

Acceptance Speech of

PROFESSOR EZZ EL-DIN ISMAIL ABD EL-GHANI

Co-Winner of the 2000
King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature

Sunday 14 May 2000 (10 Safar 1421H.)

*In the name of Allah
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the*

Prophet Mohammad and all his family and companions

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al Aziz
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Brothers and Sisters

Assalam Alaikum,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board of the King Faisal International Prize and the Selection Committee for considering my studies in Arabic literary criticism worthy of this year's award for Arabic Literature.

I cannot overemphasize the prestigious status of King Faisal International Prize in intellectual and scientific communities, and which the Prize has maintained and enhanced over the years.

Furthermore, I cannot overemphasize the credibility of the Prize which continues to gain the respect and appreciation of learned circles worldwide and of Arabs in particular. Time has shown that the Prize's laureates are among the most accomplished in their respective fields, and for that reason I am deeply honored by being elected to that exceptional category of prominent scientists and thinkers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Work is a source of pride and dignity. We have been created to work, each according to his ability, but what matters is that each one must perfect what he is best qualified to do, for the Prophet tells us that Allah loves each to perfect his work. Knowledge is not meant to be separated from work, but rather guide it towards perfection and benefit of humanity. And life is a journey that might extend or shorten - what matters is what we accomplish in life, and what we do to be remembered for. The prizes that one receives symbolize the value of one's contributions, and the ideal that benevolence should be rewarded with benevolence.

At this emotional moment in which my colleagues and I are overwhelmed by your generosity and by the honor of being awarded the King Faisal International Prize, the only thing I can offer in return is to repeat my thanks and gratitude to the patrons of the Prize.

Finally, a companion in one's journey makes it more pleasant, and I am delighted to share the prize with an old friend and companion, a renowned, sensitive and generous intellectual, Dr. Abd-Allah Al-Tayyib.

It is just too good to be true.

Asslam Alaikum.