

## Speech By

### Professor Hassan Mahmoud Al-Shafei – 2022 KFP Laureate

In the name of Allah the Merciful. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and the righteous shall prevail, and may Allah's prayers and peace be upon the Master and Seal of the Prophets, and the advocates of truth at all times. All praise and gratitude be to Allah Almighty for guiding us to His righteous religion; true indeed are the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran, "Say: As for me, my Lord has guided me on to a straight way, a right religion, the way of Abraham who adopted it in exclusive devotion to Allah, and he was not of those who associated others with Allah in His divinity. Say: Surely my Prayer, all my acts of worship, and my living and my dying are for Allah alone, the Lord of the whole universe". Even if we sacrifice everything that is so dear and cherished, even our lives, to serve Islam, we would gain no credit, for all credit goes to Allah alone -the Mighty and the Sublime. Islam is His grace and His gift, and there is no grace except His, and there is no giving except from Him, and there is no reliance except on Him. I should recognize that the late, honorable, and great monarch, King Faisal bin Abdulaziz -May Allah rest his soul in peace- was one of the best leaders under whose leadership Islam was glorified, and the affairs and causes of Muslims were promoted. King Faisal bin Abdulaziz was devoted to fostering the Islamic da'wa [i.e. call], and the Arabic language, both of which are inextricably and permanently interlinked - Praise be to Allah - until the Day of Judgment. As Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran, "Verily, We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran in order that you may understand". This long-standing award has been associated with the name of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz, taking up a most prestigious standing among the world's various awards. Whoever enjoys the chance of winning the King Faisal Prize should embody the noble values of Islam, and project the grace of the believers, and the guidance of the pious, who are obedient to Prophet Mohammed whom Allah sent as a mercy to the entire universe. Allah says in the holy Quran, "Indeed, in this [Qur'an] is notification for a worshipping people. And We have not sent you, [Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds". Nine years ago, I was so fortunate and happy to receive such a prominent prize, in my capacity as the Vice-President of the Academy of the Arabic Language in Cairo, from the hands of King Salman bin Abdulaziz - May Allah preserve<sup>2</sup>support and prolong his life in righteousness. I received the prize then for the efforts deployed by the Academy in the field of the Arabic language. Today I feel just as happy once again to be awarded this prize for the services achieved in favor of Islam at Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Cairo University, and its Arabic Language

Academy. In fact, I am so grateful to Allah that I was destined to be the tenth member of the Arabic language Academy whom have been granted this award, Allah has also blessed me with the opportunity to serve the International Islamic University which is based in Islamabad, the capital city of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Union of Arab Scientific Language Academies. I pray to Allah that He may support Islam and the Muslims. May His grace elevate the word of truth and religion, and turn away the plots of the conspirators from this holy land, and from Egypt and the rest of the Muslim countries. May Allah's grace Muslim countries with security, safety, bounty and prosperity, honor and pride, and liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque, so that believers may enjoy freedom of worship in the three holy mosques. May Allah grant the best rewards to the scholars and members of this prize's committee I have followed their suit and donated my award to the benefit of the "Waqf for Islamic Research and Studies in Cairo".