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## No Confidence in the Guru.

From The Outlook.

It is not safe to trust utterly the guidance of the Hindu fancy, or to put great reliance upon intellects which are so little troubled by contradictions and absurdities. Of course there are notable exceptions in such careful scholars as Dr. Bhandarkar of Poona. I may tell right here a brief story which throws light on some of these things. The late Ramkrishna Paramahansa was called by one of his disciples, in talking with me in Calcutta, "the greatest man of the nineteenth century." He is believed by some to have greatly influenced Keshub Chunder Sen. He was the religious teacher, the guru, of Vivekananda.

Max Müller dubs him "a true Mahatma." The learned Oxford professor told me that he asked Vivekananda if Ramkrishna knew Sanskrit. The answer at first was evasive, but finally he said, "When Ramkrishna was in the jungle as an ascetic, a beautiful woman came down from heaven and taught him the language." Max Müller's very natural reply was, "Nonsense! The only way to learn Sanskrit is to get a grammar and a dictionary and go to work."

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