

Give an account of the life and service of Shah Wali Ullah. How did he save the Indian Muslim from political annihilation and religious degeneration?

Shah Wali Ullah

Shah Wali Ullah was born in 1703. He belonged to a family of religious preachers. He was raised up in high Quran, Shariah Muslim morality and social values. Madrasa Rahimia was established by his father Shah Abdur Rahim in Delhi. This madrasa saved the Muslim of Northern India.

When he was 4 years old in 1707 last Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir died and history of sub-continent took a new turn and the power of Muslim started to decline. Throughout his life he wanted to revive Islam and the status of Muslim in the sub-continent. He tried to solve the problem in a systematic way which are as under

Religious Reforms:

Shah Wali Ullah immediately set himself to the sacred task of spiritual consolidation of Muslim society. He prepared few students and taught them about different Islamic learning. They were entrusted with the job of imparting knowledge to others.

Supremacy of Islam:

Shah Wali Ullah persuaded the Muslims to strictly follow the rule of Islam. He introduced the basic principles of Islam to the people. He advocates Quranic education for the welfare and benefits of the Muslims and asked them to abandon un-Islamic trends and practices.

He initiated *tahqiq* (integration) of the Muslim society on the verge of destruction. By adopting the method of *tahqiq* he introduced

liberal element and thus brought elasticity to the understanding of Islam.

Ijtihad:

He adopted a balanced approach and understanding of religious matters. He thoughtfully studied all schools of thought and expressed what was right of just in a gentle and sophisticated way without hurting anyone. He presented Islam more rationally to make it acceptable to a more significant number of people. He states that I was informed through Itham that I would have to undertake this responsibility.

Jihad:

Shah Waliullah contacted rulers and impressed them to enforce Islamic laws. He educated Muslim soldiers on the importance of Jihad and asked them to go for Jihad to glorify Islam.

Message of Unity:

The first message Shah Wali Ullah spread amongst the Muslim was regarding unity. He said that one of the major cause of Muslim decline is disintegration and disunity amongst them. He stated that Shias are not Kafir they are muslim. He stated that disunity of Muslim is the cause that other nation like "Marathas" are becoming strong.

Translation of Quran:

Holy Quran was not understandable to all the readers because of the language barrier - that is why for the first time Quran is translated into Persian by Shah Wali Ullah. As Persian was understood and spoken by many Muslim at that time.

Political efforts:

Although he was a religious scholar he also done political reforms.

He want to remove Marathas from Delhi. He requested Ahmed Shah Abdali of persia to invade in India defeat Marathas and restored Muslim rule in India. Ahmed Shah Abdali came in 1761 and defeat Marathas in the famous battle field of "Panipat". Ahmed Shah removed Marathas but did not stay in India so once again Delhi went under the weak administration of Mughals.

Social Principles:

He propagated the principles of Adl and Tawazun means Justice and equilibrium. He believed that these two principles are the back bone of any economy and by obeying this Muslim can make their economic condition better.

SM Ikram said about Shah Wali Ullah as "Greatest Original Thinker"

Hujjāt - Allah - al - Baligha

Hujjāt - Allah - al - Baligha is another famous work of Shah Wali Ullah. He discussed the reason of Muslim social and religious decay. He also discussed the importance of applying Ijtihad in his book.

Isalāt - al - Khifa and Khilafat - al - Khulafa

Shah Wali Ullah wrote Isalat - al - Khifa and Khilafat - al - Khulafa to remove the misunderstanding b/w Shias and the Sunnis.

Al Inṣāf fi Bayān Sbab al Iktilāf.

Shah Wali Ullah adopted an analytical and balanced approach towards the four schools of thoughts of mysticisms. To create a balance between the 4 schools i.e.

Hanafi, Hambali, Shafi and Maliki he wrote Al Inṣāf fi Bayān Sbab al Iktilāf where he traced their historical background.