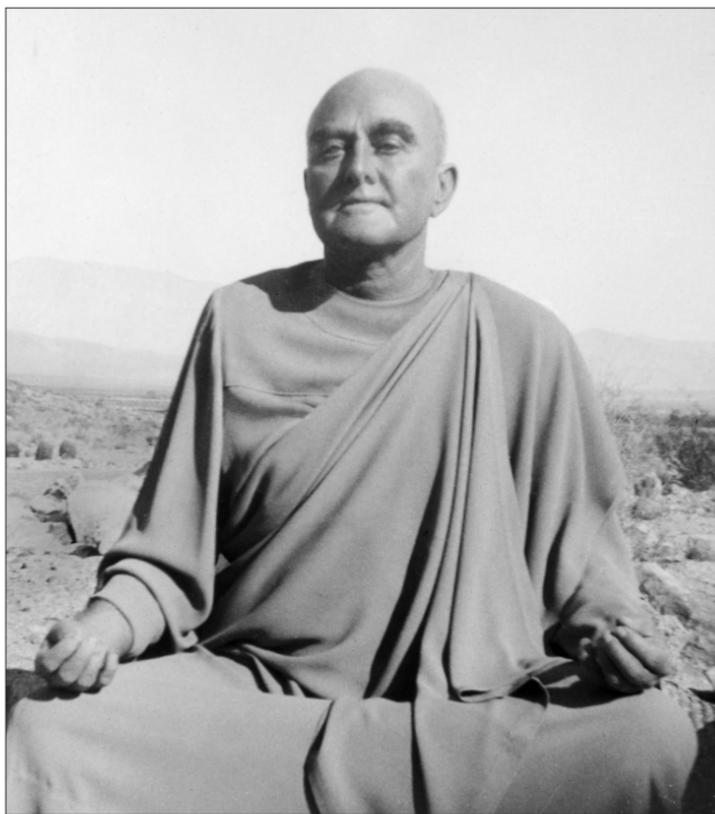


## CONTENTS

Rajarsi Janakananda (James J. Lynn) . . . . .	9
James J. Lynn: An American Success Story . . . . .	11
Saint Lynn: The Business Magnate Who Became God-Illumined . . . . .	29
You and I Are Free Forever ( <i>poem</i> ). . . . .	50
<i>Paramahansa Yogananda</i>	
Words of Paramahansa Yogananda	
About Mr. Lynn (Rajarsi Janakananda) . . . . .	53
Pulling Together the Divine Chariot . . . . .	63
( <i>Personal Letters From Paramahansa Yogananda to Rajarsi Janakananda</i> )	
Mr. Lynn's Words About Paramahansa Yogananda	
and the Self-Realization Path . . . . .	135
A Little Birthday Gift ( <i>poem</i> ). . . . .	159
<i>Paramahansa Yogananda</i>	
Eulogies at Rajarsi's Funeral . . . . .	161
The Eternal Friends ( <i>poem</i> ) . . . . .	168
<i>Prabhas Chandra Ghosh</i>	
Press Comments About Mr. Lynn. . . . .	171
Messages From Friends and SRF Centres . . . . .	175
Services for Rajarsi in India. . . . .	181
The Line of Great Masters Behind Paramahansa Yogananda . . . . .	184
Paramahansa Yogananda . . . . .	186
Aims and Ideals of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. . . . .	188



RAJARSI JANAKANANDA

(JAMES JESSE LYNN)

*May 5, 1892–February 20, 1955*

Revered president, 1952–1955, of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India  
and Self-Realization Fellowship.

Ideal disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda for more than  
twenty-three years.

## Rajarsi Janakananda (James J. Lynn)

*“...one of the most sensational American success stories.”*

—Kansas City Star

*“...one of Kansas City’s most remarkable stories of individual brilliance and achievement.”*

—Kansas City Times

*“The scope of his activities implies that he is one of the busiest executives in this part of the United States.”*

—Kansas City Star

*“...people who like the ring of the term ‘business empire’ could put him in the empire class....”*

—Kansas City Star

*“...I have never seen him when he was not inwardly communing with God.”*

*“...he has attained in samadhi the grace of unshakable peace.”*

*“Because God is reflected in his countenance, his very face sends me into the inner spiritual ecstasy of God’s presence.”*

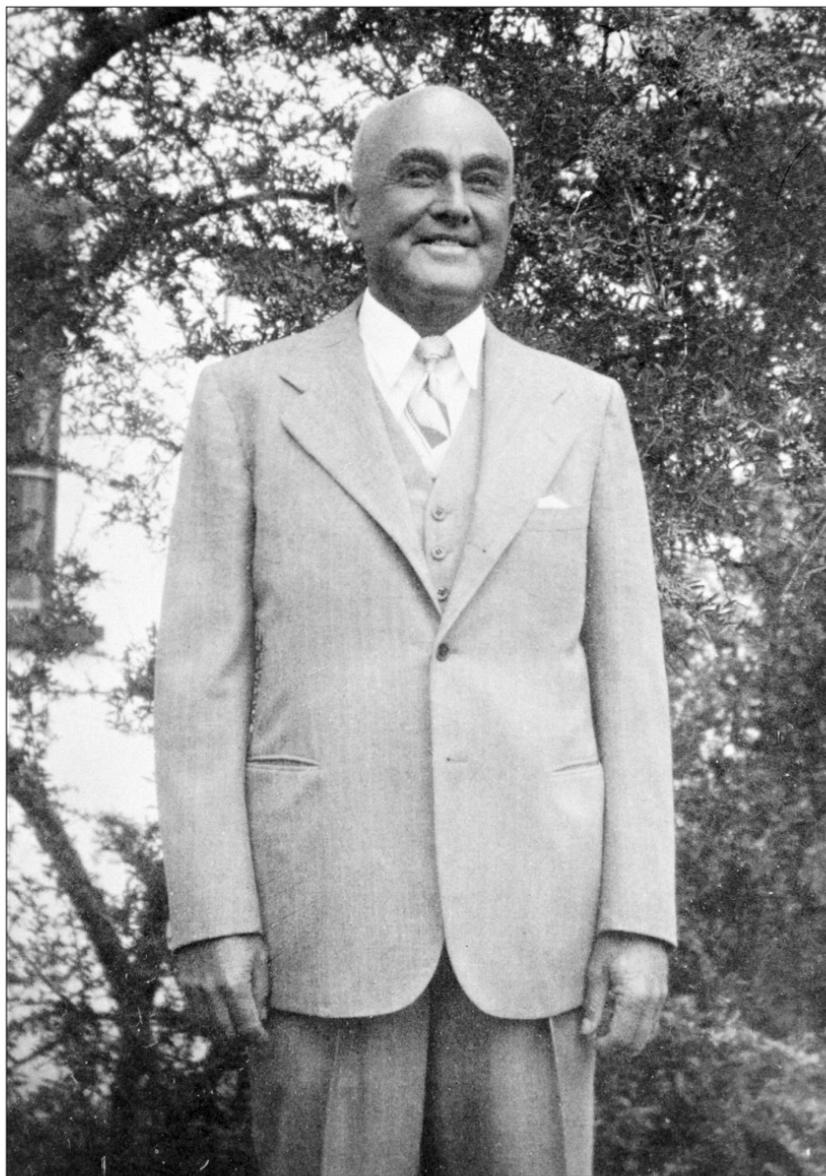
*“In him and in a number of other Occidentals I happily see a fulfillment of Babaji’s prophecy that the West, too, would produce saints of true Self-realization through the ancient yogic path.”*

—Paramahansa Yogananda

One of the most extraordinary and inspiring stories in the annals of modern spirituality lies behind the fact that all of the above statements refer to the same man.

Known to the business world as James J. Lynn, he is revered by countless Yogoda Satsanga Society of India/Self-Realization Fellowship members and friends as Rajarsi Janakananda, beloved and exalted disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda and his first spiritual successor as president of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India/Self-Realization Fellowship.

James Jesse Lynn was born on May 5, 1892, near the small village of Archibald, Louisiana. The remarkable story of his rise from poverty-stricken beginnings to become a self-made millionaire—and of his transformation from business magnate to God-illuminated saint—is recounted in the following biographical sketches.



Rajarsi Janakananda outside the Self-Realization Fellowship Hermitage,  
Encinitas, California, 1951

# James J. Lynn: An American Success Story

BY DICK FOWLER

*Reporter, Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Missouri*

*The following biography, reprinted by permission of the Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Missouri, was published in that newspaper on May 13, 1951. The article was later included in "Leaders In Our Town," a book by Mr. Fowler on the lives of prominent Kansas Citizens.*

At nine o'clock on the morning of the ninth day of the ninth month in the year 1909 a homesick seventeen-year-old youth named Jimmy Lynn got off the train at the old Union Depot. Perhaps even then the something different in his nature was coming to the surface, something that caused him to notice the coincidence of the number 9.

Although the day was Sunday, he walked across the railroad tracks to the Missouri Pacific office above the freight house. Men were working, so he went to work.

Some twelve years later the whole business community of Kansas City knew James J. Lynn, successor to U. S. Epperson, and owner (with a huge debt) of the insurance underwriting company for a large share of the lumber industry. He stood out as a youthful prodigy.

## **Builder of a "Business Empire"**

This year, 1951, people who like the ring of the term "business empire" could put Mr. Lynn in the empire class, at least by Kansas City standards. It spreads into three separate insurance operations, and into oil production, citrus fruits, railroading, and a substantial banking interest. Financially the original Epperson enterprise is now overshadowed by oil, but it is the largest reciprocal fire exchange in the world.

This man who pushes ahead, building and expanding in the world of big business, is unique. In one sense he suggests a mystic in Babylon, a man more concerned with a religious philosophy than with any of the showy or luxurious things that money can buy.

### Life Close to Nature

His private office in the R. A. Long Building breathes financial stability: a massive walnut office hung with heavy draperies in the manner of past decades. The bald man behind the heavy desk is bronzed from persistent living outdoors. Life close to nature is part of his creed. His face is so sensitive that you hardly notice the square jaw. There is nothing about him to suggest the bulldog type....

The scope of his activities implies that he is one of the busiest executives in this part of the United States. From this intensely practical life he takes time out for meditation; contemplates the meanings of humanity in the vast scheme of things. Out of these meditations and years of Bible reading and reading from other religions he has developed his own approach to the Christian philosophy. He discusses it freely, but not in a way that is easy for a visitor to understand. Superficially you can say it is wrapped up with the physical and mental side of daily living close to nature. To this writer it suggests a return to the simplicity of Christianity in earlier times when people worshipped in the forests.

The exercises which he takes outdoors (breathing, tensing, and relaxing exercises) may have been suggested by his reading of Oriental religions. This line of study started with a book by E. Stanley Jones, the famous missionary in Asia.\*

### An Estate of Forest and Orchards and Vineyards

Most Kansas Citians have driven past the 100-acre Lynn estate which lies between Sixty-third Street, Meyer Boulevard, and Paseo and Prospect. For years people have mentioned it in connection with his nine-hole golf course. The golf course was abandoned some years ago.

Beyond the fences and the shelter of dense foliage lie a forest and orchards and vineyards. This is James J. Lynn's outdoor retreat from early spring to late fall. He stays close to the orchards from the early flowering time to the season of harvest, and glows over the opportunity to give away fruits. In the forest are some 2,000 fine hardwood trees

\* One of the first books on Indian philosophy read by Mr. Lynn was a volume by Mr. Jones, but Mr. Lynn said that he was introduced to Hindu thought through an English translation of the Bhagavad Gita. (*Publisher's Note*)