THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ABŪ ḤANĪFA AND ZAYD IBN 'ALĪ

- An Assessment in the Context of an Account in al-Majmū' al-fiqbī –

Eren Gündüz Uludağ University, Bursa-Turkey

Abstract

This article analyzes various claims made by modern-day scholars about the educational connection between Zayd ibn 'Alī and Abū Ḥanīfa. In light of historical data, these claims are evaluated here on the basis of an account in *al-Majmū* '*al-ḥadīthī wa-l-fiqhī*, attributed to Zayd. The main findings of the article are as follows: 1. Apart from the account in *al-Majmū* ', there is no narration in early Islamic sources that is concerned with their educational relationship. 2. Abū Ḥanīfa saw Zayd, listened to his speeches, and recognized his superior qualities, but never served him as a disciple. 3. Before meeting in al-Kūfa, they did not recognize or interact with one another. Before meeting Zayd, Abū Ḥanīfa was a renowned *faqīh* in al-Kūfa, appreciated by friends of Zayd for his scientific authority. There was, however, no period of association between the two. Therefore, the argument that Abū Ḥanīfa served as a disciple of Zayd ibn 'Alī for two years in al-Ḥijāz or al-Kūfa is rejected.

Key Words: Zayd ibn 'Alī, al-Majmū' al-fiqbī, Majmū' al-fiqb, Abū Hanīfa

Introduction

Several modern-day studies have presented various claims about the educational relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa (d. 150/767) and Zayd ibn 'Alī (d. 122/740).¹ Certain researchers have claimed that Abū Ḥanīfa gained knowledge ('ilm) from Zayd ibn 'Alī, whereas others have gone one step further, arguing that Abū Ḥanīfa was Zayd's disciple. Another group of studies refers to the accounts that list Zayd ibn 'Alī among the masters (*sheikhs*) of Abū Ḥanīfa, although no such account exist. All of these assertions require close scrutiny.

Did Abū Ḥanīfa study with Zayd ibn 'Alī? What references are used by those who defend this argument? Was this a master-apprentice relationship or a meeting of colleagues? Did the education of Abū Ḥanīfa by Zayd ibn 'Alī occur in a two-year period of discipleship? What are the grounds for such an assertion? What is the main basis of claims which argue that an educational relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī existed?

In this article, we will determine how the various claims about this relationship have emerged, and explain the source of the ambiguity.

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See Muḥammad Abū Zahra, Abū Ḥanīfa: Ḥayātuhū wa-ʿaṣruhū - ārāʾuhū wafiqhub^ā (Cairo: Dār al-Fikr al-'Arabī, 1947), 30, 79; Muḥammad Ḥamīdullah, İmam-ı Azam ve Eseri [al-Imām al-A'zam and His Heritage] (translated into Turkish by Kemal Kuşçu; Istanbul: Cağaloğlu Yayınevi, 1963), 17; Muştafā al-Shak'a, al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfa (Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-Lubnāniyya, 1983), 54; Şāliḥ Aḥmad al-Khatīb, al-Imām Zayd al-muftarā 'alayh (Beirut: Dār al-Nadwa al-Jadīda, 1984), 65; Ahmet Özel, Hanefi Fıkıh Âlimleri [Ḥanafī Jurisprudents] (Ankara: Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı Yayınları, 1990), 14; Ali Bakkal, İslâm Fıkıh Mezhepleri [Islamic Legal Schools] (Istanbul: Rağbet Yayınevi, 2004), 62; Ekrem Sağıroğlu, İmam-ı Azam Ebû Hanife: Hayatı, Siyaseti, Eseri [al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfa: His Life, Political Ideas and His Heritage] (Istanbul: Yasin Yayınevi, 2002), 43; İsmet Demir, İmâm-ı Âzam Ebû Hanife: Hayatı, İslâm Hukuku ve Hanefî Mezbebi'ni Tedvindeki Metodu [al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfa: His Life and His Place in the Formation of Islamic Law and Ḥanafism] (Istanbul: Seçil Ofset, 2005), 105; Mehmet Erdoğan, "İbn Mes'ûd'dan Ebû Hanîfe'ye Rey Mektebi [The School of Ra'y from Ibn Mas'ūd to Abū Ḥanīfa]," in İbrahim Hatiboğlu (ed.), İmâm-ı Âzam Ebû Hanîfe ve Düşünce Sistemi – Sempozyum Tebliğ ve Müzakereleri – [al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfa and His Thought – Symposium Proceedings - | (Bursa: Kurav Yayınları, 2005), I, 332; İsa Doğan, İmam Zeyd b. Ali [al-Imām Zayd ibn 'Alī] (Ankara: Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı Yayınları, 2009), 129.

Subsequently, we will analyze an account we consider to be highly important in the context of this study.

The Educational Relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī as Described in Several Contemporary Studies

The researcher who focused on the relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī the most was Muḥammad Abū Zahra (d. 1974). His works, Abū Ḥanīfa: Ḥayātuhā wa-ʿaṣruhā - ārāʾuhā wa-fiqhuhā, al-Imām Zayd and Tārīkh al-madhāhib al-Islāmiyya, have served as a reference for subsequent studies. Thus, it is appropriate to begin by concentrating on Abū Zahra's works.

Based on the works of Abū Zahra, we can conclude that Abū Ḥanīfa knew of Zayd ibn 'Alī. Nevertheless, this knowledge was limited to information exchanged during their meetings and was not a relationship of master-apprentice. Abū Zahra writes:

We do not suspect that Abū Ḥanīfa met Zayd ibn 'Alī; but we do not believe that he was affiliated with him. On the contrary, he received knowledge from Zayd during their meetings, without any affiliation.²

Abū Zahra bases his argument that Abū Ḥanīfa received *'ilm* from Zayd ibn 'Alī on the following account, cited from *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr Sharḥ Majmū' al-fiqh al-kabīr* by al-Ḥusayn ibn Aḥmad al-Sayyāghī al-Ḥaymī al-Ṣan'ānī (d. 1221/1806):

Abū Ḥanīfa said: I have seen Zayd ibn 'Alī and his friends (*ablab*^t), but I have never seen a man more *faqīb*, wise, witty, or honest than him in his day. He was a peerless personality.³

Abū Zahra also mentions this account in his *al-Imām Zayd*.⁴ The source records statements made by Abū Ḥanīfa about Zayd, as well as references to the scientific discussions between the two. This is the source of Abū Zahra's claim that Abū Ḥanīfa considered Zayd ibn 'Alī

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² Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79.

Sharaf al-Dīn al-Ḥusayn ibn Aḥmad al-Sayyāghī al-Ḥaymī al-Ṣanʿānī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr Sharḥ Majmūʿ al-fiqh al-kabīr li-l-Imām Zayd (Beirut: Dār al-Jīl, n.d.), I, 50; cf. Abū Zahra, Abū Ḥanīfa, 79; id., al-Imām Zayd (Cairo: Dār al-Fikr al-ʿArabī, 1959), 70.

⁴ Abū Zahra, *al-Imām Zayd*, 70.

to be the wisest scholar of his day.⁵ Contrary to our expectations, there is no record of an actual discussion or scientific debate between Zavd and Abū Hanīfa. Did Abū Zahra find this account sufficient to claim that Abū Ḥanīfa received 'ilm from Zayd? We do not know. It is striking, however, that in the aforementioned works, despite the existence of quotations from such works as Tārīkh Baghdād by al-Khatīb al-Baghdādī (d. 463/1071), *Manāqib Abī Hanīfa* by Muwaffaq ibn Ahmad al-Makkī (d. 568/1173), Manāqib Abī Hanīfa by Ibn al-Bazzāzī (d. 827/1424), and al-Kāmil fī l-tārīkh by Ibn al-Athīr (d. 630/1232)⁶, Abū Zahra only refers to al-Sayyāghī in this matter; this probably signifies that Abu Zahra does not have sufficient information, and prefers to leave the issue rather ambiguous. Was there any other information in al-Rawd al-nadīr or other works that convinced Abū Zahra of such a view, even though he did not cite them? An examination of other works on the subject reveals even more ambiguity. For example, in his al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Hanīfa, Mustafā al-Shak'a argues, "... But whatever the view on the issue is, Abū Hanīfa was a student of Zayd." Shak'a does not, however, refer to any source. In addition, just as in Abū Zahra's works, even though al-Shak'a cites accounts of meetings between Abū Ḥanīfa and Muḥammad al-Bāgir, Ja'far al-Ṣādiq and 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥasan, 8 we see that there is no evidence of his meeting with Zayd or having any association with him. The situation is almost identical in other studies on the subject.9

Aside from the data in *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, some works mention Zayd ibn 'Alī as being one of the masters of Abū Ḥanīfa, 10 while others do not. 11 What is common in all of these studies is the lack of any

⁵ Abū Zahra, *al-Imām Zayd*, 179.

For several examples, see Abū Zahra, Abū Ḥanīfa, 37, 38, 49, 73, 74; id., al-Imām Zayd, 44, 47, 51, 57, 58, 64, 71 et seq.; id., Tārīkh al madhāhib al-Islāmiyya (Cairo: Dār al-Fikr al-ʿArabī, n.d.), 348, 349, 351.

⁷ Al-Shakʻa, *al-Imām al-Aʻzam*, 54.

⁸ *ibid.*, 49-58; Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 80-81.

For other examples see al-Khaṭīb, *al-Imām Zayd*, 65; Özel, *Hanefî Fıkıh Âlimleri*, 14; Ḥamīdullah, *İmam-ı Azam ve Eseri*, 17.

See Muwaffaq ibn Aḥmad al-Makkī, Manāqib Abī Ḥanīfa (Beirut: Dār al-Kitāb al-ʿArabī, 1981), 41.

¹¹ See Abū 'Abd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn 'Uthmān al-Dhahabī, *Manāqib* al-Imām Abī Ḥanīfa ve sāḥibayhⁱ Abī Yūsuf wa-Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan (Cai-

information that clearly defines the relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zavd ibn 'Alī. Maybe this is why Abū Zahra only relies on al-Rawd al-nadīr in this matter. Can this work lead us to the source of the views on this subject? In our analysis, we found two points of reference for al-Savvāghī. One of these is al-Mawā'iz wa-l-i'tibār bidhikr al-khitat wa-l-āthār by Ahmad ibn 'Alī ibn 'Abd al-Qādir al-Magrīzī (d. 845/1442). The words, which are quoted by Abū Zahra from al-Rawd al-nadīr and attributed to Abū Hanīfa, are cited by al-Sayvāghī from this author. 12 Other writers referred to by al-Sayvāghī are Ahmad ibn Yūsuf (d. 1191/1777) and Yahyā ibn al-Ḥusayn (ibn al-Mu'ayyad billāh Muhammad ibn al-Qāsim) (d. 1090/1679), both of whom are Zaydī. Because these authors lived in a later era, they can be disregarded. The last two, however, have led us to examine the relationship between Abū Hanīfa and Zavd ibn 'Alī in a different light. Thus far, theories about this connection have been based on general historical and biographical works on these figures, including works from the Zaydī world. Identifying the approach to the subject in these works enables an appropriate assessment of their theories. 13

Our second question, "Did the education of Abū Ḥanīfa by Zayd ibn 'Alī consist of a two-year period of discipleship?" is not explicitly addressed by Abū Zahra. His statement, "We do not believe he was affiliated to Zayd ibn 'Alī. On the contrary, he received knowledge from Zayd during their meetings, without any affiliation," ¹⁴ affirms that Abū Ḥanīfa was not a regular student of Zayd. However, Abū Zahra does not describe when these meetings took place or at what intervals they occurred. Similarly, Abū Zahra apparently quotes from *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr* once again: "It is rumored that Abū Ḥanīfa was his student for two years (*tatalmadha lahū sanatayn*)"; ¹⁵ however, what is being commented on here is whether Abū Ḥanīfa was a bound

ro: Dār al-Kitāb al-ʿArabī, n.d.), 11; Ḥāfiẓ al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn Shihāb al-Bazzāzī al-Kardarī, *Manāqib al-Imām al-Aʿzam Abī Ḥanīfa* (Beirut: Dār al-Kitāb al-ʿArabī, 1981), 85.

Al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr, I, 50; cf. Taqī al-Dīn Abū l-ʿAbbās Aḥmad ibn ʿAlī ibn ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Maqrīzī, al-Mawāʿiz wa-l-iʿtibār bi-dhikr al-khiṭaṭ wa-l-ātbār (Beirut: Dār Ṣādir, n.d.), II, 436.

As it would be more appropriate to handle the approaches of these people in later chapters of our study, they will not be discussed here.

¹⁴ Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79.

¹⁵ Cf. Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79; al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, I, 66.

disciple to Zayd. After writing, "It is rumored that he was his student for two years" without giving any references, Abū Zahra quotes from al-Sayyāghī: "I saw Zayd ibn 'Alī and his friends ..." He writes, "We do not suspect that Abū Ḥanīfa met him; but we do not believe he was affiliated with Zayd ibn 'Alī." As Abū Zahra accepts that Abū Ḥanīfa met with Zayd ibn 'Alī, even though it was not a form of regular discipleship, the question remains, when and where could these meetings have occurred, in al-Ḥijāz or in al-Kūfa? According to Abū Zahra, the answer is al-Kūfa.

In his work, Abū Hanīfa, Abū Zahra relates the accounts that Abū Hanīfa met Muḥammad al-Bāqir when he was still a disciple to Ḥammād, and met Jacfar al-Ṣādiq in al-Ḥīra in the presence of al-Manṣūr, the second 'Abbāsid Caliph. 18 Abū Zahra does not provide any information about the time or place of Abū Hanīfa's meeting with Zayd ibn 'Alī. In his al-Imām Zayd, however, Abū Zahra claims that Abū Ḥanīfa met Zayd in al-Kūfa and, providing quotations about Zayd, heralds the intellectual discussions that would occur between them. 19 This evidently does not contradict the fact that Abū Ḥanīfa may have met Zayd ibn 'Ali during his sojourns in al-Hijāz; nonetheless, it is most likely that the two-year period of meetings mentioned happened when both were residing in the same region. These meetings must have occurred during Abū Ḥanīfa's residence in al-Ḥijāz or Zayd's sojourn in al-Kūfa. Abū Zahra does not relate anything else about Zayd's time in al-Kūfa or his intellectual connections with Abū Hanīfa. As for Abū Hanīfa's residing in al-Ḥijāz, Abū Zahra relates that this occurred long after the death of Zayd ibn 'Alī. According to Abū Zahra, in 130/747-748, Abū Ḥanīfa escaped the torture of the Umayyad governor, 'Umar ibn Hubayra, and sought refuge in Mecca, where he contined to live for two years. When the Umayyad Caliphate ended in 132/750, he returned to al-Kūfa and paid homage to al-Şaffāḥ, the first 'Abbāsid Caliph, while continuing to live in Mecca until 136/753-54 due to unrest in Trāq.20 Therefore, according to Abū Zahra, Abū Ḥanīfa resided in al-Ḥijāz only after Zayd's death. As Abū

Al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr, I, 50; cf. Abū Zahra, Abū Ḥanīfa, 79; id., al-Imām Zayd, 70.

¹⁷ Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79.

¹⁸ Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79-81.

¹⁹ Abū Zahra, *al-Imām Zayd*, 179.

²⁰ Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 41-42.

Zahra gives no details about the sojourn of Zayd ibn 'Alī in al-Kūfa, apart from relating their meeting in this city, he cannot claim that Abū Ḥanīfa was Zayd's disciple for two years. Thus, it cannot be accurately claimed that Abū Zahra affirms Abū Ḥanīfa as a disciple of Zayd ibn 'Alī for a period of two years.²¹ The emergence of such a claim, however, is not totally unrelated to the fact that Abū Zahra left the subject ambiguous. We will return to the sources of Abū Zahra that serve as the grounds for this assertion during our investigation of the third question. At this point, however, we must investigate whether this assertion originated in the works of Abū Zahra.

In his *al-Imām al-A'zam Abū Ḥanīfa*, Muṣṭafā al-Shak'a argues that Abū Ḥanīfa studied with Zayd ibn 'Alī, but he offers no support for this assertion. Moreover, this suggestion, given without reference, contradicts the above-given findings of Abū Zahra. Then again, despite Abū Zahra's assertion that Abū Ḥanīfa lived in al-Ḥijāz after 130/747-748, according to al-Shak'a, the interaction between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī happened during Abū Ḥanīfa's stay in al-Hijāz. 22 In other relevant studies, the same assertion is found without any references. In certain works, however, writers refer to al-*Kashshāf* by al-Zamakhsharī. İsmet Demir, for example, refers to him, stating: "Even though Abū Ḥanīfa was one year younger than Zayd ibn 'Alī, he was the latter's disciple for two years, and in a sense, made up for his deficiency in hadīth thanks to Zayd ibn 'Alī, who was a master of hadith from the school of ra²y". ²³ However, upon a closer analysis of al-Kashshāf, we see that al-Zamakhsharī says nothing about the educational relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd. The description in this work refers to the reaction of Abū Ḥanīfa to Zayd ibn 'Alī's rebellion.24

²¹ Erdoğan, "İbn Mes'ûd'dan Ebû Hanîfe'ye Rey Mektebi," 332.

²² Al-Shak'a, al-Imām al-a'zam, 54.

Demir, İmâm-ı Âzam, 105; cf. Abū l-Qāsim Jār Allāh Maḥmūd ibn 'Umar al-Zamakhsharī, al-Kashshāf 'an ḥaqā'iq ghawāmiḍ al-tanzīl wa-'uyūn al-aqāwīl fī wujūh al-ta'wīl (ed. 'Ādil Aḥmad 'Abd al-Mawjūd and 'Alī Muḥammad Mu'awwiḍ; Riyāḍ: Maktabat al-'Ubaykān, 1998), I, 318.

Al-Zamakhsharī says the following: "Abū Ḥanīfa secretly placed a *fatwā* on Zayd ibn 'Alī to help and provide him with financial assistance and concerned with the necessity of rebelling together." See al-Zamakhsharī, *al-Kashshāf*, I, 318.

As explained above, one of the main sources in contemporary studies suggesting an educational connection between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī is the following quote, attributed to Abū Ḥanīfa:

I have seen Zayd ibn 'Alī and his friends, but have never seen a man more *faqīb*, wise, witty, or honest than him in his day. He was a peer-less personality.²⁵

Abū Zahra takes this quote from al-Sayyāghī, who, in turn, took it from al-Maqrīzī. Other contemporary works clarify that this quotation cannot be found in any source earlier than al-Maqrīzī. Another support for the claim that Abū Ḥanīfa was a disciple of Zayd for two years is the statement by Yaḥyā ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn Muḥammad al-Muʿayyad bi-llāh ibn al-Qāsim, a Zaydī scholar, to whom al-Sayyāghī refers

Al-Sayyāghī writes:

In the marginal notes ($ta'l\bar{\iota}qs$) of $al-Majm\bar{\iota}\iota'$ transmitted by Yaḥyā ibn al-Ḥusayn, I saw that Abū Ḥanīfa was among the disciples of Zayd ibn 'Alī, and that he took lessons from him for two years.²⁷

There is no other valid support for a period of two years in Zaydī literature. As a matter of fact, despite al-Sayyāghī being willing to collect all the material in favor of Zayd ibn 'Alī and his *al-Majmū'*, and to examine all claims about them in his voluminous work, which is a commentary on *al-Majmū'*, he never cites Zaydī or Sunnī sources of the early period in support of this claim. Although carrying out a thorough analysis of several early Zaydī and Imāmī sources, we have been unable to find any evidence to support this assertion.²⁸ Never-

²⁵ Al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, I, 50; cf. Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 79; id., *al-Imām Zayd*, 76.

At this stage, we would like to mention two works and their references that describe the words attributed to Abū Ḥanīfa, with respect to the connection between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī: Aḥmad Shawqī Ibrāhīm 'Amarrajī, al-Ḥayāt al-siyāsiyya wa-l-fikriyya li-l-Zaydiyya fi l-masbriq al-Islāmī (Cairo: Maktabat Madbūlī, 2000), 37 (referring to al-Mawā'iz by al-Maqrīzī); Faḍīla 'Abd al-Amīr al-Shāmī, Tārīkh al-firqa al-Zaydiyya bayna l-qarnayn al-thānī wa-l-thālith li-l-bijra (Baghdād: Wizārat Turāth, 1974), 83 (referring to al-A'lām by Ziriklī).

²⁷ Al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, I, 66.

In this matter, the following works can be referred to: al-Kutub al-arba'a; al-Rijāl by al-Najāshī; Maqātil al-Ṭālibiyyīn by Abū l-Faraj al-Iṣfahānī; Amālī by Aḥmad ibn 'Īsā ibn Zayd; al-Aḥkām fī l-ḥalāl wa-l-ḥarām by Yaḥyā ibn Ḥusayn

theless, even though there is an account in *al-Majmū'*, narrating that Abū Ḥanīfa and his companions went to a house in al-Kūfa where Zayd secretly lived and they met, the commentator does not cite this account when discussing whether or not Abū Ḥanīfa was a disciple of Zayd ibn 'Alī, and gives no detail or interpretation of the significance of this encounter.²⁹ For this reason, this account must be carefully evaluated.

Evidence for the Relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn ʿAlī

The principal source for the basis of our article is the following account found in *al-Majmū*; 30 attributed to Zayd ibn 'Alī:

قال أبوخالد رضي الله عنه لما دخل زيد بن علي عليهم السلام الكوفة استخفى في دار عبدالله بن الزبير [الاسدي] فبلغ ذلك أبا حنيفة فكلم معاوية بن إسحاق السلمي ونصر بن خزيمة العبسي وسعيد بن خثيم حتى دخلوا على زيد بن علي عليهم السلام فقالوا هذا رجل من فقهاء الكوفة، فقال زيد بن علي عليه السلام ما مفتاح الصلاة وما افتتاحها وما استفتاحها وما تحريمها وما تحليلها، قال: فقال ابوحنيفة مفتاح الصلاة الطهور وتحريمها التكبير وتحليلها التسليم وافتتاح الصلاة التكبير لان النبي صلى الله عليه وآله و سلم كان اذا افتتح الصلاة كبر ورفع يديه والاستفتاح هو سبحانك اللهم وبحمدك وتبارك اسمك وتعالى جدك ولا إله غيرك لانه روي عن النبي صلى الله عليه وآله و سلم انه كان اذا استفتح الصلاة قال ذلك فأعجب زيدا عليه السلام ذلك منه.

Abū Khālid said the following: When Zayd ibn 'Alī came to al-Kūfa, he hid in the house of 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Zubayr [al-Asadī]. When Abū

Hādī ilā l-ḥaqq; *Nuṣrat madhāhib al-Zaydiyya* by Ṣāḥib ibn ʿAbbād; *al-Ifāda fī tārīkh al-a'imma al-sāda* by Abū Ṭālib al-Nāṭiq bi-l-ḥaqq al-Hārūnī; and *al-Hadā'iq al-wardiyya fī manāqib a'immat al-Zaydiyya* by al-Maḥallī.

²⁹ Al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, II, 5-6.

The editions of the book: Zayd ibn 'Alī, "Corpus Iuris" di Zaid Ibn 'Alī (= Majmū' al-fiqh) (ed. Eugenio Griffini; Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, 1919); id., Musnad al-Imām Zayd (ed. 'Abd al-Wāsi' ibn Yaḥyā; Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, 1983); id., al-Majmū' al-ḥadīthī wa-l-fiqhī (ed. 'Abd Allāh ibn Ḥammūd al-'Izzī; 'Ammān: Mu'assasat al-Imām Zayd ibn 'Alī al-Thaqāfiyya, 2002); for more about this book see Eren Gündüz, Zeyd bin Ali: Hayatı, Eserleri ve İslam Hukuk Düşüncesindeki Yeri [Zayd ibn 'Alī: His Life, Works, and Place in Islamic Legal Thought] (Istan-bul: Düşünce Kitabevi Yayınları, 2008).

Hanīfa learned about this, he spoke to Muʿāwiya ibn Isḥāq al-Sulamī, Naṣr ibn Khuzayma al-ʿAbsī and Saʿīd ibn Khuthaym. When they finally met with Zayd ibn ʿAlī, they said about Abū Ḥanīfa: "This is one of the *faqīb*s of al-Kūfa." Thereupon, Zayd ibn ʿAlī asked: "What is the key (*miftāḥ*), the initial words (*iftitāḥ*), the initial prayer (*istiftāḥ*), the beginning (*taḥrīm*) and the end (*taḥlīl*) of the ṣalāt?" Abū Ḥanīfa responded: "The key of the ṣalāt is purification (*al-ṭuhūr*); its beginning is *takbīr*, and its end is *salām* (*al-ṭaslīm*). The ṣalāt begins with *takbīr* because the Prophet (pbuh) recited *takbīr* and raised his hands at the beginning of the ṣalāt. Here is the opening prayer: Glory be to You, O Allah, and all praises are due unto You, and blessed is Your name and high is Your majesty and there is no god but You. It is related from the Prophet (pbuh) that he recited this prayer when he wanted to begin the ṣalāt." The answer pleased Zayd ibn ʿAlī.³1

First, we have to stress the authenticity of the prayer at the end of this account, as it is attributed to the Prophet in both Sunnī and Shī'ī ḥadīth sources. ³² As for *al-Majmū* c which includes the account, there are varying opinions about its status.

According to Zaydīs, due to its content and its attribution to Imām Zayd, this is a reliable book of ḥadīth and fiqh.³³ Sunnī ḥadīth and fiqh literature, however, does not attribute any value to the book. This is because Abū Khālid 'Amr ibn Khālid, the first narrator of the book, said that he was the only one who narrated it from Zayd. Abū Khālid is a weak narrator who is heavily criticized by Sunnī scholars

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³¹ Zayd ibn 'Alī, *al-Majmū*' *al-ḥadīthī wa-l-fiqhī*, 85.

For the account related as مفتاح الصلاة الطهور وتحريمها التكبير وتحليلها التسليم by Abū Saʿid al-Khudrī, see al-Tirmidhī, "Şalāt," 176. The ḥadīth has also been transmitted from ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib, Ibn Masʿūd and Ibn ʿAbbās through various chains of narrators. See Ibn Māja, "Ṭahāra," 3; al-Tirmidhī, "Ṭahāra," 3; "Şalāt," 176. Some parts of this account are directly attributed to ʿAlī, related in four credible ḥadīth sources of the Imāmiyya; see Jaʿfar Subḥānī, Buḥūth fī l-milal wa-l-niḥal (Qum: Muʾassasat al-Imām al-Ṣādiq, 1995), VII, 137-154.

See Ibrāhīm ibn Qāsim ibn al-Imām al-Mu'ayyad billāh, *Tabaqāt al-Zaydiyya* (ed. 'Abd al-Salām ibn 'Abbās al-Wajīh; 'Ammān: Mu'assasat al-Imām Zayd ibn 'Alī al-Thaqāfiyya, 2001), I, 49-51; al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawd al-nadīr*, I, 11, 68-69; 'Abd Allāh ibn Ḥammūd al-'Izzī, '*Ulūm al-ḥadīth 'inda l-Zaydiyya wa-l-muḥaddithīn* ('Ammān: Mu'assasat al-Imām Zayd ibn 'Alī al-Thaqāfiyya, 2001), 17, 144, 275; Zayd ibn 'Alī, *Musnad*, 17.

of *'ilm al-rijāl*, and is not considered to be a competent scholar in hadīth narration.³⁴

Many accounts in the work can be found in both $Sh\bar{i}^c\bar{i}$ and $Sunn\bar{i}$ had \bar{i} th sources. Nevertheless, it cannot be expected that any value be assigned by $Im\bar{a}m\bar{i}$ $Sh\bar{i}^c\bar{i}$ s to this work due to their approach to the had \bar{i} th.

The first modern study of the subject is found in *Corpus Iuris di Zaid Ibn 'Alī* (= $Majm\bar{u}$ ' al-fiqh) edited by Griffini (d. 1925). The work was well received by certain experts from both the Western and Islamic worlds.³⁶

As for the content of the account, it is accepted that Abū Ḥanīfa's response to Zayd ibn 'Alī is accurate given its appearance in related sources. One of the versions appears in *Musnad al-Imām Abī Ḥanīfa* as follows:³⁷

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³⁴ Al-Dhahabī, *Mīzān al-i'tidāl* (Beirut: Dār al-Ma'rifa, n.d.), III, 257.

See Subḥānī, Buḥūth, VII, 137-139; cf. Abū Ja'far Muḥammad ibn Ḥasan ibn 'Alī al-Ṭūsī, Tahdhīb al-aḥkām (ed. al-Sayyid Ḥasan al-Khursān; Beirut: Dār Ṣa'b, 1981), VII, 251; id., al-Istibṣār fī-mā ukhtulifa min al-akhbār (Tehran: Dār al-Kutub al-Islāmiyya, 1970), I, 66. For Shī'ī views of ḥadīth and the support for the above-given belief, see Etan Kohlberg, "Shī'ī Ḥadīth," in A. F. L. Beeston et al. (eds.), Arabic Literature to the End of the Umayyad Period (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 299-307; Saffet Köse, "Fikih Literatürünün Tartışmalı İki Eseri: el-Mecmû'u'l-kebîr ve el-Mehâric fi'l-hiyel [Two Discussed Works of the Fiqh Literature: Al-Majmū' al-kabīr and al-Makhārij fī l-ḥiyal," İslâm Hukuku Araştırmaları Dergisi [Journal of Islamic Law Studies] 3 (2004), 289-311, particularly pp. 296-297.

Al-ʿAbbās ibn Aḥmad ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Aḥmad al-Yemenī, Tatimmat al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr (Beirut: Dār al-Jīl, n.d.), 331-344; Fuat Sezgin, Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1967), I, 552-555; id., Tārīkh al-turāth al-ʿArabī (translated into Arabic by Maḥmūd Fahmī Ḥijāzī; Riyāḍ: Jāmiʿat al-Imām Muḥammad ibn Suʿūd al-Islāmiyya, 1991), I (part: III), 315; Muḥammad ʿAjjāj al-Khatīb, al-Sunna qabla l-tadwīn (Cairo: Maktabat Wahba, 1963), 371; id., al-Mukhtaṣar al-wajīz fī ʿulūm al-ḥadīth (Beirut: Muʾassasat al-Risāla, 1987), 83; id., Uṣūl al-ḥadīth: ʿUlūmuhā wa-muṣṭalaḥuhā (Beirut: Dār al-Fikr, 1989), 216; Köse, "Fikih Literatürünün Tartışmalı İki Eseri," 291-301.

Abū Nu'aym Aḥmad ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Iṣfahānī, Musnad al-Imām Abī Ḥanīfa (Riyāḍ: Maktabat al-Kawthar, 1994), 130; Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan al-Shaybānī, al-Ātbār (ed. Abū l-Wafā' al-Afghānī; Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyya, 1993), I, 1.

عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم، قال الوضوء مفتاح الصلاة ، والتكبير تحريمها، والتحليل تسليم وفي كل ركعتين تسليم، ولا تجزئ صلاة إلا بفاتحة الكتاب، ومعها غيرها.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: $Wud\bar{u}^{\gamma}$ is the key of the $sal\bar{a}t$. $Takb\bar{i}r$ ends its connection with the world and $sal\bar{a}m$ restores its connection. The $sal\bar{a}m$ takes place in every two $rak^{\alpha}a$ s. The $sal\bar{a}t$ may be valid only if the Fātiḥa of the Book is recited, along with another [sūra].

This account, narrated by Abū Saīd al-Khudrī, is found in *al-Sunan* by al-Bayhaqī with the same wording and chain of narrators ('an Abī Ḥanīfa 'an Abī Sufyān 'an Abī Naḍra 'an Abī Sa'īd al-Khudrī).³⁸

Upon Zayd ibn 'Alī's question, "What is the key of the *ṣalāt*?" Abū Hanīfa answers: "The key of the *salāt* is purification (*tubūr*)." In his response, he uses the word *tubūr*, whereas these narrations use the term $wud\bar{u}$. The word $tub\bar{u}r$ means the action of eliminating the condition of impurity and absence of $wud\bar{u}$, a state that hinders the performance of the *ṣalāt* in figh literature. It is synonymous with the word $wud\bar{u}^2$, which signifies purity from the condition that requires $wud\bar{u}^{39}$. Other subtle changes in the narrations are found in the translocation of the subject and verb. Considering that the expressions wudū' and tubūr are synonymous, there is no inconsistency between the beginning of these narrations and the one found in al-Majmū'. The remainder of the narration is not found in Musnad al-*Imām Abī Ḥanīfa*. Nevertheless, Abū Ḥanīfa refers to this hadith by stating: "Here is the opening prayer: Subhānaka-llāhumma wa-biḥamdik wa-tabāraka-smuk wa-ta'ālā jadduk wa-lā ilāha ghayruk. As is related from the Prophet (pbuh), he said this prayer when he wanted to begin the *salāt*." This, despite being slightly modified, was narrated by Abū Saʿīd al-Khudrī in other credible hadīth sources. 40

The inaugural prayer of the *ṣalāt*, which is found in this account within Ḥanafī tradition, is replaced by other Qur³ānic-based wordings in Zaydī fiqh. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the narration is contrary to Zaydī fiqh. Yaḥyā ibn al-Ḥusayn Hādī ilā l-ḥaqq

Aḥmad ibn Ḥusayn al-Bayhaqī, *al-Sunan al-kubrā* (Hyderabad: Dā'irat al-Ma'ārīf al-'Uthmāniyya, 1927), II, 380.

³⁹ Saʿdī Abū Jayb, *al-Qāmūs al-fiqbī* (Damascus: Dār al-Fikr, 1982), 234.

⁴⁰ Al-Nasā'ī, "Iftitāḥ," 19; al-Tirmidhī, "Şalāt," 179.

(d. 298/911), the founder of the Hādawī branch of Zaydiyya, after mentioning an inaugural prayer attributed to 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib — which is also found in *al-Majmū* ⁴¹ — writes: "This is the most beautiful prayer we ever heard among the ones said during inauguration." Thus, he sees other inaugural prayers as valid in terms of fiqh. Al-Sayyāghī also says "This inauguration is one that is rumored to belong to the Prophet, and it is known as 'the inauguration of Ibn Mas'ūd' (*istiftāḥ Ibn Mas'ūd*) by ḥadīth scholars [*ahl al-ḥadīth*.]"

Before commenting on the aforementioned account, it is necessary to evaluate it from a historical point of view. Have historical sources ever recorded such an event? In other words, can we historically verify that Zayd ibn 'Alī came to al-Kūfa, hid in this city, and met Abū Ḥanīfa there?

The account in *al-Majmū* is found neither in historical works nor in biographies. Nevertheless, it is possible to obtain some clues as to the probability of the encounter. Al-Ṭabarī (d. 310/922) and Ibn al-Athīr (d. 630/1232), who recorded historical events, give the date of the rebellion of Zayd ibn 'Alī as 121/738-739 and his murder as 122/739-740.⁴⁴ In spite of conflicting opinions about the residence of Zayd ibn 'Alī in al-Kūfa, it is certain that he stayed there during the reign of Yūsuf ibn 'Umar, who became governor of 'Irāq following the dismissal of Khālid ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī. Al-Qasrī's governorship of 'Irāq took place between 105/723-724 and 120/737-738. The assignment of Yūsuf ibn 'Umar as governor was in 121/738-739.⁴⁵ In

rut: Dār al-Kutub al-Ilmiyya, 1987), IV, 443, 452.

Yaḥyā ibn al-Ḥusayn Hādī ilā l-ḥaqq, *al-Aḥkām fī l-ḥalāl wa-l-ḥarām* (3rd ed., Yemen: Maktabat al-Turāth al-Islāmī, 2003), I, 91.

Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad ibn Jarīr al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh al-rusul wa-l-mulūk* (ed. Muhammad Abū l-Fadl Ibrāhīm; Cairo: Dār al-Maʿārīf, n.d.), VII, 160, 180; ʿAlī ibn

Muḥammad ibn 'Abd al-Wāḥid Ibn al-Athīr al-Shaybānī, al-Kāmil fī l-tārīkh (Bei-

⁴¹ Zayd ibn 'Alī, *al-Majmū' al-ḥadīthī wa-l-fiqhī*, 85.

⁴³ Al-Sayyāghī, *al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr*, II, 6.

Abdulkerim Özaydın, "Hâlid ibn Abdullah el-Kasrî [Khālid ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī]," *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi (DİA)* [*Turkish Religious Foundation Encyclopedia of Islam*], XV, 281-282; Mustafa Demirci, "Emevîlerin Irak Valisi Hâlid ibn Abdullah el-Kasrî'nin Hayatı ve Faaliyetleri [The Life and Activities of Khālid ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī, the 'Irāq Governor of the Umayyads],"

tivities of Khālid ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī, the 'Irāq Governor of the Umayyadsl," Dinbilimleri Akademik Araştırma Dergisi [Journal of Academic Research in Religious Studies] 4/3 (2004), 61-74; Melek Yılmaz Gömbeyaz, "Bir Emevî Valisi:

light of the accounts in *Tārīkh al-Tabarī*, Zayd ibn 'Alī was sent by Caliph al-Hishām ibn 'Abd al-Malik (r. 105-125/724-743) to Yūsuf ibn 'Umar to confront Khālid al-Qasrī, the previous governor, regarding a past case. 46 Zavd ibn 'Alī did not, however, leave al-Kūfa immediately, rather staying there for another four or five months. 47 Meanwhile, certain residents of al-Kūfa visited him and incited a rebellion.⁴⁸ Thereafter, the governor, who had been warned by Caliph al-Hishām, made continuous inquiries about Zayd and forced him to leave the city. 49 Zavd ibn 'Alī left the city, but returned upon promises of support by the al-Kūfa Shīʿīs who had followed him to al-Qādisiyya. 50 It was at this time that Zavd ibn 'Ali hid in al-Kūfa.⁵¹ He spent two months of his secret eleven-month preparations for rebellion⁵² in Basra. 53 According to an account in *al-Majmū*, upon his arrival in al-Kūfa Zavd hid. Therefore, Abū Hanīfa's meeting with Zavd ibn 'Alī during the latter's secret residence in al-Kūfa could have been possible only a few months before Zayd's death.⁵⁴

The Sunnī sources provide no reference to a meeting or dialogue between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd as related in al- $Majm\bar{u}^c$, and there is no evidence to show that he was taught by Zayd.

Apart from this account on the educational relationship between Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī, some historical and biographical sources give several accounts of Abū Ḥanīfa's opposition to the revolt of Zayd. Although they are not directly related to our subject, we would like to mention such accounts here in the hope of providing

- 46 Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 161.
- ⁴⁷ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 167.
- ⁴⁸ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 166.
- ⁴⁹ Al-Ţabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 169-171.
- ⁵⁰ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 166; Abū Ṭālib al-Nāṭiq bi-l-ḥaqq al-Hārūnī, *al-Ifāda fī tārīkh al-a'imma al-sāda* (Yemen: Manshūrāt Markaz Ahl al-Bayt, 2001), 45.
- ⁵¹ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 171.
- ⁵² al-Hārūnī, *al-Ifāda*, 47.
- ⁵³ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkb*, VII, 171.
- According to many accounts, Zayd ibn 'Alī passed away in 122/739-740, at the age of 42. See al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 180; Ibn al-Athīr, *al-Kāmil*, IV, 443; al-Dhahabī, *Siyar a'lām al-nubalā*' (Beirut: Mu'assasat al-Risāla, 1992), V, 390.

Hâlid b. Abdullah el-Kasrî [An Umayyad Governor: Khālid ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī]," *İSTEM* 8 (2006), 237-254, particularly 250.

some clues. As related in al-Ḥadā'iq al-wardiyya fī manāqib a'immat al-Zaydiyya by al-Mahallī (d. 652/1254), when Zayd ibn 'Alī began to invite people in al-Kūfa to pay homage to him, he sent al-Fudayl ibn al-Zubayr to Abū Hanīfa. When Fudayl came to Abū Ḥanīfa and delivered the letter from Zayd ibn 'Alī, Abū Ḥanīfa was speechless. Then, he cried, "Shame on you; what are you talking about?" Fudayl responded: "Why do you not help him? It is just to make *jihād* alongside him." Abū Hanīfa asked, "Which *faqīb*s have joined him?" Fudayl responded, "Salama ibn Kuhayl, Yazīd ibn Abī Ziyād, Hāshim Hārūn ibn Sa'd, Abū Hāshim al-Rummānī, Hajjāj ibn Dīnār and others." Abū Hanīfa did not give his final answer that day. The following day, when he secretly met with the envoy, he declared: "Send him my regards. As for rebellion with you (al-khurūj ma'ak), this I cannot do. However, I have assistance and power to help you in your *jihād* against your enemy; you and your companions may use this for mounts and weapons." Thus, he subsidized Zayd ibn 'Alī. The amount was rumored to be thirty thousand dirham or dīnār.55

Abū Ḥanīfa said the following regarding the revolt of Zayd ibn 'Alī: "This rebellion seems to be like the rising of the Prophet on the day of Badr." When asked why he had not joined in the war alongside Zayd ibn 'Alī, he answered: "If I knew people would not desert him, contrary to what they did to his grandfather, I would certainly join him in *jihād*, since he is the just imām. It is for this reason that I provided him with financial support." ⁵⁷

Assessment & Conclusion

1. At the beginning of the account in al- $Majm\bar{u}$, it is said that Zayd ibn 'Alī kept himself out of sight in a house when he arrived in

Hamīd al-Shahīd ibn Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-Maḥallī, al-Ḥadā'iq al-wardiyya fī manāqib a'immat al-Zaydiyya (ed. al-Murtaḍā ibn Zayd al-Maḥṭūrī; 2nd ed., Yemen: Maktabat Markaz Badr li-l-Ṭibā'a wa-l-Nashr, 2002), I, 254; cf. Aḥmad ibn Yaḥyā ibn Jābir al-Balādhurī, Kitāb jumal min Ansāb al-ashrāf (eds. Suhayl Zakkār and Riyāḍ Ziriklī; Beirut: Dār al-Fikr, 1996), III, 1361; Abū l-Faraj al-Iṣfahānī, Maqātil al-Ṭālibiyyīn, (ed. Sayyid Aḥmad Ṣaqr; Beirut: Dār al-Ma'rifa, n.d.), 147; al-Hārūnī, al-Ifāda, 46; Ibn al-Bazzāzī, Manāqib, 267.

⁵⁶ Ibn al-Bazzāzī, Manāqib, 267; Abū Zahra, Tārīkh al-madhāhib, 348; id., al-Imām Zayd, 71.

Al-Makkī, Manāqib, I, 342; Ibn al-Bazzāzī, Manāqib, 267, Abū Zahra, Tārīkh al-madhābib, 348; id., al-Imām Zayd, 71.

al-Kūfa. When Abū Hanīfa was informed of the situation, and after discussing it with colleagues, he visited Zayd. Therefore, Abū Hanīfa acknowledged Zayd ibn 'Alī. His decision may also indicate that Abū Hanīfa knew Zayd ibn 'Alī beforehand. Their acquaintance may date back to the visits of Abū Ḥanīfa in al-Ḥijāz, or perhaps to Zayd's sojourn in the city four to five months prior to his secret residence in al-Kūfa. Zayd ibn 'Alī was in al-Kūfa due to a lawsuit, and he was confronted by the former governor in the mosque at the behest of Caliph al-Hishām. It is improbable that Abū Hanīfa, known for his love of the Ahl al-bayt, was unaware of or indifferent to the meeting. Therefore, it is clear that Abū Hanīfa already knew Zayd at the time. As to the question of whether Abū Ḥanīfa had known Zayd before the latter came to al-Kūfa, we have no credible information. It is known, however, that Abū Hanīfa met with Muhammad al-Bāgir, Zavd's older brother, in Medina. It is possible that Abū Ḥanīfa met him either during this period or after the demise of al-Bāgir in Medina, where Zayd lived, or in Mecca during hajj. The words attributed to Abū Ḥanīfa about Zavd ibn 'Alī can be understood in this context. That is, Abū Hanīfa met Zayd, listened to his speeches and recognized his superior intellect. However, did Zavd ibn 'Alī know Abū Hanīfa? Was it a one-sided recognition, or a mutual acquaintance? The account of al-Majmū^c relates that during the meeting, Abū Ḥanīfa was introduced to Zayd ibn 'Alī as "a man among the faqībs of al-Kūfa," not as his student. Furthermore, the narrator Abū Khālid reports that he had been with Zayd ibn 'Alī for five years in Medina before the latter came to al-Kūfa. He claims that he lived with Zayd for months and followed him, even during hajj. He sat at Zayd's feet while in al-Kūfa, up until the time of his assassination.⁵⁸ As even this narrator, who reports that he was always with Zayd, describes Abū Ḥanīfa's introduction to Zayd in such a manner, it is clear that there was no mutual interaction between the two before this event.

Again, based on the statements of the narrator, we can conclude that this meeting occurred during Zayd's secret sojourn in al-Kūfa. As a matter of fact, because Zayd hid in the house of 'Abd Allāh ibn Zubayr al-Asadī, it is likely that this meeting happened during Zayd's secret residence, which began after his return from al-Qādisiyya and

⁵⁸ See Zayd ibn 'Alī, *Musnad al-Imām Zayd*, 340-341.

which lasted eleven months.⁵⁹ Therefore, we can reach the following conclusions:

First, prior to the meeting, Abū Ḥanīfa was a well-known <code>faqīb</code> in al-Kūfa, whose scientific authority is highly regarded by friends of Zayd. Accordingly, Zayd's friends introduced him as one among the <code>faqībs</code> of al-Kūfa. During the meeting, Abū Ḥanīfa did not open the conversation with Zayd. Instead, he caught Zayd's attention with his reference to the ḥadīth in response to Zayd's test.

Second, there is no source to confirm that Abū Ḥanīfa studied from Zayd for two years following the meeting. Therefore, it is impossible to suggest his dwelling in al-Kūfa was for this purpose. Additionally, at the time, Zayd ibn ʿAlī was too busy with preparations for the rebellion, making such a relationship unlikely.

2. As described above, the main source for the two-year discipleship of Abū Ḥanīfa under Zayd ibn 'Alī is Yaḥyā ibn al-Ḥusayn, who is a Zaydī. This assertion, however, based on this narrator of al- $Majm\bar{u}^{\varsigma}$, contradicts the account in $al-Majm\bar{u}^{\varsigma}$. Aḥmad ibn Yūsuf (d. 1191/1777), another narrator and commentator of *al-Majmū*, claims the due to the Umayyad government, Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd could meet only in secret. 60 Again, according to the account in al-Majmū^c, their meeting was a secret one. It has been demonstrated, however, that Zayd ibn 'Alī did not know Abū Ḥanīfa prior to this meeting. Moreover, this meeting is not proof that Abū Ḥanīfa studied with Zayd. Even if we accept that the beginning of his sojourn in al-Kūfa coincided with the meeting, it is well known that this period did not exceed one year. 61 In addition, this period was during a time when Zayd ibn 'Alī was constantly pursued by the governor's men and thus was continuously on the move. It is improbable he continued teaching during such a period. There is no satisfactory information which supports the assertion that Abū Ḥanīfa was a disciple of Zayd for two years while in al-Hijāz. In fact, what is certain about Abū Ḥanīfa's time in al-Hijāz is that it occurred between 130/747-748 and 132/749-750, long after Zayd ibn 'Alī's death.

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⁵⁹ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkb*, VII, 172, 173; al-Hārūnī, *al-Ifāda*, 47.

⁶⁰ Al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr, I, 66.

⁶¹ Al-Ṭabarī, *Tārīkh*, VII, 172-173; al-Hārūnī, *al-Ifāda*, 47.

- 3. According to the account in al-Majm \bar{u}^c , the dialogue between Zayd ibn 'Alī and Abū Hanīfa reveals that Abū Hanīfa's answers are based on a hadīth. Zayd did not ask him for its source. In Musnad al-*Imām Abī Hanīfa*, however, which compiles the hadīths narrated by Abū Ḥanīfa, it is explicitly stated that he attributed this account to the Prophet via narrators who were not among the Ahl al-bayt. Therefore, his response in the presence of a great scholar and faqīb like Zayd ibn 'Alī, and Zayd's satisfaction with this response, indicate that Abū Hanīfa possessed a high-level of knowledge. The ignorance of Zaydī narrators and writers, who claim that Abū Hanīfa was a student of Zayd, based on the abovementioned meanings derived from Abū Khālid's narration, indicate that their assessment is inaccurate. This conclusion is supported by the fact that al-Sayyāghī, while evaluating the argument that Abū Hanīfa studied with Zayd ibn 'Alī for two years in al-Rawd al-nadīr, does not go beyond referring to this belief in the introduction to the book, 62 and provides no further information about the connection between the two. 63
- 4. The most important support for those who support the claim that Abū Ḥanīfa was a disciple of Zayd ibn 'Alī is the following quote: "I have seen Zayd ibn 'Alī and his friends, but never have I seen a man more *faqīb*, wise, witty, or honest than him in his day. He was a peerless personality." There is, however, no source for these statements prior to the one related by al-Maqrīzī. 64
- 5. Aside from Zayd's father 'Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn, his elder brother Muḥammad al-Bāqir, Ja'far al-Ṣādiq and 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥasan, Zayd ibn 'Alī is also mentioned as one of the teachers of Abū Ḥanīfa; there is an impression that the last one was added on to the former names. There are historical sources for Abū Ḥanīfa's meeting with Muḥammad al-Bāqir and Ja'far al-Ṣādiq and studying with them. 65

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⁶² Al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr, I, 66.

⁶³ Al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawd al-nadīr, II, 5.

Here, it should be noted that Abū Ḥanīfa also uttered similar words about Ja'far al-Şādiq, however, the interpretation of this as if Abū Ḥanīfa was a student of Ja'far has been reasonably criticized. See İsmail Hakkı Ünal, "Ebû Hanife Üzerine Bir Sohbet [A Conversation on Abū Ḥanīfa]," İslâmî Araştırmalar (Ebû Hanife Özel Sayısı) [Islamic Researches (Special Issue: Abū Ḥanīfa)] 15/1-2 (2002), 327. Mehmet Atalan, "Ebû Hanife ve Ali Oğulları [Abū Ḥanīfa and the 'Alids]," Dinî Araştırmalar [Religious Studies] 8/24 (2006), 165-167.

⁶⁵ Al-Makkī, *Manāqib*, I, 143, 148.

However, the only source for his meeting and having a dialogue with Zayd is the dubious account found in $al-Majm\bar{u}^c$.

6. Abū Ḥanīfa and Zayd ibn 'Alī are contemporaries. Abū Ḥanīfa was born in 80/699-700.66 The earliest birth date given for Zavd ibn ^cAlī is 75/694-695. Other dates given are 76/695-696, 78/697-698, and even 80/699-700 as Zayd's year of birth. 67 Even if 75/694-695 is accurate, the age difference is insignificant, as there was no shame in studying from someone who was the same age or a few years older. It is striking, however, that Zavd is not considered to be among the sahāba and older tābi'ūn. It is unlikely that Abū Ḥanīfa would have studied from a peer when many tābi'ūn scholars and other prominent figures of Ahl al-bayt, such as 'Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn (d. 94/713) and his son Muhammad al-Bāgir (d. 114/732), were available. Although in Musnad al-Imām Abī Hanīfa, there are reports which Abū Hanīfa transmitted from Muḥammad al-Bāgir, 68 a man respected in both Sunnī and Shī'ī circles due to his scientific authority, and also from 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥasan⁶⁹ and Ja'far al-Ṣādiq,⁷⁰ who were alive after al-Bāgir's death, there is no narration from Zayd ibn 'Alī. 71

The educational and jurisprudential methodology of Abū Ḥanīfa also casts doubt upon the belief that he was a disciple of Zayd. It has been documented that Abū Ḥanīfa hashed out problems in a circle of experts from various backgrounds. Abū Ḥanīfa once stated that he always accepted the words of the ṣaḥāba in controversial matters, but as for the opinions of the tābi'ūn, such as Ibrāhīm, al-Sha'bī, Ibn Sīrīn, 'Aṭā', and Sa'īd ibn al-Musayyab, he added, "I can judge as they

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Abū 'Umar Yūsuf ibn 'Abd Allāh Ibn 'Abd al-Barr, al-Intiqā' fī faḍā'il al-a'imma al-thalātha al-fuqahā' (ed. 'Abd al-Fattāḥ Abū Ghudda; Beirut: Dār al-Bashā'ir al-Islāmiyya, 1997), 188.

Al-Sayyāghī preferred 75/694-695 as the date of his birth, while Muḥsin al-Amīn and Abū Zahra preferred 78/697-69 and 880/699-700 respectively. See al-Sayyāghī, al-Rawḍ al-naḍīr, I, 52; Muḥsin al-Amīn, A'yān al-Shī'a (Beirut: Dār al-Ta'āruf li-l-Maṭbū'āt, 1986), II, 107; Abū Zahra, al-Imām Zayd, 33. For further discussion see Gündüz, Zeyd bin Ali, 30-31.

⁶⁸ Abū Nu^caym, *Musnad*, 27.

⁶⁹ Abū Nu^caym, *Musnad*, 172.

Abū Nu^caym, Musnad, 66.

⁷¹ Abū Nu'aym, *Musnad*, 105.

⁷² Abū Zahra, *Tārīkh al-madhāhib*, 337.

do."⁷³ Zayd ibn 'Alī could be regarded to be one of the younger *tābi'ūn*.

7. Abū Ḥanīfa lists some of his teachers and talks extensively about Ḥammād while making no mention of Zayd ibn ʿAlī.⁷⁴ When he was asked about the source of his knowledge, he stated, "I was in the spring of knowledge and affiliated with one of the *faqīb*s there." The *faqīb* mentioned is Ḥammād ibn Abī Sulaymān (d. 120/738).⁷⁵ During Zayd ibn ʿAlī's lifetime Abū Ḥanīfa was a prominent disciple of the educational circle of Ḥammād in al-Kūfa, where there was a strong intellectual tradition from the time of 'Umar. After Ḥammād's death, Abū Ḥanīfa was assigned to be the head of this group, which was comprised of many *faqīb*s. Ḥammād passed away one or two years before the death of Zayd ibn ʿAlī.⁷⁶ Subsequently, Abū Ḥanīfa was placed in charge of the education in his master's group, while Zayd ibn 'Alī secretly prepared for revolt.⁷⁷

8. According to accounts of Abū Ḥanīfa's involvement in Zayd's revolt, it is reported that he provided financial support for Zayd ibn 'Alī, but did not pay homage to him. Abū Ḥanīfa had already reached the necessary intellectual maturity to construct his own attitude and behavior. These accounts, however, are considered unilaterally, in favor of the assertion that he was a disciple of Zayd.

In conclusion, according to the sources at our disposal, there is no credible evidence that Abū Ḥanīfa studied with Zayd ibn 'Alī, particularly in respect to the account in al- $Majm\bar{u}$ '. This account considers Abū Ḥanīfa to be a renowned $faq\bar{\imath}b$ even before meeting Zayd. Abū

Al-Makkī, Manāqib, 80; Abū l-Faḍl Jalāl al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Abī Bakr al-Suyūṭī, Tabyīḍ al-ṣaḥīfa fī manāqib Abī Ḥanīfa (ed. Maḥmūd Muḥammad Maḥmūd Naṣṣār; Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyya, 1990), 108, 112.

⁷⁴ In his own words, he followed his lessons for 18 years. When the Caliph al-Manşūr asked him from whom he had received knowledge, he answered, "From Ḥammād, from 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb, 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, 'Abd Allāh ibn Mas'ūd and 'Abd Allāh ibn 'Abbās through Ibrāhīm." For this and similar quotes, see Abū Bakr al-Khaṭīb Aḥmad ibn 'Alī al-Baghdādī, *Tārīkh Baghdād aw Madīnat al-salām* (Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, n.d.), XIII, 334; Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 30.

⁷⁵ See Abū Zahra, *Abū Ḥanīfa*, 71; id., *Tārīkh al-madhāhib*, 333, 335.

⁷⁶ Al-Dhahabī, *Manāqib*, 11.

⁷⁷ Al-Makkī, *Manāqib*, 61.

Hanīfa was perhaps mistakenly considered to be one of the disciples of Zayd ibn 'Alī because of his explicit sympathy toward the Ahl albayt, his support for Zayd ibn 'Alī's revolt, and his words of praise for Zayd's scholarship. Later, this belief became a common conviction that has been disseminated through recent works on the subject.

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