

Story #316 (Not on tape)

Narrator: Filiz Kiygi

Location: Ankara, but narrator came from Istanbul

2/1/62

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Meshedi Cafer and the Ancient Persian Wireless

One day Meshedi Cafer was sitting in a coffee house talking with his friends. They were all listening with a good deal of interest to an Italian, who was telling about some recent excavations in Rome.

"Yes," the Italian said, "they dug down and down and down, to civilizations thousands of years ago. And do you know what they found at the very bottom?"

"No," said Meshedi Cafer, greatly interested in the account.

"Well," said the Italian, "they found a wire. And do you know what that proves? That proves that people in Rome had telephones. Imagine! Telephones, that long ago!"

The men were silent, awestruck. After a moment, Meshedi Cafer felt he had to speak. Such a discovery could not be left to the Italians. "Hmn, that's good," he said. "But when the men were digging a little while ago in Teheran, they went down and down and down--oh, many thousands of years ago, and do you know what they found?"

"No," said the Italian. "Did they find wires?"

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"No," answered Meshedi Cafer proudly. "They didn't find wires. The people in Teheran that long ago were using wireless!"