

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WINNERS
OF THE 16TH SESSION
OF THE KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
Sunday 22 Shawal 1414H
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by**

**DR. ABD ALLAH SALEH AL-UTHAIMEEN
Secretary-General of the King Faisal International Prize**

Your Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace be upon the Prophet, his family and all his companions and followers.

In this blessed evening, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the distinguished winners of the 1994 King Faisal International Prizes for *Service to Islam, Islamic Studies, Arabic Literature, Medicine and Science*.

The prize for *Service to Islam* has been awarded to His Eminence Sheikh Mohammad bin Saleh Al-Uthamin (Saudi Arabia), Professor at Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University, Riyadh, a member of the Committee of Senior *Ulema'a*. he was nominated for the prize by the General Presidency of the Directorates of Research, *Ifta, Da'wa and Irshad* and the Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University.

Shaikh Al-Uthaimin has been awarded the prize in recognition of his profound dedication to the cause of Islam, and for sharing his immense knowledge of the Faith with a vast audience of Muslims through regular classes, publications, judgments and relentless preaching activities, coupled with his exemplary Muslim qualities of character which have gained him the respect, confidence and admiration of Muslims both at home and abroad.

The Prize for *Islamic Studies* (Studies Dealing with Islamic Law) has been awarded jointly to Shaikh El-Sayyed Sabiq Muhammad At-Tihami (Egypt), Professor at Um-UI-Qura University, Makkah, and Professor Sheikh Yusuf Abdullah Al-Qardawi (Qatar), Dean of the College of *Shari'ya* and Islamic Studies, and Director of *Sunnah* Research Centre, Qatar University. Sheikh At-Tihami was nominated for the prize by King Saud University and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, and Sheikh Al-Qardawi, by Imam Mohammad bin Saud and Al-Azhar Universities.

Sheikh As-Sayyed At-Tihami has been selected as a co-winner of the prize in recognition of his pioneering efforts to simplify and popularize Islamic Law (*Fiqh*), particularly as exemplified in his book *Fiqh As-Sunna*.

Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qardawi has selected as a co-winner of the prize in recognition of his immense contributions towards associating Islamic law with the needs of contemporary Muslim societies which is particularly well-illustrated in his book *Fiqh-Az-Zakat*.

The Prize for Arabic Literature (Studies Dealing with Ancient Arabic Prose) has been awarded jointly to Professor Aisha Abdul Rahman (Bint Al-Shati) (Egypt), Professor of Higher Studies at Al-Qaraween University, Morocco, and Professor Wadad Afif Kadi (Lebanese/American), Professor of Arabic Literature, and Chairman Department of Near Eastern Linguistic and Civilization, University of Chicago. Professor Aisha Abdul Rahman (Bint Al-Shati) was nominated for the prize by King Saud University and the United Arab Emirates University. Professor Kadi was nominated by the University of Chicago.

Professor Aisha Abdul Rahman's selected as a co-winner of the prize comes in recognition of her outstanding contributions both to the study of ancient Arabic prose, and Islamic studies, including *Tafseer*. Her manipulation of ancient Arabic prose has helped to unravel many obscurities and inaccurate citations in the material and has brought it closer to the reader and researcher. An example of that is her important manuscript *Al-Ghufran*, based on her study of *Risalat Al-Ghufran*.

Professor Wadad Kadi has been selected as a co-winner of the prize in recognition of her prolific contributions to the study of the development of ancient Arabic prose texts and her well-received anthologies of ancient works of prose. Her works included the study of *Al-Basa'ir and Al-Zakha'ir* which embodies a wonderful selection of ancient anthologies and classified prose.

The Prize for Medicine (Medical Applications of Genetic Engineering) has been awarded jointly to W. French Anderson, M.D. (USA), Professor of Biochemistry and Pediatrics, University of Southern California, and Professor Robert Williamson (Britain), Chairman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, St. Mary's School of Medicine, London.

Professor Anderson was nominated for the prize by the University of Southern California, the Association of the American Medical Colleges and the Polish Academy of Sciences, while Professor Williamson was nominated by the King Saud University.

Professor Anderson has been selected as a co-winner of the prize in recognition of his brilliant career as a medical scientist of outstanding academic excellence. He is the acknowledged father of gene therapy and an "individual of great sense to the human condition".

Professor Robert Williamson has been selected as a co-winner of the prize in recognition of the considerable impact his highly original works have had on the development of human molecular genetics and their applications in medicine. His discovery of the genetic defect in Thalassaemia (A) has been instrumental to subsequent discoveries and potential cure of other diseases caused by single gene dysfunctions.

The Prize in Science (Mathematics) has been awarded to Professor Dennis Parnell Sullivan (USA), Albert Einstein Professor of Mathematics in City University of New York and Professor at the Institute of Higher Scientific Studies in France. He was nominated for the Prize by the City University of New York.

Professor Sullivan has been selected for the prize in recognition of his distinguished work in Mathematics. He is a gifted mathematician who has been played a leading role in bringing the field of complex dynamics back to life. This powerful geometric intuition has influenced many, and his ideas have played a key role in contemporary seminal work in this field. Professor Sullivan has successfully combined analytical and geometric methods to develop sound mathematical foundations for the study of complex dynamical systems.

In conclusion, may I express, on behalf of the Secretariat General of the King Faisal International Prize, our utmost thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz for patronizing this celebration on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to thank you all for sharing the occasion with us, and to extend my thanks to those who have cooperated in nominating and referring the candidates and selecting the winners of the prizes.

May Allah bless you all.