

BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL: MARLOW'S AMBIVALENT ALLEGIANCE IN *HEART OF DARKNESS*

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ABSTRACT

Viewing the colonial novel through the lens of the Odyssey theme, the protagonist's physical movement from the familiar Western world into an alien terrain becomes profound, as this endeavour proves to be an epic journey that changes the protagonist's conception of the civilisation in which he was born, raised, and, more importantly, reshapes the moral and social codes that define this civilisation. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* is among the best-known works of this theme, as its ominous title suggests a prophetic pilgrimage that is heading, blindfold, for an impenetrable mystery, and Marlow, one of the novel protagonists, Alice-like, grows and shrinks as he delves deeper and deeper into the jungle. Observing Marlow's sentimental journey in the heart of darkness closely, this paper seeks to examine the attempt Marlow makes to define the civilisation in which he was nurtured and the ambivalent allegiance he thus pledges.

Keywords: Conrad, Colonialism, Morality.