

## PART TWO

### JUST BELOW THE SURFACE

Here is a literal back-translation to English of Psalm 23 ("The Lord is My Shepherd") as understood by the Khmus tribe of Laos:<sup>1</sup>

The Great Boss is the one who takes care of my sheep;  
I don't want to own anything.  
The Great Boss wants me to lie down in the field.  
He wants me to go to the lake.  
He makes my good spirit come back.  
Even though I walk through something the missionary calls  
the valley of the shadow of death,  
I do not care. You are with me.  
You use a stick and a club to make me comfortable.  
You manufacture a piece of furniture right in front of my eyes  
while my enemies watch.  
You pour car grease on my head.  
My cup has too much water in it and therefore overflows.  
Goodness and kindness will walk single file behind me all my  
life.  
And I will live in the hut of the Great Boss until I die and am  
forgotten by the tribe.