

TRANSLATION

Speech of

His Royal Highness Prince

Khalid Al-Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz

Director General of King Faisal Foundation

And Chairman of

King Faisal International Prize Committee

Saturday 9.3.2002 (25.12.1422H)

Praise to Allah, and peace and prayers upon the
Prophet Muhammad and all his family and companions.

Your Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz,
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation
and Inspector General,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum

I would like to congratulate the winners of this year's prizes and to thank you all - distinguished guests - for sharing this occasion with us. I would also like - on behalf of King Faisal Foundation's Board of Trustees - to express sincere thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abd Al-Aziz for kindly accepting for this auditorium to bear his name. As of now, it will be called Prince Sultan's Grand Hall in Al-Faisaliah.

Your Highness,

This gesture does not add to your esteem, but it adds profoundly to ours.

Dear Guests;

Our nation has recently been the subject of a hostile attack by the media – an attack that targets our civilization and culture, as though human civilization is not a continuum, and as though today’s civilization do not stand on the shoulders of its predecessors. I believe in only one human civilization that began since the creation of mankind, and has ever since been – for a Divine Wisdom – switching between east and west. If we are reaping the fruits of modern civilization today, it is us who had given it generously in the past, and continue to contribute significantly to its progress.

This prize bears a message of friendship and affection. It is an invitation to the entire world to comprehend the values of our civilization, and appreciate our culture that reveres knowledge and celebrates those enriching it, regardless of gender, color or race.

With full pride in our heritage and confidence in our present cultural values, I would like to say to the entire world: “We are with you. Yes, we are with you, as partners and not as followers.”

Assalam Alaikum.