

**Animal Farm - George Orwell****Chapter 1**

MR. JONES, of the Manor Farm, had locked the **hen-houses** for the night, but was too **drunk** to remember to shut the **pop-holes**. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he **lurched** across the yard, kicked off his **boots** at the back door, **drew** himself a last glass of beer from the **barrel** in the **scullery**, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Jones was already **snoring**.

As soon as the light in the bedroom went out there was a **stirring** and a **fluttering** all through the farm buildings. Word had gone round during the day that old Major, the **prize** Middle White **boar**, had had a strange dream on the previous night and **wished** to communicate it to the other animals. It had been agreed that they should all meet in the big **barn** as soon as Mr. Jones was safely out of the way. Old Major (so he was always called, though the name under which he had been exhibited was Willingdon Beauty) was so highly **regarded** on the farm that everyone was quite ready to lose an hour's sleep **in order to** hear what he had to say.

**At one end** of the big barn, on a sort of raised platform, Major was already **ensconced** on his bed of **straw**, under a lantern which **hung** from a **beam**. He was twelve years old and had lately **grown** rather **stout**, but he was still a **majestic**-looking pig, with a wise and benevolent appearance **in spite of** the fact that his **tushes** had never been cut. Before long the other animals began to arrive and make themselves comfortable after their different fashions. First came the three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw

pollaio / ubriaco  
bucò della porta per gli animali

barcollò / stivali  
attinse  
barile / dispensa  
russando

trambusto / svolazzare

premio / maiale  
desiderava

granaio

considerato  
per

ad una punta  
sistemato  
paglia / appesa / trave  
diventato  
robusto / maestoso  
nonostante  
canini

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immediately in front of the platform. The hens **perched** themselves on the window-sills, the pigeons fluttered up to the **rafters**, the sheep and **cows** lay down behind the pigs and began to **chew** the **cud**. The two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, came in together, walking very slowly and setting down their vast **hairy hoofs** with great care **lest** there should be some small animal **concealed** in the straw. Clover was a stout motherly **mare approaching** middle life, who had never quite got her figure back after her fourth **foal**. Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together. A white **stripe** down his nose gave him a **somewhat** stupid appearance, and in fact he was not of **first-rate** intelligence, but he was universally respected for his **steadiness** of character and tremendous powers of work. After the horses came Muriel, the white **goat**, and Benjamin, the **donkey**. Benjamin was the oldest animal on the farm, and the worst tempered. He seldom talked, and when he did, it was usually to make some cynical remark - **for instance**, he would say that God had given him a **tail** to keep the **flies** off, but that he would **sooner** have had no tail and no flies. Alone among the animals on the farm he never laughed. If asked why, he would say that he saw nothing to laugh at. **Nevertheless**, without openly admitting it, he was devoted to Boxer; the two of them usually spent their Sundays together in the small **paddock** beyond the **orchard**, **grazing** side by side and never speaking.

The two horses had just lain down when a **brood of ducklings**, which had lost their mother, **filed** into the barn, **cheeping feebly** and **wandering** from side to

si appollaiarono / davanza  
trave / mucche  
masticare / bolo

piedi pelosi / per paura di  
nascosto  
giumenta / che si avvicinava

puledro

striscia  
alquanto  
di prima  
solidità

capra  
asino

ad esempio  
coda / mosche  
piuttosto

niente meno

recinto  
orto / pascolando

un gruppo di anatroccoli  
marciarono in fila  
pigolando flebilmente / vagando

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side to find some place where they would not be trodden on. Clover made a sort of wall round them with her great foreleg, and the ducklings nestled down inside it and promptly fell asleep. At the last moment Mollie, the foolish, pretty white mare who drew Mr. Jones's trap, came mincing daintily in, chewing at a lump of sugar. She took a place near the front and began flirting her white mane, hoping to draw attention to the red ribbons it was plaited with. Last of all came the cat, who looked round, as usual, for the warmest place, and finally squeezed herself in between Boxer and Clover; there she purred contentedly throughout Major's speech without listening to a word of what he was saying.

All the animals were now present except Moses, the tame raven, who slept on a perch behind the back door. When Major saw that they had all made themselves comfortable and were waiting attentively, he cleared his throat and began:

"Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. I do not think, comrades, that I shall be with you for many months longer, and before I die, I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have acquired. I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you.

"Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable,

calpestati / muro  
gambe anteriori / si annidarono

sciocca  
calesse / elegantemente  
un pezzo  
criniera  
nastri / intrecciati

si spremette  
fece le fusa  
durante

corvo addomesticato / sbarra

schiarì la gola

camerati

così pure

affrontare

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laborious, and short. We are born, **we are given** just so much food as will keep the **breath** in our bodies, and those of us who are **capable** of it are forced to work to the last **atom** of our strength; and the **very** instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are **slaughtered** with **hideous cruelty**. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the **plain** truth.

"But is this simply part of the order of nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor that it cannot **afford** a decent life to those who  **dwell** upon it? No, comrades, a thousand times no! The **soil** of England is fertile, its climate is good, it is **capable** of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals than now inhabit it. This single farm of ours would **support** a dozen horses, twenty cows, hundreds of sheep - and all of them living in a comfort and a dignity that are now almost beyond our imagining. Why then do we continue in this miserable condition? Because nearly the whole of the **produce** of our labour is **stolen** from us by **human beings**. There, comrades, is the answer to all our problems. It is **summed up** in a single word - Man. Man is the only real **enemy** we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the **root** cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.

"Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too **weak** to pull the **plough**, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. **Yet** he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to

ci è dato

respiro

capaci

attimo / preciso

macellati / orribile crudeltà

semplice

permettere / abitano

suolo

capace

sfamare

raccolto / rubato / esseri umani

sommato

nemico

radice

debole / aratro

tuttavia

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them the **bare minimum** that will prevent them from **starving**, and the rest he keeps for himself. Our labour **tills** the soil, our **dung** fertilises it, and yet there is not one of us that **owns** more than his **bare skin**. You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of **gallons** of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been **breeding up sturdy calves**? Every **drop** of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever **hatched** into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are those four **foals you bore**, who should have been the support and pleasure of your old age? Each was sold at a year old-you will never see one of them again. In return for your four **confinements** and all your labour in the fields, what have you ever had except your bare rations and a stall?

"And even the miserable lives we **lead** are not allowed to reach their natural **span**. For myself I do not **grumble**, for I am one of the lucky ones. I am twelve years old and have had over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers who are sitting in front of me, every one of you will **scream** your lives out at the **block** within a year. To that horror we all must come-cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even the horses and the dogs have no better fate. You, Boxer, the **very** day that those great muscles of yours lose their power, Jones will sell you to the **knacker**, who will cut your throat and boil you down for the **foxhounds**. **As for**

minimo indispensabile

morir di fame

coltivare / feci

possiede / sola pelle

unità di misura (4 litri)

allevare i robusti vitelli

goccia

schiusa

puledri che portasti alla luce

ricoveri per parto

conduciamo

lunghezza

lamento

gridare / ceppo

preciso

macellaio

cane da caccia / in quanto ai

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the dogs, when they grow old and toothless, Jones **ties** a brick round their necks and **drowns** them in the nearest **pond**.

leggerà / annegherà  
stagno

"Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only **get rid of** Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost **overnight** we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the **overthrow** of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know when that Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see this straw **beneath** my feet, that **sooner or later** justice will be done. Fix your eyes on that, comrades, throughout the short remainder of your lives! And above all, pass on this message of mine to those who come after you, so that future generations shall carry on the struggle until it is victorious.

sbarazzandosi di  
in una notte

rovesciare

sotto / prima o poi

"And remember, comrades, your resolution must never **falter**. No argument must lead you **astray**. Never listen when they tell you that Man and the animals have a common interest, that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the others. **It is all lies**. Man serves the interests of no creature except himself. And among us animals let there be perfect unity, perfect comradeship in the struggle. All men are enemies. All animals are comrades."

vacillare / portare fuori strada

sono tutte bugie

At this moment there was a tremendous **uproar**. While Major was speaking four large rats had **crept** out of their holes and were sitting on their **hindquarters**, listening to him. The dogs had suddenly caught sight of them, and it was only by a

rumore  
strisciati

quartier generale

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**swift dash** for their holes that the rats saved their lives. Major raised his **trotter** for silence.

movimento veloce  
zampa

"Comrades," he said, "here is a point that must be **settled**. The wild creatures, such as rats and rabbits- are they our friends or our enemies? Let us put it to the vote. I propose this question to the meeting: Are rats comrades?"

chiarito

The vote was taken at once, and it was agreed by an **overwhelming** majority that rats were comrades. There were only four dissentients, the three dogs and the cat, who was afterwards discovered to have voted on **both** sides. Major continued:

preponderante

"I have little more to say. I **merely** repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. And remember also that in fighting against Man, we must not come to **resemble** him. Even when you have conquered him, do not adopt his vices. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. All the habits of Man are evil. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannise over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.

entrambi

semplicemente

assomigliare

"And now, comrades, I will tell you about my dream of last night. I cannot describe that dream to you. It was a dream of the earth as it will be when Man has **vanished**. But it reminded me of something that I had

scomparso

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long forgotten. Many years ago, when I was a little pig, my mother and the other **sows** used to sing an old song of which they knew only the tune and the first three words. I had known that tune in my infancy, but it had long since passed out of my mind.

scrofe

Last night, however, it came back to me in my dream. And what is more, the words of the song also came back-words, I am certain, which were sung by the animals of long ago and have been lost to memory for generations. I will sing you that song now, comrades. I am old and my voice is **hoarse**, but when I have taught you the tune, you can sing it better for yourselves. It is called Beasts of England."

rauca

Old Major cleared his throat and began to sing. As he had said, his voice was hoarse, but he sang well enough, and it was a **stirring** tune, something between Clementine and La Cucaracha. The words ran:

stridulo

Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,

Beasts of every land and clime,

Hearken to my joyful tidings

Of the golden future time.

Soon or late the day is coming,

Tyrant Man shall be o'erthrown,

And the fruitful fields of England



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Shall be trod by beasts alone.

Rings shall vanish from our noses,

And the harness from our back,

Bit and spur shall rust forever,

sperone / arrugginire

Cruel whips no more shall crack.

fruste / schioccare

Riches more than mind can picture,

Wheat and barley, oats and hay,

frumento / orzo / avena / fieno

Clover, beans, and mangel-wurzels

Shall be ours upon that day.

Bright will shine the fields of England,

Purer shall its waters be,

Sweeter yet shall blow its breezes

On the day that sets us free.

For that day we all must labour,

Though we die before it break;

Cows and horses, geese and turkeys,

tacchino

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All must toil for freedom's sake.  
 Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,  
 Beasts of every land and clime,  
 Hearken well and spread my tidings  
 Of the golden future time.

The singing of this song **threw** the animals into the wildest excitement. Almost before Major had reached the end, they had begun singing it for themselves. Even the stupidest of them had already **picked up** the tune and a few of the words, and as for the clever ones, such as the pigs and dogs, they had the entire song by heart within a few minutes. And then, after a few preliminary tries, the whole farm **burst out** into Beasts of England in tremendous unison. The cows **lowed** it, the dogs **whined** it, the sheep **bleated** it, the horses **whinnied** it, the ducks **quacked** it. They were so delighted with the song that they sang it **right through** five times in succession, and might have continued singing it all night if they had not been interrupted.

Unfortunately, the **uproar** awoke Mr. Jones, who **sprang** out of bed, making sure that there was a fox in the yard. He **seized** the **gun** which always stood in a corner of his bedroom, and **let fly** a charge of number 6 shot into the darkness. The **pellets buried** themselves in the wall of the barn and the meeting broke up hurriedly. Everyone **fled** to his own sleeping-place. The birds jumped on to their perches, the animals settled down in the straw, and the whole farm was asleep in a moment.

lanciò

alzato

prorompette

muggirono / guairono

belarono / nitirono

schiamazzarono

completamente

baccano

balzò

afferrò / fucile

sparò

proiettili si conficcarono

scappò