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Reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and its impact on Mughal Empire and future muslim condition in the subcontinent?

① SHEIKH AHMAD SIRHINDI (1564-1624)

He was also known as "Mujadid Alif Sani" which can be fragmented into: Mujadid means reviver or renewer; there is also a Hadith meaning that Allah will send to this Ummah after the turn of every century: one who will revive its faith". And the word sani means second. He was regarded as the second greatest reformer of India.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was born in the Mughal Empire, where the condition of society was very devastating. There were no strict rules to incorporate Islamic laws and paradox to religion. The Great Akbar also introduced some new Islamic concept, due to which

the Islam was never close to its true spirit. And he raised a voice against these paradox culture and work hard to revive the real essence of Islam.

"The most influential Muslim reformer of Muslim era in Mughal India whose ideas shaped Sunni Orthodoxy"

— Yohanan Freidman

As stated by The Great Eastern poet Iqbal:

گردش آیام نے سریندی کو مجدد بنا دیا -

② A brief overview of the prevailing circumstances of subcontinent:

To encapsulate the situation of Mughal period, the liberal emperor inculcated tense and chaotic environment leading to pluralism and rationalism.

There was a visible difference of Muslim from their original religion and also Akbar's introduction of Deen-i-ilahi was also a evidence of pluralism with Islamic beliefs. Jizya was

removed, due to which the muslims feel very upset.

"Akbar's court became a laboratory for religious experimentation".

— S.A.A. Rizvi

③ Contribution of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi for the revival of Muslim in subcontinent

3.A Elimination of Bidat:

During Akbar's regime, a lot of Bidat arose in the sub-continent and also Akbar's introduction of Sulh-i-kul which means peace universality and the main reason behind it was to promote peace and harmony between different sects and religion. So that Akbar can get relief from conflicts in his court. But Mujadid stood against these Bidat, as he was thought to be strong propagator of Naqshbandi Silsila means purifying Islam in its true meaning. He refers Muslims to Kitab-wa-Sunnah in which it is mentioned that "He who

invents something new and that has no linkage with the religion is forbidden. He, advised Muslims to follow teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

3.B Reconciliation of reversion of Islam with other religions:

Akbar tried to make peace and harmony in sub-continent by showing all the difference b/w different sects and religion to have a religious homogeneity to his Deen-i-ilahi. But Mujahid highlighted all the difference and call Muslim to revive to the true teachings of Islam and be far-away from other religion.

3.C Elimination of religious incarnations concept:

Akbar was strongly influenced by the philosophy of Wahdat-ul-Wajood means Everything is God written by Ibn-al-Arabi and all very close to this philosophy to concept of unity of existence. But Mujahid in its response introduced

Wahdat-ul-Shuhood means Unity of witnessing; in which he call Muslim to be on the right track of unity of God and leave all incarnation made to the religion.

3.D Emphasis of Islamic Law and Shariah:

Mujadid wanted to remind all the key player of Mughal empire to look into Islamic teachings and remove all the laws which are deviating muslims from their religion. He demanded the destruction of Temples of Hindu religion and impose Jizya on them. So, they may know their protection place by Islamic regime. For true Islamic reforms he also stated that, "If we are unable to find such an aul-ul-Umar, the society will fall prey to Anarchy."

4. The Magnum Opus: Maktubat-e-Imam Rabbani

This is the collection of all written letter of Mujad to Islamic scholars and political leaders (Khan-e-Khan) to remind them of their duty of

protection of Islamic belief and
though.

5 Impact on Mughal Empire and Future :

After Akbar his son Jahangir took his place and continued his father methods of governance but he and his orthodox court felt great threat from Mujadid, he was invited to court for justice but Mujadid refused due to which was thrown in Gwalior prison for 2 years. Where Mujadid also continued his preaching, which inspired Jahangir and he was released and the Royal court would take his suggestion on matters. His belief later paved a path for religious Mughal empire governance.

"Sirhindi revivalism laid the foundation of later Islamic reform movement"

—Fazul

6. Conclusion

As stated by Hazrat Khwaja Baqi Billah that "Sheik Ahmad is such a

Light that would illuminate whole world". In a nutshell, Sheikh Ahmad was born to revive the true spirit and essence of Islam, and also he challenged the Deo-i-Ilahi and other religious incarnation by King Akbar. He wrote letters to Islamic scholars and political leaders to remind them, of their duty. So, Sheikh Ahmad not change the conditions of 17thth but also for the future reforms in the sub-continent.

