

TRANSLATION

Speech of
His Royal Highness Prince
Khalid Al-Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz
Director General, King Faisal Foundation
Chairman, Board of Trustees, King Faisal International Prize

1ST Awards Ceremony
Wednesday 28.2.1979 (2.4.1399H)

*In the name of Allah
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet
Mohammad and all his family and companions*

Your Majesty
Your Royal Highness Crown Prince
Your Highnesses the Princes
Your Eminences and Excellencies
My Honorable brothers

Assalam Alaikum,

God the Almighty says in the Holy Qura'n, "Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe and those who have been granted knowledge". Allah says also, "Do deeds! Allah will see your deeds, and, so will, his messenger and the believers".

Today when we are celebrating and honoring two of our scholars, we are guided by our true religion's teachings in acknowledging the favor of the scholars who were and are still throughout our Islamic history ... torches of light and guidance ... and marks which illuminate our way with what they presented of sacrifices in serving Islam and Muslims ... both in knowledge and in Jihad.

Our tolerant Shari'ya calls for honoring knowledge and knowledgeable ones. It is not surprising that this honoring comes from this land where Islam light originated to fill the world with justice and peace, and establish the most glorious and distinguished civilization the world has ever known. The foundations of this civilization maintain the human dignity and secure the value of goodness, justice and devotion.

Our Islamic history is full with various sorts of visions to encourage and honor knowledge and knowledgeable ones starting from the messenger of our nation (may peace be upon him) through Al-Khulafa'a Al-Rashideen (Orthodox caliphs), and those of Kings and leaders who followed them. History books are full with evidences and examples well-known for those who are aware of our history.

Thousands of manuscripts in our great heritage were a fruit of what scholars and intellectuals received of care and honoring at all levels. This honoring celebration is not an innovation. We simply implement our religion teachings and take the example of our predecessors who carried the message of Islam, knowledge and civilization. If our scholars and intellectuals lacked some of sufficient care, time has come to repay them what they worth of care and honoring. King Faisal Foundation was established, with your full support, to build and spend on philanthropic programs. Academic and cultural activities were in the front. The foundation has adopted three leading projects since its initiation:

First project, To establish a library and an archive in Riyadh city in accordance with the latest world libraries. Second project, Al-Dere'iah foundation to follow up world researches and studies to exploit the solar energy. Third project, The King Faisal International Prize which we are celebrating today its first fruits ... It includes three prizes as follows:

- 1- King Faisal International Prize for those who dedicated themselves to guard Islam which the eminent learned scholar, Shaikh Abul Ala'a Al-Mowdoodi has worthily won this year. He was well-known to strive to propagate Islam in Indian sub-continent. He was famous also for his ample knowledge through his big, valuable written works. He sacrificed his soul and being which the utmost thing one can do. His illness prevented him from attending this celebration, and we, herein, ask God the Almighty to give him good health to continue his strife in serving Islam.

- 2- King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies won by Professor Fuat Sezgin for the third, fourth and the fifth of his large encyclopedic work, "History of the Arab Heritage" which he devoted his effort, time and money, although his financial capabilities were very little. We ask God the Almighty to help him to complement this tiresome effort which he dedicated his life to.
- 3- King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature. It was suspended this year, because the works nominated to it this year were, nevertheless of the big efforts exerted in them, don't fulfill the intellectual and the objective level which the prize demands and doesn't perform its objectives.

Your Majesty,

The objectives of King Faisal International Prize originate from the objectives of the King Faisal Foundation which has the pride of your presidency over it. When this foundation celebrates knowledge and encourages and scholars and honor them ~~honor scholars~~; it aims at motivating the good, the Islamic and humanitarian intellectual presentation in establishing academic and intellectual renaissance of Islamic and Arabia origin and humanitarian objectives. A renaissance which emerges out of our fundamental values which calls for constructive knowledge and fundamental reflection to bring up a generation of knowledgeable pioneers calling for a message of goodness and justice for the whole humanity to confront the destructive challenges to which ~~the~~ man's dignity, and evacuate him of his humanitarian content, deforming his proper essence, extending chaos, anxiety and alienation in God's holdings.

Your Majesty,

It is not unusual of Your Majesty to comprehend this ceremony with your good patronage. We do know that you have allocated Monday of each week to meet with scholars, jurists and Shaikhs to give them a chance for consultation and discussion for the sake of Islam and Muslims.

In conclusion, I express my deepest thanks and truest gratitude to Your Majesty, asking God the Almighty to extend your life to lead our process for more construction, and to lend hand for my master the honorable Crown Prince to achieve the wishes of our nation and country.

Best wishes and assalam alaikum.