

KALLIL AND JERRAGURTSERGEANT ANT AND LITTLE BLACK LIZARD

In Demma goomber times, Kallil the sergeant ant always went about killing babies. Wonnerup babies always come first to a kongan (mother's brother - uncle) and sit on his thigh and say to him, "I want my father and my mother." Kongan then tells the baby where to find them and baby goes away calling out, "I want my father and my mother."

When Kallil hears the baby calling, he comes near to it and says, "Come closer, come closer, I can't hear you." Baby thinks it is its mother's voice it hears, and calls out quickly, "Father, mother, I'm coming to you quickly." But baby cannot see where it is going and cries out, "I don't know where I'm going. Father, mother, come to me." Kallil again says, "Come closer, come closer, come closer, I can't hear you," and when the baby comes within reach of him, Kallil picks up his dowuk and hits the baby on top of the head, and the hole that is now in all babies' heads is the hole that Kallil made in Nyitting times. It is called wala mat and must not be touched or the baby will die. Then Kallil will not only kill the baby, but will cut it up in little pieces and throw them all about. Then the Jerragurt comes and picks up all the little bits, hair and hands and feet and nails and the hands' mothers (thumbs) and the feet mothers (great toes) and puts them together again and while he is putting them all together he cries over them :

"Demma goomber goo, demma goomber goo,
Meelee deona ginji, Demma goomber goo."

Kallil was Demma goomber for the Wonnerup men and Jerragurt was moorurt for the Wonnerup women.

KALLIL AND JERRAGURT

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Another Version - Capel district

In Nyitting times Kallil and Jerragurt were Demma goomber (greatgrandparents) and the little ant was also Demma goomber. The little ant used used to wander about crying, "I have no father and no mother, I'm going to find them, I don't know where they are." Kallil says to the ant, "Come closer, come closer, I can't hear you," and then the ant comes up to him and Kallil picks up his red wanna (digging stick) and hits the ant on top of the head. Now all babies have the wala mat in memory of Demma goomber and no one must touch the wala mat or the baby will die.

Kallil, Jerragurt and the little ant were always winnaijung ("sacred," "tabu") and no native must kill them. If anyone killed a kallil, some of his father's old people would die, and if he killed a jerragurt, some of his mother's old people would die, and to kill the little ant means that some young moorurt (relation) will die.

(It is not improbable that certain demma goomber insects once represented certain branches of the family amongst local groups in this district - father's or father's father's side, mother's people's side, and so on. They were winnaijung in certain places only, and also demma goomber.