

Acceptance Speech by Professor
Mohammed Abdul Muttalib Mustafa
2016 Co-Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic Language and Literature

38th KFIP Awards Ceremony
Wednesday 23/03/2016 (14/06/1437H.)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
King Salman Bin Abdulaziz,
Your Highnesses,
Your Eminences,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum and May the Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you.

Winning King Faisal International Prize in the topic of “Analysis of the Arabic Poetic Text” puts on me the responsibility of continuing my efforts to serve Arabic culture in general, and analysis of poetry in particular. With this award a number of issues come to my mind, and can be summarized as follows:

- Firstly: I am overwhelmed by spiritual happiness because the Prize comes from a blessed land;
- Secondly: The Prize bears the name of a great Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Faisal, may Allah have mercy on him;
- Thirdly: This Prize tells the entire world that Islam is a religion of civilization and culture, for it may be won by Saudis and non-Saudis, Arabs and non-Arabs, Muslims and Non-Muslims.
- Fourthly: This Prize recognizes the specialty for which I dedicated myself, namely analysis of Arabic poetry. The importance of this specialty becomes more evident when we realize that Arabic poetry was born in this blessed land from which it spread throughout the Islamic World and to humanity at large. “*Diwan Al-Arab*” has been the preserver of Arabic civilization and culture, and the first testament of the creativity of the Arabic language. *Ibn Rashhiq* explained this in his book “*Al Omda*” by stating that “Arabs needed songs to celebrate

their moral virtues, their noble roots, their good days, their glorious countries, their gallant warriors and their pretty women; songs that inspire them to be generous and to hold on to their noble values. That is how poetry started. It appeared first as prosody that can be balanced, then they balanced it and called it poetry.”

This civilized task of Arabic poetry was surrounded by interventions from modern cultural concepts, which took some of the original functions of Arabic poetry, but failed to displace it from the position it has acquired through its long march. That was because Arabic poetry possesses the tool of expression, Arabic Language, that marched with it across times and places.

Thanks to those who nominated me for the Prize, and to the reviewers who considered my analysis of poetry worthy of the Prize and to those administering the Prize, while my most profound thanks are extended to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz.

Assalamu Alaikum and May the Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you.