



Across

- 1 Wispy white cloud (usually of fine ice crystals) at a high altitude (4 to 8 miles) (6)
- 4 Dark grey cloud bearing rain (6)
- 9 Italian filmmaker (1920-1993) (7)
- 10 Chinese philosopher traditionally regarded as the founder of Taoism and author of the Tao-te-Ching, its most sacred scripture (5)
- 11 Maori vegetable caterpillar (5)
- 12 Globular cloud (7)
- 13 Herbicide used in the Vietnam War to defoliate forest areas (5,6)
- 18 Large dark low cloud (7)
- 20 Elder brother of Moses and first high priest of the Israelites; created the golden calf (5)
- 22 Ethnic minority of Polynesian and Melanesian descent who live in New Zealand (5)
- 23 Opera house in Milan (2,5)
- 24 The sustainer; a Hindu divinity worshipped as the preserver of worlds (6)
- 25 Framework consisting of stakes interwoven with branches to form a fence (6)

Down

- 1 A (cotton or silk) cloak with full sleeves and sash reaching down to the ankles; worn by men in the Levant (6)
- 2 German poet (born in Austria) whose imagery and mystic lyricism influenced 20th-century German literature (1875-1926) (5)
- 3 Imaginary creature represented as a white horse with a long horn growing from its forehead (7)
- 5 Civilization of Muslims collectively which is governed by the Muslim religion (5)
- 6 Whiskey illegally distilled from a corn mash (7)
- 7 Russian counter-espionage organisation (6)
- 8 A hint of scepticism (5,2,4)
- 14 Three winged sister monsters and the mortal Medusa who had live snakes for hair; a glance at Medusa turned the beholder to stone (7)
- 15 Lake to the east of the Caspian Sea lying between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (4,3)
- 16 United States writer (born in Russia) noted for his science fiction (1920-1992) (6)
- 17 Sword-shaped (6)

19 100 of these qual 1 som in Kyrgyzstan (5)

21 Act against or in opposition to (5)