**Question: What do you mean by syncretism? Discuss the manifestations of syncretism**

**between Hindus and Muslim tradition in India.**

**Answer**

**Manifestations of Syncretism**

Through so many ways the syncretism between Hindus and Muslims manifested in India. These ways are explained briefly as follows;

1. **Spiritual Domain:** Spiritual domain is one of the most important ways through which syncretism was established in India. Monotheism and formless supreme God is the core of Islamic religion and this was influenced by Bhakti philosophy (Advaitwad and supreme God)
2. **Bhakti-Sufi Movement:** Bhakti-Sufi Movement is another important factor which helped both Hindus and Islamic tradition to be syncretic. Love, compassion, piety, extreme devotion to one supreme God, individual spirituality etc. was the common principles for both Bhatkti and Sufi Movement. This movement was inclusive. It rejected the rigidness. (direct connection of ‘Bhakt’ with God), etc. were common in both Bhakti and Sufi philosophy- Guru Nanak, Kabir, Dadu Dayal are the best example of syncretic spiritualism. Hindus visited the ‘Mazar’ of ‘Pir’ and Sufi saints. The followers of Sufism sang devotional song i.e. ‘Zikr’ in local language. In ‘Zikr’ the term ‘Hari was uttered Sufis.
3. **Influence of Hindus Culture:** One of the most important influences of Hindu culture on Islamic tradition was hierarchical division of society. There are four castes in Hindu social order. The higher caste is Brahmin and lower one is Sudra. Due to influence of Hindu traditions in Islamic tradition also different division emerged in society. Abul Fazl mentioned Asraf (superior) and Ajalf (inferior) Muslim. Again. Sayyid, Shaikh, Mughal, or Pathan were considered the upper sections in society.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Language** ,**Arts & Culture:**
	* + - **Language:**  Urdu- synthesis of Persian and Hindi
* **Architecture:** In architecture both Hindu and Islamic traditions influenced each other. The patterns like Arches, Domes, Minarets, exquisite paintings/motifs on walls are Islamic. On the other hand, Bangla roof (Chala), use of stone instead of bricks is the tradition of Hindus.
* **Dance:** Kathak as dance both Hindu and Muslim perform as gharanas. In it Urdu Ghazals are perforemd by both communities. The common musical instruments brought during Muslim rule are used by the Hindus.
* **Painting:** Indo- Islamic painting is made with blending of Persian and Rajput schools:
* **Music:** ‘Khayal’ influenced by Persian music, Qawwallis came from Sufi. New instruments like Tabla are Muslim modification of Hindu musical Mirdang. Sitar is synthesis of Veena and the Iranian Tambura
1. **Political:** Hindu nobles in Mughal Rule played a significant role in the ways of syncrteism. Top administrator officer, advisers and chief of army of Mughal Empire were mostly Hindus, particularly from Rajput community. Sulh-i-Kul and Din-i-Ilahi of Akbar also came under political realms which helped for the manifestation of syncretism in India

Besides these, there are also others factors like dress and food habits through which syncretism are manifested. As food we eat Mughalia paratha and Mughalia Biriyan in our day to day life. Kurta pyjama is commonly used by Hindus and Muslims,  |