Pythagoras) inventing his Octave of Sirens, spinning in the whorls of the great planets and intoning as they spin; Chaucer (who learned of Dante and makes the spheres nine) in his *Parlement of Foules* telling, out of Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis*, how the great Scipio Africanus visited his descendant in a dream and—

Shewed he him the litel erthe, that heer is, In regard of the hevenes quantité: And after shewed he him the nynè sperés, And after that the melodye herde he That cometh of thilke sperès thryés-three That welle is of musicke and melodye In this world heer, and cause of armonye.

While Shakespeare in the last Act of *The Merchant of Venice* makes all the stars vocal, and not the planets only :

There's not the smallest orb which thou beholdest But in his motion like an angel sings, Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubims . . . 4