

BHAKTI MOVEMENT

Mrs. Anita Shinde

Assit . Prof.

- THE PROMINENCE WHICH ISLAM GAVE TO THE UNITY OF GOD AND ITS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS MATTERS PROMPTED THE SAINTLY REFORMERS OF THE TIME TO REINTERPRET HINDUISM IN TERMS OF NEW IDEAS.
- THE CARDINAL PRINCIPLE OF BHAKTI MOVEMENT WAS THE INFLINCHING DEVOTION TO GOD WHOSE GRACE WAS THE ONLY MEANS OF ATTAINING SALVATION.
- IT ALSO POINTED OUT THE ABSURDITY OF THE CASTE SYSTEM IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND THE FUTILITY OF THE EXTERNAL RITUALS AND CEREMONIES.
- THE BHAKTI CULT WAS LIBERAL IN CHARACTER AND LAID DOWN STRESS ON THE EQUALITY OF ALL RELIGIONS.
- IT SET TO CUT ACROSS THE DISTINCTIONS OF HIGH AND LOW BIRTHS, THE LEARNED AND THE UNLETTERED AND OPENED THE GATES OF SPIRITUAL REALIZATION OF THE SUBJECTS.

- BRAHMANISM HAD BECOME AN ESSENTIALLY INTELLECTUAL DOCTRINE. THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH IT TAUGHT WERE IMPERSONAL AND SPECULATIVE AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND BOTH SATISFACTION OF THE HEART AND MORAL GUIDELINES.
- IT WAS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MOVEMENT OF BHAKTI DEVOTION BLENDED WITH LOVE OF GOD FOUND FAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE.

SIGNIFICANCE

- THE INFLUENCE AND SPIRIT OF THIS MOVEMENT WAS MORE IN THE INTANGIBLE REALMS OF SPIRIT,FEELING AND GOODWILL.
- IT SIGNIFICANCE CONSISTS IN THE TRUTH THAT DESPITE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BOTH THE RELIGIONS CAME TO REALIZE THE COMMON BASE OF RELIGION AND SEEKS UNION WITH THE DIVINE.
- THE SIMPLE AND UNSOPHISTICATED PERSONALITY OF MAHATMA GANDHI REVIVED THE CONCEPT WHICH CAN BE DEDUCED FROM THE RECITATION OF THE GITA.MOREOVER IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE CHIEF RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES ON GANDHI WAS THE RAMCHARITMANAS OF TULSIDAS WHICH BEARS THE UNMISTIKABLE INFLUENCE OF BHAKTI.

- 1.THE ADOPTION OF SOCIAL PRACTISE LIKE SATI AMONG SOME ARISTOCRATIC CLASS.
- 2.SWASTIKA BT THE SULTANS.
- 3.PARTICIPATION OF MUSLIM FOLKS IN THE HOLI FESTIVAL.
- 4.BOTH HINDU AND MUSLIM KINGDOMS EMPLOYED TALENTED MEN FROM EACH OTHER TO IMPORTANT POSTS.
- 5.THE EVOLUTION OF URDU.
- 6.THE ENRICHMENT OF HINDI BY MUSLIM WRITERS.
- 7.WORSHIP OF COMMON SAINTS ETC.
- ALL THESE THINGS OWED MUCH TO THE CULT OF BHAKTI.

- TO CONCLUDE THE ESSENCE OF THE MOVEMENT LAY IN THE FACT THAT BY MAKING RELIGION A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TRANSCENDING ALL BARRIERS, IT CREATED AN ECSTASY OF FEELING WHERE EVERYONE COULD BE A PARTICIPANT.
- IT BYPASSED THE RITUALISTIC RIGMORALE WHERE THE LEARNED COULD MISLEAD.
- IT WAS OCEANIC IN ITS APPEAL AND MYSTIC IN SENTOMENT.

WEAKNESSES

- THE IDEAS OF THE SAINTS DID NOT PERMEATE THE WHOLE SOCIETY.
- THEIR AUDIENCE WAS MAINLY THE FLOTSAM AND JETSAM OF THE SOCIETY.
- THE HIGH CASTE PRIVILEGED CLASSES WAS HARDLY IMPRESSED BY THEM.
- EACH MASTER HAS HIS MESSAGE TO DELIVER BUT HE DID NOT APPROACH THE PEOPLE IN THE MUST CONVERT SPIRIT.
- IN NORTH INDIA NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO UPLIFT THE STATUS OF WOMEN.
- THE MESSAGE OF THE SAINTS LACKED IN EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC LIFE OR CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY SOUGHT TO HELP IN SEEING THE LIGHT OF DIVINITY. AS WE ALL KNOW NO SOCIAL REFORM CAN FULLY SUCCEED WITHOUT GIVING IT AN ECONOMIC BASIS.

- ALSO ONCE THE MASTERS DEPARTED THEIR MESSAGE ,IT WAS FORGOTTEN BY THE PEOPLE IN WHOSE MIND CASTE AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES WERE PROMINENT FIXTURES.
- AS THE TIME PASSED BY MESSAGE OF EACH THINKER BECAME A MONOPLY OF HIS FOLLOWERES.MEMBERS OF EACH GROUP DIFFERED ON INTERPRETATIONS OF THEIR MASTERS.
- RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE ONLY CAME TO MEAN THAT SINCE PEOPLE MUST LIVE SEPERATELY,LET THEM LIVE IN PEACE.