

SAMINA AWAN

BATCH: 67

Q Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of sub-continent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmed Raza Khan (Mujaddid Alf Thani) who revived Islamic Ideology and established Muslim Identity in sub-continent?

Introduction:

Mughal Emperor Akbar was the ruler of Indian subcontinent. He took full control of the kingdom and had declared himself Din-i-Ilahi, the Divine faith, which combined the elements of Islam and Hinduism. He initiated the un-Islamic practices and beliefs among the Muslims and diverted the socio-political situation of the subcontinent. Akbar's policies had made Hindu Rajas so powerful that they started interfering in state affairs. These complex socio-political situations influenced the development of Islamic thoughts and practices in the sub-continent.

Role of Sheikh Ahmed Sarhindi in Sub-Continent.

Sarhindi has labeled the rule of Akbar as "The age of the Islamic poverty;" Hence he could set a straight path for the Emperor of Muslim society. His main objective was to purify the Indian Muslims from the un-Islamic practices which had adopted by the Muslims with the passage of time.

(ii) Preaching Of Islam during the Imprisonment

He started preaching of Islam during the imprisonment in the fort of Gawaligar. Thousands of Non-Muslims accepted Islam due to his continued efforts and he also received the title of Khilat-e-Fakhira. After a year however, Jhangir released him from jail and offered huge gifts to him.

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2. Wahdat-ul-wajud and Wahdat-ul-Shahud

The philosophy of wahdat-ul-wajud was presented by some Sufis of Akbar's time. The wahdat-ul-wajud which meant that there was no difference between the Man and his Creator God and both individual and God are not separated from each other. On the contrary, Mujaddid Alf Sani introduced the idea of wahdat-ul-shahud which meant that the creator and creatures were two different and separate entities.

3. Opposition to Din-i-Ilahi

The introduction of Din-i-Ilahi by Akbar was a grave attempt to distort Islam. It splits the Muslim society into several factions and promoted heretic attitudes and practices. Sheikh Ahmed Sahindhi wrote a Risala Asbat-e Nauwwat to appose Din-i-Ilahi. "To consider Ram and Rehman as one is stupidity because creator cannot be one with its creation."

4. Rectification of Mysticism

Sheikh Ahmed Sahindhi explained the fact that mysticism without Shariah was a misleading concept. He told the difference between Wilayat (sainthood) and Nabuwat (prophethood). In this way, he smothered a differing opinion regarding the sainthood and prophethood and tried to rectify the un-Islamic practices in mysticism.

5. Two Nation Theory

At that time, the concept of joint nationalism was prevalent under the Indian nobility and religious leadership. In order to separate the Muslim identity, Sheikh Ahmed Raza Khan advocated the exclusiveness and separatedness of the Muslims. He adopted a stern action against the Hindus. It shows he was the pioneer of Two Nation Theory in India.

Conclusion:

From the above discussions It may be concluded that Sheikh Ahmed, till the last breath of his life continued with the propagation of Islam. He drew a distinction between Islam and atheism. He took many efforts as a reformer of Muslims and anti-Islamic activities carried on during the regime of Akbar. He also checked the pressure

of non-Islamic customs, converted a great number of Hindus to Islam, provided pure Islamic teachings and eradicated the wrong ideas of so called Mystics. we can say that he was the first person who understood the Hindu amalgamation in Islam and purified it.