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Chapter 5

AS WINTER **drew on**, Mollie became more and more **troublesome**. She was late for work every morning and excused herself by saying that she had overslept, and she complained of mysterious pains, although her appetite was excellent. On every kind of pretext she **would** run away from work and go to the drinking pool, where she would stand foolishly gazing at her own reflection in the water. But there were also **rumours** of something more serious. One day, as Mollie **strolled blithely** into the yard, flirting her long tail and chewing at a **stalk** of hay, Clover took her **aside**.

"Mollie," she said, "I have something very serious to say to you. This morning I saw you looking over the hedge that divides Animal Farm from Foxwood. One of Mr. Pilkington's men was standing on the other side of the hedge. And - I was **a long way away**, but I am almost certain I saw this-he was talking to you and you were allowing him to **stroke** your nose. What does that mean, Mollie?"

"He didn't! I wasn't! It isn't true!" cried Mollie, beginning to **prance** about and **paw** the ground.

"Mollie! Look me in the face. Do you give me your word of honour that that man was not stroking your nose?"

"It isn't true!" repeated Mollie, but she could not look Clover in the face, and the next moment she **took to her heels** and galloped away into the field.

A thought struck Clover. Without saying anything to

si avvicinava
problematica

soleva

dicerie
camminava spensierata
gambo
a parte

molto lontano

accarezzare

saltellare / zampe

scappare

the others, she went to Mollie's stall and turned over the straw with her hoof. Hidden under the straw was a little pile of lump sugar and several **bunches** of ribbon of different colours.

Three days later Mollie disappeared. For some weeks nothing was known of her **whereabouts**, then the pigeons reported that they had seen her on the other side of Willingdon. She was between the **shafts** of a **smart** dogcart painted red and black, which was standing outside a **public-house**. A fat red-faced man in **check breeches** and **gaiters**, who looked like a **publican**, was stroking her nose and feeding her with sugar. Her **coat** was **newly clipped** and she wore a scarlet ribbon round her **forelock**. She appeared to be enjoying herself, so the pigeons said. None of the animals ever mentioned Mollie again.

In January there came bitterly hard weather. The earth was like iron, and nothing could be done in the fields. Many meetings were held in the big barn, and the pigs occupied themselves with planning out the work of the coming season. It had come to be accepted that the pigs, who were manifestly cleverer than the other animals, should decide all questions of farm policy, though their decisions had to be ratified by a majority vote. This arrangement **would have worked** well enough if it had not been for the disputes between Snowball and Napoleon. These two disagreed at every point where disagreement was possible. If one of them suggested **sowing** a bigger **acreage** with **barley**, the other was certain to demand a bigger acreage of oats, and if one of them said that **such and such** a field was just right for **cabbages**, the other would declare that it was

mazzetto

paraggi

aste della carrozza

eleganti

pub

quadretti / pantaloni / ghetta

proprietario del pub

manto di pelo / recentemente tagliato

ciuffo anteriore

avrebbero funzionato

seminare

numero di acri / orzo

questo e quello

cavoli

useless for anything except **roots**. Each had his own following, and there were some violent debates. At the Meetings Snowball often won over the majority by his brilliant speeches, but Napoleon was better at **canvassing** support for himself in between times. He was especially successful with the sheep. Of late the sheep **had taken to** bleating "Four legs good, two legs bad" both in and out of season, and they often interrupted the Meeting with this. It was noticed that they were especially liable to break into "Four legs good, two legs bad" at crucial moments in Snowball's speeches. Snowball had made a **close** study of some back numbers of the Farmer and **Stockbreeder** which he had found in the farmhouse, and was full of plans for innovations and improvements. He talked **learnedly** about field **drains**, **silage**, and basic slag, and had **worked out** a complicated scheme for all the animals to drop their **dung** directly in the fields, at a different spot every day, to save the labour of **cartage**. Napoleon produced no schemes of his own, but said quietly that Snowball's **would come to nothing**, and seemed to be **biding his time**. But of all their controversies, none was so bitter as the one that took place over the **windmill**.

In the long **pasture**, not far from the farm buildings, there was a small **knoll** which was the highest point on the farm. After **surveying** the ground, Snowball declared that this was just the place for a windmill, which could be made to operate a dynamo and **supply** the farm with electrical power. This **would light** the stalls and warm them in winter, and would also run a circular **saw**, a **chaff**-cutter, a **mangel** - slicer, and an electric milking machine. The animals

radici

propaganda porta a porta

cominciarono a

attento

allevatore di animali

coltamene

fognature / silo / vennero a capo di

sterco

trasporto col carro

venire a niente

aspettando il suo momento

mulino a vento

pascolo

collina

aver sondato

fornito / elettricità

sega / resti del frumento / bietola

had never heard of anything of this kind before (**for** the farm was an old-fashioned one and had only the most primitive machinery), and they listened in astonishment while Snowball **conjured up** pictures of fantastic machines which would do their work for them while they **grazed** at their **ease** in the fields or improved their minds with reading and conversation.

Within a few weeks Snowball's plans for the windmill were fully **worked out**. The mechanical details came **mostly** from three books which had belonged to Mr. Jones - One Thousand Useful Things to Do **About** the House, Every Man His Own **Bricklayer**, and Electricity for Beginners. Snowball used as his study a shed which had once been used for incubators and had a smooth wooden floor, **suitable** for drawing on. He was closeted there for hours at a time. With his books held open by a stone, and with a piece of **chalk gripped** between the **knuckles** of his trotter, he would move rapidly to and fro, drawing in line after line and **uttering** little **whimpers** of excitement. Gradually the plans grew into a complicated mass of **cranks** and **cog-wheels**, covering more than half the floor, which the other animals found completely **unintelligible** but very impressive. All of them came to look at Snowball's drawings at least once a day. Even the hens and ducks came, and **were at pains not to tread** on the chalk marks. Only Napoleon held **aloof**. He had declared himself against the windmill from the start. One day, however, he arrived unexpectedly to examine the plans. He walked heavily round the shed, **looked closely** at every detail of the plans and snuffed at them once or twice, then stood for a little while contemplating them out of the corner of his eye; then suddenly he **lifted** his leg,

perché

illustrava

pascolare / comodità

elaborati,
principalmente
per
muratura

adatto

gesso afferrato / nocche

emettendo / gridolini

manovella / ruote dentate

inintelligibile

facevano di tutto per non calpestare

in disparte

attentamente

alzò

urinated over the plans, and walked out without **uttering** a word.

The whole farm was deeply divided on the subject of the windmill. Snowball did not deny that to build it would be a difficult business. Stone would have to be carried and built up into walls, then the **sails** would have to be made and after that there would be need for dynamos and **cables**. (How these were to be procured, Snowball did not say.) But he **maintained** that it could all be done in a year. And **thereafter**, he declared, so much labour would be saved that the animals would only need to work three days a week. Napoleon, on the other hand, **argued** that the great need of the moment was to increase food production, and that if they wasted time on the windmill they would all starve to death. The animals formed themselves into two factions under the slogan, "Vote for Snowball and the three-day week" and "Vote for Napoleon and the **full manger**." Benjamin was the only animal who did not **side** with either faction. He refused to believe either that food would become more plentiful or that the windmill would save work. Windmill or no windmill, he said, life would go on as it had always gone on-that is, badly.

Apart from the disputes over the windmill, there was the question of the defence of the farm. It was fully realised that though the human beings had been defeated in the Battle of the Cowshed they might make another and more determined **attempt** to recapture the farm and reinstate Mr. Jones. They had all the more reason for doing so because the news of their **defeat** had spread across the countryside and made the animals on the

dire

vele

cavi
afferitava
poi

discuteva

mangiatoia
prendeva posizione

tentativo

sconfitta

neighbouring farms more restive than ever. As usual, Snowball and Napoleon were in disagreement. According to Napoleon, what the animals must do was to procure firearms and **train** themselves in the use of them. According to Snowball, they must send out more and more pigeons and **stir up** rebellion among the animals on the other farms. The one **argued** that if they could not defend themselves they were **bound to** be conquered, the other argued that if rebellions happened everywhere they would have no need to defend themselves. The animals listened first to Napoleon, then to Snowball, and could not **make up** their minds which was right; **indeed**, they always found themselves in agreement with the one who was speaking at the moment.

At last the day came when Snowball's plans were completed. At the Meeting on the following Sunday the question of whether or not to begin work on the windmill was to be put to the vote. When the animals had assembled in the big barn, Snowball stood up and, though occasionally interrupted by bleating from the sheep, **set forth** his reasons for **advocating** the building of the windmill. Then Napoleon stood up to reply. He said very quietly that the windmill was nonsense and that he advised nobody to vote for it, and promptly sat down again; he had spoken for **barely** thirty seconds, and seemed almost indifferent as to the effect he produced. At this Snowball **sprang** to his feet, and **shouting down** the sheep, who had begun bleating again, broke into a passionate **appeal** in favour of the windmill. Until now the animals had been about equally divided in their sympathies, but in a moment Snowball's eloquence had carried them away. In **glowing sentences** he painted a picture of

allenarsi

sobillare

discuteva

destinati

decidere / veramente

espose / promuovendo

appena

saltò

gridando per azzittire

appello

brillanti frasi

Animal Farm as it might be when **sordid** labour was lifted from the animals' backs. His imagination had now run far beyond chaff-cutters and turnip-slicers. Electricity, he said, could operate **threshing machines**, ploughs, **harrows**, **rollers**, and **reapers** and **binders**, besides supplying every stall with its own electric light, hot and cold water, and an electric **heater**. By the time he had finished speaking, there was no doubt as to which way the vote would go. But just at this moment Napoleon stood up and, **casting** a peculiar **sidelong** look at Snowball, **uttered** a high-pitched whimper of a kind no one had ever heard him utter before.

At this there was a terrible **baying** sound outside, and nine enormous dogs wearing **brass-studded** collars came **bounding** into the barn. They **dashed straight** for Snowball, who only sprang from his place just in time to escape their **snapping jaws**. In a moment he was out of the door and they were after him. Too amazed and **frightened** to speak, all the animals crowded through the door to watch the **chase**. Snowball was racing across the long pasture that led to the road. He was running as only a pig can run, but the dogs were close on his **heels**. Suddenly he **slipped** and it seemed certain that they had him. Then he was up again, running faster than ever, then the dogs were **gaining on** him again. One of them **all but** closed his jaws on Snowball's tail, but Snowball whisked it free just in time. Then he put on an extra **spurt** and, with **a few inches to spare**, slipped through a hole in the hedge and was seen no more.

Silent and terrified, the animals crept back into the

sordide

trebbiatrice

frangizolle / rulli mietitori

riscaldatore

gettò

di sbieco / preferì

tono

abbaiare

tempestato di ottone

muovendosi / corsero

direttamente

mandibole

spaventati

inseguimento

talloni

scivolò

guadagnando terreno

quasi

scatto / quando gli mancava poco

barn. In a moment the dogs came **bounding** back. At first no one had been able to imagine where these creatures came from, but the problem was soon solved: they were the **puppies** whom Napoleon had taken away from their mothers and **reared** privately.

Though not yet full-grown, they were huge dogs, and as **fierce**-looking as **wolves**. They **kept close** to Napoleon. It was noticed that they **wagged** their tails to him in the same way as the other dogs had been used to do to Mr. Jones.

Napoleon, with the dogs following him, now mounted on to the raised portion of the floor where Major had previously stood to deliver his speech. He announced that from now on the Sunday-morning Meetings would come to an end. They were unnecessary, he said, and wasted time. In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs, presided over by himself. These would meet in private and afterwards communicate their decisions to the others. The animals would still assemble on Sunday mornings to salute the flag, sing Beasts of England, and receive their orders for the week; but there would be no more debates.

In spite of the shock that Snowball's expulsion had given them, the animals were **dismayed** by this announcement. Several of them **would have** protested if they could have found the right arguments. Even Boxer was vaguely **troubled**. He **set** his ears back, **shook** his forelock several times, and tried hard to **marshal** his **thoughts**; but in the end he could not think of anything to say. Some of the

saltellando

cuccioli
allevaresebbene
selvaggio / lupi / tenero vicino
scodinzolavanononostante
scioccati
avrebberoturbato
mise / scosso
mise insieme i suoi pensieri

pigs themselves, however, were more articulate. Four young porkers in the front row uttered shrill squeals of disapproval, and all four of them sprang to their feet and began speaking at once. But suddenly the dogs sitting round Napoleon let out deep, menacing growls, and the pigs fell silent and sat down again. Then the sheep broke out into a tremendous bleating of "Four legs good, two legs bad!" which went on for nearly a quarter of an hour and put an end to any chance of discussion.

Afterwards Squealer was sent round the farm to explain the new arrangement to the others.

"Comrades," he said, "I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Comrade Napoleon has made in taking this extra labour upon himself. Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is a pleasure! On the contrary, it is a deep and heavy responsibility. No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be? Suppose you had decided to follow Snowball, with his moonshine of windmills-Snowball, who, as we now know, was no better than a criminal?"

"He fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed," said somebody.

"Bravery is not enough," said Squealer. "Loyalty and obedience are more important. And as to the Battle of the Cowshed, I believe the time will come when

fila emisero acuti strilli

fecero uscire
ringhi

combatté
in quanto a

we shall find that Snowball's part in it was much exaggerated. Discipline, comrades, iron discipline! That is the **watchword** for today. One false step, and our enemies would be upon us. Surely, comrades, you do not want Jones back?"

parola d'ordine

Once again this argument was unanswerable. Certainly the animals did not want Jones back; if the holding of debates on Sunday mornings **was liable** to bring him back, then the debates must stop. Boxer, who had now had time to **think things over**, voiced the general feeling by saying: "If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right." And from then on he adopted the maxim, "Napoleon is always right," in addition to his private motto of "I will work harder."

poteva essere il colpevole

riflettere

By this time the **weather had broken** and the spring ploughing had begun. The shed where Snowball had drawn his plans of the windmill had been shut up and it was **assumed** that the plans had been **rubbed off** the floor. Every Sunday morning at ten o'clock the animals assembled in the big barn to receive their orders for the week. The skull of old Major, now clean of flesh, had been **disinterred** from the orchard and set up on a **stump** at the foot of the flagstaff, beside the gun. After the **hoisting** of the flag, the animals were required to file past the skull in a reverent manner before entering the barn. Nowadays they did not sit all together as they had done in the past. Napoleon, with Squealer and another pig named Minimus, who had a **remarkable** gift for composing songs and poems, sat on the front of the raised platform, with the nine young dogs forming a semicircle round them, and the other pigs sitting behind. The rest of the animals sat facing

migliorare

si pensava / cancellato

dissotterrato

troncato

alzabandiera

degno di

them in the **main body** of the barn. Napoleon read out the orders for the week in a **gruff soldierly** style, and after a single singing of Beasts of England, all the animals dispersed.

On the third Sunday after Snowball's expulsion, the animals were **somewhat** surprised to hear Napoleon announce that the windmill was to be built after all. He did not give any reason for having **changed his mind**, but **merely** warned the animals that this extra task would mean very hard work, it might even be necessary to reduce their rations. The plans, however, had all been prepared, down to the last detail. A special committee of pigs had been at work upon them for the past three weeks. The building of the windmill, with various other improvements, was expected to take two years.

That evening Squealer explained privately to the other animals that Napoleon had never in reality been opposed to the windmill. On the contrary, it was he who had advocated it in the beginning, and the plan which Snowball had drawn on the floor of the incubator shed had **actually** been stolen from among Napoleon's papers. The windmill was, in fact, Napoleon's own creation. Why, then, asked somebody, had he spoken so strongly against it? Here Squealer looked very **sly**. That, he said, was Comrade Napoleon's **cunning**. He had seemed to oppose the windmill, simply as a manoeuvre **to get rid of** Snowball, who was a dangerous character and a bad influence. Now that Snowball was out of the way, the plan could go forward without his interference. This, said Squealer, was something called tactics. He repeated a number of times,

alquanto

cambiò idea
semplicemente

veramente

falso
furbo
di disfarsi di

"Tactics, comrades, tactics!" skipping round and whisking his tail with a merry laugh. The animals were not certain what the word meant, but Squealer spoke so persuasively, and the three dogs who happened to be with him growled so threateningly, that they accepted his explanation without further questions.

allegro

ringhiarono / minacciosamente