Marshall G. S. Hodgson’s seminal work, *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and as required by circumstance*, is an essential book for all serious students of Islamic History in a World Civilization. From this anecdote, it appears that Hodgson believes that tradition can cease to be living, degenerating to mere transmission. He places the life force of a particular tradition in the hands of those who represent a high "The Classical Age of Islam," and covers a culture.