

Presentation of the
2004 King Faisal International Prize Winners

By

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In the name of Allah Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be Upon the Prophet Mohammad and all his family,
companions, and all his followers until the Day of Judgement

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

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to present this year's winners of the King Faisal International Prizes.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam is awarded to Field Marshal Abd Al-Rahman Muhammad Hassan Sewar Ad-Dahab of the Sudan. Sewar Ad-Dahab was nominated for the Prize by the International Congress of Muslim Youth in Riyadh. He is awarded the Prize in recognition of his achievements as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Organization of Islamic *Daawa* (Call) in the Sudan, which included the building of numerous schools, mosques, hospitals, clinics, childcare centers and orphanages, and the digging of wells and water pumping stations in Africa. He is also recognized for his sincere efforts to further the objectives of Islamic *Daawa*, locally, within the Islamic World and internationally, and for his exemplary qualities of allegiance, sincerity and integrity.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies, assigned this year for studies dealing with the maxims of Islamic jurisprudence, is awarded jointly to Drs. Ali Ahmad Ghulam Muhammad Nadvi of India and Yacoub Abd Al-Wahab Al-Bahussain of Saudi Arabia for their excellent contributions to those studies.

Dr. Ali Nadvi is Head of *Shar'ia* (Islamic Law) advisors at the Al-Rajhi Financial and Investment Company in Riyadh. He was nominated for the Prize by the Islamic Research Institute in Britain, the College of *Shari'a* and Islamic Studies at Al-Yarmook University in Jordan, the King Faisal University in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, the Arab Academy for Finance and Banking Studies in Amman, Jordan, and the House of Islamic Studies and Heritage in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Nadvi is awarded the Prize in recognition of his excellent efforts in extracting, authenticating and analyzing juristic rules and maxims that govern financial dealings in Islam, and for his innovative adaptations of those maxims to modern circumstances.

Dr. Yacoub Al-Bahussain, a faculty member of the High Institute of Judiciary in Riyadh, was nominated for the Prize by the Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. He is awarded the Prize for his excellent efforts in explaining and analyzing the maxims of Islamic jurisprudence.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature in the topic of "Preservation of Classical Arabic to the End of the 5th Century A.H." is awarded to Professor Hussain Muhammad Nassar of Egypt, Emeritus Professor of Arabic at Cairo University's College of Arts. Dr. Nassar was nominated for the Prize by the Colleges of Arts at Cairo University, Al-Minya University and the Southern Valley University in Sohaj and the Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture. He is awarded the Prize in recognition of his pioneering studies into the history and development of Arabic Lexicography in general, and particularly his landmark research into the origins and evolution of the Arabic dictionary.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of interventional cardiology is awarded to Professor Ulrich Sigwart of Switzerland, Professor of Cardiology and Chief of the Center of Cardiology at Geneva University, which nominated him for the Prize. Professor Sigwart receives the award in recognition of his milestone contributions to interventional cardiology. He conceived and developed endoluminal stenting that dramatically changed the approach to the treatment of coronary and extra-coronary arterial disease by providing a viable and safe alternative to bypass surgery. He also invented the non-surgical technique known as pharmacologic septal ablation to reduce abnormal enlargement of the septum that separates the ventricles of the heart. These and other innovations by Sigwart have benefited hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science is awarded in the field of "Biology" to Professor Semir Zeki of the U.K., Professor of Neurobiology at the University College in London. Professor Zeki was nominated for the Prize by his University. He receives the award in recognition of his seminal work on the organization of the visual brain. Zeki was the first to show that the visual brain consists of many different areas that are functionally specialized to process and perceive different attributes of the visual scene. His subsequent research on the perception of visual attributes such as visual motion and color has also led him to the concept that the visual consciousness consists of an assembly of many different micro-

consciousnesses that are distributed in space and time and are integrated at higher centers to produce a unified perception of the visual scene.

In conclusion, I would like to express the sincere thanks of the General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, for sponsoring this ceremony on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to thank you for sharing the event with us. Special appreciation and thanks are due to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Director General of King Faisal Foundation, for his continuous support of the Prize, and to all of those who have been involved in the nomination, refereeing and selection processes. I would also like to congratulate our distinguished laureates for a well deserved recognition. May Allah assist and support all of those who are working towards the welfare of humanity.

Thank you and good evening to you all.