

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

**Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Al-Baz**

Winner of the King Faisal International Prize  
For Service to Islam (1982-1402H)

Praise be to God, the Almighty and Peace and Blessings be Upon Mohammad, Our Prophet and Imam and His Messenger; Peace and Blessings be Upon His Kinship, Companions and those guided by His Guidance till the Day of Judgment.

I praise God, the Almighty for His favouring us with this blessed assembly, for the appreciation of knowledge and learned men, for the encouragement of those in-charge of the Service to Islam, the Islamic researches, the Arabic Islamic literature and all that benefits people, such as medicine, and whatever field of study that benefits the nations too. I also thank His Majesty King Khalid, His Highness, the Crown Prince the Faithful Fahd and their Highnesses sons of His Highness King Faisal – May God be Merciful upon his soul – for their endeavours in establishing this blessed charitable foundation of King Faisal and for whatever attention and support they showed towards the foundation's undertakings. I pray God, the Almighty, to guide their steps and to conclude the endeavours of those in-charge of the Foundation with success, piety and righteousness, to reward them twice and to make the benefits of this Foundation prevalent over all Muslims in particular, and all people, in general. I pray God to guide our Princes, Wealthy Brethren and all benevolent to participate in support of this Foundation until it attains its goals in the fields of serving Muslims – the fields that elevate the level of knowledge – in the way the most satisfies God. However we undertake to encourage charitable projects and beneficial deeds for the welfare of man and Muslims, it remains our duty to state that those working in Islamic field have to be faithful in their endeavours and to be close to the chaste Shari'a. I pray God that they should not seek, in their endeavours, wealth or appreciation, but only the satisfaction of God Almighty and the benefits of Muslims and non-Muslims, everywhere, in the way most satisfying to Him; however, no harm could be done should they be pay, in accordance with their need and unsolicited.

It is decreed in the Hadith, as city by Ibn Omar – May he and his father be blessed that when Muhammad, God Bless Him and Give Him Peace, would pay Omar, the latter would reply: O, Messenger of God, give it to whoever is poorer than me, and Mohammad God Bless Him and Give Him Peace, would reply, "take it and keep it for yourself or donate it as alms, and whatever comes to you of this money, unsolicited, you make take\* as quoted by Muslim in the Sahih" On this basis, I accept this prize and thank its patrons and pray God to guide them. Since it is conferred for the Service of Islam, I pray God to assist us, in the best way, in this field to conclude our endeavours with success and to forgive us our sins should we be neglectful. However, we pray Him to assist us in our beneficial deeds and forgive us all, should we be neglectful. I pray Him to strengthen us for the service of Muslims everywhere, in word and in deeds.

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\*after Sahis Muslim, T. Mohammad Abdu Baq 2/723

The Prize has been conferred upon me as a gesture of appreciation on the part of our brethren in the Foundation Corpus, for my services to Islam. And I, in my turn donate it to the National Charitable “Dar Al-Hadith” in Makkah, in compensation for the Islamic services it renders. “Dar Al-hadith”, in Makkah, serves Muslims as well as their descendants, the world-over, starting from Africa and not ending in Asia. It has been founded in 1352H, with the assistance of his eminence Sheikh Abdul Zahir Abu Al-Sam, the Imam of the Holy Mosque, at that time. Sheikh Al-Zahir had requested His Majesty the late King Abd Al-Aziz – May God have mercy upon his soul, to give his consent to its foundation in Makah, in response to Muslims need of it, in particular aliens; he was seconded by his eminence the late Abdullah Ibn Hassan Al-Sheikh, May God have Mercy upon his soul, the Head Magistrate at court, in the western region. The late King Abd Al-Aziz – May God have Mercy upon his soul- had soon issued a decree to have Dar Al-Hadith be founded, in the same year of 1353H. It is still progressing until the present day. A hundred and fifty students, of different nationalities, had joined it, this year; it needs support and help; and it is for this reason that I donate the prize to it as a financial aid. I pray God Almighty that Muslims benefit from this donation. I pray God to bless the Foundation of the late King Faisal, God have Mercy upon his soul, and to bless and guide those in-charge of it and guide their steps.

I now take the liberty to suggest to this Foundation to devote its attention and efforts to the Islamic schools, the Islamic societies and Islamic centers, and Islamic unions and their like, which need patronizing and aid to enable them to play their roles effectively; they ought to have an income of their own to enable them render beneficial services to Muslims as well as exalt the Islamic cause, the world over.

It is a usual practice of people to applaud upon hearing or listening to something that please them but it is also a usual practice of the Sunna to hail ‘God Most Great’! upon hearing something that either pleases or displeases them; in such instances they may be hailing encouragingly or discouragingly as the occasion requires. It has been cited of Mohammad, God Bless Him and Give Him Peace, that He had once said to His Companions. “I pray God you be the quarter of Paradise people”, and they replied Him, “We hailed ‘God Most Great’, then He said to them; ‘I pray God you be the third of Paradise people” they relied Him, We hailed ‘God Most Great’ “. When Mohammad Peace and Blessings be Upon Him, saw what pleased Him, he used to hail ‘God Most Great, God Most Praised’ and he saw what abhorred or saddened Him He used also to hail ‘God Most Great’ in exaltation of His Providence. Therefore, we too, should follow his example particularly, in the Islamic states and communities. If this exaltation is uttered by all present, it would sound better, this is in line with our Prophet’s practice – Peace be Upon Him and Upon His Companions. These are my concluding words to you. I pray God to guide all of you to righteousness. May God give Mohammad, His Kinship and Companions, Peace and Blessings.