



Leadership, Power and Authority: Analysing the Relevance of the Novel *Animal Farm*

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Abstract:

Every country has a government, and governments follow a certain ideology. In a democratic country, it is this ideology that helps them come to power. However, the government's ideologies may not cater to all the people of the country because it created for a small group of people for their own convenience. Only a few group of people in power get to impose and practice their ideologies. This will result in the unequal representation of the citizens where certain classes of people remain unrepresented. The paper attempts to analyse the novel *Animal farm* by George Orwell to show how politics is pervasive and how politicians impose their communist ideologies for their own welfare and benefits.

Key words: Politics, government, justice, ideas, generation, equality

Animal Farm is an allegorical novella written by George Orwell. First published in England in 17 August 1945. The book tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmers, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free and happy. The rebellion is betrayed and the farm ends up in a state, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon. The *Animal Farm* as it was published, was treated as a controversial book as it held a mirror up to society. This themes in the book were considered sensitive as it as representative of many world leaders of the time. The themes in this novel can

be applied to every government in the world. This book not discussed Communism but was also against the corrupt politicians in the government. As a result, it was banned in many countries, mainly in the communist countries. It was banned in the Soviet Union, Cuba and China. It was also banned in the United Arab Emirates in 2002 because they felt that the imagery was against Islamic values. This novella not only speaks about politics, it also discusses the importance of fundamentals rights like freedom of speech. It also criticizes the false propaganda of politicians and the impact of political ideologies on the educational system.

From the very beginning, we become aware of the role of education in the *Animal farm*. The Pig considered himself superior and declared the pigs as the intelligent and cleverest among all the animals. After the death of Major, pigs started to leading the farm to development. At the beginning the pigs were good and loyal to other animals and made them believe that they were kind and generous. The pigs tried to fulfill Major's vision on future for that they created seven commandments of Animalism. However, the pigs did not follow the rules themselves. They start demanding privileges for themselves without doing any work. they considered themselves superior to complete the works allotted to them. When it came to their food and survival, they started to abandon the rules they made for themselves and the commandments of animalism. The pigs used their knowledge to deceive the other animals and they started to teach themselves by reading books. Once they got the knowledge of reading and writing, they destroyed the children's book before the other animals get access to it. By using their knowledge and skills that they gained, the pigs started to trade outside the farm which was not the initial plan.

One of the main tenets of Animalism formulated by Napoleon and Snowball was that all animals were equal. In the Manor farm, everybody believed they were equal. But the pig tricks them and makes them believe that they are not capable of anything. By using the less intellectual of other animals they take away the freedom of speech from their life. Napoleon trains nine dogs for attacking the animals who go against him. He would always send them out with the pigs when they went out to make announcements. When the dogs are with the pigs, no one dared to ask questions. This is an example for how the pigs use violent means to control the animals under them. Another unacceptable thing is when the other animals have no access to the school built for the pigs. This inequality among the animals agitates many, however no one dares to speak up against the pigs. The pigs begin to refer to themselves as mind workers to distinguish themselves

from the other animals, who are mainly involved in physical activities. Hence, denied the freedom to speech and education, the animals decide to rebel against the pigs. However their rebellious nature is kept in check.

Another important theme in this novel is false propaganda which is so relevant in contemporary times as well. No one investigates news or its origins. In this novel the work of spreading propagandist ideas is done by Squealer. He makes the animals believe anything with his ultimate convincing powers. First the pigs take away the freedom of speech, perpetuate inequality and prevents them from gaining any knowledge through education. This helps them perpetuate their propaganda easily. When they change the commandments without the knowledge of the other animals, a clever animal in the farm figures out but however, Squealer convince her that she is wrong. The pig uses the same trick to kick out Snowball from the farm. These pigs not only change the commandments but also the song 'Beast of England' which is taught by 'Old Major'. Napoleon abolishes the singing of Beast of England in favor of the new anthem and changes the lyrics which contains a promise never to harm Animal Farm. Napoleon replaces the revolutionary spirit of Beast of England in favor of a new anthem, the lyrics of which contain a promise never to harm Animal Farm. The most unacceptable and of commandments is 'All animals are equal and some animals are more equal'.

In the world most of the leaders turn to dictators because they misuse the power entrusted in them. In the novella, we see how Napoleon is a loyal leader initially. However his thirst for luxurious living corrupts him and his companions. When he becomes used to that life he doesn't want to lose it. So he decides to get full control of the farm not as a leader but as dictator, and for that he needs an army of animals to control it. He instills fear in the residents of Manor farm and through his violent and persuasive nature, he convinces them that it is for their benefit. By evicting anyone who falls out of line, Napoleon becomes a hegemonic ruler.

This novel is still relevant in today's times as it holds a mirror up to society. Event today, there are so many governments around the world who use their military to control their own citizens. They feel betrayed by their own. This subjugation of people by their own rulers and military is against democratic ideals.

This novel Animal farm gives an expanding view of politics. In some countries government is controlled by the private sectors, the people who have money and the resources. By quoting development as their ultimate

aim, they destroy human and natural resources. Favoritism has become the government's middle name. This novel exposes the dark underbelly of the so-called democratic governments of the world.

A government elected by the diverse people of a country must be able to operate without favouring anyone. They should cater to all sections of the society irrespective of the religion, culture, caste, color etc.

Work cited:

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