

Speech of
PROFESSOR HASSAN EL-SAATY ABDEL AZIZ
Winner of the 1993 King Faisal international Prize
FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

(Studies Dealing with Muslim Achievements in the fields of Sociology,
or Original Sociological Studies from an Islamic Perspective)

Your Royal Highnesses,
Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed a great moment of happiness for Muslim scholars serving the cause of Islam and for intellectuals and scientists dedicating their lives to the enrichment and dissemination of human knowledge to be here tonight receiving their King Faisal International Prizes as a culmination of their contributions in different fields. It is in recognition of such human achievements that the patrons of the King Faisal Foundation spared no effort in establishing a highly successful tradition for selecting winners of this prestigious prize; in so doing they succeeded in inspiring a remarkably high level of competition among the world's most celebrated scholars.

That the prize carries the name of His Majesty the late King Faisal is a noble gesture of loyalty to a great leader whose untiring efforts gave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia its place of eminence among the nations of the world, and whose services to the just causes of Muslims and Arabs knew no limits.

In keeping with its objectives to serve Islam and humanity at large, the prize extends into the international arena, well beyond national and regional boundaries, thereby offering opportunities for an honourable competition in which the sole criteria for selecting the winners are their contributions towards human welfare and the value for which they dedicated their careers. It is this level of distinction that gave the King Faisal International Prize its great reputation.

Gentlemen, on this happy occasion, allow me to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to the patrons of the King Faisal Foundation. My special thanks go to the HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal and to those in charge of the Foundation activities for bestowing on me this highly esteemed honour.

May I also thank them for the hospitality and generosity that my

colleagues and I are enjoying during this occasion.

God bless you.