

Icelandish

After parsing
the human genome
and passing out
Sniffin' Sticks
a neurologist in Iceland

discovered a mutant gene
that makes some people
there
immune
to the reeking odious funk
of rotten or fermented fish.

These people
can't recognize
the piscine perfume
caused by the chemical
trimethylamine (TMA)
even when it hits them
smack in the face.

Instead
they smell
caramel, potato,
ketchup
and roses.

Nor does
body odor
or urine
spoil them.

which explains
the Icelandic tradition
of fermenting shark
by pissing on it
and burying
it in the dirt

or serving up
sour ram's testicles,
cod tongues,
and fish bellies.

I wonder if
an olfactory mutation
can explain
our tolerance for
Donald Trump.

Icelanders,
you devils!
You enjoy
tickling
our noses,
don't you?

--JK Miller
February 5, 2021
Kirkland, IL