

**Speech of**  
**SHAIKH AS-SAYED SABIQ AT-TIHAMI**  
**Co-winner of the King Faisal International Prize**  
**For Islamic Studies (Islamic Law)**  
**1414H / 1994**

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz,  
Your Highnesses,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

Praise be to Allah, and may peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his family and companions.

From the Arabian peninsula the sun of guidance shone over the entire world; from its most noble tribes, Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets, was sent and, in the language of Arabs, the Holy Qur'an was revealed as a "Guide for all mankind; also clear for guidance and judgment".

The Arabs formed the first group of Muslims that carried the message of Islam to the rest of the world. Later, followers from all races shared that task with them because, by virtue of its great teachings, testaments, and arbitrations, that message has been indispensable for all mankind. It is a message that embraces the principal elements of worship, namely, dedication and piety. It is also a message that emphasizes social justice, to provide for the weak and the poor, and stresses justice as the basis for ruling, and morals, founded on the purity of the soul and consciousness, as the enactment that governs human relations. For these reasons the Islamic message lit the paths of virtue and righteousness and enlightened the people about everything they needed to know. The greatest heritage of the Islamic message is that it laid the foundations for peaceful co-existence by demanding equality between people and unity of mankind by commanding tolerance among religions, by making the belief in all messengers of Allah one of the corners of Islam, and by strictly prohibiting Muslims from discrediting other religions.

By demanding equality between the people, Islam fights aggression and injustice and eliminates the causes of rivalry between individuals, groups, and nations. By demanding the unity of mankind it eliminates racial and all other forms of discrimination between people, and by commanding tolerance among religions it eliminates religious disputes, thereby leaving no reason for people to dislike and

fight each other.

In addition, Islam considers righteousness its most noble objective and orders Muslims to use every power to protect it. Hence, righteousness must be preserved and protected with our lives. That is why *Jihad*, power, and dignity are parts of the teachings of this great religion. Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful, says that had He not checked "one set of people by means of another, there would surely have been pulled down monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of Allah is commemorated in abundant measures."

From the land of the revelation and with the guidance of the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Prophet, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia embraced the message of Islam and the Islamic *Da'wa* in words and in deeds, Islamic activities, both inside the Kingdom and abroad, and the efforts expended east and west, speak for themselves.

One of the features of this blessed activity is the establishment of The King Faisal Foundation and other Islamic institutions that work relentlessly in the service of Islam, raising the flag of righteousness and struggling against heresy, polytheism, evil, corruption, and justice

We thank Allah by thanking the patrons of this benevolent Foundation and we thank the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Prime Minister. May Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, bless them for their support and their efforts to bring the message of Islam closer to the hearts and minds of many people in many countries.

\*\*\*\*\*