

Speech of
SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN SALEH AL-UTHAIMIN
Winner of the 1994 King Faisal International Prize
For Service to Islam

Your Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz,
Your Royal Highnesses,
You Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds. May Allah guide us and provide us with refuge. May He have mercy upon us and may He forgive us with refuge. May He have mercy upon us and may He forgive us our sins and misdeeds, for "Such as Allah doth guide, there can be none to lead astray" and "Such as Allah reject from his guidance, there can be no guide." I testify that there is no God but Allah, "no partner hath He" and that Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his companions and followers in good deeds, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah.

Cooperation in righteousness and piety is a quality of all believers and a proof of their obedience and submission to Allah, for Allah has said, "Help ye one another in righteousness and piety."

Today, Muslims profoundly need to apply this great, basic principle of Islam in order to be able to counteract the attacks on their territories, culture, and morals.

Muslims have no way of avoiding this ordeal except by arming themselves with the

means of victory which Allah has described by saying: "Allah will certainly aid those who aid His cause – for verily Allah is full of strength, exalted in might – those who, if We establish them in the land, establish regular prayers and give *zakaat*, enjoin the right and forbid the wrong; with Allah rests the end of all affairs."

There is no way for Muslims, whether they be rulers or subjects, to outwit their enemies except by holding firmly to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet, peace be upon him, and by arbitrating, in all of their affairs, according to the book and the Sunnah.

There is no way for Muslims to escape the ordeal except by uniting on the path of righteousness and by testifying that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is His Prophet.

There is no way for Muslims to realize this unity except by abandoning their differences and by acting in full compliance with the command and guidance of Allah, Who has said: "And Obey Allah and His Messenger, and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere."

In such ways, Muslims will attain might, dignity, and respect, and will be able to establish themselves on the land. "Allah has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land inheritance of power, as He granted it to those before them, that He will establish in authority their religion – the one He has chosen for them – and that He will change their state, after the fear in which they lived, to one of security and peace: they will worship Me alone and not associate aught with Me."

It is gratifying to note that Muslims who possess authority and wealth are using them to establish institutions fostering cooperation between Muslims in various aspects of benevolence and good deeds, such as building schools, printing useful books and tapes, supporting the weak, feeding the hungry, and rescuing the endangered. One of those benevolent institutions is the King Faisal Foundation, whose reputation in contributing generously towards these noble activities speaks for itself.

From this Foundation sprang the generous King Faisal International Prize, a prize whose most gratifying aspect is the pride its nominees feel in having been nominated by some of the most highly respected personalities and institutions.

May we ask Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful, to accept and reward the patrons of this Foundation, and to help them guide their steps along the path of virtue.

May I thank Allah for having enabled me to serve Islam and Muslims to the extent that I have been awarded this prize, and may I ask Him to help me prove worthy of it; may Allah, The Almighty, also reward my peers for their confidence in me.

In conclusion, may Allah strengthen Islam and unite Muslims on the path of righteousness. May Allah guide Muslim leaders and help them establish the religion and improve the society. May Allah grant them trustworthy advisors to help them perform their obligations towards Islam and Muslims. May Allah save this country and enable its leaders and Ulama to keep it, as ever, a luminous minaret of Islam, May peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, the Servant and Messenger of Allah, and upon his family and all his companions and followers until the day of judgment.