Mr. Acton humiliated Srijut Sudershan Sharma in several subtle but deeply impactful ways throughout their interaction. The humiliation is not overt but rather embedded in the way he is treated. The key moments include:

1. **The False Sense of Honor**
   * Mr. Acton calls Sharma to his office and pretends to honor him with a **gold watch**, which is actually a way of forcing him into premature retirement.
   * He speaks to Sharma in a condescending manner:

*“Mr Sharma, you have been a loyal friend of this firm for many years … and you know your loyalty has been your greatest asset here...because...or...Otherwise, we could have got someone with better qualifications to do your work!”*

* + This statement implies that Sharma was not truly competent but was merely tolerated due to his loyalty.

1. **The Lack of Ceremony**
   * Instead of a grand farewell, Sharma is dismissed in a private meeting with just a small gift, without any appreciation from his colleagues or an official send-off.
   * He struggles to respond, his emotions overwhelming him, and **even fails to say "Thank you" properly** due to the bitterness inside him.
2. **The Defective Watch**
   * The gold watch, supposedly a gift of appreciation, turns out to be **broken**, symbolizing the insincerity of the gesture.
   * When Sharma drops the watch in Acton's office, Acton's face *"grew livid"*, showing his impatience and lack of genuine respect for Sharma.
3. **The Inscription on the Watch**
   * The watch bears an inscription:

*"In appreciation of the loyal service of Mr. Sharma to Henry King & Co., on his retirement."*

* + This makes it clear that the decision was already made without Sharma’s input, further proving that his fate was sealed without his consent.

1. **The Public Humiliation**
   * When Sharma leaves Acton’s office, his colleagues gather around, **not in admiration but curiosity**, treating his forced retirement as an event of gossip rather than sympathy.
   * Some mockingly remark:

*“Damn fine gold watch, but it does not go!”*

* + This trivializes the one token he received, making the moment even more humiliating.

**Conclusion**

Mr. Acton humiliates Sharma not through direct insults but by **disguising dismissal as a reward**, making Sharma feel powerless, replacing him without concern, and reducing his years of service to a mere trinket. The broken watch is the ultimate symbol of his **betrayal and humiliation**.