



## SON DISSECTED FATHER'S DEAD BODY: K.L.E. UNIVERSITY PAVED THE WAY

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## KEYWORDS :

## INTRODUCTION

In India, as an integral part for Medical and in part for graduates in Ayurveda Medical and Dental students curriculum include dissecting human dead bodies for learning structure in details (Shaikh 2015). Acharya Sushurutha (1000-1500B.C.), Father of Surgery, taught practical dissection of a human cadaver to students of Anatomy (Hambarde et al.2016). "This certainly was the oldest lesson in dissection known to history" (Thorwald 1963). Acharya Sushurutha advocated lessons in human dissection for becoming a competent doctor (Loukas et al.2012). In modern times Anatomy dissection was initiated and encouraged by William Harvey and Antonio Molinetti (Malloch et al.1917). Earlier to this, bodies of criminals hung of their crimes were opted (Kingsley 2004).

## DISCUSSION

Anatomy Act is a treatise instructing how to handle the dead body from receiving or accepting from the hands of the kin or close relative from the place of death or designated place, dealing with handling, preservation, dissection and till its disposal. "Anatomy Act" placed from different authorities, clearly state virtuous values to be born in mind while handling the unknown dead person as important. Teachers and students should maintain professional decorum while in dissection hall. Except for the portion of the body under study should remain covered. Moral values strictly asking not to keep the private area open, unless for studies. This has been in practice since century as seen in a picture when eminent Anatomists like William Harvey or Tulip did dissection (van Rhijn 1632). At one place in an Act, asked what respect one expects when he or she is lying in that position. Each Act vehemently considered existing conditions and emotions of the people of that region. Religious performance if any to be done on dead by kin or relatives is permitted. Today all major religions approve the donation of body and organ as a charitable act of giving and for medical and dental teaching, research and transplant. They support donation as an act of kindness in keeping with religion's teachings (Ajitha, Singh 2007; Dange et al.2015). The due respect shown by folding hands by faculty members and students of this college while receiving a dead body at the entrance and at the beginning of dissection.

A new chapter in world medical history is added on November 13, 2010 by K. L. E. University, a major the University of India. Late Dr. Basavennappa Sangappa Ramannavar who was a practicing Ayurveda Physician, wished to donate his body after death to Shri B.M.K. Ayurveda Medical College of K.L.E. University for the study purpose of Ayurveda Medical graduate students. He also expressed his great wish in his death will that his son, Dr. Mahantesh B. Ramannavar, who is a Reader, a teaching faculty member, in the Department of Anatomy of the same college to dissect his body. He took his last breath on November 13, 2008. The body was received by

the College on November 14, 2008. This is the day India celebrates with enthusiasm "Children's day", the birthday of our late prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The rarest of its kind to do the dissection on a dead body by his own son was granted by authorities of K.L.E. University. The historical dissection was performed. In the presence of Chancellor of the K.L.E. University, Principal of the College and students of the College. Before performing the dissection, he touched the feet of his mother for her blessings and permission to perform the adventure. Followed by this, son respectfully touched the feet of his dead father's body, placed on dissection table, with folded hands and head begging for his " Blessings", and permission to conduct the dissection of his body, a heart thrilling seen expressing the feelings of a son to his dead father (Fig 1). The courage along with enthusiasm shown by him was recorded. Controlling his emotions he took a scalpel and started performing dissection (Fig 2).

By giving permission to Dr. Mahantesh Ramannavar to perform the dissection, the rarest of its kind, K.L.E. University of India had shown its excellence! And Dr. Mahantesh Ramannavar showed courage to do the dissection. Both deserve merit as the event is adding a chapter in the History of Medicine. Dr. Mahantesh Ramannavar was highly appreciated by the Government of India and he was honoured by Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

This is the second case in the history of medicine where son dissected the dead body of own father. The first of its kind was performed by William Harvey in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Records show William Harvey dissected the dead bodies of his father, sister and his cousin's husband in the 17<sup>th</sup> century ( O'Malley et al. 1961; Quigley 1996). All these anatomical dissections were conducted privately. This was to be carried out in private as the public of those days was outrageous considering Anatomists as emotionless (Harris 2012) and Harvey was even called 'crack-brained' (Aubrey 1898). Anatomy was compared to the practice of 'cannibalism' and an inhuman art (Biggs 1651). The wholesale attack on the art of anatomy as cruel and useless was rampant. It was a period Anatomists were with misfortune and left out with wearied and hands with blood. In anatomical lectures to the college of physicians, Harvey showed his father's huge colon and large spleen of his sister weighing 51 pounds (Payne 2002). In due course of time, Harvey, the person who dissected was elevated by his peers from 'crack-brain' to the Founding Father of English Anatomy (Payne 2002).

In the present event, the academician, Dr. Mahantesh Ramannavar followed the path of the pioneer of modern Anatomy, performed similar dissection on his father's dead body. The Anatomist and the medium for this historical event, K.L.E. University, deserve appreciation and applaud from all angles.

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**Figure 1.** Prior to conducting dissection son seeks the blessings of his late father

**Figure 2.** In the presence of Hon. Chancellor and the Principal, Dr.Ramannavar starts dissection.



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