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5 Levels of Sampeah (official greetings) in Cambodia

The **Sampeah** is a Cambodian traditionally greeting style or way of showing respect. While performing the salutation or mutual recognition “Sampeah”, people have to raise both hands, places our palms together in the lotus-like fashion while bowing slightly. The word often spoken with the Sampeah when greeting to somebody is ***Chumreap Suor***, while ***Chumreap Lea*** is spoken when saying goodbye.

Although the **Sampeah** is a form of greeting, it is also a common way to ***say thanks*** or ***apologize*** and is an important part of Khmer culture which is heavily influenced by Indian Hindu/Buddhist culture. There are five levels of greeting in Cambodian culture include: **forehead level** (praying, Deva, Brahma, God, Buddha), **eyebrow level** (King, Monks, Sacred Objects), **nose level** (Parents, Grandparents, Teachers), **mouth level** (Bosses, Older persons, Higher rank persons) and **chest level** (Friends or same-age persons).

Source: [Cambodian Greeting \(Sampeah\) | IntoCambodia.org](http://Cambodian Greeting (Sampeah) | IntoCambodia.org)





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**សុខីវធម៌ល្អដែលក្នុងខ្មែរគួរតែប្រើប្រាស់តាម
របៀប និងទ្វាតសំពះខ្មែរទាំង ៥ របៀប**



១ - កំពស់ស្មើថ្នក្រាល
សំពះសំរែងនូវការគោរពចូរម៉ាច់ចោះ
ព្រះសម្មាសម្ពុទ្ធ ប៉ាព្រះបរមគ្រូ



២ - កំពស់មិច្ឆើម
សំពះ ព្រះបាទក្រុង ព្រះសង្ឃ ឬ
វត្តសិក្ខាសិទ្ធិជា ទីសក្ការៈ



៣ - កំពស់ចុងក្របុះ
សំពះចាតាចិត្តា ចិប្បុនចិត្តា ព្រួតព្រាយ



៤ - កំពស់ច្រកចាត់
សំពះអ្នកដែលមានវិសេសជាង រៀបច្បង
ឬ អ្នកមានឋានៈខ្ពស់ជាង



៥ - កំពស់ត្រឹមត្រូវ
សំពះអ្នកដែលមានវ័យ
ច្រើនជាង ឬចម្បងកិច្ច

រៀបរៀងដោយភិក្ខុ សីលសិវនោ មាន សុភន្ទី



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LEVEL 1

People to respect the

Deva, God, Brahma,

Buddha, or praying





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5 Levels of Sampeah (official greetings) in Cambodia



LEVEL 2

People to respect: the
monks, King, and Sacred
objects



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LEVEL 3

People to respect: Parents,
Grandparents, Teachers



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LEVEL 4

People to respect: Bosses,
Older persons, Higher rank
persons



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LEVEL 5

People to respect: Friends
or same-age persons



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Thanks for your attention!