

TRANSLATION

Speech of Dr.

Abdullah Ibrahim

2014 Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic Language and Literature

36th KFIP Awards Ceremony
Sunday 30/3/2014 (29/5/1435H.)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense,
Your Highnesses,
Your Eminences, Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests.

As-Salamu Alaikum and may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

The first signs of the Arabic novel emerged in the mid nineteenth century, and through the following one and a half century of its age, it achieved more than the narrative phenomenon could achieve in 15 centuries of its history. It became the Arab's divan, given that a divan is perceived as a comprehensive register of events and conditions occurring during a particular historical era. This is so because the novel became a diverse narrative representation of all the conditions prevailing in Arab communities.

The Selection Committee members deserve to be complemented for choosing the modern Arabic novel as the subject of this year's Prize and I consider my selection for the award recognition of all scholars working in this field. I am pleased to express my sincere gratitude to the King Faisal Foundation which established the prize, to those who nominated me for it and to the selection committee which chose me for the award.

As-Salamu Alaikum and may Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you.