



4. Type of God: Goddess of Mercy

Chinese names/ titles:

Guan Yin (Mandarin)
Kwan Yin (Cantonese)
Avalokitesvara (Indian)
Nam Mo Quan The Am Bo Tat (Vietnamese)
Goddess of Compassion, Mercy, and Kindness

Birthday/ date of Celebration:

Birthday – 19th day of the second month of the lunar calendar
Ordination as a nun – 19th day of the sixth month
Becoming a Bodhisattva – 19th of the ninth month

Legend:

Guan Yin is the Chinese name of an Indian Buddhist deity called Avalokitesvara. According to Indian Buddhist mythology, Avalokitesvara was born from a beam of light emanating from the eye of Buddha and is the all-compassionate aspect of the Buddha. Guan Yin, along with Buddhism, was introduced to China as early as the 1st century AD. Guan Yin is considered to be a Bodhisattva, a deity that has attained enlightenment worthy of nirvana but instead, remains in the human world to help others.

The translation of the name Guan Yin is he who perceives the sounds of the world, or the cries of those who need his help. Originally, Guan Yin was introduced as a male, but in Indian mythology, Guan Yin is non-gender. In Chinese mythology, Guan Yin is usually depicted as a women wearing long white robes and wearing a crown with an image of Buddha in it.