

# The Slow Philosophy of J. M. Coetzee

Jan Wilm

Bloomsbury Academic  
An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

B L O O M S B U R Y  
LONDON • OXFORD • NEW YORK • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

# Contents

Acknowledgments	viii
Abbreviations of Works by J. M. Coetzee	ix
I Saw Coetzee Today. He Wants a Philosophical Introduction.	
A Philosophical Introduction	1
1 Very Much the Tortoise—Slowness and J. M. Coetzee	21
2 A Slow Method for a Slow Man—Reading Coetzee, Slowly	45
3 A Goblin: Why?—Coetzee's Questions	69
4 What Matters Is that the Contest Is Staged—Coetzee's Slowing Syntax	91
5 <i>Meerlust</i> —Coetzee and Literalness	113
6 We Make a Leap—Coetzee's Gaps	131
7 The Legacy of Socrates—Dialogue in and with Coetzee	151
8 Dark and Unending—Coetzee's Open-Ended Endings	175
9 An Empty Cube—Coetzee's Irreal Worlds	199
When All Else Fails, Philosophize. A Failing, Philosophizing	
Conclusion	223
Bibliography	233
Index	247