

From the Perspective of Story's Development of Animal Farm, Analyze What is to Be Overturned

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Abstract: George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a political allegorical novel. It seems that the protagonists are animals, but in fact it reveals the author's criticism and reflection on human society. The story starts from the animals' rebelling, to the pigs in power, to the end the pigs in collaboration with the evil farmers and other evil people. The motif of "overthrow" appears repeatedly, pointing to the ultimate thinking of freedom and equality in the "very disharmonious" pause of "high notes"^[1].

1. Introduction

Although the main characters of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* are all animals, a close reading will reveal that it alludes to people and the real reality. Where there is life, there will be desire. Different desires will inevitably bring contradictions due to their different positions. The price of freedom of one side is often oppression to the other, and this has led to "overthrow". What is to be overturned on earth? Knowing it, could people know the way to completely dissolve "overthrow"?

2. The Beginning of the Story - the Overthrow of Jones

In *Animal Farm*, the farm was originally run by Jones, the owner of the plantation.

Life for the animals under Jones's reign is not good: their food is just enough to keep them from starving, and they are forced to work until exhaustion and the servitude of them becomes the normalcy. Mankind, as the owner of the plantation, never regards them as life, but as a tool full of useful value.

So in that late night barn meeting, the major (an old pig) starts from the hard living conditions of the animals and gives them a "deep" analysis, saying that all their suffering comes from humans. He says: "Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever."^[2]

The Major's words and song deepen the animals' longing for freedom and their hatred for man. Their desire for equality is stirred up and they are plotting a rebellion. Finally, one night, they drive Jones away. The farm seems to belong to the animals.

The animals, abetted by the old Major, overthrow Jones and thus what they consider to be the tyranny of man, the "root of all evil"^[3], which suppresses freedom and squeezes value. Jones, who gives excessive oppression to animals, is an epitome of the "consume-other people's-production"^[4], bloodsucking upper class that is ruling society. They don't care about the sufferings of the common people, only cares about satisfying their own interests and desires. The endless oppression eventually lead to rebellion, which lead to their own destruction. If the Joneses accept the instructions of Mencius and other sages--"The monarch regards his people as trifle, in return, his people regard the monarch as an enemy"^[5], maybe in the end they won't be so sorehead like a dog who lose his kennel. If they do not accept this opinion, they will be overthrown by the people.

3. The Evolution of the Story-Overthrow Snowball and Old "Seven Commandments"

3.1 Force Snowball to Leave -- Clear the Obstacle in the Way to Power

With Jones out, the responsibility of running the farm is taken over by the pigs, who are considered to be the cleverest animals.

But there are two pigs -- Napoleon and Snowball. But they never agree with each other. The reason for their disagreement, in the final analysis, is a dispute over the leadership of the farm. The fight between the two becomes more and more intensified, and finally breaks out at the meeting whose aim is to build a windmill. Snowball's eloquence wins him an overwhelming majority in the polls, but Napoleon sets his ferocious dog free and lets them chase Snowball until he flees from the farm.

Snowball was pushed out from the throne, and Napoleon wins the final victory in the leadership battle. Here is a full metaphor for the unscrupulous means the upper class that is ruling the society taken for the benefits. The taciturn but pragmatic Napoleon defeats the talkative but clever snowball, just as in real life a wily and powerful party defeats a younger and more frivolous one. Overthrowing snowball-style figures also overthrows political opponents, overthrows the obstacle on the way to power.

3.2 Renovate the Seven Commandments - Make Principle Serve One's Own Desire

After getting rid of Jones, the animals establish an agreement "Seven Commandments". For example "7. All animals are equal"^[6], protect the rights and interests of every animal. But later, the original Seven Commandments are overturned by Napoleon.

In order to find an excuse for their own desires, the pigs even revise the seven commandments, such as "No animal shall drink alcohol" to "No animal shall drink alcohol TO EXCESS."^[7] And the pigs even convince the animals that are led by them that the Commandments have always been this way, and that they are simply misremembering them. Give up honesty and integrity and tell lies. The most egregious reversal of the old Seven Commandments is to replace them with only one sentence: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."^[8] To put it bluntly, as the ruling class, pigs are more noble than other animals such as cattle, sheep, horses and chickens. The freedom and equality that the animals have always cherished and have fought for all their lives are already gone.

Overturning the old seven commandments not only means that the ruling class represented by pigs overturns the bondage of their material desires, so that they can enjoy "bed", "clothes" and "wine" without any worries, but also overturns the universally agreed principle of safeguarding the interests of all people and the appeal of equality of all life, making the interests of the authorities higher than those of other individuals.

What are the consequences? Spring passes and autumn passes. "Neither pigs nor dogs has yet produced any food by their own labour; and there were very many of them, and their appetites were always good."^[9] What about other animals? "They were generally hungry" and "in winter they were troubled by the cold".^[10] Isn't this the life that forced the animals to revolt? How on earth can they achieve freedom and equality? And what is it that they have been trying to overthrow to get freedom and equality?

4. The End of the Story -- What Really Needs to Be Overthrown is "the Selfish Desire That Gets the Dominion"

The story ends with the pigs feasting with the animals' supposed enemies, "humans", agreeing that each side of them has an underclass to deal with.

While the tyranny of man has been overthrown, the pigs potentially become new authoritarians, even more excessive than man. Power is not horrible, what horrible is that it provides the best breeding ground for the spread of selfish desires. Once selfish desires take the lead, there will be no public good for the well-being of the vast majority of people, which is the primary purpose of the animals' previous rebellion.

The one to be overthrown is the selfish desire, is the attitude to life which live only for oneself but don't care the well-being of others at all. What really should to be pursued is to live for the common happiness of collective which contains oneself and the others. "We exist for our

fellow-men--in the first place for those on whose smiles and welfare all our happiness depends, and next for all those unknown to us personally with whose destinies we are bound up by the tie of sympathy.”^[11] What is more valuable is that such a life also overturns the callousness derived from selfish desires and has the warmth of life -- love. In reality, our ruling party, “The communist party of China is a political party that seeks happiness for the people of China, has always taken making contribution to human as its mission.” In the fight against COVID-19, China has one of the lowest mortality rates in the world, which is enough to prove it. The Chinese government gives free access to the ventilator to Chinese common people, which costs 50,000 yuan when is used for one time. In the most advanced capitalist country, the United States, this is impossible. The writer think, if the old Orwell see such a socialist politics, his spirit in the heaven probably cannot help overflowing a smile.

5. Conclusion

Through the analysis of the development process of the political allegorical novel *Animal Farm*, it is proved that what really needs to be overthrown is “the selfish desire that gets the dominion”, and the profound thinking about freedom and equality in *Animal Farm* points to the fundamental understanding to the world view. The world view of “pursuing the public good” is the best choice to solve the problem of “overturn”, and the actions of the Chinese government during the epidemic are a good example.

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