Worksheet for Sabiha Göloğlu’s “Touching Mecca and Medina: The Dalāʾil al-Khayrāt and Devotional Practices” by Sascha Crasnow (to be used with video linked here)

Key Takeaways:

1. What is the Dalāʾil al-Khayrāt and what is the meaning of this phrase?

2. What is the content of the sections that comprise the Dalāʾil al-Khayrāt?

3. Where are their headpieces throughout the text? What is their function? Why are they aesthetically different from one another?
4. What are the signs that the Dalāʾil al-Khayrāt manuscripts discussed in the presentation were heavily used?

5. What devotional acts may have led to the wear visible in this Dalāʾil al-Khayrāt? What were some of the potential purposes or aims of the use with this physical engagement with the images of Mecca and Medina?

Contextualizing the Work

Choose another example from religious or secular life of an object that displays evidence of physical engagement. What is the significance of this object, who typically engages with it, and what is the perceived function of interacting physically with it?