



# Traditions and Customs



# Traditions --- Heritage

- The passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation
- A mode of thought or behavior followed by a people continuously from generation to generation; a custom or usage.
- A set of such customs and usages viewed as a coherent body of precedents influencing the present
- *The dead govern the living.* - Auguste Comte

# Custom--- Habit

- A habitual way of behaving
- Habitual group pattern of behavior that is transmitted from one generation to another and is not biologically determined.
- Since societies are perpetually changing, no matter how slowly, all customs are basically impermanent.
- If short-lived, they are more properly called fashions.
- Customs form the core of human **culture** and are stronger and more persistent in preindustrial societies than in industrial ones, in rural than in urban areas.

# Comparison

## Tradition

Mode of thoughts or behaviors of a group of people passed down from generation to generation

**Synonym: Heritage**

## Custom

Habitual group pattern of behavior that is transmitted from one generation to another

**Synonym: Habit**

Thinking or behavioral  
Cultural elements  
passed down  
from generation  
to generation