10938 - Medical students dissecting human bodies

the question

I'm currently a medical student. In Medical school we are required to disect and examine human cadavers (dead bodies). This is a very important part of the study of medicine and cannot be avoided. Is taking part in such practices for the purpose of being a doctor Haram?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

If the cadaver is that of a dead kafir, then it is OK. But if it is the body of a Muslim, then it is not permitted, because that involves disrespect, as well as uncovering the ‘awrah. It was reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The sanctity of the dead is like the sanctity of the living, and breaking the bone of a dead believer is like breaking it when he is alive.”