

Script 9

Animal Farm: The Case of the Missing Milk

Source: Adapted from Animal Farm, George Orwell -public domain

The pigs gathered all the animals to clear up the mystery of where the milk went to. It was mixed every day into the pigs' food. The early apples were now ripening, and the grass of the orchard was covered with windfall apples. The animals had assumed that these would be shared out equally; one day, however, the order went forth that all the windfalls were to be collected and brought for the use of the pigs. At this some of the other animals murmured, but it was no use. All the pigs were in full agreement on this point. Squealer was sent to make the necessary explanations to the others.

"Comrades!" he cried. "You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (this has been proved by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organisation of this farm depend on us. Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back!

Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades," cried Squealer almost pleadingly, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail, "surely there is no one among you who wants to see Jones come back?"

Now if there was one thing that the animals were completely certain of, it was that they did not want Jones back. When it was put to them in this light, they had no more to say. The importance of keeping the pigs in good health was all too obvious. So it was agreed without further argument that the milk and the windfall apples (and also the main crop of apples when they ripened) should be reserved for the pigs alone