

Speech of
His Royal Highness
PRINCE KHALID AL-FAISAL
Director-General of the
King Faisal Foundation
and
Chairman of the
King Faisal International Prize Committee

On the Occasion of the Fourteenth
Prize Award Ceremony
Saturday 10 Ramadan 1412H
Corresponding to 14 March 1992

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful
Thanks be to God
Peace and prayers be upon his Prophet and Messenger Muhammad

My Lord, Your Royal Highness
Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz
The Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman
Of the Council of Ministers and
Head of the National Guard

Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Esteemed Winners of the King Faisal International Prize,
Respected Audience,

My Lord,

Your patronage of this ceremony in this blessed month, representing your brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, symbolized the great appreciation which the wise leadership of this country feels towards the people whom this Prize recognizes, namely those who faithfully serve Islam and Muslims with their thoughts and their deeds, and those who serve the language of the Quran, Arabic, with their studies and their research, and those who offer their scientific knowledge, whether theoretical or applied, to the progress of humanity.

Thank you, Sir, for the patronage and thanks to our leadership for its support of all manner of good deeds.

My lord, it is a good omen that we hold this ceremony during Ramadan, the holiest and most blessed of months.

It is a good omen that this ceremony comes on the anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait, which would not have taken place without God's blessing and King Fahad's will and wisdom, many men's courage,

many martyrs, many heroes who supported legitimacy and right and were rewarded with legitimacy and right.

It is with joy that we are celebrating ten blessed years of My Lord King Fahad's rule.

And it is with joy that we have received the three laws of Government, Consultative Council and the Provinces. These laws are old and yet new. Old because country has been governed by the Islamic Constitution ever since Prince Muhammad ibn Saud entered an agreement with Sheikh Muhammad ibn Abdul-Wahhab whereby they vowed to apply the rule of God in the land of God. And yet these laws are new, and their novelty comes from two sources:

One, they are a reaffirmation of this country's commitment to God's book (the Holy Quran) and his Prophet Muhammad's traditions (Sunnah) as the foundation of government and life. And, so, these laws spring from our conditions, or continuity, our tradition, our glorious history. They are neither Oriental nor Occidental, and they emulate no imported constitution.

Two, these laws come out at a time when Islamic nations are searching for an ideal Islamic rule, especially those that have gained their freedom from communism and socialism. These ideologies have disappointed those nations, preventing them from achieving security, economic prosperity, social order and stability. So, when the Saudi government issued the three laws, it was fulfilling God's statement in the Quran, "And the forth will disperse but that which benefits people will stay in the ground."

Indeed, when the wise ponder the causes of the unshakable stability of God's rule in this land, and study it in light of the history of the Saudi state, they can only trace it to one overriding reason, namely Saudi state, they can only trace it to one overriding reason, namely Saudi Arabia's application of God's will and its readiness to do so in the face of opposition by God's enemies. That was the way the first Saudi state functioned: confronting corruptions of the faith, social disintegration, tribal infighting, and succeeding in establishing a truly Islamic society in the Arabian Peninsula.

Then another confrontation takes place and success is achieved by the gram Imam and Mujahed, the inimitable King Abdulaziz ibn Abdur Rahman, may God bless his soul who, with foresight and courage, confronted all colonial attempts to alter the identity of his nation and was able to apply God's law in both faith and practice.

And then again, the Muslim nation faced an aggressive assault from socialism and nationalism and their derivatives. But, the nation, as it had before, stood up to the challenge, this time under the leadership of the late King Faisal ibn Abdulaziz, may God bless his soul, who unequivocally announced that this nation's only way is the Islamic way, that its only call is the call of Islam. It was he who said, "If being reactionary means the literal commitment to the Islamic faith, then we are proud to be reactionary." He called for Islamic solidarity and succeeded, and Saudi Arabia succeeded. The Islamic way succeeded. Communism fell and socialism failed.

We now face another campaign targeting the Muslim world. After the fall of the left, the right now mobilizes all of its immense resources against the Third World, much of which is composed of Muslims, implying that the only way to eradicate poverty, ignorance, and disease is the adoption of capitalism and secularism. This often comes at the cost of compassion and faith. This time, it is the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahad ibn Abdulaziz who faces the world, dealing a deft preventative blow, announcing the continuity of the Islamic way as the law of Saudi Arabia, stressing that this Kingdom could not be so blessed, so fortunate without its commitment to the application of Islamic jurisprudence.

Your Highness,

The unprecedented progress, the economic prosperity, the security and stability which Saudi Arabia enjoys, as opposed to the economic decline, instability, and insecurity of others, testifies to the fact the only solution is Islam. And, so, this is our experience and we offer it to the world, an example to be imitated.

We thank God and we thank the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and our wise leadership for taking these blessed steps.

Your Highness,

Allow me to repeat my deepest appreciation to your noble highness for patronizing this ceremony. And allow me to present the deepest felt congratulations to the distinguished scientists whose great efforts and original research have qualified them to win this year's Prizes. I wish them more success. And I thank to all our guests for attending this ceremony.

God bless you all.