



The Wounded Healer

This image was inspired by the “Hermit” Tarot card. The Wounded Healer is “a guide who rises in consciousness to teach the mysteries. She freely shares the wisdom of the unconscious, the gifts of the Hidden, with the dedicated seeker. She is a master of inner truths for she has intimate knowledge of them, living and embodying the mysteries.”

The lizard represents resiliency, in that this little creature is willing to lose a part of itself in the face of danger for the intention of safety. Over time, the lizard will slowly regrow what it lost. Humans, when we are damaged (mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally), we can slowly regrow from the wounds that we suffer too.

The snake represents the regenerative and transformative aspects of the Southwestern experience; a literal shedding of skin to reveal what is underneath. The snake as a creature is often not well-liked and represents the integration of the shadow, which is important to not only the healing of one’s self, but the healing of others.

As the saying goes, what doesn’t kill us makes us stronger, as we are wounded and reborn, we have the potential to re-member and reclaim our true power: this is the symbolism of the black panther. In our mural she is in familiar territory having once roamed the southwestern deserts. Unlike the solar tiger or lion, she is with her feminine lunar elements of the night sky and crescent moon (in mythology it is said to cause eclipses by swallowing the sun). She guards and at the same time embodies the seductress, the warrior, the seeress, and the old wise woman. Panthers are gifted with a deep inner knowing from birth; hence the healer’s eyes are downcast but her panther’s gaze is direct, seeing reality for exactly what it

knows it to be behind the illusion. With the healing of old wounds, we can reclaim the power that was lost at the time of the wounding and awaken to the quest for truth and meaning. Similar to the lizard, the panther is twice reborn. It is the promise that whatever we lose or choose to let go of will be replaced by that which is greater, stronger, and ultimately more beneficial. It is my/our intention that this mural will serve as a visual reminder of the intricate and constant play of dualities that we will encounter on our journeys and in our lives. And the hope that future students/seekers will discover their innate potential for healing and rebirth, to reclaim that which is true within themselves, and have the beautiful, audacious strength to guide/inspire others to do the same.