

THE DOLYA AND THE BOORDINYA

Vasse Version

Two Dolya were sitting on the ground near their kala, cheating each other, and telling how clever they were.

Ngaabat and Boordinya, two bush janga, lived near them, and sometimes they would share their meat food with the dolya, but more often they were greedy and would give Dolya no meat.

One day the janga brought home two kangaroo, but would not give Dolya any of the daaja. So next day when Ngaabat and Boordinya went out hunting, Dolya said to the paperbark huts of Ngaabat and Boordinya, "Come over to this side," and the huts got up and came over, and the fire came with them.

Ngaabat came back first and threw down his kangaroo beside his maia as he thought, but when he looked, there was no maia there, the maia was on the other side. "Well," said Ngaabat, "I am doggee-doggee (silly fellow) to think my hut was here when it is over there." And he picked up his kangaroo and took it over to the maia, but as soon as he reached the maia, it got up and shifted back again to its former place, and every time Ngaabat moved over to his hut it got up and went over to the other side. Then the rain came down and spoiled all his meat and he was kept moving, moving until daylight when he became very sick and went to sleep.

Boordinya also brought home some daaj and set it down beside his hut, but the hut was away at the other side and Boordinya was carrying his daaj all night in the rain, moving backwards and forwards and whenever he attempted to put the meat down by his hut, the hut would get up and go over to the other side. Dolya had made a thick fog come with the rain, so Ngaabat and Boordinya wandered to and fro all night as if they were doggee-doggee.

Boordinya became sick just like Ngaabat and he too lay down and went asleep. When they woke it was daylight and clear, and their huts were in their proper places. Ngaabat said to Boordinya, "'Dolya have done this," and the two Dolya heard

them and said, "Yes, we have moved your maia, and now every time you bring home daaj and donot share it with us we will do the same."

Ngaabat and Boordinya quickly said, "We will always give you a share of our meat if you don't move our huts again. You have made us mindaitch, walking in the rain and you have spoiled our meat, but we will give you meat always if you leave our maias alone," and the Dolya said, "Ngaia, ngaia - yes, yes, all right."

Another Version

Ngaabut and Boordinya, two jenga bushmen, went out hunting and they brought back plenty of kangaroo with them. The dolya (women) were sitting on the ground cheating each other and telling each other how clever they were. Ngaabut and Boordinya wouldn't give any kangaroo to the dolya, only ate it all themselves. So when they went out hunting again, the dolya said to the paper bark hut of Ngaabut, "Come over this side," and the hut came over. They changed Boordinya's hut in the same way.

When Ngaabut came home with some kangaroo, he put them as he thought down at his hut, but when he looked up, the hut wasn't there, and he said, "I am a silly fellow to think my hut was there," and he moved over to the other side where he saw his hut and fire. As soon as he reached the hut, it moved over to the other side, and when he went back again, the hut and the fire moved again the the rain came down and beat upon Ngaabut and spoiled his kangaroo and he was moving and moving hither and thither until daylight when he fell asleep.

The same thing happened to Boordinya and the dolya said to them, "If you do not give us some of the daaja (game) that you catch, we will always do that to your huts," and Ngaabut and Boordinya told the dolya they would give them daaja every time they caught it and after that the huts stayed in the one place.