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NATIONAL

THE CHALLENGE OF BEAUTY
~ STRIVING FOR ~
PERFECTION
~ IN AN ~
IMPERFECT
World

Writing Prompts
Original Oratory & Prepared Essay

Use the following prompts to help compose an insightful and compelling prepared essay or oratory on the topic of this year's theme. You may base your work on original thoughts regarding any of the topics below, or choose your own topic related to this year's theme. Be sure to define your topic clearly within your work. Your submission may take the form of a personal narrative, academic dissertation, or persuasive argument. Please note that fictional narratives are appropriate for the Short Fiction competition.

"When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator." – Mahatma Gandhi

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"– Proverb

In Surah Ar-Rahman, Allah repeats the ayah, *"Which of the favors of your Lord can you deny?"* (Quran 55:13) What are the implications of this ayah in our appreciation of beauty around us?

In light of the Hadith, *"Verily, kindness is not found in anything except that it beautifies it, and it is not removed from anything except that it disgraces it,"* (Sahih Muslim 2594) how can kindness beautify the world?

"Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror. But you are eternity, and you are the mirror." – Khalil Gibran

"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

French author Ninon de L'Enclos says *"That which is striking and beautiful is not always good, but that which is good is always beautiful."* How does goodness always bring about beauty, and in what sense? And how can beauty serve as a façade, under which goodness may be, in reality, absent?

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty" – Maya Angelou

"What makes the desert beautiful', said the little prince, 'is that somewhere it hides a well.." – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince