

Q1 How the reform movement of Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi a greater reformer in the history of muslim India, born in 1564 during rule of Akbar in India. He is also known as 'Mujaddid Alf-Thani' for his unlimited services for the betterment of muslims. He witnessed Akbar's din-e-ilahi and concept of Wahda-ul-wajood. He learnt great concepts of islam from Hazrat Baqi billah and attached himself with Nakshabani order.

Akbar's rule in India makes the environment pathetic for muslims to follow islamic teaching. Imam-e-rabbani filled the gap with his school of thought. Akbar's marriage to rajput 'Jodah bae' became the reason of Akbar's interest in other religions. He later marries other non-muslim ladies. He allow non-muslims to be the part of his cabinet. Non-muslims were present everywhere in his political system. Akbar abolished 'Pilgrimage tax' in 1564. He also abolishes Jizya in 1565. He created his own religion, called din-e-ilahi, an amalgamation of many religions. He focuses on the concept of Wahda-ul-wajood. This concept refers toward that creator and creation is same, in every creation, creator is

present. The attribute of god and his creation is same. So, to follow and bow down in front of god or in front of his creation is same. He blurred all the concepts of Islam. The people present in his 'Darbar' are those scholars of Islam who gives different interpretations of Islam according to the choice of Akbar. There was allowed drinking but slaughter of animals were banned. He built temples in the region and separate himself from teachings of Islam.

Whenever muslims scattered from their right path of Islam, Allah SWT sent his people to give true message of Islam. The arrival of Mujadid al-Thani is also the evidence of this. M. Ikram says about him, the only forceful and 'original thinker' before Shah Waliullah and Sir Syed. He brings muslims of India from the depth of non-Islamic practices to the light of faith. He sent his message to Mulla Fazel and Faizi the prominent figures in darbar. He takes guidance from Mevlana Fareed Khan about muslims and their issues. He asked him about those non-muslims who offer and tease muslims to follow non-muslim practices, those muslims who are indulge in

non-muslim practices and about those who considers that Islam is in danger. He got imprisoned by Jahangir by this even did not make his discourage. He write letters to scholars, political figures and mulana's. His Maktubat imam-e-rabbani is the evidence of this, which consists of 536 letters and 370 verses verses of Holy Quran. He delivers lectures and highlight the wrong concepts of Islam spread by Akbar's administration. Jahangir later released him but he was more enthusiastic this time. He teaches Jahangir the flaws in his political system and make him realize this that Islam's political system is for every time and space. He emphasizes to make laws, constitution and life style according to islamic system. He gives the concept of Wahdat-Shahad against the concept of Wahdat-wajood. Wahdat-shahad explains that there is huge difference between creator and creation. There can be attributes of creator in his creation but one should not replace creation with creator. Sishundi make the muslims of India to correct their concepts of Islam and devoted his life for this. He gives reference from Quran and Hadith for every matter. He acknowledge the muslims that Hindu and

muslims are two separate nations. He guided them against, inter-marriage, inter-dine affairs. They can not be mixed. Alauddin in his rule follow the teaching of Sirhindis. The cow slaughter was allowed, Jizya was reimposed and the concepts related art and music was cleared. He is also known as rebirth of Mujaddid al-Thani. The concept of two nations was highlighted by Imam-e-rabani and asked to distinguish among muslims and non-muslims. For which Iqbal says,

اجنی ملت پر قیاس اقوام مضرب سے نہ کر
خاص ہے ترقیب میں قوم رسول ہستی

Iqbal was so much influenced by Mujaddid al-Thani and followed his teachings along with Shah Waliullah. Imam-e-rabani corrected the concepts of islam for muslims of India and worked for 'Ideology of Islam' and 'Separate Muslim Identity'. Iqbal says,

گردن نہ جھکی جس کی حما بہا لیرے آئے
میں کے نفس گرم سے ہے جس کی گرمی اصرار
وہ بند ہیں سرمایہ ملت کا تنہا
اللہ نے ہر وقت کیا جس کو فر دار