

Sitting in the star-light of Broome, the little black children love to hear stories.

When the Eagle-hawk's Foot is in a certain place in the sky that children can look at -- for there are places in the sky to which they must never raise their eyes -- the Old Men, tell them the tale of a lazy uncle who lived in the long ago.

Warra-gunna, the Eagle-hawk, was kogga (mother's brother) to Jinda-birr-birr, the Wagtail, and Jooga-Jooga, the Pigeon. Every day the three went out hunting for gur-bai-ju (honey).

The two boys, with their quick eyes, would see the little bees flying into a tree, and would call their uncle to climb for the honey, as they could not climb so well.

Warragunna went up the trees that the boys pointed out to him, and found plenty of honey, but he did not share it. He ate most of it, and sent only leda (bees' fat) and ooba (bees' eggs), with no more than a taste of honey, down to the boys.

Jindabirrbirr and Jooga-jooga were always surprised to see so little honey come out of the big trees, for when they listened they could hear many, many bees putting the honey in the nest high up.

They would say to their uncle, "Kogga, here is a tree with plenty gurbaiju!"

Warragunna would eat up the honey, and say,

"Only leda and ooba and a little gurbaiju here," and throw down the bees' fat and bees' eggs. He got very fat and strong from eating so much honey, but the boys got tired of looking for it.

So they said, "We will hunt lan-goor (opossum) and koor-dee (wild dog), and Kogga will kill them for us."

Warragunna went out hunting with them, and when they found a lan-goor or koordee hole, they called to him to kill it. He ate all the fat ones, and gave them only the thin and no-good ones. He got so sleek and fat that the boys began

to suspect him.

Jindabirrbirr said, "Kogga must have been eating all the honey. Now he is eating the fat opossums and the fat wild dogs, and he gives us only the thin ones. It is the law that we should have our proper share of the food we find."

"Jooga-Jooga said, "Yes. Come with me, and I will show you how we can punish kogga for cheating us."

When they came to a good koordee ground, Jooga-jooga made a deep hole like a koordee den, and said to Jindabirrbirr,

"You get a hard stick and make it nee-dirr (sharp-pointed)!"

When this was done, Jooga-jooga stood it firmly in the bottom of the hole with the point upwards, and the boys went back to camp.

Next day, Warragunna went out hunting with them, and they came to the koordee hole. The boys showed it to Warragunna, and he went over to it, and put his foot down quickly and hard to kill the koordee.

But there was no koordee there, only the sharp pointed stick, which ran up through Warragunna's foot. His foot swelled and swelled, and made him very sick. He cried aloud with the pain. Jindabirrbirr and Jooga-jooga heard him cry, and they said "He did not keep the law. He has cheated us."

Bye-and-bye they heard him calling Koor-du-wain (native companion). Koor-du-wain was a Magic Man, and Warragunna was calling him to come and take the sharp stick from his foot.

Koordu-wain was in a far-away camp, but, being a Magic Man, he heard Warragunna calling, and he came.

He pulled out the stick, but as soon as he did, water came rushing and gushing from the hole in Warragunna's foot, and the water ran till it made the river that is Baala-buruk, close to Minaring.

Warragunna died, and his nimbal (foot) went up into the sky.

White people call it the Southern Cross.

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Jindabirrbirr said, "Kogga must have been eating all the honey. Now he is eating the fat opossums and wild dogs, and giving us only the thin ones. We should have our proper share of the food we find."

Jooga-jooga said, "Come with me, and I will tell you how we can punish Kogga for cheating us."

When they came to some good koordee ground, Jooga-jooga made a deep hole like a koordee nest, and said to Jindabirrbirr,

"You get a hard stick and make it needirr (sharp pointed)!" When this was done, Jooga-jooga stuck it firmly into the bottom of the hole with the point upwards, and the boys went back to camp."

Next day Warragunna and the boys went out together, and came to the koordee hole. But there was no koordee there, only the sharp stick, and it ran up through Warragunna's foot. His foot swelled till it made him very sick, and he cried with pain.

Jindabirrbirr and Jooga-jooga were glad to hear him cry.

Bye-and-bye they heard him calling out to Koor-du-wain (native companion). Koordu-wain was a Magic Man, and Warragunna was calling to him to come and take the sharp stick out of his foot.

Koordu-wain was in a far-away camp, but, being a Magic Man, he heard Warragunna calling, and came at once, and pulled out the stick.

But water came rushing out of the hole in Warragunna's foot until it made the river that is Baala-buruk close to Minaring.

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