

# **Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* & Freud's psychoanalytic theory**

Freud divided the human psyche (mind, personality, self, or soul) into three parts: the superego, the ego, and the id. As Marlow travels to Africa and down the Congo River, he also travels psychologically from superego to id.

## Superego:

- externally imposed standards and regulations that humans live by (customs, laws, mores, standards, taboos)
- creates the social image or self by inhibiting the instinctual impulses that produce antisocial behavior
- *HoD* connection: the Outer Station and the accountant

## Ego:

- the conscious mind and central part of the psyche that functions as a mediator
- modifies behavior by controlling socially unacceptable impulses
- *HoD* connection: the Central Station and the manager

## Id:

- instinctual needs and biological urges (sex drive, hunger, and aggression)
- dominated by the pleasure principle to achieve immediate gratification of desires
- *HoD* connection: the Inner Station and Kurtz