

Eighth Lecture

♣ Chapter Two

- ✓ This is the real beginning of the plot.
- ✓ The real complications.
- ✓ Animals are plotting against Mr Jones.
- ✓ We gather that from now on a real challenge is confronting animals.
- ✓ We have no idea about what is going to happen on the farm. A lot of suspense.

♣ Orwell as an Artist

_ Orwell is a real artist:

_ He has already established the form and the content of the novel in our minds in the very early chapters. He has left us with the idea of parallelism, of the existence of an ulterior meaning behind the events taking place to animals.

_ We should not be fooled into believing that the story just talks about animals: another deeper meaning is there all the time.

♣ Old Major Dies three Nights After his Famous Speech

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.**

Question

- ✓ Old Major diesafter his famous speech:
- three Nights
- Three weeks
- Three months
- Three years

Question

- ✓ What happens to animals after the death of Old Major?
- They sit silent for ever
- All of them plan a revolution
- Only the pigs plan a revolution against Mr Jones
- They die out of sadness

Question

- ✓ Why are pigs responsible for leading animals into action?
- They are the cleverest of animals
- Old Major said so before his death

- Animals told them that they are happy with their leadership
- They did so without permission of animals, using force

♣ Verisimilitude again

Snowball and Napoleon have something in common and also something different: They both want to be leaders of animals. They share the struggle for power which we can find in many leaders.

But while one of them is so violent and tends towards action and bloodshed, the other likes education and learning and does not support violence.

This is of course quite realistic.

- This is of course quite realistic as any two leaders of any country must be different altogether. Different and perhaps conflicting.
- Also we begin to feel that Napoleon, who will soon be the only leader of the farm, is characterized by violence and by the hatred of culture and education.
- He is the symbol of tyrants everywhere round the world.

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.

- what is realistic about that?
- In any revolution, some people are expected to have a different point of view, different loyalty. Those who benefitted by the ex-regime like Mollie and those very poor classes lacking education and suffering from poverty insist usually on being loyal to the "Master" and thus they stand in the way of the revolution.
- Quite realistic.

♣ The Plot (Cause and Effect)

Old Major, a prize-winning boar, gathers the animals of the Manor Farm for a meeting in the big barn. He tells them of a dream he has had in which all animals live together with no human beings to oppress or control them. He tells the animals that they must work toward such a paradise and teaches them a song called "Beasts of England," in which his dream vision is lyrically described. The animals greet Major's vision with great enthusiasm. When he dies only three nights after the meeting, three younger pigs—Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer—formulate his main principles into a philosophy called Animalism.

Late one night, the animals manage to defeat the farmer Mr. Jones in a battle, running him off the land. They rename the property Animal Farm and dedicate themselves to achieving Major's dream. The cart-horse Boxer devotes himself to the cause with particular zeal, committing his great strength to the prosperity of the farm and adopting as a personal maxim the affirmation "I will work harder."

At first, Animal Farm prospers. Snowball works at teaching the animals to read, and Napoleon takes a group of young puppies to educate them in the principles of Animalism. When Mr. Jones reappears to take back his farm, the animals defeat him again, in what comes to be known as the Battle of the Cowshed, and take the farmer's abandoned gun as a token of their victory. As time passes, however, Napoleon and Snowball increasingly quibble over the future of the

farm, and they begin to struggle with each other for power and influence among the other animals.

♣ Where we Stand

The story takes place on a farm somewhere in England. It is told by an all-knowing narrator in third person. The action begins when the oldest pig on the farm, Old Major, calls all the animals to a secret meeting. He tells them of his dream of revolution against the cruel Mr. Jones. His speech gives the animals a new outlook on life. The pigs, being considered the most intelligent, begin to instruct the other animals. They work out the theory of Animalism, run Mr. Jones off the farm, and post **seven commandments** above the door of the barn. So begins the story.

♣ Stop and Think

- will animals be able to abide by those rules?
- What can help them to abide by them?
- What can lead them to divert from these golden rules?
- What is the message Orwell intends us to grasp behind all this?

The story ends with a new version of the original slogan and one simple commandment.

New Version: Four legs good, two legs better.

THE NEW AND FINAL COMMANDMENT

“ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS.”