

Speech of
HRH PRINCE KHALID AL-FAISAL BIN ABDUL AZIZ
Director General of the King Faisal Foundation and
Chairman of the King Faisal International Prize Committee
Sunday 22 Shawwal 1414H
3 April 1994

Praise be to Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful, and Peace and prayers be upon His Prophet, Muhammad ibn Abdallah.

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

It is indeed a great honour to hold this ceremony under the patronage of HRH Prince Sultan, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, thus illustrating once more their continuous support and encouragement of this Foundation and their commitment to all deeds of virtuousness.

This is no wonder, for the righteous King Abdul Aziz, may Allah have mercy upon him, had laid down the foundations of this country on firm grounds of monotheism and Shari'ia, turning it into a life-vest for the nation at times of discord and turmoil. The security, stability, peace and prosperity enjoyed by this country is a blessed fruit of the prevalence of Shari'ia over its land.

Anyone following the affairs of Saudi Arabia would realize that its great founder and his sons have succeeded, with the guidance of Almighty, in leading and converting this country—the land of the two Holy Mosques, and of the Seal of the Prophets—into a luminous spot for all mankind, as Allah has chosen it to be; anyone could also see that the enlightened, virtuous efforts of its people, whether they be rulers of subjects, have combined harmoniously in producing a spectral development in all aspects of life in this country and that, as a result of their concerted attention to the holy Islamic shrines to which the hearts of millions of Muslims cling each year, pilgrims are enjoying consistently more comfort and ease in performing Hajj, year after year.

The Kingdom's hand has reached beyond boundaries, standing by everyone, everywhere, helping the needy and supporting justice, in great courage and self-denial. By virtue of being a luminous spot for humanity, the Kingdom stands by all mankind without discrimination.

The prize for which we hold this ceremony tonight strives relentlessly to maintain its credibility by committing itself to distinguish between nominees solely on the basis of their service to humanity, without discrimination or bigotry of any kind. It strives to invigorate scholars from all over the globe to work for the welfare of mankind, to bring to light the efforts of all gifted people and to encourage communication between this luminous locus and the institutions of knowledge the world over.

This prize, brothers and sisters, is blessed tree, seeded by the founder of this country, nurtured by the martyr, and tended by King Fahad.

Your Royal Highness, Distinguished Guests, let me thank you all for your kind participating in celebrating these eminent laureates who gave so much to knowledge and enrich our lives spiritually and materially. In your name, may I thank them for enlightening the corners of the world with their efforts and insights.

Thanks and Praise be to Allah. Thanks to all of those institutions at home and abroad that have assisted The King Faisal International Prize and thanks to the staff of the Prize for their efforts.

In conclusion, may I repeat my sincere thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and to their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Premier for their kind patronage and support.

May Allah save this peaceful, blessed country, and may He bless you all.