



**Across**

**1** 4, 10, 19 across or 18 perhaps, or friend in dead city. (10)

**6** Decides against it with "out damned spot!" (4)

**9** Needs to enter compound titles to gauge acidity. (6,4)

**10** She starts to add nine new arguments. (4)

**12** Could describe a weapons system to destroy a coarse fruit. (3-2-7)

**15** Pirate sings vulgar melody. (7)

**16** Bill's in river and a body of water. (4,3)

**17** Worker sends tree back over river in vessel. (4,3)

**19** Spiritually strengthened and (with energy pushed down inside) became a god. (7)

**20** Great merits for high officers. (12)

**23** To touch the king is suicide for starters! (4)

**24** Partially hide liver in gamete when assisting birth. (10)

**25** Understand there's no good in the scrape. (4)

**26** Greek letter in silver and gold initially stolen by invaders. (10)

**Down**

**1** Small husky runs around end of leash. Mush! (4)

**2** Reluctant tree dweller doesn't start. (4)

**3** Distance is useful to keep one cool-headed after endless scolding. (8,4)

**4** Spinner, or tarot puzzle? (7)

**5** Islands in the sea around

America are poorly treated. (7)

**7** Swan guards trendy calligraphy. (10)

**8** Flymen get help in pieces. (10)

**11** Disturbs neat services with imagination. (12)

**13** Conversation starter needs bit of rum in vessel on the rocks. (10)

**14** Carriers for snappy suits. (10)

**18** Scottish village in valley the Spanish glorified at first. (7)

**19** Kid made a mess with rice, being more shaky. (7)

**21** Transitive sex appeal round dictator. (4)

**22** Clutch good-for-nothing in pride and succeeded. (4)