

The origin of the Sun

South West aboriginal mythology

Koora-koora (a long time ago) Nung^{kurn} (the Sun) was a nyung-oo (native) and everywhere was dark, there was never any daylight.

At this time there lived a boogur wokine yokka (a sulky, evil woman, a she devil or witch) who had a daughter, a quabba mandicarra (a pretty young woman.) This mandicarra was as pretty and good as her mother was ugly and bad.

The yokka persistently chased Nung^{kurn}, trying to catch him, to gobble up.

One day the yokka pressed Nung^{kurn} more closely than before and ^{he} was on the point of giving up in despair, when he saw but a short distance ahead, a ^{hole} karup^{ji} in the ground. With a supreme effort ~~he spat over~~ ^{he rushed to} ~~the ground,~~ reached the hole and jumped down into it, just escaping the yokka's clutches.

Furious at thus losing Nung^{kurn}, she tore off a koombarra bookah (big kangaroo skin cloak) she was wearing, and threw it over the hole, to keep him imprisoned.

She called her daughter, ~~who,~~ ^{who} ~~when she came,~~ was told by the yokka to lay her arms across the bookah to prevent Nung^{kurn} from escaping. Telling her also that she was going away to gather a heap of waieu (dried foliage of grass trees, or black boy palm, the foliage resembling rushes.) and that if she allowed Nung^{kurn} to escape while she was away, she would kill her when she returned.

The mandicarra spread her arms over the bookah
as her mother had directed and the yokka went
away to carry out her evil designs against Mung
-~~gun~~

Chuckling to herself, she said, I will make
a koombar kala (big fire) over the hole and
^(cook) tungenun ^{kubut} Mung~~gun~~. I have him safe now.
He cannot get out.

She gathered ~~and gathered~~ waier, until
she had a heap as big as koombarra kata
(a big hill)

Now when the yokka had gone away, the
mandicarra felt curious, and thought she
would just peep down the hole at Mung^{kun}~~gun~~.
Lifting up a corner of the bookah she
peered down and saw him. In ^{Mung-kun's} ~~Munggun's~~
muringut (face) she read an appeal and
her cunjip koolt baurng djinning (soft
heart was touched) and she decided to free
him.

Opening up the bookah a little more, she
tabal (whispered) hurriedly ual yera, ual
yera, morna, yoduc kuling, yera wurra
wurra (come up, come up, make no noise,
run away away up)

The mandicarra lifted the bookah, so as to
allow Mung^{kun}gun to come out. He quickly
made his way up to the opening and very
stealthily crept out.

Before leaving the mandicarra he said, ~~muringut~~
quabba, quabitch, kaicee (you are good,
~~very good, I thank you~~).

Mandicarra said ~~secretly~~ "wurt-kul, murditch"
(go quickly)

Then Nung^{kurn} went like ~~so~~ ^{dwuruk} (wind)
to Ngardi (the West) At first yoduc
kuling (running) then baice kuling (flying)
yora wooree (up high)

As soon as Nung^{kurn} had gone the mandicarra re-arranged the bookah and spread her arms over it as before.

After a while the yokka returned with a huge heap of waiven. She asked the mandicarra if Nung^{kurn} was still there.

The daughter kina-barda-bin (told a lie) saying "kyar" (yes) Nung^{kurn} burra darup (down in) ualful nurracool wardi (not come out) ^{note} kal bubon nyerin murditch (light ~~the~~ fire quickly)

While the yokka piled up the waiven the mandicarra took the burwitch (fire kindling sticks) and kurrongin (twirling the fire stick between the palms of the hands to produce the first spark) quickly kindled the lighting material. The yokka then started the fire on the windward side of the heap of waiven and the flames leapt up and up.

Away away in the distance Nung^{kurn} turned and saw the great blaze and the mandicarra looking in that direction at the same instant saw the reflection of the light on Nung^{kurn's} myingurt (face). Still on and on went Nung^{kurn} until he lost sight of the kala booce (fire and smoke)

When at last the fire had burned out
the yokka came again to the hole to
find as she expected the cooked body of
Nungken. Though she saw the bodies
of many cooked kangaroos, wallabies
opossums and bandicoots down in the
hole she could not see Nungken.
The mandicarra said, he must be there
he did not come out.

Then the yokka got a big long ~~strong~~
(hooked stick) to reach away down the
hole, to try and hook him out. She poked
and prodded for some time but could
find no trace of him.

Nungken never rested but travelled on
and on and never tired.

Having been so intent on her search for
Nungken, the yokka failed to notice a
strange faint light appearing away in
the East. Mandicarra saw it but said
nothing. The light slowly increased, then
the mandicarra said to her mother
djinnung murlong beratch (see bright light)
and pointed Eastward. The yokka raised
her head ~~and shoulders~~ out of the hole, (she
having been lying on the ground with her
head down the hole so as to see further

into it) and looking in the direction the mandicarra pointed was struck with wonder at the strange ~~light~~ sight

They both watched intently as the light increased and spread over the country

Then over the far away hills they saw at first a bright blaze, which slowly rose above the hills, until it appeared as a koombarra murlong gnerling mizingurt (a big bright round face)

In the utmost surprise the yokka exclaimed "Nungkurra" In well feigned surprise the mandicarra asked "yarr. yarr" (where, where). The yokka pointing to the bright face, which had now risen clear up over the hills answered bookan Nungkurra (there is Nungkurra)

So every day since the yokka made the big fire which shined on the face of Nungkurra, as he turned in his flight, and looked back on his old enemy, he comes up from behind the far away eastern hills and mpeingim boolar benung boolar moonak ~~Budya~~ (gives plenty light plenty warm to earth) and at night follows the same track as he took in his flight from the yokka, going down out of sight into the moowon wattern (blue sea). wurra wurra Ngurdi (far away West)

To carry out her deception the mandicarra said "wungun quinya, yarr Nungkurra wurra-kul murracul? (Tell me how Nungkurra got out)

The yokka told the mandicarra that
Nungkumwurkud koombarra burra,
darp boornah, nurracool melga.
(~~Nungkum~~^{kurru} got into a big root and
up the trunk, inside the bark and
out of the leaves of one of the big
trees growing near the hole, and that
she could never catch him now.