



# Interfaith Text Study

Led by: Earl Schwartz

## Psalm 146, verses 3-4, 6-7

Don't pin your hopes on nobility, on a human being who hasn't the power to rescue anyone. His life-breath leaves, he returns to his earth, and that's the day his plans come to an end.

...The One who makes the skies and earth, the sea and all that is in them; the One who is trustworthy forever - makes for justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, the Eternal One sets free those imprisoned (*matir asurim*).

## From the daily traditional Jewish liturgy (*G'vurot/powers*)

The One who sustains life, out of gracious kindness, who revives those who have died, out of great mercy,  
Supports those who are falling, and heals those who are ailing, and sets free those imprisoned (*matir asurim*), and keeps faith with sleepers in the dust.  
Who is like You, Master of powers, who can compare to You? A king who causes to die and revives, who brings rescue to bloom.  
You can be trusted to revive the dead – You are blessed, Eternal One, who revives the dead.

## Table Questions:

1. What do you make of “Supports those who are falling, and heals those who are ailing, and sets free those imprisoned (*matir asurim*)” being placed at the heart of a liturgical passage about resurrection?
2. What do you make of the expression “sleepers in the dust” in this context?