

Acceptance Speech of

**PROFESSOR FRANK WILCZEK**

Co-Winner of the 2005

King Faisal International Prize for Science

Sunday 10 April 2005 (1.3.1426H.)

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al Aziz

Your Royal Highnesses

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Dear Friends,

I am pleased and honored to accept your award. Previous awards of the King Faisal International Prize have gone to highly eminent people, and the award has achieved great prestige. The fact that the awards are truly international, and that they recognize the high worth of several very different sorts of endeavor, give them a special character. The King Faisal Foundation can play an important role, both real and symbolic, in helping different cultures that could benefit from mutual understanding, get better acquainted in a most positive setting.

For me personally, it is gratifying to learn in this very public way that my work has meant something important to my scientific colleagues, that they find it valuable.

I am very aware, however, that my good results were not achieved only through my individual effort. I could not have achieved anything worthwhile without the nurture and support of my family, and of two very special communities.

The first of these communities is the community of education. My grandparents were immigrants, and my family was neither wealthy nor socially prominent, yet I was given a superb education in the public school system of New York, and the path to knowledge was laid open before me.

The second is the community of science. Its culture of openness and honesty has allowed people of good will to cooperate on a large scale, and for each generation to build on the achievements of those who went before.

These communities recognize no borders. They welcome all those who strive to explore the wonder and beauty of the world together. Your award reminds me of how much I owe to these communities.

Your award reminds me, too, of how delightful it has been to discover new aspects of the logic and beauty of the world. What a wonder it is, that the world is this way: that it is constructed in a way that is logical and beautiful, and such that the deeper you look into it, the more logic and beauty you uncover.

Your award therefore inspires me to work further, to do justice to the gifts I have been given. Of course, that's what I planned to do anyway, but your kindness adds to the pleasure of it, and that will give me extra energy.

Thank you!