

Translation

Acceptance Speech of
PROFESSOR MUSTAFA A. NASIF
Co-Winner of the 2007
King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature
Monday 16 April 2007 (28.3.1428H.)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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

It is both my pleasure and honor to address you on this splendid occasion that commemorates - as it did over the past three decades - the late King Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz, to whom we are greatly indebted.

The prize that brings us together this evening is unquestionably the most prestigious throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds and one of the most renowned worldwide.

The King Faisal International Prize has transcended the boundaries of Arabic language and literature to reach scientific horizons that the Arab and Islamic worlds had encompassed in the past and should nurture in the present.

It is through dedication and honesty that this Prize has flourished and quickly rose to eminence, attracting the best candidates from all corners of the world, and celebrating the most accomplished year after year. Those who earned this honor must therefore be proud of their success.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise scholars from Saudi Arabia who have enriched the fields of Arabic language, literature and literary criticism and whose outstanding achievements deserve to be acknowledged. I would also like to acknowledge my special association with the cultural life of the Kingdom, where I first came almost 50 years ago to teach at King Saud University, and subsequently became closely associated with the Literary Club in Jeddah, which published several of my books and where I had the honor of presenting a number of lectures.

The King Faisal Prize thus crowns my lifelong relationship with the Kingdom, and I am particularly privileged to be joining such an elite group of laureates from the east and the west.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a leading sponsor of Arab and Islamic culture and an unrelenting defender of Islam, Arabic language and modern sciences. The sponsorship of language and literature cannot be separated from that of science; this is what the King Faisal International Prize has realized and for which it deserves our unanimous support.

Assalam Alaikum