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A Parthian shot...


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Date: December 21, 2006 10:59 AM

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Subject: I found this interesting...

...and when wondering who else might find it so, I immediately thought of my friends here in Word World.

The word of the day from MW.com was "Parthian."

The adjective "Parthian," which often shows up in the phrase "Parthian shot," has its roots in the military strategies of the ancient Parthians. One of the fighting maneuvers of Parthian horsemen was to discharge arrows while in real or feigned retreat. The maneuver must have been memorable, because "Parthian shot" continues to be used for a "parting shot," or a cutting remark made by a person who is leaving, many centuries after the dissolution of the Parthian empire.

I love that kind of stuff.

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