

New Religious Landscape Study from Pew Research

Post by “Don” of March 2, 2025 at 10:56 AM

Quote from Seneca

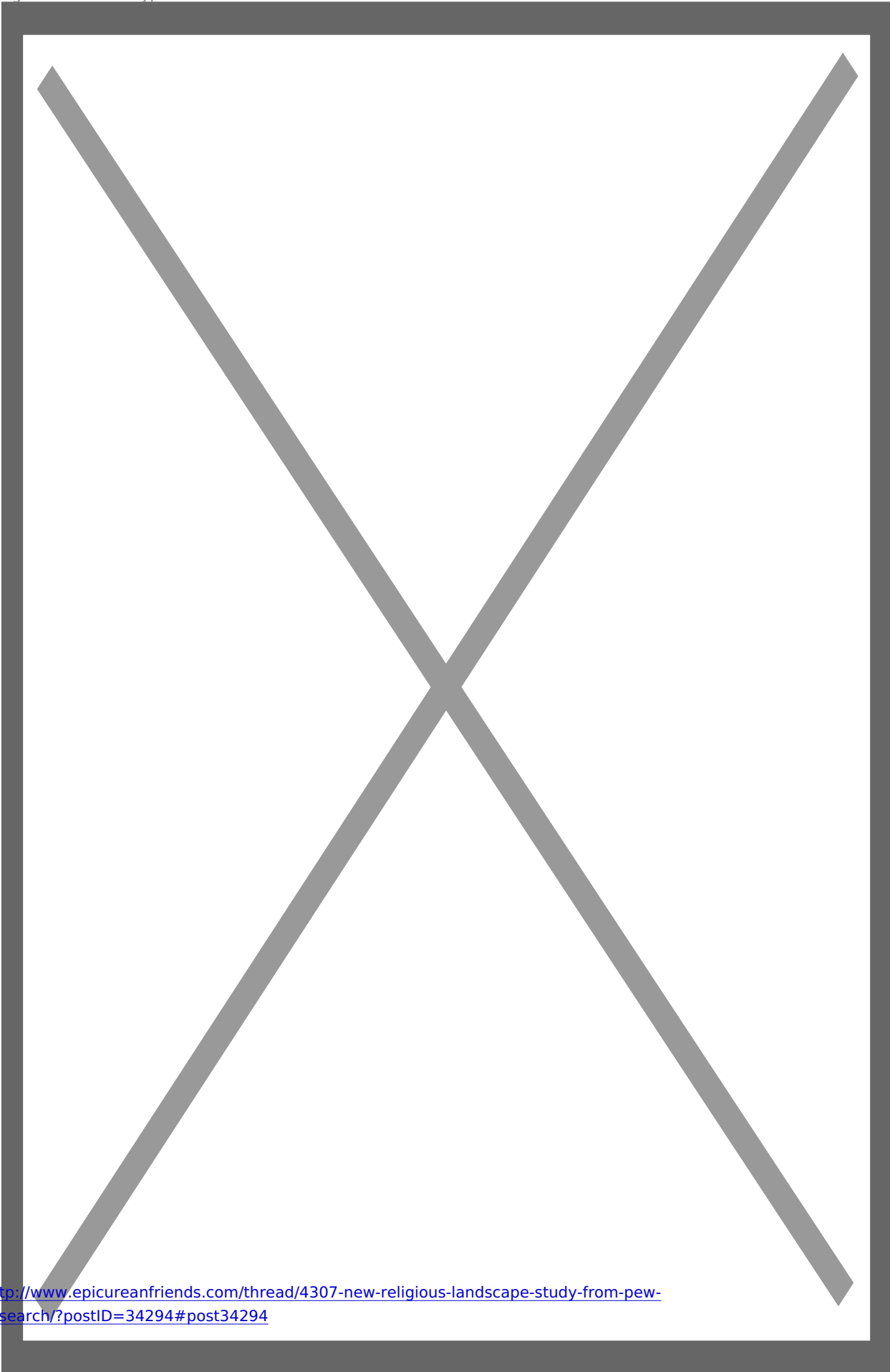
"Go to his Garden and read the motto carved there: 'Stranger, here you will do well to tarry; here our highest good is pleasure.'

Seneca's Latin is:

HOSPES HIC BENE MANEBIS, HIC SVMMVM BONVM VOLVPTAS EST

I'd suggest the inscription would have been in Greek with maybe a Latin version later. In light of that, HOSPES is a Latin translation of XENOΣ (xenos). The concepts of the XENOΣ and XENIA (xenia) are applicable to this thread.

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<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4307-new-religious-landscape-study-from-pew-research/?postID=34294#post34294>

[Xenia \(Greek\) - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org

"Xenia consists of two basic rules:

"1. The respect from hosts to guests. Hosts must be hospitable to guests and provide them with a bath, food, drink, gifts, and safe escort to their next destination. It is considered rude to ask guests questions, or even to ask who they are, before they have finished the meal provided to them.

"2. The respect from guests to hosts. Guests must be courteous to their hosts and not be a threat or burden. Guests are expected to provide stories and news from the outside world. Most importantly, guests are expected to reciprocate if their hosts ever call upon them in their homes."

As "strangers" learn about Epicurean philosophy - as they metaphorically pass by the gate to the Garden - they should be welcomed, we should be hospitable, answer questions courteously, etc. We should practice philosophical χενια.

PS. Note also that Seneca specifically uses SVMVM BONVM, so likely that would have been ΤΕΛΟΣ in Greek. So, that last phrase could be interpreted as "Here, pleasure is the telos."

MANEBIS is Latin for ΜΕΝΩ "stay, lodge, linger, remain"

BENE translates ΚΑΛΟΣ (kalos) that slippery word denoting well, nobly, beautifully, etc.