

## Scientific and Cultural Endowment

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According to Mulla Sadra's Transcendental Philosophy, a nation's scientific advancement develops gradually and fundamentally through substantial motion. He emphasizes that charitable donations and ongoing benevolent acts purify the human soul from worldly attachments, ultimately leading to detachment from all but Allah. This detachment holds a high position in the hierarchy of spiritual and intellectual development. Mulla Sadra also asserts that global resources are finite and shared among all humanity; thus, monopolizing these resources by a select few is intellectually unacceptable. Consequently, wealth derived from divine resources should be distributed among people through charitable giving. This perspective underscores the necessity of educating students and scholars to establish Iran's scientific and civilizational authority. Furthermore, Iran's historical experience demonstrates that attracting and repatriating scholars plays a crucial role in scientific development. Throughout different periods, academic centers such as Gondishapur, Nizamiyyah schools, and Rab'-e Rashidi have provided fertile ground for nurturing elites through endowments dedicated to science. As a longstanding tradition, **waqf** (endowment) requires reassessment and adaptation to contemporary needs to support scientific and technological advancements while preserving its spiritual essence.

Today, the concept of waqf can extend beyond physical assets to include intangible resources such as knowledge, financial shares, and investments for scientific development. This transformation, coupled with the strengthening of scientific diplomacy, will pave the way for Iran to reclaim its position in the global knowledge sphere. Notably, Islamic waqf fundamentally differs from other global endowment systems, as it is rooted in the donor's intention to seek divine proximity. Unlike modern charitable foundations, which primarily focus on social or economic goals, Islamic waqf is established with the purpose of attaining closeness to Allah, ensuring its lasting impact on both worldly and spiritual levels.

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