

Translation

Acceptance Speech of  
**PROFESSOR ABD ALZ AZIZ N. ALZ MANIE**  
Winner of the 2009  
King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature

31st Ceremony  
Saturday 28 March 2009 (1.4.1430H)

*In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate.*

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,  
King Abd Allah bin Abd Al" Aziz  
Your Royal Highnesses the Princes  
Your Eminencies and Excellencies

Assalam Alaikum,

What a magnificent evening of celebrating scholars from different parts  
of the world!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The honor bestowed upon me tonight by awarding me the King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Language and Literature is not only an overwhelming honor to me but also to our glorious Arabic heritage and everyone striving to revive it.

The propagation of that heritage – masterly verified, published and availed to scholars and researchers – is the only means to remain bound to it. Without that, our association with the rich sources of knowledge in that heritage, whether it be Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic literature, language, history or natural sciences, would be severed.

In this pleasant occasion, I would like first to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the patrons and committees of the King Faisal International Prize for their high expectations of me and their recognition of my endeavors, although I am no more than a humble soldier at the service of this great heritage and this great nation, may Allah support it.

I would also like to thank the universities and academic centers that nominated me for this prestigious international award.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My journey into the realm of literary verification and publication of Arabic cultural heritage spans more than a quarter of a century. My first serious endeavor was "Selections from the Book of Poets," a text whose pious author, Abu Naeem al-Asfahani, discussed the issue of Islam and poetry.

Then I moved on to verify books dealing with Arabic poetry and literary criticism such as Ibn Tabata Al-Alawai's manuscript: "The Measure of Poetry" which many scholars regarded as the first specialized critical analysis of Arabic poetry.

Then I turned my attention to literary works from the Island of Sicily, verifying and publishing two texts: "The Art of Letter Writing" by Ibn Galagis and the "Smiling Flowers in the Praise of Abil Gasim." The latter book was well received and researched by some Italian Orientalists and recently translated to Italian.

Thereafter, I joined the realm of the legendary Arab poet "Abu-Tayyib al-Mutanabbi" and found that many interpretations and literary analyses of his work remain to be made. I lived within his world for more than ten years during which I verified the following manuscripts:

1. "Objections to Commentaries on the Poetry of Abi-Tayyib al-

Mutanabbi" by Ibn Ma'ghal al-Azdi. This five-volume text took me more than seven years to verify - a period that represents one of the most enjoyable eras of my life.

2. "The Crust of Exposition," a two-volume manuscript written by al-zawzani, and

3. "The Minor Book of Expositions" by Ibn Jenni.

I remain a guest of Abi-Tayyib, may Allah have mercy on him.

I did not overlook the woman in my pursuits. I verified and published a text titled: "On Widow's Grief and Revelation of the Hidden" by Ibn Marzarban, describing a woman's loyalty to her deceased husband in some of the most moving eulogies.

Finally I contributed other books and papers that time does not allow me to mention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I pledge before you that my passion for Arabic heritage shall remain alive for as long as I breathe.

Thank you for your patience and for listening to me.