

Table of Contents

§ 1. Introduction	7
§ 2. The Deterioration of the Position of Women.....	11
§ 3. Eight Forms of Marriage and Other Chains.....	16
§ 4. The Son and the Beyond.....	22
§ 5. Early Marriage of Girls.....	26
§ 6. Avoiding Lack of Sons	29
§ 6.1. Obtaining sons through magic	29
§ 6.2. Putrika as a substitute for a son	30
§ 6.3. Adoption	30
§ 7. Marriage	32
§ 7.1. Dowry and bride-price.....	32
§ 7.2. Marriage and married life	34
§ 8. Daily Life (of Wives and Women)	37
§ 8.1. Housework.....	37
§ 8.2. Wife and husband, wife and parents-in-law.....	39
§ 8.3. Wife and ritual	40
§ 8.4. Menstruation, impurity of women in general.....	45
§ 8.5. Pardah	49
§ 8.6. Greatness of the son, greatness of the mother.....	51
§ 8.7. Perpetual tutelage	53
§ 8.8. The daughter	55
§ 8.9. Miscellany	56
§ 9. Specific Events in the life of women	59
§ 9.1. Niyoga	59
§ 9.2. Polygamy and Monogamy	62
§ 9.3. Adultery	63
§ 9.4. Sins of men and sins of women	66
§ 9.5. Remarriage of women	68
§ 9.6. The widow's right of inheritance.....	70
§ 9.7. Feticide and female infanticide.....	72
§ 10. Varia	75
§ 10.1. Devadasis.....	75
§ 10.2. Prostitution in general.....	78
§ 11. The Woman in the Epics.....	83
§ 11.1. General	83

§ 11.2. Mahabharata: Story of Savitri.....	85
§ 11.3. Ramayana: Sita twice repudiated.....	88
§ 12. Widowhood and Suttee.....	90
§ 12.1. Suttee as recorded up to about 300 A.D.	90
§ 12.2. Suttee after 300 A.D.	92
§ 12.3. Widowhood after 100 B.C.	101
§ 12.4. Suttee, mainly 18th and 19th centuries.....	107
§ 12.5. Widowhood, mainly 18th to 20th centuries.....	114
§ 12.6. Two Attitudes	120
§ 12.7. Debates on suttee.....	125
§ 12.8. Theories on suttee.....	127
§ 13. Woman in Hinduism (Varia)	132
§ 13.1. Introduction	132
§ 13.2. The female in Hindu iconography	132
§ 13.3. Hindu mythology.....	134
§ 13.4. Tantrism and Shaktism	137
§ 13.5. Nuns and saint singers in Hinduism	142
§ 14. Widow Burning in Bali.....	145
§ 15. Glossary.....	148
§ 16. General Bibliography	156
§ 17. Specialized Bibliography.....	158