

Chapter 4: important Passages

Passage 1

At heart, each of them was secretly wondering whether he could not somehow turn Jones's misfortune to his own advantage.

Questions:

- (i) Is there more than what is apparent in this passage ?
- (ii) Explain how the misfortune of Jones is a cause of both worry and happiness to his counterparts.

Yes, George Orwell here is implicit in his dig at the centres of Communism and Fascism. Germany and Russia despite their pact of co-operation turned hostile and tried to make use of the other's disadvantage to its own advantage respectively.

The message of rebellion through the pigeons of the Animal Farm to the animals across the country incite the animals in Foxwood and Pinchfield to turn defiant. Hence the owners Pilkington and Frederick are worried. But the misery of Jones at the hands of the animals in his farm gives pleasure to them. In case the rebellion spreads, Pilkington and Frederick would lose their mental equipoise because of their easy going nature and lawsuits respectively.

Passage 2

This was what came of rebelling against the laws of nature, Frederick and Pilkington said.

Questions:

- (i) Is what is referred to fiction or fact?
- (ii) Explain the circumstances that lead to the statement.
- (iii) How is the situation viewed first, and how does the view alter its course?

It is all fabrication from Frederick and Pilkington, who in order to get over their own fear of their farm animals jumping to revolt, go about saying that in the Animal Farm there is cannibalism. The punishment is that the animals there torture one another with red-hot horseshoes and have their females in common. This is just to terrorise their own farm animals from revolting.

Both Pilkington and Frederick are very much concerned about their farm animals learning about the rebellion in the Animal Farm. That the animals there manage their own affairs is initially a matter of scorn for them. They laugh it out primarily with pretension. They go about saying that the Manor Farm (they do not tolerate the name Animal Farm) animals are starving to death owing to their revolt. But when they are affirmed of the fact that the animals there do not starve, they go about spreading slanders that the animals of the Manor Farm are indisciplined, punish one another with red-hot horseshoes and indulge in cannibalism.

The situation of rebellion in the Manor Farm (Animal Farm) is treated lightly initially. But when the reality is hard to digest Pilkington and Frederick begin spreading lies about the infliction of misery that the animals there undergo for going against the laws of nature, the law being that animals should always be of service to the humans.

Passage 3

The blackbirds whistled it the hedges, the pigeons cooed it in the elms, it got into the din of the smithies and the tune of the church bells. And when the human beings listened to it they secretly trembled, hearing in it a prophecy of their future doom.

Question:

- (i) What is the reason for the excitement of the birds and the shock of the humans?
- (ii) What do you understand of the outcome of the incident leading to excitement in birds and shock in humans?

The revolt in the Animal Farm results in Snowball's introduction of a liberation song entitled "Beasts of England". The rhythm and rhyme and ideas in the song so captivate the animals and birds in the Animal Farm that they go about chanting it. Particularly the birds find it exciting and sing it wherever they fly. But the song which turns popular sends down fear in humans, particularly the farm owners, about their own future in the event of animals assuming power to manage themselves.

Liberation from bondage is what appears to be imminent for the animals in other farms. This is borne out by the birds of the Animal Farm chanting it everywhere. Damnation is impending to the humans as they would be rid of their power over the animals. Hence their fear. Truly there seems a promise of a topsy-turvy situation.

Passage 4

Snowball, who had studied an old book of Julius Caesar's campaigns which he had found in the farm-house, was in charge of the defensive operations.

Questions:

- (i) What is the warrant for the defensive operations?
- (ii) Enlighten on Julius Caesar's campaigns and the impact of his descriptions.

Consequent to the alarming report of the pigeons by their gestures, the animals in the Animal Farm notice Jones and all his men with a combinatory force of six other men from Foxwood and Pinchfield entering the five-barred gate and coming into the farm. All carry sticks. But Jones is with a gun. As the animals are fully prepared for this kind of assault, all get alert and as instructed by Snowball (whose guide is Julius Caesar) they take positions to counter the onslaught.

Snowball as one of the arch-thinkers of ability in administration chances to read Julius Caesar's account of his campaigns during his war with the Gaelic region. Today's France was part of Gaul in the ancient days. Caesar's descriptions pertain to his strategies, and opinions written in the Latin language. Later these were translated into English. The original Latin descriptions were fixed as the primer of Latin for those who wanted to learn Latin in England' It is said that this academic culture prevailed even until the days of George Orwell in England. Snowball devises his strategies after having been enlightened by Julius Caesar's account and comments.

Passage 5

I had no intention of doing that. I forgot that I was wearing iron shoes. Who will believe that I did not do this on purpose?

Questions:

- (1) Explain the occasion that makes the regret of the sayer.
- (2) What is your opinion about the sayer ?

This is the regret voiced by Boxer on seeing a boy of the Foxwood Farm falling face down in the mud on being stamped by his iron-shoe hooves. All animals, despite their retreat go after Jones and his men and attack them as would be possible within their own fashion. This sends the men panicky. In the yard a boy is on his face down and Boxer tries to turn him over with his iron-shod hooves. Boxer on seeing the boy motionless becomes sentimental and broods saying about his being oblivious of wearing iron shoes.

Passage 6

It was decided to set the gun up at the foot of the flagstaff. like a piece of artillery, and to fire it twice a year - once on October the twelfth, the anniversary of the Battle of the Cowshed, and once on Midsummer Day, the anniversary of the Rebellion.

Questions:

- (i) Explain the propriety of the decision found in the passage.
- (ii) Describe the military decoration prior to the decision to have the anniversary of the Battle of Cowshed.

The battle between the animals and the humans having ended, the former gather the celebrate the victory. The battle is called the Battle of Cowshed, signifying the importance of the cowshed from where the ambush had taken place. As a mark of remembrance over the superiority of their mind and muscle power over the gun, the animals decide unanimously to mount the gun of Jones at the foot of the flagstaff. Jones had his gun pulled off in the melee of the battle. It is decided to fire the gun as a mark of remembrance of the battle and the rebellion that led to the battle.

As regards the military decoration, there are two classes: Animal Hero, First Class and Animal Hero, Second Class'. Because of Snowball's strategy, and Boxer's might in the battle, both are conferred on the former title. A sheep that fell to the gunshot of Jones is remembered movingly, and the conferment of the second honour is done posthumously on the sheep.

