

# A Lake Within a Lake by Oodgeroo Noonuccul

Hangzhou, September 25, 1984

At West Lake there is a Lake

Within a lake.

We reach the island,

Where lotus plants cover the calm waters.

Where water lilies

Settle daintily on their water stems.

Carp break the water

With open mouths

In anticipation of falling crumbs.

The bridge across the island

Zig-zags its way

To confuse demons,

Who need straight paths

To satisfy their evil intent

Moon pagodas\*

Stand in the outer lake,

Awaiting the arrival of the full moon,

To record its reflection,

In the water

\*The three stone pagodas of the Island of the *Three Pools Mirroring the Moon* is a landmark of the West Lake in Hangzhou. The *Three Pools Mirroring the Moon* is, essentially, a lake within a lake. In Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Day), candles are lit inside the round holes of each pagoda and the holes are sealed with thin paper. Shining through the holes, the candlelight is reflected on the surface of the water as if there were many little moons, producing a marvellous scene of "one moon in the sky, three silhouettes in the water". The *Three Pools Mirroring the Moon* is thus named.



## Bibliography

Chen, A. (2016). *Travel - West Lake - Hangzhou*. Angela Chen Travel. Retrieved from <http://angelachentravel.blogspot.com/2016/07/travel-west-lake-hangzhou.html>

Mei, Z., & Jingwei, S. (2019). *Chinese Renminbi banknote scenery: West Lake*. CTGN. Retrieved from [https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d414f33496a4e31457a6333566d54/share\\_p.html](https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d414f33496a4e31457a6333566d54/share_p.html)

Noonuccal, O. (1988). *Kath Walker in China*. Milton, Qld, Jacaranda.

Schengen Travel. (2018). *Top 7 Places to Visit in Hangzhou China*. Schengen Travel. Retrieved from <https://schengenvisaflightreservation.com/blog/top-7-places-to-visit-in-hangzhou-china/>