

THE NGWARRA AND THE NORNARING-TAILED BLACK OPOSSUM AND BLACK SNAKE

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Ngwarra and little Minga (ant) were kobongur (mates, friends) and wherever Ngwarra slept, Minga would watch for him and warn him if any danger were near by gently biting him.

One day Ngwarra said, "I must go jarra (north)" and he went along by the beela (river) and came to a binjar (swamp) where he found a big norna and killed him. Then he went away from the beela and hid himself on Minninup Island and said, "I will wait here and make no noise and watch if any of Norna's moorurt come after me." He had some fire with him and he sat down beside it and was just going to sleep when Minga who had followed him up bit him in the thigh.

Ngwarra went quickly up a tree and by and by he heard another norna coming along. Norna sat down at the foot of the tree where Ngwarra was hiding and began to sing himself, that is, to sing his own praises, and what he had just been doing. Ngwarra listened to the song which was about a number of yungar that Norna had just killed, and what a bider (great person) he was to have killed so many yungar. After Norna had sung this song for a long time, he presently coiled himself round on a flat stone and went to sleep.

Ngwarra crept down very quietly, dabbatung (softly, slowly) dabbatung, dabbatung so that he should not wake Norna and he picked up his gij boordon (heavy war spear) and sent it through the coils of Norna's body as he lay sleeping. By and by the Norna turned into stone and the stone Norna and the slab on which it lies were called Ngwarra gija gwerrga - the place where the black opossum speared. Always afterwards when yungar passed that way they gathered some jerrail (native mahogany) leaves and placed them on the winnaijung slab. Ngwarra was babbingur or kobongur for the yungar, but Norna was always boogur and never had any kobongur.