

AMMAR YASIR - 054

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi

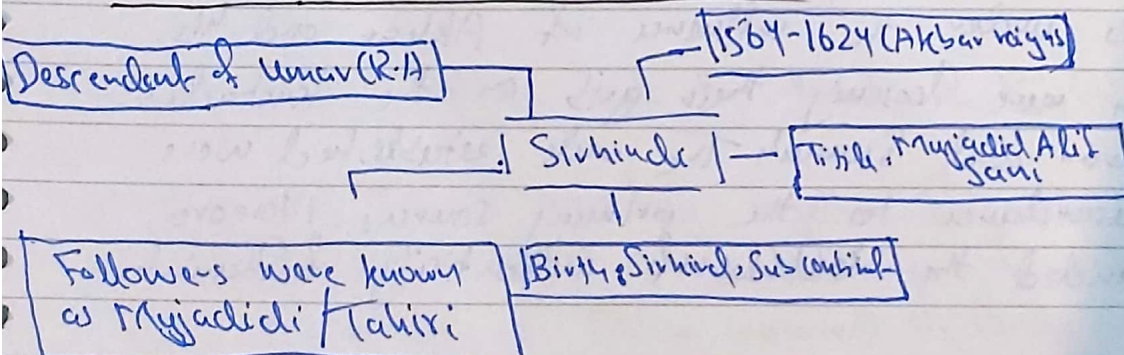
Introduction

According to some reports, Akbar is cherished as the best Mughal leader in the eyes of many Indians especially Hindus. This was due to his welcoming behavior to Hindus in such a way that it threatened the fundamental teachings of Islam in an era with already eroded Islamic beliefs among in the subcontinent. Hence, the services rendered by Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi are of great importance, and the era is known as Renaissance of Islam.

As The concept of the Movement

The efforts of Sirhindi gave birth to Muslim reformist movement which aimed at reviving the fundamental and true teachings of Islam. There were innovations introduced by Sufis and Akbar, which shook the roots of Islam in the subcontinent. The Muslim ruler were swinging away from Islam. Therefore, Sirhindi felt that a swift action was necessary to undo these elements and revive Islam among the Muslims.

About Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi



The need of his work

Moral decadence of Muslim rulers:

Akbar's reign proved as a threat to the teachings of Islam on ~~many~~ the following grounds: the introduction of Deen-e-Elahi, the prostration culture to the Muslim ruler ^{and} the marriage of Akbar to a Hindu woman.

Deen-e-Elahi was a religion introduced by Akbar which included factors of Islam and Hinduism which he thought were positive in nature. The mixture of Hinduism in Islam was a direct threat to the teachings of Islam. Quran states,

"For you is your religion, for me is my religion" (Al Kahf)

The introduction of Deen-e-Elahi was to bring harmony in the subcontinent and win the hearts of Hindus. This will enable an easier expansion of his empire and a greater influence on Hindus. For the very same reason, he married a Hindu woman and appointed Hindus in key posts. Obligation was imposed upon the subjects to prostrate to the ruler.

Decline in Shariah Laws:

The Ulemas under the influence of Akbar and his new religion were loosening their grip on the tenets of Quran and Sunnah. The rules established were not in accordance to the primary sources. Moreover, Suh's divided the ~~authenticity~~ authenticity of Shariah.

The same case applies to the modern world in the Muslim countries like Pakistan. According to the constitution, Pakistan is an Islam Republic. However, it has been submerged in un-Islamic domains in the form of loans, provided by the conventional commercial banks and state bank of Pakistan. Fortunately, the growth of Islamic banking may reduce this issue altogether.

Social Evils:

Some of the major sins in Islam are as follows: Drinking, Gambling, bribery, and Riba. The Quranic text has ~~boldly stated~~ prohibited in a clear writing and condemned those who are indulged in it. Whereas, these evils were rampant among the masses during the Akbar Akbar's reign. Therefore, it showed the path that Muslim of subcontinent were taking i.e., moving away from Islam.

The same case is still happening today. The dominance of banking sector has normalised Riba. In countries like Pakistan, the corruption has resulted in developmental inefficiencies and loss of revenue of the country. The advent of technology has increased the immorality among the youth. Also there are lots of reports on a rise in drinking and gambling among the Muslims.

Increasing Hindu culture and the threat of Bahki Movement:

Muslim and Hindus were living together for centuries in the subcontinent with cultural exchanges, from both sides. However, the reign of Akbar increased the Hindu cultural

Fullaah on Islam. For example, many Muslims believed in the miracles of Saints. Some Sufi introduced the concept of Wahdat-al-Wajood which stated that God and its servants were not separate. Hence, worshipping anything would constitute, to worshipping God. This shook the basic principles of Islam. Quran states,

"Say! He is Allah, the One" (Al Akhad)

The Hindu reformist movements such as Bakti movement was threat to Islam which wanted to convert the Indians Muslims back to Hinduism. This was direct threat to Islam and Muslim rule.

The current era is ^{of} no exception. Instead of Hindu culture, Muslims have been greatly influenced by Western culture. Their culture includes liberal ideology which has already been inculcated to the minds of the youth. Such an influence is normalising, ~~the~~ ^{factor/trends} that contradicts Islam.

Efforts and Steps

Commandments of Shariah:

Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi sent his disciples to teach Ithna-e-Sunnah and commandments of Shariah. His stress was on the aspect of Tauheed, which was the core pillar of Islam. When he was jailed in Fort Gawalia, he continued with his teachings and influenced rulers that were near to the emperor.

Writing of Sirhindi:

He wrote several Makhtubat with compilations of Ijtihad. Ijtihad is an independent reasoning done by scholars on issues in the light of Islam. These Ijtahads were ^{Juridical} to different sets of issues of Muslims. He also wrote Maraf-e-dunia which was based on morality and spirituality. He also wrote a pamphlet known as Ithbat al Nabuwahⁱⁿ which Imam Ghazali justified the new ~~of~~ prophethood.

Opposition to Deen-e-Elahi:

The Muslims of India were diverting from the true teachings of Islam with the belief in kavamat. As mentioned previously, Akbar ceased to refer to Quran and Hadith. This was fueled further with introduction of Deen-e-Elahi. Sirhindi ~~also~~ opposed Deen-e-Elahi and exposed its problematic nature to the Islam. He refused to prostrate to Jahangir ^{rendering the act un-Islamic}. He was jailed but released later by Jahangir who appointed Sirhindi on important post.

Wahdat-ul-Shahood

In order to oppose Wahdat-ul-Wajood, Sirhindi introduced Wahdat-ul-Shahood which separated Allah from his creatures, and negated the concept of unity in Wahdat-ul-Wajood. He countered all kinds of Bid'at (innovations) rampant in subcontinent.

M Hindu Persecution:

He opposed the assimilation of Hindu culture and influence in Islam. He highlighted the true essence of Tawheed in Islam. He made a forceful voice against ~~the~~ unfaithful Muslims of subcontinent. He negated and created awareness over these in Islamic tendencies among the Muslims. In general, he strived to reform Islamic society by ~~working~~ ^{working} for the betterment of Muslims and true morality of Islam.

Impacts of these efforts

Political Impacts:

Sirhind: was successful in ^{providing} ~~giving~~ the Muslims their Islamic identity. This fanned religious nationalism among the Muslims. They realised that they had their ~~separate~~ identity from Hindus. Hence, disowned various tendencies influenced by Hindu culture. Therefore, it is safe to say that ~~the~~ ^{movement is} considered as a forerunner to the Two Nation Theory and Pakistan movement. Sirhindi is considered one of the early great reformers in the revival of Islam.

This is a mind opener to the ^{events of} contemporary era. The tentacles of Western ^{culture} ~~identity~~ has surrounded Islam. Mass media is contributing greatly towards the current identity crises among the youth. The lack of Islamic knowledge and principles has resulted in lack of support by the Muslim countries for the Palestinians who are suffering from genocide.

Social ImpactsReligious Impacts

The efforts of Sirhindi resulted in the reversal of un-Islamic tendencies of innovation, Deen-e-Elahi, prostration to the king, etc. ~~to be reversed~~ Sirhindi was able to influence Jahangir to take these steps. This was gradually followed by the other Mughal rulers. During the reign of Aurangzeb, the Jizya was reimposed as a result.

The concept of Wahdat-ul-Wajood was ~~totally~~ ruled as un-Islamic with the concept of Wahdat-ul-Shahood. Shariah laws were implemented within the light of Quran and Sunnah. The concept of Bid'ah (Innovation) was highlighted and awareness given to masses on this. Hence, the efforts of Sirhindi cannot be forgotten, as he revived Islam which could have been corrupted by un-Islamic values till this date.

This is a lesson for the Muslims of today to be conscious about un-Islamic tendencies that may have given birth to innovation. ^{However} the legacy of Bid'ah from the time of subcontinent continues to persist. The recent incident of exposing ~~a person's~~ the reality of 'Haq Khateeb' ^{news} via the ^{news} anchor Jigar-ul-Hasan might have been an eye opener for many. Haq Khateeb via ~~the~~ social media claimed he could do karamats which was not actually true. ~~It~~ Hence, the legacy of Bid'ah still persists in Pakistani society.

Social Impacts

The efforts also contributed in revival of true Islam in the Indian society. Social evils were greatly gradually reduced in and as the person indulged was looked up and condemned. The sense of Islamic identity in Muslims paved way to Muslim nationalism, as the cohesion among the Muslim strengthened. The unity among the Muslims and their separate identity led to Muslims demanding a separate homeland later and refusing to come under the Hindu rule, as it could be a threat to their Islamic Identity.

Pakistan and India

In the current times, Pakistan and India have one of the most dense Muslim populations. These Muslims have recognised their separate Muslim identity and follow the true teachings of Islam. Despite of Modi's RSS ideology creeping in India, the Indian Muslims are rigid and staunch in their belief of Islam.