



THE CROSSING

The encounter of traditional societies with modernity has shown that in most cases, the new and ever-changing forms of technology tend to devalue, deconstruct and dispossess age-old civilizational symbols of culture. Modernity gives no place to the normative ideals of a given society, a category which defines and sustains the cultural identity and symbols of ancient civilizational cultures such as India. Rarely does the form of modern technology adapt to the lifestyle, symbols and metaphors of tradition. The worldviews of modern technological societies and the ancient traditional societies are opposed to one another. These oppositions have posed a great challenge to modern creativity and the power of imagination. The Crossing Project presents a pioneering effort to unite the finest and the noblest in Indian tradition with new computer technology. The emphasis of the project is to create a unique idiom of Indian modernity where none of the streams of knowledge, technology or tradition are at variance but are integrated in a harmonious semblance. It is in this consciously

innovated fusion that Banaras gets represented in a unique way, and the project becomes an important cultural preservation tool and a learning tool for all audiences.

Dr Madhu Khanna