

What Shah Waliullah contributed to the Muslim intellectual history of South Asia.

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Introduction:-

Qutub-ud-Din popularly known as Shah Waliullah was born in 1703 in Delhi. He belongs to the family of preachers. He was raised up in an environment where people have discourses on Quran, Shariat, Muslim morality and social values. His father Shah Abdur Rahim was a religious scholar. Shah Waliullah had his early education from his father's Madrasa namely "Madrasa-e-

Rahimia' and also taught them for 12 years. In 1712 he went to Arabia for further studies in theology and then he returned in 1732 with vibrant ideas and intellectual thoughts.

Services of Shah Waliullah :-

First he realized the weakness of the Muslims and then he gave preemptive measures to the Muslims of subcontinent who were facing menacing problems

1. Muslims were not following true teachings of Islam.
2. Muslims divided themselves into different (5) sects.
3. Muslim rulers were indulged in luxurious life style.
4. Political instability due to Hindus rebellious groups (Jatts and Marathas).
5. Economic instability because Jizya was finished.

1. Bridged the gap between Sufi and Ulama:-

The first message Shah Waliullah spread among Muslims was of unity. He studied the writings of each school of thought to understand their point and then wrote comprehensive volumes on them in the light of Islam. Shah Waliullah's approach to Wahdat-al-Wajud was contextual.

2. Religious Services:-

Firstly, he translated Holy Quran in Persian which was the language of land and demand of that era. He also interpreted Quran and Hadith according to the context of that time.

The Muslims of that time have low moral tone, facing sectarian conflicts because of lack of Islamic teachings and ignorance. He recommended

Ijtihad against blind taqlid. He gave the concept of Jurisprudence which was necessary for progressive life.

3- Economic Services:-

He advocated the maintenance of economic equilibrium in the society and strongly criticized the accumulation of wealth.

At that time jizya was finished and tax on Muslims in the form of Riba was introduced. Shah Non Muslims

were preferred for good ranks.

Shah Waliullah gave opinion that distribution of wealth should be according to the productivity not according to favouritism.

4- Political Services:-

He requested Ahmed Shah Abdali of Persia to invade India, defeat Marathas and restore Muslim rule in India.

He wrote open letters to the Mughal rulers, soldiers and other workers. He wrote letters to Mughal rulers to inform them about the destruction did by Marathas. This destruction was of land and lives.

5- Social Services:-

He propagated the principles of Adl and Tawazan (Justice and Equilibrium). He persuaded Muslims to practice these principles. He believed that these 2 principles are backbone of economy and thought thus. He was the first person to give the concept of Two Nation theory. Shah Waliullah made the Govt as an essential mean for regeneration of society.

6- Educational Services:-

He wrote 51 books, 28 of them were in Persian and 23 in Arabic.

His famous writings include "Istajjatul Balagha" (the explanation of Holy Quran), "Izlat ul Akhfa". He tried to bridge this difference of sect by writing an account of the first four Khalifas of Islam in a way that should be acceptable to various sects of subcontinent.

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Conclusion:-

Shah Waliullah was one of the most powerful religious reformer of subcontinent. He not only tried to bring Muslims closer to their religion but he had a complete chalked out plan for the restoration of Muslims power in India. He laid to rest in 1762, After his death his son Shah Abdul Aziz translated Holy Quran in Urdu. Under his successors the Madassa Rahemya continued to flourish.