

## Explanation for the painting “The goddess of leisure”

Resting, relaxing, and leisure are universal concepts even among workaholic cultures. Interestingly, although some ancient cultures have gods dedicated to parties and good time, such as the Greek god “Dionysus” (the god of wine and its consequences, a.k.a the Roman god “Bacchus”), there was no ancient god or goddess dedicated to simple rest and relaxation, as we understand the concept today in the Greek-Roman or the Norse Pantheons. The concept originated in the Book of Genesis where Shabbat or Saturday was enforced as the obligatory day of rest of Judaism, as one of the Ten Commandments. Shabbat originated from the Creation account, describing God creating the Heavens and the Earth in six days and resting on the seventh. At the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, God commanded the Israelites to observe the seventh day and keep it holy. Later, the other two monotheistic religions of Christianity and Islam adopted the concept even though the resting day of the week was moved to Sunday (Christians) and Friday (Muslims). Every imaginable language has words for rest, relaxation, and leisure.

**What you see** is an artistic invention of the “goddess of leisure” in a typical relaxing pose engulfed by the string of lights, as is common for auras of Christian saints (even though they have it around their head).

### What is less visible but notable are:

1. The string of lights is depicted as the concept of “rest and relaxation, etc.” made of these words in 13 languages: English, modern Hebrew, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Greek, Arabic, German, French, Italian, Russian, Polish, and Hindi, each in different color to facilitate reading of the ornamental letters.
2. The formation of an artistic entity (here, a string of lights) made of words was inspired by a large-scale vertical metal modern sculpture dominating the underground entrance of the *Smithsonian African Art Museum* in Washington, DC. It is made of connected words whose meaning is not provided.
3. As all cultures are *united* by this concept, the entire background of the painting has the colors of an old painting of the tail of the planes of United Airlines (USA); blue and black.
4. The exact name of the goddess is provided twice. However, as sometimes the exact name of a god is kept secret (like the Jewish God), the name of this goddess is somewhat hidden and is made of separate letters connecting most of the words in the string of lights. If you have some reading skill of the ancient pictorial Hebrew alphabet (3000+ years old) or the very old Hebrew alphabet (~2000 years old), it can be deciphered.

This explanation was written as service for visitors of this webpage