

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

Dr. Showki Dheif

Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic Language & Literature (1983-1403)

Your Majesty, King Fahd ibn Abd al-Aziz,
Your Royal Highness, the Crown Prince,
Your Highnesses, the Princes,
Your Eminences and Excellences,
Gentlemen,

I was extremely delighted for winning King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Language & Literature due to its sublime literary value. It is an honour which I always keep cherishing.

My words will not suffice to pass adequate commendation to those in-charge of the Foundation which they deserve. Also, I will not be able to express to the Jury Committee my sincere appreciation which they deserve for conferring upon me this noble honour, which consequently will grant researchers in Arabic Literature, year after year, an honouring and appreciation of their fruitful and fertile endeavours.

It is an honour over an honour to have the name of the prize coupled with that of the late King Faisal ibn abd Al-Aziz for immortalization of his memory, a continuation of his blessed way of life and his incessant struggle for the service of Islam as well as Muslims, his continuous defense of Arab and Arabism causes, and his profound faith in ideal humanitarian values, a fact which made his name spread far and wide the world over and made people everywhere, launch forth into profuse praises to him.

It is my pleasure to compliment this benevolent country represented by its history, citizens, the Monarch, King Fahd ibn Abd Al-Aziz, the Crown Prince HRH Abd Allah ibn Abd Al-Aziz, men of distinction and leaders who are making sincere efforts for the Service of Islam and Arabism. May God bless HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, the Managing Director of this Foundation, and their royal highnesses his decent faithful brothers the sons of King Faisal who did their utmost to establish firmly the ideals adopted by their great father for the benefit of Arabs, and to blaze the burning log of civilization in such a way that would bring about abundant and general welfare for Islam and mankind.

For such noble objectives, the prospective of King Faisal Prize has expanded. It has become international, as being awarded to those who have contributed an outstanding work in Islamic and Arabic literary studies, as well as to outstanding persons who have contributed an exceptionally good scientific researches regardless of their nationality or country or whether from east or west, on the basis of the principles of Holy Shari'a, and genuine intent to enrich the Arabic, Islamic and universal thought and to contribute to the progress of mankind and civilization.

Certainly, this great international prize will motivate, in a laudable competition, researchers, in Arab countries, who are specialized in Islamic Studies and Arabic Literature, and scientific researches to score great success which, in turn, will bring about a great benefit to our Arabic contemporary renaissance.

I, desperately, hope that the projects of this blessed Foundation should be proliferated along with an increase of institutions, literary and scientific centres from Gulf to ocean, in order to enable our Arab nation to restore its full historic and civilized role, when its intellectuals, philosophers, and scientists were the teachers of the west which procured from their science, philosophy and thought what illuminated their way towards their contemporary civilization.

I would like to repeat again what I initially stated as regards my commendation of the Foundation, my gratitude to the Prize and appreciation for conferring upon this literary recognition.

Peace and God's Mercy and Blessings be upon you.

Dr. Showki Dheif