

**Animal Farm** (La fattoria degli animali)  
George Orwell

**Chapter 2**

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THREE nights later old Major **died** peacefully in his sleep. His body was **buried** at the foot of the **orchard**.

This was early in March. During the next three months there was much secret activity. Major's speech had given to the more intelligent animals on the farm a completely new **outlook** on life. They did not know when the Rebellion predicted by Major **would take place**, they had no reason for thinking that it would be **within** their own lifetime, but they saw clearly that it was their **duty** to prepare for it. The work of teaching and organising the others **fell** naturally **upon the** pigs, who were generally recognised as being the cleverest of the animals. Pre-eminent among the pigs were two young **boars** named Snowball and Napoleon, whom Mr. Jones was **breeding up for sale**. Napoleon was a large, rather **fierce-looking** Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for **getting his own way**. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same **depth** of character. All the other male pigs on the farm were **porkers**. The best known among them was a small fat pig named Squealer, with very round **cheeks**, **twinkling** eyes, **nimble** movements, and a **shrill** voice. He was a brilliant talker, and when he **was arguing** some difficult point he had a **way of skipping** from side to side and **whisking his tail** which was **somehow** very persuasive. The others said of Squealer that he could **turn** black into white.

*morì*

*seppellito*

*frutteto*

*veduta*

*avrebbe luogo*

*entro*

*dovere*

*ricadde (toccò)*

*sui*

*maiali*

*allevando per la vendita*

*di aspetto feroce*

*fare ciò che vuole*

*profondità*

*maiali da ingrasso*

*guance / scintillanti*

*svelti / stridula*

*stava discutendo*

*un modo di saltare*

*agitando la sua coda*

*somehow = in qualche modo*

*cambiare*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

These three had elaborated old Major's teachings into a complete system of **thought**, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr. Jones was asleep, they **held** secret meetings in the barn and **expounded** the principles of Animalism to the others. At the beginning they met with much stupidity and **apathy**. Some of the animals talked of the **duty of loyalty** to Mr. Jones, whom they referred to as "Master," or made elementary **remarks such as** "Mr. Jones **feeds us**. If he were gone, we **should starve to death**." Others asked such questions as "Why **should we care** what happens after we are **dead**?" or "If this Rebellion **is** to happen **anyway**, what difference does it make **whether** we work for it or not?", and the pigs had great difficulty in making them see that this was contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white **mare**. The **very first** question she asked Snowball was: "Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?" "No," said Snowball firmly. "We have no **means** of making sugar on this farm. **Besides**, you do not need sugar. You will have all the **oats** and hay you want."

"And **shall I still be allowed** to wear **ribbons** in my **mane**?" asked Mollie.

"Comrade," said Snowball, "those ribbons that you are so devoted to are the **badge of slavery**. Can you not understand that liberty is **worth** more than ribbons? "

Mollie agreed, but she **did not sound** very convinced.

*pensiero**tenevano**spiegavano**apatia**dovere di lealtà**osservazioni tali come / ci nutre**moriremmo di fame**dovremmo preoccuparci**morti / deve**ad ogni modo**se**cavalla / "primissima"**mezzi**per di più**avena**mi sarà permesso / nastrini**criniera**distintivo di schiavitù**vale**non sembrava*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

The pigs had an even harder **struggle to counteract** the lies **put about by** Moses, the tame raven. Moses who was Mr. Jones's especial **pet**, was a spy and a **tale-bearer**, but he was also a clever talker. He **claimed** to know of the existence of a mysterious country called Sugarcandy Mountain, to which all animals went when they **died**. It was situated **somewhere** up in the sky, a little distance **beyond** the clouds, Moses said. In Sugarcandy Mountain it was Sunday seven days a week, clover was in season **all the year round**, and lump sugar and **linseed** cake grew on the **hedges**. The animals hated Moses because he told **tales** and did no work, but some of them believed in Sugarcandy Mountain, and the pigs had **to argue** very hard to persuade them that there was no such place.

Their most **faithful disciples** were the two **cart-horses**, Boxer and Clover. These two had great difficulty in thinking anything out for themselves, but having once accepted the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything that **they were told**, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments. They were **unfailing** in their **attendance** at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of Beasts of England, with which the meetings always ended.

Now, as it **turned out**, the Rebellion was **achieved** much earlier and more easily than anyone had expected. In past years Mr. Jones, although a hard master, had been a capable farmer, but **of late** he had fallen on **evil** days. He had become much **disheartened** after losing money in **a lawsuit**, and

*lotta per neutralizzare  
messe in giro da  
animale di compagnia  
chiacchierone , malalingua  
affermava*

*morivano  
da qualche parte  
oltre*

*tutto l'anno  
semi di lino / siepi  
storie*

*discutere*

*fedeli discepoli / carro  
**cart horse** = cavallo da tiro*

*gli fosse detto*

*costanti / frequenza*

*accadde / ottenuta*

*ultimamente*

*cattivi*

*scorato / un processo*

**Animal Farm - George Orwell - Chapter 2**

had taken to drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would lounge in his Windsor chair in the kitchen, reading the newspapers, drinking, and occasionally feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer. His men were idle and dishonest, the fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were underfed.

June came and the hay was almost ready for cutting. On Midsummer's Eve, which was a Saturday, Mr. Jones went into Willingdon and got so drunk at the Red Lion that he did not come back till midday on Sunday. The men had milked the cows in the early morning and then had gone out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals. When Mr. Jones got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawing-room sofa with the News of the World over his face, so that when evening came, the animals were still unfed. At last they could stand it no longer. One of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with her horns and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins. It was just then that Mr. Jones woke up. The next moment he and his four men were in the store-shed with whips in their hands, lashing out in all directions. This was more than the hungry animals could bear. With one accord, though nothing of the kind had been planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men suddenly found themselves being butted and kicked from all sides. The situation was quite out of their control. They had never seen animals behave like this before, and this sudden uprising of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened them

*aveva iniziato a**soleva oziare**croste / inzuppate**pigri**erbacce / tetti**trascurate / sottoalimentati**vigilia**munto**a caccia di conigli / preoccuparsi**“un giornale”**sopportare più**magazzino / corna**servirsi dai mastelli**frustando**sopportare**prima / si lanciarono**incornati**scalciati / completamente**comportarsi**sollevamento**picchiare**li spaventò*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

almost **out of their wits**. After only a moment or two they **gave up** trying to defend themselves and **took to their heels**. A minute later all five of them were in full **flight** down the **cart-track that led** to the main road, with the animals **pursuing them** in triumph. Mrs. Jones looked out of the bedroom window, saw what was happening, **hurriedly flung** a few possessions into a **carpet bag**, and **slipped out** of the farm by another way. Moses **sprang off** his perch and **flapped** after her, **croaking** loudly. **Meanwhile** the animals had **chased** Jones and his men out on to the road and **slammed** the five-barred gate behind them. And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully **carried through**: Jones was **expelled**, and the Manor Farm was theirs.

For the first few minutes the animals could **hardly** believe in their good fortune. Their first act was to gallop **in a body** right round the **boundaries** of the farm, as though to make quite sure that no human being was **hiding** anywhere upon it; then they **raced** back to the farm buildings to **wipe out** the last **traces** of Jones's hated **reign**. The **harness-room** at the end of the **stables** was broken open; the **bits**, the nose-rings, the dog-**chains**, the cruel knives with which Mr. Jones had been used to castrate the pigs and **lambs**, were all flung down the **well**. The **reins**, the **halters**, the **blinkers**, the **degrading nosebags**, were thrown on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the **yard**. So were the **whips**. All the animals **capered** with joy when they saw the whips going up in **flames**. Snowball also threw on to the fire the ribbons with which the horses' manes and tails had usually been decorated on market days.

*lett. fuori del loro senno**smisero**scapparono**fuga / tracciato che portava**rincorrendoli**frettolosamente lanciò**sacca da viaggio / scivolò fuori**saltò**svolazzò / gracchiando**nel frattempo / inseguito**sbattuto**realizzata**espulso**appena**insieme / confini**nascondendo / corsero**eliminare / tracce**regno / bardature**stalle / morsi**catene**agnelli / pozzo / redini**cavezze / paraocchi / degra-**danti musette**cortile / fruste**saltavano**fiamme*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

"Ribbons," he said, "should be considered as clothes, which are the mark of a human being. All animals should go **naked**."

*nudi*

When Boxer heard this he **fetch**ed the small straw hat which he wore in summer to keep the **flies** out of his ears, and **flung** it on to the fire with the rest.

*prese**mosche**lo buttò*

In a very **little while** the animals had destroyed everything that reminded them of Mr. Jones. Napoleon then **led them** back to the store-shed and served out a double ration of corn to everybody, with two biscuits for each dog. Then they sang Beasts of England **from end to end** seven times **running**, and after that they **settled down** for the night and slept as they had never slept before.

*poco tempo**li guidava**dall'inizio alla fine**di seguito / si sistemarono*

But they woke at **dawn** as usual, and suddenly remembering the glorious thing that had happened, they all **raced** out into the **pasture** together. A little way down the pasture there was a **knoll** that **commanded** a view of most of the farm. The animals **rushed** to the top of it and **gazed** round them in the clear morning light. Yes, it was theirs - everything that they could see was theirs! In the ecstasy of that thought they **gambolled** round and round, they **hurled** themselves into the air in great **leaps** of excitement. They rolled in the **dew**, they **cropped mouthfuls** of the sweet summer grass, they kicked up **clods** of the black earth and **snuffed** its rich **scent**. Then they made a tour of inspection of the whole farm and **surveyed with speechless** admiration the **ploughland**, the hayfield, the orchard, the pool, the **spinney**. It was **as though**

*alba**corsero / pascolo**collinetta**"da dove si poteva vedere"**corsero / ammirarono**saltellavano**si buttavano**salti / ruggiada**raccolsero boccate**zolle / odorarono**profumo**ispezionarono con silenziosa**terreno arato**boschetto / come se*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

they had never seen these things before, and even now they could hardly believe that it was all their own.

Then they **filed back** to the farm buildings and **halted** in silence outside the door of the farmhouse. That was theirs too, but they were **frightened** to go inside. After a moment, however, Snowball and Napoleon **buted the door open** with their shoulders and the animals entered in single file, walking with the **utmost** care for fear of disturbing anything. They **tiptoed** from room to room, afraid to speak above a **whisper** and gazing with a kind of **awe** at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds with their **feather mattresses**, the **looking-glasses**, the **horsehair** sofa, the Brussels **carpet**, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room **mantelpiece**. They were just coming down the stairs when Mollie was discovered **to be missing**. Going back, the others found that she had remained behind in the best bedroom. She had taken a piece of blue ribbon from Mrs. Jones's dressing-table, and was holding it against her shoulder and admiring herself in the glass in a very foolish manner. The others **reproached her sharply**, and they went outside. Some **hams hanging** in the kitchen were taken out for **burial**, and the barrel of beer in the **scullery** was **stove in** with a kick from Boxer's hoof, **otherwise** nothing in the house was touched. A unanimous resolution was passed **on the spot** that the farmhouse should be preserved as a museum. All were agreed that no animal must ever live there.

*tornarono*

*si fermarono*

*spaventati*

*aprirono la porta con uno*

*spintone*

*massima*

*passarono in punta di piedi*

*sussurro / con timore e rispetto*

*materassi di piume*

*specchi / peli di cavallo*

*tappeto*

*mensola del camino*

*“mancava”*

*la rimproverarono aspramente*

*prosciutti appesi*

*sepoltura / cantina*

*spaccata / altrimenti*

*sul luogo*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

The animals had their breakfast, and then Snowball and Napoleon called them together again.

"Comrades," said Snowball, "it is half-past six and we have a long day before us. Today we begin the **hay harvest**. But there is another **matter** that must be **attended** to first."

The pigs now **revealed** that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write from an old spelling book which had **belonged** to Mr. Jones's children and which had been thrown on the **rubbish heap**. Napoleon sent for **pots** of black and white paint and led the way down to the five-barred gate that **gave on to** the main road. Then Snowball (**for** it was Snowball who was best at writing) took a brush between the two **knuckles** of his **trotter**, **painted out** MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate and in its place **painted** ANIMAL FARM. This **was to be** the name of the farm **from now onwards**. After this they went back to the farm buildings, where Snowball and Napoleon **sent for** a **ladder** which they caused to be set **against** the end wall of the big barn. They explained that by their studies of the past three months the pigs had **succeeded** in reducing the principles of Animalism to Seven Commandments. These Seven Commandments would now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable **law** by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live **for ever after**. With some difficulty (for it is not easy for a pig to balance himself on a ladder) Snowball **climbed up** and **set to work**, with Squealer a few **rungs below** him holding the paint-pot. The Commandments were written on the **tarred** wall in

*raccolta del fieno / fatto*

*sbrigato*

*rivelarono*

*appartenuto*

*monte dei rifiuti / barattoli*

*dava sulla*

*perchè*

*nocche*

*zampa / cancellò*

*dipinse*

*doveva essere*

*d'ora in avanti*

*mandarono a prendere*

*scala a pioli / contro*

*riusciti*

*legge*

*d'ora in poi*

*si arrampicò*

*cominciò a lavorare / gradini*

*sotto*

*incatramato*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

great white letters that could be read thirty yards away. They **ran thus**:

*dicevano così*

### THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. **Whatever** goes upon two legs is an **enemy**.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal **shall wear clothes**.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal **shall kill** any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.

*qualsiasi cosa / nemico*

*indosserà vestiti*

*ucciderà*

It was very **neatly** written, and except that "friend" was written "freind" and one of the "S's" was **the wrong way round**, the spelling was correct **all the way through**. Snowball read it **aloud** for the benefit of the others. All the animals **nodded** in complete **agreement**, and the cleverer ones at once began to learn the Commandments **by heart**.

*nitidamente*

*al contrario*

*fino in fondo / ad alta voce*

*assentirono*

*accordo*

*(lett. a cuore) a memoria*

"Now, comrades," **cried** Snowball, **throwing down** the paint-brush, "to the hayfield! Let us make it a point of honour to get in the harvest more quickly than Jones and his men could do."

*esclamò / buttando giù*

<b>Animal Farm</b> - <b>George Orwell</b> - <b>Chapter 2</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------

But at this moment the three cows, who had seemed uneasy for some time past, set up a **loud lowing**. They had not been milked for twenty-four hours, and their **udders** were **almost bursting**. After a little thought, the pigs sent for **buckets** and milked the cows **fairly** successfully, their trotters being well adapted to this **task**. Soon there were five buckets of **frothing** creamy milk at which many of the animals looked with considerable interest.

"What is going to happen to all that milk?" said someone. "Jones used sometimes to mix some of it in our **mash**," said one of the hens.

"**Never mind** the milk, comrades!" cried Napoleon, placing himself in front of the buckets. "**That will be attended to**. The harvest is more important. Comrade Snowball **will lead the way**. I **shall follow** in a few minutes. **Forward**, comrades! The hay is waiting."

So the animals **trooped** down to the hayfield to begin the harvest, and when they came back in the evening it was noticed that the milk had **disappeared**.

*forte*  
*muggito*  
*mammelle / stavano per*  
*scoppiare / secchi*  
*abbastanza*  
*compito*  
*schiumoso*

*pastone*

*Non importa*  
*ci si occuperà di questo*

*"farà strada" / seguirò*  
*Avanti...!*

*andarono in gruppo*

*scomparso*