

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST MERCIFUL, THE MOST
COMPASSIONATE

Speech delivered by

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Winner of King Faisal International Prize
In Service to Islam (1411H/1991)

Praise to Allah for His countless bounties and blessings who says:

IT IS HE, ALLAH, THERE IS NO OTHER GOD BUT HE, TO HIM IS PRAISE ALL
DUE IN THIS WORLD AND IN THE HEREAFTER; HE WIELDS ABSOLUTE
POWER AND TO HIM YOU SHALL RETURN.

May Peace and Blessings shower upon the best Apostle to be sent to Mankind who said:

ALL MUSLIMS ARE EQUAL AS TO THE SANCTITY OF THEIR BLOOD; THE
LEAST RENOWNED AMONG THEM IS HE WHO RUNS IN THEIR SERVICE;
AND THEY FORM ONE STRONG HAND AGAINST NON-MUSLIMS.

Your Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abdel Aziz,
Representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
in extending king patronage to this ceremony.

Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Eminences
Your Excellencies,
Dear Respected Gentlemen:

Peace be upon you:

I am greatly honoured and gratified at this moment when the winners of the King Faisal
International Prizes are rewarded. May Allah bless the soul of King Faisal.

To confer upon my humble self the Prize for Service to Islam is indeed an act of
appreciation of good will on the part of those who have nominated and seconded my
candidature. May Allah greatly reward them for this.

I wish to thank all those who have offered their congratulations with regard to this prize. I
invoke Allah to bless the soul of King Faisal and reward him in abundance for he was a
pioneer in Islamic solidarity and one who strove to raise high the banners of Islam. I also

ask Allah to further the success of this unique Foundation which has been dedicated to the memory of King Faisal by his pious sons.

Your Royal Highnesses, dear respected brothers:

Allah has bestowed glory and honour upon this country by causing it to take Islamic Shari'a as its governing principle and its constitution. Its wise leadership earnestly seeks to defend Islam and champion the cause of Muslims all over the world. From the time of King Abdulaziz, its rulers have laid the foundation of Islamic solidarity. Political intellectual and social problems receive financial and moral attention so that standards may be raised.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the first state to believe that the cause of Islam is a national responsibility to which all citizens are called upon to contribute. This they do with sincere happiness with every achievement that has been realized for the sake of Allah, and with the appreciation of the King, may Allah protect him. I beseech Allah to guard this country and protect it from any evil mishap and make it always a pioneer in the service to Islam and in assisting Muslims.

Your Royal Highnesses, dear respected brothers:

Anyone keeping abreast of the state of affairs of the Islamic Nation can see that work on behalf of Islam and Muslims has become more complex and demanding. This is due to a growing consciousness among Muslims of the greatness of their religion. They are aware of the fact that there is no glory of Allah, Most Exalted. This comes after suffering colonization, tyranny and injustice and after experimenting with secular philosophies which turned them away from the path of Allah and caused them to become victims of intrigues plotted by the enemies of their religion. As a result, their societies suffered from poverty, ignorance, disease, disunity and division, notwithstanding the immense material and human resources that Allah bestowed upon them.

As a result of the development of the Islamic resurgence over the last decade and the increasing awareness among Muslims of the damage of their societies, it has become necessary to boost work in the service to Islam, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The progress of the Islamic World League and its subsidiary branches, the most salient of which are the Islamic International Relief Organization and the Sanabil Alkhair Project, must be construed as evidence showing the diversity, complexity and growth of Islamic work.

Achievement in the service of Islam has come to include special attention to the Holy Qur'an: the encouragement of its memorization, the application of its tenets and the translation, printing and distribution of its meanings in all languages. In addition, it comprises the maintenance of mosques, reactivating their role in society and improving the performance of Imams, preachers, callers unto Allah and teachers working in them or in connection with them. Priority should be given to education, reserving attention to Muslim affairs both in matters of religious and secular activities. All efforts must be

deployed to unite Muslims through wise advice. Destructive movements must be monitored and fought against and their harmful effects must be remedied by all available means.

As has become evident, that preventive call is one of the best methods to save Muslims from unacceptable philosophies and the perpetuation of tragedies. Giving relief to those in need acquires absolute importance, especially in poor countries where it is extremely difficult to introduce Islam to people who have no food, clothing, medicine or shelter and who are the victims of calamities and wars. Work in this field covers adoption, care for widow and the handicapped, almsgiving, medical and social assistance, clean drinking water, vocational training centers and other areas of service to our Muslim brothers, especially Muslim minorities which represent more than a third of the Islamic world.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to remind my fellow Muslims who have the means at their disposal of the necessity to provide such institutions with money, effort and time and to show much needed generosity as the work exceeds the available means. It is indeed in this respect that Muslims must compete.

O Allah: Do not cause our hearts to deviate after you have guided us and bestow upon us mercy; for most surely you are the best giver.

Peace be upon you.