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The Sari Club

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ERIK CAMPBELL

*The Sari Club*¹

Freeport Mine, Papua, Indonesia

Although my wife, Shari, knows
that Indonesians often giggle

through grief (chuckles safely
cupped in their hands, hoping

their faces are safe), she is still upset
when they confuse their consonants

and laugh consolation that “her club”
in Bali was bombed. The trouble

with martyrs, Supriadi said, is
that they always end up too dead

to not be correct. Then Ketut, a Hindu
who assumes we’re ashes already,

said the problem with so many people
is that they believe one thing explains

all things. It’s easier for us, he said.
We get to pick which gods we pay

attention to. Just think. Just try to
imagine Vishnu choosing you.

¹ On October 12th, 2002, a car bomb weighing approximately 1,000 kg was detonated in front of the Sari Club in Kuta Beach, Bali. The explosion left a one-meter-deep crater and more than 200 dead. The majority of those murdered were Australian tourists.