

Dhrumil Patel
ENG4UP
Heart of Darkness

Marlow's description of his journey up the river reveals the contradictory colonial lens through which he justifies an indefensible position on slavery. **Terrific opening line** When he climbs the hill, Marlow avoids the "chain-gang" of slaves out of fear that they are "strong, lusty, red-eyed devils, that swayed and drove men" and would corrupt him with their "rapacious and pitiless folly," despite being shackled and feeble. By vilifying the slaves as more morally **more** corrupt than the "devil[s] of violence, ...greed, and ...hot desire," Marlow identifies with the resisting party as opposed to the oppressors. Ironically, he is not the victim; he is part of the problem by association and justifies their enslavement as "high and just proceedings" for "the great cause." This false victimhood is both a reflection and a cause of the dangerous, yet seductively convenient ethos of moral superiority common among colonizers. **Although** While Marlow describes the slaves' suffering in graphic detail as marked by "pain, abandonment, and despair," **still** he maintains an apathetic attitude by referring to the "sickened, ... inefficient" slaves in a patronizing tone because he sees them as subhuman possessions, not humans with equal merit. Furthermore, when he sees a hole, which "somebody had been digging on the slope," serves no purpose, he suspects that it was dug to satisfy "a philanthropic desire to give the criminals something to do." His belief that this act could be philanthropic reveals a callous indifference towards the slaves and their subjugation since there is irrefutably nothing philanthropic about subjecting starving people to excruciating manual labour. The convenience afforded by these contradictions helps Marlow rationalize the slaves' subjugation and absolve himself of moral responsibility, further reinforcing the colonial attitude of enslavement, Western supremacy, and false victimhood.

This work is terrific and clearly it showed your hard work; you must continue to pay attention to ensuring that each statement you make follows logically from the previous statement; I think that is the biggest challenge that you have when you write! 95%