



INTRODUCTION

THE BOY WHO STOPPED RUNNING

Everyone in life reaches a moment where the mirror stops lying.
Mike reached his moment at 19.

He stood on the rooftop of his college hostel, wind hitting his face, lights of the city blinking like tiny warnings. His chest felt tight — not from fear, but from the weight of wasted potential. He wasn't stupid. He wasn't weak. He wasn't hopeless.
He simply knew he was **meant to be more** than the man he was acting like.

Mike wanted to rise.
But rising meant facing the truth he had always avoided.
He had dreams — massive ones. Dreams that could shake the sky.
Becoming an engineer at ISRO.
Making his family proud.
Building a life that didn't feel like drifting from day to day.

But every dream had a price.
And Mike had been running from that price all his life.
Tonight, something changed.

He thought of all the times he quit early.
All the times he lied to himself: "Tomorrow I'll fix it."
All the habits that drained his strength.
All the distractions that kept him small.
All the broken promises he made to his own soul.

A fire lit inside him — silent, slow, but powerful.
A fire that didn't burn outward... but inward.

This is the story of that fire.
Not the story of a perfect man.
But of a man who finally said:

"I refuse to waste the rest of my life."

This is the story of Mike —
the boy who stopped running,
the boy who broke himself to rebuild,
the boy who walked into the darkness
and came out with a fire in his eyes.

The Man of Fire.