

They are between the age of six and twelve years, and oftentimes younger.

Q. Do they go at once to the husband's home? A. They do not, but usually remain in their father's home until they are nearly twelve.

Q. In the meantime what are they doing? A. They learn to cook, to sew, and that they must treat their husbands as lords. Sometimes now a very few may be permitted to attend school.

Q. What if the husband should die? A. The poor little widow is blamed for her husband's death.

Q. How can this be? A. They tell her that her evil spirit or her bad deeds have caused her lord's death.

Q. Do the friends comfort her? A. No, all alike, father and mother even treat her with utter disdain.

Q. What is done? A. Her jewels are torn or pounded off harshly by a number of bad women who are chosen for this purpose.

Q. Do you know anything about the funeral? A. The little widow is dragged or led roughly along the street, spit upon, laughed at and cursed at this time.

Q. Does her suffering then end? A. No, as far as possible she is kept from the rest of the family, for even her shadow may bring evil.

Q. What about her food? A. For some times she is only allowed one meal a day and receives no comfort except in very rare cases and even here the little kindness must be kept secret.

Q. If she has a son does he not afterwards love her. A. Instead he is taught to despise his own mother.

Q. Do the widows not again marry? A. In some parts of India, the law now permits this, but the custom does not.

Q. What would be the result? A. Such a one would be thrown out of caste.

Q. How does this seem to you who are loved so much?

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