

Marlow has often been known for being repulsed by the insanity of the Company and Kurtz actions. In the beginning of the story he states that the Company was like a group of pilgrims only caring about wealth and fame. However, later in the story he begins to feel a sense of curiosity behind their madness. He was a very respectable man and him being exposed to the wild savagery he begins to feel a sense of adventure he craved since he was a child. The Company Marlow worked with believed they were the embodiment of the perfect European man.

Marlow being the outsider of the group sees a bunch of selfish and cowardly animals only craving money from the ivory. When Marlow overheard the Manager and the Uncle talking about the wandering they said, “‘Certainly,’ grunted the other; ‘get him hanged! Why not? Anything—anything can be done in this country. That’s what I say; nobody here, you understand, here, can endanger your position.’” They believe that since they are no longer in Europe they can do anything. However, they are terrified from the cries of the natives when they go through a foggy passage. Throughout the book you notice the growing madness surrounding the company, Kurtz and possibly Marlow.

It seems to be that the heart of the darkness is a sad, maddening man only looking for absolute power. For example, Kurtz becomes sick during his expedition in Africa and becomes mad given that his mentality was being disintegrated from the diseases. Later, he is cured by the Russian man but he changed from the man he once was. He became a god to the natives, he started putting up shrunken heads around his cabin to warn others that he is not afraid to kill trespassers. When Marlow first witnesses the heads around the cabin he doesn’t seem as shocked compared to when he found the dead body in the beginning of the story. Throughout the story, the reader notices that Marlow has become desensitized from the horrors he has encountered.