

This is the beginning of the passage that speaks of the superiority of Adam (*'alayhi as-salâm* – peace be upon him), the father of humankind. When Allah wanted to create him, He informed the angels of that and said that He was going to place him on the earth, to be followed by successive generations.

The angels (peace be upon them) said: ﴿Will You place therein those who will make mischief therein﴾ by committing sin ﴿and shed blood?﴾ This (shedding blood) is a specific matter that is mentioned after a general statement (making mischief); it is mentioned in order to highlight the seriousness of killing. This was based on what the angels thought, that the successive generations who were going to dwell on earth would do that, so they declared that the Creator was above creating such a being and that it was not befitting for Him to do so; they glorified Him and declared that they were persistent in worshipping Allah in a manner that was free of any mischief, as they said: ﴿whilst we glorify You with Your praises﴾ that is, we declare You to be above all shortcomings.

﴿And proclaim Your holiness [*nuqaddisu lak*﴾. It may be understood as meaning: and we proclaim You alone to be holy. The phrase 'nuqaddisu lak' may also be understood as meaning: we purify ourselves for Your sake; that is, we purify ourselves by acquiring good characteristics, such as loving, fearing and glorifying Allah, and by ridding ourselves of bad characteristics.

Allah (ﷻ) said to the angels: ﴿I know﴾ concerning these successive generations ﴿that which you do not know﴾, because you are speaking on the basis of speculation, whereas I know what is apparent and what is hidden, and I know that the good that will result from the creation of these successive generations is many times greater than any evil that may result from it. If there was nothing more involved in that but that Allah (ﷻ) wanted to choose from among them the prophets, the *ṣiddeeqeen*, the martyrs and the righteous; and so that His signs might become manifest to His creation; and so that many acts of