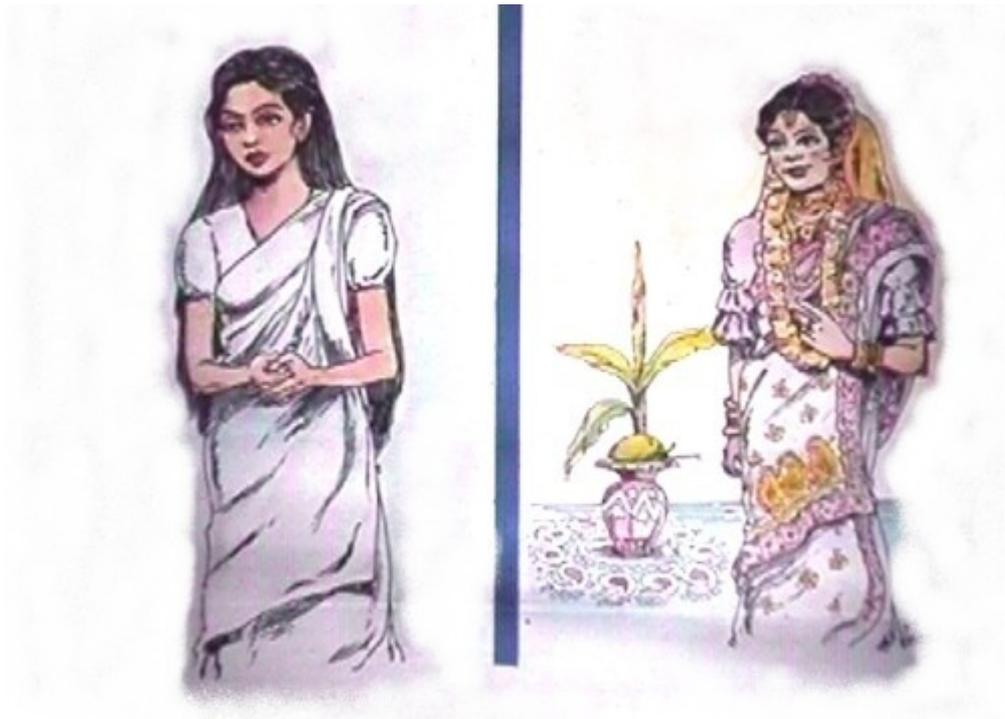


Hinduism on Re-marriage.



Please Note:- The information given below is extremely controversial but we had to present this as well... We didn't want you the reader to have selective information... If the below upsets you then please move to another section on this website... And please note we have not compiled this article to upset anyone. Jai Hind.

The question of re-marriage has been a very emotional and thorny issue for many Hindus. How do you tell a young newly married woman of just 20 who just lost her husband after getting married a few days before that she can never marry again... this has been a very touchy subject and our shastras have given answers to this question although it may seem to many as too harsh...

Widowhood and remarriage in traditional families

In traditional families, widows were, and in some cases still are, required to wear white sarees, and to give up their ornaments, including the bindi (the red dot), which signifies auspiciousness. The presence of widows at religious rites in such families is considered inauspicious. Widows are expected to devote their lives to an austere pursuit of religion. These restrictions are traditionally strongest in the highest castes, in which the head is frequently shaved as well. The highest castes also have severe restrictions on remarriage. Such restrictions are now strictly observed only by a small minority of widows, though some degree of ritual inauspiciousness lingers. (Thank goodness for that)

There are three types of punarbhu, (A remarried widow):

- 1) The virgin widow,
- 2) The woman who abandons her husband to take up with another man and then returns to her husband,

3) The woman who has no brothers-in-law whom can give her offspring.

Although this list is not exhaustive, it makes it clear that a punarbhu is not just any widow. Indeed, she may not have been a widow at all (as in the second case). In the other two cases, she is a childless widow, which is an important distinction. Although many texts do seem to address the remarriage of widows and sometimes permit it, it is not considered an ideal situation. A punarbhu is often not given the same rights as a woman who was married only once. The son of a punarbhu, a punarbhava, is often listed as one who is unfit to invite to a sacrifice, as is the husband of a remarried woman. The punarbhava also does not inherit as would a 'natural son'.

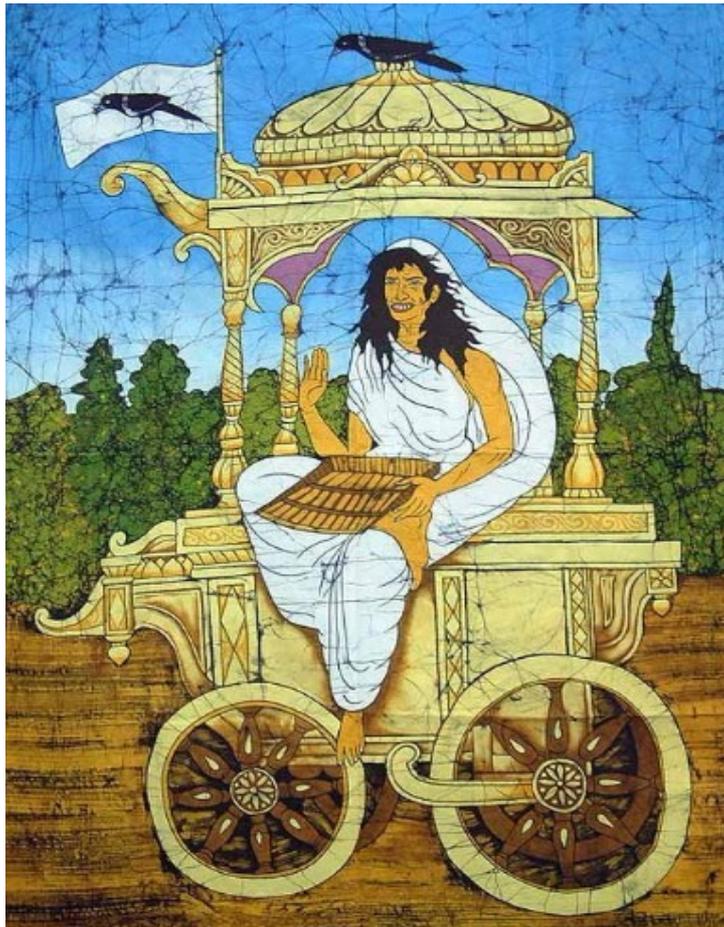
In the earlier days, even after the death of the husband, the bride was supposed to live all her life alone and independently. The point of independency is not an issue, these days, most woman are independent and earning her own living. Even in some cases, she is the one, who supports the living of her whole family, may be as a daughter, as a wife or as a daughter- in- law. The concept of remarriage was considered as the biggest sins of one's life in the earlier days, or we say in the old India. Loads of restrictions and outrageous thoughts were imposed on life of the widow and were left to lead life in a miserable situation. According to the orthodox believes of the people, the life of the women ends with the life of her husband, and after that she has no right to lead a happy and cheerful life. With the changing times and the increasing awareness in the society, people have become educated and have to a certain extent adopted the changes which are required to make in the orthodox thoughts and rituals. The belief that life is to be lived and every human being irrespective of their gender and marital status is authorised to live a happy life, have started being implemented by many people in their lives. (I for one is an advocate of this thought)...

Today, the Indian society has been well equipped with all the modern thoughts and reforms which are required to make a modern and a developmental society. People have understood the importance of remarriage in the lives of the groom as well as the bride. Both have the rights to start their life all over again, if somehow his life partner dies due to some mishappenings. It is purely the choice of the person whether he wants to remarry or not, but if he then wants, according to the laws of today, no one can stop him from doing that. The concept of remarriage needs to be promoted among the citizens of India and Indians around the world, because there are many people who still think that it is a sin and de-motivate their children from doing so. They should understand that the fact, that marrying once again, will not mark any sin in the lives of their children, but it will prove to be a new beginning for their happy life.

Remarriage after the death of the ex- partner is something which is required to have a healthy life. But these days, the longevity of the relation is getting affected by the western culture and the new ideologies formed by the younger generation of the country. People these days, even divorce or remarry, due to the unsatisfactory or irritational behaviour of their partner. Marriage according to Indian values is a very auspicious and sacred bond shared between the husband and wife, and breaking this

bond due to small misunderstanding or loud behaviour is no solution. This will in turn affect the seriousness of the wedding as a bond, so one should put in all the possible efforts to sustain their marriage, because misunderstanding can be cleared off but once the relation breaks, it cannot be fixed easily. That is why, marriages are often marked with the tag of 'handle with care'.

As of 2007, 3 per cent of the population of India consists of widows. Most widows are abandoned to survive on charity, and many are reduced to begging on the streets. Some surveys show that as they are steeped in their religious beliefs and fearful of violating social customs, many widows do not wish to remarry. {To be honest I find this sad that in this day in age we still have this being practised}...



Dhumavati Devi – The Widow form of Mother Durga

The Manu Smriti does give quite a few verses on remarriage but this will really make a lot of people in day of age very angry... Thus I am not adding it here... if you want to view it then google "The Manu Smriti (The Laws of Manu-dev) Chapter 9

Questions and Answers

Question:- Can a woman's 2nd husband apply Sindhoor in her maang (centre part).

Answer:- Well this should not occur because the maang is only filled once in her lifetime. There is no shastric proof of applying the Sindhoor again neither does it say you cant, due to the fact one in an ideal situation is supposed to be married just once... of course most don't live in an ideal situation these days. But personally this

do not seem correct to me applying the Sindhoor again... what should be done is the 2nd husband just dots her third eye region with Sindhoor.

Question:- Can Hardi/Nelengu Prayers be performed again for the second time in the 2nd marriage?

Answer:- Yes this should be performed as the application of Hardi is for the protection and beautification of the bride or groom.

Question:- Can Kanya Dhan be performed again at the wedding ceremony?

Answer:- No this is a once off for a woman as she is only given once away and that was in the first marriage. And Kanya means giving away a virgin bride... if she is marrying the second time then its highly unlikely she is a virgin...

For more information on “Widows and their place in Hinduism” & “Widows (FAQ'S) and their place in Hinduism” The quick link is below...

Ctrl-Click on this URL http://dipika.org.za/?page_id=240 to view these two articles on DIPIKA.

DISCLAIMER:- Do note that Dipika is not affiliated to any Hindu group or organization. We at Dipika choose to remain an independent repository of spiritual advice. We appreciate that there are variances between organisations and humbly request that if our views differ from yours that you respect our decision not to conform to the prescripts of your particular organisation. We remain committed to spiritual advice which is based on scripture.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.

Compiled for the upliftment of Sanathan Dharma
Narottam das & Arjun Nandlal
Email info@dipika.org.za