

Statistics and the Báb

It was, in fact, the Báb himself Who first introduced the Letters of the Living to report on their 'lists.' He instructed Mulla Husayn to give written reports on the nature and progress of his activities. Here is the reference:

To Mulla Husayn, more particularly, the Báb gave definite injunctions to send Him a written report on the nature and progress of his activities in Isfahan, in Tihran, and in Khurasan. He urged him to inform Him of those who accepted and submitted to the Faith, as well as of those who rejected and repudiated its truth. "Not until I receive your letter from Khurasan," He said, "shall I be ready to set out from this city on My pilgrimage to Hijaz."

Mulla Husayn, as soon as he had won to the Cause such able and devoted supporters, decided to address a written report concerning his activities to the Báb. In his communication he referred at length to his sojourn in Isfahan and Kashan, described the account of his experience with Bahá'u'lláh, referred to the departure of the latter for Mazindaran, related the events of Nur, and informed Him of the success which had attended his own efforts in Khurasan. In it he enclosed a list of the names of those who had responded to his call, and of whose steadfastness and sincerity he was assured. He sent his letter by way of Yazd, through the trustworthy partners of the Báb's maternal uncle who were at that time residing in Tabas.

~ CHAPTER VI: MULLA HUSAYN'S JOURNEY TO KHURASAN: THE DAWNBREAKERS pages 124 & 126

Guidance from the Universal House of Justice about Statistics

"One of the important accomplishments of recent Plans is a heightened awareness among institutions and believers everywhere of the role statistical information can play in facilitating the planning process at the cluster level. This is demonstrated by the increasing ability of the friends to collect pertinent data and to use this information, which draws attention to strengths to be built upon and weaknesses to be overcome, to track progress, analyse the patterns of growth prevalent in their communities and decide upon the next set of goals to be adopted."

~ Message dated 8 April 2007 from the Universal House of Justice to National Spiritual Assemblies