MOOLAMU THE FIRE-STEALER

One day Dhoogoorr Mama (ancestral father) of Ilgamba Gabbi (Right Head Water) said, "Maalu and Kallaia (great red kangaroo and emu) smell the fire and run away. We will get Moolamu the carpet snake to hold our firestick and keep it alight while we go hunting."

Mama went to Moolamu and asked him to "look out" for their fire and when they brought back kooga (meat) they would share it with him. Moolamu said, "Yaddu", (good, all right) and so the next time they went hunting they left their firestick with Moolamu. When they returned with Kal-laia and Maalu kooga (kangaroo and emu meat) there was no sign of Moolamu and no fire. He had stolen the fire and taken it away to his own ngoora (camp).

Dhoogoorr Mama was very angry and said, "I will send Walja (eaglehawk) to bring back our fire and to spear Moolamu."

Walja started off but he came back after going only a little way and said his arms were tired. Then Dhoogoorr Mama sent Kaang-ga (crow), but he got tired and only went a little way. Mama then told Yang-guna (white cockatoo) to go and steal the fire, but Yang-guna began to feed and would not go.

"Let Miribilyardi (little falcon) go," said Tham'u (grandfather). Miribilyardi got up quickly and went a long way, and by and by he saw the fire and Moolamu lying asleep beside it. Miribilyardi came close up, quietly, quietly, so that he should not wake Moolamu, and when he came quite near he lifted his spear and speared Moolamu and brought the fire back to Dhoogoorr Mama.

Mama then made a song about Miribilyardi and Nung-ga (men - Right term) always sang the song when making a fire after good hunting, and no nung-ga ever killed Miribilyardi because he brought back their fire from Moolamu when Walja and Kaang-ga and Yang-guna had refused to go for it, but
they killed and ate eaglehawk and crow and white cockatoo wherever they found them.