**What is important to you in life? More importantly, why do you have those values?**

The most important thing to me in life is my friends. I’ve noticed with time that the moments where I am the most happy is where I am mentally engaged and hanging out with people I love.

My friends challenge me. Their diversity means that every day I’m exposed to different topics, ideas and opinions that I would probably would not have encountered easily in my day to day life. This exposure forces me to rethink what I believe and makes me grow.

Also, having a strong support network is extremely important and helps you navigate the ups and downs of life. I am there to support them and they are there to support me if anything goes south.

I don’t personally enjoy shopping or getting material things that much, but if I ever do, it fizzes away quickly. The growth, knowledge and memories I’ve made by spending time with friends are going to remain with me forever and make me a better person.

**What do you think are some of the most pressing problems in the world?**

Pressing problem 1:

The causes and consequences of climate change are not understood by the general population, which makes it seem like a less urgent issue, and decreases the chances of people becoming involved in the solution.

Bill Gates’ book on climate change does a good job of explaining his and putting the urgency into perspective. He shows how a change in fractions of a degree of the global temperatures can kill millions of people and destroy trillions of dollars worth of economic progress, especially in global south countries.

Most organizations are very focused on fixing climate issues and are not very focused on improving the misinformation situation. The later is easier to attack, but it can still have a huge impact on the final result.

Pressing problem 2:

Too many high-talent people following the corporate route instead of going to organizations where their added value to world society can be maximized.

There is a clear pipeline from top universities, many of which hold brilliant minds capable to immense change, to corporate jobs where their capacity is initially put to use in making small tweaks to presentation slides, financial models, or paper pushing.

Overhauling the financing of education (different loan terms based on career choices, free education, etc.) and improving the access to information on “alternative” and impactful career paths could increase the number of people that choose to follow them. In the long run, this would increase the quality and output of the sectors of society that are dedicated to improving local and global standards of living.

**What kind of impact would you like to have on the world? What causes would you like to support with your time and money? Why?**

I believe that I can maximize my impact by helping in the ways I know I am most effective. After years of working for startups and programming for fun and competitively, it is easier for me to come up with technical solutions to solve everyday problems.

This is especially useful since the development of platforms, apps or systems that solve people’s problems can be created once and, without any further human intervention, help thousands for years. As long as apps are not created just for the sake of development, and extensive research is done on the most effective ways of helping, technology can be an amazing tool that multiplies the effects of those willing to lend a helping hand.

In the past I have provided technical help and consulting to NGOs that built resource matching services for veterans and that helped people with cognitive disabilities file their insurance paperwork more easily.

Not only did I enjoy the working with those teams a lot, but I was able to provide way more value than if I had just joined as a regular helping hand.

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