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## COSTUME OF EMPRESS THEODRA AND EMPEROR JUSTINIAN

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The outfits presented for Empress Theodora and Emperor Justinian consists of the finest materials and precious stones to reflect their status and political power. Their outfits will demand respect through the design and richness in the colours as it will show they are royalty. The outfits are inspired throughout the history of Byzantine as well of the outside countries.

The first layer of the garment is a white tunic which derives from the Ancient Egyptians. The tunic replaced the Roman toga, but still carried on the similar draping. The stola is next piece to go over the tunic which drapes around the body with two belts wrapped around the stola, the first belt is held under the breasts and the second around the waist to create folds and accentuate curves. Sewn into the belts are many precious stones. The stola drapes down to the floor and is an important garment in showing marital status and veiling the whole body for modesty. This is influenced by the religion of Christianity. Silk dyed gold is used for the stola as gold represents wealth which also shows the people their economic strength. Silk and gold materials are reserved for those that are wealthy and therefore have a higher status.

Her robe will be purple which is also referred to as tyrian purple which is reserved for those of royalty and is expensive to dye. Her robe has a gold trim with a rectangular tablion sewn into her robe which a sign of royalty or higher status of court officials. The gold stola will compliment the purple and gold coat as a matching set. The fibula is at the top of the shoulder connecting the robe and is engraved with many different precious stones. The maniaki serves as a large neck piece which sits on top of the robe. The maniaki is layered across her shoulders embroidered with pearls, as pearls are the highlight in the fashion trend.

The shoes are made of soft leather and will have pointed toes. The pointed slippers are only ankle length decorated with more precious stones to continue her luxurious fashion statement. The slippers are dyed bright red as bright colours are adorned by the Byzantine people. The crown on top her head with also be incrustated with rubies, gems and pearls, with the pearls draping along her face down to her neck. Her crown is of a rectangular shape but built up higher Than Justinian's crown by quite a few inches.

Justinian's costume starts with a white knee length tunic, that is opened on the sides decorated with gold square medallions along the edges. This is inspired by Greek fashion. His tunic has fitted sleeves down to his wrists with embroidery following along the lower arms and wrists. A belt is fastened around his waist on the tunic and the belt is decorated with more square medallions. Over the tunic comes the paludamentum.

The paludamentum which is a robe will be made of silk dyed black on the outside and gold on the inside with a gold trim. It will also be heavier than the one that Theodora wears. The paludamentum connects on top of his right shoulder with a fibula enclosing it. The fibula is gold and encrusted with jewels. A tablion is also placed into paludamentum identifying his royal status. On top of the paludamentum is the influenced Persian maniaki that Theodora also wears. His is a large broad collar wrapped around his neck with precious stones and pearls. His does not quite cover the shoulders but still takes up a large portion of his chest.

To cover his legs, he is given a hosa made of silk which is dyed purple. the hosa will maintain his image of wealth and his higher status of royalty. His leather shoes will be dyed a bright blue and pointed with encrusted precious stones and jewels. His shoes are made at ankle length. To finish the look Justinian's crown is rectangular and lower to his head. It is filled with jewels all throughout his crown with rubies gems and pearls.

It is important for the Empress and Emperor to represent their faith in Christianity, so people will follow them, and the women maintain modesty for the churches. Their wealth signifies economic value and strength in providing for their people and being able to support them. The colours highlight fashion trends but also symbolize social status and with the expensive dyes it shows they have the money and power to do so. The outfits show strength, wealth and political views to earn their people's trust.

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