

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

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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.

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