



2019 Word from the IAF President

When I noticed a young trainee in the Mohammed Bin Zayed School of Falconry and Desert Physiognomy in Abu Dhabi, I was reminded of my dear memories of the times when I was the same age. I was so determined to continue working, day and night, to learn and master this art that connects me with my land, my parents and grandparents who maintained its purity and balance, and developed these ancient traditions communicated by successive generations until they have reached us.

This school, so far, has succeeded in training more than 300 young falconers. It is gratifying that there are several schools and similar academies in different parts of the world, as well as the direct role played by our federations, clubs and senior falconers to teach falconry and its principles to our youth and children.

Despite the emergence of falconry as a favorite hobby of kings, sheikhs and nobles, it has quickly become available to other groups of society while maintaining strict rules and traditions in the training of predators, as well as the exploration of quarry, conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. Falconry has become a symbol of belonging to a sustainable planet, a strong attachment to the past, a renewed passion for life in nature with its forests, plains and mountains, and an unmatched way to balance the demands of the soul and the body.

Falconry has always been, and will always be, a unique method of hunting in line with ecological balance, one in which all components can flourish such as: falconer, falcon, prey, land, water, air, plant, animal and inanimate objects.

In order for future generations to know this heritage and know its noble meanings and duties, falconers not only encouraged young people to learn the origins of falconry from adults, but also established schools around the world to raise awareness of falconry as a common human heritage and as one of the arts that has been practiced by mankind for thousands of years to develop virtuous values and instill sustainable principles.



It is these principles that I have learned from a very young age, that have made the preservation of wildlife deep-rooted in my heart and mind, and it is today that I call upon all my brothers in falconry to be the focus of our future generations to make sure, above all, that there is someone who will take responsibility after us. Otherwise, we put at risk both all of falconry's traditions and its future.

As a confirmation of our determination to advance our duty towards young people to prevent the disappearance of this unique human heritage, we have chosen young people as the focus of the upcoming edition of the International Festival of Falconry, organised by the United Arab Emirates. Here, we will focus on international falconry schools and academies, encouraging them to review their achievements, develop their plans and programs and provide the necessary support to continue their engagement to connect the past with the present and the future.

Majed Ali Al Mansoori

President of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey