Il. 24.602-617

Achilles invites Priam to supper after agreeing to return Hector’s body

“Even Niobe with her lustrous hair remembered food,
though she saw a dozen children killed in her own halls,
six daughters and six sons in the pride and prime of youth.
True, lord Apollo killed the sons with his silver bow
and Artemis showering arrows killed the daughters.
Both gods were enraged at Niobe. Time and again
she placed herself on a par with their own mother,
Leto in her immortal beauty—how she insulted Leto:
‘All you have borne is two, but I have borne so many!’
So, two as they were, they slaughtered all her children.
Nine days they lay in their blood, no one to bury them—
Cronus’ son had turned the people into stone…
then on the tenth the gods of heaven interred them.
And Niobe, gaunt, worn to the bone with weeping,
turned her thoughts to food. And now, somewhere,
lost on the crags, on the lonely mountain slopes,
on Sipylus where, they say, the nymphs who live forever,
dancing along the Achelous River run to beds of rest—
there, struck into stone, Niobe still broods
on the spate of griefs the gods poured out to her.”

—Translated by Robert Fagles
Achilles invites Priam to supper after agreeing to return Hector’s body

καὶ γὰρ τ’ ἡδοκομὸς Νίοβη ἐμνήσατο σίτου,
τῇ περ δώδεκα παιδεῖς ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ὀλοντο ἐξ μὲν θυγατέρες, ἐξ δ’ νιές ἡβώοντες.

605 τοὺς μὲν Ἀπόλλων πέφνεν ἀπ’ ἀργυρέοι βιοῖο χωόμενος Νιόβη, τὰς δ’ Ἀρτέμις ἱοχέαιρα,
οὖνεκ’ ἄρα Λητοὶ ἱσάσκετο καλλιπαρήφω: φή δοιώ τεκέειν, ἢ δ’ αὐτῇ γείνατο πολλοίς:
tῶ δ’ ἀρα καὶ δοιώ περ ἑόντ’ ἀπὸ πάντας ὁλεσσαν.

610 οἶ μὲν ἄρ’ ἐννήμαρ κέατ’ ἐν φόνῳ, οὔδὲ τις ἦν κατθάψαι, λαοὺς δὲ λίθους ποίησε Κρονίων:
tοὺς δ’ ἄρα τῇ δεκάτῃ θάψαν θεοὶ Ὀυρανίωνες.
ἡ δ’ ἄρα σίτου μνήσατ’, ἔπει κάμε δάκρυ χέουσα.

615 ἐν Σιπύλῳ, οὗτοι φασὶ θεάων ἐμμεναι εὖνάς νυμφάων, αἱ τ’ ἀμφ’ Ἀχέλῳ οι ἐρρώσαντο,
ἔνθα λίθος περ ἑοῦσα θεῶν ἐκ κήδεα πέσσει.