

Once in the Nyitting times of long ago, there were two brothers, Borong the elder and Kuling the ybunger brother. One day Kuling went out daaj ngardongin (running down singly kangaroo or emu), leaving Borong at their kal (fire, home). He ran down a warr (female kangaroo) and speared it with his gij munggar.

As he had run a long, long way, he was very tired and hungry. Presently he smelled fire and going very softly he saw a lighted firestick covered with wiluk. He stole the firestick and went to the spot where he had left the warr lying, and taking the liver out he threw it on the fire to cook.

Presently he heard a scream like a child crying, and then a little voice said, "Mother, where is our fire?" Kooling looked up and saw a wirrbín (spirit woman) with her wurrbin nob (daughter) coming towards him. Wurrbin nob smelled the meat and screamed for it and Kuling cut off a forequarter and threw it to the wurrbin nob who instantly swallowed it and again screamed for more. Kuling threw the other forequarter and wurrbin nob swallowed it and again screamed, then he threw the back and the ribs and the thigh and the tail, all of which the wurrbin nob swallowed, and still screamed for more. There was a little ngannup or duting (young warr) in the pouch and Kuling wanted to keep this for himself, but wurrbin nob screamed louder and louder and the wurrbin mother said, "This is your betrothed wife (daajeluk). Give her daaj (meat)."

Kuling threw the duting to wurrbin nob and having now no meat left he became very angry, and picking up a firestick, he beat wurrbin and her nob, beat them and beat them until they were in little pieces. A little bit of wurrbin nob's tongue was left alive, and the tongue came and fastened itself on Kuling's leg. Wurrbin called out from her head which was lying near by, "Hold him, hold him till I gather all my bones,"

and wurrbin nob's tongue held Kuling while her mother picked up her head and arms and legs and put them all together again. Then she got the nob's bones and joined them and put the flesh on them and when she had done thus, wurrbin lifted up the firestick and beat Kuling into little pieces and made a big fire and burned his bones and flesh in it.

Borong went to look for his brother and tracked him and tracked him, whistling and shouting for Kuling, but no answering whistle or shout came from Kuling. Borong was mulgurguttux (having thunder magic) and the thunder magic took him to the place where wurrbin had burned his young brother. He made the thunder magic flood all the ground round about the fire, and when this was done, Kuling came up alive out of the magic thunder water, but he could not walk any more, for his bones were charcoal, and Borong had to carry him on his shoulders, from kal to kal.

When he went out hunting for meat food, Kuling was still carried on his shoulders, screaming like wurrbin nob. Whenever Borong came near the meat, Kuling's screams frightened the game away, so that Borong could no more bring big meat to his kal. Borong got thin and hungry and weary from carrying Kuling always, but he was not sulky with Kuling.

One day he asked Kuling, "Do you want to go yēling man-aling (up in the sky)?" "M-m-m," said Kuling.

So Borong carried him where he wished to go, and they are now in the sky, Borong standing up, with Kuling still on his shoulders. White men call them Scorpio's Tail. Close to Borong are Bordiburt and Wailburt, his two wives (two small stars near Scorpio's Tail), and wurrbin and her nob and the ochred firestick (Antares) are there also. And all round them are the fires and the pieces of wurrbin and wurrbin nob's flesh and also of Kuling (nebulae of Milky Way), and a little distance away, the thunder magic water may be seen lying dark and quiet in its place in the sky.

Borong and Kuling, Bordiburt and Wailburt, Wurrbin and nob and the fires and the bones and flesh and the magic

thunder water, were all pointed out to the Bibbulmun children by their fathers who told them the story of the two brothers and the spirit woman.