

Reform of Sufism

Background of Sufism

Sufism was very popular in India. Sufi saints lived in khanqahs (spiritual centers) and taught people about Islam with love and peace. Through them, many people accepted Islam. But with time, some Sufi groups lost their real spirit. They started focusing more on rituals, shrines, and political power. This was not the original purpose of Sufism. So, there was a need to bring reforms and make Sufism pure again.

Reasons for Reform

Sufism started going away from the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Many new customs (Bid'ah) and superstitions entered Sufi practices. Some Sufi leaders became close to kings and rulers only for money and power. This made people forget the true purpose of Sufism. To save Muslim unity and faith, reformers worked to clean Sufism and bring it back to Islam.

Role of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was the main reformer of Sufism. He said that Sufism should always follow the Quran and Shariah (Islamic law). He opposed wrong customs, innovations, and Akbar's un-Islamic religious policies. He wrote many letters to kings, nobles, and people to guide them. Because of his big role, he was given the title *Mujaddid Alf Sani* (the renewer of the second millennium).

Other Reformers and Influence

After Sirhindi, other reformers like Shah Waliullah continued this mission. They also wanted Sufism to be clean from wrong practices. They taught that spirituality must go hand in hand with Islamic law. These reforms gave Muslims confidence, made them united, and prepared them for future challenges. The reform of Sufism also influenced later Islamic revival movements in India.

Achievements of Sufi Reform

The reformers removed un-Islamic rituals, excessive shrine worship, and superstitions from Sufism. They restored the focus on the Quran and Sunnah. This helped Muslims protect their identity in India during difficult times. Sufism again became a source of guidance, discipline, and spiritual strength for Muslims. It also improved relations between scholars, rulers, and the common people.

Importance

In Pakistan Studies, the reform of Sufism is very important because it helped Muslims keep their identity during the Mughal and later colonial period. By keeping Sufism connected to Shariah, it supported the early roots of the Two-Nation Theory. This reform also inspired later leaders of the

Pakistan Movement. Today, it still gives us lessons about unity, strong faith, and revival of society.