

Animal Farm (La fattoria degli animali)
George Orwell

Chapter 3

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How they **toiled and sweated** to get the hay in! But their efforts were **rewarded**, for the harvest was an even bigger success than they had hoped.

Sometimes the work was hard; the **implements** had been designed for **human beings** and not for animals, and it was a great **drawback** that no animal was able to use any **tool** that **involved** standing on his **hind** legs. But the pigs were so clever that they could think of **a way round** every difficulty. **As for** the horses, they knew every **inch** of the field, and in fact understood the business of **mowing** and **raking far better** than Jones and his men had ever done.

The pigs did not **actually** work, but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that they should assume the leadership.

Boxer and Clover **would harness themselves** to the **cutter** or the horse-rake (no bits or reins were needed in these days, of course) and **tramp** steadily round and round the field with a pig walking behind and calling out "**Gee up**, comrade!" or "**Whoa** back, comrade!" as the case might be. And every animal down to the **humblest** worked at turning the hay and **gathering it**. Even the ducks and hens **toiled to and fro** all day in the sun, carrying **tiny wisps of hay** in their **beaks**. In the end they finished the harvest in two days' less time than it had usually taken Jones and his men. **Moreover**, it was the biggest harvest that the farm had ever seen. There was **no wastage** whatever; the hens and ducks with their **sharp** eyes had gathered up **the very last stalk**. And not an animal on the farm had **stolen** so much as a **mouthful**.

*faticarono e sudarono
ricompensati, perché*

*attrezzi
esseri umani
svantaggio
attrezzo / richiedeva
posteriori
soluzione / in quanto a
pollice
di falciare / rastrellare molto
meglio
in realtà*

*solevano imbrigliarsi
tagliatrice
camminare con fatica*

arri là / ferma

*più umile
raccolgerlo / avanti e indietro
minuscoli ciuffi di fieno
becchi*

*inoltre
nessuno spreco
acuti
(fino) all'ultimo stelo
rubato (to steal stole stolen)
boccone*

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All **through** that summer the work of the farm went **like clockwork**. The animals were happy as they had never **conceived** it possible to be. Every mouthful of food was an acute positive pleasure, now that it was truly their own food, produced by themselves and for themselves, not **doled out** to them by a **grudging** master. With the **worthless parasitical** human beings gone, there was more for everyone to eat. There was more **leisure** too, inexperienced **though** the animals were. They met with many difficulties - for instance, later in the year, when they harvested the corn, they had to **tread** it out in the ancient style and **blow away the chaff** with their breath, **since** the farm possessed no **threshing machine** - but the pigs with their cleverness and Boxer with his tremendous muscles always **pulled** them **through**.

Boxer was the admiration of everybody. He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time, but now he seemed more like three horses than one; there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed **to rest on his mighty shoulders**. From morning to night he was **pushing and pulling**, always at the **spot** where the work was hardest. He had made an arrangement with one of the **cockerels** to call him in the mornings half an hour earlier than anyone else, and would **put in** some volunteer labour at whatever seemed to be most needed, before the regular day's work began. His answer to every problem, every **setback**, was "I will work harder!" - which he had adopted as his personal motto.

But everyone worked according to his capacity. The hens and ducks, for instance, saved five **bushels** of corn at the harvest by gathering up the **stray grains**. Nobody stole, nobody **grumbled** over his rations, the

*durante tutta**liscio, senza intoppi**immaginato**elemosinato / riluttante**inutili parassitari**tempo libero / sebbene**calpestare**soffiare la pula / giacché**trebbiatrice**“superarono le difficoltà”**poggiare sulle sue potenti spalle**spingendo e tirando / luogo**galletti**fare (mettere dentro)**contrattempo**bushel = 36 litri**chicchi smarriti**borbottava*

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quarrelling and biting and jealousy which had been normal features of life in the old days had almost disappeared. Nobody shirked - or almost nobody. Mollie, it was true, was not good at getting up in the mornings, and had a way of leaving work early on the ground that there was a stone in her hoof. And the behaviour of the cat was somewhat peculiar. It was soon noticed that when there was work to be done the cat could never be found. She would vanish for hours on end, and then reappear at meal-times, or in the evening after work was over, as though nothing had happened. But she always made such excellent excuses, and purred so affectionately, that it was impossible not to believe in her good intentions. Old Benjamin, the donkey, seemed quite unchanged since the Rebellion. He did his work in the same slow obstinate way as he had done it in Jones's time, never shirking and never volunteering for extra work either. About the Rebellion and its results he would express no opinion. When asked whether he was not happier now that Jones was gone, he would say only "Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey," and the others had to be content with this cryptic answer.

On Sundays there was no work. Breakfast was an hour later than usual, and after breakfast there was a ceremony which was observed every week without fail. First came the hoisting of the flag. Snowball had found in the harness-room an old green tablecloth of Mrs. Jones's and had painted on it a hoof and a horn in white. This was run up the flagstaff in the farmhouse garden every Sunday 8, morning. The flag was green, Snowball explained, to represent the

*litigare / mordere / gelosia
caratteristiche
si imboscava*

*con la scusa che
piuttosto*

*soleva sparire in
continuazione*

feceva le fusa

si offriva volontario

*quando gli era chiesto
se
soleva dire*

*immancabilmente
alzabandiera
tovaglia
uno zoccolo e un corno
mandato verso su / asta della
bandiera*

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green fields of England, while the hoof and the horn signified the future Republic of the Animals which **would arise** when the human race had been finally **overthrown**.

After the hoisting of the flag all the animals **trooped** into the big barn for a general assembly which was known as the Meeting. Here the work of the coming week was planned out and resolutions were **put forward** and debated. It was always the pigs who put forward the resolutions. The other animals understood how to vote, but could never think of any resolutions **of their own**. Snowball and Napoleon were **by far** the most active in the debates. But it was noticed that these two were never **in agreement: whatever** suggestion either of them made, the other **could be counted on** to oppose it. Even when it was resolved - a thing no one could **object to** in itself - **to set aside** the small **paddock** behind the orchard as a home of rest for animals who were **past work**, there was a **stormy** debate over the correct retiring age for each class of animal. The Meeting always ended with the singing of Beasts of England, and the afternoon was given up to recreation.

The pigs had **set aside** the harness-room as a **headquarters** for themselves. Here, in the evenings, they studied **blacksmithing, carpentering**, and other necessary arts from books which they had brought out of the farmhouse. Snowball also **busied himself** with organising the other animals into what he called Animal **Committees**. He was **indefatigable** at this. He formed the Egg Production Committee for the hens, the Clean **Tails** League for the cows, the **Wild Comrades' Re-education Committee** (the object of

sorgerebbe

rovesciata, abbattuta

si adunavano

sottoposte, suggerite

proprie

di gran lunga

d'accordo

qualsiasi

ci si poteva aspettare

obbiettare

mettere da parte / lucchetto

“troppo vecchi per lavorare”

tempestoso

messo da parte

quartiere generale

“professione di fabbro, di falegname

si occupava di

comitati / instancabile

code / selvatici

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this was to **tame** the rats and rabbits), the Whiter **Wool** Movement for the sheep, and various others, **besides** instituting classes in reading and writing. **On the whole**, these projects were a **failure**. The **attempt** to tame the wild creatures, for instance, **broke down** almost immediately. They continued **to behave** very much as before, and when treated with generosity, simply took advantage of it. The cat **joined** the Re-education Committee and was very active in it for some days. She was seen one day sitting on a **roof** and talking to some **sparrows** who were just **out of her reach**. She was telling them that all animals were now comrades and that any sparrow who **chose** could come and **perch on her paw**; but the sparrows **kept** their distance.

The reading and writing classes, **however**, were a great success. By the autumn almost every animal on the farm was literate in some degree.

As for the pigs, they could already read and write perfectly. The dogs learned to read **fairly** well, but were not interested in reading anything except the Seven Commandments. Muriel, the goat, could read **somewhat** better than the dogs, and sometimes **used to read** to the others in the evenings from **scraps** of newspaper which she found on the rubbish heap. Benjamin could read as well as any pig, but never exercised his faculty. **So far as he knew**, he said, there was nothing **worth** reading. Clover learnt the whole alphabet, but could not put words together. Boxer could not get **beyond** the letter D. He **would trace out** A, B, C, D, in the **dust** with his great hoof, and then **would stand staring** at the letters with his ears back, sometimes shaking his **forelock**, trying with all his **might** to remember what came **next** and

*addomesticare**lana**inoltre**in genere / fallimento / intento**fallì**a comportarsi**aderì**tetto**passerotti**fuori della sua portata**scegliesse**appollaiarsi sulla sua zampa**mantennero**tuttavia**in quanto ai**abbastanza**alquanto**soleva leggere**pezzi**per quanto ne sapesse**degno**oltre**soleva tracciare / polvere**soleva stare fissando**ciuffo sulla fronte**forza / dopo*

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never **succeeding**. On several occasions, indeed, **he did learn** E, F, G, H, but by the time he knew them, it was always discovered that he had forgotten A, B, C, and D. Finally he decided to be content with the first four letters, and used to write them out once or twice every day to refresh his memory. Mollie refused to learn any but the six letters which **spelt** her own name. She would form these very **neatly** out of pieces of **twig**, and would then decorate them with a flower or two and walk round them admiring them.

None of the other animals on the farm could **get further** than the letter A. It **was also found** that the stupider animals, such as the sheep, hens, and ducks, were unable to learn the Seven Commandments **by heart**. After much **thought** Snowball declared that the Seven Commandments could in effect be reduced to a single maxim, **namely**: "Four legs good, two legs bad." This, he said, contained the essential principle of Animalism. Whoever had **thoroughly grasped** it would be safe from human influences. The birds at first **objected**, **since** it seemed to them that they also had two legs, but Snowball proved to them that this was not so.

"A bird's **wing**, comrades," he said, "is an organ of propulsion and not of manipulation. It should **therefore be regarded** as a leg. The distinguishing **mark** of man is the hand, the instrument with which he does all his **mischief**."

The birds did not understand Snowball's long words, but they accepted his explanation, and all the **humbler** animals **set to work** to learn the new maxim by heart. FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD, was inscribed on the end wall of the barn, **above** the

riuscendo
sì che imparò

formavano
ordinatamente
ramoscelli

nessuno
andare oltre / si scoprì pure

a memoria / riflessione

cioè

completamente afferrato
obiettarono
giacché

ala

pertanto essere considerato
segno
malefatte

più umili / cominciarono a
lavorare

sopra

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Seven Commandments and in bigger letters. When they had once **got** it by heart, the sheep **developed a great liking** for this maxim, and often as they lay in the field they would all start bleating "Four legs good, two legs bad! Four legs good, two legs bad!" and **keep it up for hours on end, never growing tired** of it.

Napoleon took no interest in Snowball's committees. He said that the education of the young was more important than anything that could be done for those who were already grown up. It **happened** that Jessie and Bluebell had both **whelped** soon after the hay harvest, giving **birth** between them to nine **sturdy puppies**. As soon as they were **weaned**, Napoleon took them away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education. He took them up into a **loft** which could only be reached by a **ladder** from the harness-room, and there kept them in such **seclusion** that the rest of the farm soon forgot their existence.

The mystery of where the milk went to was soon **cleared up**. It was mixed every day into the pigs' **mash**. The early apples were now **ripening**, and the grass of the orchard was **littered** with **windfalls**. The animals had assumed **as a matter of course** that these would be **shared out** equally; one day, **however**, the order **went forth** that all the windfalls **were** to be collected and brought to the harness-room for the use of the pigs. At this some of the other animals murmured, but it was **no use**. All the pigs were in full agreement on this point, even Snowball and Napoleon. Squealer was sent to make the necessary explanations to the others.

imparato / presero molto gusto

continuavano per ore e ore, non stancandosi mai

successo / partorito nascita robusti cuccioli svezzati

soffitta / scala a pioli

isolamento

chiarito, spiegato pastone / maturando cosparso / frutta fatta cadere a terra dal vento / come naturale ripartiti tuttavia / fu dato dovevano

inutile

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"Comrades!" he cried. "You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of **selfishness** and privilege? Many of us **actually dislike** milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our **sole object** in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (this **has been proved** by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the **well-being** of a pig. We pigs are **brainworkers**. The whole **management** and organisation of this farm depend on us. Day and night we are watching over your **welfare**. It is for **your sake** that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades," cried Squealer almost **pleadingly**, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail, "surely there is no one among you who wants to see Jones come back?"

Now if there was one thing that the animals were completely certain of, it was that they did not want Jones back. When it was put to them in this **light**, they had no more to say. The importance of keeping the pigs in good health was all too obvious. So it was agreed without **further argument** that the milk and the windfall apples (and also the **main crop** of apples when they **ripened**) should be reserved for the pigs alone.

*egoismo**in realtà non ci piace**sola ragione**è stato dimostrato**benessere / cervello**gestione**benessere / amor vostro**supplichevolmente**luce (prospettiva)**ulteriore discussione**raccolto principale**maturavano*