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THE LEGEND OF WARRDARRGANA GABBI

(BOUNDARY DAM)

Away on the western border of South Australia, 170 miles north of Eucla and about the same distance W.N.W. from Ooldea on the East-West Line, lies Warrdarrgana gabbi, which Giles named Boundary Dam when he came upon it in 1875. It is a difficult water to find, as are most native waters, for there are no conspicuous natural features or leading marks whereby the locality could be described or recognised. Close by it is a low cliff of sandstone which, however, is not distinguished at a distance from the other sandhills in the vicinity. Mallee and spinifex cover the sandhills interspersed here and there with small clumps of sheoak. Mulga, the term which we apply to many varieties of bush and tree for each of which the natives have a distinct name; sheoak and native plum (boorn-boorn) cover the wide valleys to the Ooldea district.

Wardarrga - a species of mulga bearing an edible seed pod - grows luxuriantly about, also dharrulga (native apple), koorrugu-koorrugu, boggurda, tharrulyu, ngau-ilya, and many other species of mulga and acacia, each having its use in aboriginal domestic economy.

In dnoogoerr or dream times of long ago there was no water at Warrdarrgana, and when Ngannamurra the mallee fowl travelling north, came and sat down on the conderi (plain) between the thali (sandhills), he found the country good and the sand soft and firm and nice to walk on and build his kaang-gu (shelter) with, and Ngannamurra said, "I will stop a beena (lake, swamp) so that there will always be gabbi." Ngannamurra took his guraara kari (boomerang made from needlebush) and threw it low over the conderi, and the karli went round and round and scooped out the warrdarrga and made a long wide beena like a ngannamurra ngogorn (egg), and he said, "This is Warrdarrgana beena and my gabbi and I will

sit down here." And Ngannamurra built his kaangu and ate warrdarrga and dharrulga and boonda (native hop) and womma (manna) and was balyanu (good, glad).

There was only one big beena - Warrdarrga - so by and by (baarl) when Milbarli (short-tailed iguana) and Yoonga (long tailed black iguana) who were mulba (mates) for Ngannamurra, came to see him, they said, "We will make some more beena for you so that there shall be plenty of gabbi always for mulba, and Milbarli threw his karli and made Warranjurda beena and Yoonga threw his karli and Beeduring beena was made. And Ngannamurra said, "You are my mulba, and we will never fight or hurt each other, but we will always build our kaangu near each other and live together. Warranjurda and Beeduring are close to Warrdarrgana.

Maalu (silver-grey or white kangaroo) was also thoonadha (friend), but when he came to Warrdarrgana, he had to make his kaangu further away than Yoonga and Milbarli, and he saw the beena that his thoonadha had made and he said, "I will make a beena, too," and he lifted his koondi (club) and threw it and made a long narrow good beena, which he called Maalundu after himself, and he wanted to make another beena, but Milbarli and Yoong-ga, who were jealous (bala moguringinyi) of Maalu, made their eenma (bullroarer) meera meera (shout loudly) all round and about him, and Maalu heard the meeranyi (shouting) but could not see anyone, and he was greatly frightened and ran away allinjerra (north) and left the beena which is still called Maalurdu.

By and by Ngannamurra became Baadu (man) and they made a law and said, "We were ngannamurra in dhoogorr times and so all ngannamurra must be our dhoogorr brothers (totems) and we can eat them and give them to our friends to eat. Milbarli and Yoong-ga also became Waddi (men) and Waddi and Baadu are mulba just as they were in dhoogorr times, and they can visit each other and not be afraid, and when Waddi come to Warrdarrgana, Baadu bring them plenty ngannamurra, for that is the law

He went far Kungara Pleiades

the burna were men

2 burna, one black and one banded S.E. of Orion

that a man gives his friends his dhoogorr kooga (meat), and Waddi give Baadu yoong-ga and milbarli, and they are mulba always and take part in each other's ceremonies.

Ngannamurra the mallee fowl makes his minnaing in the soft sand, and wherever the minnaing is found, there beside it will be the kardala dharrbungu (tunnelled nests) of Milbarli and Yoong-ga.