

Question 1389) - What is Waqf?

A: Literally it means to keep back. In shari'ah it is to keep an item in the status of ownership of the waqif [one making the endowment] whilst giving the benefit in charity.*

* Which is according to Abu Hanifah RAH. According to the other two Imams, it is keeping an item in the status of the ownership of Allah. "Ownership of the waqif" according to Abu Hanifah RAH. means before a court decision, because after a judge rules then the ownership is removed from the Waqif according to him as well.

~ al-Quduri ~