



-Tikrit University\ College of Education for Women

-English Department

-Fourth Stage

-Modern Novel

- Manipulations in Orwell's *Animal Farm*

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Pigs' Manipulation of the seven Commandments in George Orwell's novel "*Animal Farm*"

The pigs' descent into corruption is a key element of the novel. Orwell, a socialist, believed the Russian Revolution had been corrupted by power-seekers like Stalin from the start. The animals' revolution is initially led by Snowball, the key architect of Animalism; at first, Napoleon is a secondary player, much like Stalin. However, Napoleon plots in secret to seize power and drive Snowball away, undermining Snowball's policies and training the dogs to be his enforcers. The principles of equality and solidarity that inspired the animals become mere tools for Napoleon to seize power. The gradual erosion of these values reflects Orwell's criticism of Stalin as nothing more than a tyrant hanging onto power through the fiction of a communist revolution. In "*Animal Farm*," the pigs, who represent the ruling class and political elite, manipulate and change the Seven Commandments to consolidate their power and justify their actions. Here's an explanation of how this manipulation takes place:

1. "All animals are equal": This commandment represents the fundamental principle of equality that the revolution is founded upon. However, the pigs gradually alter it to "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." By adding the phrase "but some animals are more equal than others," the pigs create a hierarchy where they place themselves at the top, justifying their privileged status and superiority over the other animals.
2. "No animal shall sleep in a bed": Initially, the commandment prohibits animals from sleeping in beds, as it is seen as a human luxury. However, the pigs later revise it to "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets." By adding

the phrase "with sheets," the pigs redefine the commandment to allow themselves to sleep in the farmhouse beds, which they have modified to resemble human beds.

3. "No animal shall kill another animal": This commandment prohibits animals from killing one another. However, the pigs modify it to "No animal shall kill another animal without cause." The addition of "without cause" allows the pigs to justify their violent actions, such as the purges and executions they carry out to eliminate any opposition or perceived threats to their power.

4. "Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy": This commandment represents the animals' distrust and rejection of humans. The pigs later change it to "No animal shall wear clothes." By altering the commandment, the pigs create a loophole that allows them to walk on their hind legs and eventually wear human clothes, further blurring the line between animals and humans.

5. "No animal shall drink alcohol": Initially, this commandment prohibits animals from consuming alcohol, as it is associated with human vices. However, the pigs later revise it to "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess." This modification allows the pigs to justify their own consumption of alcohol, claiming that they are doing so in moderation and for medical purposes.

6. "No animal shall smoke tobacco": This commandment prohibits animals from smoking tobacco. However, the pigs change it to "No animal shall

smoke tobacco in excess." Like the previous commandment, this alteration provides the pigs with a justification for their own indulgence in smoking.

7. "No animal shall engage in trade": This commandment forbids animals from engaging in trade with humans. However, the pigs modify it to "No animal shall engage in trade with humans without the consent of the pigs." This change allows the pigs to establish trade relations with humans for their own benefit while maintaining control over the other animals' actions.

Through these manipulations, the pigs gradually distort and corrupt the original ideals of the revolution, using the altered commandments to justify their increasingly oppressive and self-serving actions. The changes in the commandments demonstrate how those in power can manipulate language and use it to maintain control over the masses.