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### Consequentialism

In the story "Understanding" by Ted Chiang, Leon, and Reynolds go in different directions after gaining special abilities through K Hormone Therapy. Leon is on a constant quest to learn, discover the truth, and find beauty. He's not just interested in academics; he's committed to getting better and reaching perfection. This shows that he's deeply involved in exploring big ideas and deep thoughts. Leon's main focus is figuring out how the world works and enjoying the finer parts of life. He's not just trying to understand things on the surface; he wants to appreciate the subtle and beautiful aspects that make life interesting. Leon's journey isn't just about knowing things; it's about exploring the deep and meaningful questions that shape our understanding of life. In simple terms, Leon's path is like a never-ending adventure into the interesting and important parts of life. Whether he's digging into science, philosophy, or things that look good, Leon is always trying to uncover the truth, gain knowledge, and find beauty in the complicated puzzle of life.

On the contrary, Reynolds is described as someone with a deep affection for humanity. This characterization suggests that his priorities revolve around the welfare and concerns of people. Instead of immersing himself in abstract concepts or personal refinement, Reynolds opts for a more empathetic approach. He places significance on the lives of individuals and prioritizes addressing their worries and needs, showcasing a strong sense of compassion.

Looking at things from a utilitarian perspective, Reynolds may think that the overall happiness, satisfaction, and sense of purpose that come from human connections and shared experiences are more important than what Leon is focused on individually. In other words, Reynolds might believe that the joy and fulfillment people get from being together and having shared moments are more valuable than what one person, like Leon, seeks for themselves.

Reynolds could see the depth of human relationships, emotions, and the shared experiences we have with others as the core elements that make life meaningful. In his view, the happiness and fulfillment that many people can have by connecting with each other might be more significant than the personal pursuits and improvements that Leon is striving for on his own. It's a perspective that places emphasis on the collective well-being and shared moments that make life rich and meaningful for everyone involved.

Reynolds' decision to prioritize the well-being of others may stem from a belief in the deep connections that exist among all humans, even with their imperfections. He might think that these connections give life a sense of purpose and importance. For Reynolds, contributing to the happiness and welfare of others, despite humanity's flaws, brings meaning to his own life. In contrast, Leon's viewpoint might be that humanity is insignificant and lacks purpose, focusing more on individual understanding and self-improvement.

From Reynolds' perspective, Leon's pursuit of personal understanding and perfection might appear too narrow and self-centered. Reynolds may see this as missing the bigger picture of shared human experiences and the potential for collective happiness. In other words, while Leon is concentrating on his own growth and enlightenment, Reynolds values a broader, more inclusive approach that considers the interconnectedness of people and the possibility of finding fulfillment through shared experiences and collective well-being. Hence, Reynolds applied consequentialist thinking, in line with a utilitarian viewpoint, leading him to see Leon's outlook on humanity as lacking in significance and being self-centered.