

Chapter One

From My Native Village

(The 1950s and 1960s)

I was born more than sixty years ago in a small village named Snay Pol in Prey Veng Province, situated in the eastern part of Cambodia. Snay Pol is the administrative center of Pearang District. At the time I was born, there were fewer than one thousand inhabitants. The village is in the east, about 70 km from Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. However, because the area's infrastructure was in very bad condition and we used to travel by bicycle or motorbike, it generally took half a day to reach the village from Phnom Penh, even though many people preferred to travel straight to Phnom Penh rather than to go to Prey Veng, the provincial capital town, which is about 30 km east.