

Speech of Dr.
Yacoub Abd Alh Wahab Alh Bahussain
Co- Winner of the 2004 King Faisal International Prize
For Islamic Studies
Sunday 21.3.2004 (30.1.1425H)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah for his countless rewards to his worshippers, and
Peace and Prayers be Upon his Prophet Muhammad, for adequately
conveying the Message of Allah

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd AL- Aziz Second
Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector
General Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Al- Salam alaikum,

Thanks and praise be to Allah, then to the King Faisal International Prize for selecting me as a co- winner of the Prize for Islamic Studies, and to the institutions that nominated me. Indeed I must also thank, respectfully and proudly, the founders of this Prize which memorializes the name of a great monarch whose accomplishments continue to inspire his countrymen and the entire Arab and Muslim nations.

This magnanimous prize is undoubtedly a pride of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, showing that it extends its arms to embrace human intellect and distinction, regardless of race, nationality, religion or belief. It is a truly international and neutral prize and for that reason stands as one of the most prestigious awards that recognizes scholars, and helps promote knowledge.

The choice of the maxims of Islamic jurisprudence as the topic of this year's prize for Islamic studies is commendable, given the profound importance of maxims as pillars of Islamic jurisprudence. Besides, the study of maxims has several other attributes, in my opinion, one of its greatest attributes is that it continues to inspire scholars of Islamic jurisprudence to make independent judgments, or Ijtihad, thereby supplementing the evidence on which laws of Islam are based. I have

been involved in the study of maxims for a long period of time, spanning more than 30 years, including two decades of teaching this subject to graduate students at the Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, During that period, I encountered many unresolved questions, and in an endeavor to investigate them, I was led, thanks to Allah, to studying the authenticity, component elements and various provisions of maxims.

My primary objective was to revitalize some maxims and apply them in newer situations, thus encouraging others to do the same. Therefore, in my books on maxims and related aspects, I examined the origins of numerous maxims and checked them in such a way that should make them easier to employ in the extraction of rules.

In conclusion, as in the opening of my speech, I first and foremost thank Allah. I also repeat my thanks to the King Faisal Foundation and its international prize and to those who nominated me.

Wa Al-Salam alaikum, wa rahamtujlah wa barakatu