



'ANIMAL FARM' AS A POLITICAL ALLEGORY AND ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE- DECODING GEORGE ORWELL'S POLITICAL STANCE

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ABSTRACT:

Both Animal Farm and 1984 make Orwell's political stand unequivocally clear. Orwell was against Britain's alliance with Stalin because after Lenin's death anti-democratic developments in Russia seemed too dangerous to him. He felt that Stalin represented a totalitarian state which was very near to Hitler's hopeless regime. But when he wrote Animal Farm, no one in Britain liked to criticize Russia's political methods because Russia was then Britain's ally and the British were generally full of gratitude and admiration for them for effectively absorbing Germany's strength. Orwell was, however, independent in his thinking. Britain's politicians and the public failed to attract him in joining in their mass- admiration of Stalin. Tom Hopkinson¹tells us of a luncheon in Soho in 1943 during the war time. Everyone there was enthusiastically praising Russia when Orwell, who was also present there, interrupted to ask, " What explanation do you give for the imprisonment of Russian writers?" This unexpected question surprised everyone. It is quite illustrative of Orwell's courage and frankness which he practiced throughout his life.

KEYWORDS: *Animal Farm , criticize Russia's political methods , admiration of Stalin.*

INTRODUCTION :

It is not very surprising therefore that Animal Farm- a classic in modern satire was turned down by many publishers for obvious political considerations. Before it was ultimately brought out by Secker and Warburg in August 1945, no fewer than three publishers had already rejected it and Victor Gollancz had gone to the extent of even advising his fellow-publishers against its publication. Even in the United States the book could see its publication late in 1946, after its initial rejection by at least eight publishers. But all this proved lucky for Orwell as the delayed publication of the book took place in the month of the German surrender and by the time it came into circulation people were beginning to feel quite disillusioned with Russian policy.

Consequently, once published the book immediately became a best-seller. Stalinism's most trenchant critic and champion of liberal democracy, Orwell made his stance clear in his essay 'Why I write'- Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism..."

The story of Animal Farm is very familiar and its allegory quite obvious. The animals of the Manor Farm decide to revolt against its owner Mr. Jones, after Major, the old boar, advises them to fight unitedly against man's tyranny and slavery. In a passionate appeal he calls for a rebellion to enable all animals to lead a happy life, free from all sorts of exploitation. After his great speech he also sings them a song called 'Beasts of England', which throws the animals into the wildest excitement. They learn the song by heart and disperse with a firm resolve to prepare themselves for the great rebellion. The occasion for the revolt comes unexpectedly comes earlier when on one mid-summer evening Jones gets excessively drunk in Willington and fails to turn up at his farm until the following mid-day. When the animals cannot stand it any longer, one of the cows breaks through the door of the store-shed with her horn. At this all the animals rush in to help themselves from the bin. Mr. Jones wakes up and on seeing what is happening around him he at once starts whipping the animals. His four servants also join in the tormenting. This is too much for the starving animals. Although there was no plan for rebellion beforehand, they instinctively fling themselves upon their master and his servants and their unexpected and united attack renders the situation completely out of Mr. Jones's control. He had been used to thrashing and maltreating the animals as he pleased and therefore this sudden uprising of the animals takes him by surprise. He and his men are quite unnerved and have to run away for their lives in a fright.

Thus, the animals become the masters of the farm. They had never imagined that they would seize power so easily. Now they caper with joy and burn everything which could remind them of Mr. Jones. From now onwards the farm is declared to be known as Animal Farm. In their own farm the animals now settle down to work on cooperative basis. 'With' worthless parasitical human beings gone', they work unitedly and happily, enjoying more food and more leisure. They get immense satisfaction from every mouthful of food, which they find is truly their own, "produced by themselves and for themselves, not doled out to them by a grudging master." The following pages of the book introduce us to a large portrait gallery of animals, and, besides the pigs, who being more intelligent and cunning take leadership in their own hands, we meet many interesting characters including Boxer- a well- built horse devoted to hard work, Old Benjamin- a donkey, who is unaffected by the change of events and to each question put to him has to make only one cryptic reply- "Donkeys live a long time"; 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. Mollie, the white mare, much fond of sugar and ribbons, Clover- another carthorse incapable of thinking anything out for himself, and Muriel- the goat, are other notable animals in this vast galaxy which includes hens, ducks, cows, sheep, cats, dogs etc. All of them work together for the prosperity of the farm under the guidance of the pigs who assume leadership, claiming to have superior knowledge. Two leading pigs Napoleon and Snowball take upon themselves the responsibility of supervising the work of other animals. Assisted by Squealer- another intelligent pig capable of justifying almost anything by his arguments, they organize the animals remarkably well and direct them to work according to their capacity. At first everything seems to be going extremely well in the farm where all the animals are promised to be treated on equal terms. Sunday's are declared holidays for all when after breakfast the hoisting of the flag takes place. Their flag is green colored representing the green fields of England, with the hoof and horn painted on it signifying the

future Republic of the Animals' which would arise after the downfall of the human race. They also work out 'The seven commandments' for themselves which run as following:

"THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS"

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is a foe.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a companion.
3. No creature will wear garments.
4. No creature will rest in a bed.
5. No creature will drink liquor.
6. No creature will kill some other creature.
7. All creatures are equivalent."

The pigs take the lead and since no animal wants Jones back, they realize how important it is to keep the pigs in good health. But their leaders snowball and Napoleon differ on matters of policy, and never seem to agree with each other. Unity between them, however, survives until 'The Battle of the Cowshed' takes place.

As it happens, in October Jones makes an attempt to recapture the farm. Accompanied by his men carrying sticks and he himself being armed with a gun, Jones launches an attack on the animals who are already fully prepared to meet such a situation. Snowball leads them remarkably well. His strategy to have an initial retreat on order to create disorder among men succeeds wonderfully. This achieved, he gives the signal for the charge and the horses, the cows and the rest of the pigs, who were hitherto hiding themselves in the cowshed, appear suddenly in a planned way. Simultaneously Snowball himself dashes straight for Jones and, although hurt by one of the bullets on his back, he throws him into a pile of dung. Mighty Boxer, in his very first blow, kills a stable-lad. Soon panic overtakes the men. In utter confusion they drop their sticks and run away and thus within five minutes of their invasion they are chased out of the farm in a very ignominious retreat.

Be that as it may, later the fight the contention among Snowball and Napoleon becomes apparent. The two differ on each point. "Assuming one of them recommended planting a greater grounds with grain, the different was sure to request a greater real estate of oats, and assuming one of them said that such and such a field was perfect for cabbages, the other would proclaim that it was futile for anything aside from roots." Even on the topic of guard of the ranch they are in disagreement:"According to Napoleon, what the animals should do was to secure gun and train themselves in the utilization of them. As indicated by Snowball, they should convey an ever increasing number of pigeons and work up defiance among the animals of different ranches. The one contended that assuming they couldn't protect themselves, they will undoubtedly be vanquished, the other contended that on the off chance that uprisings happened each - where they would have no compelling reason to safeguard themselves."

Their disparities reach a critical stage over the subject of building the windmill to automate the homestead. Napoleon is against the windmill as he cautions that exercise in futility on it might make starving conditions. He underlines the incredible need to build the food creation. Snowball, then again, is all out for the windmill which "would light the slows down and warm them (the creatures) in winter, and would likewise run a roundabout saw, a Chaff-shaper, a mutt slicer, and an electric draining machine. he proclaims that once the windmill was fabricated it would save such an excess of work that the creatures would just have to work only three days per week. Since creatures are profoundly separated on the inquiry it is concluded that the issue be put to cast a ballot at the Sunday meeting.

The general assembly is therefore called. Napoleon fails to make much impact but by his eloquent speech snowball carries the day. "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."

Snowball is confident of his victory but Napoleon has some other plan in mind. Before the animals could cast their vote in Snowball's favor, he stands up to give a signal to his privately tamed dogs.

Now the smearing of Snowball's character starts. The animals are made to believe that in fact Snowball had been in league with Jones from the start. Squealer says that he was no better than a criminal and, when someone points out that he had fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed, he explains: "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 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?"

'Napoleon is always right', in addition to his 'I will work harder.' From now on the Sunday morning meetings come to an end and a special committee, presided over by Napoleon himself, is formed to meet in private and take decisions on all matters relating to the working of the farm. Squealer, as usual, is sent to justify the action. He says: ".....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?....."

Now the cause of whatever goes wrong in the farm is conveniently attributed to Snowball who, it is said, was in league with Mr. Jones from the very start. The climax comes when all are told that in fact Snowball was opposed to the building of the windmill which was originally Napoleon's own project. Snowball had just stolen away the papers of the plan and this act, it is further explained was permitted to him so that they could get rid of him. The bewildered animals are coerced into accepting this explanation by the dangerous growling of the threatening dogs. Meanwhile it is announced that a special committee of pigs has already finalized the plan of building the windmill and that everyone should now be ready for very hard work with willingness to have the rations reduced, if so needed.

The animals are forced to work harder and their life becomes more miserable than even in Jones's day. They work almost like slaves, sixty hours a week. Later they are asked to work on Sunday afternoons as well. "This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half."

The animals feel disturbed as they remember to have passed resolutions banning all dealings with human beings. They recollect having decided never to engage in trade with men and never to use money. Four pigs therefore protest in timid voices against the decision but are soon silenced by the growling dogs. By this time Napoleon and his followers have started living a luxurious life. They have the choicest of food reserved for them. The farm house is also at their disposal which they now use for their residence. They now take their meals in the kitchen and use the drawing room as recreation center. To the amazement of the animals, they also start sleeping in beds. The animals remember a definite ruling against sleeping in beds and to confirm it they go to read the Fourth Commandment which is, however, suitably modified and now reads,

"No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets. They remain confused until Squealer finally convinces them:

"You have heard, then, at that point, companions," he said," that we pigs currently rest in the beds of the farmhouse? What's more what difference would it make? You didn't assume, doubtlessly, that there was ever a decision against beds? A bed just means a spot to snooze. A heap of straw in a slow down is a bed, appropriately respected. The standard was against sheets, which are a human creation. Be that as it may, not any more agreeable than we want, I can tell you, companions, with all the brainwork we need to do these days. You would not deny us of our rest, would you, companions? You would not have us too tired to even consider doing our obligations? Without a doubt not a solitary one of you wishes to see Jones back?"

In the interim by next pre-winter the windmill is almost half-assembled. At this stage it is demolished by a tempest and one morning the creatures witness its horrendous annihilation. They are loaded with incredible hopelessness to observe their work squandered this way. Napoleon visits the spot, periodically sniffs at the ground lastly addresses all the animals:"Comrades," he said unobtrusively, " do you have at least some idea who is answerable for this? Do you know the foe who has come in the evening and ousted our windmill? SNOWBALL!" He out of nowhere thundered in a voice of thunder. "Snowball has done this thing! In sheer danger, thinking to interfere with our arrangements and vindicate himself for his dishonorable ejection, this backstabber has crawled here under front of night and annihilated our work of almost a year. Friends, at this very moment I articulate capital punishment upon Snowball....."

All the animals are shocked to learn that Snowball could be guilty of such a mean action. Meanwhile Napoleon announces that the rebuilding of the windmill will start without delay. He declares that the loss of labor will be made good by working all through the winter, rain or shine.

Napoleon also decides to crush all those animals who offer the slightest resistance to his wishes. He creates quite a terror at a meeting where all those hens, who objected to the seizure of their eggs to be sold out to men, are killed on the spot and the four defiant pigs too are seized by the by the dogs and dragged to Napoleon's feet, along with several others:

"The three hens who had been ring leaders in the attempted rebellion over the eggs now came forward and stated that Snowball had appeared to them in a dream and incited them to disobey Napoleon's orders. They were all slain on the spot. And so, the tale of confessions and executions went on, until there was a pile of corpses lying before Napoleon's feet and the air was heavy with the smell of blood, which had been unknown there since the expulsion of Jones."

Terror- stricken animals remember with dismay the sixth commandment which decreed. 'No animal shall kill any other animal.' they find more words' without cause' now have been added to it.Soon after' by a special decree of Comrade Napoleon' their popular and inspiring song' Beasts of England' is abolished and the animals are henceforth forbidden to sing it. It is replaced by another song.

A couple of days after the fact the pigs track down an instance of whisky in the basements of the farmhouse Napoleon partakes in the beverage. Before long a few booklets on blending and refining are bought and simply seven days after the fact Napoleon provides orders that the little enclosure past the plantation, initially expected to be utilized as a touching ground for creatures, ought to be furrowed up to plant it with grain. One night at around twelve o' Clock creatures surge out of their slows down on hearing something crashing boisterously. Amazingly they find a messed up stepping stool, a lamp, a paint-brush and an upset pot of white paint, with Squealer rambling alongside the mass of the huge horse shelter, where the Seven

Commandments were composed. But old Benjamin, none of the creatures can think about why it was so. Before long a short time later the Fifth Commandment which initially read 'No creature will drink liquor' is viewed as changed to 'No creature will drink liquor to overabundance.'

Except for the pigs, who have established themselves firmly as a superior class, life for all the other animals is indeed very hard. Apart from the work on the farm and the rebuilding of the windmill, they have also to work for the construction of a school-building meant for educating the young pigs. The animals have been promised an old-age pension but in reality, they are disposed of as soon as they become too old to work. One is shocked to learn that even Boxer, the most faithful and hard-working horse, is sold to butchers when he is no longer strong enough to work. The pigs explain to others that Boxer had been sent to a vet's for treatment while he is in fact taken to the knackers. With the money so received the pigs enjoy drinks at a banquet.

The ranch is finally more prosperous when the windmill is finished all things considered. A sifting machine and a roughage lift, other than different new structures, give another look to the ranch which is additionally developed by two fields bought from Mr. Pilkington. The creatures are presently coordinated to buckle down for building one more windmill, which, it is said, will be utilized for introducing the dynamos. The extravagances guaranteed by Snowball on finish of the windmill female as far off a fantasy as ever previously and nobody discusses the slows down with electric light, hot and cold water and the three-day week. Napoleon censures such thoughts as opposed to the soul of Animalism. The genuine and enduring bliss, as per him, lay in dedicated and straightforward living. The creatures are accordingly constrained, as ever previously, to an arrangement of life which keeps them by and large ravenous and exhausted. They need to rest on straw and drink from the pools and are made to live in vomited conditions. Despite the fact that Squealer's arrangements of figures constantly show that they are driving an obviously better life. The fact of the matter is totally different.

Up to this time the great mark of Animalism- 'Four legs good, two legs bad'- had been their slogan. But now pigs start learning to walk on two legs. One day the startled animals watch Squealer strolling across the yard, followed by several other pigs, all walking on their hind legs. Finally, amidst tremendous baying of dogs Napoleon himself appears, majestically upright, carrying a whip in his trotter. Amazed and terrified all the animals watch in deadly silence the long line of pigs. And before they can think of protesting, all the sheep burst out into a tremendous bleating of 'Four legs good, two legs better!' The animals find the motto of Animal Farm now changed which reads-

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

Since then, the pigs supervise the work of the farm carrying whips in their trotters. By now men have given up all hope of recapturing the farm. They therefore come to terms with the pigs on the basis of a policy of peaceful co-existence. As for the animals the pigs prove no better than men. As old Benjamin professes, hunger, hardship and disappointment seem to be the unalterable law of their life.

The pigs have by now managed all modern amenities for themselves. They own a wireless set, arrange for installing a telephone and subscribe to John Bull, Tit-Bits and the Daily Mirror. The pigs now unhesitatingly wear Jones's clothes. Napoleon himself puts on a black coat, ratcatcher breeches, and leather leggings.

Parties of men start visiting the farm regularly. In its concluding pages the book describes a visit of a deputation of neighboring farmers who come on a tour of inspection. The visitors are much impressed. While they admire everything at the farm, the poor animals work diligently,

"hardly raising their faces from the ground, and not knowing whether to be more frightened of the pigs or of the human visitors."

On this very night alliance between Pilkington of Foxwood, representing the human race, and Napoleon is celebrated on a grand scale at an especially arranged great banquet. In curiosity the animals watch through the windows and see that round the long table half a dozen farmers and half a dozen eminent pigs occupy the chairs, Napoleon himself sitting in the Seat of honor. While their mugs are being refilled with beer, Mr. Pilkington stands to propose a toast to the prosperity of the Animal Farm. He congratulates the pigs on controlling and managing their farm wonderfully well. Throughout the proceedings of the banquet, the bewildered animals notice a marked similarity between the pigs and the men, who mix up in a very friendly manner. Their get-together, however, at last proves to be quite inharmonious as they indulge in a violent quarrel and frivolous accusations on their resumption of card playing. It is because "Napoleon and Mr. Pilkington had each played an ace of spades simultaneously." The book ends with the pigs the leaders of the animals- and the men quarreling, and the baffled animals watching the scene quite hopelessly:

" 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."

It is thus clear that the book laments the fate of revolutions in general and the Russian Revolution in particular. Since it has come to be regarded as a classic in modern political satire, its merits are worth examining in detail.

The first thing which distinguishes the book from Orwell's other work is that it is his first attempt at political fiction. It is to be noted here that Orwell was essentially a creative artist and not just a politician. During the early part of his career his initial concern was to succeed as a writer. The social reformer in him was then not so dominant. If we go through his early writings in the *Adelphi*, we shall find them full of literary allusions. It is significant that in one of the issues of this magazine, which otherwise he preferred to write on Lord Byron. But during his later years through his own experience of poverty he had come to realize the necessity of social change which was not possible without political propaganda. He therefore came to accept necessity of the writer's involvement in politics.

His political bias is made clear in **Homage to Catalonia**, his first entirely political book, which he wrote to raise his voice against injustice, and not from purely aesthetic motives. About it he says:"I happened to know, what very few people in England had been allowed to know, that innocent men were being falsely accused. If I had not been angry about that I should never have written the book."(*England Your England, Why I Write*)He makes his motives more explicit when he frankly says:"When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, " I am going to produce a work of art." I write it because there is some lie, I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing.".(*England Your England, Why I Write*)

But had he restricted his talent merely to raising his voice against social and political injustice, he would have ended of as a more pamphleteer. It is also doubtful whether in that case he would have succeeded in winning a sizable audience. Clearly, in both *Animal Farm* and *1984* Orwell had a higher aim. About *Animal Farm* he himself says that in it he tried to fuse the political purpose and artistic purpose with full consciousness of what he was doing. The greatness of the book is not just due to its political ideology; its value lies more in the author's capacity to generate such warmth of literary truth that the ideology of the book fuses completely with the

emotional conflicts of its characters. The book is not just a political book as *Homage to Catalonia* or *The Road to Wigan Pier*, for example, are. It is something more, a finished work of art.

Since literature cannot afford to altogether ignore political developments, which play a dominant and decisive role in shaping the lives of men in modern society, the political novel has come to be established as a literary genre. In a political novel ideology is very important but no less important is artistic presentation. Every novel, to be a work of art, has to present a balanced study of human behavior and feeling, and if it is to be a political novel also it has to assimilate its ideology into the texture of the novel. Since Orwell himself is admittedly well aware of this responsibility, we should try to see how he keeps the balance between his ideology and artifice truth.

The ideology of the book is plain enough. Orwell tells us how leaders, who at first pose as champions of the downtrodden, ultimately capture power to become a new governing class. We are reminded of Orwell's essay on James Burnham where he says that all revolutionary movements and all promises of liberty, equality and fraternity, as also all visions of utopia or a classless society, are in fact nothing but fraud because they merely cover the ambitions of some new class who wants to grab power to govern:

"The masses, it seems, have vague aspirations towards liberty and human brotherhood, which are easily played upon by power-hungry individuals and minorities. So that history consists of a series of swindles, in which the masses are first lured into revolt by the promise of Utopia, and then, when they have done their job, enslaved over again by new masters."

"Power can sometimes be won or maintained without violence, but never without fraud, because it is necessary to make use of the masses, and the masses would not co-operate if they knew that they were simply serving the purposes of a minority. In such great revolutionary struggle the masses are led on by vague dreams of human brotherhood, and then, when the new ruling class is well established in power, they are thrust back into servitude.¹

The ideology of *Animal Farm* centers round a similar revolutionary struggle which is carried through enthusiastically by the masses who are promised social, political and economic justice. Their hopes are, however, belied as soon as the new governing class settles down. Though on one level the book is clearly a satire on all revolutions, a suggestion made in some quarters that *Animal Farm* merely satirizes bureaucracy in general, and does not refer to any particular country, is quite unacceptable. The book refers in unmistakable terms to certain obvious facts of the Russian Revolution.

The moral story is very basic. As displayed in the first pages, the creature partners rehash the outstanding occasions of the October Revolution. Major, Napoleon and Snowball of the story are Karl Marx, Stalin and Trotsky. Significant's talk conveyed at the creature gathering obviously propounds the Marxist hypothesis that society is isolated into two gatherings, exploiters and the took advantage of. It insists that the took advantage of class has no option other than to ascend together and hold onto the 'excess worth' which the exploiters hold deceitfully. In his motivated discourse Major requires a disobedience to dispose of man, the exploiter: "Man is the main animal that burns-through without delivering. He doesn't give milk, he doesn't lay eggs, he is too feeble to even think about pulling the furrow, he can't of run quick enough to get hares. However he is master of the multitude of creatures. He sets them to work, he rewards them the absolute minimum that will keep them from starving, and the rest he saves for himself. Our work works the dirt, our manure treats it, but then there isn't one of us that claims more than his rabbit skin.

31 Second Thoughts on James Purnham' pp. 157-158.

You cows that I see before me, what number of thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? Furthermore what has befallen that milk which ought to have been rearing up durable calves? Each drop of it has gone down the throats of our adversaries. Furthermore you hens, what number of eggs have you laid in this last year, and what number of those eggs at any point brought forth into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to acquire cash for Jones and his men. Also you, Clover, where are those four foals you bore, who ought to have been the help and delight of your advanced age? Each was sold at a year old-you won't ever see one of them again. As a trade-off for your four constraints and all your work in the fields, what have you at any point had aside from your uncovered apportionments and slow down?

The Marxist thesis is further developed when Major suggests remedies for the plight of the animals: "Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only get rid of Man, and much of a talker but has 'a reputation for getting his own way.' He does not form committees or make speeches. But ultimately, he succeeds in capturing power as he manages to expel Snowball out of the farm for- ever with the help of his secret army of fierce dogs.

Soon after assuming power Napoleon comes out in his true colors. First, to everyone's surprise, he reverses his last order. This, he declares, was in fact his own plan stolen away by Snowball. His pretended opposition to it, he further explains, was merely a device (Squealer calls it 'tactics') to successfully expel the 'traitor' Snowball. The incident reminds us of the historical fact that Stalin's programme of industrialization and collectivization was actually taken from 'the platform' of the Trotskyist opposition and it was done after the opposition had been completely suppressed towards the end of the 'twenties. The authors of the policy, as David J. Dallin tells us in his book *The Real Soviet Russia*, were Trotsky, Zinoviev and Preobrazhensky.

Its artistic success, to a large extent, has been attributed to its use of a suitable form. Although Orwell subtitled the book 'A Fairy Story', the reader knows full well that it is written in the tradition of animal fables. One wonders why Orwell calls it 'A Fairy Story' when it does not tell us of either the magical world or fairies. Undoubtedly it is a dream that the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion!"

Once the rebellion is successful and an attack by Jones is beaten off, the dispute between Napoleon and Snowball comes to a head. Most obviously it refers to the Russian Revolution. The controversies over agricultural and industrial priorities are highlighted. Snowball represents Leon Trotsky who as an intelligent speaker and is very enthusiastic about his plans for innovations and improvements on the farm. His ambitious schemes to increase the food production inspire him to the plan of installing a windmill. To achieve this end, he also organizes the animals in various committees which include the Egg Production Committee, the Clean Tail League, The Wild Comrades Re-education Committee and the Whiter Wool Movement. He is always active, energetic and heroic. His gallant fight in the Battle of the Cowshed has made him very popular among the animals. But Napoleon, the Stalin figure, turns out to be shrewder.

The whole fable can thus be easily interpreted in terms of the Russian Revolution. Pilkington and Frederick quite recognizably represent the two groups of the non- Communist powers who make all possible efforts to overthrow the Communist government of the animal farm, and when they fail in their venture, they enter into trade with the animals with shameless opportunism in order to earn whatever profits they can from them. Squealer, fully justifying his name, is the propagandist who can turn black into white by his persuasive speeches. He

represents the henchmen who leave no stone unturned to justify the stand taken by those in power. Orwell's handling of the role of Squealer satirizes the misuse of propaganda by those 'elbowing their way into power'. With Karl Marx, Stalin, Trotsky, the purges and the unexpected reversals of policy all there, the allegory can easily be worked out in full length, with its obvious reference to the emergence of the Soviet Secret Police, the treason trials and perversion of the aims and ideals of the revolution. But it is not just the successful allegory that has made *Animal Farm* such a great book. There are many more important factors, besides its allegory, which account for its literary and artistic excellence.

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