

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

**PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD BIN SHARIFA**  
Winner of the King Faisal International Prize  
for Arabic Language & Literature (1988-1408H)

Royal Highness, Prince Naif bin Abd Al-Aziz,  
Your Highnesses, the Princes  
Your Excellences, the Ulema  
Your Excellences Ladies and Gentlemen

Amongst God's grace and favours upon me, is my winning the King Faisal International Prize; this prize which has become one of the pious deeds reminiscent of the later martyr King Faisal – May God bless his soul – and which has become one of the institutions that revive his memory. King Faisal International Prize has, also, become a great landmark which demonstrates the Kingdom's great care and patronage of science and scientists, as well as its unsurpassed endeavours in the field of public and Muslim welfare, the world over.

The esteemed presence of your Royal Highness, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, is a great sign of the Kingdom's patronage of men of letters, of thought, of science and of scientific research. This prize which has, for a decade been conferred upon men, in recognition of their different fields of scientific contributions, is but one aspect of the great signs of learning, educational and academic institutions and libraries, and of course not

to mention the philanthropic foundations, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had spared no effort in establishing, all over the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds.

To appropriate King Faisal International Prize to the study and research in the Andalusia Arabic literature is a virtuous gesture to the literary and scientific legacy of our predecessors in the lost paradise, through eight centuries; it is a legacy of which some had undergone mishaps, and some had resisted hostilities of time. It is not unknown to say that this legacy had its powerful and significant influence on the Arab Renaissance as well as revive the glories of the Arab and Muslim predecessors, and an agent in awakening nationalistic feelings. Today, we witness Andalusia research studies in all our Arab Universities, while the Arab professors and orientalists still pursue the study of this heritage which indicates and attests the genius of the Islamic civilization in Andalusia.

If God will, the winning of King Faisal International Prize by outstanding scholars, in the field of Andalusian studies will be an effective incentive in their progress and development.

As for my part I am quite certain that my winning the prize will encourage me to uncover what I have, so far, been able to, of Andalusian texts and researches, it will, by God's assistance and guidance, result in my resuming research and releasing all new, and benefiting for all and in assisting all researchers in the field of Andalusian studies, in addition to my collaboration with my fellow-colleagues in this field, in the Arab universities as in others, to enrich our Arab and Islamic civilization and to revive its heritage, if God will.

May God bless Your Highness and guide the prize corpus for, yet, more progress, if God will.

His Blessings, Mercy be upon you.