

Translation

Acceptance Speech of
PROFESSOR TAMMAM HASSAN OMAR
Cop Winner of the 2006
King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature

Monday 3 April 2006 (5.3.1427H.)

*In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate
Praise be to Allah and may peace and prayers be upon the Prophet, his family and
companions*

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

Assalam Alaikum,

One of the primary goals of viable nations is to achieve progress and acquire means to realize it. Those means vary depending on the specific purpose of each nation. Some nations seek economic prosperity, others military supremacy and still others seek intellectual and cultural leadership. The lastp mentioned is undoubtedly the most noble of all goals.

One of the greatest bounties of Allah was to send a messenger to His worshippers to "instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom" and leave them a wealth of knowledge embodied in the Holy Qur'an and the glorious wisdom of the Prophet's sunna. The Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: "I have left amongst you two things which, if you hold on fast to, you will never go astray: the Book of Allah, and my Sunnah." From those two precious sources, Muslims derived an enormous wealth of knowledge – a deeply rooted and well defined knowledge that enabled them to build, through their collaborative effort, a great Islamic civilization. The Islamic nation at

that time was united and Muslim intellectuals were able to travel freely from one corner of the vast Islamic state to the other without feeling alienated. Allah has also bestowed upon Arabs another great privilege by choosing their language as the vessel of that Islamic heritage, it is the language of the Holy Qur'an, the glorious Sunna and the extensive studies of Muslim scholars on the meanings, purposes and teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Sunna.

The Islamic nation is blessed further with the prestige of preserving that heritage century upon century, and with the pride of promoting and nurturing the ramifications of that heritage. For that reason Islamic Caliphs and subsequently Muslim monarchs and Emirs across the Islamic world have – throughout history - welcomed Muslim scholars, surrounded them with congeniality and hospitality, and encouraged them to further develop, extend and preserve Arabic and Islamic studies

It is not surprising therefore that the King Faisal Foundation has revived our Islamic culture by incepting an International prize to reward those serving Islamic Culture as well as those serving the entire humanity through their scientific accomplishments.

The Prize being celebrated tonight stands witness of the goodwill and noble purpose behind its inception; it consolidates the values that were held by King Faisal, a righteous and an adept leader, may Allah have mercy upon his soul and reward him generously for his services to Islam and Muslims.

May I take this opportunity to pray to Allah to reward those seeking to serve Islamic culture.

Assalam alaikum