

Chapter 8 Animal Farm - George Orwell

A FEW days later, when the terror caused by the executions **had died down**, some of the animals remembered - or thought they remembered - that the Sixth Commandment **decreed** "No animal shall kill any other animal." And though no one **cared to** mention it **in the hearing** of the pigs or the dogs, it was felt that the killings which **had taken place** did **not square with** this. Clover asked Benjamin to read her the Sixth Commandment, and when Benjamin, as usual, said that he refused to **meddle** in such matters, she **fetches** Muriel. Muriel read the Commandment for her. **It ran**: "No animal shall kill any other animal without cause." **Somehow or other**, the last two words **had slipped out** of the animals' memory. But they saw now that the Commandment had not been violated; **for** clearly there was good reason for killing the traitors who had **leagued themselves with** Snowball.

Throughout the year the animals worked even harder than they had worked in the previous year to rebuild the windmill, with walls **twice as thick as before**, and to finish it by the **appointed** date, together with the regular work of the farm, was a tremendous labour. There were times when it seemed to the animals that they worked longer hours and fed no better than they had done in Jones's day. On Sunday mornings Squealer, **holding down** a long **strip** of paper with his trotter, would read out to them lists of **figures** proving that the production of every class of foodstuff had increased by two hundred per cent, three hundred per cent, or five hundred per cent, **as the case might be**. The animals saw no reason **to disbelieve him**, especially

si era calmato

decretava

osava

a portata d'orecchio dei

avevano avuto luogo

non andava d'accordo con

immischiarsi

andò a prendere

diceva (lett. correva)

in un modo o nell'altro

erano scivolate fuori

perché

si erano alleati

durante tutto

due volte più spessi di prima

stabilita

tenendo giù

striscia

numeri

a seconda del caso

di non credergli

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as they could **no longer** remember very clearly what conditions **had been like** before the Rebellion. **All the same**, there were days when they felt that they **would sooner have had less figures** and more food.

All orders were now issued through Squealer or one of the other pigs. Napoleon himself was not seen in public as often as once in a **fortnight**. When he did appear, he was attended not only by his **retinue** of dogs but by a black **cockere**l who marched in front of him and acted as a kind of **trumpeter**, **letting out** a loud "**cock-a-doodle-doo**" before Napoleon spoke. Even in the farmhouse, it was said, Napoleon inhabited separate apartments from the others. He took his meals alone, with two dogs **to wait upon him**, and always ate from the Crown Derby dinner service which had been in the glass cupboard in the drawing-room. It was also announced that the gun would be fired every year on Napoleon's birthday, as well as on the other two anniversaries.

Napoleon was now never spoken of simply as "Napoleon." He was always referred to in formal style as "our Leader, Comrade Napoleon," and this pigs liked to invent for him such titles as Father of All Animals, Terror of Mankind, Protector of the **Sheep - fold**, Ducklings' Friend, and **the like**. In his speeches, Squealer **would** talk with the tears rolling down his cheeks of Napoleon's **wisdom and goodness** of his heart, and the deep love he **bore** to all animals everywhere, even and especially the unhappy animals who still lived in ignorance and **slavery** on other farms. It had become usual to give Napoleon the credit for every successful **achievement** and every **stroke** of good fortune. You would often hear

*non più
come erano state
tutto sommato
avrebbero piuttosto preferito
meno numeri*

*due settimane
gruppo
galletto
trombettiere / emanando
chicchirichi*

per servirlo

*gregge / cose simili
soleva
saggezza e bontà
portava*

schiavitù

*conquista
colpo*

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one hen **remark** to another, "Under the guidance of our Leader, Comrade Napoleon, I have laid five eggs in six days"; or two cows, enjoying a drink at the pool, would exclaim, "Thanks to the leadership of Comrade Napoleon, how excellent this water **tastes!**" The general feeling on the farm was well expressed in a **poem** entitled Comrade Napoleon, which was composed by Minimus and which ran as follows:

Friend of **fatherless!**

Fountain of happiness!

Lord of the **swill-bucket!** Oh, how my soul is on

Fire when I **gaze at thy**

Calm and **commanding** eye,

Like the sun in the sky,

Comrade Napoleon!

Thou are the **giver** of

All that thy creatures love,

Full **belly** twice a day, clean straw **to roll upon;**

Every beast great or small

Sleeps at peace in his stall,

Thou **watchest** over all,

commentare

ha sapore

poesia

Amico degli orfani!

fonte

Signore del trogolo

*osservo **thy** = your*

imponente

***thou** = you / quello che dà*

pancia / su cui rotolare

***watchest** = watch = vegli*

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Comrade Napoleon!

Had I a sucking-pig,

se avessi un porcellino da latte

Ere he had grown as big

ere = before = prima che

Even as a pint bottle or as a rolling-pin,

pinta / mattarello

He should have learned to be

Faithful and true to thee,

thee = you

rumorio

Yes, his first squeak should be

strido

"Comrade Napoleon!"

Napoleon approved of this poem and caused it to be inscribed on the wall of the big barn, at the opposite end from the Seven Commandments. It was surmounted by a portrait of Napoleon, in profile, executed by Squealer in white paint.

sormontato

pittura

Meanwhile, through the agency of Whymper, Napoleon was engaged in complicated negotiations with Frederick and Pilkington. The pile of timber was still unsold. Of the two, Frederick was the more anxious to get hold of it, but he would not offer a reasonable price. At the same time there were renewed rumours that Frederick and his men were plotting to attack Animal Farm and to destroy the windmill, the building of which had aroused furious jealousy in him. Snowball was known to be still skulking on Pinchfield Farm. In the middle of the summer the animals were alarmed to hear that three hens had come forward and confessed that, inspired

nel frattempo / per mezzo di

occupato

legname

non venduta

impossessarsi

nuove

complotto

sollevato

gelosia

nascondendosi

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by Snowball, they had entered into a **plot** to murder Napoleon. They were executed immediately, and fresh precautions for Napoleon's safety were taken.

complotto

Four dogs guarded his bed at night, one at each corner, and a young pig named Pinkeye was given the **task** of tasting all his food before he ate it, **lest** it should be **poisoned**.

*incarico / per paura che
avvelenato*

At about the same time it was **given out** that Napoleon had arranged to sell the pile of timber to Mr. Pilkington; he was also going to enter into a regular agreement for the exchange of certain products between Animal Farm and Foxwood. The relations between Napoleon and Pilkington, though they were only conducted through Whymper, were now almost friendly. The animals **distrusted** Pilkington, as a human being, but greatly preferred him to Frederick, whom they both **feared** and hated. As the summer **wore on**, and the windmill **neared** completion, the rumours of an **impending treacherous** attack **grew** stronger and stronger.

messo in giro

diffidavano

temevano

finiva / si avvicinava

incombente

traditore / diventava

Frederick, it was said, intended to bring against them twenty men all armed with guns, and he had already **bribed** the magistrates and police, so that if he could once **get hold of** the **title-deeds** of Animal Farm they would ask no questions. **Moreover**, terrible stories were **leaking out** from Pinchfield about the cruelties that Frederick practised upon his animals. He had **flogged** an old horse **to death**, he starved his cows, he had killed a dog by throwing it into the **furnace**, he **amused himself** in the evenings by making cocks fight with **splinters of razor-blade** tied to their **spurs**. The animals' blood boiled with **rage** when they heard of these things being done to their comrades, and

corrotto

impossessarsi / atto di possesso

inoltre

trapelando

frustato / a morte

fornace

si divertiva

schegge/ lametta / speroni

rabbia

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sometimes they **clamoured** to be allowed to go out in a body and attack Pinchfield Farm, **drive out** the humans, and set the animals free. But Squealer counselled them to avoid **rash** actions and **trust in** Comrade Napoleon's strategy.

Nevertheless, feeling against Frederick continued to **run high**. One Sunday morning Napoleon appeared in the barn and explained that he had never at any time contemplated selling the pile of timber to Frederick; he considered it **beneath** his dignity, he said, to have dealings with **scoundrels** of that description. The pigeons who were still sent out to spread **tidings** of the Rebellion were forbidden to set foot anywhere on Foxwood, and were also ordered to **drop** their **former** slogan of "Death to Humanity" in favour of "Death to Frederick." In the late summer **yet** another of Snowball's machinations was **laid bare**. The wheat crop was full of **weeds**, and it was discovered that on one of his nocturnal visits Snowball had mixed weed seeds with the seed corn. A **gander** who **had been privy** to the plot had confessed his **guilt** to Squealer and immediately committed suicide by **swallowing deadly nightshade berries**. The animals now also learned that Snowball had never - as many of them had believed **hitherto** - received the order of "Animal Hero First Class." This was merely a legend which had been spread some time after the Battle of the Cowshed by Snowball himself. **So far from** being decorated, he had been **censured** for showing **cowardice** in the battle. **Once again** some of the animals heard this with a certain **bewilderment**, but Squealer was soon able to convince them that their memories had been **at fault**.

reclamavano

buttar fuori

avventate / fidarsi della

aumentare

sotto

mascalzoni

notizie

non usare più / ex (precedente)

tuttavia / messa a nudo

erbacce

gander = oca maschio

oca/ era stato a conoscenza

colpevolezza

inghiottendo le mortali bacche

di belladonna

fino adesso

altro che

censurato / codardia

ancora una volta

sconcerto

colpevoli

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In the autumn, by a tremendous, exhausting effort - **for** the harvest had to be gathered at almost the same time - the windmill was finished. The machinery had still to be installed, and Whympers was negotiating the **purchase** of it, but the structure was completed. **In the teeth of every difficulty**, in spite of inexperience, of primitive **implements**, of bad luck and of Snowball's **treachery**, the work had been finished punctually to the very day! **Tired out** but proud, the animals walked round and round their **masterpiece**, which appeared even more beautiful in their eyes than when it had been built the first time. **Moreover**, the walls were twice as thick as before. **Nothing short of** explosives **would lay them low** this time! And when they thought of how they had laboured, what **discouragements** they had **overcome**, and the enormous difference that would be made in their lives when the **sails** were **turning** and the dynamos **running** - when they thought of all this, their tiredness **forsook them** and they **gambolled** round and round the windmill, **uttering** cries of triumph. Napoleon himself, **attended** by his dogs and his cockerel, came down to inspect the completed work; he personally congratulated the animals on their **achievement**, and announced that the mill would be named Napoleon Mill.

Two days later the animals were called together for a special meeting in the barn. They were **struck dumb** with surprise when Napoleon announced that he had sold the pile of timber to Frederick. Tomorrow Frederick's **wagons** would arrive and begin **carting it away**. Throughout the whole period of his seeming friendship with Pilkington, Napoleon had really been in secret agreement with Frederick.

perchè

la compera

nonostante ogni difficoltà

attrezzi

tradimento

molto stanchi

capolavoro

inoltre

solo con – li abbatterebbero

scoraggiamenti

superato

vele / girando

funzionando

li abbandonò / saltellavano

emettendo

scortato

successo

ammutoliti

carri / trasportarsela

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All relations with Foxwood had been broken off; insulting messages had been sent to Pilkington. The pigeons had been told to **avoid** Pinchfield Farm and to **alter** their slogan from "Death to Frederick" to "Death to Pilkington." At the same time Napoleon assured the animals that the stories of an **impending** attack on Animal Farm were completely untrue, and that the **tales** about Frederick's cruelty to his own animals had been greatly exaggerated. All these rumours had probably originated with Snowball and his agents. It now appeared that Snowball was not, after all, hiding on Pinchfield Farm, and in fact had never been there in his life: he was living-in considerable luxury, so it was said - at Foxwood, and had in reality been a **pensioner** of Pilkington for **years past**.

*di evitare
di alterare*

incombente

storie

ospite / da molti anni

The pigs were in ecstasies over Napoleon's **cunning**. By seeming to be friendly with Pilkington he had forced Frederick to raise his price by twelve pounds. But the superior quality of Napoleon's mind, said Squealer, was shown in the fact that he **trusted nobody**, not even Frederick. Frederick had wanted to pay for the timber with something called a **cheque**, which, it seemed, was a piece of paper with a **promise** to pay written upon it. But Napoleon was too clever for him. He had demanded payment in real five-pound notes, which **were to be handed over** before the timber **was removed**. Already Frederick had **paid up**; and the **sum** he had paid was just enough to buy the machinery for the windmill.

furbizia

non si fidava di nessuno

assegno

promessa

dovevano essere consegnate

fosse portato via

saldato / somma

Meanwhile the timber was being carted away at high **speed**. When it was all gone, another special **meeting was held** in the barn for the animals to

velocità

riunione fu tenuta

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inspect Frederick's bank-notes. Smiling beatifically, and **wearing** both his decorations, Napoleon reposed on a bed of straw on the platform, with the money at his side, **neatly** piled on a **china dish** from the farmhouse kitchen. The animals filed slowly past, and each **gazed his fill**. And Boxer put out his nose to sniff at the bank-notes, and the **flimsy** white things **stirred and rustled** in his breath.

Three days later there was a terrible **hullabaloo**. Whymper, his face **deadly** pale, came **racing up** the path on his bicycle, flung it down in the yard and rushed straight into the farmhouse. The next moment a **choking roar of rage** sounded from Napoleon's apartments. The news of what had happened **sped** round the farm like **wildfire**. The banknotes were **forges**! Frederick had got the timber for nothing!

Napoleon called the animals together immediately and in a terrible voice pronounced the death sentence upon Frederick. When captured, he said, Frederick should be **boiled alive**. At the same time he warned them that after this treacherous **deed** the worst **was to be expected**. Frederick and his men might make their long-expected attack at any moment. Sentinels were placed at all the **approaches** to the farm. **In addition**, four pigeons were sent to Foxwood with a conciliatory message, which it was hoped might re-establish good relations with Pilkington.

The very next morning the attack came. The animals were at breakfast when the **look-outs** came racing in with the news that Frederick and his followers had

portando

*ordinatamente / vassoio di
porcellana*

fissò fino a saziarsi

inconsistenti

si mossero e frusciarono

baraonda

mortalmente / correndo

ruggito soffocante di rabbia

*si diffuse / incendio indomabile
falsificate*

bollito vivo

azione

si doveva aspettare

vie di accesso / inoltre

allerte

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already come through the five-barred gate. **Boldly** enough the animals **sallied forth** to meet them, but this time they did not have the easy victory that they had had in the Battle of the Cowshed. There were fifteen men, with half a dozen guns between them, and they opened fire as soon as they got **within** fifty yards. The animals could not **face** the terrible explosions and the **stinging pellets**, and in spite of the efforts of Napoleon and Boxer **to rally** them, they were soon **driven back**. A number of them were already **wounded**. They took refuge in the farm buildings and **peeped** cautiously out from **chinks** and **knot-holes**. The whole of the big pasture, including the windmill, was in the hands of the enemy. For the moment even Napoleon **seemed at a loss**. He paced up and down without a word, his tail rigid and twitching. **Wistful glances** were sent in the direction of Foxwood. If Pilkington and his men would help them, the day might yet be **won**. But at this moment the four pigeons, who had been sent out on the day before, returned, one of them **bearing a scrap** of paper from Pilkington. On it was **pencilled** the words: "**Serves you right.**"

Meanwhile Frederick and his men **had halted about the** windmill. The animals watched them, and a murmur of **dismay** went round. Two of the men had produced a **crowbar** and a **sledge hammer**. They were going to **knock** the windmill **down**.

"Impossible!" cried Napoleon. "We have built the walls far too thick for that. They could not knock it down in a week. **Courage**, comrades!"

But Benjamin was watching the movements of the

coraggiosamente

sortirono

entro

affrontare

pungenti palline

per incoraggiarli

respinti

feriti

spiarono / fessure

buchi nei nodi del legno

non sapeva cosa fare

sguardi speranzosi

vinto

portando un pezzo

scritto a matita

ve lo meritate

si erano fermati intorno al

sgomento

sbarra / mazza

abbattere

coraggio

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men intently. The two with the hammer and the crowbar were **drilling a hole** near the base of the windmill. Slowly, and with an air almost of **amusement**, Benjamin **nodded** his long **muzzle**.

"I thought so," he said. "Do you not see what they are doing? In another moment they **are going to pack blasting powder** into that hole."

Terrified, the animals waited. It was impossible now to **venture** out of the **shelter** of the buildings. After a few minutes the men were seen to be running in all directions. Then there was a **deafening roar**. The pigeons **swirled** into the air, and all the animals, except Napoleon, **flung themselves flat** on their **bellies** and **hid** their faces. When they got up again, a huge cloud of black smoke was **hanging** where the windmill had been. Slowly the breeze **drifted** it away. The windmill had **ceased** to exist!

At this **sight** the animals' courage returned to them. The fear and despair they had felt a moment earlier were **drowned** in their rage against this vile, **contemptible** act. A mighty cry for **vengeance** went up, and without waiting for further orders they charged forth in a body and **made straight for** the enemy. This time they **did not heed** the cruel pellets that **swept** over them like **hail**. It was a savage, bitter battle. The men fired again and again, and, when the animals **got to close quarters**, **lashed out** with their sticks and their heavy boots. A cow, three sheep, and two geese were killed, and nearly everyone was wounded. Even Napoleon, who was directing operations from the **rear**, had **the tip** of his tail **chipped** by a pellet. But the men did not go

facendo un buco (col trapano)

divertimento / assenti / muso

metteranno polvere da sparo

avventurarsi / riparo

assordante boato

svolazzarono

si appiattirono

pance / nascosero

pendeva

spostò

cessato

spettacolo

annegati

disprezzevole / vendetta

andarono dritti

non fecero caso

sferzava / grandine

si avvicinarono / sferzarono

da dietro / la punta

scheggiata

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unscathed either. Three of them had their heads broken by **blows** from Boxer's hoofs; another was **gored** in the belly by a cow's **horn**; another had his trousers nearly **tripped off** by Jessie and Bluebell. And when the nine dogs of Napoleon's own bodyguard, whom he had instructed to make a **detour** under cover of the hedge, suddenly appeared on the men's **flank**, **baying** ferociously, panic **overtook them**. They saw that they were in danger of being surrounded. Frederick shouted to his men to get out while the **going was good**, and the next moment the cowardly enemy was running for dear life. The animals **chased** them right down to the bottom of the field, and got in some last kicks at them as they forced their way through the **thorn** hedge.

They had won, but they were **weary** and bleeding. Slowly they began **to limp** back towards the farm. The sight of their dead comrades **stretched** upon the grass **moved** some of them to tears. And for a little while they halted in **sorrowful** silence at the place where the windmill had once stood. Yes, it was gone; almost the last trace of their labour was gone! Even the foundations were partially destroyed. And in rebuilding it they could not this time, as before, make use of the fallen stones. This time the stones had **vanished** too. The force of the explosion had **flung** them to distances of hundreds of yards. It was **as though** the windmill had never been.

As they approached the farm Squealer, who had **unaccountably** been absent during the fighting, came skipping towards them, whisking his tail and **beaming** with satisfaction. And the animals heard, from the direction of the farm buildings, the solemn

*illesi**colpi**incornato / corno**strappati**giro largo**fianco / abbaiano / li prese**il momento era buono**rincorsero**spine**stanchi**a zoppicare**stesi**commosse**doloroso**svaniti**scagliati**come se**inspiegabilmente**raggiante*

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booming of a gun.

"What is that gun firing for?" said Boxer.

"To celebrate our victory!" cried Squealer.

"What victory?" said Boxer. His knees were bleeding, he had lost a **shoe** and **split** his hoof, and a dozen pellets had **lodged** themselves in his hind leg.

*ferro di cavallo / spaccato
conficcati*

"What victory, comrade? Have we not **driven** the enemy **off** our soil-the sacred soil of Animal Farm? "

scacciati

"But they have destroyed the windmill. And we had worked on it for two years!"

"What matter? We will build another windmill. We will build six windmills if we feel like it. You do not appreciate, comrade, the **mighty** thing that we have done. The enemy was in occupation of this very ground that we stand upon. And now - thanks to the leadership of Comrade Napoleon - we have **won** every inch of it **back** again!"

potente

tornati a vincere

"Then we have won back what we had before," said Boxer.

"That is our victory," said Squealer.

They **limped** into the yard. The pellets under the skin of Boxer's leg **smarted** painfully. He saw ahead of him the heavy labour of rebuilding the windmill from the foundations, and already in imagination he **braced himself** for the **task**. But for the first time it **occurred to him** that he was eleven years old and

*zoppicarono
dolevano*

*si preparava / compito
gli venne in mente*

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that perhaps his great muscles were not **quite** what they **had once been**.

*del tutto
erano stati una volta*

But when the animals saw the green flag flying, and heard the gun firing again - seven times it was fired in all - and heard the speech that Napoleon made, congratulating them on their conduct, it did seem to them after all that they had won a great victory. The animals **slain** in the battle were given a solemn funeral. Boxer and Clover pulled the wagon which served as a **hearse**, and Napoleon himself walked at the head of the procession. Two whole days were given over to celebrations. There were songs, speeches, and more firing of the gun, and a special **gift** of an apple was **bestowed** on every animal, with two **ounces** of corn for each bird and three biscuits for each dog. It was announced that the battle would be called the Battle of the Windmill, and that Napoleon had created a new decoration, the Order of the Green Banner, which he had conferred upon himself. In the general **rejoicings** the unfortunate affair of the banknotes was forgotten.

*trucidati
carro funebre
dono / donata
once*

It was a few days later than this that the pigs came upon a case of whisky in the **cellars** of the farmhouse. It had been **overlooked** at the time when the house was first occupied. That night there came from the farmhouse the sound of loud singing, in which, to everyone's surprise, the **strains** of Beasts of England were mixed up. At about half past nine Napoleon, wearing an old **bowler hat** of Mr. Jones's, was distinctly seen to emerge from the back door, gallop rapidly round the yard, and disappear **indoors** again. But in the morning a deep silence **hung over** the farmhouse. Not a pig appeared **to be stirring**. It

*allegria
cantine
sorvolato
melodie, arie
cilindro
dentro
aleggiava
stesse movendo*

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was nearly nine o'clock when Squealer made his appearance, walking slowly and **dejectedly**, his eyes **dull**, his tail hanging **limply** behind him, and with every appearance of being seriously ill. He called the animals together and told them that he had a terrible piece of news **to impart**. Comrade Napoleon was **dying!**

*in modo depresso
opachi / fiaccamente*

*da comunicare
morendo*

A cry of lamentation went up. Straw was **laid down** outside the doors of the farmhouse, and the animals walked on **tiptoe**. With tears in their eyes they asked **one another** what they should do if their Leader **were taken away** from them. A **rumour** went round that Snowball had after all **contrived** to introduce **poison** into Napoleon's food. At eleven o'clock Squealer came out to make another announcement. As his last act upon earth, Comrade Napoleon had pronounced a solemn **decree**: the drinking of alcohol was to be punished by death.

stesa

*in punta di piedi
l'un l'altro
fosse tolto / diceria
architettato / veleno*

decreto

By the evening, however, Napoleon appeared to be somewhat better, and the following morning Squealer was able to tell them that he was well on the way to recovery. By the evening of that day Napoleon was back at work, and on the next day it was learned that he had instructed Whymper to purchase in Willingdon some **booklets on brewing and distilling**. A week later Napoleon gave orders that the small **paddock** beyond the orchard, which it had previously been intended **to set aside** as a grazing-ground for animals who were **past work**, was to be **ploughed up**. It was given out that the pasture was exhausted and needed **re-seeding**; but it soon became known that Napoleon intended **to sow it** with **barley**.

*libriccini sulla produzione
e distillazione (di birra ecc.)
recinto (per cavalli)
riservare
pensionati
arato
riseminato
seminarlo
orzo*

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About this time there **occurred** a strange incident which **hardly anyone** was able to understand. One night at about twelve o'clock there was a loud **crash** in the yard, and the animals rushed out of their stalls. It was a **moonlit** night. At the foot of the end wall of the big barn, where the Seven Commandments were written, there lay a **ladder** broken in two pieces. Squealer, temporarily **stunned**, was **sprawling** beside it, and **near at hand** there lay a lantern, a paint-**brush**, and **an overturned pot** of white paint. The dogs immediately made a ring round Squealer, and escorted him back to the farmhouse as soon as he was able to walk. None of the animals could form any idea **as to what this meant**, except old Benjamin, who **nodded his muzzle** with a knowing air, and seemed to understand, but **would** say nothing.

But a few days later Muriel, **reading over** the Seven Commandments to herself, noticed that there was yet another of them which the animals had remembered wrong. They had thought the Fifth Commandment was "No animal shall drink alcohol," but there were two words that they had forgotten. Actually the Commandment read: "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess."

successes

quasi nessuno

schianto

illuminata dalla luna

scala a pioli

esterrefatto / stravaccato

a portata di mano

pennello / una latta capovolta

cosa significasse ciò

annuì col muso

volle

rileggendo