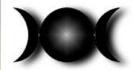
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ALLORAH'S INSIGHTS
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"Accept that the obstacle is the path."

The above quote comes from a cartoon series called "Legend of the Dragon." After this past week, I am especially grateful that there are amazing pearls of wisdom and other treasures floating around in plain sight each and everyday. Last week, I wrote about the healing opportunities offered during a Mercury retrograde. The quote came from an episode that aired last week. The week itself was ripe with opportunities for digging deep and clearing patterns that drive us to destruction and distraction.

The series is the story of orphaned twins, one male, one female. Ang and Ling respectively. They are raised in a dojo by Master Chin, a contemporary of their parents. The premise of the show is that there are twelve guardians, one for each animal in the Chinese zodiac. The guardians work together and are charged with maintaining balance in the universe. Each guardian has an empowerment bracelet (referred to as a power band) and protects his or her respective temple. The twins were born in the year of the Dragon. The girl is an ambitious fighter who works really hard to claim her place as the guardian of the temple of the golden dragon. She is bitterly disappointed when that honor passes to her twin brother, Ang. Unwilling to submit to the decision, Ling vows that she will take her place as guardian and leaves the temple. She meets the "Zodiac Master" who provides her with the shadow version of the dragon power band. It's no surprise that the Zodiac Master had been a student of Master Chin.

The point of the series is that we all make choices that determine our path. The girl having taken the dark path finds self-discipline and as a result, balance. She returns to the dojo where she unites with her brother and Master Chin. The twins, who have both become stronger, wiser, leaders merge the light and dark energies of their respective power bands to become a stronger golden dragon, now expressed in two bodies, one male, one female. I think that brings the number of guardians to thirteen.

Thirteen guardians, 13 is a number of the goddess as well as an expression of the foundation on which we build in order to have stability.

In the Star Wars series, twins Leia and Luke (one girl, one boy) take separate and very different paths of initiation. Having been raised apart, Luke and Leia are re-united at our introduction to the story. However, in this series, it is Luke who takes the dark path. I believe Luke's path was influenced by the path taken by his father before him; while Leia continues on a path more like her mother's. Luke's path intertwines with Vader's and eventually Anakin is restored and redeemed. The prophecy is fulfilled and balance is restored in the universe as balance has again been brought to the Force through Vader's journey on the dark path.

In every bit of life, just as in these stories the characters are presented with challenges and opportunities. Often the challenges come from the painful, frustrating, unfair things that happen every day. The opportunity comes from our response to the question, what are you going to do about the challenge?

Can you accept that the obstacle is the path? When you can, and when you willingly follow that path rather than avoid it, you are like to find that the treasure is the restoration and recognition of your holy divine selves.

Namaste, Allorah