

MEERIJAL, THE MOON.

Meeri-jal, the Moon, was oncena man.

He said "Ngai inja. (I'm going)."

He was taloor (Old Man).

The womba (men) said to him, "You go with that boy?"

He said, "No."

They said, "You go with gambil? jallooroo? (boys who are learning to be men)".

He said, "No."

"You go with balelee?" (young man)?" they asked him.

He said "No." They might make me minjil (pubic tassel, emblem of circumcision).

Then they said, "Joo ngan-ga le-an," (you say what you would like)."

Meerijal said nothing. He wanted to take a young girl with him.

The womba pointed to a big woman, and said, "Do you want this one?"

"No," he said. "She might look too much for bal-ngan-joon-joon (grubs)."

They pointed to a young girl and said, "You like this one?"

Meerijal laughed and said, "Yes," and he took the girl away with him.

They travelled westward, and when the girl stretched out her arm a lot of girls came, and when she stretched out her other arm a lot more came. Then she stretched out her legs and brought a great many more girls, and Meerijal put doogul (red ochre) on his forehead.

Now he has a light that will not burn you (kal-gal), but Walga, the Sun, has a fire. The Sun is a woman.

It is the Sun's daughter who always came up. If the mother Walga came up, the womba (men) would be burned, so Walga's daughter keeps her mother down, and comes up in her place.