

THE HIGH-CASTE HINDU WOMAN

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The High-Caste Hindu Woman by Ramabai Sarasvati

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RAMABAI SARASVATI

**THE HIGH-CASTE
HINDU WOMAN**



Ramabai

THE
HIGH-CASTE HINDU WOMAN.

BY
PUNDITA RAMABAI SARASVATI.

WITH INTRODUCTION BY
RACHEL I. BODLEY, A.M., M.D.,
DEAN OF WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

TENTH THOUSAND

PHILADELPHIA:
1888.

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Judge [unclear] [unclear]*

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TO THE
MEMORY OF MY BELOVED MOTHER,
LAKSHMIBAI DONGRE,
WHOSE SWEET INFLUENCE AND ABLE INSTRUCTION
HAVE BEEN
THE LIGHT AND GUIDE OF MY LIFE,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS MOST REVERENTLY DEDICATED.



आजं हे बाई जीरणी .
Anandibai Joshee

In Memoriam.

ANANDIBAI JOSHEE, M. D.

DAUGHTER OF GANPATRAO AMRITASWAR
AND
GUNGABAI JOSHEE.

Born in Poona, Bombay Presidency, India, March 31st, 1865. (Child-name, Yamuna Joshee.)

Married Gopalrao Vinayak Joshee, March 31st, 1874. (Wife-name, Anandibai Joshee.)

Sailed from Calcutta, India, for America, April 7th, 1883, being the first high-caste Brahman woman to come to the United States. Landed in New York, June 4th, 1883.

Graduated in medicine, from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, March 11th, 1886, being the first Hindu woman to receive the Degree of Doctor of Medicine in any country.

Appointed, June 1st, 1886, to the position of Physician-in-Charge of the Female Ward of the Albert Edward Hospital, in the City of Kolhapur, India.

Sailed from New York, to assume her duties in Kolhapur, October 9th, 1886.

Died in Poona, India, February 26th, 1887.

INTRODUCTION.

THE silence of a thousand years has been broken, and the reader of this unpretending little volume catches the first utterances of the unfamiliar voice. Throbbing with woe, they are revealed in the following pages to intelligent, educated, happy American women.

God grant that these women, whom He has blessed above all women upon the earth, may not flippantly turn away, as they are wont to do from some over-pious tale, and without reading, condemn! To begin this story of *The High-caste Hindu Woman*, and not to read it through attentively to the last word of the agonized appeal, is to invoke upon oneself the divine displeasure meted out to those who disregard the cry of "him that had none to help him." These lines are written with deep emotion; the blinding tears which fall upon the page are the saddest tears my eyes have ever wept.

From childhood I had been familiar with the statements concerning the condition of the native women of India. My sympathies had always been with