

ISLAMIC TRADITION IN KERALA

Chapter 9

British domination and its impacts on Kerala Muslim society

- British domination in Malabar started in 1792 after the 3rd Anglo-Mysore war (Treaty of Sreerangapattanam)
- After occupation of Malabar, British joint commission ruled Malabar from 1792 to 1801.
- Then in 1801 William Macleod appointed the first principle collector of Malabar.

He executed some reforms.

- ✓ Reinstalled the Janmi as a lord of soil system (Tipu appointed officers to collect tax).
- ✓ captured weapons from common people
- ✓ Disarmament throughout provinces
- ✓ New taxation policies.

IMPACT OF BRITISH DOMINATION

- **ECONOMIC DECLINE**
- **SOCIAL SUPPERATION**
- **EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS**

MAPPILA OUTBREAKS

- The Mappila outbreaks were the serious outbreaks from Malabar Muslims against Janmies and the British rule and their tax system.
- Mysore administration tax collected directly from farmers through the officers.
- But Britishers reinstalled the janmi land lord system (Hindu rajas, chieftains collected tax)
- The Janmis and landlords decided the tax and majority of the lands belongs to Namboothiries and other upper class.
- So the peasant's resentment reached outbreaks against Britishers and Janmis.
- Athan moyi kurikkal and Unni Moosawas the main leaders of the outbreaks.
- Peasants, labours, artisans and petty leaders participated in the outbreaks.

- There are 32 outbreaks came to Malabar area from 1836 to 1921.

Reason for the outbreaks

- Anti-British feelings.
- Janmi system
- Tax system of Janmi and landlords.
- The British government appointed to **T L Strange** as the chairman of the commission to enquire the outbreaks in 1852.
- His committee report totally against Muslims and recommended a special legislation for Malabar.

Main points of the legislation.

- ❖ Confiscated the property of rebels
- ❖ Fine the district where outbreak are common
- ❖ Deport the suspects.
- ❖ Restricted the possession of the arms.
- ❖ Organise a special police force for dealing with out breakers.

Major Mappila outbreaks

- Angadippuram Manjeri outbreak of 1849.
- Outbreak of 1851(against komu menon manager of velluvanad raja)
- Mattannur outbreaks of 1852 (kalathil kesavan tangal)
- Kulathoor outbreak of 1849
- Mankada outbreak of 1919.

MALABAR REBELLION-1921

- The revolt started in **1921 and ended in 1922** in Malabar.
- This time was the beginning of khilafath movement .
- The Muslim of Malabar firstly heard the news khilafath in the conference of Indian National congress at Manjeri in 1920.
- Gandhi and shoukath Ali visited Malabar in 1920 and spread both khilafath and non co operation movement.
- As a result number of Khilafath committee formed Hindu and Muslims throughout Malabar against British.

Reason for the Outbreaks

- **Dissatisfaction among Muslim tenants.**
- **Heavy renting and excessive lease.**
- **Arrest of Khilafath leaders(fake charge)**
- Interfere of religious customs (removal cap)
- Destroy the flag of khilafath.

Important outbreaks of the Revolt.

1. Tirurangadi revolt

2. Pookottur battle.

THE THIROORANGADI REVOLT

- Thiroorangadi revolt started on 8th June 1921.
- Ali musliyar was the leader of the revolt.
- The main reason behind the **revolt was the British police attacked the Thiroorangadi mosque and arrested some people.**
- So Mappilas made a mass revolt against British.
- Hitchcock was the district superintendent of police suppressed the revolt

POOKOTTUR BATTLE

- ✓ The battle started on June 1921.
- ✓ The pookottur was the Mappila tenancy village.
- ✓ But more than 80% of land was owned a single janmi **Tachirakkavil Chinnamuni Tirumalpad of Nilambur Kovilakkam.**
- ✓ **Vadakkeveetil Muhammed was the employee of Kovilakkam and also secretary of Khilafath committee in pookottur.**
- ✓ Narayana menon the sub inspector of police searched the house of vadakkeveetil Muhammad on a false charge of theft of a gun under the licence of Tirumalpad , but no gun was found.
- ✓ The arrest of Muhammed foiled by Local Muslim of pokottur.
- ✓ Then Muhammed with khilafth gang reached kovilakkam and demanded his salary for his early services.
- ✓ In response Tirumalpad gave a new petition against Muhammed and inspector reached again Pokkottur
- ✓ On the news reached the mappilas from Thiroorangad and Nellikkuth gathered around kovilakkam
- ✓ The resented people began to plunder the kovilakkam
- ✓ The British force suppressed the revolt and **250 mappilas and Vadakkeveetil Muhammed were killed.**
- ✓ Then the district collector **E F Thomas** requested to Madras government more force for suppress the revolts.
- ✓ Madras govt approved the request and send more army.
- ✓ Then Thomas issued warrant for arrest of **Ali Musliyar and other 17 revolt leaders of Thiroorngadi under the Mappila outrage act 1854.**

- ✓ On 20th august 1921 the army surrounded the Thiroorangadi mosque and arrested 3 people.
- ✓ Ali Musliyar went to police station to get the release of 3 arrested people.
- ✓ A crowd followed him
- ✓ **Police officer Rawle requested them sit down peacefully till the collector Thomas arrived.**
- ✓ But when they sit down Rawle ordered to firing.
- ✓ The enraged people attacked the police and army
- ✓ Six of them including Rawle were killed and 17 of the mappilas died the incident.
- ✓ **This was caused the Malabar rebellion.**
- ✓ On 22 and 23rd august the rebellion spread over the entire south Malabar, and several parts of south Malabar khilafath leaders proclaimed end of British rule and independent.
- ✓ Then the British army suppressed the revolt and killed 300 people and captured Ali Musliyar as a prisoner, and **British court was hanged him 17th Feb 1922 at Coimbatore Jail.**

THE WAGON TRAGEDY

- **Most deplorable incident during the rebellion.**
- Which occurred on 19th Nov 1922
- 70 prisoners were loaded into a goods wagon and conveyed from **Tirur to Coimbatore Jail.**
- On the way to Bellaryjail, when the train arrived the Pothannur the doors were opened.
- **61 of the prisoners were found dead and the reason of the death suffocation.**

IMPACT OF THE REBELLION

- After the rebellion the Mappilas situation was very deplorable.
- British prohibited to Muslim Refugees to migrate from turbulent place.
- **British start more aggressive policy against Mappilas**
- **The congress and Muslim league were associated**
- Tenancy reform bill of 1930 had not given to any advantage the Malabar tenants.

EARLY MUSLIM LEADERS AND REFORMERS

1. Shayk zainuddin Makhdam(1467-1521)

- The Makhdam was actual name of an Arab tribe migrated from **Yemen** and reached Tamil Nadu, the place known as Ma`abar.

- One member of the family Shykh Ahammed Ali migrated to Kochi, his son shykh zainuddin makdum later migrated to Ponnani with his uncle.
- He wrote several religious science books.
- His work **imam al jihadi Abdat-i-Sulban** describe the arrival of the Portuguese in Malabar and their atrocities.
- Died in 1521.

2. Shykh Zainuddin Junior

- ❖ Grandson of the shykh zainuddin 1st
- ❖ Author of the book **Tuhfath al Mujahideen**(glory of the victory of Martyrs)
- ❖ This work deals with earliest history of Kerala Muslims and also described the Portuguese intervention.
- ❖ **Fathul Mu`een** is another work.
- ❖ Died in 1583

Mamburam Tangals

- The family came from **Tarim in Hadramouth** of Arabian Peninsula in 1775.
- Sayyid Jifri Thangal reached Calicut for propagate Islam
- The Zemorion, Raja of Malabar welcomed him and granted land in Calicut.
- Then his brother hassan jifri joined with him.
- Then the family moved to Mamburam.
- The prominent leaders of the family was **sayyid alavi Tangal and Fazal pookoya Tngal**

Sayyid Alavi Tangal(1749-1843)

- Migrated from Hadermouth.
- Son in low of Sayyid Hassan Jifri Tangal.
- Build mosques in Eranad and Velluvanad area.
- Participated struggle against British colonial rule.
- **Saiful Bathar code of law (Fatwa)** composed him (against atrocities of British military), and declared Jihad against British.
- Under his inspiration, the Mapilas joined together against British and participated the Eranad revolt of 1836, 1837 and **paruthan** riots.
- Actively participated Cherur revolt of 1843, and he was wounded the revolt and died in 1843.

Sayyid Fazal Pookoya Tangal(1823-1901)

- Son of Aayyid Alavi tangal.
- Fought against British atrocities rule

- He wrote a pamphlet in Arabic against British entitled **Uddath Ul Umara**, printed in Arabia and distributed in Malabar.
- Malabar collector Connolly prohibited the pamphlet.
- Criticised unislamic practice among Mappila society.
- In 1852 British deported him to Arabia, and he died in 1901 and buried in Turkey.
- The Mappilas retaliated for Fazal Tangals banishment by killing Connolly.

Revolt participated him

- Manjeri revolt of 1849.
- Kulathur revolt of 1851.
- Mattannur revolt of 1852.

Veliyamkod Umar Qasi(1757-1852)

- ❖ Belonged scholarly family of Ponnani Taluk.
- ❖ **First person to refuse payment of tax under British rule.**
- ❖ Composed many poems in Arabic and Arabi Malayalam (Nafisa darul Sallallahu Byth)
- ❖ Common leader (not only religious)
- ❖ Lived in 95 years and died at Veliyamkode in 1852.

Modern Education and the Muslim Society

- Mappilas gave more importance to religious studies and prayer
- They ignore the western education because of their prejudice.
- The lack of western study and thinking must affected the mappilas life.
- So under British rule the mappila remained educationally backward community.
- But some notable persons tried to encourage Western education among Muslim community.

They were:

1. **Sayyid Sanaullah Makthi Tungal**
2. **Chalilakath Kunnahammad Haji.**
3. **Vakkam Abdul Qader Maulavi.**
4. **Shykh Hamadani Tungal**

- ✓ The Islahi movement started by these eminent personalities.
- ✓ The word Islahi denotes renovating Islamic rituals and practices.
- ✓ **Tajdid is the synonyms of islahi.**

SAYYID SANAULLAH MAKTI TANAGAL

- Well educated persons.

- Very young age he got government job (excise inspector) because of his proficiency of English.
- But he resigned his job defend faith from false propaganda of missionaries.
- Tried to lead the Muslims to the path of secular education.
- His services in the field of education were enormous.
- **Recommendation for the use of blackboard in class room.**
- **Organised classes in Madrassa**
- **Publication of the first primer for teaching Arabic called Taimul Ikhwan.**
- **Improvement of Arabic Malayalam script.**
- He was aware of the necessity of secular education and religious learning.
- Encouraged to Muslims to study English and Malayalam with religious learning, against orthodox Ulama.
- His major works:
- **Kattora Kuttaram**
- Parkalitha porkalam
- Nabi Nanayam
- Sathyaprakasham (weekly jernal)
- Nithyajeevan(monthly jernal)
- Paropakari(monthly jernal)

Chalilakath Kunhahammad Haji

- Foremost religious scholar of modern Kerala
- **Known as father of madrassa movement.**

His reforms in madrassa:

- **Introduced the use of globe, atlas, map, library and reference book.**
- **Syllabus revised, Malayalam and mathematics were introduced.**
- **Students were organised into four classes**
- **Curriculum introduced.**
- **Text book were introduced to each class.**
- **He sends his four daughters to school, but orthodox scholars opposed the reforms.**

Shykh Hamadani Tanagal

- Born in Vaduthala near Eranamkulam.
- After completing religious studies from Vellore, he formed the Muslim Conference to promote education among Muslims.
- Nominated moolam prajasabha by the government of Travancore.
- Worked hard to promote education.

- Rajagopalachari had granted 7 acres of land in Aluway for construction of an institution on model of Aligarh Muslim University, but he failed to complete the project.
- Died at Vaduthala in 1922
- His reforms:
- Madrassa attached with elementary school.
- Woman education encourage.
- Lajinathul muhammadiya Alappuza founded.

VAKKAM ABDUL QADER MOULAVI(1873-1932)

- Known as pioneer of Kerala Muslim Renaissance.
- He started some organisation like **Dharma Paripalana Sangam at Nellikuth, Hidayathul Islam Sangam, Chirayinkizh Taluk Samajyam and Muslim Aykya Sangam in Kodungalloor.**
- He tried to spread modern education and restore the real Islamic principle and practices.
- Under his inspiration a higher elementary school was established at Alleppy and a teacher appointed to teach Arabic.
- As the result modern education widespread and youth began to attend colleges
- To propagate his ideas he started number of journal such as
- **The Muslim, Deepika, Swadeshabimani (in Malayalam)**
- **Al Islam (Arabi malayalam)**
- His write and journals well played to great role to **educating Muslim women's.**
- The journals like the Islam and the Muslims had major role to educating Muslims.
- He well influenced the intellectuals **Muhammad Abdu and Rashid Ridha.**
- In his last period he started a monthly named Deepika to enlighten Muslims(propagate Islamic ideas and principle)
- **Moulavi was the founder of swedeshabimani news paper.**
- Moulavi is the well known person in Kerala reform movement and also Kerala history

Kerala Muslim Aikya Sangam

- ✓ **Kerala Muslim Aikya sagam was a reform organization among Muslims established at Cochi state in 20th century.**

- ✓ It started grievance cells called **Nihpaksha sangam at kodungalloor, later extended its branches throughout Malabar**
- ✓ Vakkam Abdul Qader Moulavi and Seethi Sahib were the founding members.

Objective of Aykya Sangam

- **To educate people through notice pamphlet and public lectures.**
- **To reform Muslim community from superstitious beliefs and orthodox custom and practices**
- Two journals published this organisation named **Muslim Aykya in Malayalam and Al Irshad in Arabic.**
- **Moidu Moulavi was the educated man and leader of Aykya Sangam**
- The Aykya Sangam encouraged the Tawhid (Oneness of God) and discouraged the Bid'ath (innovation) such as Nercha .

Muhammed Abdurahman Sahib(1898-1945)

- ✓ **Leader of Indian freedom movement.**
- ✓ Born in Azeekode, Kodungalloor in 1898.
- ✓ Completed schooling at Vaniyambadi and Calicut.
- ✓ **Studied at Muddrass and Aligarh Muslim University.**
- ✓ At the time of Aligarh he discontinued his study and participated Non-cooperation and Khilafath Movement.
- ✓ In Mappila revolt he worked towards establishing peace but in 1921 he was arrested and imprisoned 2 years by British government.
- ✓ **In 1930 he participated the breaking of salt law on Calicut beach.**
- ✓ In 1924 he started a news paper **Al Ameen** from Calicut and he was the editor and publisher of the newspaper.
- ✓ He was the **president of KPCC and member of AICC.**
- ✓ He was again jailed by British from 1940 to 1945.
- ✓ After release from jail he returned to Calicut and actively participated Congress party.
- ✓ He died on 23 November 1945 at Pottashery village near Chennamangalloor, after addressing public meeting at Kudiathoor.

E. MOIDU MOULAVI

- Born in 1890 at Maranchery Ponnani in Malayankulathil Marakkar Family.
- He got primary education at Kodencheri Dars.
- Then he studied **Darul Uloom Arabic college Vayakkad under Chalilakath Kunjahammad Haji.**
- Then he joined Indian national movement from 1919 onwards.
- He was a founding member of Majlis al Ulama (social org among Muslims)

- In 1921 he was faced rigorous imprisonment for participating Khilafath movement
- In 1930 faced another imprisonment for a month for his participation of payyannur sathyagraha.
- The again he was jailed 3 years for taking part of quit India movement, he released in 1947 after Congress came to power in India.
- Worked both KPCC and AICC member.
- After independence he was nominated for parliament membership but he refused and resigned from politics and continued educational and social works.
- He along with Abdurrahman Sahib launched the AL AMEEN news paper.
- He died in 1995
- A memorial was constructed in his memory at Kozhikode.

Vakkom Abdul Khader –Freedom Fighter

- ✓ **Freedom fighter.**
- ✓ Born in Vakkom Chirayinkeezh Taluk on 25th May 1917.
- ✓ Active member of **KPCC** and stopped education at 10th for it.
- ✓ He was send to Malay by his parents at the age of 22 and there he joined **Indian Independence league** led by Rash Bihari Boss.
- ✓ Later he was active member of **INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)** of Subash Chandra Boss.
- ✓ He was intelligent and clever, excelled in the war tactics and spying.
- ✓ **Later he returning back to Malabar with his INA party members.**
- ✓ But British police captured him and send to jail at Calicut and the police officers well torture him but he determined his stand.
- ✓ But his companion Balakrishnan revealed the all secrets regarding the INA activities to the authorities.
- ✓ **So the court ordered to execute abdul khader for treason and spying.**
- ✓ **His execution took place on 10th Sep 1943 early morning.**

MAPPILA LITERATURE

- **Arabi Malayalam literature** popularly known as Mappila literature.
- In this literature Malayalam words are represented through the Arabic script (Malayalam with Arabic script)
- There is no proven evidence to its origin and it's used to religious education.
- The earliest malayalam poetry was **Muhyuddin mala composed by Qasi Muhammed in 1607.**

- In starting there are **only 32 letters and no corresponding sign for many Malayalam letters.**
- **Through the effort of Chalilakath Kunjahammed Haji Makti Tangal, Vakkom Moulavi the Arabic Malayalam literature underwent to considerable changes and now it contains 50 letters.**
- It consist both prose and poetry.

ARABI MALAYALAM PROSE

- ❖ During the British rule in Malabar the Malabar mappilas shared their ideology and Holy war through the Arabic Malayalam Prose and Poetry.
- ❖ Medium of the writing was either **Arabic or Malayalam** Prose and Poetry
- ❖ Some Arabi Malayalam prose Work are:
 - **Tuhfath Al Mujahidin by Shykh Zainuddin Junior.**
 - **Fatuh Al Mubeen by Qasi Muhammad.**
 - **Saiful Bathar by Sayyid Alavi Tangal**
 - **Uddeth Al Umarah by fazel pookoya tangal.**
 - In prose category Mappilas translated so many Sanskrit works into Arabic Malayalam like:
 - Ashtanga Hridayam.
 - Mappila Ramayanam.

ARABI MALAYALAM POETRY

- The Arabi Malayalam poetical composition generally known as **Mappilapattu.**
- Different version of Mappilapattu such as **Mala pattu, Pada pattu, issa pattu, Arudi pattu and Mailanchi pattu.**
- **Muhyuddin mala** popular composition of Arabic Malayalam poetry.
- **Moinkutty vaydyar** was the popular name among Mappila writers
- He composed religious poem and romantic poems **like Badarul Muneer Husnul Jamal**

IMPORTANT MAPPILA POETS

- **Chettuvayil parikutty-(soubaghya Sundari)**
- **Chakkiri Moinkutti-(Minhath al Bari)**
- **Pulikottil Hyder-(cheriya Tuhfath al Baari)**
- **T. Ubaid-(Tuhfath Al Ikhwan, vellapokka mala and)**