

Q#1 Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and its impacts on the history of Muslim India:

(1) Introduction:

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said "Allah shall send for this Ummah at the head of every century a man who shall renew for revive for it its religion". Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was one of those revivers who revived the Islam this was why he was named Mujaddid Ath Sani. He started the Reform Movement to counter heresies and innovations in Deen like Din-i-Ilahi, and permission of intermarriage etc. His Reform Movement was a successful movement because it impacted the history of Muslim India positively such as abolishment of Din-i-Ilahi, cancellation of intermarriages, and support to his movement from the Mughal Empire etc.

(2) Background:

~~(2)~~ Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was initiated to

counter the innovations and heresies in Islam. Akbar who was the Mughal Emperor at that time initiated Din-i-Ilahi. Because he wanted to strengthen his power without any opposition from any sector. For this purpose, he also allowed intermarriage between Hindus and Muslims. He himself married to Rajput princess. He disallowed Islamic rituals and practices like cow slaughter, construction of Mosques even he encouraged building of temples by replacing Mosques, Jizya, prostration in front of the emperor, Dance and music in the emperor's court and so on. Thus it was the need of the hour to revive the Deen and abolish all the innovations that were inculcated in the Deen and that had impacted the Indian Muslim society adversely. ~~For this purpose~~

(3) Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, Mujaddid

Alf Sani, woke up among the Muslims of India and took the following measures to revive and for the resurrection of Islam.

(4) Measures taken by Sheikh Under his Reform Movement:

(a) ~~Propog~~ Propagation of Spirit of Islam through his Disciples:

He through his disciples tried to inculcate the spirit of Islam in masses of India. He trained his disciples, and instructed them to prepare people for the propaganda against deen and tell them the importance of Sunnah of prophet and tell them to follow it and tenets of Islam.

(b) Invention of Wahadat-ul-Shuhud

He invented the alternative theory of Wahadat-ul-Wajood which is Wahadat-ul-Shuhud. Muhayyiddin Ibn-al-Arabi invented Wahadat-al-Wajood (Sufi vision of Islam) which means that God and all beings are one and not separate from one another. But this theory became common among mass

es which terminated all the differences between Muslims and other religions. Sheikh invented Wahadat-al-Shuhud ~~and~~ ^{which} means God and creation are separate. He said that considering Ram and Rahman as one is stupidity because God cannot be one with His creation.

(c) Abolishment of Din-i-Ilahi:

Din-i-Ilahi which had blurred the differences between Muslims and other followers of other religions, Sheikh abolished that Din. He wrote letters to high ranking officials of Mughal Emperor and other famous Muslims i.e. Sardar-i-Jahan (1618) tutor of Jahangir and Khan-i-Jahan (1630) an official of the court to work for the renaissance of Islam. He also wrote Risalas (Magazines) and books like Risala "Asbat-e-Nauwwat" which was against Din-i-Ilahi.

(d) Opposition to Heresy or Innovation in Islam:

Ulama (theologians) who are to guide the Muslims according to Quran

and Sunnah, they divided Heresy (bid'at) into two categories; good innovation (bid'at-i-hasanah) and bad innovation (bid'at-i-sayyi'ah). Sheikh opposed these innovations and quoted a number of hadiths and verses of Quran and ~~set~~ ^{called} the innovations dirt, disgust, darkness and contrary to the teachings of Islam.

(e) Movement against united nationhood:

By introducing Din-i-Ilahi Akbar attempted to prevail peace and stability in his Empire, which led to united nationhood. It blurred the unique identity of Muslims of India, thus, he organized Naqshbandiya order to reform the society and spread Shari'ah among people. He said

"If the awareness of separate national identity is not awakened in Muslims then it is feared that they would be swept away with the flood of combined nationhood."

(5) Impacts of Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi on the history of Muslim India:

(a) Religious impact: Revival of Islamic tenets in the society:

The first and foremost impact of the Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was the revival of Islamic tenets in the society that were forbidden by former emperor Akbar. Jahangir (1605-1627) revived these beliefs and practices, for instance, prostration in front of the king was forbidden, cow slaughter was disallowed, Persian festival "Navroz" and music at court was disallowed, jizya was reimposed and so on. In this way the reform movement impacted the history of Muslim India.

(b) Political impact:

Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi had an impact on political history of Muslim India. Jahangir, and other high ranking officials of his court and later Mughal

Emperors like Shah Jahan whom most of the historians called "Faith depending emperor" took great interest in ~~the~~ Islam and its future. It is evident from a hindi writer who said,

"Jahangir took greater interest in the future of Islam than his father had done."

He also re-established Qadi and Ihtisab system, rebuilt mosques and started Islamic system of education.

(6) Conclusion:

Reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi that was commenced in the wake of religious and social disorders caused by Akbar and other mundane Ulema, was successful. He took steps ~~bring~~ ^{that brought} the order in the society. These steps left positive impacts on the history of Muslim India.