Speech by
Professor Dr Abd Al Aziz Al Duri
Winner of King Faisal International Prize
For Islamic Studies 1986/1406

In The Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Your Royal Highness Crown Prince
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies

I am honoured to stand here to express my thanks and gratitude to KFIP for recognizing distinguished researchers and dedicated servants of Islam. I see these efforts as a revival of the deeply rooted Islamic value of pursuing knowledge and emphasizing its importance for human progress and civilization.

The Prize for Islamic Studies in its selection of the topic “History of Islam” this year stresses the importance of the study of this history and the significance of our heritage.

I devoted my professional life to the study of Islamic History, examining it and analysing its intellectual, cultural and social impact; in so doing, I suffered as much as I rejoiced my findings. My early book on ‘Economic History of the Abbasid Era’, which has won the approval of the KFIP Selection Committee, has discussed the importance of the Islamic economy in theory and practice. I believe that the study of Islamic economy is beneficial to the present financial and economic activities and their development. I hope that KFIP encourages this aspect of research for the sake of opening new horizons.

I am certain that this Prize constitutes an important step towards our future cultural, scientific and educational development and promotion of the Islamic world and for that reason we are indebted to Saudi Arabia’s monarch and people.

I am also grateful to those in charge of KFIP and the General Secretariat for giving us this unprecedented opportunity.

Thank you.