

Acceptance Speech by
Shaikh
Sulaiman Bin Abd Al Aziz Al-Rajhi

Winner 2012/1433H King Faisal International Prize
For Service to Islam

34th Ceremony

Tuesday 6/3/2012 - 13/4/1433H

Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers our Prophet Muhammad, and all his family, companions and followers till the Day of Judgment.

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz, Minister of Defense,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Eminences, Your Excellencies,
Prize Laureates,
Distinguished Guests.

Assalamu Alaikum

I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the King Faisal Foundation for honoring scientists, intellectuals and all other individuals who serve our nation and benefit humanity. May Almighty Allah have mercy upon King Faisal and may He reward his family members and all the workers in the Foundation for their faithful services.

Dear brothers,

I am humbled and thrilled to find myself joining the glorious group of monarchs and Heads of Islamic States who have previously been awarded the Prize for Service to Islam.

Distinguished Guests,

The bounties bestowed upon us by Almighty Allah are incessant and incalculable. Of these invaluable bounties is Islam, which Allah guided us to follow, making us among the best nations of mankind. For this reason, we must strive relentlessly to serve Islam and Muslims. In this land, may Allah protect it, we enjoy the bounty of peace and faith which enabled businessmen to institute vast projects which contributed substantially to fulfilling the needs of the poor and helped in moving them from the circle of poverty to that of self-sufficiency and productivity, and in providing them with education and appropriate health care. This is a great bounty if one thinks about it. As the Prophet says:

"One who wakes up safe in his home and among his people, healthy in his body and possessing his daily needs, is like one who owns the entire world." And by thanking Allah, these bounties will last.

Among Allah bounties in many Islamic and even non-Islamic countries is the success of pure Islamic banking - which is a blessing for our subsistence. So, thanks to Allah at all times.

Your Royal Highness, I would like to take this opportunity to request your permission to donate the monetary value of this Prize to the "Quranic Memorization Society" in Riyadh region, hoping that its reward goes to the Founder of this country, King Abd Al-Aziz, may Allah have mercy upon him.

I conclude by asking Almighty Allah to enable us remain firmly committed to our faith and to follow the tradition of our Prophet Mohammad, Peace and Prayers be upon him, and our venerable predecessors. May I also ask Allah to guide us along the path of righteousness, bless our efforts and accept our deeds purely for His sake, and may He unite the word of Muslims, accept their good deeds and guide them. Our last call is: "Praise be to Allah, the Sustainer of the Two Worlds."