

OSCAR COOP-PHANE

Le Procès du cochon



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The Pig's Trial

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Oscar Coop-Phane's allegorical account takes us back several centuries to animal trials, a forgotten practice with much contemporary relevance.

Long ago and far away, a mother left her baby alone for a moment, and an animal devoured his cheek and shoulder. A horde of men quickly caught it and were determined to slay it, but justice is decided in court. Even though the creature was a pig, without a conscience or words to defend itself.

Up until the late 18th century, it was not uncommon for animals to be put on trial. Oscar Coop-Phane shines a light on this forgotten practice while raising issues still relevant today: our relationship with animals, the nature of human justice, our approach to otherness, and more generally, the value of language.

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