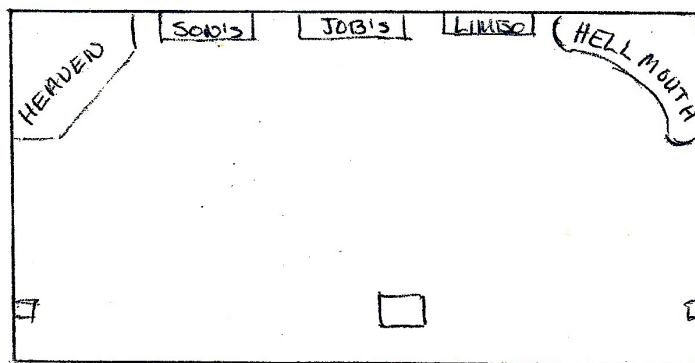


Cast of Characters  
(in the order in which they speak)

GOD  
CHORUS OF DEVILS  
SATAN  
FIRST MESSENGER  
JOB  
WIFE  
THIRD MESSENGER  
A RELATIVE OF JOB

MUTE CHARACTERS: 2 shepherds; 4 devil-robbers; 2 farmhands;  
4 devil-soldiers; second messenger; children of Job;  
devils; relatives of Job.

This play was written in imitation of the Wakefield Master. Thus, the stage for which it was designed has a polyscenic set. There are five mediaeval mansions, or places of action, surrounding the center of the stage. The five mansions are Heaven, the house of Job's eldest son, the house of Job, Limbo and Hellmouth. Below is sketched a possible groundplan for such a set on a proscenium stage:



The action of the play moves forward in a continuous stream of time. The story itself is imagined to have taken place circa 900 B.C. in the land of Uz.

The stanza of this play is an adaption of the Wakefield stanza. The rhyme scheme is the same as that of the original (the nine lines rhyme: ab/ab/ab/ab/c/d/d/d/c). I have permitted myself the liberty of using apocopated rhyme, e.g. forces, door, more, tortures (they rhyme if you cut off the end of the word; words such as forces and tortures may be considered verbal analogs of run-on lines of verse.) The meter is primarily based upon stresses. Each half-line of the quatrain has two stresses. The fifth line has one stressed syllable. The sixth, seventh and eight lines each have three stresses. The ninth line has two stressed syllables. Generally, the lines of this play have more unaccented syllables than those of the original Wakefield stanza. There is a tendency toward a rising paeonic rhythm. In reading aloud or reciting, the lines should be spoken "trippingly on the tongue".