NEW GOLDEN AGE FOR ARABIC

Translation is the foundation of a cultural renaissance, and opens the doors to intellectual enlightenment. “The Arabic language has suddenly begun to be perfect, and this is the strangest decision of Allah Almighty,” the late French philosopher Ernest Renan. This is something we Arabs understand well because it is the language that Allah Almighty has decided to speak to all people through the Holy Quran.

We all know how translation into Arabic reached its zenith during the reign of the Abbasid Caliph Al-Ma’mun in Baghdad in 830 AD when he ordered translations of books on medicine, mathematics, science, astronomy, philosophy into Arabic. Europeans translated the Arabic texts that had been formulated five centuries previously. Muslims translated Greek, Sanskrit, Persian and Indian texts, and turned this treasure of knowledge into a beacon of scientific, cultural, and literary progress. They produced “novelists” like Al-Ma’mun himself, who wrote a treatise on the virtues of spreading knowledge, and declared translation the best way to achieve this. They translated Arabic texts into other languages, while celebrating foreign researchers and translators.

There is no doubt that nations cannot progress and develop without knowing the achievements of other peoples, interacting with this knowledge, and adding to it. Translation is the best way to achieve this, so we review in this issue a growing trend of translating Arabic texts into other languages, while celebrating foreign researchers and translators who study Arabic culture as they are the bridges of communication between Arabs and other peoples. There are many other valuable reports in this issue too, I wish you a happy reading.

Interestingly enough, there are individuals who think that it is enough for countries to have money to achieve their desired development. In fact, they are not correct. Money alone does not propel progress. The most important ingredients for making progress are aspiration and great ambition, as His Highness has noted. History teaches us that when peoples in rich countries lose their ambition and their sense of joy in progress are aspiration and great ambition, as His Highness has noted. History teaches us that when peoples in rich countries lose their ambition and their sense of joy in the Dubai International Program for Writing. Dubai has the good fortune to have been bestowed by Allah a wise leadership that recognizes the importance of youth and its infinite ability to innovate because of their ambition, which is a precondition to progress.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of Dubai, has said: “What drives nations towards development is not money and wealth but ambitions...great ambitions. We humans are motivated by ambition and inspiration more than anything else.” Wise words that are borne out by the historical evidence of human development. Without ambition, countries will fall into a quagmire of stagnation and underdevelopment. Without ambition, people lose their enthusiasm for a better and more beautiful life.

In the Modern Age, around the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Arabs began to invent the phone before he was 40, Karl Benz invented the car in his forties. Indeed, the list of inventors is long and mingled with the names of geniuses who gifted humanity their amazing innovations that have made life easier for us all, that have made us happier and more prosperous.

The Ambition of Youth and The Joy of Innovation

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In thinking about the flow of history and its continuous advance, we can readily discover that it is based on a central pillar—ambition—the aspiration of peoples to progress, their desire to arise and move forward. All historical evidence shows that youth are the heart of any nation and are best placed to realize a nation’s aspirations since progress relies on innovation and innovation is the offspring of ambitious youth.

God has instilled in young people unlimited abilities to innovate, as well as a fertile imagination, boundless enthusiasm, and a tenacity to persevere and realize their ambitions. With young people harboring such huge potential in their hearts, it is essential that we as a society invest richly in them. Theirs are the energies that will propel advances in science, the creative arts, economics, and many other fields. To harness these energies wisely, we need to take the hands of young people, inspire and reward them when they do good, praise them when they make achievements. Dubai has the good fortune to have been bestowed by Allah a wise leadership that recognizes the importance of youth and its infinite ability to innovate because of their ambition, which is a precondition to progress.

Our youth in the UAE are lucky because the state is there to provide a helping hand to innovate, invent, and discover. Our government works to enhance this by providing modern technology and artificial intelligence. Let our youth grasp this opportunity and do their best to serve the people of the UAE and its wise leadership.