

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST MERCIFUL, THE MOST COMPASSIONATE

Introducing the Winners by

DR. ABD ALLAH S. AL-UTHAIMIN

Secretary General of the King Faisal International Prize

On the 13th Awarding Ceremony
Tuesday 30/10/1411H (14/5/1991)

In the Name of Allah, praise to be Him and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad His Kin, companions and all those who have followed his right guidance.

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz
Representative of the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques in patronizing this ceremony,

Your Highnesses, Your Eminencies,
Your Excellencies; scholars,
Intellectuals and lovers of literature and originality,

Asslamu Alaikum wa Rahatullah wa Barakatu

It is wonderful to gather every year at such a delightful ceremony to honour those who have rendered great services to Islam and to acknowledge those who have effected any pioneering achievement in the field of faith and shariah or in the field of thought and literature or in the field of medicine and other sciences – thus contributing by what they achieved to human civilization and the progress and welfare of man.

I take great pleasure to introduce the eminent gentlemen who have been awarded the King Faisal International Prize this year, in the field of the Service to Islam and the field of Arabic Literature.

King Faisal International Prize for the Service to Islam has been won by His Excellency Dr. Abd Allah bin Umar Nasif (Saudi Nationality) the Secretary General of the Muslim World League. The College of Islamic Theology of Al-Azhar University nominated him for the prize.

His Excellency Dr. Nasif was born in Jeddah in 1358 H. He crowned his studies obtaining the Ph.D. degree in Geology from the University of Leeds in 1391 H. He taught at King Saud University and then at King Abdel Aziz University, until he became the university vice president and afterwards the president of the same university. Since 1403 H, he has been the Secretary General of the Muslim World League.

In addition to his work in the League, Dr. Nasif is a pioneer in activating a number of Islamic Institutions and organizations all over the Muslim World. He has been awarded three honorary doctorates by the University of Om-Dorman, the University of the Philippines and the University of Science and Technology in Malaysia. In collaboration with others, Dr. Nasif published a number of papers in his field of

specialization. He also wrote books on both his specialization and Sharia. He is awarded King Faisal International Prize for the Service to Islam in recognition of the efforts he had exerted in constant activities among university youth and in Islamic seminars and meetings prior to his being vested with the responsibilities of the secretary general of the Muslim World League. After taking over as a secretary general of the League, thanks to his good and dynamic nature, a lot of Islamic work procedures have been adopted by the League with a view to serving Muslims in various countries. He also made great efforts to investigate the conditions of Muslim minorities and solve their problems. He has excelled in the Islamic relief project known as "Sanbil Al-Khair" (stocks of goodness) whose project is to alleviate the grave efforts of poverty, hunger and disease among the poor masses all over the Muslim World.

The topic for King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Literature for this has been a creative one:

Children's Literature. The co-winners are the distinguished men of letters:

Mr. Ahmad Mahmood Najib (Egyptian Nationality), Mr. Abd At-Tawab Yusuf Ahmad (also Egyptian Nationality) and Mr. Ali Abd Al-Qadir As-Siqilli (Moroccan Nationality)

Mr. Ahmad Mahmood Najib was born in Giza in 1928. After his university studies, he went on to earn post-graduate degrees. Then he taught children's literature in Egyptian universities and lectured on this subject in several universities. As well, he embarked on numerous activities in his area of specialization. He was awarded many prizes, among which were the state prize for children's literature in 1972 and the first prize (at Arab world level) in the competition for expressive arts held by the Centre for Scientific Research in Kuwait in 1976. Among his valuable publications are about 300 books for children and eleven reference books used in teaching children's literature in many universities and institutes. He was nominated for the King Faisal International Prize by the College of Arts, University of Tanta.

For many years, Mr. Ahmad Najib has worked with commendable seriousness and perseverance in the field of children's literature. He has enriched libraries with a wide range of topics as diverse as religion, fiction, science, adventure, travel, history and nature. Throughout his work, two particular talents emerge: simplicity of language and clarity of content. Most of his works are remarkably original. He wrote for all phases of childhood, cleverly discerning adolescent inclinations, emotional and psychological needs and intellectual and linguistic abilities. His informative stories reflect a wealth of experience. He did not consider the story as a mere chat or an amusing anecdote. Through his writings, Mr. Najib develops religious and moral awareness and a quest for knowledge. They satisfy the child's imagination within a framework of interest and joy.

Mr. Abd At-Tawab Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf was born in Egypt in 1928. He graduated from the Department of Political Sciences, Cairo University. After graduation, he took on cultural duties and travelled, delivering lectures at universities, research centers and academic institutions in many Arab and non-Arab countries. The most prominent of his numerous prizes are the State Appreciation Prize in the field of Children's Literature for the years 1975 and 1981, and the UNESCO International Prize for fighting illiteracy in 1975.

He was nominated for the King Faisal International Prize by the Faculty of Arabic, Imam Mohammad ibn Saud Islamic University, together with the universities of Asiyoot and Cairo and the Supreme Council for Culture in Egypt. Mr. Abd At-Tawab Yusuf devoted most of his literary work to children's literature where he excelled both as a researcher and an original author producing about 200 books in this field. Prior to this, he had been active in propagating consciousness of children's literature and organizing conferences towards this end.

He draws inspiration from daily life, both in the village and in the town, transforming by dint of his creative imagination what is commonplace into wonderful stories containing a great deal of knowledge and religious and ethical values through a style best suited to each respective phase in the development of the child.

His writings are distinguished for their felicitous literary style which perfectly blends fiction and reality and draws nearer to the world of the child, going hand in hand with his progress in language proficiency and enriching the child's linguistic repertoire with constructions which polish his aesthetic faculty and refine his perception. While diversifying the themes of his stories, the author seeks to implant in the heart and mind of the child the tenets of Islam and ethical standards.

Mr. Ali Abd Al-Qidir As-Siqilli was born in Faz in 1923. After graduating from Al-Qarawiyeen University, he was appointed as a lecturer there. Then he joined the court of King Mohammed V. Afterwards, he worked as a cultural adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was annexed to a number of Moroccan embassies both in the Arab world and elsewhere. Then he taught at the Faculty of Arts in Rabat. Since 1971 he has been General Inspector of Education. In 1982 he won the Moroccan Award for his lyrical novel "The Great Battle". He was nominated for the King Faisal International Prize by the Moroccan Society for Islamic Solidarity. His nomination was approved by nine eminent referees (whether institutions or academies).

Mr. Ali Abd Al-Qadir As-Siqilli is uniquely characterized by the fact that his literary output for children is written in lyrical form, such as nursery rhymes, songs, odes and poems suited to the requirements of every phase of childhood. Thus, in his nursery rhymes he puts special emphasis on rhyming patterns and clarity of expression, making good use of the material world as perceived by the child, such as real names, domestic animals, daily experience and innocent play. With regard to this more advanced stages in the development of the child, his theses gained in diversity. Thus they came to include religious and moral values and scenes from daily life in the village and town. In this respect he has shown an undeniable ability to empathize with the child's feelings, playfulness and innocence. The overall impression one gets from all the poet's output is his sincere desire to provide children with a package of scenes from experience best suited to their understanding, taken both from the present and the past and designed to make them more sensitive to the beauty of life, to satisfy their imagination and to make them love reading poetry.

The General Secretariat awarding the King Faisal International Prizes wishes to express its gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, representative of the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, for his patronage of the ceremony. It also extends thank to the audience for accepting the invitation. In so

doing, it thanks Allah for His support and is grateful to all those who have cooperated with it in nominating, referring and selecting candidates. It also cordially congratulates the winners, praying to Allah, in the meanwhile, to help and protect those working in the fields of righteousness.

Success lies ultimately with Allah.