

computed that about 50,000 widows are in these provinces burnt annually with their husbands.---Many of them are young and child-bearing; and might by second marriages have been, upon an average, mothers of two children each. The three or four principal wives generally burn; and often the inferiors compelled by disgrace, and the excessive hardships they are instantly exposed to, follow their example. In some few instances this appears to be a voluntary act, but the majority are terrified into it."

Dr. Brown says, "The Bramins can, as may serve their interest, devote any sick branch of a family to death; and incredible numbers are made away with by this bloody superstition. A gentleman told me, as he passed above a place called Culna, a little above Calcutta, that he saw a set of Bramins, pushing a youth about eighteen years of age into the water; and as they were performing their business of suffocation with mud, he called on them to desist. They answered calmly, "It is our custom---it is our custom---he cannot live---our  
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