

Translation
Acceptance Speech of
**PRINCIPAL SHARI'AH SOCIETY FOR
QURAN AND SUNNAH SCHOLARS**
Winner of the 2009
King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam
31st Ceremony
Saturday 28 March 2009 (1.4.1430H)

Read by
Shaikh Professor Muhammad Al-Mahdi
General Chairman of Principal Shari'ah Societies in Egypt

*In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate.
Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be Upon the Messenger of Allah, Mohammad ibn
Abd Allah, and all his Family, Companions and Followers*

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

Assalam Alaikum,

On this venerable occasion, we breathe the fragrance of faith and celebrate the recognition of scholarship and the reward of excellence. Tonight, creative ideas meet and faithful intellectual and scientific achievements integrate to

reach out for progress, under the umbrella of this Prize that bears the name of King Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz, may his soul rest in peace.

Islam teaches us to appreciate and be thankful for all good deeds, and the selection committee for the Prize for Service to Islam has chosen to bestow its accolade on our Shari'a Society. This Society was incepted a hundred years ago by its founder Imam Shaikh Mahmoud Muhammad Khattab Al-Sobky – May Allah have mercy upon his soul – and subsequently led by his successors as an institution of Islamic moderation, based entirely on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the directions of Allah's apostle, and enjoying the support of faithful men, chief among whom is our beloved father, *Haj* Abdu Mustafa, the Society's Secretary General, who served it over the past fifty years, surviving six of its previous Imams.

The Society, equipped with its deep understanding of Islam, has been vigorously engaged in implementing the prophet's teachings and fighting inaccuracies and heresies, while distancing itself from extremism and bigotry, calling for cooperation in doing good for Islam, rather than argumentation, and rigorously resisting attempts to alienate the nation from its true faith and to sow the seeds of discord among its peoples. The society believes that real reform originates from a faithful soul, and for that reason it is pursuing its functions purely for Allah's sake without any aspirations for wealth or power, its sole hope being Allah's acceptance of its deeds.

The Society believes that Islamic work cannot be accepted unless it is righteous and pure. It therefore strives to fulfill its duties and obligations in sponsoring orphans, aiding the poor, treating the sick and disabled, and helping victims of disasters both in Egypt and abroad through its membership of the International Islamic Council for *Daawa* (Call) and Relief. The Society provides these services with patience and determination, aspiring only for

Allah's acceptance. Its large humanitarian projects are fashioned on modern scientific basis, and its services are offered to the needy, Muslim or non-Muslim, free of charge and with due respect, because this is the real benevolence and justice that Allah orders us to do. We undertake these projects to ascertain that the Call to Allah is not only practiced through preaching activities but also through serious, faithful and perseverant work that serves people.

Through its humanitarian projects and free services to the under-privileged, the Society has gained the confidence of the benevolent and the needy as well as the authorities. Those overlooking its accounts and resources complement its clarity, transparency, accuracy and discipline in all its dealings. It does not receive financial support from overseas, in compliance with the teachings of the Prophet, peace and prayers be upon him, who said: "Alms are taken from their rich and repaid to their poor" and to revive the duty of every Muslim who has to assist those who haven't.

I conclude by expressing again my thanks, first to Allah and then to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Prize staff, and to assure them that this award will motivate us to double our efforts in the fields of benevolence, faith and brotherhood. May Allah unite this nation and guide its along the path of faith and may He support it with wisdom such that believers prevail, making us the best nation on earth.