

TRANSLATION

Speech of Professor
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Co-Winner of King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic literature 1980/1400 H.

Tuesday 12.2.1980 (25.3.1400H.)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness, the Crown Prince,
The delegate of His Majesty the King
Your Highnesses
Your Excellences, the Ministers
Your eminencies, the Scholars

I have, actually, a great honour to speak to you on this grand event to express my greatest thanks to the King Faisal Foundation represented in its Trustees Board, all its members and those who collaborate with it to serve Islam and encourage knowledge and literature, hoping every progress and prosperity to all the projects it had done, or it intends to do.

I am pleased to find that this big event speaks to me in three exalted meanings: the remindful meaning, the appreciation meaning and the encouragement meaning.

The remindful one is because it is coupled with the name of his Majesty the late King Faisal and it demands from us, scholars, to be firm in the right path, dedicated to serve our religion and heritage, and to work to boost ties with the people of our nation. These are some of the attributions out of many ones that characterized the martyred King.

The appreciation meaning is because this event has disclosed the silence veil and the modest persistence, to say to us that your silence have spoken about you, and your modesty is worthy of predominance in the balance of appreciation and honouring.

The encouragement meaning is because this event addressed us saying that this prize is not crowning an effort or an end to a conclusion,

but it is a suggestion to go ahead and continue the instructive work for the sake of the right, justice and goodness.

If I go on examining carefully the meanings which this event suggests, it will take me a long. I need only to say that it is a vision which makes ties between scholars in the Muslim countries, and it is sufficient to me to mention the three big symbols I had pointed out.

I conclude my modest speech with what I started it with thanks and gratitude, hoping that his country, the resort of Arabs and Muslims, will soon become a cultural center as it is a religious center of attention.