

## IS THE GOOGLE MAKING US STUPID?

*With Google in our hands, we have convinced ourselves that we need not acquire knowledge anymore. No need for that painstaking effort. Why bother? Google is there! The Google is so much our servant that we fail to realise that it has also become our master! We have done away with the need for cultivation of memory, a data base in our heads and a store of knowledge which makes us intelligent. Because there's always Google.*

*With each enlargement of memory and our store of knowledge comes an enlargement of our intelligence. But with Google, we feel memory is no longer required and when we substitute it with our personal memory, we empty our minds of its contents, of its store of knowledge. We become stupid. If we choose to outsource our memory to Google and our store of knowledge to Wikipedia – instead of having them inside our heads – we lose our intelligence. Google is turning out to be not an aid to our memory, but a technology of forgetfulness. Because whatever we extract from the Google is only for short term consumption. We hardly remember it after a while. We build technologies to help us and then those technologies shape us. Things are in the saddle.....And ride mankind...Emerson had said commenting on the delusion mankind suffers from: that things are there to serve us.*

*Yes, in its own way Google is a great blessing but we should not outsource our memory, our store of knowledge, our intelligence and our thinking itself to the machines just because it's so convenient. Because that would lead to our own redundancy and obsolescence. If we deliberately choose to become stupid, then tomorrow we should not complain that we have been made redundant and obsolete when Artificial Intelligence would take over from us the job of running the world. Since we ourselves have chosen to cede control of our lives to the machines. Because it's not going to stop at Google. It's not going to stop at Alexa. Or Siri – or whatever.*

*An Extract from my book AN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND: Journeys in the Modern Mindscape*