

THE GREEDY JANDU

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Kolguru Kolguru and Jindi birrbiri

(Little pigeon and Wagtail)

Women must not try to keep a good mai ground to themselves. They must always share it with the other members of the group.

Two women went out mai gathering, and after leaving the camp, they went in different directions. By and by they met again, and one had her binjin or warndal full of mai, the other having only a little bit in her wooden scoop.

"Where did you get such good mai?" she asked her marrura (younger sister), but Marrura would not tell her, so they went back to camp with what they had gathered, each having her own portion, for she who had plenty would not give any to her who had so little.

That night the unsuccessful gatherer cried to her kabbarli and said, "Marrura has got a good mai patch, but she won't tell me where it is, and she won't let me go with her, nor will she divide it with me." Kabbarli who was mirrooroo jandu (a sorceress) said, "You go out with her tomorrow as usual, and I will punish her while she is away from the camp, for I cannot hurt her in the camp."

Next morning the two jandu went out as usual, and they had gone some little way and were about to separate when the greedy one said, "My milgin (digging stick) I forgot it." She had left it on the ground where she had sat down for a moment. The other said, "You go back for it."

While she was away, the mirrooroo jandu made a big tchooroo (snake) across the path by which she had gone. When she returned and tried to pass by the tchooroo to where her wanjallin was waiting her on the other side, the snake lay directly across her track, and would not let her walk on.

"Hit him with your milgin," said Wanjallin. She did so, but the snake moved beyond reach of her milgin. Then she tried to go behind him, and he moved back, then in front, and he moved



forward, then she tried to crawl underneath, but he lay flat, and when she made to jump over him he rose up and would not let her. Then the other woman said to her, "You will have to stop there always, for you would not share your mai ground with me as all who go out mai gathering together should do."

So the woman and the snake turned into stone at Tchooroogoon.



THE GREEDY JANDU

2<sup>nd</sup> Version

In Yamminga time there were two girls, Kolguru Kolguru (little pigeon) and Jindi birrbirr (wagtail) who came from koonian (north). They were gathering ne-al-burnoo (seeds) and Jindibirrbirr used to find plenty, but never gave any to Kolguru, who only found a little mai. They each had a fire-stick. Kolguru was angry with Jindibirrbirr because she would not share the nealburnoo with her, although Kolguru would always share hers with Jindibirrbirr. One day Jindibirrbirr forgot her milgin (digging stick) but she did not miss it until Kolguru said, "You got your milgin?" "No," said Jindibirrbirr, and went back for the milgin. While she was away Kolguru made a tchooroo across the track and when Jindibirrbirr returned with her milgin she tried to pass the tchooroo but could not.

"Come this way," said Kolguru, and pointed to where the head of the snake lay. Jindibirrbirr tried, but the tchooroo moved forward. "Try this way," said Kolguru, pointing to tchooroo's tail, but tchooroo moved backward and prevented her. "Jump over him," said Kolguru, and when Jindibirrbirr tried, tchooroo rose up again and prevented her. Then Kolguru told her to crawl underneath the tchooroo, but he lay flat along the booroo and she could not creep through.

Then Kolguru said to her, "I gave you half my mai and you never gave me any of yours. You will stop there now and I will stop here with tchooroo between us." And there they are now, all turned into stone, Kolguru at one side of the tchooroo and Jindibirrbirr at the other.