

Introduction of the winners
Of the 17th Session of the
KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
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By
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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful
Peace be upon the Prophet, his family and all his companions and followers.

Your Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz,
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence
and Aviation and Inspector General, Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

On this delightful evening, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the winners of the 1995 King Faisal International Prizes for *Service to Islam, Arabic Literature, Science and Medicine*.

The Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to His Eminence Shaikh Gad Al-Haq Ali Gad Al-Haq, of Egyptian nationality, the Shaikh of El-Azhar, Sheikh Gad Al-Haq was nominated for the Prize by El-Azhar University and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo.

Shaikh Gad Al-Haq receives the award in recognition of his far reaching and numerous services to Islam, particularly during his tenure as Shaikh of El-Azhar, which are highlighted by the following:

1. His earnest plea for brotherly ties between the leaders and peoples of Muslim communities throughout the world, and his relentless efforts

- to improve the spiritual, intellectual, and material conditions of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries.
2. His significant role as President of the Islamic Council for *Da'awa* in guiding Muslims and pursuing their welfare throughout the world.
 3. His assiduous encouragement and support of research in different aspects of the Islamic religion.
 4. His active role in promoting and disseminating religious knowledge and duplicating the number of existing Islamic Institutes, Colleges, and *Da'awa* centres, both nationally and internationally.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature (Studies Dealing with Prominent Modern Arab Writers) has been awarded jointly to: Professor Hamdi Sayyid Ahmed EI-Sakkout of Egyptian nationality; Professor of Arabic Literature and Chairman of the Department of Arabic Studies at the American University in Cairo, Professor Mohammed Abu EI-Anwar Mohammed Ali of Egyptian nationality; Professor of Literary Studies, Dar' Al-Uloom, Cairo University, and the writer Mrs. Salma Lutfi Al-Haffar Al-Kowzbari, of Syrian nationality.

Professor EI-Sakkout was nominated for the Prize by the United Arab Emirates University, the American University in Cairo, Assiut University and Zagazig University. Professor Ali was nominated by Cairo, Zagazig, Um Al-Qura'a and El-Minia universities. Mrs. Al-Kowzbari was nominated by the Arabic Language Academy in Damascus.

Professor EI-Sakkout has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his original and authentic studies in modern Arabic Literature. His 2-volume book, *Abbas Mahmoud Al-Akkad*, particularly stands out as a systematic, objective, and thoroughly documented study, and is an extremely valuable reference about one of the most distinguished contemporary Arab writers.

Professor Ali has been awarded the Prize on the grounds of his prolific contributions in the field of modern Arabic Literature, including his 3-volume book *Mustafa Lutfi Al-Manfalouti: His Life and Works*, which

represents a serious and thorough study of this influential writer whose works have had a significant impact on modern Arabic Literature.

Mrs. Salma Lutfi Al-Haffar Al-Kowzbari has been awarded the Prize in recognition of her numerous works in the different areas of Arabic Literature. Her book, *Mai Ziadah* or The Tragedy of a Genius, is of particular importance, not only on the grounds of its depth and objectivity, but also because the author has used many previously unpublished sources in presenting her precise documentation of this writer's life and literary works.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine (Molecular Immunology) has been awarded jointly to Dr. Gregory Paul Winter of British nationality; Senior Staff of the Molecular Immunology Laboratory of the Medical Research Council and Deputy Director of the Centre for Protein Engineering, MRC Cambridge, Professor Mark M. Davis, of U. S. nationality; Professor of Micro-biology, Stanford University and Professor Tak Wah Mak, of Canadian nationality Professor in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Immunology and Director of the Amgen Institute of Toronto University'.

Dr. Winter was nominated for the Prize by The Royal Society, The Medical Research Council (London) and the Molecular Immunology' Laboratory', MRC, Cambridge. Professors Davis and Mak were nominated by' the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Australia.

Dr. Winter has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his original and extremely' important research in the field of molecular immunology. One of Winter's most important achievements has been his success in developing "humanized" antibodies directly in the test tube, without the need for hybridoma and immunization of laboratory animals. His novel technique of in vitro production of antibodies paves the way for the development of new diagnostic procedures and therapeutic regimens, and several successful clinical trials have already been initiated along these lines.

Professors Davis and Mak have been awarded the Prize for independently discovering the structure by which the white cells of the immune system

recognize and inactivate foreign proteins and viruses. This was an elusive problem that slowed progress in the field of immunology for several decades. Their work will have major implications for the design of new treatment for cancer and viral infections.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science, designated this year for Chemistry, has been awarded to Professor K. Barry Sharpless, of U.S. nationality, who holds the position of William M. Keck Professor of Chemistry at the Scripps Research Institute in California. Professor Barry Sharpless was nominated for the Prize by the Scripps Institute. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his discovery of two new methods for producing enantioomerically pure compounds, which are molecules having all single chirality, be they right-handed or left-handed. Many of the reagents developed by Barry Sharpless have taken their place on the shelves of chemistry laboratories throughout the world and the techniques he has invented are now commonly used in those laboratories. He is described as "one of the most creative and intuitive organic chemists of his generation". His synthesis of pure compounds with a single chirality or handedness has a considerable impact since some molecules which can have a beneficial effect on the living organism when they are of a particular handedness, can be harmful or even lethal if they are of the opposite handedness.

In conclusion, may I express on behalf of the General Secretariat of The King Faisal International Prize, our utmost thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz for patronizing this celebration on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to thank everyone for sharing this happy occasion with us. Many thanks are also extended to those who have cooperated with us in nominating and refereeing the candidates and selecting the winners of the prizes. My heartiest congratulations go to all winners.

May The Almighty Allah support and guide all those who work in all fields of virtue, and may Allah bless you all.