For many years, an interesting and huge skeleton in a glass showcase in the Medical College of Shiraz Medical Sciences University catches the sight of medical students of various disciplines (Figure 1). This 259 cm and 245 kg giant usually catches random visitors’ sight in this college and astonishes them for minutes. In recent years, with the completion of the new medical college building, this odd structure was moved from the medical college vestibule to a farther place and there are some rumors to return him to the cemetery silent valley. Nevertheless, it seems that the abnormal structure’s popularity has not faded, being rumors to return him to the cemetery silent valley. Nevertheless, it seems that the abnormal structure’s popularity has not faded, be-...
day this recent slip converts to a fertile tree and the scholars grow from the trees’ roots and follow the master’s questions and find the answers to the ambiguities. Now that we approach the 50th anniversary of the master’s article in the Acta Anatomica,1 with the remarkable advances in new techniques and sciences, it is the proper time to accost to Siah Khan’s Case in terms of new clinical and basic sciences again.

From the biological point of view, Siah Khan’s Case is verifiable and revisionable in terms of various sciences like orthopedic, ergonomic, rehabilitation equipment, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), muscle mass revision software, brain, nervous system, and spine. The molecular studies on the remain smears of patient which is obtained from ground tibia bone and its images which exist in the article, are a key that make the case study possible in terms of affection to genetic syndromes.2 Did the patient’s young age at the time of death pertain to a genetic defect or were there other reasons? The description of this complicated case by the master with dermal problems, pneumonia, vision reduction and epigastria region’s pain at the time of death may point to a strange viral disease in those days or a virus which attenuates the immune system,3 a hypothesis that needs clarification by virology scholars. In the scope of parasitology, had opportunistic pathogens like cryptosporidium4 and toxoplasma5 caused pneumonia and vision reduction? Did he have kala-azar on his gray face?6 This parasitic disease is still endemic in the Fars Province.7 Did opportunistic fungi also play a role in the death process?8 The mycology scientists will present acceptable answers through molecular techniques. Did the patient suffer from chronic tuberculosis?9 The answers to these questions will be within the scope of microbiologists. Was the patient in his last years a drug toxicity victim? (After his death it was found that he was an investor in public transportation and he had some droshkies).1 Will measurements of arsenic level10 provide an answer to this ambiguity? This question will be answered by pharmacologists. Beyond the master’s numerous efforts to present a clear picture of patient’s condition with existing properties at those days, his skillfulness, forethoughtfulness and punctuality are obvious, admirable and appreciated, but pathologic evidences and document inattention and no collection and preservation and almost losing all of them are points which admit a poor study. The master with implicit preemption pointed out and confessed to his poor study means as no pathologic reports existed due to the lack of expert pathologists in those days. Undoubtedly, genomic studies and DNA extract techniques on remain smears and his bones are the key to solving some of the questions considered.

At the end, one of the strengths and extremely valuable points of this article is attention to the bioethics dimension as the historical document can be significant and referred. As the Siah Khan’s skeleton was preserved after his death according to the late Prof. Ghorban’s suggestion and Siah Khan’s agreement,1 it is indicative of the importance of moral standards to the educated master, for which the Shiraz medical college is still pioneer and perfect after nearly 50 years.

Acknowledgment

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to all of the Department faculty members for their help and support. I also place on record, my sense of gratitude to Dr. Mohammad-Hossein Azizi (MD) for his valuable comments in this venture.