

Chapter 10

YEARS passed. The seasons came and went, the short animal lives **fled by**. A time came when there was no one who remembered the old days before the Rebellion, except Clover, Benjamin, Moses the **raven**, and a number of the pigs.

Muriel was **dead**; Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher were dead. Jones too was dead—he had died in an **inebriates'** home in another part of the country. Snowball was **forgotten**. Boxer was forgotten, except by the few who had known him. Clover was an old **stout mare** now, **stiff in the joints** and with a tendency to **rheumy** eyes. She was two years past the retiring age, but in fact no animal had ever **actually** retired. The talk of **setting aside** a corner of the pasture for **superannuated** animals had **long since** been **dropped**. Napoleon was now a mature **boar** of twenty-four **stone**. Squealer was so fat that he could with difficulty see out of his eyes. Only old Benjamin was much the same as ever, except for being a little greyer about the **muzzle**, and, since Boxer's death, more **morose** and taciturn **than ever**.

There were many more creatures on the farm now, **though** the **increase** was not so great as had been expected in earlier years. Many animals had been born to whom the Rebellion was only a **dim** tradition, passed on by **word of mouth**, and others had been bought who had never heard mention of such a thing before their arrival. The farm possessed three horses now **besides** Clover. They were fine **upstanding** beasts, **willing** workers and good comrades, but very stupid. None of them **proved able** to learn the alphabet **beyond** the letter B.

passarono (in fretta)

corvo

morto

alcolizzati

dimenticato

robusta cavalla / rigida nelle articolazioni

mucosi

veramente

mettere da parte

molto vecchi da molto tempo

abbandonata / cinghiale

stone = 6,35 kg.

muso

depresso / che mai

sebbene / aumento

opaca

per bocca

oltre

di bell'aspetto / volenterosi

si dimostrò

capace / oltre

They accepted everything **that they were told** about the Rebellion and the principles of Animalism, especially from Clover, for whom they had an almost filial respect; but it was **doubtful whether** they understood very much of it.

che gli era detto

The farm was more prosperous now, and better organised: it had even been enlarged by two fields which had been bought from Mr. Pilkington. The windmill had been successfully completed at last, and the farm possessed a **threshing machine** and a **hay elevator** of its own, and various new buildings had been added to it. Whymper had bought himself a **dogcart**. The windmill, **however**, had not after all been used for generating **electrical power**. It was used for **milling corn**, and brought in a handsome money profit. The animals were hard at work building yet another windmill; when that one was finished, so it was said, the dynamos would be installed. But the luxuries of which Snowball had once taught the animals to dream, the **stalls** with electric light and hot and cold water, and the three-day week, were **no longer** talked about. Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The truest happiness, he said, **lay** in working hard and living frugally.

dubbioso / se

*trebbiatrice
elevatore di fieno*

*calesse / tuttavia
energia elettrica
macinare cereali*

stalle

non più

giaceva (si trovava)

Somehow it seemed **as though** the farm had **grown** richer without making the animals themselves any richer-except, of course, for the pigs and the dogs. Perhaps this was **partly** because there were so many pigs and so many dogs. It was not that these creatures did not work, after their **fashion**. There was, **as** Squealer was never tired of explaining, **endless** work in the supervision and organisation of

in qualche modo / come se / diventata

in parte

*modo
come
senza fine*

the farm. Much of this work was of a kind that the other animals were too ignorant to understand. For example, Squealer told them that the pigs had to **expend** enormous labours every day upon mysterious things called "files," "reports," "**minutes**," and "memoranda." These were large **sheets** of paper which had to be **closely covered** with writing, and as soon as they were so covered, they were **burnt** in the furnace. This was of the highest importance for the **welfare** of the farm, Squealer said. But still, neither pigs nor dogs produced any food by their own labour; and there were very many of them, and their appetites were always good.

As for the others, their life, **so far as they knew**, was as it had always been. They were generally hungry, they slept on **straw**, they drank from the **pool**, they laboured in the **fields**; in winter they were **troubled** by the cold, and in summer by the **flies**. Sometimes the older ones among them **racked** their dim memories and tried to determine whether in the early days of the Rebellion, when Jones's expulsion was still recent, things had been better or worse than now. They could not remember. There was nothing with which they could compare their present lives: they had nothing to go upon except Squealer's lists of **figures**, which invariably demonstrated that everything was getting **better and better**. The animals found the problem insoluble; in any case, they had little time for **speculating** on such things now. Only old Benjamin professed to remember every **detail** of his long life and to know that things never had been, nor ever could be much better or much worse - hunger, **hardship**, and **disappointment** being, so he said, the unalterable law of life.

<i>eseguire</i>
<i>appunti</i>
<i>fogli</i>
<i>attentamente riempiti (lett. coperti)</i>
<i>bruciati</i>
<i>benestare</i>
<i>in quanto a / per quanto sapessero</i>
<i>paglia / stagno</i>
<i>campi / infastiditi</i>
<i>mosche</i>
<i>rastrellavano</i>
<i>numeri</i>
<i>sempre meglio</i>
<i>ragionare</i>
<i>dettaglio</i>
<i>stenti / disillusione</i>

And yet the animals never gave up hope. More, they never lost, even for an instant, their sense of honour and privilege in being members of Animal Farm. They were still the only farm in the whole county - in all England! - owned and operated by animals. Not one of them, not even the youngest, not even the newcomers who had been brought from farms ten or twenty miles away, ever ceased to marvel at that. And when they heard the gun booming and saw the green flag fluttering at the masthead, their hearts swelled with imperishable pride, and the talk turned always towards the old heroic days, the expulsion of Jones, the writing of the Seven Commandments, the great battles in which the human invaders had been defeated. None of the old dreams had been abandoned. The Republic of the Animals which Major had foretold, when the green fields of England should be untrodden by human feet, was still believed in. Some day it was coming: it might not be soon, it might not be within the lifetime of any animal now living, but still it was coming. Even the tune of Beasts of England was perhaps hummed secretly here and there: at any rate, it was a fact that every animal on the farm knew it, though no one would have dared to sing it aloud. It might be that their lives were hard and that not all of their hopes had been fulfilled; but they were conscious that they were not as other animals. If they went hungry, it was not from feeding tyrannical human beings; if they worked hard, at least they worked for themselves. No creature among them went upon two legs. No creature called any other creature "Master." All animals were equal.

tuttavia / smisero di sperare

*posseduta e gestita
nemmeno*

*mai cessarono di meravigliarsi
sparare
svolazzando sulla cima dell'asta
si gonfiavano con perenne orgoglio*

*invasori
sconfitti*

*predetto
non calpestati*

*canticchiato
ad ogni modo
avrebbe osato*

appagati

One day in early summer Squealer ordered the sheep to follow him, and **led them** out to a piece of **waste ground** at the other end of the farm, which had become overgrown with **birch saplings**. The sheep spent the whole day there **browsing** at the **leaves** under Squealer's supervision. In the evening he returned to the farmhouse himself, but, as it was warm weather, told the sheep to stay where they were. It ended by their remaining there for a whole week, during which time the other animals saw nothing of them. Squealer was with them for the greater part of every day. He was, he said, teaching them to sing a new song, for which privacy was needed.

It was just after the sheep had returned, on a pleasant evening when the animals had finished work and were making their way back to the farm buildings, that the terrified **neighing** of a horse sounded from the yard. **Startled**, the animals stopped in their **tracks**. It was Clover's voice. She neighed again, and all the animals broke into a gallop and **rushed** into the yard. Then they saw what Clover had seen.

It was a pig walking on his **hind** legs.

Yes, it was Squealer. A little **awkwardly**, as though not quite used to supporting his considerable **bulk** in that position, but with perfect **balance**, he was **strolling** across the yard. And a moment later, out from the door of the farmhouse came a long **file** of pigs, all walking on their hind legs. Some did it better

*le portò
terreno incolto
piantine di betulle
brucando / foglie*

*nitrire
sorpresi
posti
si precipitarono*

*posteriori
“impacciata mene”, come se
non del tutto abituato / mole
equilibrio
camminando
fila*

than others, one or two were even a trifle unsteady and looked as though they would have liked the support of a stick, but every one of them made his

way right round the yard **successfully**. And finally there was a tremendous **baying** of dogs and a **shrill crowing** from the black cockerel, and out came Napoleon himself, majestically **upright, casting haughty glances** from side to side, and with his dogs **gambolling** round him.

He carried a **whip** in his trotter.

There was a **deadly** silence. **Amazed**, terrified, **huddling** together, the animals watched the long line of pigs march slowly round the yard. It was as though the world had turned **upside-down**. Then there came a moment when the first shock had **worn off** and when, **in spite of** everything - in spite of their terror of the dogs, and of the **habit**, developed **through** long years, of never complaining, never criticising, **no matter what** happened - they might have **uttered** some word of protest. But just at that moment, as though at a signal, all the sheep **burst out** into a tremendous **bleating** of-

"Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better!"

It went on for five minutes without stopping. And by the time the sheep had **quieted down**, the chance to utter any protest had passed, **for** the pigs had marched back into the farmhouse.

Benjamin felt a **nose nuzzling** at his **shoulder**. He looked round. It was Clover. Her old eyes looked dimmer than ever. Without saying anything, she **tugged** gently at his **mane** and led him round to the end of the big barn, where the Seven

un po' malfermo (instabile)

si fece strada

con successo

guaire / acuto

canto

diritto, gettando

altezzosi sguardi

saltellando

frusta / piede

mortale / stupefatti

ammucchiati

sottosopra

passato

nonostante

abitudine

attraverso (durante)

non importa cosa

detta

scoppiarono (proruppero)

belare

calmate

perchè

un naso strofinandosi / spalla

tirò / criniera

Commandments were written. For a minute or two they stood **gazing** at the **tatted** wall with its white lettering.

"My **sight** is failing," she said finally. "Even when I was young I could not have read what was written there. But it appears to me that that wall **looks** different. Are the Seven Commandments the same as they **used to be**, Benjamin?"

For once Benjamin consented to break his **rule**, and he **read out** to her what was written on the wall. There was nothing there now except a single Commandment. It **ran**:

ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN
OTHERS

After that it did not seem strange when next day the pigs who were supervising the work of the farm all carried whips in their trotters. It did not seem strange to learn that the pigs had bought themselves a **wireless set**, were arranging to install a telephone, and had taken out **subscriptions** to John Bull, TitBits, and the Daily Mirror. It did not seem strange when Napoleon was seen strolling in the farmhouse garden with a **pipe** in his mouth - no, not even when the pigs took Mr. Jones's clothes out of the **wardrobes** and put them on, Napoleon himself appearing in a black coat, **ratcatcher breeches**, and **leather leggings**, while his favourite **sow** appeared in the watered silk dress which Mrs. Jones had been used to wear on Sundays.

A week later, in the afternoon, a number of **dogcarts**

osservando / rattoppato

vista

sembra

solevano essere

regola

lesse a voce alta

diceva

una radio (wireless = senza fili)
abbonamenti

pipa

armadi

abito da caccia

gambali di pelle / scrofa

calessi

drove up to the farm. A **deputation** of neighbouring farmers had been invited to make a tour of inspection. They were shown all over the farm, and expressed great admiration for everything they saw, especially the windmill. The animals were **weeding** the **turnip** field. They worked diligently **hardly raising** their faces from the ground, and not knowing whether to be more **frightened** of the pigs or of the human visitors.

That evening loud **laughter** and bursts of singing came from the farmhouse. And suddenly, at the sound of the **mingled** voices, the animals were **stricken** with curiosity. What could be happening in there, now that for the first time animals and human beings were meeting on terms of equality? With one accord they began **to creep** as quietly as possible into the farmhouse garden.

At the gate they paused, half frightened to go on but Clover led the way in. They **tiptoed** up to the house, and such animals as were tall enough **peered** in at the dining-room window. There, round the long table, sat half a dozen farmers and half a dozen of the more eminent pigs, Napoleon himself occupying the seat of honour at the head of the table. The pigs appeared completely **at ease** in their chairs. The company had been enjoying a game of cards but had broken off for the moment, evidently **in order to drink a toast**. A large **jug** was circulating, and the **mugs** were being refilled with beer. No one noticed the **wondering** faces of the animals that gazed in at the window.

delegazione

gli fu mostrato

mondando

rapa / appena alzando

spavenati

risa

mischiare

colpiti

strisciare

camminarono in punta di piedi
sbirciarono

a loro agio

per

fare un brindisi / boccale

boccali / riempiti nuovamente
meravigliate

Mr. Pilkington, of Foxwood, had stood up, his mug in his hand. In a moment, he said, he would ask the present company to drink a toast. But before doing so, there were a few words that he felt it incumbent upon him to say.

It was a **source** of great satisfaction to him, he said - and, he was sure, to all others present - to feel that a long period of **mistrust** and **misunderstanding** had now come to an end. There had been a time - not that he, or any of the present company, had **shared** such sentiments - but there had been a time when the respected proprietors of Animal Farm had been **regarded**, he would not say with hostility, but perhaps with a certain measure of **misgiving**, by their human neighbours. Unfortunate incidents had occurred, mistaken ideas had been current. It had been felt that the existence of a farm **owned** and operated by pigs was **somehow** abnormal and was **liable** to have an **unsettling** effect in the neighbourhood. Too many farmers had **assumed**, without **due enquiry**, that on such a farm a spirit of **licence** and indiscipline **would prevail**. They had been nervous about the effects upon their own animals, or even upon their human **employees**. But all such **doubts** were now dispelled. Today he and his friends had visited Animal Farm and inspected every inch of it with their own eyes, and what did they find? Not only the most **up-to-date** methods, but a discipline and an **orderliness** which should be an example to all farmers everywhere. He believed that he was right in saying that the **lower** animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the county. **Indeed**, he and his fellow-visitors today had observed many **features**

fonte

sfiducia / incomprensione

condiviso

considerati

sospetto

posseduta

in qualche modo

colpevole / perturbante

supposto

dovuta investigazione

sregolatezza / prevarrebbe

impiegati

dubi / chiariti

moderni

ordine

inferiori

veramente

carteristiche

which they intended to introduce on their own farms immediately.

He would end his **remarks**, he said, by **emphasising** once again the friendly feelings that **subsisted**, and **ought** subsist, between Animal Farm and its neighbours. Between pigs and human beings there was not, and there need not be, any **clash** of interests **whatever**. Their **struggles** and their difficulties were one. Was not the labour problem the same everywhere? Here it became apparent that Mr. Pilkington **was about to spring** some carefully prepared **witticism** on the company, but for a moment he was too **overcome** by **amusement** to be able to utter it. After much **choking**, during which his various **chins turned purple**, he managed to get it out: "If you have your lower animals to contend with," he said, "we have our lower classes!" This **bon mot** set the table in a **roar**; and Mr. Pilkington once again congratulated the pigs on the low rations, the long working hours, and the general absence of **pampering** which he had observed on Animal Farm.

And now, he said finally, he would ask the company **to rise to their feet and make certain** that their glasses were full. "Gentlemen," concluded Mr. Pilkington, "gentlemen, I give you a toast: To the prosperity of Animal Farm!"

There was enthusiastic **cheering and stamping** of feet. Napoleon was so **gratified** that he left his place and came round the table to clink his mug against Mr. Pilkington's before **emptying it**. When the cheering had **died down**, Napoleon, who had remained on his

osservazioni / enfatizzando esistevano dovrebbero

scontro affatto / lotte

stava per saltare spiritosaggine sovrastato / divertimento soffocamento menti diventarono violacei

battuta spiritosa fragore di risate

coccolamenti

mettersi in piedi e assicurarsi

applaudire e battere gratificato (soddisfatto)

svuotarlo finito

feet, **intimated** that he too had a few words to say.

Like all of Napoleon's **speeches**, it **was short and to the point**. He too, he said, was happy that the period of misunderstanding was at an end. For a long time there had been **rumours** - circulated, he had reason to think, by some malignant enemy - that there was something subversive and even revolutionary in the **outlook** of himself and his colleagues. **They had been credited with attempting to stir up rebellion** among the animals on neighbouring farms. Nothing could be **further** from the truth! Their **sole wish**, now and in the past, was to live at peace and in normal business relations with their neighbours. This farm which he had the honour to control, he added, was a co-operative enterprise. The **title-deeds**, which were in his own possession, were owned by the pigs **jointly**.

He did not believe, he said, that any of the old **suspicions** still **lingered**, but certain changes had been made recently in the routine of the farm which should have the effect of promoting confidence **still further**. **Hitherto** the animals on the farm had had a rather foolish **custom of addressing** one another as "Comrade." This was to be suppressed. There had also been a very strange custom, whose origin was unknown, of marching every Sunday morning **past** a boar's **skull** which was **nailed to a post** in the garden. This, too, would be suppressed, and the skull had already been **buried**. His visitors might have observed, too, the green flag which flew from the masthead. If so, they would perhaps have noted that the white **hoof and horn** with which it had previously been marked had now been removed. It would be a

spinto

discorsi, venne presto al punto

dicerie

atteggiamento

gli si era attribuito di tentare di fomentare

più lontano / solo desiderio

azioni

in comune

sospetti / sussistevano

ancora di più

finora

abitudine di rivolgersi

accanto

teschio / inchiodato a un palo

seppellito

zoccolo e corno

plain green flag from now onwards.

d'ora in avanti

He had only one criticism, he said, to make of Mr. Pilkington's excellent and neighbourly speech. Mr. Pilkington had referred throughout to "Animal Farm." He could not of course know - **for** he, Napoleon, was only now for the first time announcing it - that the name "Animal Farm" had been abolished.

perché

Henceforward the farm was to be known as "The Manor Farm" - which, he believed, was its correct and original name.

d'ora in avanti

"Gentlemen," concluded Napoleon, "I will give you the same toast as before, but in a different form. Fill your glasses to the **brim**. Gentlemen, here is my toast: To the prosperity of The Manor Farm! "

orlo

There was the same **hearty** cheering as before, and the mugs were emptied **to the dregs**. But as the animals outside gazed at the scene, it seemed to them that some strange thing was happening. What was it that had **altered** in the faces of the pigs?

caloroso, esuberante

fino all'ultima goccia (dregs = sedimento)

Clover's old dim eyes **flitted** from one face to another. Some of them had five **chins**, some had four, some had three. But what was it that seemed to be **melting** and changing? Then, the applause having come to an end, the company took up their cards and continued the game that had been interrupted, and the animals crept silently away.

alterato

si mossero velocemente

menti

fondersi, liquefarsi

But they had not gone twenty yards when they **stopped short**. An **uproar** of voices was coming from the farmhouse. They rushed back and looked through the window again. Yes, a violent quarrel was in progress. There were **shoutings, bangings** on the

si fermarono di colpo / frastuono

grida / sbattere

table, sharp suspicious glances, furious denials. The source of the trouble appeared to be that Napoleon and Mr. Pilkington had each played an ace of spades simultaneously.

Twelve voices were shouting in anger, and they were all alike. No question, now, what had happened to the faces of the pigs. The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.

penetranti sguardi sospetti / smentite origine, causa asso di spade

uguali / non c'era dubbio

era impossibile distinguere un uomo da un maiale

