

Speech delivered by

**DR. PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD BAHJAT AL-ATHARI**

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IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Praise be to God only, He who taught the use of pen, taught man that which he knew not. Peace and blessings upon the best of God's Creation and the last Messenger to the whole mankind i.e. Muhammad ibn Abdullah (Peace be upon Him).

Your Majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and leader of  
Unity and monotheism  
Your Highnesses, the Honourable Princes  
Your Excellences, the Nation's Scholars and men-of-letters

Greetings as the gentle winds and sweet basil.

God's peace be with you, laden with the fragrance of the sweet smelling,  
and delicate as the dew of early dawn on the leaves of flowers and trees.

Best greetings from the two Euphrates, the two Zabs and the Shatt i.e. the  
proud brotherly Iraq, the homeland of civilizations, heroism, dignity and loftiness  
which is calling constantly on the Arabian peninsula: the Cradle of prophecy,  
revelation, and the scene of Arabic language, literature, and the abode of  
superciliousness, noble traits and generosity.

A greeting as the fresh aromatic basil in the gardens of Baghdad, the City  
of peace, diffusing fragrance, and consolidating the relationship ties in the best  
way for God's sake in the field of cooperation, communication, support and  
esteem.

Peace, fragrance, and basil as long as life is going on this earth as we  
have to fully appreciate the value of this occasion in the proper way as it is a  
great and honourable occasion occupying the highly distinguished place in  
modern Arabic Islamic History, representing a bright landmark in the immortal  
human events.

The scope of elaboration in its arms and objectives are wide, but  
necessity obliges us to brief and concise; but brevity distorts the meaning and is  
embarrassing, but the only way to get out of this dilemma is to express your  
inner feeling through poetry, as it suffices, if it was true and genuine, to  
accomplish the goals by way of suggestion and allusion. Therefore I have  
selected poetry to express my overwhelming feelings and emotions towards this  
great and honourable occasion. Wishing that this poetry could reveal some of  
my gratitude for this honouring and appreciation; the honouring of Arabic  
literature represented in honouring my own endeavours related thereto, and to  
express in return for this recognition and appreciation to those who awarded me

the prize, if their obligation could be fully appreciated, or language could be able to express accurately the overwhelming feelings and emotions of this helpless man.

Al-Athari

Professor Muhammad Bahjat Al-