

The Medieval Period, Day Eighteen

Everyman

Last time: York *Crucifixion*, from a pageant cycle

The Triumph of Isabella, Brussels, 1615

- The text comes from the collection of plays in a manuscript known as the “York Register” of the Corpus Christi play, dated ca. 1463-77.
- These plays would probably have been performed on a pageant wagon, in a procession through the streets of York with other pageants of the cycle.



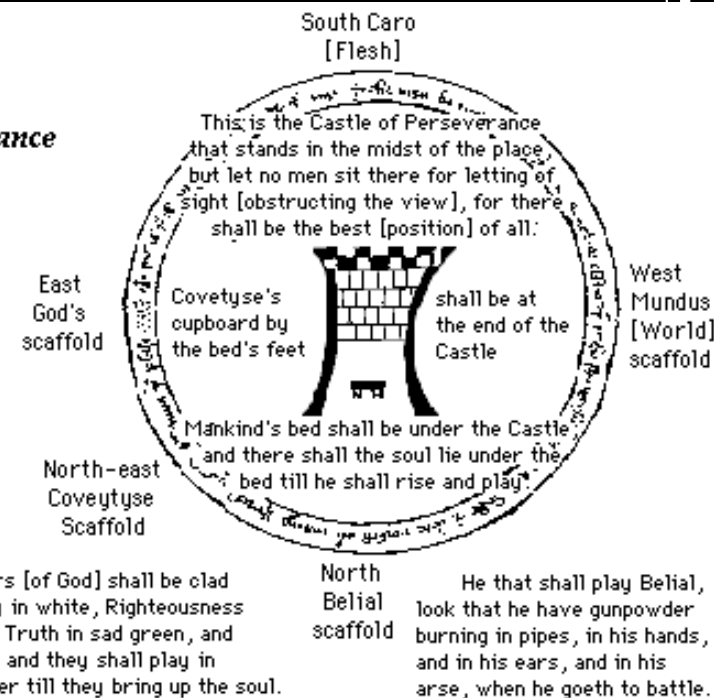
Non-Pageant Staging

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The Castle of Perseverance

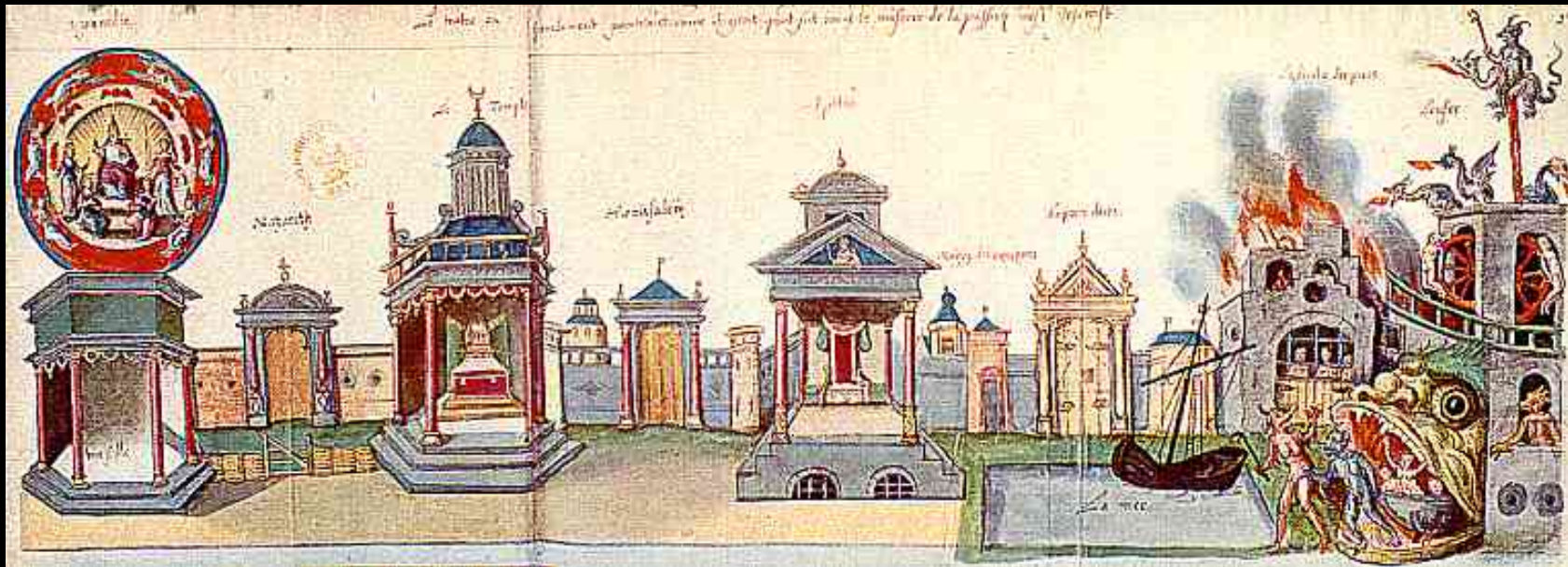
[Between the circles]

This is the water about the place if any ditch may be made where it shall be played, or else [see] that it be strongly barred all about; and let not over many stytelerys be within the place." (The stytelerys were people who controlled the crowd and kept passages clear for the entrance and exit of players.)



Stage Right: Paradise, Stage Left: Hell

Acting area of a performance of a Passion Play at Valenciennes in 1547.



Everyman

- What happens in this drama?
 - Does this drama remind you of other texts we've read this semester? How so?
 - How is this play different from the *Crucifixion*? Why is it called a morality play?
 - How do you identify the allegorical meaning as opposed to the literal meaning of the action?
 - When do the two intersect?
 - What poetic form does the drama have?
- “a bewildering number of stanza forms besides the couplet”

KNOWLEDGE IS YOUR TRUEST FRIEND!

“Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,
/ In thy most need to go by thy side” (522-3)

See first flyleaf of your edition!

Let's hear how some of the 'false friends'
(Fellowship, Kindred, Cousin, Goods, Beauty,
Strength, Wits) excuse themselves. What does
their order of desertion signify?

A modern *Everyyperson*?

Let's watch one modern, rather minimalist adaptation of *Everyman*... or, *Everypig*?

- What would a morality play for today look like?
- What characters would you want to have?
- Who would you cast as those characters?

Next class: *Second Shepherds' play*

- Another drama from a cycle, so named because it is the SECOND play to tell the story of the biblical shepherds in the manuscript
- It has an entirely unique stanza form, featuring internal rhymes in the first four lines... Try reading portions of the play out loud and hear how this sounds. (This will also help you prepare for our Day Of Drama next Thursday...)
- Post!