

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

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Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
for Islamic Studies (1988-1408H)

Praise be to God and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger, the instructor and master of this nation.

Your Royal Highness Prince Nayif bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Your Highnesses, the Princes
Your Eminences, the Ulema
Your Excellencies
Eminent Assembly

In such occasion, as this, man is overwhelmed with many feelings, that he cannot express in so short a time, unless, he expresses some of his hopes, wishes, endeavours and the significance of his research as well as his outlook and future plans.

It is a great honour, on this occasion, to receive the King Faisal international Prize, particularly from the hands of Prince Nayif, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd, the man of science and state who appreciates science and scientist, and endeavours to promote the progress of his Kingdom, both in the field of science, faith, Islamic and sublime values, since his appointment as Minister of Education until the present day, as a consequence the Kingdom became the Kingdom of science and learning through its establishment of grand universities, each of which, is considered an individual kingdom of learning on its own.

However, it is no wonder, that we see this great appreciation of science, scientists and scholars, regardless of their race and religion, takes place on the part of this kingdom, the birth place of the holy Islamic Messenger; a kingdom that was, and still is, appreciating science in as much as, it has exalted and gratified scientists to the heirs of Prophets.

The truth is, that the need of the Islamic nations to Islamic education is so pressing in all civilized, spiritual, moral and communal fields rather say, that the other nations, too are wanting it in all their concerns. It is high time for this education to emerge at the international level at the time when confusion and the feeling of failure in raising up children righteously for the welfare of society and human civilization, have prevailed in the field of education in the world. However, successful these educationalists be, in raising bodies and illuminating minds that attempt to subdue nature, they remain incapable to control the nature of human soul, caprices, inclinations, and antagonisms of man with which he colonizes and enslaves his fellow-men. This nature of human souls that diffuses terrorism and crime and threaten world peace.

It is for this reason, that Islamic education, in the Islamic world, through holding conferences and instructing it in universities as an independent subject, remains essential as put by some western educationalists.

As concerns my efforts in this field, my conception of this Islamic education made me spend seventeen years of my life, despite the agony and the numerous problems that I have encountered on my way. I will, no doubt, continue my endeavours in this field until death, if God will, because I conceive that the essence of human problems are attributed, basically, to lack in education while their solutions reside in evading this lack.

As for my aspirations, I dare say, I am intent to work on an encyclopedia on Islamic education consisting of three groups of volumes, the first of which, objectives and consisting of twenty-one volumes, the second is larger than the first, pertaining the subject of Islamic education from the historic point of view, comprising details of its institutions, pioneers and its intellectual development throughout the ages whereas the third group is, yet, still larger than the second, pertaining comparative information of Islamic education with others in all fields and subject-matters discussed earlier. To carry out this programme, I thought of establishing an institution for this purpose, this institution is now, under careful consideration.

To conclude, I should like to express my deep thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the kingdom represented by its people and government. I should, also, like to extend my thanks to those in-charge of King Faisal International Prize, which exalts and honours learned men and which contributes in singling out the position of the Kingdom, all over the world.

I, also, extend my thanks to the representatives of the Turkish embassy, and the Turkish media that participated in fully covering the events of the Prize. I extend my thanks to your highness the princes, your eminencies, your excellencies and all brethren Present in this assembly for participation and appraised attendance.

Peace, Mercy and Blessings by upon you.

Dr. Miqdad Yalcin.