

what is the question actually????

DATE: / /

## IMAM RABBANI HAZRAT MUJAOID ALIF SANI

(Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi)

HMAS (the reformer of second millennium) was a great Muslim Saint and mystic of Naqshbandia Order. He challenged the might of Albar to reestablish the glory of Islam which had been greatly threatened by the anti-Islamic trends of Albars. By 1604, the time was ripe for great reformer to appear to bring about a second millennium of the Islamic era.

HAAS, whose real name was Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was a descendant of second pious Caliph Hazrat Umar Far which he also referred as "Farqiy". He was a prominent disciple of Khawajau Baqi Billah, an eminent saint of Naqshbandia Spiritual order. He is popularly known as Mujaddid-i-Alif Sani. He was born on June 15, 1564 at Sirhind, the Capital of Eastern Punjab.

He received his education under the prominent and learned teachers at Sialkot, memorized Holy Quran and then switched over to the study of Hadith. During his quench of thirst for <sup>mystical</sup> knowledge he came in contact with leading lights of Albar court Abu-al-Fazl and Faizi. When both learnt of his brilliance and insights, they failed to bring him in Albar Court. However

his connections with Abu'l-Fazl and Faizi didn't prolong because of Abu-al-Fazl's unislamic friends He wrote famous book **Ishbat-un-Nabuwat (affirmation of prophethood)** in which he gave excellent explanation of prophethood.

Baaji Billah's discipleship brought him into close contacts with leading scholars of those days Khawaja Baaji Billah was greatly impressed by his mystical qualities and wrote about him.

"Sheikh Ahmed is an individual from Sirhind, rich in knowledge and vigorous in action. I associated him for few days and found truly marvellous things in his spiritual life. He will turn into a light which will illuminate the world."

He was drawn into mysticism by his father, **Sheikh Abd-al-Ahad** who was a prominent Sufi and scholar. He received Khilafat from his father in a Chistiya and Suhrawardia spiritual order.

## Social Conditions of India:

When Akbar ascended the Mughal throne, he gradually introduced wide-ranging political, social and religious reform policies that reshaped the empire. **Politically**, he pursued a policy of centralization and inclusiveness. He appointed Hindus, particularly Rajputs to high civil and military positions, created matrimonial alliances with Rajput princesses and abolished discriminatory taxes such as Jizya and pilgrimage tax to win the loyalty of non-Muslims.

These steps strengthened the Muslim Mughal state but also shifted the balance of power in favor of Hindus, which worried sections of the Muslim elite. **Socially**, Akbar encouraged cultural influence fusion b/w Muslims and Hindus, promoting intermarriages, adopting Hindu customs at courts and participating in un-Islamic festivals. His court became a hub of cultural synthesis where music, art, literature were patronized without strict religious boundaries. **Religiously**, Akbar went even further by questioning orthodox Islamic authority.

reducing the influence of Ulama and promoting religious tolerance. He invited scholars of different faiths, including Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Jesuits to debate (in Ibadat Khana (House of Worship)).

Ultimately, he introduced his own syncretic elements of creed, the **Deen-i-Ilahi** which

Combined elements of various religions and demanded loyalty to the emperor as a spiritual leader. While these policies enhanced Akbar's authority and promoted a cosmopolitan empire (they also alarmed orthodox Muslims who felt that Islamic identity was being compromised and its law Qadilah was changing.

He was in this env. that IAS, later known as Mujaddid Alf Sani, rose as a reformer viewing Akbar's innovations as a threat to the purity of Islam. He stood firmly against them by advocating for the revival of Shari'ah and purification of Sufism and the reassertion of Muslim political and social supremacy. His movement represented a strong intellectual and spiritual resistance to Akbar's policies, aiming to safeguard Islam in the subcontinent.

## Sheikh Ahmed Effa

The task of reforming Islam and Muslim society on a spiritual and cultural pattern was really a stupendous one which required sustained efforts. He undertook the job of purifying Islam. Society of un-Islamic tendencies. He made accomplishments through his consistent efforts in following ways, by sending his students far away in Indian communities and writing letters, pamphlets and giving sermons.

## Religious efforts:

(i)

### Opposition of Din-i-Illihi

He firmly opposed Albari Jeen-i-Ulhi and other unislamic innovation. He made use of his Maktubat (letters) to nobles and rulers to emphasize the danger of this false creed and urged them to reject it. As a striking example, when Albari requested nobles to perform Sijda as an act of royal etiquette, Sishind condemned the practice as shirk, declaring it absolutely against Islamic monotheism.

(ii)

### Mohdat-ul-Wajid and Wahdat-ul-Shahid

The philosophy of Wahdat-ul-Shahid was presented by some suffis at Albari's time. They believed that the entire universe is a symbol of Almighty God and a source of revelation of God's sovereignty. The advocates of this believed that

There was no living difference b/w the Man and his created God and both individuals and God are not separated from each other.  
They also believed that every particle of universe represented the presence of God and therefore worship the God's creature amounted the worship of God. Sheikh openly negate this and presented the principle of Wahdat-ul-Shahid that the Creator and creatures were two different and separate entities.

(iii)

## Adherence to Quran and Sunnah

Through sermons, letters and his influence in Sufi circles he encouraged Muslims to strengthen their religious observance like Namaz and Fasting. He particularly reminded them of obligations such as five daily prayers, zakat and fasting which many had neglected due to Akbar's atheist religious env. His insistence revived these practices as foundation of Muslim life.

### Revival of true Spirit of Shariah

He guided Muslims to organize their personal and social affairs acc. to Islamic laws rather than foreign customs. He criticized the growing popularity of Hindu-inspired Massages, rituals such as five ceremonies, astrology and elaborate festivities and instead reintroduced the simplicity of Nikah under Shariah, restoring Islamic spirit in family life.

### Condemned adoption of Hindu practices

In his writing he clearly warned Muslims against celebrating the Holi, Raksha Bandhan, and applying tilak, as well as against respecting the sacredness of cow which akbar had promoted to win Hindu favour. By denouncing these, he reinforced distinct religious identity of Muslims and discourage dilution of Islamic traditions.

### (iii) Purification of Sufism:

As a leader of Naqshbandi order he sought to remove unislamic trends that had infiltrated Sufi-practices. He strongly rejected the use of music, dance and qawwali in spiritual gatherings. He openly condemned ~~genuine~~ ~~genuine~~ worship and ~~shame~~ ~~ritual~~. Instead emphasized genuine spirituality through zikr, muraqabah and obedience to Sunnah. Giving Sufism a disciplined, Shariah based character.

### Social Efforts:

#### (i) Worked against erosion of Islamic social values.

He played a vital role in reforming social fabric of society during Akbar's reign. Muslim increasingly adopted non-Islamic customs ~~especially~~ in ~~urban~~ centers. Marriage ceremonies were conducted and influenced by Hindu ritual such as ~~fire~~ sacrifices, astrological timing and long days feasting. He strongly condemned these and reminded Muslims that ~~hands~~ lay in following modest Islamic way of way.

(ii)

## Eradication of bid'at

He eradicate bid'at that had become widespread in everyday social practices. Many Muslims had developed reliance on charms, amulets and talismans for protection, or sought ~~protection~~ from astrologers before making decisions. These were labeled as superstitions with religion weakening Islamic spirit. He openly criticized such customs and emphasized that Muslims should turn only to Allah through dua and zikr and reliance on Quran & Sunnah.

(iii)

## Return to simple lifestyle

Mughal court under Akbar promoted luxury and extravagance, which trickled down into daily life of people. Inspired by this culture of shaytanah, Muslims indulged in expensive clothing, grand feasts and unnecessary display of wealth. He encouraged <sup>moderation</sup> simplicity to avoid all kinds of excesses that crept into society by discouraging such behaviour.

(iv)

## Reviving stronger sense of Muslim Unity and Identity

The akbari policy of Sulh-i-Kul (universal peace) and participation in Hindu & Persian festivals blurred religious boundaries. Muslims found celebrating Basant, Noroz, tilak, Sirkandi opposed such practices and remind them of their distinct identity as followers of Islam. He wrote

them to stay away from these traditions and restore unity and confidence within Muslim community.

## Political Efforts:

(i)

### Criticism of Sulh-i-Kul

One of key pol reform was strong criticism of Akbar's policy of Sulh-i-kul (uni-peace) which promoted equality of all religion in state matters. Sirhidi argued that tolerance was social virtue but making Islamic and non-islamic faith equal in governance undermine supremacy of Shariah. like under Sulh-i-Kul Hindus were allowed to conduct their rituals even in royal court and Islamic restrictions on certain practices like cow slaughter were lifted. Sirhidi declare this <sup>policy</sup> practice as unislamic and worked to reverse its influence by stressing governance should be rooted in Islamic principles.

(ii)

### Opposed Promotion of Hindu in Mughals Administration

Akbar gave high offices to Hindus especially Rajputs at expense of Muslims. He did not deny coexistence but believed dominant political roles compromised Islamic identity in Mughal state. For instance, Raja Man Singh and Birbal held key position of power under akbar. influenced state decisions. Such favoritism might threatened power balance. So he urged that Muslims retain Prime roles in administration.

### (iii) Urged on restoration of Islamic laws

After Akbar's death, he saw an opportunity to influence Mughal policy under Jahangir. Through his letters he urged rulers to restore supremacy of Shariah in gov. e.g. he encouraged implementation of Jizya and Islamic judiciary practices which had been suspended under Akbar. His writing laid groundwork for later rulers (especially Nuruz Beg) who introduced many Islamic laws during his reign.

### (iv) Guided nobles and Officials to remain firm on Islam

He wrote letters to Mughal officials to practice Islam in their political roles and advising them not to compromise with unIslamic court practices and administration justice in line with Shariah. He reminded Qazis and governors to avoid bribery and favoritism. By doing so he strengthened presence of Islamic gov. within administrative machinery.

## Intellectual efforts:

He adopted effective method of persuasion by writing **letters** to nobles of royal court. His letters were known as **Muqtabat-e-Imam** Tabbani. Through these he opposed Al-Bur un-Islamic policies and guided individuals in matters of faith, society and governance. These letters became a powerful medium to derive Islamic thoughts across Muslim Empire. He send a no. of his **disciples** in all directions to preach the true Islam. He asked them to emphasis on **Hibat-i-Sunnah** and **Commandment of Shariah**.

Alongside he delivered **sermons** and **discourses** in masajid, Sufi-gatherings and educational circles to spread his message. His sufi gathering rejected music and dance in sufism and replace them with **zikr** and **muraja'a**.

## Struggles and imprisonment:

His policy drew him into serious difficulties. His views of anti-Hindu were creating unrest in country so Jahangir summoned him in his **sowar** and asked him to explain his statement. He appeared in royal court in dignified manner, explained the statements but did not agree upon performance of act of **Prostitution** before a

human being which infuriated Jahangir and he ordered the Sheikh to be imprisoned in fort of Gaurakhan. 2 years later Jahangir realised his act and released him from fort. He was honoured with 1000 rupees and dress of honour. with the option of going back or stay in royal court and Ginkindi preferred to stay in court and preach his views there.

### Ziauddin and Two Nation Theory

He was a staunch advocate of separateness of Muslims and desired to maintain the distinctive image of Muslim Nationalism. He laid emphasis on separate identity of Muslims and adopted a very stern attitude against the Hindus.

### Influence of Sufis:

His efforts purify the religious and practical life of Muslims. Nizamulayeb had paid rich tribute to him in his one poem for refusing to perform the act of prostration before emperor. Tafqir consider him the spiritual guardian of Muslims of India. He continued the propagation of Islam till his last breath. He was widely read scholar and a magnetic rhetorician. He got opportunity in liber atmosphere of Jahangir's regime. He ign

DATE: 1/1

to use his powerful pen to denounce all forms of religious innovation.

After living 3 years with Bokhara, he sought permission to leave for ~~China~~ <sup>India</sup>. He passed away on December 10, 1626 and buried there.

**YOU HAVE WRITTEN A WHOLE CHAPTER IN A SINGLE QUESTION YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR 14 PAGE ANSWER!!!  
ANS SHOULD END ON 9TH PAGE MAX!!  
NOT 14!!!  
REDUCE THE EXPLANATION AND MINIMISE THE ANSWER TO 8 SIDES!!  
8/20  
BE PRECISE AND TO THE POINT**

# Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Social Conditions of India
- 3) SAS Efforts

3a) Religious

F  
E  
E

3b) Social

F  
E

3c) Political

F

3d) Intellectual

F

- 4) Struggles & imprisonment
- 5) SAS and 2-Nation Theory
- 6) Influence of efforts