

Chapter 2

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

seppellito / frutteto

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.

veduta

dovere

compagni

cinghiali

crescendo

feroce

far ciò che vuole

profondità

guance / scintillanti / svelti

stridula

discuteva

saltare

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.

The pigs had an even harder struggle to **counteract** the lies put about by Moses, the tame raven. Moses,

tennero
spiegarono

lealtà

ci alimenta
morire di fame

ad ogni modo / se

stemma
vale

sembrava

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.

afferitava

siepi

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 unflinching in their **attendance** at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of Beasts of England, with which the meetings always ended.

fedeli discepoli

frequenza

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 **had taken to** drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would **loung** in his Windsor chair in the kitchen, reading the

accadde / ottenuta

ultimamente

scorato / una causa
aveva preso a
ozziare

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 **horn** 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 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

inzuppate
pigri
erbacce / tetti
trascurate / sottoalimentati

vigilia

munto
a caccia di conigli
preoccuparsi

capanna
corni / servirsi
mastelli

frustando

sopportare
prima / si lanciarono

incornati
scalciati / completamente
comportarsi
sollevamento
picchiare
li spaventò / molto

talloni
fuga

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.

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

tracciato

li perseguitavano

lanciò

sacca da viaggio / scivolò fuori

saltò via

svolazzò / gracchiando / nel frattempo

cacciato

sbattuto

eseguita

insieme / confini

corsero

eliminare / tracce

catene

agnelli

pozzo / redini /

paraocchi

cortile

saltavano

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

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

di seguito

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

alba

corsero / pascolo
collinetta

si spostarono rapidamente /
ammirarono

galoppare
buttarono / salti
rugiada / raccolsero boccate

zolle / odorarono / odore

boschetto / come se

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 **butted** 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.

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

marciarono / si fermarono

spaventati

spinse

massima

passarono in punta di piedi

sussurro / ammirando con timore e rispetto

materassi di piume / specchi

mensola del camino

riprese / brutalmente

sepoltura

spaccata

raccolto / problema

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

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a

preso in considerazione
rivelarono

appartenevano

monte dei rifiuti / barattoli

dava sulla

perchè

nocche

zampa

in poi

mandare a prendere

scala a pioli

riuscirono

d'ora in poi

si arrampicò

gradini

catrame

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.

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.

chiaro

assentirono

"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."

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.

muggito

mammelle / stavano per scoppiare
secchi

abbastanza

schiumoso

"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.

pastone

"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."

fare attenzione

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.