

Acceptance Speech

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Winner of the 1996 King Faisal International Prize for Arabic
Literature (Literature Analysing the Writings of Early Arab Travellers)

*In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Muhammad
and his family, companions, and all his followers until Judgement Day*

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

Assalam Alaikum,

In creating this world, Allah (glory to Him) has provided the place and the inspiration for people to fulfill their destinies. Each of us is a partner in this effort and each of us strives to the best of our ability. Our contributions depend on our capabilities and the role God has assigned us.

Of all the virtuous deeds a human being can pursue, those that benefit humanity or deeds based on self sacrifice and a desire to serve others are the most noble. The more one's deeds benefit fellow man, the closer to God and the better remembers one is, and the better the example for others.

The establishment of this comprehensive cultural institution, The King Faisal Foundation, in memory of the late King Faisal, the diverse benevolent activities it performs, including The King Faisal International Prize which is awarded annually for outstanding achievements in different fields of knowledge as an incentive for further pursuit of knowledge that contributes to the happiness, welfare, and development of mankind, and the fact that the Prize is given to those worthy of recognition without discrimination are some of

the factors which have earned the Foundation respect in many parts of the world. The magnanimity of the founders of The King Faisal Foundation stems from their deeply-rooted values and from their inherent generosity, philanthropy, loyalty, dedication, and virtue.

The Foundation has been fortunate to flourish and pursue its objectives in this land where it has been nurtured by this country's leaders; leaders who have appreciated, cared for, and directed its activities. This is not surprising given the nobility of purpose that has constantly guided the steps of this country's rulers from the day it was founded. Today, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the man who has led the educational development and reform in modern Saudi Arabia, and his family members and close aides, particularly the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Premier Prince Sultan,

continue to pursue these objectives.

May Allah guide the steps of everyone and may He bless this country.

Assalmu Alaikum.