

Animal Farm. Napoleon: A Character Sketch. (4)

Napoleon is the most remarkable of all the characters in Animal Farm, a popular novel of George Orwell. Orwell is recognised as a social critic, a political satirist and a great humourist among the English novelists. His novels present the bitter facts of life. He has created a number of symbolic characters. Napoleon is one of them.

The whole of the plot of the novel is the reflection of Napoleon's character. He possesses all the ~~traits~~ ^{traits} of a leader and within a very short period of time he completely dominates the Animal Farm. He knows how to win common opinion. He keeps his aim before him and moves on ruthlessly for its achievement. When he finds danger from Snowball, he drives him out and becomes the undisputed leader of the farm. As he becomes more and more powerful, his tyranny increases. But, he is so intelligent manipulator that no animal has courage to revolt against him.

Like Mr. Jones, Napoleon also becomes corrupt. He breaks the seven commandments because these are hurdles in ways of his corruption and wild practices. He adopts the complete life style of human beings. He manages to be called father of all

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animals, Terror of Mankind, Protector of the sheep fold, ducklings, friend and the like. His hypocrisy is so blatant that other animals doubt his loyalty and sincerity. Boxer, the most sincere of all animals, often says 'of Comrade Napoleon says it must be true. He is also the most selfish and cunning of all. He sends Boxer to the Butcher's House instead of hospital. His cunningness brings prosperity only to the Pigs. Other animals are in no way better than they had been at the time of Mr. Jones.

M.A. HAQUE

As a matter of fact, through the delineation of Napoleon's character, George Orwell exposes the Russian myth and lashes at the evils of the Revolutionary Socialism. He well points to the single fact power corrupts the rulers and dehumanise them. Old Major (Karl Marx) makes animals aware of their rights. Revolution takes place and Mrs. Jones is expelled out of the Farm. Manor Farm smoothly becomes Animal Farm. But very soon, there erupts a conflict between Snowball and Napoleon to over power the Farm. Napoleon, being more astute and cunning in managing the situation in his favour, de Snowball is finally defeated and driven out.

Napoleon becomes ^(b) a full fledged Dictator like Mr. Jones, Hitler or Franco.

Thus we see that Napoleon's character has been depicted in resemblance to those of the modern leaders who exploit innocent people for their personal aggrandisement. Napoleon stands for Stalin of Russia and displays how Power corrupts the Rulers.

M.A. HAQUE