The American Carrying a Broken Clock in Tokyo Again

For Shiina Takako

It is amazing how many people
you meet when you are carrying
a broken clock around in Tokyo.

Today I was carrying the broken clock
around again, trying to get an exact
    replacement for it.
    The clock was far beyond repair.

All sorts of people were interested
in the clock. Total strangers came up to me
and inquired about the clock in Japanese
    of course
and I nodded my head: Yes, I have a broken
clock.

I took it to a restaurant and people gathered
around. I recommend carrying a broken clock
with you at all times if you want to meet new
friends. I think it would work anyplace in the
    world.

If you want to go to Iceland
and meet the people, take
a broken clock with you.
They will gather around like flies.

Tokyo
June 11, 1976

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Richard Brautigan

Richard Gary Brautigan (January 30, 1935 – ca. September 16, 1984) was an American novelist, poet, and short story writer. His work often clinically and surrealistically employs black comedy, parody, and satire, with emotionally blunt prose describing pastoral American life intertwining with technological progress. He is best known for his novels 'Trout Fishing in America' (1967) and 'In Watermelon Sugar' (1968). This poem is from his book 'June 30th, June 30th' (1977).