

THE LEGEND OF DAMARI AND GUYALA

(Continued from Vol. 11.)

Damari told Guyala that the fight he had organised with the inland group will be on tomorrow at daybreak. Guyala told Damari to lie with his ear to the ground so he could hear noises through the movement of the earth.

Damari was intent on avoiding the fight, so he sneaked out of the camp before Guyala had awoken. When Guyala saw that Damari was not there, he anticipated that Damari had already set off for the fighting ground. So Guyala followed with the two women. Meanwhile Damari had taken off in another direction. He purposely threw himself up against a Bougainvillea tree, piercing himself on the prickles, making them look like spear wounds. After he thought the wounds were convincing enough he appeared at the fighting ground, after the fight was over. Guyala then asked Damari where he had been during the battle. Damari replied, "I was in the middle of the fight. Didn't you see me there with a shield?"

Even though Damari was not really there, as Guyala knew, he still insisted that he was in the thick of it all.

Later on, Damari told Guyala he would go back to the camp. Instead he went towards the sea to catch fish. He

then came looking for Guyala, who too, went to catch fish down by the sea. Guyala came back and Damari told him to go to the south, but Guyala said he was going back north to their home, and he said he would travel by boat on the sea.

At this stage of the story the two brothers split up. Guyala goes back to the north and dies in that region some time later. The story-teller follows Damari to the southern region.

Damari, now by himself, said, "I'm on my own now. Have to try and get on by myself."

He searched for the big river, and after finding it, he crossed into shallow water, and followed a small creek that branched off from the river. He was crossing the creek when suddenly an alligator bit one shin off. He left the bitten limb behind and went on with one leg short.

Damari kept going by crawling. He wanted to lie down at a place called 'Yagaladyida'. "My brother Guyala has died somewhere in the north and I'm going to die here," Damari said to himself.

Dick Moses later mentioned that Damari died near the present day site of Yarrabah Mission.

THE BEGINNING

STORIES FROM THE 1st ABORIGINAL NEWSLETTER: THE ABORIGINAL NEWS, SEPTEMBER 8, 1908

HOSPITAL REPORT

A lot of people have been through the hospital last month but most of them just came up for the day. They were not really sick but just a bit off colour. Little Kenneth died on Sunday, August 2 and Molly Campbell on Monday night August 3. She was not afraid to die, but said she wanted to go home to Jesus as soon as she could.

Jimmy Kuranda's boy was born on Wednesday August 12. Gracie and Andie came home from Bukki on Saturday night. Gracie looks a lot better from the holiday. Ada Lyall did very good work while the Matron was away. Maggie 2 was also very good. She not only looked after Midgie and Jinny but stayed with Polly when she was so sick. Three new Dispensary girls wanted to take the place of Ada Lyall, Mary Bignall and Mary Pentecost, because they are getting their own homes soon. Please tell the girls and women that when anyone dies they must not send up directly they hear the news for beads, ribbons and clothes belonging to that person. One girl did it twice lately. It does not seem nice when you think of it.

NO MANNERS

A resident was recently complaining about people walking through their yard and littering. Things like this should never occur because someone's yard is private property. No-one should walk through another person's premises without first getting permission.

Another thing is pets. The owner of the house was also concerned about chickens and other pets walking through the yard and upsetting the garden and bins, which really is inexcusable.

So let us all do a good turn for each other by asking before passing through, and keep your pets under control.

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NOTE BY GEORGE SINGLETON

On 22 July, Mr Gribble took all the children into Cairns Cairnival. All went well and the boys and girls enjoyed themselves very well. In the afternoon the boat races were held, and we put the three of our boats in for the races and the Elizabeth lost in the sailing race, and the big Launch came second in the motor race and the Nami handicapped out of it. In the evening the band played on the beach for the children, and we all started for home and we left the children in Cairns till the next day; the big launch went in for them, and brought home the Roper River Missionaries to see the Mission. They left for the Roper River last Friday with three of our people to help them, Angelina and James Noble, and Horace Reid, and we hope that they will arrive safely, by God's help.