

Speech by
Professor Alohamed Alechbal

Praise be to Allah and prayer and peace be upon His Messenger,

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz,

Your Highnesses,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It never occurred to me that my writings in the field of rhetoric would one day receive the greatest honor any researcher in the fields of human and exact sciences would wish to be honored with. Indeed, as any awardee reviews the list of past laureates of King Faisal Prize, s/he would not help but take pride in belonging to this distinct circle of eminent scholars and researchers who have benefited humanity with their works.

My attraction to rhetoric in the early days of my scholarly career emanated from two reasons. On one hand, I have always regarded rhetoric as a mirror of the fine eloquence of Arabic language that forms part of our identity, and on the other hand rhetoric is the authentic Arab scholarly field that has proved its ability to compete with new scholarly fields that deal with discourse.

To be sure, honoring rhetoric today is a tribute to a scholarly field that is rooted in our Arab culture regardless of some aspects of renewal that have impacted its evolution. The so-called new rhetoric today is nothing but this deeply rooted rhetoric of the past with the exception that it has cleared off some impurities that impeded its vitality and destroyed the seeds of its growth. In fact, my ambition since I started writing rhetorical research has been to participate along with other researchers in enriching this scholarly field.

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Board of King Faisal Prize - May Almighty Allah preserve him. My appreciation also goes to the esteemed Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil, Secretary General of the Prize, to all his staff, to the Prize's jury, and to everyone who has contributed to honoring me with this great prize that rekindles the hope for a bright future for Arab culture. My most genuine thanks go to this beloved country, the cradle of Arabic and the fortress of Islam.

May Allah bless your work, and may Allah's peace and mercy be upon you all!