

# Ebbing Life: a Medical Student's Perspective on Cadaver as a Teacher

Mahdiya Abdul Vahid<sup>1</sup>, Mangala M. Pai<sup>2</sup>, B.V. Murlimanju<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Undergraduate Medical Student, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Anatomy, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Body donation is among the precious gifts; one can leave. In a medical school, a cadaver is considered the first teacher to the students as they wish to do dissection and demonstration. Body donation is among the precious gifts; one can leave after. In a medical school, a cadaver is considered as the first teacher to the students as they wish to do dissection and demonstration. Studying the structures of various systems of the human body, nonetheless igniting creativity and awakening profound thoughts, like the one described in the text.

Life has several meanings but lacks a scientific explanation. Life is very complex and it remains unsolved<sup>1</sup>. What is life?<sup>2</sup>, as death is unavoidable and we have to accept it. Life is unpredictable and death can happen anytime. Death is a tragedy and is horrendous. Life can be prolonged with the best available medical and surgical treatments<sup>3</sup>. However, for patients with terminal illness, life is not worth it as the sufferings become higher for them. Life is a continuous rebirth and with our death, we can leave something appreciable for others. Body donation is among the precious gifts; one can leave after. In a medical school, a cadaver is considered as the first teacher to the students as they wish to do dissection and demonstration<sup>4</sup>. Anatomy is very well received by the students as it involves the concept of 'seeing is believing'. This is where the cadaver takes the role of our first teacher as it helps students to visualize the structures of various systems of the human body, nonetheless igniting creativity and awakening profound thoughts, one such is penned below.

“Chapped lips that once were moist  
Fibers and flesh that once were lively  
Now lay still and cold

Callous eyelids filled with air  
Are frozen in a blank stare  
As if the eyes were never there.

Stiff muscles devoid of blood  
Nerves that lay limp yet bold  
Relieved of the duty they used to hold  
Cold, as if the warmth was never there.

Inspect we might cautiously  
Yet this confession is necessary  
That every breath  
Fast and slow  
Drops of blood  
In a flow

When may it stop?  
We never know”

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Corresponding author  
Mangala M. Pai  
E-mail: mangala.pai@manipal.edu