PAGODA
RED

STANDING MAITREYA BUDDHA STELE

$4,880

China • Limestone, Cast Stone • Collection #CMCL082

W: 28.25″ D: 6.5″ H: 56.0″

This intricate limestone stele of a standing buddha likely depicts Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future. The only Buddhist divinity revered as both a bodhisattva and a Buddha, Maitreya is prophesied to return to Earth some time in the distant future and continue the historic Buddha's teachings of the Dharma. Like the historic Shakyamuni Buddha, Maitreya is a compassionate being devoted to showing the path to enlightenment.

Sculpted in the style of Song period (906-1279) statuary, Maitreya Buddha is depicted here standing with hands held outwards in abhaya and varada mudra, gestures of teaching and compassion. Continued...

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Known also as the bodhisattva of loving kindness, Maitreya holds his arms outstretched towards others to dispel fear, invite calm, and offer protection. He stands upon a lotus plinth flanked by two bodhisattva attendants and backed by a curved stele patterned in relief with halos, lotus flowers, and a border of flames.

Deaccessioned from the MacLean Collection of Asian Art.