

Q Give an account of the life services of Shah Waliullah. How did he save Indian Muslims from Political annihilation and religious degeneration?

INTRODUCTION:

Shah Waliullah was a well-known scholar and reformer of the sub-continent. He was born in a religious family and got his early education from his father. Later on, he has travelled to Saudi Arab, where he received Islamic education under various renowned scholars of that time. Shah Waliullah returned to India and started a reform movement for the moral, political, social and religious uplifting of Muslims.

LIFE SERVICES OF SHAH WALLIULLAH:

During the declining rule of Muslim rule in India, Muslims were

failing to in political integration and religious unity. For that purpose, Shah Waliullah started his struggle to ~~achieve~~ restore Muslim political strength and unity. He continued to his efforts to prosper Muslims of India. Numerous books was written, translation of Holy Book and his landmark move - he wrote letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali (the ruler of Afghanistan). Shah Waliullah, not only limited his efforts for the Muslims till ideological reform movement, but also led a major battle of in the history of sub-continent. So, it can be said that the reform movement of Shah Waliullah, not only uplift the moral of Muslims of India, but paved the way of Two-Nation Theory and Partition of India and Pakistan.

POLITICAL EFFORTS OF SHAH WALLIULLAH FOR MUSLIMS:

Due to the weak Mughal rule in India, the political power of Muslims began to weaken. Shah Waliullah stepped multiple efforts in this regard:

① MUSLIM UNITY:

Due to declining Mughal rule, Muslims were divided in their political decision. Analyzing this division and lack of unity - thus Marathas began to rise its rule in India. Shah Waliullah anticipated the Marathas rise and began to struggle for the unity of Muslims in India.

② ECONOMIC REFORMS:

Shah Waliullah realised that any rule ^{can} sustain by its economic strength. Mughal rule was weakening because of its economic blunders. Rulers lived their lives in luxuries, and corruption was rampant. Shah Waliullah ~~was~~ wrote a book

"Hajjat-ul-La-ul-Baligha", in which he suggested ~~economic~~ solutions towards a stable economy. Three of them are major:

- ① Luxuries must be ended
- ② Resources should be used according to the geographical allocation from where it is obtained.
- ③ Resources must not be used for luxuries, rather for human welfare.

③ LETTER TO AHMAD SHAH ABDALI:

Shah Waliullah wrote a letter to the ruler of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali, through Najib-ud-Dawla. He suggested him to attack India and save Muslims from the rising rule of Marathas and Sikhs. Abdali attacked India and a battle was fought - known as the "Third Battle of Panipat". Marathas were defeated and Muslims preserved their rule in India.

RELIGIOUS DEGENERATION OF MUSLIMS:

At the time of Shah Waliullah, Muslims were detracked from the path of Islam. Shah Waliullah, not only struggled for the political uplift of Muslims, but also the religious uplift as well.

① UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS:

Shah Waliullah taught Muslims that the ~~actual~~ primary sources of Islam are Quran and Sunnah. Although he supported Tasawwuf, but neglected all sorts of innovations as "Bidah". In this regard, Shah Waliullah translated the Holy Quran into Persian language. Persian was the court language at that time and was widely learned and understood during the Sultans as well as the Mughal rule.

② UNIVERSAL LAW - SHARIAH:

Shah Waliullah considered

Shariah law as the only law ~~capable~~ that is impeccable for a Muslim rule. Since this rule was eliminated by Akbar Mughal, Shah Waliullah tried to re-impose Shariah law in India.

③ SACTARIANISM:

The rising conflict of thought between the two school of thought - Shia and Sunni, rised concerned regarding Muslim unity. Such conflicts widely hinder the unity among Muslims. Shah Waliullah struggled his reform movement to maintain the unity among Muslims, despite having difference in opinions.

CONCLUSION:

Shah Waliullah's reform movement was not limited to any certain ideology, but was toward the complete renounce of Muslims

in India. Allama Muhammad Iqbal said
regarding Shah Waliullah, that:

"Shah Waliullah anticipated the
coming storm and tried to unify
Muslim India before it was too
late".