

WALEEJ AND WORDUNG

EAGLEHAWK AND CROW

23

York district Version

Wordung was Waleej's nephew, for Waleej was kongan (mother's brother) to all the Wordung, but he would not let them have fresh water to drink, and so they had to drink salt or brackish water. Wordung knew their kongan must have good water somewhere, as he would not drink their water when he visited them, and the good water that he must have hidden somewhere kept him nice and fat, while they were all kweejalur - bony fellows, and had red eyes. So they determined to watch him and watch him to try and find out where he hid the good water.

One day when he left their camp without touching their water, two of his moyer said, "We will follow him now and see where he gets the water." Waleej went hunting and caught some daaja which he carried on his shoulders to his maia. Then he cooked his meat, and after eating it he went to a bwaiee ballart (rock hole) where he had the fresh water hidden under a stone cover. He lifted the cover and drank of the water, and then carefully covered up the hole again.

The two wordung were watching him all the time, and as soon as he went away from the bwaiee ballart, the wordung went to it, took the stone away, and drank the fresh good water and threw it over themselves and splashed it about and then scratched and scratched themselves and threw kooloo (lice) into the water. They covered it again with the stone and went back to their own kala.

By and by Waleej wanted more drink, so he came to the water again, but when he raised the stone, all the water was spoiled, kooloo, kooloo all over it. "Wordung have done that," said he, and he was very angry and made a great noise and Wordung came up and speared him for hiding the good water and letting them drink salt water.

Waleej flew towards Kutta Hill after his nephews had speared him, and you can now see Waleej mara lungarra (the eaglehawk's "hand" prints) where he went up the hill of Kutta. From the

top of Kutta he flew into the marr (clouds) and Wordung never saw him again. Since then all Wordung have always plenty of kooloo, and the water which Waleej hid is now a waterfall at Beedungin, for all jungar to drink from. For when the stone was taken away, the water came over the top of the bwaiee bal-lart and flowed down like a beel (river.)

#### Murray River Version

Walja and Wordung were konk-moyer (uncle - mother's brother - and nephew). Wordung sat in the balga (blackboy tree) and watched Walja come back to the spoiled water, spoiled with the kooloo Wordung had put in it.

Walja had too koolonggur, a boy and a girl and when their mamma did not come back they went to look for him, crying and crying as they ran. Wordung heard them cry and mocked them. He was demman ("cousins") for the koolonggur. They saw a yonggar and warr (male and female kangaroo) and these were their own moor-urt (blood relations) and not the Wordung's, so the Wordung stopped mocking them while yonggar and warr were near them. "Mamma is a long time coming," said the Koolonggur.

By and by their ngangan Jitti jitti and Moolawa (wagtail and another small bird) came and took the waljagung koolonggur (eaglehawk's children) away with them.

At Weelo Gap, Walja dropped blood after Wordung had speared him, and now the jungar get weeluk or wilgi (red ochre) from this place. Walja went past Moondap, Kooyalup and Manuboordup, at each of which places he dropped blood which is now wilgi. And Walja died at Beengurda.

South West (Katanning) Version

Walitch had fresh water in a hole at Binwirning and would not give any to Wordung, nor show him where the hole was. They both went out hunting one morning in different directions. Walitch went on ahead very quickly and going to the hole, he got his mulyert (nose bone) and putting one end in water he drank out of the mulyert.

Wordung was not far behind and he saw the water that Walitch was drinking from and he said, "Kongan ngin birt nganin gab." ("Kongan drinks the water like that!") When Walitch had finished drinking he went away, and Wordang got a mulyert and drank from the hole the same as Walitch. Then he took a big mouthful and squirted (bilbarn) it all over everywhere, and Wordung said, "Wuna warbilbil wuna war, wuna war boy ngura." ("Everywhere now water will be found, in the rocks everywhere and in the rockholes.") Wordang then scratched himself and put plenty lice (kulu) into the hole.

Walitch came behind and saw the hole disturbed and he said, "Moyer wera, ngana gabang kuling kula bul." ("My moyer wicked, my water is now full of lice.") He stooped to drink some of the water, and as he stooped, Wordung who was watching him came and speared him, and Walitch flew away to Jinagap and there he dug a hole and lay down and died, Walitch bin wenering - Walitch dug and died.

If Wordung had not got the water from Walitch, all the Manitchmat would have good water, because they were Walitch's kubbong (friends), but Wordungmat would have only bad (salt) water to drink.

Wordung speared Walitch at Binwirning, but although he was speared near the heart, Walitch took his spear and followed Wordung to Belukin where he killed him and it was at Belukin they both changed into birds. They were jungar until then.