

THE WEJ, GOOMAL AND JOOTEETCH 55

(Jattaman's story, a Korrlup legend)

Once on a time the Wej and the Jooteetch (Emu and Native Cat) lived together. Jooteetch the husband used to go hunting and he brought home plenty of kangaroo, for he was a great hunter. The Wej who was his wife, went out also every day searching for roots, seeds and fruit, and she used to gather a great quantity of kwonnert and bam, bam, bam the kwonnert with the toort (upper mill stone) and make good cakes for the Jooteetch.

One day while Jooteetch was away hunting the Goomal came to Wej and asked her if she would let him seduce her. The Wej consented and when the Goomal had satisfied his desire, he covered the Wej all over with murdar (red clay) and then he went away.

Jooteetch came back in the afternoon with a kangaroo and when he saw the Wej covered with murdar, he said, "Where did you get that murdar?" and Wej said, "Oh, I found it." Jooteetch guessed however what had happened and he said to Wej, "Make a fire," and the Wej made a big fire and when the fire was well lighted, Jooteetch caught the Wej and put her into the fire. Wej flew out of the fire and went right up into the sky and she can always be seen there. Jooteetch cried out, "Jooteetch, Jooteetch," and ran into a hole and is now a native cat. The Goomal can always be found in the boornuk (trees). The Wej cannot fly any more because it was burnt a "little bit" before it got away.

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THE SERGEANT ANT AND THE LIZARD

The sergeant ant, Kallal or Koolong, is Demma goombar, because he has power to give you pain. The Kallal tries to kill all the children, but the little lizard (jerragurt) saves them. The baby comes first into the thigh of the uncle and is then passed on to the mother. Before the baby comes to the uncle's thigh it is wandering about and crying for father and mother and the Kallal comes to it and says, "Come closer, come closer, I can't hear you," "Yoolin yoolin burt war-ran nganya jeeda yowern bowern abbynan," and the little boy says, "Ngam-manna ngyamma kocrija yennywe," (father mother making ready to come) "I don't know where I'm going and I must see my father and mother and get ready," and the Kallal again says, "Come closer, I can't hear you," and when the boy comes closer the Kallal gets his dowak and hits the boy on the head and the mark is in all babies' heads and must not be touched. Sometimes the Kallal kills the baby and cuts it up into little pieces and then the jerragurt comes and picks up the pieces and he cries and says, "Dammagoombar goo, demma goombar goo, meelee doona ginjee," "All you old people gone by and by, Doonan people do the same," and he puts back all the pieces.

Boolga Moba mara mara beera mara ngaia kar'o eejega
hair skin hand finger nails thumb all put back.

noorgeolyeet = brains

Kallal the sergeant ant lived in demma goombar times. The little ant (myself) says to the big ant, "Talk to me for I have no father and mother, and I don't know anything. I'm going to father and mother, going to find them," and the Kallal t tells me to come closer to him and I come and come closer and closer to him and when I come quite close and Kallal gets his wanna and makes that hole in my head (hole = wala mat) and kills me, the little baby that Kallal killed. The Djarragoort (lizard) yungar, demma goombar) makes me and my baby alive again. He picks up all my flesh and hair and puts them together and then I say, "Hello, my boy," I see my baby alive again.

(The Djarragurt is the friend of the yungar and makes the children talk.)

Too clever doctors cannot live. Mooya mulgarguttuk = clever doctor.