

THE MULGARGUTTUK AND THE SUN'S DAUGHTER 7.

In the Nyitting (ice cold) times of long ago, Mulgarguttuk a Bibbulmun sorcerer stole Mardyet the second daughter of the sun. Ngangaru the Sun was the wife of Meeka the Moon, and they lived in a cave called Meeka Darrbi (where the Moon goes down). All the Sun's daughters lived on moolaitch (ants' eggs) which they sifted and sifted and sifted. Mulgarguttuk used to hear the "tik tik tik" and the "yow yow yow" of their sifting, and he always knew from the sound where they were.

One day he changed himself into an eaglehawk and flew into a tree where he could see the Sun's daughters sifting the moolaitch. He watched them for a little time and he said to himself, "I will have Mardyet (the second daughter)" and he flew down towards them and when he was close up to them he changed into a man again, and caught hold of Mardyet and took her away to his maia (shelter of boughs). Then he put mulgar (thunder magic), which makes a great noise, into her ears and her head and all over her body and sucked all the blood out of her heart, and he got water and poured it into her heart instead of the blood, and made new blood, new clean blood of the water he had poured in.

Then Mulgarguttuk made a great smoke and put Mardyet in the middle of the smoke and the smoke drove all the bad meenya (smell) out of her, and after this was done he said, "Now you are my korda (wife) and I will keep you always."

By and by the Sun's mother came to see Mardyet and when she saw how fat and clean Mardyet was, the grandmother said to Mulgarguttuk, "You are husband and wife now, and you are in your own country. I am glad you are together."

Mardyet did not at first like Mulgarguttuk and she tried to run away from him, but he watched her and watched her, and when he slept he put mulgar (thunder magic) all round her so that she could not move. When he woke up he took the mulgar away and let her walk about, but he would not let her go back to Meeka darrbi.



Ngangaru, Mardyet's mother, wanted her daughter back again, and she said to Meeka, "Mardyet burrong korda," ("My second eldest daughter bring (back) husband,") but Meeka was a great coward and would not fight Mulgarguttuk, who had stolen his daughter from her mother Ngangaru.

Ngangaru used to climb out of the cave with the aid of her wanna (digging stick) and gather moolaitch for her children and every day Meeka went out daaja ngardongin (meat hunting) singly, and all the daaja he caught he would throw into the Meeka Darrbi for his yogga and koolongur. He had a great many dogs who used to hunt for him and catch plenty of meat food. Ngangaru gathered warrain (carrot-like root), jillal, jeida, jaggat (all roots) and other vegetable foods, and sometimes yorna karder (iguanas) and other small game. These she carried home in her goota (kangaroo skin bag) and sometimes if she had a great many, she would take off her bwokka (kangaroo skin cloak) to hold the big load.

Meeka was always a gadabout, and did not often go to Meeka Darrbi, except for a few days at a time. Mulgar always told him when rain was coming, and Meeka would make himself a maia, and when they saw Meeka making his maia they would say, "Rain is coming, see Meeka making his maia." (Halo round moon)

Meeka went wherever he liked and used to give children to the women, whether they wanted them or not, if they looked at him, so that girls and women who did not want babies were very careful not to look deliberately at Meeka. He was a great gossip, too, and very clever. He once talked with the ballagor (small marsupial) "When I die," said Meeka, "I'll come back again, and when yoongar die, they will come back again too." Ballagor who was a yoongar in those days of one demma goomber (great grandparents) said, "No, when we die we'll stay in the ground and our bones will stay there always." "No," said Meeka, "you wait; you'll come up all the same as I do, like a berree (finger nail)," and Meeka laughed big and mocking. "We won't," said the boogur ballagor (sulky). Then Meeka who became boogur too, hit Ballagor on the head with his kojja (native axe). Ballagor dodged the kojja and ran into a rockhole and Meeka in his temper hit the boya (rock) and split



it in two. That is why when old men die they never come up again.

Another talk Meeka had with Walja (eaglehawk). Walja is mamma goombar (big father) to all yoongar, so Meeka asked him to let the yoongar come up again after they died, the same as he did. Walja said, "No, when you come up, you come meekong - moonlight, and so everyone can hunt goomal (opossum) but if yoongar come up they had no light and so were no good after they were dead, and they can't come up again."

One day Ngangaru went out to gather bardis (grubs) and she brought home a great many and put them aside for Meeka, who loved to eat the nice fat ones. Two of her children cried for the bardis, "Give us some, give us some". "No," she said, "they are for mamma (father)" but the koolongur still cried and cried and at last Ngangaru said angrily, "Tie up their heads and cook them for their father," and the koolongur were so frightened that they ran away and were turned into curlew, and now they go crying "weeloo weeloo weeloo" always.