

BVP LKR

CLASS—10,SUBJECT-ENGLISH

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(Foot Prints Without Feet)

The Thief's Story

--Ruskin Bond

SUMMARY:-

'The Thief's Story' is an interesting story knitted with utmost perfection. Two central characters Anil and Hari Singh keep the story alive till it comes to an end. The writer has tried to send a message through this story that 'love is the basic human value that can transform evil into goodness.' Hari Singh, a professional thief, persuades Anil (a writer) to be his friend keeping in his mind that a little flattery will help him in making friends. He guessed Anil to be his prey observing Anil kind and simple enough for his purpose. Despite Anil's continuous refusal, Hari Singh agreed to remain in his service without payment. Thus, Hari Singh used to cook food for himself and Anil living at his house. Hari Singh was spending his days very comfortably there as he used to buy the day's supplies and make a profit of about a rupee or so a day. Anil used to write articles for magazines and the money earned from

it was spent lavishly on his friends. He was never bothered to save money for his future.

One day Hari Singh got a chance to steal Anil's money from under the mattress when Anil was fast asleep on that mattress. Drawing money from under the mattress stealthily he ran away quietly and arrived at the railway station to catch the Lucknow Express in order to escape safely. But being in a fix he decided not to escape and ultimately came out of the station. When he reached at the park and sat down on a bench empty minded, he at once recalled Anil's behaviour and faith in him. The night was even dark and freezing one. He was sitting there that he might not be suspected by anyone. Just then it began to rain and he got drenched due to heavy rain and felt himself in a very disheartening situation. That moment he felt a guilty conscience. He didn't want to hurt Anil who had trusted even in such a stranger like him. He had stolen money because of his compulsive habit, but now he wanted to reform himself. His inner voice made him restless and he came back to the room feeling very nervous. He placed the notes very carefully again at the right place from where he had stolen and then went back outside Anil's room to have a sleep.

The next day Hari Singh got up late and was startled to see that Anil had already made the tea. Anil, then stretched out his hand towards him to hand over a fifty-rupee note. Anil assured him that he would be paid regularly from then on as he had made some money the previous day.

The wet notes confirmed Hari Singh's theft to Anil but Anil wanted to transform such a person by teaching him the lessons of human and social life and it was the awakening of Hari Singh's conscience that made him return the stolen money.

Thus, this story reveals that even a professional thief can be transformed by love, sympathy and compassion and not by handing him over to the police. ' Everyone is a victim of circumstances and temptation does not make someone available a life full of respect and dignity.'