

THE KABBOOWALLEE

THE CANNIBAL

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Nalja was a kabboowallee (cannibal and murderer) and used to catch all the womba by a trick, and cook and eat them. He was also called Yeela gullera because he had several little dogs always travelling about with him. On his travels through the pindan he always made a noise like a kalleegooroo ^(Sacred bull-roarer) and the noise frightened everyone away from his vicinity so he and his yeela could always travel safely through the pindan. When he reached a big camp where there were plenty of young womba, he would look like an old man, and the womba seeing him would call out to him to come and have some wallee.

One day he reached a camp of young womba. "Come and have some wallee, kogga," ^(uncle - his brother) they called to him. Nalja said, "Ngow-ai."

^{yes.} ("All right") ^{boomerang, spears & club.} "I'll leave the yeela here and my lanji and karrburna and nowloo with them." Then he stood up near his yeela and weapons and he said to the womba, "You hit me," and they said, "What for?" but he only replied, "You hit me with lanji," and then they said, "Kogga is clever and wants to show us how he can dodge the lanji," so they threw all their lanji at him but couldn't hit him. All of them tried and tried and tried, and when they had thrown all their lanji, Nalja picked up his yeelburding lanji and killed all the womba with it. Then he cocked and ate them.

He went on travelling koonian, doing this at every camp he came to. The young womba always thought he was an old kogga. ^{uncle} At last one day Nalja came to a camp where there were two jalnga ngooroo womba (sorcerers) and they saw him a long distance away and they said, "Here's a kabboowallee coming." They did not say anything to their families because that would have frightened them, and Nalja might not then come to their camp. They let him come right up to the camp, and he said, "I'll leave my yeela here and my lanji, karrburna and nowloo," just as he had done at the other camps. But the two jalngangooroo spoke and said, "We don't want

to hit you, kogga. You throw your lanji and hit us."

Nalja threw his lanji (yeeberding) at them and missed them, and then they caught hold of him and threw him on the ground and chopped him into little little bits, saying as they did so, "You are a kabboowallee. You eat womba. We have been waiting for you, we did not meet you before, you kabboowallee. Many womba you have eaten, now you will eat no more, and there will be no more kabboowallee."

So they killed the kabboowallee but did not eat him, and now old men can come to any camp and not be mistaken for kabboowallee for the jalngangooroo killed them.