



*From the desk of Pierre Beaudry*

  
**LEONARDO DA VINCI'S {THE LAST SUPPER}**  
**AND**  
**THE CATENARY/TRACTRIX PRINCIPLE**



by Pierre Beaudry, 8/16/2009. In memory of Amandus Thooft.

## 1- THE CATENARY/TRACTRIX PRINCIPLE.

In the original dedication to Duke Ludovic of his book, *Divine Proportion*, written in collaboration with Leonardo da Vinci in 1498, Luca Pacioli described the dynamics of *The Last Supper* as if through the singularity of a catenary/tractrix principle. He wrote:

**“It is difficult to imagine a greater form of attention given to the apostles’ animation caused by the sound of the voice of the ineffable truth, when it says: ‘*Unus vestrum me traditurus est.*’ There, the soft hand of our Leonardo has arranged with dignity the moment when, through their actions and gestures, they seemed to be speaking one to another and another to one, in an animated and afflicted state of perplexity.’ (Pacioli, *Divine Proportion.*)**

This “*animated and afflicted state of perplexity*” of the apostles represents only the first step of an axiomatic transformation of the human mind, as if generated by the power of an invisible caustic cusp of divine light through which a universal physical principle is being transmitted to future generations: the power of doing something impossible by changing the future. This is the way ideas are created: you project the impossible, like projecting a skyhook onto a Cusa infinite circle, and then you generate a catenary/tractrix function.