

MELKA AND YONGGAR

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In the Nyitting times of long ago, Meeka the Moon and Yonggar the Kangaroo were friends, and used to sit down together and talk about things. Meeka always talked very fast, but Yonggar was a slow talker. One day they talked about death, and Meeka said to Yonggar, "What happens when you die?" Yonggar wanted to hear first what happened to Meeka when he died, and so he answered slowly, "Nyinduk wong, nyinduk wong," ("You tell, you tell") and Yonggar pursed his mouth and spat and turned his head from side to side and ate the grass and waited for Meeka to tell him what happened when he died.

Meeka was very clever, and he wanted to make Yonggar speak first, so he said very quickly, "Nyinduk wong, nyinduk wong," and then he tickled Yonggar to please him. Yonggar liked being tickled (joop joop dorning) and he laughed and played about and then said very slowly, "Ngain a ja dordibung guttuk weryin, ngoamin kwej ngoon delun, boorda ngain dordibung guttuk." ("When I die I go murra murren (nowhere, anywhere) and my bones get white on the ground, and jellup the grass grows over them and covers them up.")

Then Meeka the Moon laughed big and loud and said very quickly, "Birbirung guttuk ngain weryin warinyin, weryin warinyin, weryin warinyin, Barramurning nyin." ("I die, I die, I sit up again, I die, I die, I sit up again, I die and come alive again and go home to Barramurning, my own country.")

Now if Yonggar had not spoken first and had made Meeka tell him what he did when he died, all the Bibbulmun people would have been able to come up again after they had died the same as Meeka the Moon.