

Q. How the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced Muslim's history?

Ans Introduction:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, who was also known as Mujaddid Alf Sani, was the most famous muslim reformer of 17th century. He was a prominent disciple of Khwaja Bagh Billa. As a strong advocate of Sharia, he did all that he could to reinforce Islamic teachings in the society.

According to ~~SM~~ SM Ikram, he was the most forceful and the most original thinker before Shah Wali Ullah and Iqbal.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's religious and political efforts left an imperishable mark on the history of Indian muslims. He revived true spirit of Islam, and pulled out muslims of the subcontinent from religious, cultural & social crisis.

→ Historical perspective:

During his time, muslims in the subcontinent were corrupt, both morally and religiously. They were far away from teachings of Islam and were indulged in various practices, which Islam

has prohibited. All that was due to the impositions - ban on slaughtering of cow, on jizya, and to normalise marriage with non-muslims, by Akbar. These practices were prevailing under the umbrella of the concepts - Wahdet ul wujud and Suhlikul, by Akbar. Then Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, came on the horizon ~~too~~ as a savior for muslims of the subcontinent. He advocated Islamic teachings by writing books, sermons, and by writing letters to influential people like Ulema.

→ Religious Efforts.

When muslims of the subcontinent were declining both morally and religiously, Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's efforts proved to be remarkable, in the revival of Islamic teachings.

He observed that the concept of wahdet ul wujud - God is similar to the universe / creation, was causing great damage to Islamic beliefs of muslims. In fact they were going far away from the true spirit of Islam. In order to tackle this, Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

brought the concept of *wahdat al shahood* - Creator and creature are two separate identities, ~~was~~ He emphasized that muslims should follow the concept of *wahdat al shahood*, in order to gain true insight of relationship of creator and creature.

His preaching proved to be fruitful, to follow ~~the~~ actual Islamic values among the muslims and with that all Islamic rituals also became part and parcel of the society. Muslims started practicing cow slaughtering, jizya was re-imposed and also ~~many~~ a number of mosques were also built. In that way the Islamic spirit & values were revived in the muslims of subcontinent.

→ Social Influence:

Another domain of influence lied in social state of Indian muslims. As they were indulged in several Islamic practices - marriage with non-muslims and building their temples, which ~~are~~ ^{were} ~~or were~~ prohibited in Islamic teachings. All these practices were

DATE: ___/___/___

prevailing under the concept of Suhli Kul, peace with all. As the king were indulged in such worldly practices, that proved to be a trickle down affect on the people as well. As a result, they became morally and socially corrupt.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi's efforts, to revive insight among muslims to lead their lives in accordance with teachings of Islam, proved to be useful.

As religiously they were getting better, so their social condition also started to get back to the right path. They followed Islamic values, and its true essence rejuvenated social condition of muslims of subcontinent.

→ Conclusion:

It is said that every action has a reaction, so Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's preachings came as a reaction towards Akbar's propagated practices. Sheikh Ahmed made all the efforts to inculcate & revive lost Islamic values and was successful, in muslims of subcontinent. Thus, they began to lead their lives in the light of teachings of Islam.