

Going from the OED of “A united or organized whole; an aggregate of individuals characterized by some common attribute; a collective mass” I want to look at Animals People as conflict between two bodies, the Kampani and the “organized whole” of the Zafar, Farouq, and all of Animals people. We can see Farouq as “Zafar’s right hand man”. This turn of phrase usually just signifies closeness (literally being on his right , so close he is touching his hand) but as a (unfortunately, in recent political climates) fan of combat sports. I take this to mean he also acts as Zafar’s literal right hand. One of his 8 (9 if we are talking about Lethwei¹) - weapons. Before looking more at analogy that I have perhaps already given up, Zafar is most likely the head of the aggregated individuals, but through the lens of combat, Zafar’s hunger strike would run counter to that - since to lose your ‘head’ or consciousness is to lose the fight – near unilaterally. Thus why I brought up Lethwei, since we must jive the use of the head as the weapon, or equally likely, it is simply wrong to assume the aggregate of individuals as being “headed” especially since in not doing so this contrasts them even further from the Kampani.

Meanwhile the Kampani, the corporation responsible, is surely a body, but perhaps one more like the “Khā-in-the-Jar”, which is even said here “the Chairman of the Board, alias my little two-headed friend. His advice proves that he too is a selfish cunt and that everyone in this world is out for number one. “This is good,” says he, “when Elli doctress is in Amrika, it will give you a chance to get us out of here.” Some days later he informs me he has told the other members of the Board, they’ve passed a resolution welcoming the merger between Somraj and Elli”

This creates an interesting question of not how this fight would play out. A body that is 2 heads on a foetal corpse pitted against a body with a “constant muscular tonus” and no true head.(16) When put like there is no question. The classic analogy of david vs goliath is inverted here, with the weaker ‘fighter’ being the Kampani while the goliath of Animals people wait. It’s “they’ll fight if they are forced to come to the court” so much of the book focuses on this question of will the fight happen - not what will the outcome of the fight be.

¹Lethwei is a martial art that allows headbutts. <https://www.lawrentian.com/archives/1018119>