

Speech of Professor
Yousef A. Khulaif

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

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness, Prince Abd Allah Ibn Abd Alt Aziz,
The Crown Prince,
Your Highnesses, the Princes,

Your Eminencies and Excellencies,
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It will be a matter of exaggeration if we claim that literature can depict the human feelings overwhelming in one's mind, because some of these feelings, for being exuberant and overcrowding, are not easy to convey by means of language, because language is governed by systematic law, while self-introspection is a limitless and unrestricted world as the soul and spirit. Therefore the French did not evade truth when they said that "the venerable feelings are always silent".

Different feelings in my mind, and all my vocabulary of language remained helpless and inadequate to reveal my deep inner feelings.

This honourable prize indicates to me more than one meaning which I cherish: as it is an Islamic-Arabic prize, transcended the limits of race and language, towards the international level which made it a news transmitted by world news agencies, therefore, the whole mankind listens to. Having been an international prize, it is, therefore, highlighting the internationalism of Islam and this new contribution made by our Arabic civilization for human civilization, and a representation of the level of the new renaissance prevailing in Saudi Arabia, and its achievements for Arabs and Muslims.

This prize indicates to me special feeling of happiness, as I have returned to recall the memories of Najd, the land of Poetry, horses, gentle winds and wild roses, where the springs of poetry had erupted 15 centuries ago, and witnessed the early creative pioneers who charted their tracks in this virgin land, paving the way for the caravan of poets which followed in their footsteps.

Praise be to God for his exuberant graces which I cherish, and my sincere thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the ornament and pride of Arabs, as they watch him reviving their glory and golden past when they were once the masters of the world contributing to its civilization and carrying torches of light in the whole parts of earth. Also, thanks to their Royal Highnesses the sons of the late King Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz who have immortalized his memory by establishment of this prestigious foundation which is based on benefaction, Philanthropy and pious deeds. This Foundation has made genuine and true work through its message to Islam and Arabism, and revived a cultural, literary and scientific renaissance and to realize welfare of man everywhere. Hence, we pray God to reward them for this noble deed.

Also thanks to their Royal Highnesses the princes, ancestors of the noble Saudi dynasty which realized this prestigious position for this peninsula which it deserves on earth, In addition to the prosperity and architecture prevailing the whole Kingdom, and the torches of hope are

lighted in its whole areas.

Thanks also to those in charge of this honourable prize, for they realized an impartial, objective, and unbiased criteria made it above all questioning or blemishes, as well as the most distinguished prize which make its winners proud of awarding.

Thanks to all brethren who attended this distinguished assembly for celebrating this great ceremony in the country of the great Arabic nation.

Thanks to my trip companion Dhu-Arrima, the poet of love and desert whom my trip availed me of this immortal opportunity of my life, and I pray to God to meet him on the doomsday to ask him about certain issues in his life which are still obscured and masked to me.