

Pakistan Affairs

How the reform movements of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi influence the history of Muslim India?

* Introduction =>

It is clear from the history that whenever the religion of Islam is attacked by the enemies or its decline occur so there arises a person that prevent it from falling and rose it again. **Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi** is one of the example of such person. He was like a torch or a beam of sun light that has led the whole subcontinent bright with his glow.

According to his teacher **Khwaja Baqi Billah** "Shaikh Ahmed is like a beam of light that will lighten the whole subcontinent." The struggle of Shaikh Ahmed started after the reign of Akbar the Great. Because in his time different policies were established that were affecting the doctrines of the Muslims and enhancing Hinduism in the subcontinent.

* History of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi *

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi was given the title of **Mujaddad Alf Sani**. He was born in Sirhind on 26 July 1564. He got his early education from the Sirhind and then from Calicut. He was the decendent of Caliph Umer (R.A). He was a disciple of Khwaja Baqi Billah. He at very little age obtain the knowledge of different subjects. He was Hafiz, Sufi as well as he studied philosophy. He belonged to Naqasbandia. His father name was

"Abd al Ahad". He get his primary education from his father. He is known as Mujaddad Alf Sani because he again revived the Islam after one millenium had passed.

→ **Sheikh Ahmed mentioned the wrong policies of Akbar the Great :-**

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi mentioned the wrong policies or establishment step which he had taken. The most prominent policies taken

by him are given below :-

1) The misconception of "Karamat" by the

Hindus

- 2) The strong faith or believe in the jurisprudence rather than the religion.
- 3) The concept of Deen-e-illahi which was introduced by Akbar i.e. he introduced his religion by his own and combine the religion of Islam and Hinduism together and made a new religion. He avoid the concept of saying "Salam" but forced the people to say "Allah-u-Akbar". Because it was the portion of his name. He also included that Muslim should pay "sajjad" to him.
- 4) He prohibited the slaughter of cow and also abolished the jizya and taxes of Hajj (pilgrimage).
- 5) The concept of marrying to the Hindus women and intermingling with step.

* Strategies or steps taken by syed Ahmed Sirhindi:-

Mujaddad Alf Sani was a great Muslim. He take the following initiative step in order

to prevent the Muslim from drowning.

ii) Wrote letter to different members:-

Sheikh

Ahmed Sirhind wrote letters to the members of loyal families including Faraid Khan and different royal members. In these letters he explained them the condition of the Islam and misconcepting of the policies taken by the Akbar regime.

According to SM Hiram

Sheikh Ahmed was the most original thinker in subcontinent before Shahwaliullah and Iqbal."

SM Hiram in another place also wrote that Baqi Billah disciple Sheikh Ahmed was more greater in his policies and thinkings than his murshid.

ii) Sending his disciple to different region => Saeed

Ahmad Butt in his book exploring Pakistan writes that Sheikh Ahmed send the troops

(5)

of his disciples to different regions of the subcontinent that stress on the true concepts of religion and teaches them to prevent themselves from "shirk" polytheism and guided them the original and true teachings of Islam.

→ Disobeying the concept of Atheism and polytheism:-

Sheikh Ahmed conducted sermon in different places and disobeyed the concept of polytheism in Islam. At ^{that} time the concept of Wahdat-ut-Wajood had gain a lot of attention, this theory was for the mysticism "Suffies" only but it got spread in the local people also. According to this theory in everything God exists. So Akbar said that if in everything God exists so then why we slaughter the cow. So he banned the slaughtering of cows. At the same time to bring people to the right path Sheikh Ahmed proposed

the theory of Wāḥdat al-Shu'ūdī. According
to this theory everything is the creature
of the God and Allah itself is the creator.
So the creator and creature cannot be same.
According to Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:-

"To consider Ram
and Rahman as the same creature is
the super stupidity because creature and
creator cannot be same."

We wrote letter to the Hindus and said
that "Ram and Krishan are the creature
of God. Laxman is the brother of
Ram, and Ram is Sati's son."

→ Answer of Mughal emperor Jahangir:-

After
the death of Akbar Jahangir (Salim)
became the emperor. He called Sheikh
Ahmed to his court. Sheikh did not
pay Sajjada to him on the reason
that we can bow to only one
Lord that is Allah Almighty. So

(7)
he imprisoned him for two years and capture him in the fort.

* Influence of reforms of Sheikh Ahmed on Muslims of India =>

Reform of Sheikh Ahmed greatly influence the history of the Muslim of India.

* Revival of Islam:-

The Islam was vanishing. But Sheikh Ahmed was the one that stand for the revival of Islam. The Islam began from new start. The speeches of Shaikh remove the misconception of the people against Islam because many of the Muslims were considering the Dine-illahi as the Islam.

So due to sending his disciple to different regions the misconception of the religion was removed from the minds of the people.

* Removal of concept of marriages or relationship with Hindus =>

Before Sheikh Ahmed

leave a line between new headings for neatness.

reforms Hindus were performing their obligatory duties very aggressively and openly while Muslims were not allowed to perform their obligatory religious duties. But Sheikh Ahmed in his reforms clearly addressed the Muslims not to intermingle with the Hindus because their norms and culture are different and ours are also different.

→ **Concept of two nation theory =)**

The first person who is considered the founder of Two Nation Theory is the Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi.

He explained that Hindus and Muslims are two separate cultures. Their ideas are different from each other. So Sheikh preaches Muslims to prevent themselves from Hindus and they are sent as dominating powers on the Earth.

→ **Writing against the Akbar:-**

Sheikh Ahmed was the one that had announced the Kalma Haq against the emperor. He in his letter

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wrote to Jaisalmer Khan "The establishment of the state demands on its emperor, just as the heart in the body, if the emperor is not capable so the whole state will be affected".

He writes a strong letters against the Akbar and his letters are compiled in the form of "Maktoob-e-Sikhindi".

This book was one of the great factor in achieving the success of Sheikh Ahmad Sikhindi. He become very famous among the masses due to his personality, effective struggle for religion and his sermons.

* Effect of the Sermons, lectures and teaching of Sheikh Ahmad :-

The sermons and lectures of Sheikh Ahmad has contributed a lot in changing the thinkings of the people and move them towards Islam.

Although in the life of Sheikh Ahmad he did not see any success. But after

his death when "Aurangzeb" become the emperor so he follows the policies and all the rules that were given by the Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi. (5)

* Steps taken by Aurangzeb emperor :-

- 1) He also the slaughtering of cows
- 2) He enable the rule of Sharīyah.
- 3) He imposes the Jizya on the non Muslim and also imposes the pilgrimage taxes.

4) He also remove hindus for high positions in the court or in the kingdom.

* Reformation of Muslim society :-

The main

effort of Sheikh Ahmed was that he reformed the muslim society again due to all his speeches

and his books. One of the example of this can be seen that the emperor Aurangzeb built built the beautiful Mosque. This mosque shows the beautiful signs of

Muslim unity.

7 Pioneer of Muslim Self-Assertion:-

He was the Pioneer of Muslim Self-assertion. He advised the Muslims to believe in themselves and to believe only on their Lord, not on the other people. He also advised the Muslims to adopt simple habits. Because simplicity is loved by Allah Almighty and also by the religion of Islam.

Conclusion ⇒

From all the above efforts it can be concluded that Sheikh Ahmed Raza Khan was an active activist of Islam. Although he beared many hardships but he never give up and always stands for the Islam. His sermons and teaching provide the unique guidance to the people of subcontinent. It was his reforms that allows Shah Waliullah, Allama Iqbal and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to also put their reforms and struggle for good answer! the headings quality, number of arguments and the length is good.

improve the structure and the paper presentation of the answer.

the existence of Muslims and Islam.

His concept of separatism between Hindus and Muslims paved the way for the independent Muslim state "Pakistan". His contributions will always be remembered in the history of Muslims.