

VII 4 A

MYTHS OF THE NYAMEL DISTRICT

Weejuoroo was ngaiarda one time and Margoora also, and Wandee-bollee (opossum). Wandee stop in camp. Next time Weelooroo coming and he asked Wandeebollee, "You get ngaiarda, and Wandee said, "No," Weelooroo go away and he made a fire. Wandee said, "Who made a fire?" and Weelooroo said, "Me." Weelooroo went away and after some time he saw blackfellows and he said, "Goo goo goo," and they gave Weelooroo salt water and he died. Weejuonoo fought Margooroo and they died and came blackfellow.

A Story of the Eaglehawk and Crow

Very early version - fragmentary . See later versions.

Two wallardoo go first time and Wandera (man) saw them.
 Two wallardoo came back camp. They didn't want to kill Wandera.
 Two wallardoo came close up, two beelyagoo their nooba, and camped there. Woggoora started out and caught Wandera and ate him. Two wallardoo climbed the hill and saw the smoke of Woggoora's fire as he was cooking the Wandera. They went back to their camp, so Woggoora wouldn't see them. Woggoora came along to his camp which was near Wallardoo and they saw he was full and they asked him what he had to eat and he said, "Moondooroo kanjee (gum)," and they said, "You are too full," and he said, "No, I had only gum," so they said, "We'll tickle him," and they did and he vomited the tucker out; after that Woggoora went away to the other side of the hill and made a mobburn fire and put a wajjawarra's (mobburn spinifex root's) head in the fire and then he called Wallardoo up to come to his fire. Woggooro said, "Open the fire." Wallardoo said, "We'll get a stick." Woggoora couldn't let them and he said, "Put jinna there," and they put their feet there and the fire which was big inside burned them all up and turned them into Wallardoo. When Woggoora burned them up he went back to his camp in the afternoon and he saw the two beelyagoo, Wallardoo women. They were camped at one side of the fire and Woggooro's camp at the other. He got up and walked about and they said, "What's the matter?" and he said, "I can't sleep, too much kooloo," and they asked them to come close up, but he still scratched and was uncomfortable and then they said, "Come in here," and they made room between them and he made them yakkan, Wallardoo being gone.

Woggoora yammungun
goes away
Yarneenan kumbardoo
makes fire
Boondaga wandhanoo
and comes back
Wajjawarra boola

Mobburn boondaga woggooralloo
magic crow
Wallardoo goodha
two eaglehawks
Woondana booloo
come back
Weearda mandee mardoongo
see the fire in the hole
Wallardoo goodhoo
eaglehawks two
Wandaaee goordida
try to find stick
Woggoora wongarim
Woggoora said
Meeda yoordeda
Don't get stick
Nombala wandha abbaloo woondhagu jinna
Put your foot down upon it.

Woggoora wonga
Mandoo mandoo = see the spinifex
Rat
Weeagabbocroo ngajjoogoo
See my meat

Kabboo kabboo - put foot down quick

Kana woggoobooloo - you catch him
Ngajjoogoo - my meat.

Meeta waiia waiia - no, no
Kana woggoobooloo
Ngaggoogoo jinnangoo - you catch him with your foot
Boorlbingoo ngarrungoo - you like him to eat
Kabboo kabboo - quick, quick, catch
Ngajja warnda jee barnamoo - I will catch him
Wurnda and boongernama - kill him
Woggoora wonga
Wallardoo goodha
Jinnangoo kana wagga dhoogoo ngaggagoo
Foot put down take and eat
Wallardoo goodhoo - 2 eaglehawks
Jinna kana - foot put down
Walgoo, kambalgoo - fire burnt them up
Mobburn baloo - put magic into them
Wallardoo goodhala beelyooru beelyooru.

A story of the Eaglehawk and Crow

Ngaiarda wonga
Nyamel people

Walloordoo goodha yambooloo oora mungooroo wadharree
Eaglehawk two went kangaroo looking for

Weeannabulla wandeeera. Wandhanabulla yardee wandee.
and saw a wallaby. Leave him next time

Woggoora yambeeana jinna munna beana wallardoo
Crow tracked eaglehawk

goodha woggooraloo wandeeera weeanoo boonganoo kootha dhanoo kumbanoo
Two crow wallaby See hit him killed and cooked him

Koongoo weeanoo boola Wallardoo hoodhalda kambaloo woggoora
Smoke see eaglehawk two cooking crow

Wandeeragoo booloo yoorloo gurda. Yardare-erda woggoo raggoo
wallaby back (to their) camp. Wait until crow

Woondardaagoo yooloon Gabboo hammana boola wallardoo goodhala
Come back camp Asked him eaglehawk ?

woggoora Ngannanagoo badhallee jainman booloo wallardoo
crow What you been eat ask those eaglehawk

goodhaloo wongarim woggoora
two ask crow

Boola barra ngannana badha noonga meeta

Waia, badha nana moonderoo waia ngadha badhalaba mandooee
No, I eat gum no I eat kangaroo

maiee badhaga naeeta ngadha ngalloohgannee
food too much not I too full

Walloordoo wonganee ngannana badhanoogoo
Eaglehawk ask what you been eating

Baico badhanoonga, Waia moonderooba dhannoona
What you been eating Not gum you eat

Wallardoo ngallee kallong-ajjeegoo geejee geejee mufda
Eaglehawk brothers-in-law tickle him now

Ngannanagoo wearda koolaiio geejee geejee nunbalee kallungajjee
See what he has eaten vomited tickle tickle brother-in-law

Yooramana balgabee ngadhala ngoorrola geejee geejee
He sings I you tickle

Mallee dhalaa; ngabbaree la
Tickle brother-in-law

Goodhalbala beelyarra
Two belly

Burnna nangaboolee
Burnt in the mobburn fire

Woggoora yammangan kallingjarrimo yeolagurda nardoo
Crow come back camp with feathers

Ngannee kallaia ngannee boolonga ngannee
Old feathers emu feathers in his head

Eejangoo ngunneegoo baiaroo nardoo ngannee kallaia ngannee
They think he got new ones feathers emu feathers

Yoologarda beelago goodhangoo weearda yoolungagoo theorda goodha
Come back cockatoo two see them in camp sisters two

ngarrumbajjee goodha. Ngootha barbannabooloo ngarreea dhaloo yoolunga
sisters two. They make a fire lay down in their camp

Woggoora ngarreegoo bardanaa yoolunga
Crow makes close by a fire to himself in camp

Woggoora minga mingarreegoo yoolunga. Beelagoo goodha wonga
Crow itching itching camp Cockatoo two ask him

garreegoo woggooragoo. Nyannee naaree moongai?
What is matter with the crow. What's matter now?

Meeta waia yooloo, walyee.
No good camp, bad.

Wongarim booloo, Kalbai eelunala ngarree-erda
They ask him, You come and sleep this way close

Minga mingarree goo. Meeta waia eera maldhoonga ngarree erda.
He still itching You can come and sleep in the middle of

ngallee-ella
us now

Yooramana, balgabee
He sings now

Nganjoolana ngannangoo

Weeleemaroo ngandhoolana

Yajjarlee marlinga ngannongoo

Weeleemaroo ngandhoolana

Garraigaral bow.

THE KOOPERDEE AND THE DHECKA

(Opossum and small Hill
Marsupial)

Nyamel Story

Kooperdee was a Nyamel ngaiarda and Dhecka was karreearra. Dhecka came along and met Kooperdee. He wanted to be made a man. He saw the smoke of Kooperdee's camp and he said, "what is that smoke?" Kooperdee said, "I don't see any smoke." He didn't want to make Dhecka ngaiarda, and so Dhecka had to turn back to his karreearra people and stay as he was.

The Woggoora (Crow), Weendee weendee (hawk), Wandeeena (wallaby),
Two Wallardoo (eaglehawks) and Two Beelyagoo (cockatoos).

Woggoora (a man) stole Wandeeena (a woman) from the Wallardoo and took her away to his ngoorra where he killed and ate her. The two Wallardoo tracked Woggoora and presently they saw the smoke of the fire where Woggoora was cooking Wandeeena. They did not go any further, but by and by Woggoora came to their camp and they asked him, "Where Wandeeena? You eat him?" they said. Woggoora said, "I no eat," but the Wallardoo smelt him and knew that he had eaten Wandeeena, so they tickled him between his ribs and he vomited Wandeeena.

He then went away by himself and made a mobburn hole with fire inside it and he put a spinifex rat's head on top, to make believe there was meat cooking. He then went back to Wallardoo's ngoorra and asked them to come to his camp and have some rat. Woggoora was master now, and went behind Wallardoo. They came towards the fire and said, "We get stick to pull meat out." "No," said Woggoora, "you put your feet in," and they put their feet in the hole to get the rat, and fell into it, but jumped out quickly and flew into the air and now they are eaglehawks. Then Woggoora sang :

Ngadhala ngoorra la geejee geejee mallee dharraa
 Father's sister's son's camp tickle me

Ngabbarree nga goodhalba la beelyarra burnma nangabooloo.

Woggoora again went out and saw two beelyagooroo and he picked up some old emu feathers and put them in his hair. Beelyagooroo thought the feathers were new ones. They asked him where Wallardoo were, and he said, "They killed an emu and I've got his feathers. Beelyagooroo made a camp for themselves and Woggoora made a fire close up and presently he began to scratch himself. He asked Beelyagooroo to tell him where there was a good camp as the one he was lying on was no good, too many kooloo (lice). They pointed to a spot near their camp and said to him, "You sleep there." He got close up to them but again began to scratch himself.

"This one no good," he said. So the beelyagooroo made room for him between them and he lay down and made them yakkan, and now he was very glad and sang :

Nganjoolanna ngannangoo weeleemanoo ngandoolana yajjarlee
Matlinga ngannongoo, weeleemanoo ngandhoolana garral garral bow.

(Woggoora was Boorong, Wallardoo Banaka, Beelyagooroo Boorong,
Wallardoo Parrjarree, Wandeeera Parrjarree.)

THE KOOPERDEE AND THE DHECKA

Kooperdee (Boorong) go Mindabullarree way. He wanted to see all the boys there and he met Dhecka (Banaka), a Karree-erra man, a little hill opossum. Dhecka say, "No got man"; he stop by himself, but he twill lie, he got plenty man, but Kooperdee saw him plenty fire. Dhecka didn't want to let him know. Kooperdee and Dhecka then fought with spears and Dhecka hammered with a big boonamarra, half boomerang, and Kooperdee got a moggundoo (spear) and speared Dhecka all over and now Dhecka has white spots all over him and Dhecka hit Kooperdee on the head and you can see the blood all down his nose and breast and back.

Wonga wandhaga ngana
Noonala boolbee wonga

Nyamel

Kooperdee yammungun jingarnee woondanoo koggeorgalla jingarnee
Boorong coming along coming coming Yule River coming

Kooperdee weeanoo Dhecka karree-erra dhecka nyamel Kooperdee
Kooperdee see Banaka

Jainmana ngoodha ngana kumbana barndee. Dhecka wonga meeta
Who making smoke and fire notone

Ngadhala kumbanooona Balloonga ngalloongooroo beelonga thalaim booloo
I fire make After that they fight a big row
(tongue plenty)

Besla kanyina booloo meeta gooloo gooloo thammeearrooloo
Two fellows big fight have Two cousins

Kooperdee yajjinoo maggundooloo yajjina Dhecka
Kooperdee through with spear stuck into Dhecka

Dhecka ngoo booneemarraloo Kooperdee boonganoo
Dhecka with big boomerang Kooperdee hit.

Kooperdee bea jinnoo Dhecka maaga kambalba maggunda
Kooperdee stuck in spear made plenty spots spearing him

gabboo and Dhecka ngoo boonganoo koerberda mooroo boonamarrooloo
hit Koerberda with boonamara on the back

balledhanoo meejee indin moorballeen thanoo boonamarrooloo
and on the head. Blood poured out, ran out and bent his backbone

boonganoo boonamarra
hitting