

Question 04

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

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Introduction:

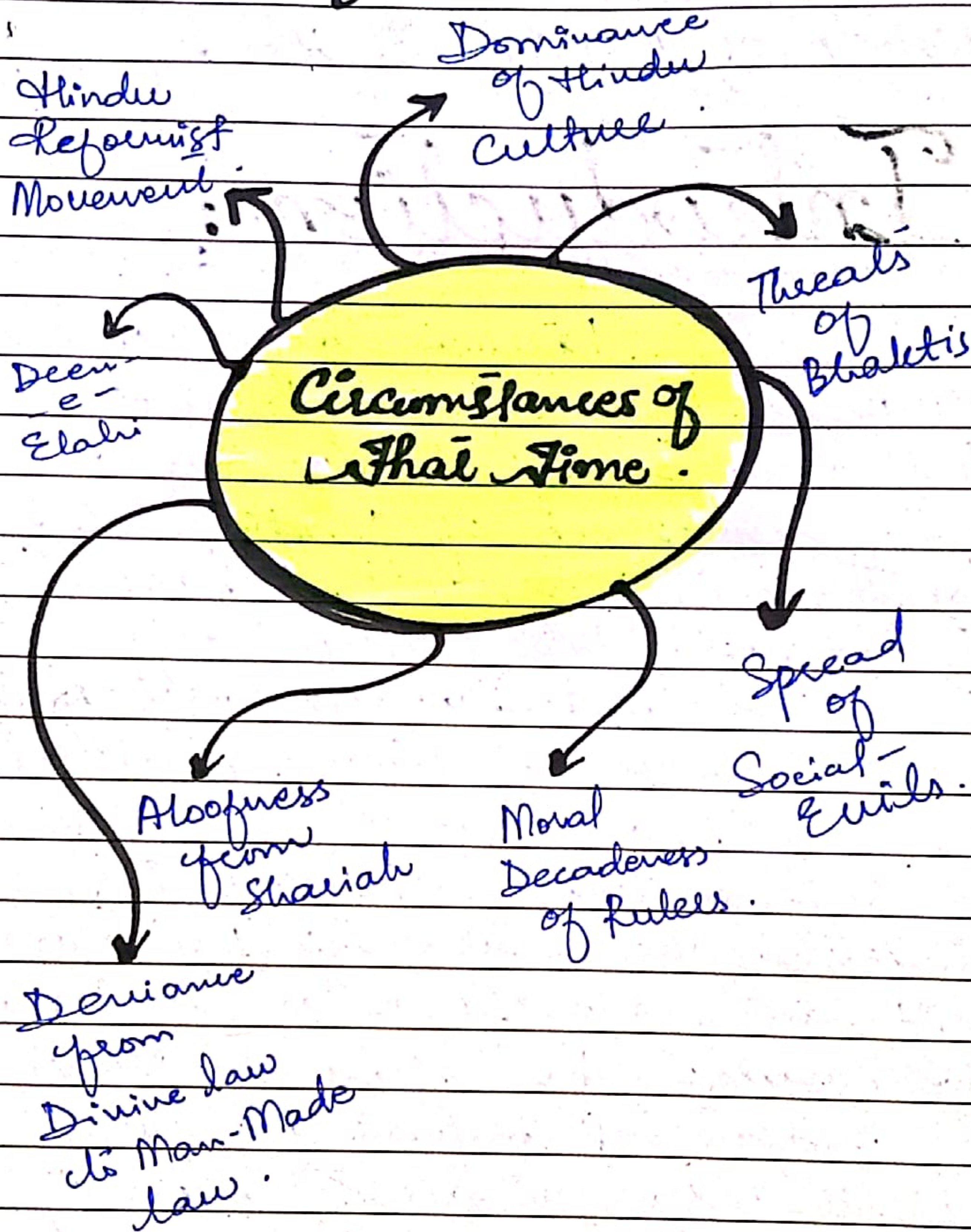
During the reign of Emperor Akbar, the Bhakti Movement significantly influenced the atmosphere of Indian Sub-continent. In response, Akbar introduced the concept of Deen-e-Elahi - a syncretic faith which blurred the clear lines between Islam and other religions of Sub-continent. Thereafter, Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi (Mujaddid Alf-Sani) emerged as a transformative leader. He called the Muslims of Indian Sub-continent for return to the fundamental tenets of Islam as anchored in Quran, Sunnah and Shari'ah to re-affirm the distinct identity of Muslims.

"The Maktubat of Sirhindi came to replace the focus of Ibn-e-Arabi as texts for study and Mediations."

(Hamid Algar, Malaysia)

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Overview Of Circumstances Of that Time:



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Influences Of Shaikh Ahmed

Sirhindi's Reform Movement:

3.1) Sirhindi's Opposition To Deen-i-Elahi:

In 1582, Akbar's introduction of Deen-e-Elahi, blurred the boundaries of Tauheed (Monotheism), therefore, Sirhindi condemned this Syncretism.

(Maktubat, Volume 1, Letter 1)

3.2) Naqshbandi Reform

In 1593, Sirhindi joined the Silsilah-e-Naqshbandi, rejecting the concept of Wahdat-ul-wujud, and aligning Tasawwuf with Shariah!

(Maktubat, Volume 1, Letter 5)

3.3) Pilgrimage To Mecca & Spiritual Leadership:

In 1598, Sirhindi performed Hajj, emphasizing upon Tazkiyyah-al-Nafs (Purification of Soul) and spiritual guidance

for Umal :

(Maktubat, Volume 2, Letter 30)

3.4) Restoration of Shariah, After Death of Akbar :

Post 1602, Sirhindi

Strictly emphasized to adhere with Shariah during the Jahangir's rule.

(Maktubat, Volume 1, Letter 3)

3.5) Campaign Against Social Syncretism :

Sirhindi strongly condemned the inter-faith marriage and Muslims adoption of Non-Islamic Customs.

(Maktubat, Volume 2, Letter 20)

3.6) Refusing Ceremonial Prostration :

Shaikh Ahmed

Sirhindi refused the Sajda-e-Ta'zimi before Jahangir, which led him imprisonment.

(Maktubat, Volume 3, Letter 35)

(4)

Analysis:Akbar's
Deen-e-ElahiBlending of
Multiple FaithsFocused on Sulh-
e-kul (Universal
Peace & Tolerance)Wahdat-ul-Wujood
(Unity of Being)Sikhindi's
ServicesStrict adherence
to ShariahRejecting Un-
Islamic Innovations
(Biddat)Wahdatul-Shahood
(Unity of Witnessing-
creation and
creation's distinctions)

(5)

Conclusion:

"Shaikh Ahmed is such a
light which will
illuminate the
whole world."

(Hazeal Khwaja Baghi Billah)

The above discussion sums up
that Sikhindi was a great
reformer who solidify the Muslims
distinct identity.