

Speech Delivered by:

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Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
For ISLAMIC STUDIES (1985 – 1405H)

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, Merciful

Your Majesty King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz – May God Bless you.
Your Royal Highness The Crown Prince
Your Royal Highnesses the Princes
Your Eminences and Excellencies
Gentlemen

Praise be to God.., We Praise Him, seek His Guidance and believe in Him; on whom we depend, and God forbid us from the evils of our souls; he whom god Guide shall not be lost; No Guide but He. I witness that no deity but God and witness that Mohammad is his Messenger.

This sacred country was the cradle of God's last Message; it has remained, all throughout history – the object of hope for all Muslims; it has always been to them, as a guiding torch that had led them, through the blessed Call that was revealed to the most honoured of His Messengers, Mohammad, Peace and Blessings be Upon Him, out of the darkness of atheism to the light of monotheism and Islam; it has also been the cradle of the Call of Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Abdul Wahab, May God have Mercy Upon his soul; the call which had centered its interests in keeping the Faith to the right path as well as purify it from all superstitions, heresies and poly-theism.

Therefore, it is not unexpected of the Corpus of King Faisal International Prize to appropriate one of its prizes to Islamic Studies pertaining to the Islamic doctrine.

It is quite striking that whenever our nation adhered to it, throughout the ages, we discern a flourish in all aspects of civilization; however, our nation has never slackened to pursue its distinctive path except when the interest in the doctrine declined as a consequence of heresies and corruption which deviated Muslims from the righteous path.

Today the true doctrine of monotheism cannot be discerned but in the religion of Islam:
God has preserved His Book from human abuse:

God has also protected the nation's Ulama' and our Prophet's Sunna – May God Bless Him and Give Him Peace – from corruption. Thus, the Faith remained pure and unblemished notwithstanding some Muslims had deviated from the true path, into groups that disagreed with the Sunna.

With the immense technological progress that had taken place in the industrial countries, the peoples were deprived, in a way or other, from this tolerant doctrine; the consequence was that they were inflicted with horrible wars, spiritual worries and numerous crimes; it only suffices to compare the influence of the doctrine on Muslims and their positive response to God's forbiddance of alcohol with the total failure of the measures taken, in this respect, by the governments of some of the great states of the world.

Um Al Mu'Minin, "Aisha, God bless her soul, tells us: "Among the first Surahs revealed in the Quran, was the one that cited Paradise and Hell, should people convert to Islam, they were revealed with the permissible and the prohibited; had it been, first, revealed "do not approach alcohol" they would have said "never" and had it been first revealed, "do not commit adultery, "they would have replied "never", quoted by Bukhari and others.

Today, how desperate we are for sound measures that begin with keeping people to the righteous path of the doctrine inasmuch as technological progress becomes a welfare that prevails the whole mankind.

The Saudi Arabia – the state that adopts the doctrine of monotheism is most demanded to fly the flag and proceed in leading the procession of callers for Allah, employing all possible means in conveying the true and unblemished doctrine, first, to Muslims then to non-Muslims countries.

I am certain that researchers in the field of Islamic doctrine, in particular, and in the Islamic studies, in general, long for the satisfaction of God Almighty and for His forgiveness as well as His Paradise, before His anything else. However, they become happier when they see their Muslim brethren showing their appreciation of their efforts; their appreciation and their satisfaction by these efforts are good signs that prompt their acceptance by God Almighty, in the hereafter.

In this occasion, I should like to express my feeling of happiness upon receiving this opportunity to thank, first, His Majesty the King, upon his attending this assembly and on his honourable award of the prizes to the winners, May God guide him righteously and may righteousness be guided by him.

I also like to express, my thanks to the different authorities who nominated me for the prize, my thanks also go to those in-charge of the prize and its General Secretariat as well as to all those in-charge of the King Faisal Foundation. I should like to thank also his eminence the rector of the Islamic University of Mohammad Ibn Saud and its staff for their invaluable endeavours us all to whatever pleases and satisfies Him.

Peace, Mercy and Blessings be upon you.

Mohammad Rashad Ibn Mohammad Rafiq Salim