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Q How did the reform movement of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslims in India?

INTRODUCTION:

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi was a well known reformer in fourteenth-century during the Akbar rule in the sub-continent. Sirhindi is also given the title of "Reviver of second millenium" and was also named Mujadid-Alf-Thanvi. He laid the foundations of Muslim reform movement through his impaccable ideas and struggles. Throughout his life, Sirhindi struggled to impart the real teachings of Islam and retrack Muslims of India. In the result of his reform movement, remarkable changes were witnessed, these can be defined as:

REVIVED ISLAMIC TEACHINGS:

Mujadid Alf Thanvi opposed the

ideas of Sulh-kul, abolition of Jizya, ban on cow slaughter etc. He considered these reforms of Akbar rule as a threat to Muslim identity and Islamic teachings. For that purpose, he started his reform movement and faced numerous challenges. Jahangir sentenced Sirhindi ten-years of imprisonment, but even there, he wrote number of letters and books to convey his ideas of real Islam. Later on, Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi succeeded and these reforms were restored - Jizya was imposed, and ban on cow slaughter was also lifted. Thus, Muslims continued to follow ~~their~~ Islam without any restriction.

PRESERVATION OF MUSLIM IDENTITY:

Since ~~the~~ Akbar supported inter religion marriages, Sirhindi:

saw it as a threat to Muslim identity in India. In addition to it, "Bidah" was also normalized. People were practically involved in shirk and Bidah. So, Mujadid Alf - Tharvi eagerly wanted to end these practices. He wrote numerous letters to sufis and Ulemas in this regard. Thus, Sirhindi along with Sufis and Ulemas preached the real meaning of Islam and their practices of Ibadat.

INTRODUCED WAHDAT-UL-SHAHOOD:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi introduced Wahdat-ul-Shahood (unity of being) in contrary to the ideology of Wahdat-ul-Wajood (unity of being)

Wahadat-ul-Shahud	Wahdat-ul-Wajood
There is one God and nothing is equal to his authority	God can be seen in all the things around us

He created distinction between these two ideas that Allah is only one identity and there is nothing compare to him or considered equal to his, all the other faiths are ~~mere~~ Shirk and Bid'ah. This ideology of Wahdat-ul-Shahood is also supported by Dr. Israr Ahmed. Even in the modern times, his ideology is widely supported.

Laid Foundation For Later Reformers

After the death of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi, his ideas were perceived by later reformers that also led to the partition of Pakistan and India. The reforms of Aurangzeb Alamgir, movement of Shah Waliullah and Faraizi Movement are evidence that their ideas were inspired by Mujadid Alf Thani. His idea that Muslims and Hindus are separate identity and

they cannot follow "Sulh-Kul" - reflected the idea of "Two-Nation Theory". Therefore, it can be said that Sirhind laid ideology preceded the awakening of separate identity and both nations cannot live together.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the reforms introduced by Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi influenced the Muslims of India enormously. S. M. Ikram in his book "History of Muslims in ~~India~~ civilization of India" quoted regarding Sirhindi -

* Sirhind is the most forceful and original thinker in India before Shah Waliullah and Iqbal "

His rich ideas influenced the history of sub-continent's Muslims