

Speech of
Prof. Salih Ahmed alm Ali

at the ceremony of awarding him the Prize
12.8.1409H. n March 19, 1989

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness,
Prince Abd Allah Ibn Abd Aln Aziz,
The Crown Prince,
Your Highnesses, the Princes,
Your Eminencies and Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor I cherish by awarding me the King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies. These studies which I have devoted my life to in fulfillment of our debts to Islam that unified Arabs, and guided them to the righteous path and instilled in them the pure, deep and genuine thought supported by farn sightedness and good ethics which are based on truth and fidelity. Such ethics aim at the development of individuals in a society marked with sympathy, brotherhood and cooperation.

The city is closely related to the Islamic organization. Because the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was brought up in the urban community of Makkah, where God revealed to him, and where he spread the message of God, and some of its inhabitants were the pioneers who adopted Islam. Prophet Muhammad, then, immigrated to Aln Madinah Aln Munawwarah to continue spreading his message and explaining its principles and teachings, in order to establish a genuine urban community whose individuals believe in Islam, follow the teachings of Islam and realize its spiritual, social and intellectual ideals.

After the Prophet Muhammad had fulfilled his mission and, then passed away, the Muslim Arabs continued to spread Islam and extend their state, appreciating cities and paying due care to the urban life.

Hence, they started to establish big cities, each of which was a headquarter for administration and an integrated social life, besides prosperous economical activities, and various superb works of thought marked with their diversification, depth in thought, and lucidity of expression.

Therefore, their human spirit and their international outlook led them to take care of cities in their vast estate, so old centers were opened and new cities were established which flourished in all aspects of life. These explanations highlight that the study of city is actually a study of one of the highly distinguished contributions of Arabs and Islam to the Islamic civilization, and its selection as the prize topic highlights the shrewdness of those who are in charge of the prize, which is reflected in selecting this topic and screening nominations to this prize which is not only restricted to the generous monetary award, but it extends to its symbolical indications, as its selected topics and genuine and impartial criteria had established firmly its eminent and international standing, which made it a formidable factor in improving the intellectual output of Arabs in all fields to be worthy of honoring and survival, and to occupy the position which they deserve in this age; where the glamorous noise and bewilderment have the upper hand, as it has been proved that survival of works are for the fittest.

Thus, I have followed the teachings of the Holy Quran, and the instructions of Islam, which the genuine community speaks highly when one adopts these ideals.

Those in charge of the prize deserve all appreciation and commendation for fulfilling these objectives "in their work. But the great obligation is due to the leaders of this country and their keenness to be on the righteous path, which indicates some of what you are well known for, in honoring science and scientists. Finally I pray to God Almighty to grant you longevity to continue carrying out your great plan for the benefit of nation and the progress and welfare of humanity.