

Abdel-Fattah Kilito

Acceptance Speech

It is indeed a great honor to receive the prestigious King Faisal Prize. Like every award, it is a real incentive that stimulates the writer to persevere and continue his work in the field he has chosen. However, the value of this Prize takes on greater importance that derives from the name it carries, and the country that grants it, a country that is going today through a major cultural leap as evidenced by the flourishing of knowledge in various fields, perhaps the most significant of which is the translation movement which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia knows. Literary and historical studies, too, are growing more and more open to modern approaches. Other literary genres, the novel in particular, are also undergoing a remarkable transformation with the emergence of prominent Saudi names in the Arab arena.

There is no doubt that the attention attached by those in charge of this Prize to the field of narration and literary criticism will contribute to the blossoming of this genre, not just in Saudi Arabia, but across all Arab countries. We all know that this type of research needs some fresh impetus to help it keep pace with the developments unfolding in the world's intellectual production, and to enable it to delve into the Arab heritage through new lenses.

It is common knowledge that the international dimension of this Prize gives it an added value, and raises the benchmark by which scholarly productions and their scholarly value have been assessed in various fields.

I am delighted that my name is added to the list of the recipients of this grand Prize, as it will go down into the annals of this relentless endeavor to honor scholars and intellectuals and to consolidate the ties between the East and the West. The credit for this accomplishment goes indeed to the patrons and organizers of this Prize. To them go my hearty gratitude and appreciation.