

TRANSLATION

Presentation of the
1980 King Faisal International Prize Winners

By Professor

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2ND Awards Ceremony
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In the name of Allah

*Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet
Mohammad and all his family and companions*

Your Royal Highness Crown Prince
Your Highnesses
Your Eminences and Excellencies
Gentlemen

I am pleased, on this annual occasion, to state briefly some of the procedures implemented by the Prize's secretariat general in order to amount to the highest standards of impartiality and fairness in nomination, refereeing and recruiting.

The regulations of the prize stipulated that the nominations for the prize of Service to Islam to be by the Islamic organizations and unions worldwide. It stipulated also that the nomination for the Islamic studies and Arabic literature prizes by the world academic institutions such as universities, research centers and linguistic assemblies and the like. These regulations refrain the individual and political nominations. Accordingly, the secretariat of the prize invited a considerable number of the Islamic organizations, scholarly institutions and academic assemblies from all over the world to nominate those who might worth this prize in its three branches. It advertised that in local, Arabic and international newspapers. When these nominations reached the secretariat general, they were sorted out in accordance with designed terms and conditions. The secretariat general put aside the ones which are not appropriate or applicable. Then, the board of the prize chose

three confidential referees for each prize from different countries, and gave them the nominated works for Islamic studies and Arabic literature prizes. After those referees studied and discussed amply those works, they reported to the secretariat general of the prize. Then, the secretariat called the permanent and recruitment committees for nomination to a meeting to choose the works for the three prizes. These committees include distinguished assembly men of international personalities, scholars and university professors who represent Islamic organizations and scholarly institutions, besides some other personalities chosen by the prize board, who are well known in serving Islam, Islamic studies and Arabic literature.

Nomination and recruiting committees met on Safar 24 for three days to study continuously the forwarded works. These committees reviewed carefully the reports of the referees concerning every work. They reviewed also the past works of the nominees. These meetings reached the following resolutions:

The committee of nomination and selection for the King Faisal international prize for Service to Islam to grant the prize for two prominent Muslim personalities as ~~a~~ jointly owners.

Sheikh Abu Al-Hessian Ali Al-Hasani Al-Nadawi, the secretary general for the scholar's assembly in India, and the founding member at the Islamic World League. He was granted this jointly owned prize for his widely activity in the Islamic Da'awah in India and the Muslim World through delivering lectures at mosques and universities. He was concerned with ~~the~~ Muslim's children; He wrote for them to emphasize ~~the~~ faith in them and raise them satisfactorily and properly. In addition, he has established the Academic Islamic Assembly in India. He wrote abundantly in Arabic, English, Indian and Urdu. All that was for the sake of the Islamic Da'awah and demonstrating the Islamic methodology, refuting suspicions and confronting challenges as came in is his book "What does the world lose because of the Muslim's decline", and his book "the prophet biography".

Second, His statesmanship Dr. Muhammad Natsir, the Mashoumi Party founder member in Indonesia, the deputy chairman of the Muslim World Conference, the chairman general of the Indonesian higher council for the Islamic Da'awah and the founder member of the Islamic World League. He was granted this jointly owned prize for his great services for Islam and Muslims, and for his works in Da'awah areas to settle ~~the~~ Muslims' issues and achieve their solidarity. His great

situations appeared in his struggle against colonization for the independence of his country, Indonesia, and in the establishment of the higher council for Islamic Da'awah, and his earnest work in resisting the trends of apostasy and Christianization;. He supervised a number of organizations to prepare Indonesian youths in an Islamic way. All of this is cited in his publications, studies and journals under his supervision.

The King Faisal international prize nomination and recruiting committee reached the resolution to give this prize for this year to the nominee of the Islamic Studies, Dr. Muhammed Mustafa Al-A'azamy for considerations of which the most important and significant are:

His book "Studies of the Prophet tradition and the history of putting it in writing" is a good academic work which shows a good academic effort and on honest loyalty to the Prophet Sunnah abiding to the academic research methodology, his defense of the holy Sunnah is confronting the orient lists' views in an academically discussion, refuting their suspicions, criticizing their views by clear evidences, excluding the weak accounts they adopted, and the reveal of their misunderstanding of some Arabic accounts. Therefore, his book comes in the front with the good contemporary studies in the Hadieth (tradition), and contribute amply in serving the Prophet' Sunnah in its history, writing, classification and refuting the suspicions of the prejudicial ones.

Second, His book "Sahih Ibn Khuzaimah" which he published and edited is one of the most significant books after Sahih Bukhary and Sahih Muslim. His work in this book is a big academic work in which he added something new to the modern library. He, actually, performed a hope which many of those who are concerned in the prophet Sunnah look forward.

Third, His project "The computer and its use in serving the Prophet's Sunna" provides a primary, actual expertise in Arabic in the use of the computer in the field of the modern studies. This is a great, big work which takes a lot of time and effort. This work, when completed, will be of a great benefit in founding a modern encyclopedia.

The King Faisal international nomination and recruiting committee for the Arabic literature has reached the resolution to recruit each of the two professors, Dr. Ihsan Abbas and Dr. Abdul Kader Al-Qet to win, this year, the King Faisal international prize for the Arabic literature, because of some considerations of which the most important ones are:

Both professors occupy a high rank at university research fields. Their position in teaching Arabic literature and enriching the literary studies is a remarkable one. They are both distinguished in coupling the Arab heritage with ~~the~~ other languages' literature. This assisted them to modernize the literary study and make the scope available to interact with the study of the other literatures. They both mastered the Arabic Language, ~~the~~ plainness of expression, ~~the~~ straightness of methodology, and they were committed to them during research stages.

Second, The ability of Dr. Ihsan Abbas to make agreeability and create ties between biography and ~~the~~ poetry production ~~of for~~ the poet, Sayyab, the accurate indication for the suggestive details in the biography and the coming upon the literary characteristics which match them in ~~the~~ poetry production.

Third, The novelty Dr. Abdul Kadir used in the selection of the topic, "the sentimental trend in the contemporary Arabic poetry" and his successful attempt to part away from the traditional methods, which many theorists in contemporary literature adopted, into a new situation which does not make the European theories and terms as an origin in the study of the Arabic literature, and does not subject it to these theories and terms. He warns observably for the necessity of making a difference between the European terms and divisions which penetrated into the contemporary Arabic studies, and the need to certain terms which suit the Arabic literary life and improve its indication.

So, both professors achieved a good amount of novelty coupled with originality which characterized them with righteous look, illustrative proficiency and originality of ~~the~~ comparison which qualified them to share the prize.

Before I invite the winners to proceed to receive the prize from Your Highness, I am pleased to shed light briefly on the biography of each.

Dr. Muhammad Natsir was born in Alahan Banjanj, Western Sumatra in 1908. He completed his education in Indonesia. He practiced wide social and political activities. He occupied many official positions, such as a parliament member, minister of information, a prime minister (1950-1951) and the head of Shoura Council Party for Indonesia Muslims (Mash-Oumi). He was famous for his contests with Socarno who used to write in some journals about Islamic affairs defending indirectly the situation of Kamal Atatork towards Islam. Muhammad

Natsir used to argue him in a convincing way proving to him the deficiencies of Ataturk's thoughts and showing the necessity for applying faithfully the rules of Islam. From 1962-1966, he was imprisoned together with some of the Mashoumi Party leaders until the end of the Socarno reign. He occupies now the position of chairman of the Indonesian Higher Council for the Islamic Da'awat. He holds a number of international councils' memberships. He took part in many international meetings and seminars.

Academically, he wrote more than 53 treatises all of which were in defence of Islam, discussing Islam's issues and demonstrating its purposes and objectives.

The other learned scholar who won the prize for Service to Islam is his eminence Sheikh Abu Al-Hasan Al-Nadawi, who is one of the most well-known Mujahidden in our contemporary Muslim world.

He was born in Muharram, 1332H. At Takiat village, Rai Bareilly, India. He started learning Arabic, Persian and English when he was 12. He studied Arabic literature for two years. He completed his study at Lakinho University, Arabic literature department. He was appointed later an instructor at Dar Al-Ulum, a branch of Nadwat Al-Ulama'a School.

He worked in the Da'awat field for the sake of God, and established the Islamic Preaching association to preach the Hindu population. This association published a number of treatises and researches in English language. He toured the Muslim world delivering lectures at mosques, universities, and clubs and on radio stations to arouse the religious conscience and propagate the Islamic knowledge.

He occupies at present the position of the secretary general of the Scholars Assembly in India. He has been chosen as a member of the Arabic Academic Assembly, Damascus Since 1377H. He established the Academic Islamic Assembly at Lakinho, 1380H. He is a member in a number of international councils.

He wrote widely in Arabic, English, Indian and Urdu. His works were translated into various languages; one of them is his well-known book, "What does the World lose by the Muslims' decline". Five editions of this book were issued in Arabic; three editions in Urdu and one in English. The book is a study including accurate planning, prudent guidance, mature thought and a search for the right. This book left a big influence on both Muslim and non-Muslim readers.

It is unfortunate that Sheikh Abu Al-Hasan Al-Nadawi can't take part in this ceremony due to his illness. He delegated His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Abbas Al-Nadawi on behalf of him.

The winner of the Islamic Studies Prize, for this year is, His Excellency, Dr. Muhammad Al-A'azamy. He was born in Mino, Aza Kada, India. He studied at Dar Al-Ulum School at Devband and graduated in 1952. He completed his study at Al-Azhar university and obtained 'Al-Alamiyyah' (International) degree with an education license. In 1964, he joined Cambridge University and obtained the Ph.D. there in 1966. After that he was appointed as a librarian of the Qatari "Dar Al-Kutob" library. Later, he was appointed an instructor at Share'a and Islamic studies, M.A. Department, in Qatar. Then, in 1393H., he joined the college of education, university of Riyadh as an instructor of the prophet's tradition, Islamic Culture department.

Dr. Al-Azamy wrote 11 treatises in the prophet's tradition field; he was interested in refuting the attacks of the Sunna enemies in regard of the tradition's writing or sources. For this reason, he devoted himself to study the prophet's tradition using the computer to gather all comments and evidences from ~~the~~ circulated books and manuscripts. His aim was to facilitate the judgment of the origins to the researchers, to get aware of the differences in the narrated accounts and help ~~the~~ researchers to edit manuscripts. This will give ~~a~~ firmly established rules to the public to believe in the validity of ~~n~~arrating the Prophet's tradition.

Dr. Ihsan Abbas, one of the winners of the Arabic literature prize, is a contemporary, learned scholar who studied ~~the~~ Arabic literature. He was born at Ain Ghazal village, Palestine in 1920. He graduated from the Arabic School, Jerusalem in 1941. He joined the University of Cairo, Arabic department, and obtained the M.A. in 1951, then the Ph.D. in 1954.

He worked as an instructor at Gordon school, Khartoum, which became later the University of Khartoum. He stayed there until 1961.

Later, he was delegated to teach at the American university of Beirut. He was appointed as an associated professor at the Arabic and ~~N~~ear ~~E~~eastern ~~L~~anguages department. In 1965, he was promoted to a full professor. He is still working there as the head of Arabic and the ~~N~~ear ~~E~~eastern ~~L~~anguages department, and the director of the Arabic and Middle East center there. He is also the editor of the "research Journal",

and a member of the Arab Academic Assembly, Damascus, and the Indian Academic Assembly for Palestine.

Dr. Ihsan Abbas took part in a variety of cultural, academic and educational activities worldwide. He attended a number of meetings about the Islamic and Arabic studies, and many seminars about the modern Arabic poetry. Most of his activities were devoted to writing books, editing, translation and writing treatises. He wrote 16 books; edited 32 books; translated 9 books and supervised editing some other publications. Besides that he wrote more than 70 articles and treatises.

The other learned scholar, who won the Arabic literature prize, for this year, is Dr. Abd Al-Kadir Al-Qet. He was born in 1916. He obtained a license in Arabic language, university of Cairo in 1938, and Ph.D. in Arabic literature, London University in 1950. Later, he worked as an instructor at Ain Shams University, Cairo, then an associate professor, then a full professor in 1961. He occupied also the position of the head of the Arabic language department and the dean of the Arts College, university of Ain Shams. Then, in 1973, he was delegated to the Arts College, the Arabic University of Beirut. He works now as the head of the Arabic department there.

Dr. Abdul Kadir Al-Qet is a member of some specialized councils. He is a member of the Writers Union Council, Egypt, and Higher Council Committees for Arts and the Egyptian Literary Assembly.

He took part frequently in literary activities in Egypt and the Arab world. He wrote 10 books, of which most are in the modern Arabic literature. He translated 6 books from English into Arabic.

Your Highness, Crown Prince
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I am pleased to announce that nomination and recruiting committees for the King Faisal Prize for Islamic studies have decided that the topic of the prize, next year, will be, "The studies which discussed the effect of applying the Islamic Sharea'a in reforming the society". These committees have decided also that the topic of the prize for the Arabic literature will be, "Editing the publications and anthologies which represent the literature of the second and third Hijri centuries".

In conclusion, I express my thanks and gratitude to your Highness for your patronage of this celebration on behalf of His Majesty, the King. I am pleased also, in the name of the prize secretariat, to thank all who collaborated with us in nominating people for the prize, or in refereeing and recruitment.

I ask God the Almighty to accept our work and to provide us with His favor and guide us to the right course.

Assalam alaikum