

KNEELING STONES OF NULLAGINE.

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Near the gold-mining town of Nullagine, North-west, a man and woman were cooking kangaroo beside a river. This was long ago in the Dreaming. They raised their eyes, and looked over the hills, and saw lightning coming. They heard thunder. Both were so frightened that they jumped up to run away.

The man ran quickly, but he did not go far before he fell. The woman tried to run, but she was too heavy, and could not move. Both were turned into stone, and can be seen near a creek in the hills of Shaw River.

When their own countrymen visit the place, the stone man and woman remain still and quiet, but if strange natives should come, uninvited, the figures rise from their knees, and stand and face the intruders, who will soon die.

SPIRIT CHILDREN OF DE GREY RIVER.

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Meen-ya-burra was the name given by Walbaring, a Kaimera of de Grey River, to two spirit children, both girls. One lived in the sky, the other in Walbaring's own breast. Each one held an end of moor-din-arra (thick rope of human hair). Sometimes the sky child drew the rope up, but let it down again to its spirit sister.

Many mobburn-gur (sorcerers) among de Grey natives have meenyaburra. The duty of these spirits is to look after their affairs. If the mobburn (magic or medical powers) left them, the little spirits deserted them also.

Walbaring said that they killed his first wife. She was a Paljeri woman, and while her husband was away, shepherding on a North-west sheep station, she married a Boorong man. Boorong are mothers, mothers' brothers, and sons to a Paljeri woman. So it was a wrong marriage. When Walbaring returned to his camp, the woman came and lived with him as though nothing had happened. When the meenyaburra saw this, they took out her kidney fat, roasted it and ate it, and she pined away and died while shepherding with Walbaring.