The day was March 3, 2018. The servant of Arko’s house had become old and had to leave his job. But he had brought a man about 32 years as his friend who would serve them as servant. The man’s name was Hrilom Sen. He told them that he lived in a slum and then told them that he would be grateful if they let him be their servant. From then on Hrilom became their servant.

He was a very caring man and he did every work very fast and very carefully. He soon became an essential part of the house and won the trust of everyone.

One day his father, Ananta Ganguly returned from office and told everyone, “From now on, my laptop has to be kept very carefully. Now it contains very secret documents of the Government. If they are stolen I will have to answer to the POLICE. And…”

“What?” Arko asked.

“And if it falls in hands of other countries, it can be very dangerous to India.

“Okay, let’s keep it in a packet and then under our bed.” said Arko’s Mom.

Arko noticed that Hrilom was listening to their conversation silently and was thinking something. That day at noon Arko saw Hrilom calling someone and addressing him as Mr. Singh. He was stunned to see that Hrilom could speak very good English. But suddenly Hrilom saw him and Arko pretended that he was just walking by.

That evening he went to Sushan’s house as he doubted that how a person who lives in a slum can speak such good English.

After he shared his thoughts with him, they discussed the matter and decided to ask Hrilom about his education. After that Arko suggested that they should create a secret code as they are now detectives. Arko took a paper and wrote the secret code. It was something like this – “

Letter Codes:

A – 5 B – 6 C- 9 D – 24 E – 8

F – 2 G – 7 H- 1 I – 3 J – 11

K – 10 L – 15 M – 13 N – 14 O – 12

P – 20 Q – 19 R – 18 S – 16 T – 21

U – 25 V – 17 W – 4 X – 26 Y – 22

Z – 23

Name Codes:

Arko Ganguly – 9a6b79cp95t6

Sushan Roy – 6dg5nm124fc

Rules:-

1. Each letter should be separated by a space.
2. The words should be separated by a comma (,).
3. The person whom the letter is addressed must be mentioned by the name code written on the top
4. Each message should be very short and to the point. "

Sushan read it and decided to make a Xerox copy of it.

The next day there was a hue and cry in Arko’s house. The laptop has been stolen. Arko quickly wrote the following message –

“6dg5nm124fc

15 5 20 21 12 20, 16 21 12 15 8 14. 9 12 13 8, 19 25 3 9 10 15 22.”

(which means ‘LAPTOP STOLEN. COME QUICKLY.’) on a paper and gave it to Hrilom to deliver it to Sushan in a sealed envelope. But when Sushan came and told him that his envelope was torn and then again sealed, they began to suspect Hrilom.

That day they asked Hrilom about his education and he hung his head low. He said, “I never got a chance to go to a good school. He had only studied till Class 4 and then started working in a tea shop as my father was getting old and was not able to make both the ends meet.” Arko was shocked and decided to find clues about how he could speak such high class English.

As he was going to play that evening he saw footsteps in the garden. Then he noticed that outside the gate there were only one pair of footsteps but inside the garden there were two pairs. He quickly went for his camera and took pictures of the footmarks. Afterwards he printed the pictures and sat with a magnifying glass.

Suddenly a spark came in his head. He ran and brought a paper and wrote the following-

“One pair of footsteps inside gate; two pairs outside gate. Why?????? Suspecting Hrilom.” And tore it and kept it in his pocket. After his father returned from office he took his spare laptop and copied the text from the paper to a password-protected text file. He then threw the paper in the dustbin.

Next day, when he went to throw the garbage in the garbage dumper he noticed the paper was not there.

He wrote the following on a paper –

“6dg5nm124fc

16 25 16 20 8 9 21 3 14 7, 1 18 3 15 12 13. 13 8 8 21, 13 8, 5 21, 13 22, 1 12 25 16 8. 16 8 14 24, 18 8 20 15 22, 6 22, 1 18 3 15 12 13.” (Meaning - “SUPECTING HRILOM. MEET ME AT MY HOUSE. SEND REPLY BY HRILOM.”)

He sent the paper with Hrilom who took it to Sushan. After decoding it and understanding it, he sent a reply to Arko.

That evening, he went to meet Arko to discuss their case. Arko said, “We need to solve it quickly as my father have been given only a month to recover the laptop.”

“What!!!”

“Yes…”