

Past Paper 2020

Q No # 2

Introduction

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi also known as Mujadid Alf Sani was a great reformer of the Islam in the subcontinent. He spread Islam through his expertise and Feopardise Knowledge, Books and letters. He trained thousands of muslims in religious knowledge.

“Sirhindi is such a light of knowledge which will illuminate the whole world”

~ Khwaja Baqi Billah

Background of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmed was born on 1564, and died on 1624 in India. He received his early education from his home and later moved to Sialkot to receive higher education. When he was 36 years old, he joined Khwaja Baqi billah in

The disciple of Naqshbandi. He gained great knowledge from his teacher Khuwaja bagi billah.

Akbar's Rule: Spread of False Image of Islam:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was keen to bring reform of Islam in the sub continent, especially during the Mughal rule of Akbar. Akbar's false spreading of Deen-e-Ilahi to muslims was bringing them back from Islamic teachings. As of Deen-e-Ilahi had done great damage to Islamic teachings. Ulama's were spreading false image of Islam telling them that liquor and Gambling is "halal" in Islam which is actually prohibited in Islam. Hajj was not considered as third pillar of Islam. Hindus abolished mosques in the subcontinent. These all negative narrations against Islam had put great damage to Islamic teachings. According to Sirhindi, it was "The Age of Islamic poverty"

~ Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

Sheikh Ahmed's letter to Jahangir:

Sheikh Ahmed was very diligent to bring reforms in the subcontinent. Owing to this, he wrote letters to Mughal Emperor Jahangir in which he highlighted the false portraying image of Islam to peoples. But, Jahangir did not bring any reform and somehow he got imprisoned to Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi for two years.

Reforms of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi in Imprison:

After Jahangir's dictation, Sheikh Ahmed was imprisoned for two years. During his imprisonment, he preached Islam and thousands of peoples accepted Islam as a Deen. When Jahangir knew about his reforms in the imprisonment, he gave him a gift of 100 rupees and also awarded him with title "Khilat-e-Fakhira".

Disciples of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, under his disciples trained thousands of young muslim. He preached them with the teachings of Islam. He sent them to different countries to spread Islam and gave this knowledge of Islam to other peoples. Under his teachings and disciples many peoples in other countries also accepted Islam.

Sheikh Ahmed's Reform of wahadat-ul-Shahood against wahad-ul-wajood:

Mohayudin - Ibn-e-Arabi, at that time gave peoples the concept of wahadat-ul-wajood. According to him; Allah is One and Everything in the world belongs to him only either good or either bad. Objective as well as subjective. Sheikh

Ahmed Sirhindi was against this concept of wahad-ul-shahood. Therefore, he did reform in this and gave people's the concept of wahadat-ul-shahood. According to this concept; Allah is one and every spiritual thing belongs to him only. In this he clearly explains subjective things not objective that were made by people.

Bring Reforms in the teachings of Ulema's:

As of Deen-e-Sulahi of Akbar, taking the help of Ulema and spreading the false narration of Sunnah and Islam laws. Ulemas were of two types which were involving to portray the negative image. The first were with good innovations called Bidat-e-Hasnah. The second category of Ulema's were with bad innovation, they were called as Bidat-e-Siyyah.

Both of the categories of uterama were not giving any benefit to the muslims in the spread of Islam.

“To consider Ram and Rehman as One, is of Stupidity. Because Creator cannot be One in his Creation.” ~ Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

Reforms of Sheikh Ahmed in the Governmental System:

That was very critical time for Muslim's which was observed by Sirhindi. The policies was not in favour of muslims such as "Deen-e-Mahis", high taxes, negative image of Islam. Considering that liquor and gambling was hald in Islam. owing to this Sheikh Ahmed wrote letters to kings in which he narrates that king should be free from all religious adulterations.

“The position of the King is the same as of heart in our body. If the heart is pure, the body will be pure. If the heart is not

pure, The body shall not be pure."

~ Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

Reform to portray the real image of Islam:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi gathered different Ulama and told them about the real image of Islam. He said to them that Islam is based on Shariah and Sunnah of Holy prophet (PBUH). Therefore, Islamic teachings are to follow Quran and Sunnah. In this way, he brought reforms with the help of Ulama in the Subcontinent.

Opposing to Nationhood with Hindus:

Sheikh Ahmed observed that Hindus were superior to Muslims. Hindus were in good governmental seats, while Muslims were in inferior seats. Therefore he addressed to Muslims that:

"If the Muslims want to live as a Nation then they should quit the talk of Shirk and

Bidaat, and stay away from the Hindus? ~ Sheikh Ahmed

Sheikh Ahmed's Concept of two Nation Theory:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, founder of many muslims under his order of Naqshbandi. In this order, he said that muslims and Hindus are two different peoples. They both have their own different culture and traditions. Sheikh Ahmed put this narrative of two nations theory in the minds of muslims.

Spread of Islam through his Books and writings:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was very religious. He followed Islamic Shariah and Sunnah. He not only himself followed Islamic teachings but also gathered different peoples in order to follow Islamic laws. Therefore, for this he used to write letters and Books.

He wrote many letters in Persian which were known as Atibat.

In these letters he talked about the negative policies and false narration of Islam which was spreading in the subcontinent. He wrote these letters to different kings and rulers of different countries. He also published his books to spread Islam and to bring reforms in the teachings of the Islam. This masterpiece of books were:

- Atibat-e-Islam
- Atibat-e-Sunnat
- Islamic philosophy
- Need and Importance of Prophethood
- Toheed-e-Shahoodi.

Conclusion: Sheikh Ahmed

Sikhindi was a great reformer. Especially, when Akbar portrayed negative image of Islam through Deen-e-Mahbi. He brought reforms in the subcontinent through his disciples, teachings, letters and books.