

H.E. Sheikh Zaabi's King Faisal Award Acceptance Speech

In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful...

Islam is a great religion. It is Allah's message to the creatures for them to enjoy mercy and guidance, as Allah Almighty said, "The [true] religion with Allah is Islam." Allah revealed Islam through His Prophet Mohamed -*May peace be upon Him*- to all people. Allah Almighty said, "We did not send you [*i.e. Mohamed*] except as a mercy for all creatures."

Whoever is in charge of serving this religion only puts in his or her contribution, each according to his capacity and his endeavors, so that they themselves may rise in this religion and with it, and be contributors to the preservation of this religion, and "Allah will certainly perfect His light."

So let us achieve some accomplishments for ourselves by serving Islam, each in what Allah eased for him or her. The owner of knowledge, the owner of riches, the owner of prestige, and the owner of beneficence, each and everyone needs to offer his share so that the river of this religion continues to flow, so that minds get better enlightened by Islam's light, and the earth's civilization may get illuminated by Islam's message.

Allah has blessed me with some success in serving his religion, through official work and voluntary work in many and wide parts of the world, from Indonesia to Chicago, passing through Allah's vast lands in Africa and Europe, establishing schools, universities, medical complexes, caring for the vulnerable among women, orphans and the poor, digging wells, and establishing charitable endowments, to sustain our work.

So let no Muslim behave miserly and neglect or ignore the essential duty of serving this religion, as Allah said: "Whoever behaves miserly does so against his own soul." So, let everyone plant his plants, and put in some bricks for the edifice to take shape and rise.

The starting point to serve Islam is present in every age and place. Serving Islam starts in yourself, in your family, in your country and society, and in your vast human surroundings, education, advocacy, relief and diverse and complex charitable work, in writing, providing guidance and assistance to those who need help, especially in our days when poverty has grown exponentially, when ignorance and wars abound, and when high prices and diseases spread.

Whoever shows mercy will be shown mercy, and whoever extends a helping hand will see hands reaching out to him. And whoever does good deeds does them for himself. "If you do good, you do good for yourselves." Life is indeed a short journey that is beautified and blessed by work dedicated to serving Islam.