

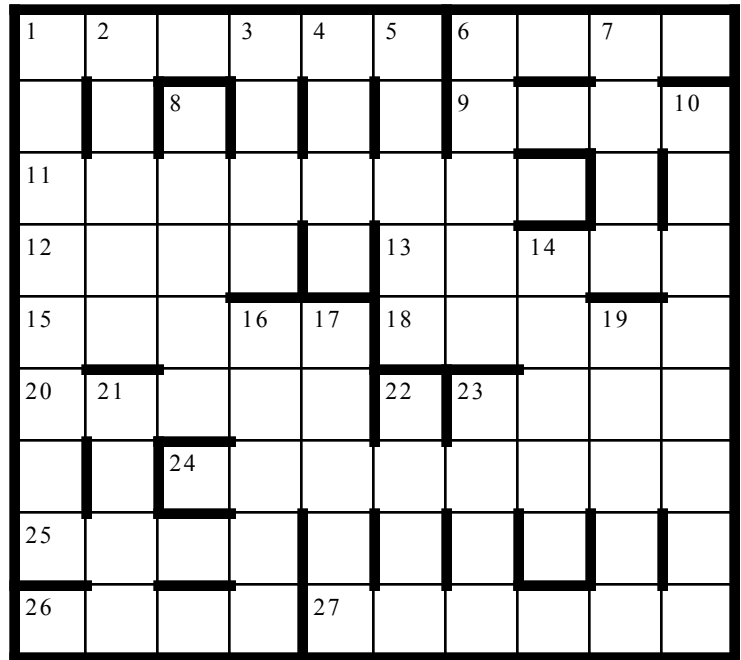
# Let There Be Lightness by Ucaoimhu

A set of deities is spurring me to brighten up the party. In an appropriate number of clues, the sequence of letters the wordplay yields omits one letter from the answer; these letters in clue order will identify the deities. In an equal number of clues, the answer is too short for its space and must have one letter added before entry; to help you out, each of the 12 remaining clues has an extraneous word that must be removed before solving, and these words, taken in ones and twos in clue order, will define those altered grid entries.

In each altered grid entry, highlight the added letter; then, if it is the entry's  $n$ th letter, move one space east and  $n$  south from it, and connect it (with a straight highlighter line) to your new location. When all this is done, you will have formed what the added letters spell out west to east, for use by those whom the added letters spell out north to south; if they are used as far as they can be, an important message will be reached.

## ACROSS

1. Call Rhode Island dog back (2 wds.)
6. Republican's \$1000 wager
9. On marijuana, one turns informal
11. Pertaining to cells that send signals and sense half-nickel-clad French coin
12. Unexciting hat worn by a Scot
13. Assents after shifting stark orange sun (2 wds.)
15. Views a Hawaiian greeting one with a Spanish salutation written the wrong way
18. The old couple from Astoria votes in favor
20. Perhaps emerald-and-blue lyre moved detective
23. Long for Greek character secondarily signifying "62"
24. Immobilizes gears that mesh with racks
25. Lease vase reportedly exhibiting merit
26. Stuff put in arms of Roman I love
27. Phony, unsatisfactory performing orca



## DOWN

1. Once again, put off discussing wild bleater
2. Delia is not happy to be a finger model
3. Elevate gusset made from red stuff
4. Touching the top of corn bread, mostly
5. Dark part of Kentucky
6. English knight that will ascend and ascend
7. Pop's party, around the penultimate part of birthday
8. Sing, using no classification words or funny stuff
10. Piece of rock covered with  $\Psi$ s on the outside thus remains
14. An ox replaced part of a nerve cell
16. Prefix meaning "under intoxicated author Edgar Allan" when spoken
17. Also called Ali Baba, in the end
19. Mesmeric deer at school with a worshipper of Vishnu, say
21. Structure that obstructs mother
22. Egyptian symbol that's part of Egyptian prefix *kha*
23. Mali is mistaken for the cheese capital of Peru