

TRANSLATION

Speech of Professor
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Winner of King Faisal International Prize
For Islamic Studies 1980/1400H.
Tuesday 12.2.1980 (25.3.1400H.)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to God; we praise Him, ask His help, His forgiveness; we

believe in Him and trust in Him; we resort to God and seek His protection from our malice and evils. He who God makes him astray, no one can guide him to the right.

I testify that there is no God but Allah, Who has no partner. I testify that our master Mohammad is God's slave and messenger, chose him for His revelation, and to conclude His message. God gave him His precedence. May peace and prayer of God be upon our prophet whenever people bring him to their mind and unmindful ones missed him out.

This is a historical situation in the life of nations, knowledge and in my life. I thank God the Almighty who destined me to reach what I have reached by His favor and benevolence, and to perform this effort which the committee appreciated and decided to grant it the discretionary prize. My duty is to thank the bodies which nominated my work to have this prize, of which I know some, and others which I don't know. The ones I know are: the university of Riyadh, the university of Qatar and the World Assembly of Muslim Youths; May God the Almighty reward them, and from me many thanks to them. I thank also the individuals and the institutions which helped in the production of my academic production into existence. I pray to God to give them forgiveness and to raise their grades. It is my duty to mention some of these institutions and bodies which come in the front of this list: Dar AL-Uloum Meeu, Dar Al-Uloum at Diobend, India in which I studied the Holy Tradition knowledge.

It is my duty also to mention the government and population of Qatar, in particular, the late Shaikh Ali Aal Thani, the late Shaikh Qasim Ibn Hamad Aal Thani, and the Qatari Dar Al-Kutob. My faithful thanks to them and for the Turkish libraries.

Last and not the least, I thank this hospitable country in which I found security and stability, and which God honoured it upon the whole world by the two Holy Mosques. I have been living in this country peacefully for decade, which enabled me to serve the Prophet Sunnah. I wrote these two books in this good land, and the biggest art of them in the Holy Mecca nearby the Holy Mosque. Now, I am planning for a big project regarding the Prophet Sunnah. I pray to God to grant me truthfulness and success to complete it and to honour me in this present life and reward me in the Day of Judgment.

On this occasion, I would like to mention that a start of an Islamic new renaissance has come into sight which calls for going back into God's Holy Book and to the Sunnah of His messenger. I go, with its roots, back to the nearby past, i.e. to the Da'awah of the late reformer Shaikh Mohammad Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab. This renaissance will never be existed or have success without giving more care and attention to the Holy Book and Sunnah in both doctrine and behavior.

This puts on the shoulders of scholars and researchers great diverse liabilities to confront the mean plots to cut the ties of the Muslims with Islam, represented in renouncing the Prophet Sunnah, fighting it and raising doubts about it. The researchers must confront these plots and show to every sensible one that the efforts exerted to preserve the

Prophet Sunnah are pure, unique efforts.

They should do to let the Prophet Sunnah approachable to the nation, for both government and people. In the meantime there is another responsibility represented in generalization the understanding of the Sunnah properly and deeply. There is an old saying which says, "A sensible enemy is better than an ignorant friend", because the dangers of the improper understanding and misinterpretation of the text lead to deform the Islamic pure vision, and hinders the desired Islamic renaissance.

Before I leave this place, I see that my duty is to thank those who look after the King Faisal Foundation. They initiated a good norm, so they have its reward and the reward of those who took its example. Now, there is an international commission for all Muslims which appreciates students of knowledge and researchers and encourage them apart from their colors, or races.

This prize is really the most honourable known international prize. It bears the name of a man who appeared in this century and took his part in manufacturing not only the history of the Arab peninsula, but the history of the whole Muslim nation. You do know that the late King Faisal sacrificed his life to gather the Muslims and raise their position. He was the hope, the real work, the example and the torch; this is what I think of him, and God alone who judges him. I ask God to forgive him, to raise his position, to accept his good deeds and to overlook his disadvantages.

I would like to announce the donation of this generous prize to the poor Muslims' bright students, in order to preserve the Faisal's attributions in extended roots. I thank you faithfully; pray to God to grant you every goodness and I ask you to pray to God for me. I pray humbly to God to preserve his favor of security, stability and peace and accept from me and you the best of deeds. The honour which His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince gave to this event by handing out the prizes on behalf of King Khalid left a deep impression on me, so I must express my thanks and gratitude to him.

I ask God to grant success to the government of Saudi Arabia in every good thing for the advantage of Islam and Muslims, and to lead this government to the right way and to back them up of His Victory and support them to bear the burdens of this nation and to move it out of the low position it came to under the banner of unification, the banner of "there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger".