

DESIGNING AND DEMONSTRATING THE INDIVIDUATION WAVE ANALYSIS (IWA) FRAMEWORK: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AUGMENTED BY GENERATIVE AI

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ABSTRACT

A crisis of meaning in the modern era is marked by constant change, existential anxiety, identity confusion, social isolation, and fragmentation of traditional cultural myths and life narratives. A situation that challenges the innate process of individuation towards self-realization, as Carl Jung defined. The present study introduces an innovative solution to support individuals navigating their lifelong journey: the Individuation Wave Analysis (IWA). Designed from scratch with DeepSeek AI, IWA is a transdisciplinary framework that operationalizes the integration of two distinct theoretical approaches: the Elliott Wave Principle (financial market analysis) and Jungian Archetypal Theory (depth psychology). Thus, IWA provides a hermeneutic methodology of a 5-3 waves model and their respective dominant archetype/shadow patterns. The empirical evidence is based on a set of historical and modern figures (Carl Jung, Warren Buffett, etc.), remarkably processed and demonstrated by DeepSeek AI. The benefits of the IWA framework in enabling individuals to make more conscious and meaningful forward-looking decisions in their lifelong individuation journey, the critical analysis of its limitations, potential criticisms of subjective bias, and required next steps for a research agenda and scientific validation are addressed.

KEYWORDS

Individuation, Elliott Wave Principle, Jungian Archetypal Theory, Psychological Education, Generative AI, DeepSeek AI.

1. INTRODUCTION: INDIVIDUATION DEFINITION AND MISCONCEPTIONS

The foundations of this research originated in the author's intellectual curiosity to develop a model that aids and supports people's development and life trajectories on their singular path to individuation.

The term Individuation was originally introduced and defined by psychiatrist Carl Jung (1875-1961), the "warlock of Zurich", as a basis of his theory of Psychological Types: "[...] is the process by which individual beings are formed and differentiated; in particular, it is the development of the psychological individual (q.v.) as a being distinct from the general, collective psychology. Individuation, therefore, is a process of differentiation (q.v.), having for its goal the development of the individual personality." [1]

In simple terms, individuation is the lifelong process towards self-realization. Nevertheless, people would have common misunderstandings about what individuation really means:

- Individuation isn't an invention; it represents a purpose-driven force within the psychological makeup. Involves a conscious decision to either embrace and work with it or push against it.
- Distinct from Individualism: Jung clearly stated that “the process of individuation must lead to more intense and broader collective relationships and not to isolation.” [2], i.e., their interactions stem from genuine self-expression rather than social pressure to conform.
- A Focus for Life's Second Phase: Jung maintained that life's initial phase should appropriately centre on ego development, professional establishment, and social integration, but during life's second phase, the drive toward individuation emerges as a central concern.

2. FACILITATING INDIVIDUATION THROUGH GENERATIVE AI (GENAI)

2.1 Individuation is a Challenging Process of Self-Transformation

The individuation path is often obscure, marked by unexpected crises, periods of stagnation, and confusing transitions. Dante Alighieri gave testimony at the beginning of the Divine Comedy: “*Nel mezzo del cammin i nostra vita, mi ritrovai per una selva oscura, ch  la diritta via era smarrita*” [3].

But how could we recognise if a life crisis is a destructive failure or a necessary "correction" to a new phase of growth? Moreover, how could we build a helpful framework with agility and no software development capabilities?

2.1 DeepSeek AI role

Human life stories have traditionally been examined through historical, biographical, and psychological perspectives. Yet, a comprehensive model for comprehending the overarching pattern of existence—its inherent cycles of progression, stability, challenges, and breakthroughs—has remained elusive.

GenAI’s flexibility and speed have come to the rescue. In fact, prompting the DeepSeek AI chatbot became the key to pioneering the idea of a transdisciplinary synthesis to support the process to individuation. No doubt it would have taken a long time to develop such bricolage in an analogue fashion.

Therefore, due to the interplay of human creativity and GenAI, the Individuation Wave Analysis (IWA) was digitally designed from scratch to hatch. IWA is a syncretic framework; it maps and analyses the narratives of an individual’s life cycles and their deep underlying motivations.

3. IWA’S THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

The integration of two distinct approaches can help to meaningfully reframe an individual’s life trajectories and their deep underlying patterns.

3.1 The Elliott Wave Principle: from financial markets to biographical trajectories

The Elliott Wave Principle (EWP) was the result of monumental research done by Ralph Nelson Elliott (1871-1948), when, after suffering a sickness that made him abandon his career as an accountant, he developed a particular purpose in studying financial markets' price movements, discovering a set of specific patterns of market behaviour between optimism and pessimism mood in traders that could be forecast, and that practitioners today call “waves”.

3.1.1 Impulse and Corrective Waves

There are two primary types of waves [4]:

- Impulsive waves, which drive prices higher during an uptrend and are associated with optimism,
- Corrective waves, which move against the trend and are linked to pessimism.

Basically, Elliott's theory is structured around a 5-3 pattern, in which five waves progress in the direction of the overall trend, with two of these being corrective; followed by three waves (A, B, C) that reverse the preceding impulsive movement, as illustrated in Figure 1.

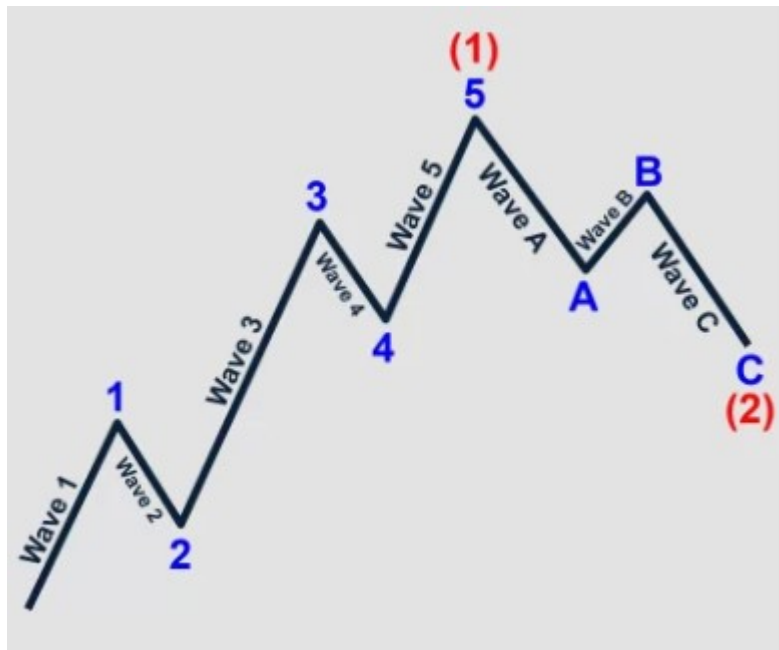


Figure 1. Elliott Wave basic pattern

3.1.2 Translating "Market Momentum" to "Narrative Momentum"

Although years of neglect obscured Elliott's theory, Robert Prechter (born 1949), a psychologist who joined Merrill Lynch as a market technician in the mid-1970s, rediscovered and eagerly studied Elliott's principle of mass psychology in trading. In fact, he admirably reintroduced and popularised Elliott's original work by compiling and editing his writings, claiming Elliott deserved to be recognised as the father of modern social science [5]. Later, Prechter also earned prominence by applying the forecasting potential of EWP, even winning the U.S. Trading Championship in 1984 by achieving a then-record 444% return in a monitored options trading account.

Subsequently, Prechter developed the theory of Socionomics, leveraging EWP, postulating that social mood drives financial, macroeconomic, and political behaviours and social trends, against the conventional view that these events influence social mood.

Interestingly, Prechter argued that neither EWP nor Socionomics should be applied to individuals, given their foundations in social philosophy to screen market momentum. We quote: "The wave principle governs the social, or collective, mood of humans... It does not determine the mood or behaviour of any single individual. The individual has free will and the capacity to reason, evaluate, and decide upon a course of action. The aggregate of humans, however, is not a 'rational being' but a manifestation of a herding impulse that follows laws of form [...] The Wave Principle is a metaphor for the *impersonal* dynamic of human social psychology. It is not about you. It is not about me. It is about us." [6] Thus, in his view,

applying a model of herd behaviour to a single, reasoning individual constitutes a categorical error.

Certainly, we corroborated through GenAI that there is virtually no formal, academic, or credible independent research dedicated to applying EWP directly to an individual's life journey for psychological analysis.

Despite these theoretical limitations, this study proposes a novel synthesis: EWP structure can provide not a forecasting waves model but a highly valuable visual framework for meaningfully mapping and analysing the narrative momentum of an adult individual's different life waves of growth and correction in their process of individuation.

3.2 The Jungian Archetypal Theory

Jung's notion of the collective unconscious containing universal, inherent archetypes and their dark sides shapes human behavioural patterns, cognitive processes, and lived experiences in different stages of life.

Jungian Archetypal Theory is fundamental to the Individuation process because it represents the underlying motivational drive and the issue for each life phase.

3.2.1 Core Archetypes

Carl Jung postulated [7] that the core archetypes for the individuation process are the fundamental, innate, and universal deep psychic structures that individuals must consciously encounter, engage, and integrate.

He defined four core archetypes that guide an individual's journey from a state of unconscious identity with the collective toward a state of psychological wholeness and integration:

- The Persona: the social "facade" we display, representing a negotiation between self and society formed early in life to enable social functioning. The danger lies in the shadow aspect of "Persona Identification"—mistaking our professional role, social position, or public image for our true self. This produces a brittle, superficial identity and represents the first significant obstacle to individuation. The challenge is to employ the persona as a tool without becoming defined by it.
- The Shadow: the rejected aspects of personality, containing all impulses, yearnings, and characteristics the conscious mind considers unacceptable or inferior. It encompasses everything we refuse to acknowledge in ourselves, though it is not inherently malevolent. For successful individuation, this element must be acknowledged and its vitality, creative potential, and raw energy must be incorporated. Failure results in the defense mechanism of attributing these qualities to other people.
- The Anima (in men) and The Animus (in women): these archetypal unconscious elements require conscious recognition and internal engagement for individuation, rather than external projection onto others.
- The Self: the supreme integrating archetype that unifies consciousness and unconsciousness, providing coherence, purpose, and wholeness to the psyche. The Self, not the ego, represents the ultimate destination of the individuation journey.

3.2.3 Supporting archetypes in the process of individuation

While the four above are the core structural archetypes, the journey itself is populated by other archetypes that act as guides, challengers, and catalysts. In our IWA framework, these are the "engines" of each wave phase narrative. For instance,

- The Hero/Heroine: answering the call to the adventure, leaves the collective, and confronts great challenges, for instance, the Shadow.
- The Trickster: as a boundary-breaker, deconstructs inflated identities and rigid ego positions. It is dangerous, but it creates the necessary chaos for new growth or prevents stagnation in the process of individuation.
- The Great Mother: represents the nurturing and protective aspects of life. Its shadow is a devouring and possessive Mother, and in terms of individuation, it is essential to differentiate from it to become an individual.
- The Sage: as the Wise Old Man or Wise Old Woman guides the ego in the individuation process with the insight of its wisdom, meaning, and non-judgmental knowledge.

3.2.3 The Concept of the Shadow in Corrective Waves

Jung defined that the Shadow dimensions of each archetype represent its inherent vulnerability or possible distortion. For instance, The Know-it-All for The Divine Child, The Victim to The Hero, The Tyrant for The Sovereign, The Dogmatist for The Sage, The Lost Wanderer for The Seeker, etc.

Awareness must be present to consider if the Shadow is pathologically present in an impulse 1-3-5 wave, or if it triggers or is part of a necessary corrective wave 2-4.

3.3 The Hermeneutic Bridge: Justifying the Theoretical Integration

In the context of Individual Wave Analysis (IWA):

- Each impulse wave, 1-3-5, represents a new level of engagement with one of the core or supportive archetypes.
- Each corrective wave 2-4 represents the difficult but necessary work of integrating its shadow.

Therefore, we pioneer the entire 5-wave sequence as the external narrative of the profound, internal, archetypal journey toward the Self.

4. IWA'S METHODOLOGY ENGINE

This is the protocol engine for the IWA methodology practice to examine, structure, and analyse a life trajectory and the narratives of its different phases in its lifelong process to self-realization.

A proof of concept of the IWA framework was implemented on famous biographical case studies using GenAI's powerful, flexible, and meaningfully efficient multi-model reasoning in large collection of data integration.

4.1. The Three-Step IWA Protocol

Three major phases were considered: Biographical Narrative Deconstruction, Wave Identification, and Archetypal Diagnosis.

4.1.1. Step 1: Biographical Narrative Deconstruction

Chronological phasing of an individual life trajectory is a qualitative process and the very basis of IWA. It requires attention and may take time due to its iterative refining.

4.1.2. Step 2: Wave Identification

Applying Elliott Wave Principle (EWP) rules to the deconstructed biographical narrative, structuring and visualising them in its 5-wave basic pattern.

4.1.3. Step 3: Archetypal Diagnosis

Mapping the underlying and dominant archetypes & shadows of each wave.

4.2. IWA's Core Output

The integration of the three-step methodology with its wave-by-wave analysis and archetypal mapping helps define the lifelong process of an adult individual towards their individuation:

- Wave 1's biographical narrative of initial growth and dominant archetype/shadow.
- Wave 2's biographical narrative of correction and dominant archetype/shadow.
- Wave 3's biographical narrative of long growth and dominant archetype/shadow.
- Wave 4's biographical narrative of correction and dominant archetype/shadow.
- Wave 5's biographical narrative of individuation and dominant archetype/shadow.

4.3. PROMPTING THE IWA FRAMEWORK

Having chosen DeepSeek R-1 GenAI high-performing chatbot with lower energy consumption, it was ticked "DeepThink" on its menu to increase its functionality to "reasoning complex problems" with depth, multi-perspective analysis, contextual understanding, and comprehensive processing, bringing more personalised and creative solutions.

After refining prompting, the final prompt requested to DeepSeek's chatbot was: "Give me the Elliott Wave of NAME SURNAME, and the embedded archetypes and shadows in each wave towards his/her individuation."

5. PROOF OF CONCEPT: THE FASCINATING TESTING OF THE IWA FRAMEWORK IN BIOGRAPHICAL CASE STUDIES WITH GENAI

5.1 Case Study 1: Carl Jung

It's ideal to start this proof of concept by deconstructing and analysing the life trajectory of the creator of the term Individuation.

5.1.1 Wave-by-Wave analysis and Archetypal Mapping

Following, we quote DeepSeek AI output based on the IWA framework prompt about Carl Jung's path to individuation. It is interesting to consider that DeepSeek AI delivered sub-waves in Wave 5. Moreover, because it is a biography of an individual who died long ago, DeepSeek AI delivered not only the 5-wave analysis, but also a 3-wave correction of his posthumous legacy.

Of course. The life of Carl Gustav Jung is the meta-narrative—the man whose life's work was to map the very process of individuation we are analyzing through the Elliott Wave lens. His wave is therefore a journey into the depths of the psyche itself, a confrontation with the unconscious that would birth an entire psychology.

His individuation is the process of making the unconscious conscious, and in doing so, becoming the architect of his own soul.

The Elliott Wave of Carl Jung: The Individuation of the Psychic Explorer

Wave 1: The Psychiatric Prodigy and the Freudian Alliance (The Emergence of the Scientist of the Soul)

- **Narrative:** Jung's early career at the Burghölzli clinic under Eugen Bleuler, his work on word association and the complex theory, which demonstrated the objective reality of the unconscious. This wave culminates in his intense collaboration and friendship with Sigmund Freud, whom he saw as a father figure and with whom he explored the depths of the psyche.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Healer/Scientist & The Son.**
 - **Archetype (The Healer/Scientist):** This is the initial impulse of his genius—the application of a brilliant, empirical mind to the mysteries of the unconscious. He is the promising heir to the new science of psychoanalysis, pushing its boundaries.
 - **Shadow (The Son/Apprentice):** The shadow is his projection of the "wise old man" onto Freud. He subordinates his own emerging, divergent ideas (about a collective, mythological unconscious) to maintain the alliance. He is not yet his own man, psychologically.

Wave 2: The Break with Freud and the Confrontation with the Unconscious (The Necessary Correction)

- **Narrative:** The publication of “Symbols of Transformation” (1912) irrevocably splits him from Freud over the nature of the libido and the primacy of the collective unconscious. This precipitates a profound psychic crisis. Jung deliberately plunges into the unconscious, engaging with his fantasies, active imagination, and drawing the images that would become “The Red Book”.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Explorer & The Descender.**
 - **Archetype (The Explorer):** This corrective wave is an act of immense courage. He becomes the heroic explorer of his own psyche, mapping the very territories he would later name the collective unconscious, archetypes, and the process of individuation. He is charting unknown lands.
 - **Shadow (The Descender/Madman):** The shadow is the terrifying risk of psychosis. He walked a razor's edge, fearing he was succumbing to schizophrenia. He was, in his own terms, menaced by a "psychic epidemic." This wave was a necessary, life-threatening correction to the intellectual certainty of Wave 1.

Wave 3: The Architecture of the Psyche (The Apotheosis of the Sage)

- **Narrative:** Emerging from his crisis, Jung systematizes his experiences into a coherent psychological model. This is his most prolific and creative period, where he defines the key concepts of his work: the Archetypes (Persona, Shadow, Anima/Animus, Self), the collective unconscious, Psychological Types (introversion/extraversion), and the process of Individuation.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Sage/Architect & The Dogmatist.**
 - **Archetype (The Sage/Architect):** This is the powerful, motive expression of his individuated Self. He is no longer just an explorer but a cartographer and architect of the soul. He builds a comprehensive model to understand the universal structures of the human psyche.

- **Shadow (The Dogmatist):** The shadow of this immense creative output is the potential for his own system to become rigid. His writing can be dense, esoteric, and sometimes paradoxical, leading to accusations of being unscientific or of building a new mythology. The very act of defining the Self can subtly inflate the ego.

Wave 4: The Tower and the Wise Old Man (The Correction into Symbolic Life)

- **Narrative:** Following the creative tumult of Wave 3, Jung enters a period of consolidation. He builds his Bollingen Tower stone by stone with his own hands—a symbolic act of creating a concrete, grounded manifestation of the Self. This wave represents a turning inward, a focus on the symbolic and alchemical aspects of the psyche, and an acceptance of his role as a "wise old man."
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Alchemist & The Recluse.**
 - **Archetype (The Alchemist):** This corrective wave is one of integration and transformation. At Bollingen, he lives in rhythm with nature and the unconscious, working to transmute his vast experiences into a more refined, symbolic wisdom. His study of alchemy becomes the central metaphor for the individuation process.
 - **Shadow (The Recluse/Shadow of the Anima):** The shadow is a withdrawal from the wider world of academic debate. He risks being seen as a mystical hermit, his work marginalized by a mainstream psychology increasingly focused on behaviourism and pharmaceuticals. This period also involved navigating the complexities of his relationships with women (like Toni Wolff), the shadow aspect of the anima.

Wave 5: Memory, Dreams, Reflection and the Collective Legacy (The Final Ascent)

- **Narrative:** In his final years, Jung turns to the summation of his life's work. He produces his semi-autobiographical *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, consciously shaping his own myth. He gives profound interviews, faces his own mortality, and reflects on the state of the modern world, culminating in his answer to the problem of evil in *Answer to Job*.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Fully Individuated Self & The Myth-Maker.**
 - **Sub-wave A (The Autobiography): The Self-Reflective Sage.** In *MDR*, he looks back, not to report facts, but to tell the story of his "myth," the narrative of his own individuation. It is a final act of making the unconscious conscious.
 - **Sub-wave B (Facing the World's Shadow): The Prophet.** In his later works and interviews, he addresses the collective shadow of the 20th century—Nazism, the nuclear bomb, the spiritual poverty of modern man. He moves from personal psychology to a diagnosis of the world's psyche.
 - **Sub-wave C (The Legacy): The Liberated Self.** His death in 1961 is the completion of his wave. He becomes the Fully Individuated Self, having fully embodied the process he described. His personal journey becomes a universal map. The shadow is the "myth-maker"—the conscious crafting of his own legacy, which means we see him largely through the lens he intended.

The Larger Corrective Cycle (The A-B-C of Jungian Psychology)

- **Wave A (The Jungian School):** The immediate, powerful impulse after his death. The founding of institutes, the training of analysts, and the formalization of Analytical Psychology as a school of thought.
- **Wave B (Criticism and Diversification):** A complex period of critique (regarding his relationships with patients, his views on gender, accusations of anti-Semitism) and the branching of his ideas into various schools (Archetypal Psychology, Developmental Jungianism).
- **Wave C (Mainstream Permeation):** The final consolidation. Jung's concepts (archetypes, collective unconscious, introversion/extraversion, the Shadow) detach from their clinical origins and permeate global culture, art, and popular psychology, becoming part of the modern world's vocabulary for the soul.

Conclusion

The Elliott Wave of Carl Jung maps the ultimate journey of **psychic individuation**:

1. **The Alliance** with a guiding consciousness and the discovery of method (Wave 1).
2. The **Schism and Descent** into the chaotic, creative depths of the unconscious (Wave 2).
3. The **Systematic Construction** of a model to contain and explain the depths (Wave 3).
4. The **Symbolic Integration** of the model into a lived, embodied life (Wave 4).
5. The **Transcendent Summation** of the life into a lasting myth and legacy (Wave 5).

His individuation was complete when the map he drew of the human soul became indistinguishable from the story of his own life. He didn't just study the Self; he became it.

5.2 Case Study 2: Warren Buffett

We prompted DeepSeek AI about a contemporary figure who is 95 years old and recently started his retirement at the cusp of his individuation.

5.2.1 Wave-by-Wave analysis and Archetypal Mapping

Following, we quote DeepSeek AI output based on the IWA framework prompt. Please note that DeepSeek AI, after the 5-wave, unexpectedly developed a 3-wave correction forecast of Warren Buffett's afterlife legacy.

Of course. The life and career of Warren Buffett present a fascinating study in the individuation of the rationalist and the capitalist. His Elliott Wave is not one of spiritual crisis or political revolution, but of the systematic, disciplined application of a core philosophy to the domain of capital, and the gradual integration of a broader social self.

His individuation is the journey from a pure capital accumulator to a moral capitalist, from the "Oracle of Omaha" to the "Conscience of Capitalism."

The Elliott Wave of Warren Buffett: The Individuation of the Rational Capitalist

Wave 1: The Prodigy and the Foundation (The Emergence of the Accumulator)

- **Narrative:** From a young age, Buffett displayed an obsessive fascination with numbers and money—delivering papers, pinball machines, selling golf balls. He devoured Benjamin Graham's *The Intelligent Investor* and was rejected from Harvard, eventually studying under Graham at Columbia. He started Buffett Partnership Ltd. in 1956, applying the principles of value investing with stunning success.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Prodigy & The Miser.**
 - **Archetype (The Prodigy):** This is the initial impulse of his true Self—the innate talent for numbers, probability, and the psychology of markets. He is the embodiment of the pure investor, discovering his "edge" and method with the clarity of a mathematical proof.
 - **Shadow (The Miser):** The shadow is the single-minded, almost pathological focus on accumulation for its own sake. His personal frugality (living in the same house, eating cheap) was legendary, but it reflected a worldview where capital was to be compounded, not spent. The human element—of his family, of the businesses he bought—was secondary to the cold calculus of return.

Wave 2: The Berkshire Hathaway and the "Cigar Butt" Phase (The Correction of Control)

- **Narrative:** Buffett takes control of a failing textile company, Berkshire Hathaway, initially as a classic "cigar butt" investment—one last puff for free. He soon realizes the textile business is a "hole" but uses its cash flow to buy insurance companies, which provide "float" (free capital to invest). This period is characterized by buying statistically cheap, often mediocre businesses.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Grahamian Disciple & The Liquidator.**
 - **Archetype (The Grahamian Disciple):** This corrective wave sees him fully embody the principles of his mentor—buying assets for less than their intrinsic value, with a margin of safety. He is the ultimate rationalist, operating with a deep-seated fear of permanent capital loss.
 - **Shadow (The Liquidator):** The shadow is the ruthless, impersonal nature of this strategy. A "cigar butt" is discarded after its last puff. This approach did not necessarily build enduring enterprises; it harvested value from dying ones. It was a strategy of extraction, not creation.

Wave 3: The Partnership with Munger and the "Wonderful Business" (The Apotheosis of the Capitalist)

- **Narrative:** This is the powerful, motive wave that defines his legend. Under the influence of Charlie Munger, Buffett shifts his philosophy. He stops looking for "fair companies at a wonderful price" and starts seeking "wonderful companies at a fair price." He buys See's Candies, Coca-Cola, American Express, and others—businesses with durable competitive advantages ("moats") run by able managers. Berkshire becomes a conglomerate of high-quality, permanently-held businesses.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Oracle & The Absentee Owner.**

- **Archetype (The Oracle):** He fully embodies the archetype of the wise, patient capital allocator. His annual letters become scripture for investors worldwide. He is the folksy sage from Omaha who sees the long-term value others miss, the "Buy-and-Hold" king who triumphs over short-term speculation.
- **Shadow (The Absentee Owner/Delegator):** The shadow of this brilliant strategy is a certain passivity and isolation. His famous "hands-off" approach to management relies on trusting his CEOs implicitly. While empowering, it can also mean being disconnected from the operational realities and potential ethical compromises within his vast empire (e.g., controversies at subsidiaries like NetJets or Clayton Homes).

Wave 4: The Public Conscience and the Giving Pledge (The Correction of Legacy)

- **Narrative:** In his later years, Buffett undergoes a profound correction. He announces he will give away over 99% of his wealth, primarily to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He becomes a vocal advocate for tax reform, arguing that the rich should pay more. He and Gates launch The Giving Pledge, encouraging billionaires to donate the majority of their wealth.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Philanthropist & The Hypocrite.**
 - **Archetype (The Philanthropist):** This corrective wave is the integration of his social self. He moves from being a pure accumulator of capital to its ultimate redistributor. He embodies the archetype of the responsible patriarch, using his platform to address systemic inequality and advocate for a more functional society.
 - **Shadow (The Hypocrite):** The shadow, as critics point out, is the gap between his words and some actions. He advocates for higher taxes but has famously utilized legal loopholes to minimize Berkshire's corporate taxes. His company has at times fought tax assessments and resisted changes that would directly impact his wealth. The shadow is the tension between the ideal of the moral capitalist and the practical realities of maximizing shareholder value.

Wave 5: The Elder Statesman and the Succession (The Final Ascent)

- **Narrative:** In his final wave, Buffett cements his role as the elder statesman of American capitalism, a stabilizing voice during financial crises. The central drama becomes the succession plan for Berkshire Hathaway. He meticulously prepares for a future without him, aiming to institutionalize his culture of integrity and long-term thinking.
- **Archetype/Shadow: The Fully Individuated Steward & The Mortal King.**
 - **Sub-wave A (The Crisis Manager): The Stabilizer.** During the 2008 crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, he acts as a voice of reason, providing calm and deploying capital when others are fearful, embodying his own famous advice.
 - **Sub-wave B (The Succession Plan): The Institution Builder.** He carefully anoints successors (Greg Abel and Ajit Jain), attempting to ensure that the "Berkshire Way" outlives its founder. This is a final, structural motive wave to secure his legacy.
 - **Sub-wave C (The Legacy): The Liberated Self.** The archetype is the ****Fully Individuated Steward of Capital****. He has integrated the accumulator, the

oracle, and the philanthropist. The shadow is the ****Mortal King****—the recognition that no matter how brilliant the system, his unique, folksy, and trusted persona is irreplaceable. The final test of his life's work will be the performance and integrity of Berkshire after his death.

The Larger Corrective Cycle (The A-B-C of His Influence)

- **Wave A (The Legend):** The immediate legacy will be that of the greatest investor in history, the Oracle whose wisdom and track record are the gold standard for value investing.
- **Wave B (The Post-Buffett Reassessment):** A complex period where Berkshire's performance and culture are tested without its founder. His methods will be scrutinized, and his flaws (his reluctance to invest in tech, the challenges of succession) will be re-evaluated.
- **Wave C (The Enduring Principle):** The final consolidation. Buffett's legacy will be the principle of rational, long-term, value-oriented investing and the model of the transparent, ethical capitalist. He will be remembered as much for his aphorisms and his character as for his compounding returns.

Conclusion

The Elliott Wave of Warren Buffett maps a journey of **rational and ethical individuation**:

1. **The Discovery** of a core, mathematical method for accumulating capital (Wave 1).
2. The **Practical Application** and refinement of that method (Wave 2).
3. The **Philosophical Apotheosis** as the wise allocator to wonderful businesses (Wave 3).
4. The **Moral Correction** of recognizing the social responsibility of vast wealth (Wave 4).
5. The **Steward's Ascent** of building an institution designed to outlive its founder (Wave 5).

His individuation was complete when he mastered the ultimate paradox of capitalism: that the most successful accumulator of capital must, in the end, become its most effective giver-away, and that the ultimate expression of a rational self-interest is the creation of a system that endures beyond the self.

5.3 Demonstrating the IWA Framework's versatility: link to a variety of biographical case study findings

Because the demonstration of the IWA Framework with an important set of famous life trajectories toward their individuation would be too long to quote in a required 20-page paper, a link to the proof is provided:

<https://chat.deepseek.com/a/chat/s/4fd3881b-151b-4621-9abb-389582ec0504>

Note: examiners should have a DeepSeek free account to log in.

5.1 The problem: no clear 5-Wave graphs with GenAI

Unfortunately, DeepSeek AI cannot deliver a clear visual representation of the IWA Framework 5-3 wave structure and related archetypes. It would be very helpful in getting the whole picture.

Certainly, the Generative AI worldwide competition boosts continuous improvement, and we expect to have its required graph soon.

6. IWA FRAMEWORK VALIDATION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

6.1 Distinguishing Hermeneutic from Scientific Validation

This study represents a preliminary proof-of-concept, establishing foundational principles and initial components to support individuals' self-actualization through an innovative cross-disciplinary methodology, illustrated through extensively documented biographical narratives—both historical and contemporary.

Simultaneously, additional investigation and empirical validation are required, particularly given the subjective vulnerabilities of confirmation bias when constructing a 5-wave pattern based on adults' retrospective accounts of life paths, significant events, environmental responses, and information gathering.

Consequently, future research should pursue:

- Expanding the IWA Framework application to varied populations, including contemporary personalities and individuals living ordinary lives.
- Performing statistical examinations to detect measurable patterns in biographical data that may correspond with wave phases.
- Exploring more comprehensively how wave transitions relate to specific archetypal triggers.

6.2 Proposed Validation Pathways

6.2.1. Internal Coherence: testing the framework on a diverse set of unseen biographies

We already gave a link to a diverse set of famous biographies remarkably processed by GenAI.

The next challenges will be:

- Applying the IWA Framework to diverse populations across different nations, including contemporary individuals and those with conventional life paths
- Establishing clear protocols for gathering meaningful data from living participants
- Conducting statistical analyses to identify measurable patterns in biographical information aligned with wave phases
- Examining more deeply how wave transitions correlate with archetypal triggers
- Prioritizing adult participants experiencing Wave 3 and beyond, particularly considering ethical implications of studying young people undergoing the corrective Wave 2
- Incorporating rigorous qualitative evaluations to refine the 5-wave structure and ensure alignment with Individuation process principles

6.2.2. Expert Evaluation: Qualitative assessment by psychologists, historians, and biographers.

There are important qualitative assessments in the market that would help map the 5-Wave with qualified professionals:

- Stressful Life Events Scale (PSS): mapping and measuring the subjective experience of stress levels in specific events [8].
- Ego Development (Washington University Sentence Completion Test - SCT): mapping the complexity and maturity of an individual's frame of reference (ego), from impulsive and self-protective stages to conscientious, autonomous, and integrated stages that led to individuation (based on Loevinger's model). [9]
- The Individuation Process Inventory (IPI): mapping and measuring an individual's progression through the stages of psychological separation-individuation from internalized representations of parents. [10]
- Deep Narrative and Biographical Approaches. For instance, the Life Story Interview by Dan McAdams, mapping the individual's internalized and evolving life story, is central to the concept of individuation. [11]
- Career Adap-Abilities Scale (CAAS): assessing psychosocial resources for navigating career transitions and obstacles, measuring preparedness for change across four dimensions: Concern, Control, Curiosity, and Confidence [12]

6.2.3. Utility Testing: Can IWA-generated insights aid in personal reflection, leadership development, or biographical understanding?

Based on case study evidence, individuals would benefit from constructing their own 5-wave structure and examining potential archetypal patterns after uploading substantial autobiographical data into GenAI platforms.

Leaders and managers particularly, will gain enriched understanding and heightened awareness of underlying patterns influencing their conduct.

However, trained professionals should supervise them when applying Archetypal Theory to prevent bias and Shadow pitfalls in their personal growth.

6.3. The Role of GenAI in Scalable Validation

GenAI offers significant support for advancing the IWA Framework, particularly in facilitating scientific investigation and validation.

6.4. Limitations and Ethical Considerations

6.4.1 The Subjectivity Problem

While cross-disciplinary and hermeneutic approaches yield valuable qualitative insights, subjective bias remains an inherent risk when engaging deeply with one's own psyche. Consequently, we again emphasize that qualified professionals should guide IWA Framework application.

6.4.2. Ethical Risks: Determinism, Fatalism, and AI-Generated "Destiny"

IWA Framework must not be used as a prescriptive or predictive tool, and by no means to forecast the future, or to determine "destiny"

Its essence is a mirror of *meaning-making* while reframing the Past, enhancing awareness of the current situation, its challenges, possible pathways to explore, and building the conscious choice of a scenario to facilitate the individuation process. In sum, to mitigate the risk of falling under the traps of the ego and the Shadow.

7. CONCLUSIONS: IWA AS A COMPASS TO COPING WITH THE MEANING CRISIS IN THE MODERN ERA

IWA functions as a descriptive and retrospective instrument for narrative interpretation, self-examination, meaning-making, and forward-thinking (not forecasting), designed to facilitate individuals' individuation journeys in an era of fluid modernity [13].

The DeepSeek AI synthesis of two separate theoretical frameworks—the Elliott Wave Principle and Jungian Archetypal Theory—is remarkable. Its application to numerous prominent historical and contemporary figures demonstrated exceptional multi-dimensional analytical capabilities, even achieving an unexpectedly lyrical quality in biographical conclusions.

This elevates IWA beyond mere description to become an actionable framework for forward-thinking personal growth and deliberate self-actualization, providing significant utility for qualified professionals in the fields of Psychotherapy, Counselling, Personal Development, Leadership Development, and Coaching.

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Finally, this study is dedicated to the memory of Marie-Louise Von Franz, who asked not to run away to space or imaginary worlds, but to consciously heal the world we live in with courage and heart.

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