head Coverings By Different Religions

