

Selected Quotes from Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

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Marlow states: "I was thinking of very old times, when the Romans first came here, nineteen hundred years ago-the other day...Light came out of this river (Thames River) since"

Marlow says: "The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much"

In his description of the map of Africa, Marlow says: "But there was in it one river [the Congo River] especially, a mighty big river, that you could see on the map, resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country, and its tail lost in the depth of the land [...] The snake had charmed me"

Marlow says, in his description of the natives: "Now and then a boat from the shore gave one a momentary contact with reality. It was paddled by black fellows. You could see from afar the white of their eyeballs glistening. They shouted, sang; their bodies screamed with perspiration; they had faces like grotesque masks-these chaps, but they had bones, muscle, a wild vitality, an immense energy of movement.."

"There was a camp of natives; he called them enemies!"

In his description of the jungle, Marlow says: "It looked at you with a vengeful aspect."

For Marlow, Kurtz fell prey to the jungle. He took part in "inconceivable ceremonies and unspeakable rites ." Marlow added that "the powers of darkness claimed him for their own," and he took "a high seat among the devils of the land"

Describing the Africans, Marlow says: "They howled and leaped, and spun, and made horrid faces; but what thrilled you was just the thought of their humanity-like yours-the thought of your remote kinship with this remote and passionate uproar"

"The other day I took up a man who hanged himself! Why, in God's name? I cried....Who knows? The sun too much for him or the country perhaps"

Marlow says: "A lot of people, mostly black and naked, moved about like ants."

Kurtz was described as the “emissary of pity, science, and progress”. Marlow comments that his voice “electrified large meetings” He is also seen as a “universal genius.”

Talking about Kurtz, Marlow says: “Whatever he was, he was not common.”

Marlow says that the wilderness “loved [Kurtz], embraced him”

Kurtz described Kurtz’s mistress as “wild and, gorgeous,” “savage and superb.”

In his description of the pilgrims, Marlow says: “The word ‘Ivory’ rang in the air, was whispered, was sighed. You would think they are praying to it.”

In a conversation between the manager and his uncle, the manager told the latter about his intention to kill Kurtz. In his response, the manager’s uncle says: “Ah, my boy. The jungle will take care of him. Trust to this” He also refers to the “lurking death, to the hidden evil, to the profound darkness of its heart.”

In the report he wrote for the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs, Kurtz writes: “We, whites, must necessarily appear to them, savages, in the natures of supernatural beings. We approach them with the might of a deity..... Exterminate all the brutes”