

TRANSLATION

Speech of Professor
Abd Al-Qader Al-Qet

Co-Winner of King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic Literature 1980/1400H.
Tuesday 12.2.1980 (25.3.1400H.)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness
Your Highnesses
Your Excellences
Your eminencies
Distinguished Guests

It is an honour which I boast of to be one of the winners of the King Faisal International Prize which is granted to the literary works for the first time. What increases my feeling with this honour, that it is a big honour to literary work, and an awareness of its cultural role in the renaissance of people and prosperity of their life, at our age that the scientific performances almost overwhelmed this truth. And at our Arab society which its political issues and contemporary affairs of its life almost took away the sufficient attention to literary work, thought and culture.

No doubt, that every Arab country gives this cultural activity a more or less attention which continues or interrupts now and then, but this prize, in its overall international vision, is a remarkable mark on the road towards going back to exalt literature and thought. I need only to say that the Arab national feeling was based on the activity of the Arab men of letters as a revival of heritage, a confront of contemporary issues and a coping with the best of the modern thought fruits. It was based also on close intellectual and human relations correlated with men of letters in the Arab world. It gathered the hearts of the Arab population and revived the dignity of nationality in their selves.

I hope that there will be fruits to this eminent prize, just like the fruits of our early pioneers, so hearts might reunite, and Arabs gather for their goodness, dignity, and their ability for a new cultural presentation. I hope the position of prize will rise, in God's willing, in the forthcoming years, so the perception of people of this prize and its indications will increase where it becomes a noble aspiration for many

men of letters and students.

I thank the King Faisal Foundation for its grand project, and I thank the referees' committee for their prudent view, and I pray to God to grant them all success.