
PAGODA RED



FOOTED OFFERING BOWL WITH GOD OF WAR

\$580

c. 1850 • China • Porcelain • Collection #CFC510

W: 11.25" D: 9.0" H: 2.75"

This colorful porcelain bowl dates to the mid-19th century and was originally used as a serving dish for ritual offerings, placed before a home altar and piled high with fruit, baked goods, and other foods. The dish has a shallow cartouche-shaped body and a short footed base decorated with crashing waves.

The dish is painted with overglaze enamels in the famille rose style, with a scene of three mythical figures on a floating, heavenly island. The central figure depicts the 3rd-century warrior Guan Yu, also known as the God of War, here flanked by his son and his squire. Continued...



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Venerated for his strength and wisdom, Guan Yu is worshipped throughout China and is one of the central figures in the Ming-dynasty classic novel 'Romance of the Three Kingdoms.'

The central scene is bordered by auspicious scholars' objects, including books, scrolls, offerings, and a ruyi scepter. The bowl exterior is painted with bats, harbingers of happiness, and ripe peaches, symbols of longevity. Brightly colored and dense with symbolism, this footed offering dish is a fantastic centerpiece or serving bowl.

