

The Role of Power Politics in George Orwell's Animal Farm

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Abstract:

The creativity is sometimes chronicled as a response of an individual to the happenings, that have strong impact on the society, who is a part of society but remains a non-conformist to the popular ideas. The mode of expressing their ideas depends on the strength of the idea and the writer's choice. A few writers prefer a didactical way in exposing their ideas taking the genre convenient to them. **Animal Farm** an allegorical novella through which George Orwell's interprets the hypocritical nature of men. Though the novella appears to concentrate on Russian revolution and the advent of the communist era, it throws light on the real base on which human nature is built. He portrays the qualities of dishonesty and cunningness, persisting in humans, to animals and tries to convey that the effect would be precarious to human nature and also prophecy the impending doom that would pose a threat to the progress of a healthy society. The catastrophic end which is dictated at the end of the novella is obviously the destiny of any society which does not adhere to the principles of loyalty and honesty. The fable though centres round the animals it keeps alive the basic human sentiments and takes the reader into the world of reality.

Present paper is a humble attempt to expose the moral aspects hidden in the novella. The paper tries to elucidate the contemporary socio-political conditions that influence the nature of man in a society. An attempt is made to understand the true morals hidden in the fable that do apply for the human nature of all ages.

Key words: Hypocrisy, authority, directives, politics

Literature is the documented evidence of man's living. Its primary concern is to portray the changes taking place in social and traditional standards of life with the passage of time. The contemporary literature highlights other concepts like political and economic standards that dictate the ideals of ethical and moral consciousness that are kept alive in the works of current times.

Animal Farm is a parable written by George Orwell. It was first published in England on August 17, 1945. Orwell was a British author and journalist known for his sharp comments of political and social issues. He employs satire and irony as literary devices to portray the events of Russian Revolution. He brings in different qualities of humans in the animals to mock at the narrowmindedness of the policy makers.

The story opens on Mr. Jones's Manor Farm, where the mammals, led by Old Major, a wise old boar, revolt against their human oppressor. Old Major instigates them with the vision of a model society in which animals rule without human intervention. Old Major turns out to be successful rebellious leader as the animals dethrone Mr. Jones .

Under the guidance of the pigs, especially Napoleon and Snowball, the animals form a new government centred on the principles of Animalism. The Seven Commandments, the guiding principles of Animalism, are carved on the barn wall to ensure equality and fairness. The seven commandments are designed in the fashion of ten commandments of Christianity.

The seven commandments:

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal. (Chapter 2: George Orwell's Animal Farm)

These are formulated and altered as per the convenience ruler pigs. As the political leaders who are very sincere in making the party manifesto for gaining the vote bank, pigs to attract the innocent animals but move away from the rule of conduct formulated by them. They prove no better than human rulers. This is equally true with leaders who prophesy great ideals till they come to power but seldom bother to keep up the promises.

The political parties often form coalition governments but once they acquire power, they become selfish and ignore the weaker partners. In the story the power monger pig Napoleon uses other pigs to gain power and pushes Snowball out and declares himself as the ultimate leader. At the end the animals understand that they can no longer identify pigs separately from the humans. The novel ends with the animals looking into the farmhouse, where pigs prove no better than humans in their treachery and in exploiting the weak and underprivileged blowing

death knell to the very purpose of revolution. The way in which the pigs operate the game of revolution stands in true comparison with men exploiting the innocent people in the name of democracy and republic. The attitude of pigs is completely in comparison with humans who do not bother stoop to the act of treachery just to satisfy their selfish gains. This could be analysed in the following aspects of human behaviour.

Direction and Disloyalty:

The pigs in a guise of providing direction in the chaos take the advantage of other animals' innocence. Napoleon, the leader pig takes the help of Snowball in the beginning to gain the support of other animals but pushes him to the side track after getting control over the clan. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" (Chapter 10). Even the policies of the pigs are not intended to improve the conditions in the animal farm they merely take the advantages of the situations and turn them to their benefit. "Man is the only creature that consumes without producing." This clearly explains the nature of man who readily enjoys the fruits of hard work. The pigs in the story also tend to do the same with other animals in the farm. "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." (Chapter 10)

Publicity and Management:

Publicity is the catch word of marketing. The political parties market their ideology through various means. They advocate loyalty in words just to attract the voters and do not hesitate to give up the integrity just at minor provocation. It is an observed fact in politics that the opposing party takes the name of the ruling party for all mis happenings and create hatred towards the leaders in power. Napoleon, the pig uses the same tactics. "Surely, comrades, you do not want Jones back?" The pigs try to mesmerize the mob with their smart and intelligent debate where there lies no chance for them to construe ideas in the light of wisdom. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others". Equally confusing is the statement "Four legs good, two legs better!" (Chapter 10). Animals in the farm are less intelligent to comprehend the statements of this type. The pigs gain currency for their ideology as no other animal in the herd is ready to question the relevance of their statements to the dogmas advocated by the ruler pigs.

The Mortifying Influence of Authority:

The pigs corrupt the power by using it for their benefit. They change the seven commandments for their convenience. They relax all the rules to prove their authority. They promise to establish

democracy but turn into autocrats. More so with leaders who sow the seeds of unrest in the hearts of people with lofty ideals finally give-up the ideology once they come to power. "Power is not a means; it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship." (Chapter 4)

The Shattered Directives:

The pigs change commandments as per their convenience to suit their benefit. The tenets which are applicable to man are held intact but the principles which spoil the benefit of the group especially pigs are altered according to their convenience. These distorted by Squealer under the instructions of Napoleon, to adapt to the actions of the pigs.

1. No animal shall sleep in a bed to "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets."
2. No animal shall drink alcohol to No animal shall drink alcohol to excess.
3. All animals are equal to All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. (Chapter 5: George Orwell's Animal Farm)

This reference is from the changed commandments on the barn wall and illustrates the pigs' abuse of power. It reflects the idea that the initial principles of equality have been corrupted, and a new form of leadership has emerged, contradicting the animals' original goals.

The Role of Fear:

The pigs, Napoleon and Squealer try to create a sense fear in other animal which is essential to keep them under control. Squealer tries to threaten the animals by revealing skill in identifying the traitors. His revelation about the Snowball is in a meant to alarm the animals of against any treachery that ought to set against the rule of Napoleon. "I admonish every animal on this farm to keep his ocular perceivers very wide open. For we have reason to celebrate that some of Snowball's secret agents are lurking among us at this moment." (Chapter 7: George Orwell's Animal Farm). The animals were made to follow the orders by means hook or crooks. They cannot imagine to defy the orders. The fear of getting punished keeps the animals under the spell of obedience without any deviation. "They were given their orders, and they had no choice but to obey them. It was for their own good." (Chapter 7: George Orwell's Animal Farm)

Squealer's Arguments:

Squealer, comparable to Vyacheslav Molotov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was noted for his marvellous diplomatic skills during Stalin's reign, tries to convince the animals that the rulers sacrifice their life for the wellbeing of the ruled. He tries to inspire the animals with his speech and tries to build up their loyalty towards Napoleon. "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?" (Chapter 5)

The Power of Jingles:

It is customary that leaders, in politics, frame some slogans to attract the public. The catch words give them an identity that helps to move into the closer quarters and gain confidence in the masses. The pigs also frame such jingling's which sound great and intimate.

"Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,

Beasts of every land and clime,

Hearken to my joyful tidings.

Of the golden future time." ." (Chapter 1: George Orwell's Animal Farm)

The pigs later change to an anthem that sounds more manipulative and depicting the attitude of rulers who change their words according to the situations.

The Exploitation of the Events in History with a Selfish Motto:

In exact depiction to the human standards the pigs earmark the revolution with an intention to make it a memorable event. "The Battle of the Cowshed, it was called, and it was celebrated every year on the anniversary of the Rebellion. That was our victory. But now, comrades, I will tell you the real secret of the Battle of the Cowshed." (Chapter 4: George Orwell's Animal Farm)

Napoleon's Autocracy:

Napoleon has all the clarity from the beginning of the revolution. He only pretends interest in safeguarding the rights of other animals but in fact he has a hidden agenda from the beginning. This point is also in coincidence with the true spirit depicting the quality of corrupt political leaders who often make a show off public interest but in reality aspire to come to power. "Power is not a means; it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship."

(Chapter 5) This is a frank description of the nature of the leaders.

The Massacre of Untrustworthy Animals:

Napoleon takes steps to keep his crown tight. He takes all the steps to keep himself away from the rebellion group. This again is in tune with the man's attitude. A man in the ruling position does not bother to put the life of many people in risk. He elevates his status to an extent that

his interest is viewed above all, and his life is worth protecting. "They were executed immediately, and fresh precautions for Napoleon's safety were taken. Four sows had confessed to plotting to murder Napoleon." (Chapter 8)

The Aroma of Insurrection:

It is an observed fact that in a country where people fight for freedom remain united till the time they attain common goal, but after the attainment the rulers who take oath of democracy and sing the slogans of republican philosophy turn into one more such monarchs with whom the war is waged. The newly formed government remains partial addressing the benefits of only a limited section of people, but others are victimized to the hegemony. This happens with the animal community in the farm. The pigs become autocrats serving the benefit of a few animals. "The animals were thoroughly frightened. 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." (Chapter 10).

Despotism and Oppression:

It is also one of the features of the governments which raise after the rebellion. Orwell through the story tries to focus on this very fact at various instances. The autocratic tendencies of pigs is well connected to the nature of political leaders who ignore the interest of the public in the name national integrity.

Societal Imbalance:

Societal imbalance is the reason for any civil war that breaks in a nation. The aim of the revolution is to bring equality in different strata of society. In the animal farm the very theme of establishing equality gets defeated. The judiciary which is ought to safeguard the interests of common man is also under the spell of corruption leaving the fate of the individuals at stake. The same philosophy resonates in the empire of Animal Farm. "Some animals being more equal than others" is the apt phrase that sums up the ideology. (chapter 10).

Restriction and Squelching of Opposition:

Restrictions are the general norms imposed on the public to silence the unrest. It is proclaimed with enough zeal to an extent that it is portrayed as if it is a required precaution in pursuit of the common good. "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.

Recurrent Nature of Insurrections:

Rebellions are ought to be organized to bring societal balance and to uphold principles of democracy but in fact the situations take a reverse turn and stop at the same juncture. They end up at the same point from where the event takes place. The pigs prove less efficient and as autocratic as men.

"Animal Farm" remains a timeless and influential work, serving as a cautionary tale about the potential for corruption and tyranny in political movements. The novella continues to be studied in schools and universities for its themes, allegorical elements, and its relevance to discussions about power and governance.

"Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift and "Animal Farm" by George Orwell belong to various genres and were penned in apparently unique historical and cultural contexts. Despite this difference there are some fascinating commonalities between these two works.

In **Gulliver's Travels** Swift satirises human nature through the travels of the protagonist Lemuel Gulliver. The travels unravel the unexpressed nature of human through his sensitive comments. Animal farm contrary to this mocks at the selfish attitudes of men giving them the guise of animals. Orwell depicts Russian Revolution in the story through the revolution in the Animal Farm. He expresses his doubt at the loyalty of the leaders through the character of Napoleon and his team.

Swift adopts a unique way of exposing the human foibles he makes Gulliver's travels as means to explore into society of eighteenth-century English society at the outset and infers the manifestations of European society in general. Orwell directly attacks the authoritarianism and the ascent of Stalinism. His Criticism centres round the corrupt policies and politicians.

In Nineteen Eighty-Four George Orwell focuses on despotism, scrutiny, and the exploitation of integrity the traits that define human character. In the present work he tries show how these qualities get corrupted in the field of politics. There are other works like "**Brave New World**" where the author Aldous Huxley portrays an imaginative society which is dominated technological and psychological forces **Animal Farm** instead speaks of anarchy that is sure to befall due to unchecked force unleashed in the society. In the dystopian novel **Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury portrays a society where there lies no value knowledge and books become extinct a situation precarious to the progress of humanity as a whole.

"**One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**" by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Kafka in the novel **The Trial** presents a picture of an oppressive legal system. Anthony Burgess in **A Clockwork**

Orange examines the penalties of using emotional conditioning to regulate human behaviour. The novella **Anthem** Rand's novella depicts a society where individuality is made prey to conventionality. All these novels fall under the genre of dystopian novel which draw the attention towards the impending doom the society is going to face.

Conclusion:

George Orwell through *Animal Farm* displays his views on human nature. He uses the animal allegory successfully to expose the concerns of prejudice, abuse of power and discrimination in human society. Double standard in moral conception is precarious to any society hence the idea of liberating the oppressed from the hegemony if used for the benefit of a particular sect of people the values like love, truth, sacrifice etc do not have relevance. The people in the governance should be honest and help to build a healthy society otherwise there is every possibility that anarchy would become the order of the day.

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