

# *Catharine Lucas*

## **LOON SIGN (TABLE FOR SIX)**

- When my lateral tank reservoir is not full  
how do I know how full it is?
- Tell me more about your reservoir
- Well, it's sixteen foot long, ten foot diameter, and I drop  
the end of a stick through a hole in the top, touch bottom  
and see how high the water comes. But I can't calculate how many  
gallons, except at the halfway point where I know the radius...
- I guess you need calculus...
- No, analytic geometry should do it. What you need is a lune.
- A lune?
- Yes, the decreasing area of a circle proscribed by the cord and the  
remaining circumference
- You mean the sine curve of the planar surface?
- Right, theta minus sine theta

[I thought a lune is made of green cheese –

[Yes, or sometimes a round sugar-wafer iced in light, served  
on a platter of November night –

[No! A loon is an India-inkmark on ricepaper water  
a tilde tilted to silver sky  
one curl short of infinity

[The bird you mean?

[Yes, and if you see one  
from a certain rocky point where you face the  
winter sea to taste the wind  
you may take it as a sign  
your reservoir is full

[Tell me more about your reservoir...