Multiplicity of gods and their abundant presence in temples, houses and streets, is quite fascinating in India. Are Hindus acquainted with monotheism or do they believe in the existence of a single divine creator? This was the issue which was discussed by Dr. Farzaneh Azam Lotfi in 21st of October 2012 at Hinduism workshop.

Basically, polytheism or monotheism in Hinduism is not comparable to other monotheistic religions. Hinduism cannot also be explained by philosophy since it cannot be adapted in mind. The word Hinduism can be described by the Sanskrit word “Darshan” which means seeing and perceiving. In Hinduism, darshan refers to the perception of the ultimate Truth and “Darshana” refers to a man of faith. The question is can we consider 330 million Hindus monotheists?

Worshiping rituals in many human civilizations are: 1- Animism or belief in the existence of spirit 2- nature worshipping (tree, sun, moon) 3-polytheism or belief in multiple deities 4-monotheism and eventually pantheism. From a non-Hindu point of view, it seems that they have not passed worshiping nature, while Hindus believe that “Aishwarya” is the ultimate truth which their existence is expressed in form of three muritis (Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva) statues in houses and temples (pic1). In fact, people go to Hindu temple to be forgiven through the three muritis by “Aishwarya”. However, modern changes and additions to historical Hinduism made a huge difference in primary beliefs of the religion.