

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

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Your Majesty, the King
Royal Highness, the Princes
Your Eminences, the Ulema
Your Excellences, the Ministers

We are the custodians of Science and attendants of God's Book. We deeply believe that the appreciation and honouring yielded to us, indicates the blessings of God bestowed upon us due to our dedication and adherence to science. Therefore we vow to commit ourselves to stand firm in our Mihrab and will never look right or left.

Thanks and praise be to God for prolonging our lives and existence until we have won this honouring and appreciation.

No wonder that the sons of the late King Faisal have decided to encourage research and study as a means to immortalize the memory of their great father, because this act is usual practice of the Saudi dynasty.

The Saudi dynasty has made great efforts and spent a lot of money to spread education and make its acquisition possible. When I came first to Holy Makkah in 1946, there were only three secondary schools in the whole Kingdom namely: Jeddah High School, Medina High School, and the preparation of Scholastic missions. While members of the Egyptian Ministry of Education mission did not exceed thirty teachers and five from Al-Azhar graduates in total. When I came to Riyadh in 1972 I found innumerable secondary schools, and that many universities were established having various departments and objects. This is a testimony for history record.

What steps are faster! What determination is stronger, and what generosity is more exuberant than what was spent for education in such a brief period which I witnessed. May God reward whose the prize bears his name, those in-charge as well as who confer it with the best compensation.

Having mentioned the educational renaissance and its leaders, we have, in this context, to great King Fahd Ibn Abd al-Aziz because he was and still is its

main supporter and backer, as well as its guardian from the very beginning, and we have nothing but to extend to him thanks and appreciation.

Muhammad Abd Al-Khaliq

Odaimah.