

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Pratna Kem: Two Poems

Pratna Kem · Thursday, May 8th, 2025

### Knot

uneasy   knuckles callused   trouble with laces  
 found Velcro sneaks   the Payless shelltoes  
 looped her krama in a   around her neck  
 a cluster of people   a packed courthouse  
 in her stomach   nervous to repeat aloud  
 tongue tied in a   a misspoken oath   right  
 hand raised   another pledge of allegiance  
 she carried so many   back and shoulders  
 nestled deep in tissue   behind shoulder blades  
 muscle fibers   a tangled mass   to knead out  
 couldn't stop   remember   stop remembering  
 her son on a boat   the rest of her money  
 enough for one   drift slow   always under 5  
 never seen again   tears   enough for a village  
 a swig of rum   one around her neck   need out

\*

## Home Cooking: Recipe for a Lost Generation

### Ingredients:

2.7 million tons, bombs  
 1 Democratic figure head  
 1 genocide  
 2.5 million, casualties  
 3 million, genocide survivors  
 1 American Red Cross  
 1 UNICEF  
 500 Christian missionaries  
 150,000 refugees  
 48 states

6 months, welfare

Drug abuse

Alcoholism

Gambling

Violence

Children – amount dependent on number of servings

Directions:

1. Take 2.7 million tons of bombs and secretly drop over eastern Cambodia over 4 years.
2. Then endorse 1 Democratic figure head. This will give rise Communist regime.
3. Allow 1 genocide to take place. Gradually sprinkle in 2.5 casualties over the course of 4 years.
4. Prepare refugee camps along the Thai border. Allow room for 3 million genocide survivors.
5. Deploy American Red Cross, UNICEF, and Christian missionaries.
6. Admit 150,000 refugees into the country. Scatter evenly across all impoverished neighborhoods in the lower 48.
7. Provide 6 months of welfare; no schooling and no job training.
8. Only provide food services and mental health support through the Church. If still Buddhist, batch is no good.
9. Mix in drug abuse, alcoholism, gambling, violence, or any other self-destructive coping mechanism of choice.
10. Set aside mixture and allow to ferment over 5-10 years until the desired level of bitterness is achieved. To quicken the process, frequently add in racial violence and police brutality.
11. Dip children into ready mixture and set on the streets to serve.

*(Featured photo is [public domain](#))*

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