



***À rebours*, roman de la délectation morose**

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Abstract: *À rebours* presents itself, to take up Kenneth Burke's terminology, as the novel of an attitude, in which action seems almost absent. This attitude, that of the hero, can be compared to *delectatio morosa* from the Catholic tradition. By engaging in aesthetic contemplation to escape his past, Des Esseintes believes he can emulate the hermits of the third or fourth century: in reality, he merely imports his former attitude into his personal "Thebaid."

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