

LENGO AND MANDABULABULAFATHER AND SON

Lengo was a clever, strong Koojanguru (seacoast) womba and one of his sons was Mandabulabula, who was also a very clever, strong young womba in the Yamminga time of long ago. It was he who showed the Koojanguru womba how to catch fish by torchlight. He made woondungoo (torches) which would stay lighted a long, long time and at night time he used to go down to the beach (barda) with his koorili lanji and kill all kinds of fish that came in with the tide, walga-walga, jirralool, and many other kinds of good eating fish Mandabulabula caught, and he would bring them all back to camp, strung on his spears, and lay them down before his father. Lengo would then distribute the fish, keeping those he liked for himself and sending the rest to the members of his group, leaving Mandabulabula only the little ones or stringy ones, never giving him a walga-walga or jirralool or any of the good fish which he brought back in such quantities.

Now Mandabulabula was a Maambungana (fully initiated man) yet his father refused to allow him to eat the good fish, when by the law he could eat any of the fish he caught, because he was Maambungana. But he loved his father and was obedient to him for a long time. At last he got tired of catching good eating fish and never being allowed to eat any of them, so one day he went down to the barda and standing close beside the sea he turned into lightning and went away over the sea. Lengo was also on the beach, and when he saw his son turning into lightning he tried to stop him with his spear and with boughs, but Mandabulabula went away from him. By and by Mandabulabula turned into red stone and went into the ground near the barda, and now when the tide is out, you can see the red rocks near Wallaning (north of Broome) which the womba always call Mandabulabula-goon, the place where Mandabulabula went into the ground. In the spring time when the red sunset is reflected in the sea all men know that it is Mandabulabula showing his torch, and they go torchlight fishing, knowing that they will catch plenty of walga-walga and jirralool and other good eating fish. Old men should not forbid their sons to take their proper share of the fish they catch when their sons are maambungana.

LENGO AND MANDABULLABULLA

FATHER AND SON

Lengo was a clever, strong Koojanguru (seacoast) native and one of his sons was Mandabullabulla, who was also very clever, and strong in the Yamminga time of long ago. It was he who showed the Koojanguru men how to catch fish by torchlight. He made woondungoo (torches) which would stay lighted a long, long time, and at night time he used to go down to the barda (beach) with his boomerang and kill all kinds of fish that came in with the tide. Many kinds of good eating fish he caught, and he would bring them all back to camp, strung on his spears, and lay them down before his father. Lengo would distribute the fish, keeping those he liked for himself and sending the rest to the members of his group, leaving Mandabullabulla only the little ones or stringy ones, never giving him a walga-walga, or jirralool, or any of the good fish which he brought back in such quantities.

Now Mandabullabulla was a Maambungana (fully initiated man) yet his father refused to allow him to eat the good fish, when by the law he could eat any of them he caught. But he loved his father and was obedient to him for a long time. At last he tired of catching good eating fish and never being allowed to have any of them, so one day he went down to the beach, and, standing close beside the sea, he turned into lightning and went away over the sea. Lengo was also on the beach, and when he saw his son turning into lightning, he tried to stop him with his spear and with boughs, but could not. By and by, Mandabullabulla turned into red stone and went into the ground near the beach, and now when the tide is out, you can see the red rocks near Wallaning (north of Broome) which is called by the natives Mandabullabulla-goon, the place where Mandabullabulla went into the ground. In the spring time, when the red sunset is reflected in the sea, all men know that it is Mandabullabulla showing his torch, and they go torchlight fishing, knowing that they will catch plenty of good eating fish. Old men should not forbid their sons to take their proper share of the fish they catch when their sons are maambungana.