

Like *bhaga*, so *bhamsas* comes to mean, in a narrower sense, the female external organs of generation (vulva). Thus, in a charm for the protection of a pregnant woman, we read in the Atharva Veda, viii, 6, verse 5 :

XLII. *Arāyān=asyā muṣkābhyaṁ bhamsaso 'pa hanmasi |*

That is, The evil spirits from the two labia of hers, from her vulval cleft, we smite away.

With regard to verse No. XI, the reading of which is imperfectly transmitted, I would venture to suggest that for *bhamsasah*, pubic bone, *vakṣasah*, breast-bone, may have to be read. In that case, instead of the two words *arṣaṇiḥ* and *uṣṇihābhyaḥ*, two terms denoting the collarbones and shoulder-blades (say, *akṣābhyaṁ=amsothābhyaṁ*, or such like) would come in. *Vakṣas* would come in its proper place. *Bhaga* is, by Suśruta, included among the five bones of the pelvic girdle (*śroni*, Jīv. ed., p. 331). *Bhamsas*, therefore, might be omitted, as being included in *śronibhyaṁ*.

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*Erratum* : On p. 938 (Oct. 1906), l. 12, for “peak of the shoulder ” read “nape of the neck.”