

Acceptance Speech by

**Shaikh Rai'd Salah Suliman Mahajna**

Winner of the 2013 (1434H)  
King Faisal International Prize  
for Service to Islam  
35<sup>th</sup> Ceremony

Saturday 30/3/2013 – 18/5/1434H

*Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be upon the Messenger of Allah*

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz

Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense

Your Royal Highnesses,

Distinguished Guests.

Thanks be to Allah for favoring me with this honorable stance, and thanks be to Him that the Selection Committee has chosen me for the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam. On this humbling occasion, I would like to extend my thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz, the Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense, and to the patrons of the Prize, specially His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz, Chairman of the Prize Board.

It is with deep gratitude that I ask Allah to reward you for granting me this prize, an honor after which I shall seek nothing but Allah's acceptance of my deeds and His help so that I remain worthy of this noble award: serving Islam and the Islamic nation, Arab world and Palestinian people, fulfilling my honorable duty in defending Al-Quds and the blessed Aqsa mosque and

conveying the humanitarian message of guidance, mercy and peace that the Holy Quran and the Sunna of our prophet order us to convey.

Distinguished guests,

This Prize has a special taste, an enormous weight and a unique value, especially as it derived from this blessed land of the two Holy mosques, to reach and embrace Bait Al-Maqdis. In this manner, it symbolizes the eternal twinning of the Sacred Mosque at Makkah and Al-Aqsa Mosque, precisely as affirmed by the Holy Quran: “Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from Al-Masjid Al-Haram (Sacred Mosque) to al-Masjid Al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed.” This symbolizes the oneness of destiny and of the present and future of the Sacred and Al-Aqsa Mosques. It also means that as the Sacred Mosque in Makkah does not accept occupation, so does Al-Aqsa Mosque, and as Allah Has favored us with the task of renovating the two Holy Mosques through the distinguished and creative efforts of the Saudi leadership, may He also favor us with the task of renovating Al-Aqsa Mosque. But Al-Aqsa Mosque will not celebrate renovation until the departure of occupation from it, and from Al-Ouds and the whole of Palestine. Whenever King Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz, may Allah have mercy upon him, is remembered, he is remembered by his profound passion towards Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Al-Madina Al-Munawwarah and by his aspiration to pray in the revered Al-Aqsa Mosque after its liberation. He said: “Al-Aqsa Mosque calls upon you to save it from its crisis and from the difficulties it is going through – so, what are we waiting for? And for how long are we going to wait while watching our sacred shrines being violated in the most despicable manner. What are we afraid of? Are we afraid of death? Is there a better and more honorable way to die than dying for the sake of Allah. Therefore, as a tribute to this man who adored the Prophet’s *Masrā*, we should bear together the duty of supporting the revered Quds and the blessed Aqsa mosque.

Distinguished Guests

I do not find words to express my indebtedness to those brothers who nominated me for this Prize. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the other winners who are sharing the delight of receiving

this prestigious recognition with may, and to say to them: let us all come together to spread goodness and propagate the values of freedom, equality and dignity for all mankind, in concordance with the saying of the Prophet, peace and prayers be upon him, that: All people are equal; as equal as the teeth of a comb” and of his Caliph, Omer, that: “All mankind are born free – how can anyone enslave them!”.

Last, but not least, I ask Almighty Allah to bless the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with safety and security and to save her as a fortress of Allah’s Unity, a home of Faith and a defender of the oppressed. The conclusion of our prayers is: Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

Salamu Alaikum.