

# THE VERTEX AND YOUR PERSONAL DESTINY

*by Donna Henson*

## **Jack Nicolson**

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Neptune, New Jersey

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*Listed below is a list of planetary positions at birth for*

## Jack Nicolson

### Positions of Planets at Birth:

Sun	2	Tau	06	Pluto	26	Can	32
Moon	29	Vir	03	True Node	16	Sag	00
Mercury	21	Tau	38	Asc.	1	Leo	43
Venus	24	Ari	45	MC	17	Ari	38
Mars	5	Sag	08	2nd cusp	22	Leo	06
Jupiter	26	Cap	30	3rd cusp	16	Vir	41
Saturn	29	Pis	43	5th cusp	24	Sco	13
Uranus	9	Tau	08	6th cusp	0	Cap	33
Neptune	16	Vir	30				

Tropical Placidus Standard time observed

GMT: 16:00:00 Time Zone: 5 hours West

Lat. and Long. of birth: 40 N 13 74 W 02

### Aspects and orbs:

Conjunction:	7	Deg	00	Min
Opposition :	4	Deg	00	Min
Square :	5	Deg	00	Min
Trine :	5	Deg	00	Min
Sextile :	4	Deg	00	Min
Quincunx :	5	Deg	00	Min

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# INTRODUCTION

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**WHAT IS THE VERTEX ASTROLOGICALLY?:** The Vertex represents a role or part we play that is not a matter of personal choice but is fated or destined.

We cannot really change things signified by what is involved with the Vertex. Vertex events involve other people. Often their actions come from things already set in motion. They are automatically forcing "personality completion" or bringing out what is expected of us. For example, a person with a Vertex in Cancer may not be comfortable dealing with emotional or family matters until he learns to do so. Vertex events make it possible to learn this.

The Vertex represents one's lot in life determined by one's past. The sign the Vertex is in represents a quality one needs to bring out, i.e. with the Vertex in Aries one needs to bring out initiative, the courage to start new things and to lead. The results are inevitable unless the actions had been changed sometimes years earlier. The Sun on the Ascendant gives a personal approach to life, but one has something to say about it. Sun on the Vertex, though, is a "Key Man" in a group or collective setting and very much subjected to fated situations. Coming on the right side of the chart, the Vertex is also a mirror to ourselves as to how other people see us. It shows expectancies of a person as a result of the reputation he has earned.

The Ascendant is our face to the world; the Vertex tells how the world interprets this face. It represents the result of personal growth as it is interpreted by one's environment as a result of what a person has done.

Therefore, the Vertex symbolizes a facet of our natures that we are compelled to bring forth. One way to think of the vertex is that the ascendant is the body, the MC the soul, and the vertex the spirit. The vertex shows expectancies from a person as a result of the reputation he has earned. It brings forced personality completion since it is a cycle finalizer. It is heavily activated when a cycle is ending. It represents the result of personal growth as it is interpreted by one's environment as a result of what one has done. At the asc. we take from the environment (i.e. food, air, etc.). At the MC we give but with compensation. At the vertex we are expected to return to our environment by service.

The vertex is also known as the wish factor, but these wishes are fulfilled in a perverse manner. There is always the involvement of others in some manner. It is the reflection of what we are (asc.) and what we do (MC). While the descendant reflects how other people react to us, the vertex reflects how our environment responds to us. Many think of it as representing a fated quality in the sense that we have little or no control over its actions.

Being an East-West polarity, the vertex represents others and the anti-vertex, the self. The anti-vertex represents the cause and the vertex, the effect. The anti-vertex indicates an area of ease or favors freely given. We're used to events brought by the anti-vertex. They're comfortable. However, the vertex indicates challenge. These events are impersonal. They're not under our control. Like the nodes of the moon, the north node and the vertex are indicative of challenge and growth while the south node and the anti-vertex are indicative of ease and familiarity. A person needs to go a step higher in the sign of his natal vertex.

# THE VERTEX: WHAT YOU'RE FATED TO DEVELOP

*The Vertex works somewhat like the Moon's Nodes since the Vertex and its opposite point, the AntiVertex is also an axis. We say we have already developed the qualities of the South Node and we get our greatest growth from the North Node. Likewise, we have well-developed qualities of the AntiVertex, and we need to bring forth the qualities of the Vertex.*

*How aspects to the Anti-Vertex work*

*Conjunctions to the Vertex are oppositions to the Anti-Vertex. This shows the need to balance and use what you already know with what you are developing by using what both signs signify.*

*Sextiles to the Vertex are Trines to the Anti-Vertex. While you have the opportunity to develop the qualities of the Vertex, it is easier for you to express those of the Anti-Vertex. If you allow this, it could hold back your efforts to express the Vertex sign. Used constructively, it's a highly harmonious aspect.*

*Squares to the Vertex are also squares to the Anti-Vertex, so you have impediments in developing the things signified by the Vertex sign and from using the innate talents of the Anti-Vertex. This is the most challenging aspect of all.*

*Trines to the Vertex are the easiest and usually most favorable aspects. They are also sextiles to the Anti-Vertex, so you have both the ease and opportunity to develop what these signs signify.*

*Oppositions to the Vertex are conjunctions to the Anti-Vertex. Here you have the strong well-developed talents of the Anti-Vertex, which may overshadow your development of the Vertex sign. Neglecting one over the other is not the best use of this. You may meet opposition from someone else when your fated events occur, or you may take the easier path of the Anti-Vertex.*

*Quincunxes to the Vertex are also semi-sextiles to the Anti-Vertex. While you're fated to develop the sign of the Vertex, help from your Anti-Vertex is just beginning to develop giving you little help from previous development. This results in minor irritations that could eventually develop into big problems such as health or financial concerns. To handle this you have to adjust to the differences of the two signs.*

*Vertex in Sagittarius, Anti-Vertex in Gemini*

You are expected to develop broad vision and a deeper understanding of the significance behind the facts. You may develop a new religious awareness or a philosophical view of things. You could become inspired by reaching toward

higher truth. You may travel or attain a higher education, deal with legal principles, teach a class dealing with religion or philosophy, and editorialize, promote, or bring understanding to difficult situations. Doing these things may teach you to have faith in yourself, your abilities, and your goals in life. You will learn that faith in yourself must come from faith in something outside the self.

Not accomplishing your goals may incline you to accept a law or principle without looking past the facts to see how it will actually affect people. You will find it difficult to accept the accolades and rewards you have earned and, instead, drift aimlessly through life. The Gemini Anti-Vertex shows a mind and communication skills well suited to developing Sagittarius principles. Your previous life work has dealt in concrete facts and education that equip you to go farther.

*Vertex in 5th house:*

Your ability to be creative and yet retain your individuality is one possible issue. You have much to offer the world but need to develop the self-esteem and courage to have the confidence to do so. Your generosity and ability inclines people to call on you to work on entertainment projects or to guide young people, which you often do by example as well as work. For some, love affairs, romance, or sports become the vehicle to bring these about. You are expected to retain a sunny disposition.

*Vertex Square Neptune:*

You may have a blind spot which brings problems or situations you would normally resist. Drugs and alcohol can play too large a part in your life, or you may be dealing with other's problems with these. Turning to the arts or giving service are constructive ways to handle this energy. You have a tendency to romanticize your life.

## THE ASCENDANT: WHO YOU ARE

*The Ascendant is who you are and how you express yourself. The Midheaven describes what you do (your career) and also one of your parents. As a result of how you express yourself and what you do, you are expected to express the characteristics and tasks of the Vertex.*

*Leo Rising:*

You come across as a person with a strong personality. If the sun is strong you might tend to dominate others. You have vitality and generosity. You are both

willing and able to be "boss." You're quick-tempered but unable to stay angry long. The "lion" roars and after the roar is over you look around to see what's the matter with everyone else. You're honest, direct, loyal, romantic, and idealistic. If you have not learned to be generous, you can be egotistical and willful. Your dignity and pride keep you appearing to be on top of the world even when you're not. Generally Leos seem happy, sunny, and cheerful.

You have a need for being the center of attention unless your sun is in a shy sign such as Cancer or Virgo. Then you vacillate from wanting to be the center of attention to being reluctant to do so. Usually there is a need for applause, love, appreciation, and approval. When these are forthcoming, you are at your best. If not, you almost "wilt." Those with Leo ascendant children or spouses can have them "wrapped around their little finger" by displaying the approval and appreciation they need so much. A little flattery goes a long way. You have dignity and pride. You cannot stand pettiness or secrecy. You feel that if something has to be hidden it is not worthy of you. You're overly conscious of the appearance of your hair. A bad hair day can be devastating. You have a flare for the dramatic. Lavish entertainments come naturally to you.

## ASPECTS TO THE ASCENDANT

### *The Adjectives in Interpretation*

*Aspects to the Ascendant are like the adjectives in a sentence. They tell who, what, when, why, and how the Ascendant is affected. Taking interpretation to this level enables you to know yourself much more specifically. Every ascendant aspect shows a potential for different expressions of the personality. Regardless of the ascendant sign, it takes on the characteristics of the planets (energies) aspecting it, and the kind of aspect (conjunction, sextile, square, trine, quincunx, or opposition) tells how you are apt to express this energy. Usually we can choose to express this energy positively or negatively.*

#### *Sun Square Asc.:*

You will have to sacrifice your individuality if you wish to gain the acceptance of others. There is a conflict between your individuality and the way you present yourself to the world. Others may not see you as you actually are. You may try to dominate others and have difficulty making yourself understood. You have much personal drive when you find the right path for achievement. The difficulty comes in dealing with people in authority who expect you to recognize your inferior position.

#### *Moon Sextile Asc.:*

Your mother is a strong and favorable influence on you. You have a supportive

and loving relationship with her. You enjoy working in groups and may enjoy the political arena. In a man's chart it favors marriage. It gives an easy-going mature. Some have very pleasant singing voices, or at least music is an important interest. You enjoy fun and good times with your family and friends.

#### *Mars Trine Asc.:*

Being strong-willed and assertive, you express your thoughts positively and forcefully. You have a strong physical constitution as well as willpower and decisiveness. Your strength and directness make others want to cooperate with you. It gives them confidence. If Mars is in the 5th house, this is favorable for sports. This aspect is particularly favorable for men since it strengthens the physical power and ambition that is admired in them. Never one to turn down a challenge, you strive wholeheartedly in all your efforts.

#### *Saturn Trine Asc.:*

You feel a responsibility to develop your talents as much as possible. Your parents often did not provide as much as you needed financially, but you are grateful that they taught you to act in pursuit of the "tried and true." Your priorities are to develop along the lines of material success and distinction. You judge whether people are shallow or intellectual by the depth of their conversation. Since you are such an isolationist, you have to learn to express the warmth you have. Some of you came up the hard way and succeeded in spite of the odds.

#### *Pluto Conjunct Asc.:*

This indicates intense powers of concentration. It gives the ability to see reality as energy. There is willpower and stamina. A spiritual detachment helps you from being motivated by selfish personal gain. You strive for power and authority. Only exceptional people manifest these spiritual qualities. It is hard for you to take life lightly. You have the drive to see things through and the ability to control almost any situation. You're intensely emotional and dramatize anything that happens to you.

## **THE MIDHEAVEN: HOW HIGH CAN YOU REACH**

*The Midheaven (MC) indicates the highest level to which one may aspire. It shows one's position or status in the world and what the person has aspired to achieve. It also indicates a parent or parents from whom a person gets his station in life, especially as a child, and indicates how far a person is able to rise above his birth condition. Later, this status comes from his*



*employer or the nature of his life's work. Ambition, or its lack, is indicated here too. The Midheaven shows how favorably or unfavorably a person is known. The sign, ruler, and aspects to the ruler indicate the ease or difficulty one has in reaching his potential. Planets in the 10th house may give additional information. Politically it has a connection with the government.*

*MC in Aries*

You are a pioneer in your career, perhaps starting many activities and finishing none of them. You feel you were born for the limelight. You maintain ceaseless activity until you do attain importance and recognition. You might see one of your parents as bossy or domineering, yet eager, competitive and dynamic. This parent may want you to follow in his or her footsteps especially if you have a Cancer ascendant. A Leo ascendant trines this sign making success relatively easy. With a Gemini ascendant the only real obstacle is Gemini's versatility combined with your lack of perseverance. Regardless of your ascendant sign, you are the one who gets things started. Your enthusiasm inspires others to join you in your efforts. If your midheaven ruler, Mars, is well aspected your efforts are more effective. You will fight to keep what you have achieved and may run into conflict by your pioneering efforts. People often prefer their comfortable and familiar ruts while you may get them into unfamiliar territory. Your own tendency to be bossy and argumentative needs to be curbed to avoid hostility from those who don't want to be bossed. This is a good midheaven position for sales work since you have great ability to initiate activity.

*MC Trine Vertex:*

You draw people and situations to you that help you gain prestige and allow you to express your talents. You probably had a positive role model in one or both parents. Your own abilities are allowed to have beneficial expression. Changes in your position in the world are happy ones.

## **ASPECTS TO THE MIDHEAVEN**

*How You Handle Each Stage of Your Life*

*Aspect you have to your Midheaven give a more thorough interpretation of how you come across than the sign only. When we are born we get our identity from our parents or the circumstances of our birth. With each stage of development we usually have more control of this public image. As a child you began to develop an identity through your social contacts as well as your parents. As a teenager, you begin to establish your own identity apart from your parents. Next, your educational level and your job or career identifies you. Marriage usually brings a major change in identity, and so on as does every stage of your life. The sign and aspects to the Midheaven indicate how you handle these stages. With each planet we develop differently.*

*Neptune Quincunx MC:*

When you assert yourself, you act so uncertain that people question your competence. Sometimes you dawdle in accomplishing your tasks or you don't finish a task at all. A lack of mental organization or insufficient planning can result in failures. You doubt your own abilities. One or both of your parents may have been ill, weak, or alcoholic causing a need in you to build up your own self-image. Until you clearly define your goals, success may elude you. Build the confidence to use your intuitive ability. It could be a great asset.

## THE IMUM COELI: WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SECURE

*The MC and the IC are the parental axis. Aries on the IC means that one parent is described by the Libra MC and the other by the Aries IC. These signs do not necessarily describe the parents so much as your perceptions of your parents. Thus, your perceptions may be very different from those of a brother or sister with the same parents. Like the natural sign of this cusp, Cancer, the 4th house cusp (Imum Coeli or IC), represents nurturing, security, and your base of operations. Security usually comes from the nurturing parent, whether this is the father, mother, or other caregiver. In a broader sense it represents protections such as police, military personnel, or fortifications. It shows whether or not you have a base of operations you can count on and a place where you feel secure. It describes the actual home or dwelling where you live. In addition it represents conditions in the last years of your life. The sign, ruler, and aspects to the ruler as well as planets in the house describe these conditions in your life.*

### *IC in Libra*

The 4th house indicates your roots and foundation. It describes your home whether it is with your parents or your own home. Above all your home must be as beautiful as possible. You will make great sacrifices to make it as harmonious and pleasing to the eye as you can. If the ruler, Venus, is afflicted you could use poor taste in home furnishings or decorations. Some may not like household chores and live in a messy environment. For most, though, your tastes are refined and tasteful. You strive to create charm and grace as well as popularity with your family and friends. You treat family members fairly and expect the same from them. If Venus is well aspected the parent represented by this house is fair, just, and loving. This parent treats you with respect unless the ruler is afflicted. Sometimes this parent regards you as a partner. The stability of your home is shown here too. Fixed signs (or Venus in a fixed sign) are the most stable. Cardinal signs with a fixed Venus are next, and mutables least of all.

The last years of your life are usually happy ones. Loving family and friends may

surround you. Your pleasant ways may bring you the cooperation of others rather than continuing alone. You strive to be surrounded by the arts and keep a lively curiosity about the activities of others. If you don't have a spouse, you need to cultivate a close friend.

## THE DESCENDANT: HOW YOU RELATE TO OTHERS

*Since you are represented by the ascendant, the descendant or 7th house cusp describes others you attract into your life. This includes your spouse or the person who is most important to you with whom you operate as an equal as well as others in general. Open enemies and opponents are shown here too. The descendant is a reflection of who you are. i.e. An aggressive or self-centered Aries ascendant attracts a Libra type who is a more easy-going other-centered person; a Leo ascendant person being too personal attracts an Aquarian type who is impersonal. Each ascendant type attracts its opposite sign and often projects his own needs on this person. In conflicts such as court actions, power struggles, or war, the descendant describes the nature of the opponent. Libra, the natural ruler of the 7th, seeks balance and harmony even if he has to fight to get it. The descendant sign, ruler, aspects to the ruler, and planets in the 7th if there are any describe contracts and public relations.*

*Desc in Aquarius*

This is not the easiest position for marriage or partnerships. With your Leo ascendant you are a very strong individual. You want the freedom to be yourself and do the things you want to do. The person you attract has this same desire. For this relationship to work you must both have the freedom to be who you are. The marriage partner may be either brilliant or eccentric. You want to know, for no rational reason, at all times where your partner is. After all, the king must know what his queen is up to. You seek a partner who will stimulate you intellectually and be a real friend. This person must be able to act independently so you may have the freedom you need.

You attract an unusual partner or have a non-traditional type of relationship. Sometimes the partner is aggravating or a law unto himself. With Leo rising you may try to change your partner to suit you. The usual result is marital ups and downs or possibly divorce if this freedom is not given from and toward you. Marriages often occur suddenly with a short courtship so that you may not develop a real relationship and know what your partner is like. With greater exposure reality sets in bringing disillusionment. Parents with Leo rising children need to do all they can to prepare the child to look beyond his own needs and give a relationship time to reveal what the prospective partner is really like. In

extreme cases, you give little importance to your mate and make the public or your clients the important ones in your life.

Another type of relationship you are prone to is a relationship with an extremely close friend or a superficial impersonal acquaintance though there is a rapid turn over. This position does not favor politics if Uranus is afflicted because you are unpredictable at times, or you attract unusual circumstances or unpredictable actions from your partner. With an afflicted Uranus, too, you should avoid lawsuits, politics, or relations with the public due to your unwillingness or inability to cooperate. If Uranus is not afflicted, these areas of your life may be highly unpredictable or unusual. You have an intuitive awareness of other people's moods and feelings.

## THE NODES: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*The Moon's nodes move at a rate of about 3' per day making them very useful in natal, progressed, solar arc, and transit charts. There is an electromagnetic disturbance when the Moon crosses the ecliptic. Unlike the planets, the Nodes in themselves are not energies although they are based on the Moon. They operate in a polarity, the North Node and the South Node. They are representative of the disturbing nature of changes. Since the Nodes always oppose each other, there is a quality of finality in its interpretation. If the North Node is stronger (i.e. a conjunction of the North Node and an opposition to the South Node, or a quincunx to the North Node and a semi-sextile to the South Node) these disturbances show changes to be more open and expansive according to the Jupiterian nature of the North Node. If the stronger aspect is to the South Node, the opposite indicates that the disturbances may be just as severe but will be less public in its manifestation giving a more Saturnian nature. This is not to say that one is better than the other. Some benefit comes from any change, no matter how disturbed the normal conditions of life may be during the time of flux.*

*The Nodes have much to do with relating - how we relate to new people, conditions, or any change from the normal. We find them activated when people enter or leave the life, new jobs or work relationships either entering or leaving the life, or new neighbors or friends who enter or leave.*

*There's a karmic aspect to the Nodes. We have already experienced and developed the nature of the South Node, so this is the more comfortable placement. The North Node shows an area where we get our greatest growth and development, but these changes are not as comfortable because they represent new relationships or experiences.*

*North Node in Sagittarius, South Node in Gemini*

From past lives you are the sage, the person with wisdom. Now you must get formal education, integrate knowledge from other cultures, listen to your inner

voice, be ethical and have faith. You tend to fit yourself into your environment taking on the characteristics of those around you. You get bogged down in detail, and your attention span is short. You have trouble making up your mind because you understand both sides so well. Step back and develop a broader viewpoint. Seek the truth and commit yourself to a side you believe in. You may not please everyone this way, but you will become more satisfied with yourself. You may feel overwhelmed by an information overload.

You need to trust your inner guide - your intuition. It is necessary for you to pursue one thing at a time. When you don't commit yourself to something, you risk appearing superficial or flighty to others. You cannot inspire others to have faith in you if you don't have faith in yourself. When you act bravely and impulsively, you free yourself from the inner turmoil of doubt and too much logic. Avoid saying just what people want to hear. You can get fulfillment from formal education. You have developed a great need for people, and now relationships can become complicated. You like to give advice but feel frustrated by the many problems of individuals and the world. When the passion of true discovery eludes you, you cannot feel whole and satisfied. You must have the faith to know who you are and what you believe.

*North Node in 5th House, South Node in 11th House:*

This position often signifies a close relationship to children. You have success with love and romance but many disappointments in friendships. You give more love than you receive. This creates an internal inferiority or frustration that affects relationships. Often your sphere of life is limited in one way or another. Your love affairs may have a previous life connection. You feel that awareness when you are with others. Your creative ideas may be ahead of their time. In some way you feel you're an oddball, so you've learned to submerge your personal needs to group needs. Detaching from life is comfortable for you so you can create your own destiny.

Your good wishes for others bring more to yourself. You need to develop the warmth and generosity of Leo (5th house) and overcome the non-attachment of Aquarius (11th house). Some of you are loners, but developing an interest in sports or acting fulfills your need for attention. In this way you are outstanding in some way. You become a person with a personal, loving manner rather than relying on the intellect alone. Some of you become overly involved in other's problems at the expense of your own.

*North Node Square Neptune:*

Your mystical abilities conflict with the more conservative elements in your world. Others may see you as an impractical dreamer or a subversive influence that undermines traditional religious and social concepts. You are likely to feel alone

in a crowd and misunderstood by your peers.