

Table 4.4 – *The Zaydī Narrative Elements for Yahyā b. ‘Abd Allāh*

Narrative element		al-Rāzī	al-Iṣbahānī	al-Nāṭiq	‘Alī b. Bilāl
Yahyā’s Rebellion					
	Kūfan opposition		X		
	Rebellion organization ^a	X	X	X	X
	Betrayal by local notables ^a	X			X
	<i>Amān</i> stipulations ^a	X (full text)	X (brief)	X (brief)	X (stipulates penalties)
	Return to Baghdad ^a	X	X	X	X
al-Rashīd’s Turn					
	Medinan activities	X	X (detailed)	X	X
	<i>Distributing money</i>	X	X	X	
	<i>Organizing rebellion</i>		X (Fadāla)	X (allusion to agents)	X (reverence)
	Zubayrid encounter ^a	X	X	X	
	<i>‘Abd Allāh b. Muṣ‘ab’s burial</i>	X	X		
	Companion naming ^a	X	X	X	
	<i>Poisoned tongue</i>	X	X		
	Lineage comparison		X		X
	<i>Amān</i> break ^a	X	X	X	X

Table 4.4 (cont.)

Narrative element		al-Rāzī	al-Iṣbahānī	al-Nātiq	‘Alī b. Bilal
Prison Life and Death					
	Barmakids’ fall [‡]	X	X-2 accounts ([1] Ja’far, [2] al-Faḍl)	X (al-Faḍl)	
	<i>Informant</i>	Muḥammad al-Barmakī	(1) stranger (2) unspecified	unspecified	
	<i>Destination</i>	Byzantium	(1) Byzantium (2) Medina	Medina	
	Cooked food	X			X
	White patch			X	X
	Death by starvation	X			
	Death by starvation, told on boat	X			
	Survival thanks to gravediggers	X			
	Slow starvation		X		
	Starvation and poisoning			X	
	Buried alive (column)				X
	Buried alive (torture chamber)				X
	Other		live burial, poison, strangulation, lion	live burial, strangulation	strangulation at night

‡ Narrative elements also found in the Sunni sources.