

Speech by
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Being awarded King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies in the field of «Studies on the Archaeological Heritage of the Arabian Peninsula» is undoubtedly an extraordinary event and a profound honor. It represents a global recognition of scholarly research in the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula and highlights the role of archaeology in shaping cultural identity, shared human history, and sustainable development. Receiving King Faisal Prize, renowned for its global prestige and rigorous academic standards, also serves as a recognition of the historical and cultural significance of the Arabian Peninsula, acknowledging its contributions to humanity through its deep-rooted civilization, rich cultural heritage, and remarkable achievements in thought, art, and architecture. These contributions have played a prominent role in the advancement of human civilization and continue to inspire a sustainable and prosperous future for humanity.

King Faisal Prize's decision to dedicate one of its 2025 awards to the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula sends a clear message about the importance of this heritage. It encourages a renewed reading of ancient Arab history and sheds light on the role of the region's inhabitants in shaping global civilization. It also carries a broader message to the international community about the essential connection between the past, present, and future, emphasizing the need to preserve this invaluable heritage and to foster a culture of preserving historical treasures both tangible and intangible. This effort enables societies to remain connected to their cultural legacy. Today, it is well recognized that heritage is not merely a means of leisure or entertainment but an integral aspect of human well-being, social stability, and sustainable development.

On a personal level, receiving King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies is not merely a reward for my past work; rather, I see it as a defining milestone in my academic journey and a great honor and a powerful motivation to continue rigorous research on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula. It also strengthens my commitment to contextualizing its history within the broader narrative of both the Arabian Peninsula's civilizational legacy and world history as a whole.