Colonization of the gastrointestinal tract with methanogens significantly affects host metabolism. The presence of methane on breath testing is associated with increased BMI and percent body fat.1

Near midnight they brought him in, a big man in green tights, a cape of purple scales enfolding his body like wings, clawed boots now by his side.

With blistered lips, reddened face, he looked up at me from a stretcher. “I’m Dragon Man at the circus,” he said, “can light my breath with a match, exhale a flame. No alcohol trick this!”

“Just minor burns of the lips. Lucky your mouth was spared. So how’d you learn to be a firedrake?”

He laughed a deep chuckle. “In junior high, we’d lay fire farts in the men’s room. All us fatsos could, but not the skinny kids. Then, one day, lighting up a smoke, a flash!”

Perplexed, I signed him out with prohibitions, precautions. He’d told me the diagnosis, yet, unknowing, I was deaf at the time.

Now, I wonder—a fat man from a rural town, water drawn from local wells, methane on his breath: a saboteur in his gut?

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Reference

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