

## If You Give Me Your Attention

King Gama's song from *Princess Ida; or, Castle Adamant* (bass)

Text by *Sir William Schwenck Gilbert* (1839-1911) [Br]

Set by *Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan* (1842-1900) [Br]

**If you give me your attention, I will tell you what I am:**  
[ɪf ju ɡɪv mi jɔr ə.'tɛn.tʃən a:ɪ wɪl tɛl ju ʌt a:ɪ æm]

**I'm a genuine philanthropist— all other kinds are sham.**  
[a:ɪm ʌ 'ɡɛn.ju.ɪn fr.'lænt.θrə.pɪst ɔl 'ʌð.ə ka:ɪndz ær ʃæm]

Each little fault of temper and each social defect  
In my erring fellow-creatures, I endeavour to correct.  
To all their little weaknesses I open people's eyes;  
And little plans to snub the self-sufficient I devise;  
I love my fellow creatures— I do all the good I can—  
Yet ev'rybody says I'm such a disagreeable man!  
And I can't think why!

To compliments inflated I've a withering reply;  
And vanity I always do my best to mortify;  
A charitable action I can skillfully dissect;  
And interested motives I'm delighted to detect;  
I know ev'rybody's income and what ev'rybody earns;  
And I carefully compare it with the income-tax returns;  
But to benefit humanity however much I plan,  
Yet ev'rybody says I'm such a disagreeable man!  
And I can't think why!

I'm sure I'm no ascetic; I'm as pleasant as can be;  
You'll always find me ready with a crushing repartee,  
I've an irritating chuckle, I've a celebrated sneer,  
I've an entertaining snigger, I've a fascinating leer...

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The entire text to this title with the complete  
IPA transcription is available for download.

*Thank you!*

