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Hot new Ferrari rolls into town

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Pictures by YAHYA ZAIN

ELEGANTLY dressed in a chilli red embroidered saree with a matching long-sleeved blouse, Rashmi cuts a glamorous figure with her exquisite features and long, straight ebony tresses.

Whizzing into the Aashwasan Life Enhancement Centre's office in Puchong, Rashmi clasps her hands to her chest, in the traditional Indian form of greeting and proffers apologies for arriving slightly late for the interview.

"I'm still a bit confused in trying to find my way around here," she says as she hugs her friends at the centre, adding in almost the same breath... "shall we have that wonderful thing you have here... what's it called?... ah, teh tarik!"

With her attractive looks and demure nature, the 35-year-old from Bangalore, India can be easily mistaken for a model or even a Bollywood actress.

But she is neither. Instead, Rashmi is a spiritual 'scientist' who claims to have extrasensory perception (ESP) and aura science which enables her to see and understand people at all levels — physiological, psychological and spiritual.

Rashmi says she has been using her ability to help people discover and correct imbalances in their life.

The ability to see a person's magnetic aura and their past, present and future with just one look is something that Rashmi says she was born with.

She didn't realise she had this until she was in preschool.

"I see every person in the form of millions of yellow beams and then get glimpses of the person's physical features.

"I thought that was what everyone else saw as well until I realised at the age of six that my experience of life was different from my friends," she says, between sips of steaming *teh tarik*.

She recalls how in preschool, she had a vision of her friend's father dying the next day.

"When I told my friend about her father's impending death, she did not believe me. That's when I realised that she was looking at time in a different zone and I was looking at it as if it was happening right there. That made me realise that I was experiencing things differently," she says.

Spiritual 'scientist' Rashmi Aiyappa tells P. SELVARANI that she is very much an ordinary person despite her special sensory gifts

Seeing visions of the past and future can be unnerving for anyone, let alone a preschooler, but Rashmi says it wasn't a scary experience, even as a child.

"It was a very normal feeling for me. It doesn't scare me because I don't think I'm different and it's a constant phenomena. I think it would have been complicated if I had an experience similar to yours and suddenly got those visions. I would then be confused.

"For me, life is more beautiful like this because I value it more. I think I am more humbled because we are such great creations of this planet. There is nothing more magnificent than a human creation," she says in her soft, lilting voice.

The English Literature graduate says she lived a normal life "like any other girl". She went to college and eventually joined the corporate sector where she served for 15 years in various capacities including the country head of a corporate strategic management company and CEO of a telecommunications company.

Rashmi recalls that on the day she turned 30, she was woken up from her slumber at about 5am by a vision

"If there's anything I worship, it's nature. If I have a religion, it's humanity and if there's anything I believe in, it's love. These are simple things I live with."

— Rashmi

— a tunnel of bright light and an inner voice told her that it was time to reveal her self.

"I immediately went to my dad and told him that I wanted to register Aashwasan (which means 'reassurance' in Sanskrit).



Rashmi never felt she was different in anyway

Extraordinary life

"I felt like my outer shell had been broken. The outer Rashmi was learning to make the gap smaller for me to communicate with the rest of the world. From that day onwards, things happened everyday," she says.

Was it a struggle for her to lead a dual life all these years since she saw the world in a different way but lived like everyone else?

Rashmi smiles and replies: "It was difficult, yes, but in a natural way. For example, if you are a mother of young twins, it can be difficult, right? But it's also a beautiful experience. That's what I felt. It was difficult because I could not be liberated inside and be who I am. But it was beautiful because I knew it was for a reason."

While she claims to be able to see everyone's aura, Rashmi does not have the same experience with her family members.

"I don't have it even with my own life. I don't see my own past, present, future. I live minute by minute.

But for others who have not intervened in my life, I can. I guess as you grow older, you realise that it was meant to be like that," she adds.

Her experience has made her a more loving and giving person and she has learnt to appreciate humanity more. She also dismisses any notion of portraying herself as a superior being.

"At all times, I want to be an ordinary person, a normal being like everybody else. I never would play God. Whatever it may be, no human can be God.

"I am like any other person. I eat non-vegetarian food, I can have a glass of wine with you..."

"I'm doing what I was born to do. I'm not hurting, harming or lying, I am not cooking up stories or doing a drama. I don't enjoy anybody falling at my feet and calling me 'mataji'. I'm NOT 'mataji'.

"With gratitude and love you call me, I respect it. But you do it because you think I expect it from you, it's not

true!" she stresses.

Rashmi admits that many people are sceptical of what she claims to be able to do, but she is merely trying to help people take stock of their life and be responsible for themselves.

"These are the people who will know what life is. I'm trying to put perspective at a fundamental level. You need to have a realistic perspective. Can beautiful stuff happen to you?"

Her Kohl-lined brown eyes light up when she talks about her two-year-old daughter Rayna.

"Being a mother is the best gift in the planet. It fills you with a deep sense of unconditional love. You accept the child for what she is and you respect her as an individual. A mother's love is ageless, unconditional and infinite.

"I used to ask myself: if I have my own child, will it change what I feel? Actually, I saluted humanity far more after that (after giving birth to my daughter). Love is infinite...it's beyond physical and human life. So even if

I'm dead and gone, I leave my love behind. That's free," she says, her eyes tearing at the mention of her daughter.

She then breaks out in girlish laughter when I ask her what she loves doing in her free time.

"I love singing... I thought I was going to be a singer! I used to sing professionally as I was trained in Hindustani classical songs. I also love dancing, trying out different types of food, travelling and writing poetry.

"If there's anything I worship, it's nature. If I have a religion, it's humanity and if there's anything I believe in, it's love. These are simple things I live with," she adds.

Apart from India and Malaysia, Aashwasan also has offices in Sri Lanka, Australia, the United Kingdom, Norway, Latvia and the United States.

The Aashwasan Life Enhancement Centre in Puchong can be contacted at 03-8061 4735. Visit its site at: www.aashwasan.com.

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