



THE LOST TRIAL



A small boy named Aryan, ten years old, who came with his family for trekking. The family was well-known online for their forest trekking vlogs. But during this trek, the small boy got lost in the forest. The parents complained to the nearby police station. It has been 5 years since the boy got lost, and no one has found him. And the case is closed as “Missing”. Then, after 5 five years, a new inspector named Arjun, who had been transferred to this city, took this case as he found it suspicious. Then he asked his parents about how your son got lost during the trek





They said he went alone into the forest to explore its beauty when they were asleep at 2:00 am on the night with a camera, in the name of going to pass urine. But when they woke up at 5:00 am, they found that Aryan was missing, and they complained to the nearby police station. The police went inside the forest in search of Aryan and came out of the forest after fully searching for him by 12:15 pm in noon without any trace of Aryan, and the case was closed as he was missing. Then Arjun told the parents that he would finish the case and not let it go unfinished. Aryan's when he got lost was 10. Now, his current age is 15, since he lost. Arjun went to where they had set up the tent during the trek.

Then he found a truth that the police force who went in search of Aryan before 5 years only searched about 10 kms from the tent where they stayed, as they judged that a small 10-year-old kid cannot go beyond this. After this information from a retired constable during that search, the inspector went beyond that 10 kms from the spot and found a CCTV camera 19kms from the spot, which was installed to check the movements of the wild animals 6 years ago by the forest department. He asked the police person involved in this case why they didn't notice this camera and check for it, being so careless. For that, he replied as they searched the boy, only about 10 km from the spot, they didn't notice the camera. A forest ranger who had been sent with the police force of 10 people was a newly appointed one and didn't know about the camera. Then Arjun asked to check the camera for any trace of the boy. They noticed a 5.5-foot-tall person's movement, which was neither his father's nor his mother's.





So, to investigate this further, he appointed a person to collect information from the person in the tea shop, which was located 5 km outside the forest, as it was the only way to enter the forest. The police asked the owner of the tea shop, an older adult, whether somebody other than the family had gone inside the forest for trekking before 5 years during that case. The older adult answered that on that day, he was out of town for some reason and had left his son in the tea shop.

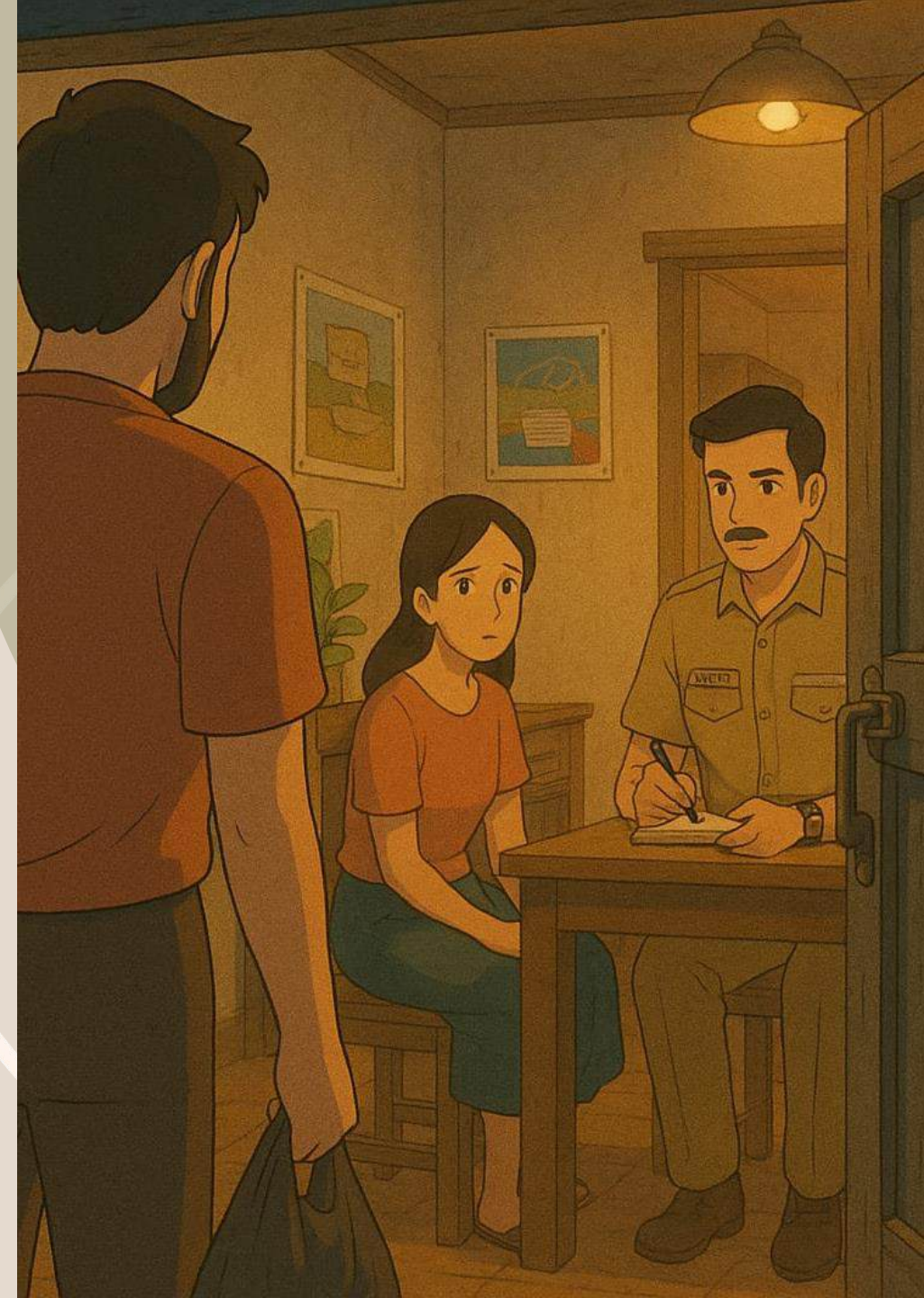
So, to investigate this further, he appointed a person to collect information from the person in the tea shop, which was located 5 km outside the forest, as it was the only way to enter the forest. The police asked the owner of the tea shop, an older adult, whether somebody other than the family had gone inside the forest for trekking before 5 years during that case. The older adult answered that on that day, he was out of town for some reason and had left his son in the tea shop. When the police asked the older man's son what they asked the older man, he said a person in a white Ford Fiesta also entered the forest in the name of trekking and came out of the forest by 4:00 am the next day. Arjun asked why he hadn't told the police about this, who had inquired about this case 5 years ago. Then the older man answered that his son didn't know about the enquiry as the police enquired about this to the older man. Then the son said he knew about this person as he was a teacher at the elementary school in town. His name was Shyam.





When the police investigated this case against the teacher, they learned that Shyam had moved on with his family to a city, where he got a new job with a higher salary. When the police went to his house to search for him, his wife said he had gone to school. Then the police found many YouTube awards in their house for the best trekking vloggers. Then Arjun asked about this award from her. She said they both were interested in trekking and uploaded their trekking videos on YouTube. Arjun asked whether they both went trekking to the forest away from the town on the date Aryan got lost. She said, on that day, as she was feeling sick, her husband left her in her mom's house and went for trekking alone. Suddenly, Arjun found the lost camera in Shyam's house, which Aryan's parents mentioned. Arjun asked about the camera to Shyam's wife, where they bought it. For that, she replied, her husband got it for her from the shop in the town as a gift from the arrival of that trek.

Shyam finally returned home, and Arjun asked the same details to him as he asked to Shyam's wife. He also said the same thing that his wife explained to him. But when Arjun asked about the camera, where did he get it? Shyam stumbled and blabbered something that didn't sink into the information said by his wife. So, the police took Shyam into custody for investigation. After 3 days of serious investigation, Shyam finally said the truth: he and his wife were recognised as the best trekking vloggers for the past 4 years, but one day all changed. Suddenly, Aryan's family was recognised as the best trekking vloggers by the people, and they got an award for it from YouTube that year instead of them. So, in the mindset of not letting them keep growing, he kidnapped Aryan and killed him. But Arjun did not believe his words.





How can a person be so cruel as to threaten a family by killing their son for just getting famous on YouTube, rather than him? Then Shyam told that, initially, his motive was to kidnap Aryan and threaten his parents by asking them to delete their YouTube channel permanently and not to engage themselves in this trekking field again. So, he went to take a pic of Aryan and send it to his parents for blackmailing them. But, from behind Aryan attacked him by poking a small trekking knife in his right knee to escape. As Shyam was in pain and anger over Aryan's action, he took an axe near him and attacked Aryan with it. The axe got stuck in Aryan's chest, and Aryan died in the spot. As Aryan was dead, he could not execute his plan further. And he told Arjun that he disposed of Aryan's body by dissolving it in acid at a chemical factory near the town. As Shyam himself accepted his crime, he was sentenced to 20 years in jail. But something felt wrong for Arjun as Shyam, by himself, accepted his crime. So, he went to Shyam's house to investigate this case further.

There, he came to know that Shyam and his wife didn't have kids and were trying to become parents through IVF. So there, Arjun concluded that there would be no chance of Shyam murdering the small boy, as Shyam knows the pain of not having kids. So, he searched the house for traces or evidence of Aryan. But he found nothing. The only thing left to search in that home was the basement. So, he went inside the basement to find any possible traces. There, to his surprise, he found some clothes of a size which could fit a boy of 12-15 years and some food. When Arjun asked Shyam's wife about this, she had no idea. Then he asked her whether they had any other property than this house. She replied to him that they also have another house 7 kms away from there, which belongs to Shyam's dead father. When Arjun went there to find any clue or trace about the boy, he found a secret hidden room in which Aryan was unconscious, as Shyam did not go there to give food to him. Finally, Aryan was recovered from there and returned to his parents.

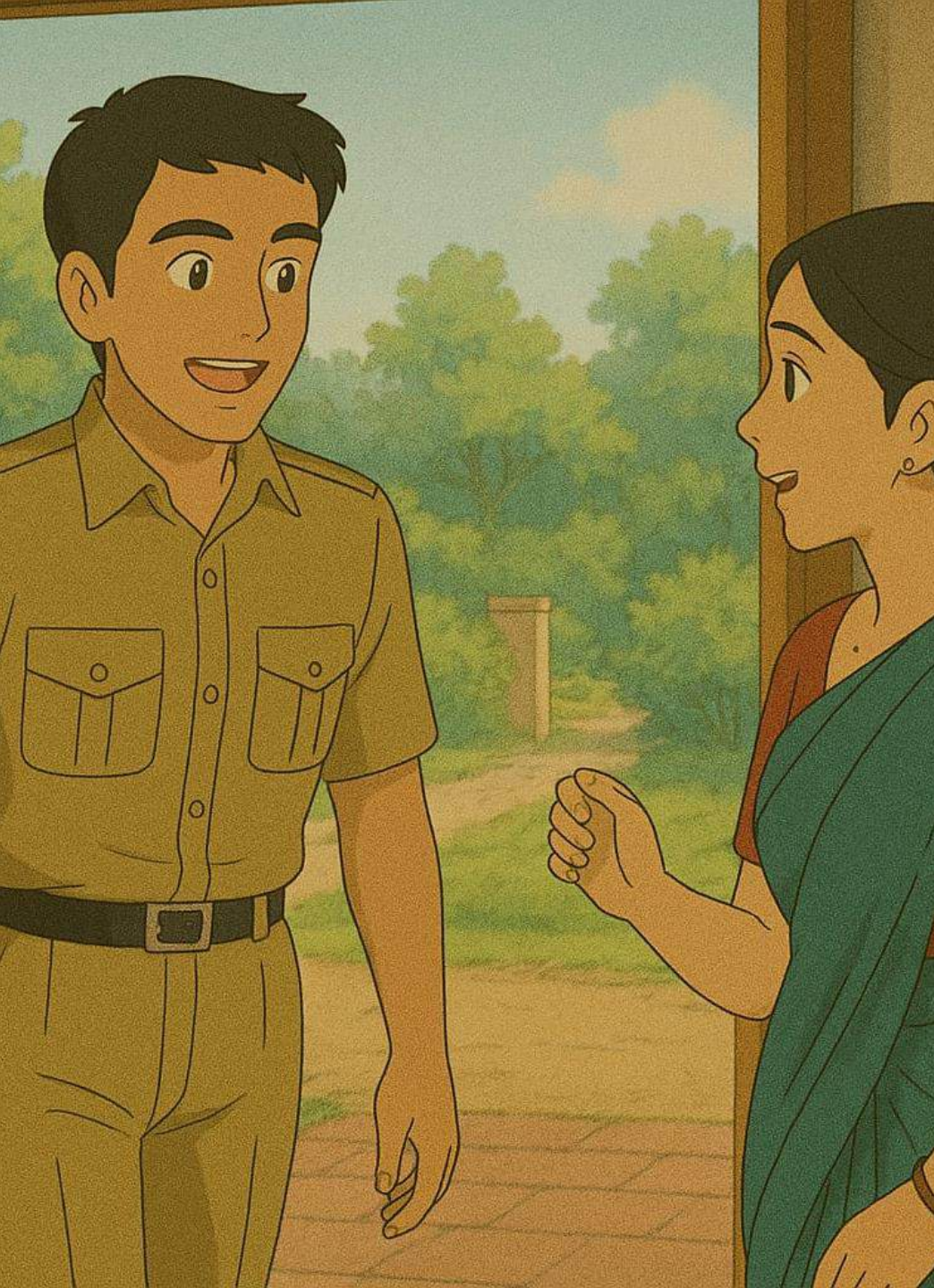




As Shyam did not kill Aryan, the punishment period given to him was reduced by 10 years. After this, Arjun returned to his house happily, having successfully finished the case. When he got inside his house, Aryan came smiling and hugged Arjun, saying, "Thank you, uncle (Mom's brother), for saving me". Aryan was Arjun's sister's son. He tells him it was his duty as an uncle and police officer to save him. Here comes the real truth behind all this. When Arjun was during his police training period, he received news from her sister stating that Aryan was missing during the trek. After hearing this incident, Arjun felt very sad as both Aryan and he had a nice and beautiful bond with each other. The camera, which was missing during this case, was gifted by him to Aryan on his 9th birthday. So only he could easily identify the camera in Shyam's house.

Once his training period had finished, he decided to reopen this case and investigate it. Unfortunately, he was appointed to one of the northern states. But he did not leave this case as such. He talked to the police department of the following town where Aryan got lost, to reopen the case and start an investigation for him. But, as there are no traces or clues about Aryan, they denied the request to reopen the case. There, he did not ask anyone for help regarding this case. After being transferred to that area, he decided to reopen the case and investigate.





So, on the day he joined as an inspector in the station he prioritises Aryan's case, even though there were so many pending cases to finish. Finally, as he decided, he found Aryan. Now all are happy, but by this time, he gets a call from the police station. At the end of the call, he ends the conversation by saying, " I will be there in 10 minutes". And his sister comes and asks him what happened. With a smile, he replied to her that another case is waiting for your brother and with that, he walked off to unravel another mystery.



Thank you

WRITTEN BY ABHISHEK SURESH

