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Contattaci:

carmelo.mangano@gmail.com

telefono: +39 095 9895296

Chapter 3

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, sudarono
ricompensati

attrezzi

svantaggio
attrezzi

risolvere / in quanto a
pollice
falciare / rastrellare molto meglio

realmente

imbrigliati

vagabondavano

più umile
raccoglierlo
avanti e indietro / piccoli morsetti
becco

inoltre

nessuno spreco
stelo

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
meccanismo
concepito

elemosinava / rancore

calpestare
pula / giacché
trebbiatrici

spingendo
tirando

galletti
fare (mettere dentro)

contrattempo

unità di misura
grano perso
borbottò

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 green fields of England, while the hoof and horn

caratteristiche

con la scusa di

piuttosto

in continuazione

fece le fusa

volontario

alzabandiera

mandato verso su / asta della bandiera

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 this was to **tame** the rats and rabbits), the Whiter Wool Movement for the sheep, and various others,

contare

obbiettare / mettere da parte

fabbro / falegname

si impegnava

instancabile

addomesticare

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 never succeeding. On several occasions, indeed, **he**

inoltre
intento
si ruppe

tetto
passerotti

zampa

in quanto a
abbastanza

pezzi

per quanto ne sapesse

segnò / polvere
fissando
ciuffo d'avanti
forza
si che imparò

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.

ordinato
ramoscelli

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.

nessuno
fu trovato

così

completamente afferrato

"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**."

marchio
malefatte

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

cominciare

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.

partorito
cuccioli robusti
svezzati

segregazione

mature
pieno di spazzatura

"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

solo

benestare / amor vostro

supplichevolmente

ulteriori

maturarono