

The Thief's Story (- Ruskin Bond)Summary

Anil, a young man of 25, was a writer. He earned his living by writing books or articles for various magazines. He was a large-hearted and simple man. Once, when he was watching a wrestling match, a young boy named Hari Singh approached him and expressed his desire to serve him. He said that he would cook for him. Anil believed him and gave him the job. Hari Singh was an expert thief and used to change his name and place to avoid the police and his old employers. He used to make money while buying supplies for him. One day, he got a chance to steal Anil's money, from under the mattress. He ran away to go to another place by train. But at the park, his inner voice made him restless. He did not want to cheat a large-hearted and simple man like Anil, who had trusted him. He also wanted Anil to teach him to write simple sentences. He immediately came back to Anil's house and placed the money as it was.

Next morning Anil gave him fifty rupees and told him that he would pay him regularly. Anil forgave him as he wanted to give him another chance to improve.

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Assignment

1. Answer these questions in 30-40 words each.

- (i) What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time?
- (ii) Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?
- (iii) How did the thief (Hari Singh) realise that Anil knew that his money had been stolen?
- (iv) Why, according to Hari Singh, is it easier to rob a greedy man than a careless person like Anil?
- (v) What made the thief come back to Anil?

2. Answer these questions in (100-150) words each.

- (i) Give a brief character sketch of Hari Singh highlighting the values of his life.
- (ii) Love is the basic human value that can transform evil into goodness. How did this value of Anil changed Hari Singh?
- (iii) 'He was the most trusting person I had ever met,' remarked Hari Singh. Hari Singh took undue advantage of Anil's trust. Do you think trusting a servant blindly, like Anil, is wise or do we need to be careful?