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Rhythm and Sense in the Philosophy of Levinas

- Recherches

- Le rythme dans les sciences et les arts contemporains

- Philosophie - Nouvel article

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It has been more than thirty years since I discovered the texts of Emmanuel Levinas. Before publishing the Japanese translations of *Totality and Infinite* and *Otherwise than being*, I published an anthology of Levinas' work that included texts such as "Il y a", "Reality and its shadow" and so on. While I translated these texts, I noticed the importance Levinas accorded to the notion of "breaking of rhythm" as well as to that of "rhythm" itself, either when he compared "il y a" to the prose poem by Edgar Allan Poe in "Il y a" or when he stressed the musicality of image in "Reality and its shadow". But I've not been able to develop this topic for long time, until I read the first and the second volume of Levinas' *Complete Works* where we can find several very significant fragments on rhythm. [...]