

The Moon and His Wife, the Sun.

The Southern natives relate a legend concerning Moo-lard (another name for the evil spirit) who one day caught the sun and put it away in a hole. By and by the sun's sister came with a long stick and tried to get the sun out of the hole, but the stick was not long enough and so the sun had to come away and leave her sister there. The sun's sister told the moon that Moolard had taken his wife away, but the moon did not trouble himself about the matter at all, and made no attempt to get his wife out of the hole, consequently the natives like the sun but do not like the moon.

Dr. Roth states that the natives of Cape Bedford believe that "the moon is the husband of the sunThere are really two suns, two sisters; in the cold season it is the elder one who visits them and in the hot season it is the younger."

There is a cave in the York district which was called "meeka darrbee" ("where the moon goes inside") and at the bottom of this cave the sun lived. The sun was the moon's wife and used to climb in and out of the cave with the aid of her wanna. The moon went out every day to hunt daaja and the sun got roots. All the daaja the moon got he threw into the cave. He had a number of big dogs who used to hunt with him. Sometimes those dogs were the constellations. In other versions, the stars are the moon's children. The moon died for five days and then came alive like beeree-nail.

Balbuk stated that the moon and the sun had two children and one day the sun went out and gathered a number of bardees and brought them home. The children cried for the bardees, but their mother would not let them have any, but still they cried and cried until their mother said, "Tie up their heads and cook them for your father," then the children changed into weeloo (curlew) and flew away crying, "Weeloo! weeloo!"