

Q How the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Introduction

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was a reformist in the 16th century. He was awarded by a title of **Mujadid Alif Sani** from his followers. The reason of why he was so praised was his reviving activities for the Islam. During his time, Islam faced many challenges. The Muslims had forgot the real teachings of Islam. As he was champion of Islam and got education about Quran and Hadiths for a longer period of his life. So, he took the responsibility to revive the real essence of Islam among the Muslims of Sub-continent. The Muslim emperor of the Sub-continent had distracted from the right path and along with him he started to install fake beliefs among his peoples.

Sheikh Ahmad Rakhimji Maududi
a movement for revival and
reforming the Society. He expressed
great grief for this noble till his
death.

Life of Mujaddid Ahmadi:

He was born in 1864 in
Sikind, India. His father
was Sheikh Ahmad, who was
an Islamic scholar. He passed
on the upbringing of Sheikh Maududi
and educated him well.

Education of Sheikh Ahmad

He got his early education
from Sikind and Sialkot.
He studied about Quran,
Hadiths and Tafsir (Interpretation
of Quran). He also studied
philosophy and theology.
Before settling into Delhi, he
stayed in Lahore and
became the champion of Islam
there.

Emigration of Sheikh Ahmad to Sufi order.

At the age of 36 he joined
the Sufi order 'Nawshahidiya',
under the guidance of Sufi

Baqir Billah. Sheikh Ahmad had many differences with Abu-al-Fatih and said: on educational perspectives, Baqir Billah said about him that he would be the light for the world.

Situation of Sub-continent during 15th time:

During the 16th century, especially during the tenure of King Akbar, the Islam had placed many problems. The emperor Akbar had announced a self-creating religion called **Deen-E-Ilahi**. It was influenced by Bahai movement started by Hindu religious scholars. Another issue that was emerged during his time was **Mahadatul Majid**. Henry was so common that time. All these things clearly explained the situation or challenges faced by Islam at that time.

Deen - E-Ilahi:

Emperor Akbar announced the Deen-E-Ilahi. The muslim scholars had been divided from the real teachings of Islam. Even some muslim scholars

had allowed the gambling and alcohol. Fasting during Ramadan was allowed. Hajj was not considered the pillar of Islam. Hindu began to demolish Mosques and ridicule Islam. Muslims were taken away from affairs of state. Muslims were considered as orthodox and Islam was believed as religion of uneducated.

Innocent of Mujaddid Alfanni against Deen-Elahi:

After the death of King Akbar. Sheikh Ahmad decided to be a reformist. He wrote letters to royal court about the false beliefs of Deen-Elahi. He was summoned in the court of King Jahangir (son of Akbar). He was asked about his letters and to bow down but he refused and said that bowing down after anyone instead of Allah was against the teaching of Islam. This angered the king and he punished him and imprisoned him for two years. He also wrote Khutbat (letters) and a book called **Asbat-e-Nabuwat** to deny the Deen-Elahi.

Efforts of his Efforts:

In the prison he continued to preach Islam and consequently convert thousand Non-muslims to Islam. With the inspiration of his writings the King Jahangir ended his punishment and released him.

He gave him the title of **Khilat-e-Fakhira** and also respects. All Mughal Prayers the King would give him audience and he would discuss the issues of Islam with Jahangir. The Emperor advised his son to become a disciple of Sheikh Ahmad Rishindi.

Mahad-tu-Shahed against Mahedatul Kujud

Mokhammad-Ibn-Arabi gave the concept of **Mahadulawajud**, that means 'Unity of being'. He said that everything that exists is God. But Sheikh Ahmad refused him and proposed the concept of **Mahadatul Ishhad**. For this purpose he wrote **Toheed-e-Shahedi**. He said God and his creation is different.

"To consider Lam and
Rehman as one is stupidity
because the creator cannot
be one as the creation."

(Sheikh Ahmad
Sirhindī)

Opposition to Heresy:

He educated people about
heresy that every bid'at
is forbidden in Islam.
There is no concept of good
and bad Heresy.

Concept of Government:

He advised the emperor to stay
away from politics. He
considered the emperor as
caretaker of the nation and
state.

"King is like heart to the
body, If heart is pure the
body will be pure but if
heart is not pure how the
body could be pure."

Oppose the unity of Nationhood

If you want to live like a
nation, then you have to quit
the talk of Shirk and bid'at.

and stay away from Hindus.
If the clear awareness of
National Identity has not
awakened the Muslims, it is
feared that they would be
flee away with flood of
nationalism. Islam would
be faded like Buddhism
and Hinduism.

Books:

Asbā - Nabuwā
Risāl - e - Nabuwā
Toheed - Shuhudī

Conclusion:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindī paved
the way for the Muslims
of sub continent to the right
path. He opposed all means
of false beliefs and faiths
emerged during his time.
He used his students to
convey the message of Islam
to different countries and
cities of India. He revived
the true essence of Islam.
In short, he was a true
reformist that's why called
as Mujaddid Alfani - 'revival
of second millennium!'