



## **2. Type of God: Goddess of Parents and Children**

### **Chinese names/ titles:**

Long Mu (Mandarin) / "Mother of Dragons"  
Lung Mu (Cantonese) / "Mother of Dragons"  
Ba Long Mau (Vietnamese)  
Wen Shi (birth name)  
Patroness of Navigators

**Birthday/ date of Celebration:** 8<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar marks the birthday of Wen Shi, a woman from Yue Cheng, a town near the Xi River in the province of Guangdong.

**Legend:**

According to legend, Wen Shi was an old woman who made her living by fishing. One day she found a giant egg which hatched five unusual creatures. These creatures would help her fish and they all developed a strong bond for each other. The creatures eventually matured into powerful dragons, water spirits that could control the weather. Once during a drought, Wen Shi asked her dragons to summon the rain. After the rain came, the grateful villagers named her Mother of Dragons. Soon after, the Emperor found out about the Mother of Dragons and summoned her to the Imperial Court. Wen Shi was very old and halfway on her journey, fearing for her health, her dragons brought her back home. This story is an example of filial devotion and parental love which is an important virtue in Chinese culture.