

HOW KOOLJOOWAN GOT HIS RED LEGS5
2p

Kooljoowan was a womba in yammainga time and a kabboo walla (cannibal). He travelled pindana (busn) and koojangoora (coast) and everywhere he went he killed and ate womba, jandu and jeera (men, women and children). He always travelled in rainy weather.

Whenever he came near a camp he would make ^{ay}nyeerrwa (cave) a little distance from the camp and then he would go on to the camp and pretend to be very sorry that the womba had no shelter from the rain, and say to them, "I've got a nyeerrwa over there; you come to my nyeerrwa and get inside and the rain won't wet you then and you can have a fire," for when the heavy rain came the womba could not keep their fire alight, so they said, "We will come with you to your nyeerrwa, kogga (uncle)!"

When they came to the nyeerrwa, Kooljoowan asked them all to stand in a row in front of the nyeerrwa, then he made a fire and sang his own praises while he was preparing the fire. When it was well-lighted he said to the womba, "Now sit down all in a row," and they all sat down, womba, jandu and jeera.

All the time Kooljoowan had been carrying a mungboorl (spear) between his toes, where the womba could not see it, and when they had all sat down he went to the end of the row and ^{thrust} the mungoorl through all the sitting womba, jandu and jeera, and killed them and cooked them at the fire they had watched him make, and ate them.

He did this many many times, and always in rainy weather. Sometimes he would put the womba, jandu and jeera inside the nyeerrwa and making a fire at the entrance would cook them alive and eat them.

One day he came to a camp where there were some jaingangooroo womba (sorcerers) and they saw him a long way off. "Here's a kabboo walla coming," they said, "we must stop him from eating any more womba, jandu and jeera." So they waited until he came up. Kooljoowan came into the camp and said to the womba, "I've got a nyeerrwa over there, come inside by my fire, come out of the rain." Jeera and jandu went first and the jaingangooroo followed them and behind came Kooljoowan who also went inside the nyeerrwa so

"I must get some more wood for my fire," he said, and turned to go outside the nyeerrwa, so that he could fill up the entrance and cook them all. But when he tried to go out the jalngangooroo caught hold of him and said, "You are a cannibal. You look like our uncle, but you eat men, women and children and are kabboowalla," and they pulled him by the legs and put him into the fire, and when he became Kooljoowa, all his legs were red where they had been burnt by the jalngangooroo womba.