



Useful or useless? The sacrificial ethic in *Le Temps retrouvé*

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Abstract: *Le Temps retrouvé*, the last opus of *À la recherche du temps perdu*, is also the moment when Proust's morality is finally discovered, envisaged in its relationship to literary creation, in a tense confrontation with the heroic spirit of sacrifice of the Great War. Is the writer not condemned to pale in comparison to the combatant? Does literature deserve to be practiced for its own sake? Proust defends the autonomy of art and institutes courage as the cardinal virtue of the writer.

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