

Speech of Dr. Abdallah Saleh Al-Othaimen
Secretary General of the King Faisal International Prize
for Winners,
Sunday 8/7/1407 - 8/3/1987

In the Name of God Most Gracious, Most Merciful,

Peace and blessing be upon the Prophet Mohammad and his companions and descendants.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,
Your Royal Highness,
Your Excellencies,
Pioneers and lovers of Knowledge,

I am happy to present to you the noble scholars and scientists who won the King Faisal International Prize for this year.

King Faisal International Prize for the service of Islam was awarded to a prominent person from Nigeria, Sheikh Abu Bakr Mahmoud Gumi.

Sheikh Abu Bakr was born in Nigeria in 1351/1932, he studied Shari'a and Arabic Language in various schools and colleges until he mastered the language. He became after that an assistant to the leader Ahmad Billo. He was also responsible for many governmental jobs, one of which is the presidency of the judiciary and Ifta. His great efforts that he put in Islamic work inside and outside his country in Da'wa (preaching), education, judiciary, and Ifta qualified him for King Faisal International Prize.

Some of his significant activities were: His struggle for the independence of his country, his distinguished efforts to organize courts and apply Sharia rules, his collaboration with the leader Ahmad Billo in the establishment of the organization of Nasr Al-Islam, and his effective participation in many scientific institutions and Islamic conferences.

In addition to this, he struggled with his pen in revealing the true Islamic doctrine, and fighting heresies. He also translated the meanings of the Holy Quran to the Husa language, and authored the book "The Right Doctrine according to Sharia", and the book "Returning Minds to the Meanings of the Quran", and a book on dealing with banks called "Modern Economics".

King Faisal International Prize for medicine in the subject: "Prevention from blindness" was awarded to a famous ophthalmologist, and one of the most active in the field, Dr. Bari Russell Johns.

Dr. Johns was born in New Zealand in 1921. He settled in Britain since 1970, and became a British citizen. He is a professor in the medicine of prevention from blindness and the president of the International Centre for Eye Health which is part of the Ophthalmology Institute in London University. He is also the president of the Centre of Prevention from Blindness affiliated with the World Health Organization. Moreover, the World Center for Ophthalmology which he established in 1981 became one of the leading centers for teaching doctors and their assistants from all over the world.

Since he specialized in Ophthalmology thirty years ago, he continued his valuable research about bacteria and viruses that cause blindness, especially the microbe of trachoma. In addition, he conducted research on how people get blind, and means of its diagnosis, medicine treatment, and surgical treatment as well. Moreover, he concentrated his research in the last period on the disease of river blindness that is spread in Sudan and other African countries, and he achieved a successful plan for combating it.

In addition to what was said, Dr. Johns gave great efforts on a worldwide scale for prevention of blindness in collaboration with the World Health Organization and charitable committees and associations that work in this field.

King Faisal International Prize for science was awarded to a pioneer in Mathematics, Sir Michael Atiyah, a British citizen.

Dr. Atiyah was born in London in 1929. He studied in Cambridge University. He was selected in 1963 as a professor of Engineering for a chair called Savilian at Oxford University. After three years, he was awarded the Fields prize which is awarded for geniuses in Mathematics. He also worked as a mathematics professor at Princeton Institute for graduate studies, and he was a visiting professor in many universities, some of which are Harvard, Berkeley, Chicago, Yale, and Columbia. He was knighted as Sir in 1983.

One of the most significant works of Dr. Atiyah was his creation of new theories, and his discovery of deep relationships among different branches of mathematics. One of his most famous discoveries is the K theory (in collaboration with Herzbruch), and the proof of the cornea theory (in

collaboration with Singer). Each one of these two discoveries has long term effects in different fields of mathematics.

The work that qualified him for King Faisal International Prize-in addition to what has been mentioned- is his use of Algebra geometry results to build partial differential equations that give what is called vessels that have a great role in modern theoretical physics that studies the structure of material. He also analyzed in this work the comprehensive geometry of Yang-Milz fields, and theories of general measures. His work in this field enabled us to understand the theory of quantitative field and general relativity more deeply.

King Faisal International Prize for Islamic studies on the subject of:”International relations in Islam between principle and application” and the King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Literature on “studies that dealt with the arts of modern literary prose” were obscured for this year, because the studies that were given in these subjects did not reach the level required of the prize.

The selection committees saw that the subjects for King Faisal International Prize for next year (1988/1408) will be the following:

- (1) “Studies that deal with Islamic Educations” for Islamic studies.
- (2) “Studies that deal with Arabic literature in Al-Andalus” for Arabic literature.
- (3) “Studies that deal leukemia” for medicine.
- (4) “Studies that deal with biology” in science.

The General Secretariat for the prize would like to thank his Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for his sponsorship of this ceremony, and the attendants for coming. It also congratulates winners of the prize and wish everybody luck and success. And praise to God.

Was ssalamu alaykom wa rahmatu llahi wa barakato