

1976

Give Indonesia Back to Me

Taufiq Ismail

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Recommended Citation

Ismail, Taufiq. "Give Indonesia Back to Me." *The Iowa Review* 7.2 (1976): 51-51. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.2041>

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Give Indonesia Back to Me

The destiny of Indonesia is two hundred million gaping mouths

The destiny of Indonesia is 15-watt bulbs, half of them white,
half black, switched on alternately

The destiny of Indonesia is ping-pong night and day, using balls shaped
like swans' eggs

The destiny of Indonesia is the island of Java sinking under the weight
of a hundred million people

Give
Indonesia
back to me

The destiny of Indonesia is one million couples playing ping-pong night
and day with swans'-egg-shaped balls under 15-watt bulbs

The destiny of Indonesia is Java sinking rather slowly under the weight
of white swan swimming on it

The destiny of Indonesia is two hundred million gaping mouths and in the
mouths there are 15-watt bulbs, half of them white and half black
switched on alternately

The destiny of Indonesia is white swans swimming while playing ping-pong
on Java sinking and taking down one hundred
million 15-watt bulbs with it

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The destiny of Indonesia is ping-pong night and day using balls shaped
like swans' eggs

The destiny of Indonesia is the the island of Java sinking under
the weight of a hundred million people

The destiny of Indonesia is 15-watt bulbs half of them white
and half black switched on alternately

The destiny of Indonesia is two hundred million gaping mouths

Give
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Translated by the author