

Tradition

The transmission of customs of beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.¹

Tradition includes all the varied practices that develop over time, cumulative from varying influences. There is no such thing as an hermetically sealed tradition (at least from the historical perspective).

The tradition's 'origin' may and surely ought to be in the words of pure devotees, that is our philosophy. But from origins comes practice by followers, who must and will respond to particular circumstances.

There are many things that we do that weren't specifically, exactly, codified by Prabhupada or previous acaryas or *sastra*. A tradition that doesn't develop through cooperative dedicated followers (the '*sadhu*' component in '*guru-sadhu-sastra*' authority structure) is no longer a living tradition; rather it is a dead exhibit in an ethnological museum.

There are also many 'religious' practices that are traditions and have no basis in the teachings of the various faiths.

¹ Oxford American Dictionary