

HISTORY II SEMESTER (H)

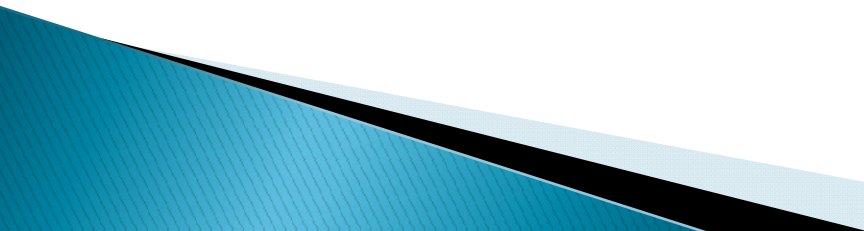
SUFISM AND IT'S DIFFERENT ORDERS

Anurag Borah
Assistant Professor
Rangia College
Dept. of History

SUFISM:

- ▶ Sufism is the mystical Islamic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God.
- ▶ *ṣūfī*, which is in turn derived from *ṣūf*, “wool,” plausibly a reference to the woollen garment of early Islamic ascetics
- ▶ In the words of Dr. Tara Chand, *“Sufism is a religion of intense devotion; Love is its manifestation, poetry, music and dance are the instruments of its worship and attaining oneness with God is its ideal.”*

Main Features of Sufism

- ▶ Sufism derives its inspiration from Islam. While the orthodox Muslims depend upon external conduct and blind observance of religious rituals, the Sufi saints seek inner purity.
 - ▶ According to Sufi saints, God is the beloved of the lover (“Mashook”) i.e. the devotee and the devotee is eager to meet his beloved (God).
 - ▶ The Sufis think that love and devotion are the only means of reaching God.
 - ▶ Along with Prophet Muhammad, they also attach great importance to their ‘Murshid’ or ‘Pir’ (Guru).
- 

MAJOR SUFI ORDERS:

▶ Bektashi

- ▶ The Bektashi Order was founded in the 13th century by the Islamic saint Haji Bektash Veli, and greatly influenced during its formative period by the Hurufi Ali al-'Ala in the 15th century and reorganized by Balım Sultan in the 16th century.

MAJOR SUFI ORDERS:

▶ Chishti

- ▶ The Chishti Order (Persian:) was founded by (Khawaja) Abu Ishaq Shami ("the Syrian"; died 941) who brought Sufism to the town of Chisht, some 95 miles east of Herat in present-day Afghanistan. Before returning to the Levant, Shami initiated, trained and deputized the son of the local Emir (Khwaja) Abu Ahmad Abdal (died 966). Under the leadership of Abu Ahmad's descendants, the *Chishtiyya* as they are also known, flourished as a regional mystical order.

MAJOR SUFI ORDERS:

▶ Naqshbandi

- ▶ The Naqshbandi order is one of the major Sufi orders of Islam, previously known as Siddiqiyya as the order stems from Muhammad through Abū Bakr as-Şiddīq. It is considered by some to be a "sober" order known for its silent *dhikr* (remembrance of God) rather than the vocalized forms of *dhikr* common in other orders.

MAJOR SUFI ORDERS:

▶ Qadiri

- ▶ The Qadiri Order is one of the oldest Sufi Orders. It derives its name from Abdul-Qadir Gilani (1077–1166), a native of the Iranian province of Gīlān. The order is one of the most widespread of the Sufi orders in the Islamic world, and has a huge presence in Central Asia, Pakistan, Turkey, Balkans and much of East and West Africa.

MAJOR SUFI ORDERS:

▶ **Suhrawardiyya**

- ▶ The Suhrawardiyya order is a Sufi order founded by Abu al-Najib al-Suhrawardi (1097–1168). The order was formalized by his nephew, Shahab al-Din Abu Hafs Umar Suhrawardi.

Important Sufi Terms in India

- ▶ Sufi, Pir, Murshid
 - ▶ Murid
 - ▶ Khanqah
 - ▶ Khalifa
 - ▶ Zikr
 - ▶ Tauba
 - ▶ Fanaa
 - ▶ Urs
 - ▶ Sama
- 

Thank You

