

The Thief's Story

Hari Singh (The Narrator) Approaches Anil

The narrator met Anil, when was a 15 years old thief. Hari approached Anil while he was watching a a wrestling match. Anil was a tall, thin, easy going and simple type of man. The narrator thought that Anil could be an easy target for him to rob.

The narrator used some flattering words to gain Anil's confidence and soon they started conversing. He lied to Anil that his name was Hari Singh. The narrator changed his name every month to hide himself from police and his former employers. After this introduction, they talked about wrestlers and then Anil walked away.

Hari Follows Anil

When Anil started to walk off, Hari followed him and told him that he wanted to work for him. To this, Anil expressed his inability to pay Hari. Then Hari questioned Anil if he could feed him. Anil told Hari that he would employ him only if Hari knew how to cook. Hari lied that he knew how to cook and was employed.

Anil Brings Hari to his Room

Anil took Hari to his room which was located over Jumna sweet shop. He also told Hari that he could sleep in the balcony. Anil gave that night's food to a stray dog because the food cooked by Hari was terrible.

Anil had realised that Hari didn't know how to cook. He asked Hari to leave, but Hari stayed there, with his most appealing smile. Anil patted Hari's head and told him that he would teach him how to cook.

Anil Teachers Hari to Read and Write

Apart from cooking, Anil also taught Hari to write his name and promised to teach him how to write whole sentences and to add numbers. Hari was happy

and grateful for getting educated as he knew that he could do anything once he could write like an educated man. Hari enjoyed working for Anil.

He made tea in the morning and later he would go to buy day's supplies. He would also make a profit of a rupee which he knew Anil did not mind.

Anil's Work

Anil had no regular income. He made money by contributing Articles to the magazines. Sometimes he would have enough money to celebrate and sometimes he had to borrow money.

Hari Gained Anil's Trust

One evening, Anil came back with a bundle of currency notes which he had earned by selling his book to a publisher.

At night, Anil put the money under his mattress and Hari noticed it. Hari had been working for Anil for almost a month and had gained Anil's trust.

Anil had given the key of the room to Hari. For Hari, this was the opportunity to rob Anil. However, due to Anil's trust, it was a difficult task for Hari to rob Anil. But put away these thoughts and decided to rob Anil that night.

Hari Robbed Anil

At night, Hari crawled up to the bed when anil was asleep. He slid his hand under the mattress and drew the money out quietly. He rushed out of the room and began to run on the road. He had secured the money with the string of his pyjama.

He was running towards the railway station to catch t Express to Lucknow as he had planned. When he c

the money, he was happy to find 600 rupees.

Hari didn't Board the Train

Hari reached the station just when the train was moving out. He could have jumped to get into one of the carriages but he did not catch the train and stood alone on the platform. He did not know where to go as he had no friends except Anil.

Hari's Confused Feelings

Hari decided to leave the station and thought about how Anil would feel when he would come to know about the theft. Soon, he reached the maidan. It was November and it had started raining.

In the excitement of theft, Hari forgot that apart from giving him some money, Anil also educated him. He was a clever and respected man. He understood that it was easy to realise that education would have made him into a big, successful man but it was difficult to be respected like Anil.

Hari's Final Decision

Finally, Hari decided to go back to Anil. He went back to his room and cautiously put back the wet currency notes under the mattress and went to sleep.

Anil Reacted Normally in the Morning

Hari woke up late in the morning. He found that Anil had already prepared tea. Anil gave a fifty rupee note to Hari which was still wet. He told Hari that he had earned some money by selling a book to a publisher and now would be able to pay him regularly.

He also told Hari that they would start writing sentences from that day. Hari felt that Anil knew about the theft but he didn't say anything to him about it.