

### He cried and made us cry

In addition to the Al Othman award for memorizing and reciting the Holy Quran which is held in Morocco under the supervision of *Bayt Zakat*, we also established a parallel award for people with special needs and the orphans who are sponsored by the Al Othman endowment. Memorizing and reciting the Holy Quran shouldn't be thought of as an exclusive right to the most capable individuals who always win prizes. This would cause many others to give up under the pressure of frustration. Moreover, the age-limit for this award was reduced to 25 years. In Tétouan, 450 young men and women from all over the Kingdom participated. Facebook had a key role in making this ceremony a success, opening the door for everyone to participate whether they were from the country side or the lowest desert. I was surprised after witnessing the excellence and superiority of the people with special needs, especially when the first place winner was a handicap man who had a difficult time keeping his balance and suffered from weak pronunciation. Nevertheless, he was a *hifaz*—one who memorizes the Holy Quran. Yes, he was able to memorize the Holy Book of God despite his severe disability. He climbed the stage and gave a speech which was hard to grasp at first, but with extra focus we managed to understand. He talked about his disability and how happy he was to have such an opportunity and his joy at winning that prize. He gave thanks to Kuwait and her people, he said a prayer for my late father, then he cried and he made us cry.

The second contestant was another miracle. He was born without hands and still managed to memorize and write the Quran on wooden tablets using a brush he held in his toes. The third was a twelve-year-old orphan, blind, and a memorizer of the Holy Quran. The things I experienced there were too many to fit in an article.