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Question

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

Answer:

INTRODUCTION:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, also famously known as **Mujadid Alf Sani** was born in 1564 in Sirhind, Patiala in India and died in 1624. He was a mystic and theologian who was largely involved in reforming the muslims beliefs especially those of the Emperors such as Akber (who introduced Din-e. elahi), Jhangir, Shah jahan and Aurangzeb Alamgir. His teachings left long lasting impacts on aforementioned emperors. Sheikh Ahmed was an overt preacher of Islam and staunch believer of following Quran, Sunnah and

Hadith. Apart from this he denied the humanly created religious beliefs and trends which were corrupting the minds of Muslims in Akber's era.

## Brief Overview of Religious Conditions during the time of Mujadid:

When Mujadid witnessed <sup>that</sup> the prevailing position of mysticism, Islamic rulings and religion is being misguided by the upscaling influence of "Karamat" among masses, he decided to launch an anti movement against these evils. The most prominent of the times was Akber's Din-e-elahi.

## Major elements of Din-e-elahi:

Din-e-elahi was made by Akber, the Mughal king, who was greatly influenced by Bhakti movement of Hindu's which advocated for equality of all and ultimately results in moral, spiritual and religious decadence of Muslims who were becoming deficient in Islamic knowledge with

each coming day. The consumption of liquor and gambling stood allowed by Vienna, eating during ramazan was also allowed, Inn-e-Malaik were declared false and Hajj was made as a non-pillar of Islam and the religion of Islam was mocked by Hindus with blatant disgrace to the sanctity of muslim's worship places such as mosques etc.

## Sheikh Ahmed's Contributions in Reverting the lost Muslims back into the Circle of Islam :-

After Akber's death, when once Sheikh was called to the court of Jhangirs and ordered to bow in front of him as per the rules set under Din-e-lahi, the brave Sheikh refused to bow in front of him and said "It is Un-Islamic" to pay Sajda-e-Tazeem to human and this should only be paid to Allah Almighty. Upon this disobedience, he was sentenced to imprisonment

for two years at Fort of Gawalior.

### Imprisonment at Fort of Gawalior:-

Even during his imprisonment Sheikh did not stop preaching Islam and converted thousands of non-Muslims into Islam and it was this influence of his personality that he was released from imprisonment and awarded by gifts and thousand ruppees by Thangir.

### Advisory role of Sheikh to Emporer Thangir in religious affairs:

After serving imprisonment, Sheikh was appointed as a special advisor to the emporer and hence the struggle for Muslims accumulation started.

### Brought numerous people to Islam through the power of his pen and tongue:-

Sheikh Ahmad wrote many letters to multiple muslim leaders and arose true spirit of Islam in muslims.

He also laid emphasis on Ittibat-e-Sunnat.

Sheikh Ahmad was the first

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person who gave the concept of Two-Nation Theory:

He realised that Hindu's and Muslims are poles apart in their way of living, traditions, culture and daily practices, so they can not live together under the emblem of Mughal rule.

Gave the pathway for government:-

Sheikh Sirhindi was of the view that emperor holds supreme power and he should be free in all religious affairs that include adulteration. As it was said "The King is like a heart in the body, if the heart is pure the body will be pure and if heart is not pure, how can the body be pure?"

Conclusion:-

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi holds the true and higher spirits of Muslimhood. This prominent aspect of his personality did not let him bow in front of Allah's creature instead of Allah Almighty (The Great). As said by one of the teachers of Sheikh Ahmad Hazrat Khwaja Baki Billah: "Sheikh Ahmad is such a light which will illuminate the whole world." and the prediction stand true.