

Speech of Professor
FRANK ALBERT COTTON
at the ceremony of awarding him the Prize
9.8.1410 H - March 6, 1990

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

I need hardly to say what an extraordinary pleasure it is to be here on this splendid occasion. Receiving this internationally renowned prize is one of the great occasions of my life. Scientist and scholars generally attach primary importance to peer-group recognition for their work, which is normally conducted in a spirit of intellectual enquiry, love of truth and hope that mankind will benefit from it directly or indirectly, but without explicit interest in financial gain. This great prize not only accords a worldwide level of recognition for scholarly efforts but provides an impressive monetary reward as well. It is thus twice blessed.

We all know that beginning with discoveries in the pure sciences such as chemistry, physics and mathematics, followed by implementation in engineering and the many applied sciences, of which medicine may be said to be the most noble, the world today is undergoing enormous and very rapid changes. These changes are not only of a simply material nature, but inevitably the physical changes impinge on our spiritual, moral and cultural values. This state of continuous and rapid change, which is without parallel in the earlier history of the human race seems sure to continue in the

foreseeable future. It is therefore absolutely necessary that humanity pay great attention to our cultural, moral and artistic life so that we can maintain our human values as we wish them to be.

The King Faisal Foundation is thus to be enthusiastically applauded for its wisdom in providing prizes to recognize those who are distinguished for humanistic pursuits and public service along with the prizes for science and medicine. In this way the work of the Foundation sends a message of reconciliation and of unity of purpose uniting the many disparate branches of human endeavor.

I said earlier that the King Faisal Prizes may be considered twice blessed. I would close by saying that in fact they are thrice blessed because another benefit to the recipients of this prize is the unexpected but very welcome opportunity to visit your country, and to do so under the most propitious circumstances.