

MILLENNIAL

WOMAN

MAGAZINE

GRACE,
GRIT &
GOLD

**REBEKAH
PILLAY'S**

EMPOWERED
EVOLUTION





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In a world that often asks women to choose between strength and softness, ambition and authenticity, Rebekah Pillay refuses to compromise. A Mrs India World finalist, respected financial advisor, and fierce advocate for women's empowerment, Rebekah's journey is a testament to the power of reinvention and the grace required to rise, again and again. From navigating the deeply personal upheaval of divorce to walking the dazzling path of pageantry, Rebekah has shown that true beauty lies in courage, and that gold is forged in the fire of adversity. In this candid conversation, she opens up about redefining herself, finding her voice, and helping women take control of their financial futures, one bold move at a time.

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Q) Can you tell us about the journey that led you to become a finalist in the Mrs India World pageant?

A) I was nominated by a friend who believed in my success. She watched me wade through the recent rough waters in my life and my resilience to push through everything. I believe that it was a gift I needed to fully unpack parts of me which previously were only uncovered at surface level.

Q) How do you balance your identity as a financial advisor with your roles in pageantry and advocacy?

A) It's a difficult balancing act but I embrace challenges which is my biggest contributor to excelling. I pre plan and schedule everything down to phone calls. I allocate time and remind myself to be fully present. Wherever I am, I want to be there with all my heart. So, I give my best to each task at hand. I make time and prioritise.

Q) What has been the most defining moment in your personal or professional journey so far?

A) My defining moment for my professional journey is my 'aha' moments when I plan correctly for some needs of a client and when the need arises, they have adequate cover. It's the mission accomplished, blow off the smoker from the barrel after a shot has been fired feeling. In my personal journey it was finding my feet or should I say landing on my feet after my recent divorce. When a life I built for 12 years, when the boat started to rock. All I knew changed and I had to land on feet. By the grace of God I made it to the other side and that has been a defining moment in my personal capacity.

Q) What does women empowerment mean to you in 2025?

A) We as women need so much support. What we do on a daily basis shouldn't be taken lightly. The strength of a woman is earth shattering and for me women empowerment is pulling out their inner strength and resilience especially in moments when all is gone and you are empty and the only place to look is inside yourself. It's destiny changing and empowerment in its best form.

Q) Why is financial literacy so crucial for women, especially in today's economy?

A) Studies show that women do most of the shopping in fact more than men, and I don't mean the shoes and bags. I mean the household purchasing of groceries etc. Women need to be equipped and educated about all things finance until it becomes a comfortable topic. It's often seen as a taboo topic. And stats also show that women would rather speak about death than their finances. This highlights just how uncomfortable women are to speak about this imperative topic let alone the anxieties of handling the finance.

Q) What are three core money principles you believe every woman should know?

A) Budgeting. More than 90% of millionaires budget and stick to the goal. It's important to track your monthly expenses it builds a discipline your future self will thank you for. Secondly, invest in yourself. Pay yourself too. Build your comfortable emergency fund that allows you to make bold decisions without fear worry or holding back. Lastly, protect what you have by building the right financial plan with the right financial advisor for your journey. Should the unforeseen occur you are insured comprehensively

Q) How can women start building wealth even with limited resources or financial knowledge?

A) Everything is difficult until you start, and I like the 5second rule. After you have prayed and your heart is pumping...jump in and trust God to fulfil the desires he placed in your heart. Look for your passion because it makes the work feel like play and just crawl until you can walk. More importantly build your sisterhood and network of strong women around you. For me that has been the biggest blessing.

Q) Finally, what legacy are you hoping to leave behind, both as a professional and as a woman?

A) One of courage and resilience despite the long list of why it wasn't possible. Despite the hometown you come from. Despite the stigma of divorce. Despite your age or any other restrictions