

TRANSLATION

Speech of Shaikh
Jum'ah Al-Majid Abd Allah

Winner of King Faisal International Prize
For Service to Islam 1999/1419H.

Tuesday 2.3.1999 (14.11.1419H)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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

It never occurred to me that I would find myself in this situation one day. I think that whatever I have accomplished is the least I could have .in order to serve Islam. If you consider my humble contribution to be worthy of more than that, this is only because of your kind thoughts of me, for which I am grateful. In any case, whatever I have done that the esteemed Selection Committee has considered worthy of recognition could not have been achieved without, first, the guidance of Allah and, secondly, the profound support of my country's leadership and the encouragement of many benevolent people like you, who have set the example for me. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

May Allah bless you and reward you.

Yours Royal Highness
Distinguished Guests

This prestigious Prize symbolizes the great contributions made by the late King Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz - may Allah have mercy on him – to the service of Islam. It is rare to find a person dedicating his entire life to the cause of Islam and struggling relentlessly in the pursuit of justice for the Islamic nation and welfare for Muslim communities throughout the world like the late King Faisal. His sons have continued that mission along the same path, supported and encouraged by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Crown Prince, Prince Abd Allah Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, the Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, and their Royal Highnesses their brothers.

On behalf of the people of the United Arab Emirates and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to the Royal Family and to the entire Saudi people, our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the centenary of the Kingdom's establishment by the late King Abd al- Aziz, may Allah have mercy on him. King Abd Al-Aziz laid the foundations for the unity, progress and prosperity of this country, but his great aspirations could not have been realized without the dedication of his faithful sons who have accepted the responsibility left by him.

The greatest accomplishment achieved by the Kingdom, with the help of Allah, and through the dedicated efforts of its men, has been the establishment of stability and security, not only within Saudi Arabia, but also throughout the Gulf region. Without this stability and security, the Gulf region could not have achieved such levels progress and prosperity. The Kingdom's other great accomplishments are too many to cite, but chief among them are the excellent services provided to millions of pilgrims each year, including continuous expansion of the Two Holy Mosques, to allow such great numbers of pilgrims to perform Haj comfortably and peacefully. Another important achievement is the establishment of several universities and centers of learning though out the Kingdom.

Your Royal Highness
Distinguished Guest

This Prize is more than an honour and prestige for those who receive it. Above all, it puts a heavy responsibility on their shoulders. So, please ask Allah to help me meet your expectations in shouldering that responsibility. It is a pleasure to announce that I have decided to donate the monetary part of this Prize as an endowment fund for the benefit of the College of Islamic and Arabic Studies in Dubai. The personal prize that I shall always cherish is the honour and distinction bestowed upon me by my selection as one of the Prize's recipients.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, General Secretariat and the Selection Committee of the Prize for their effort in making this Prize so successful. I would also like to thank those who have nominated me, and all of you attending this occasion tonight for your support.

Best wishes and Assalam Alaikum,.