

**MOTHERS OF HEROES AND MONSTERS:  
ALTHAEA AND CALLIRHOE**

**I. ALTHAEA, MOTHER OF MELEAGROS**

**1. II. 9.538-580**

“ἦ δὲ χολωσαμένη διὸν γένος ἰοχέαιρα

ᾧρσεν ἐπι χλούνην σὺν ἄγριον ἀργιόδοντα,

**540** ὃς κακὰ πόλλ’ ἔρδεσκεν ἔθων Οἰνήος ἀλωήν:

πολλὰ δ’ ὅ γε προθέλυμα χαμαὶ βάλε δένδρεα μακρὰ

αὐτῆσιν ρίζησι καὶ αὐτοῖς ἄνθεσι μήλων.

τὸν δ’ υἱὸς Οἰνήος ἀπέκτεινεν Μελέαγρος

πολλέων ἐκ πολίων θηρήτορας ἄνδρας ἀγείρας

**545** καὶ κύνας: οὐ μὲν γάρ κε δάμη παύροισι βροτοῖσι:

τόσσοις ἔην, πολλοὺς δὲ πυρῆς ἐπέβησ’ ἀλεγεινῆς.

ἦ δ’ ἀμφ’ αὐτῷ θῆκε πολὺν κέλαδον καὶ αὐτὴν

ἀμφὶ συὸς κεφαλῆ καὶ δέρματι λαχνήεντι,

Κουρήτων τε μεσηγὺ καὶ Αἰτωλῶν μεγαθύμων.

**550** ὄφρα μὲν οὖν Μελέαγρος ἄρηι φίλος πολέμιζε,

τόφρα δὲ Κουρήτεσσι κακῶς ἦν, οὐδὲ δύναντο

τείχεος ἔκτοσθεν μίμνειν πολέες περ ἐόντες:

ἀλλ’ ὅτε δὴ Μελέαγρον ἔδου χόλος, ὅς τε καὶ ἄλλων

οἰδάνει ἐν στήθεσσι νόον πύκα περ φρονεόντων,

**555** ἦτοι ὁ μητρὶ φίλῃ Ἀλθαίῃ χωόμενος κῆρ

κεῖτο παρὰ μνηστῆ ἀλόχῳ καλῇ Κλεοπάτρῃ

κούρῃ Μαρπήσσης καλλισφύρου Εὐθύνῃς

“Thereat the Archer-goddess, the child of Zeus, waxed

wroth and sent against him a fierce wild boar, white of

tusk, [540] that wrought much evil, wasting the orchard

land of Oeneus; many a tall tree did he uproot and cast

upon the ground, aye, root and apple blossom therewith.

**But the boar did Meleager, son of Oeneus, slay, when**

**he had gathered out of many cities huntsmen [545]**

**and hounds; for not of few men could the boar have**

**been slain, so huge was he; and many a man set he**

**upon the grievous pyre. But about his body the**

**goddess brought to pass much clamour and shouting**

**concerning his head and shaggy hide, between the**

**Curetes and the great-souled Aetolians. [550] Now so**

**long as Meleager, dear to Ares, warred, so long went**

**it ill with the Curetes, nor might they abide without**

**their wall, for all they were very many. But when**

**wrath entered into Meleager, wrath that maketh the**

**heart to swell in the breasts also of others, even**

**though they be wise, [555] he then, wroth at heart**

**against his dear mother Althaea, abode beside his**

**wedded wife, the fair Cleopatra, daughter of Marpessa of**

Ἴδεώ θ', ὃς κάρτιστος ἐπιχθονίων γέενετ' ἀνδρῶν  
τῶν τότε: καὶ ῥα ἄνακτος ἐναντίον εἶλετο τόξον  
**560** Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος καλλισφύρου εἵνεκα νύμφης,  
τὴν δὲ τότε ἔν μεγάροισι πατὴρ καὶ πότνια μήτηρ  
Ἀλκυόνην καλέεσκον ἐπώνυμον, οὐνεκ' ἄρ' αὐτῆς  
μήτηρ ἄλκυόνος πολυπενθέος οἴτον ἔχουσα  
κλαῖεν ὃ μιν ἐκάεργος ἀνήρπασε Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων:  
**565** τῆ ὃ γε παρκατέλεκτο χόλον θυμαλγέα πέσσων  
ἐξ ἀρέων μητρὸς κεχολωμένος, ἧ ῥα θεοῖσι  
πόλλ' ἀχέουσ' ἠρᾶτο κασιγνήτιο φόνιοι,  
πολλὰ δὲ καὶ γαῖαν πολυφόρβην χερσὶν ἀλοία  
κικλήσκουσ' Αἴδην καὶ ἐπαινήν Περσεφόνειαν  
**570** πρόχην καθεζομένη, δεύοντο δὲ δάκρυσι κόλποι,  
παιδὶ δόμεν θάνατον: τῆς δ' ἠεροφοῖτις Ἐρινὺς  
ἔκλυεν ἐξ Ἐρέβησφιν ἀμείλιχον ἦτορ ἔχουσα.  
τῶν δὲ τάχ' ἀμφὶ πύλας ὄμαδος καὶ δοῦπος ὀρώρει  
πύργων βαλλομένων: τὸν δὲ λίσσοντο γέροντες  
**575** Αἰτωλῶν, πέμπον δὲ θεῶν ἱερῆας ἀρίστους,  
ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἀμῦναι ὑποσχόμενοι μέγα δῶρον:  
ὀππόθι πιότατον πεδίον Καλυδῶνος ἐραννῆς,  
ἐνθά μιν ἦνωγον τέμενος περικαλλὲς ἐλέσθαι  
πεντηκοντόγυον, τὸ μὲν ἥμισυ οἰνοπέδιοι,  
**580** ἥμισυ δὲ ψιλὴν ἄροσιν πεδίον ταμέσθαι.

the fair ankles, child of Evenus, and of Idas that was  
mightiest of men that were then upon the face of earth;  
who also took his bow to face the king **[560]** Phoebus  
Apollo for the sake of the fair-ankled maid. Her of old in  
their halls had her father and honoured mother called  
Halcyone by name, for that the mother herself in a plight  
even as that of the halcyon-bird of many sorrows, wept  
because Apollo that worketh afar had snatched her child  
away. **[565]** By her side lay Meleager nursing his bitter  
anger, wroth because of his mother's curses; for she  
prayed instantly to the gods, being grieved for her  
brother's slaying; and furthermore instantly beat with her  
hands upon the all-nurturing earth, calling upon Hades  
and dread Persephone, **[570] the while she knelt and  
made the folds of her bosom wet with tears, that they  
should bring death upon her son; and the Erinys that  
walketh in darkness heard her from Erebus, even she  
of the ungentle heart.** Now anon was the din of the  
foemen risen about their gates, and the noise of the  
battering of walls, and to Meleager the elders **[575]** of  
the Aetolians made prayer, sending to him the best of the  
priests of the gods, that he should come forth and  
succour them, and they promised him a mighty gift; they  
bade him, where the plain of lovely Calydon was fattest,

there choose a fair tract of fifty acres, the half of it  
vineland, [580] and the half clear plough-land, to be cut  
from out the plain. ”

## 2. Hesiod, *Catalogue of Women*, fr. 22 M-W

ὄς μέγ[’ ἄριστος ἔην  
ἔγχει μάρνασθα[ι  
πλή<v> γ’ Ἡρακλῆ[ος  
αυτ . . . . Ἄρηι . [  
ξανθοκόμη . [  
τοῦ καὶ ἀπ’ ὀφθ[αλμῶν  
γοργ . . . . α[  
θηρο[ ]νδ[...].[  
οὔτε τις ἐν πολέμ[ωι φθισήνο]ρι δακρυόε[ντι  
ἔτλη ἐσάντα ἰδῶ[ν μείναι κρατερ]ὸν Μελέαγ[ρον  
ἀνδρῶν ἠρώων, ὅπότ[’ ἰθύοι ἄντα μάχεσ]θαι.  
ἀλλ’ ὑπ’ Ἀπόλλωνος χερ[σὶν φίλον ὄλ]εσε θ[υ]μ[ὸν  
μαρνάμενος Κουρ[ῆσι περὶ Πλ]ε[υ]ρῶν[ι] μακεδνῆι.  
τοὺς δ’ ἄλλους Οἰνῆϊ [τέκ]’ Ἀλθαίη κυα[ν]ῶ[πι]ς,  
Φηρέα θ’ ἰππόδαμ[ον καὶ ἐυμ]μελίη[ν Ἀγέ]λαιον  
Τοξέα τε Κλύμενό[ν τε ἄνακ]τ’ ἀτάλαντ[ον] Ἄρηι  
Γόργην τ’ ἠύκομον καὶ ἐπίφρονα Δηϊάνειραν,  
ἦ τέχ’ ὑποδμηθεῖ[σα βίη] Ἡρ[ακλη]ε[ί]ηι  
Ἵλλον καὶ Γλῆνον καὶ Κτήσιππον καὶ Ὀνειτήν’

*Althaea's Children: Meleager*

who [was] by far [the best

At fighting with the spear [

Except for Heracles [

to Ares [

blond-haired [

And from his [eyes

grim [

[ ]

**and no one in [man-destroying] tearful was**

**dared to [withstand strong] Meleager when he looked  
him in the face,**

**no one of the men, heroes, whenever he [strove] to do  
battle face to face.**

**But at the hands of Apollo [he lost his dear spirit**

**Fighting the Curetes around high [Pleuron].**

*Althaea's Children (Continued): Phereus, Agelaus,  
Toxeus, Clymenus, Gorge, Deianeira (and Her Children  
and the Death of Heracles)*

[...]

The others dark-eyed Althaea [bore] to Oeneus,  
horse-taming Phereus [and] Agelaus, well-armed with  
ashen spear,  
and Toxeus and [lord] Clymenus, equal to Ares,  
and beautiful-haired Gorge [and] thoughtful Deianeira,  
who, overpowered by Heracles' [force], bore  
Hyllus and Glenus and Ctesippus and Onites;

[...]

transl. G.W. Most, *Hesiod: The Shield, Catalogue of Women, Other Fragments*, LCL 503, Cambridge Mass. 2007.

**3. Hesiod, *Peirithou Katabasis*, fr. 280 M-W**

..... . ὀλέσαι με βίηφι τε δουρί τε μακρῶι,  
ἀλλά με Μοῖρ' ὀλοή και Λητοῦς ὤλεσεν υἱός.  
ἀλλ' ἄγε δὴ μοι ταῦτα διαμπερέως ἀγόρευσον'  
..... ]νδε κατήλυθες [εἰς Αἴδαο  
..... ] ἄμ' ἔσπετο πισ[τὸς] ἐταῖρος  
..... ]ει τί κατὰ χρέος ω[ ..... ]ις;  
..... ]πρότερό[ς] τ' ἀπ[ὸ] μῦθον ἔειπε[

**Hesiod, *The Descent of Peirithous to Hades*, fr. 280 M-W**

] to destroy me by force and a long spear,  
but deadly Destiny] and Leto's son destroyed [me.  
But come now and] tell [me this] through and through:  
] you have descended [into Hades  
] a trusted [comrade] has accompanied together  
] for what purpose [ ]?  
] he uttered a speech before  
] to the shepherd of the people  
] the goddess, ghastly Erinys:  
"Zeus-born Meleager,] son of valorous Oeneus,

indeed I] shall tell [you] this quite unerringly.

] illustrious Persephone

] Zeus who delights in the thunderbolt

and by the ordinances of [the immortals], so that he  
would marry a wife

] they say that they [ ] their sisters

woo, and marry without their dear [parents

] from the blessed ones he sets about to wed in  
marriage

a sister by the same father; for nearer in kin

he says that he is] himself than great Hades

to Persephone,] daughter of beautiful-haired Demeter;

for he [himself] says that he is her brother and from the  
same father

] that Hades is her dear father's brother.

That is why] he said he was going down below the  
murky gloom.”

So he spoke.] But Oeneus' son shuddered at this speech  
when he heard it

and answering [him] addressed him with mild words:

“Theseus,] counselor of the cuirassed Athenians,

]damea was the exceedingly wise wife

] of great-spirited Peirithous?”

transl. G.W. Most, *Hesiod: The Shield, Catalogue of*

*Women, Other Fragments*, LCL 503, Cambridge Mass.  
2007.

#### 4. Pausanias, *Description of Greece*, 10.31.4

τὸν δὲ ἐπὶ τῷ δαλῶ λόγον, ὡς δοθείη μὲν ὑπὸ Μοιρῶν τῇ  
Ἀλθαία, Μελεάγρῳ δὲ οὐ πρότερον ἔδει τὴν τελευτὴν  
συμβῆναι πρὶν ἢ ὑπὸ πυρὸς ἀφανισθῆναι τὸν δαλὸν καὶ  
ὡς ὑπὸ τοῦ θυμοῦ καταπρήσειεν αὐτὸν ἡ Ἀλθαία, τοῦτον  
τὸν λόγον Φρύνιχος ὁ Πολυφράδμονος πρῶτος ἐν  
δράματι ἔδειξε Πλευρωνίαις: “κρυερὸν γὰρ οὐκ  
ἦλυξεν μόρον, ὡκεῖα δὲ νιν φλόξ κατεδαίσατο,  
δαλοῦ περθομένου ματρὸς ὑπ’ αἰνᾶς κακομηχάνου. οὐ  
μὴν φαίνεται γὰρ ὁ Φρύνιχος προαγαγὼν τὸν λόγον ἐς  
πλέον ὡς εὔρημα ἂν τις οἰκεῖον, προσαψάμενος δὲ αὐτοῦ  
μόνον ἄτε ἐς ἅπαν ἤδη διαβεβοημένου τὸ Ἑλληνικόν.

The story about the brand, how it was given by the Fates  
to Althaea, how Meleager was not to die before the brand  
was consumed by fire, and how Althaea burnt it up in a  
passion—this story was first made the subject of a drama  
by Phrynichus, the son of Polyphradmon, in his  
Pleuronian Women:—“For chill doom  
He escaped not, but a swift flame consumed him,  
As the brand was destroyed by his terrible mother,  
contriver of evil. However, it appears that Phrynichus did  
not elaborate the story as a man would his own  
invention, but only touched on it as one already in the  
mouths of everybody in Greece.

#### 5. Stesichorus, *Unplaced Fragments*, fr. 191 D-F

]άθαν μ[

]λετομ[

]ψαμε.σ.[

] ποτέ[ει]πε θ[

5 ‘woman with a noble father,

soon you will learn of unenviable news

in your halls. Your brothers have died, I tell  
you,

on this day, against fate.

Their killer was . . .’ [transl. P. Finglass]

5 ]· εὐπατέρει-

α, τ]άχ' ἀγγελίας ἀμεγάρτου

πε]ύσει ἐν μεγάροις· τεθνᾶσι τ[ο]ι

ἄμα]τι τῶιδε παρ' αἴ-

σαν] ἀδελφ[εοί·] ἔκτανε δ' αὐτοὺς

10 ]φ[ ]

]·c[ ] ἀ]μύμων

]... φρένα[

## 6. Stesichorus, Unplaced Fragments, *fr.* 189 D-F:

]·[]·[

]ις ἀπέδωκε[

'(s)he gave'

]·ία δ' ἄρ' ὅπως [

[...]

]εν ἀγγελια[

[...] message / news

5 ]πεμψε δέ νιν [

'(s)he sent him/her/it/them'

Ἄρτα]μις ἰοχέαιρ' ἀπολυμ[

**'Artemis of the showering arrows ...**

**the beast-hunting daughter of Zeus'**

θυγάτ]ηρ Διδὸς ἀγρεσ[ι]θήρα

'lovely Calydon'

[transl. P. Finglass]

]πως Κα[λυδ]ῶν' ἐρατὰν .[

]αι μέ[γα...]μα περικλ[υτ-

## 7. Stesichorus, Unplaced Fragments, *fr.* 193 D-F

...[

ματρ.[ **mother**

ολέσα[ **destruct-**

χαλεπ[ **difficult**

## II. CALLIRHOE, GERYON'S MOTHER (17 D-F): MOULDING THE *MATER DOLOROSA* TYPE

### 8. 17 (S13) P.Oxy. 2617 = Stesichorus, *Geryoneis*, *fr.* 11 D-F:

]μ.[

ant. 9-str. 4

←————→

≡ — ∪ ] ἐγὼν [μελέ]α καὶ ἄλας-

ep.

τοτόκος κ]αὶ ἄλ[α]τα παθοῖα

— ≡ Γ]αρύονα γωναζόμα[ι,

5

αἶ ποκ' ἐμ]όν τιν μαζ[όν] ἐ[πέεχ]≡

— ≡ — ∪ ∪ ]ωμον γ[ — ∪ ∪ —

∪ ∪ — — ]

— ⚭ — ∪ ] φίλαι γανυθ[ε⚭

— ⚭ — ]ροκύναic

⟷

10

⚭ — ⚭ — ]δεα πέπλ[ον

str.

]...[κλυ...[

⚭ — ⚭ — ∪ ]ρευγων·

⚭ — ⚭ — ⚭ — ]γονελ[—

**‘I, unhappy woman, miserable in the child I bore, miserable in my sufferings’**

**‘I supplicate [...], Geryon’**

**‘if I held out my breast to you’**

[...][transl. P. Finglass]

### 9. Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* 2.5.10

δέκατον ἐπετάγη ἄθλον τὰς Γηρυόνου βόας ἐξ Ἐρυθείας κομίζειν. Ἐρύθεια δὲ ἦν Ὠκεανοῦ πλησίον κειμένη νῆσος, ἣ νῦν Γάδαιρα καλεῖται. ταύτην κατοικεῖ Γηρυόνης Χρυσάορος καὶ Καλλιρρόης τῆς Ὠκεανοῦ, τριῶν ἔχων ἀνδρῶν συμφυῆς σῶμα, συνηγμένον εἰς ἓν κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα, ἐσχισμένον δὲ εἰς τρεῖς ἀπὸ λαγόνων τε καὶ μηρῶν. εἶχε δὲ φοινικᾶς βόας, ὧν ἦν βουκόλος Εὐρυτίων, φύλαξ δὲ Ὅρθος ὁ κύων δικέφαλος ἐξ

As a tenth labour he was ordered to fetch the kine of Geryon from Erythia. Now Erythia was an island near the ocean; it is now called Gadira. This island was inhabited by Geryon, son of Chrysaor by Callirrhoe, daughter of Ocean. He had the body of three men grown together and joined in one at the waist, but parted in three from the flanks and thighs. He owned red kine, of which Eurytion was the herdsman and Orthus, the two-

Ἐχίδνης καὶ Τυφῶνος γεγεννημένος. πορευόμενος οὖν headed hound, begotten by Typhon on Echidna, was the ἐπὶ τὰς Γηρυόνου βόας διὰ τῆς Εὐρώπης, ἄγρια πολλὰ watchdog. So journeying through Europe to fetch the ζῶα ἀνελῶν Λιβύης ἐπέβαινε, καὶ παρελθὼν Ταρτησὸν kine of Geryon he destroyed many wild beasts and set ἔστησε σημεῖα τῆς πορείας ἐπὶ τῶν ὄρων Εὐρώπης καὶ foot in Libya, and proceeding to Tartessus he erected as Λιβύης ἀντιστοίχους δύο στήλας. θερόμενος δὲ ὑπὸ tokens of his journey two pillars over against each other Ἥλιου κατὰ τὴν πορείαν, τὸ τόξον ἐπὶ τὸν θεὸν at the boundaries of Europe and Libya. But being heated ἐνέτεινεν: ὁ δὲ τὴν ἀνδρείαν αὐτοῦ θαυμάσας χρύσειον by the Sun on his journey, he bent his bow at the god, ἔδωκε δέπας, ἐν ᾧ τὸν Ὠκεανὸν διεπέρασε. καὶ who in admiration of his hardihood, gave him a golden παραγενόμενος εἰς Ἐρύθειαν ἐν ὄρει Ἄβαντι αὐλίζεται. goblet in which he crossed the ocean. And having αἰσθόμενος δὲ ὁ κύων ἐπ’ αὐτὸν ὄρμα: ὁ δὲ καὶ τοῦτον reached Erythia he lodged on Mount Abas. However the τῷ ῥοπάλῳ παίει, καὶ τὸν βουκόλον Εὐρυτίωνα τῷ κυνὶ dog, perceiving him, rushed at him; but he smote it with βοηθοῦντα ἀπέκτεινε. Μενoitης δὲ ἐκεῖ τὰς Ἄιδου βόας his club, and when the herdsman Eurytion came to the βοσκῶν Γηρυόνη τὸ γεγονός ἀπήγγειλεν. ὁ δὲ help of the dog, Hercules killed him also. But Menoetes, καταλαβὼν Ἡρακλέα παρὰ ποταμὸν Ἀνθεμοῦντα τὰς who was there pasturing the kine of Hades, reported to βόας ἀπάγοντα, συστησάμενος μάχην τοξευθεὶς Geryon what had occurred, and he, coming up with ἀπέθανεν. Ἡρακλῆς δὲ ἐνθέμενος τὰς βόας εἰς τὸ δέπας Hercules beside the river Anthemus, as he was driving καὶ διαπλεύσας εἰς Ταρτησὸν Ἥλιῳ πάλιν ἀπέδωκε τὸ away the kine, joined battle with him and was shot dead. δέπας. And Hercules, embarking the kine in the goblet and sailing across to Tartessus, gave back the goblet to the Sun.

#### 10. II. 18.52-64 = Thetis' Lament

“κλυτε κασίγνηται Νηρηίδες, ὄφρ’ ἐὺ πᾶσαι  
εἶδετ’ ἀκούουσαι ὅσ’ ἐμῷ ἔνι κήδεα θυμῷ.

“Listen, sister Nereids, that one and all ye may hear and know all the sorrows that are in my heart. **Ah, woe is me unhappy, woe is me that bare to my sorrow the**

ὦ μοι ἐγὼ δειλή, ὦ μοι δυσαριστοτόκεια,  
55 ἢ τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ τέκον υἷὸν ἀμόμονά τε κρατερόν τε  
ἔξοχον ἠρώων: ὁ δ' ἀνέδραμεν ἔρνεϊ Ἴσος:  
τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ θρέψασα φυτὸν ὧς γουνῶ ἀλωῆς  
νηυσὶν ἐπιπροέηκα κορωνίσιν Ἴλιον εἴσω  
Τρωσὶ μαχησόμενον: τὸν δ' οὐχ ὑποδέξομαι αὐτίς  
60 οἴκαδε νοστήσαντα δόμον Πηληϊῶν εἴσω.  
ὄφρα δέ μοι ζῶει καὶ ὄρᾳ φάος ἠελίοιο  
ἄχγυται, οὐδέ τί οἱ δύνamai χραισμῆσαι ἰοῦσα.  
ἀλλ' εἴμ', ὄφρα ἴδωμι φίλον τέκος, ἠδ' ἐπακούσω  
ὅττι μιν ἴκετο πένθος ἀπὸ πτολέμοιο μένοντα.”

### 11. II. 22.52-76 = Priamus' plea to Hector

“[...]

εἰ δ' ἤδη τεθνήσκει καὶ εἰν Αἴδαο δόμοισιν,  
ἄλγος ἐμῶ θυμῶ καὶ μητέρι τοῖ τεκόμεσθα:  
λαοῖσιν δ' ἄλλοισι μινυθαδιώτερον ἄλγος  
55 ἔσσειται, ἦν μὴ καὶ σὺ θάνης Ἀχιλῆϊ δαμασθεῖς.  
ἀλλ' εἰσέρχαιο τεῖχος ἐμὸν τέκος, ὄφρα σωσῆς  
Τρωῶας καὶ Τρωᾶς, μὴ δὲ μέγα κῦδος ὀρέξῃς  
Πηλεΐδῃ, αὐτὸς δὲ φίλης αἰῶνος ἀμερθῆς.  
πρὸς δ' ἐμὲ τὸν δύστηνον ἔτι φρονέοντ' ἐλέησον  
60 δύσμορον, ὃν ῥα πατὴρ Κρονίδης ἐπὶ γήραος οὐδῶ

best of men, [55] for after I had borne a son peerless  
and stalwart, pre-eminent among warriors, and he  
shot up like a sapling; then when I had reared him as a  
tree in a rich orchard plot, I sent him forth in the  
beaked ships to Ilios to war with the Trojans; but never  
again shall I welcome him [60] back to his home, to the  
house of Peleus. And while yet he liveth, and beholdeth  
the light of the sun, he hath sorrow, neither can I  
anywise help him, though I go to him. Howbeit go I  
will, that I may behold my dear child, and hear what  
grief has come upon him while yet he abideth aloof  
from the war.”

But and if they be even now dead and in the house of  
Hades, then shall there be sorrow to my heart and to  
their mother, to us that gave them birth; but to the rest  
of the host a briefer sorrow, [55] if so be thou die not as  
well, slain by Achilles. Nay, enter within the walls, my  
child, that thou mayest save the Trojan men and Trojan  
women, and that thou give not great glory to the son of  
Peleus, and be thyself reft of thy dear life. Furthermore,  
have thou compassion on me that yet can feel — [60]  
on wretched me whom the father, son of Cronos, will  
shay by a grievous fate on the threshold of old age,

αἴσιη ἐν ἀργαλέῃ φθίσει κακὰ πόλλ' ἐπιδόντα  
υἱάς τ' ὄλλυμένους ἐλκηθείσας τε θύγατρας,  
καὶ θαλάμους κεραϊζομένους, καὶ νήπια τέκνα  
βαλλόμενα προτὶ γαίῃ ἐν αἰνῇ δηϊοτήτι,  
**65** ἐλκομένας τε νουοὺς ὀλοῆς ὑπὸ χερσὶν Ἀχαιῶν.  
αὐτὸν δ' ἂν πύματόν με κύνες πρώτησι θύρησιν  
ὠμησται ἐρύουσιν, ἐπεὶ κέ τις ὀξείῃ χαλκῶ  
τύψας ἢ ἐβαλὼν ῥεθέων ἐκ θυμὸν ἔληται,  
οὗς τρέφον ἐν μεγάροισι τραπεζῆας θυραωρούς,  
**70** οἳ κ' ἐμὸν αἶμα πίνοντες ἀλύσσοντες περὶ θυμῶ  
κεῖσοντ' ἐν προθύροισι. νέω δέ τε πάντ' ἐπέοικεν  
ἄρηϊ κταμένῳ δεδαῖγμένῳ ὀξείῃ χαλκῶ  
κεῖσθαι: πάντα δὲ καλὰ θανόντι περ ὅττι φανήη:  
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ πολίον τε κάρη πολίον τε γένειον  
**75** αἰδῶ τ' αἰσχύνωσι κύνες κταμένοιο γέροντος,  
τοῦτο δὴ οἴκτιστον πέλεται δειλοῖσι βροτοῖσιν.”

## 12. II. 22.82-89 = Hecuba's plea to Hector

“Ἐκτορ τέκνον ἐμὸν τάδε τ' αἶδεο καὶ μ' ἐλέησον  
αὐτήν, εἴ ποτέ τοι λαθικηδέα μαζὸν ἐπέσχον:  
τῶν μνησαί φίλε τέκνον ἄμυνε δὲ δήτιον ἄνδρα  
**85** τείχεος ἐντὸς ἐών, μὴ δὲ πρόμος ἴστασο τούτῳ

when I have beheld ills full many, my sons perishing  
and my daughters haled away, and my treasure  
chambers laid waste, and little children hurled to the  
ground in the dread conflict, and my sons' wives [65]  
being haled away beneath the deadly hands of the  
Achaean. Myself then last of all at the entering in of  
my door shall ravening dogs rend, when some man by  
thrust or cast of the sharp bronze hath reft my limbs of  
life—even the dogs that in my halls I reared at my table  
to guard my door, [70] which then having drunk my  
blood in the madness of their hearts, shall lie there in  
the gateway. A young man it beseemeth wholly, when  
he is slain in battle, that he lie mangled by the sharp  
bronze; dead though he be, all is honourable whatsoever  
be seen. But when dogs work shame upon the hoary  
head and hoary beard [75] and on the nakedness of an  
old man slain, lo, this is the most piteous thing that  
cometh upon wretched mortals.”

“Hector, my child, **have thou respect unto this and  
pity me, if ever I gave thee the breast to lull thy  
pain.** Think thereon, dear child, and ward off yon  
foemen [85] from within the wall, neither stand thou  
forth to face him. Cruel is he; for if so be he shay thee,

σχέτλιος: εἴ περ γάρ σε κατακάνη, οὐ σ' ἔτ' ἔγωγε      never shall I lay thee on a bier and bewail thee, dear  
κλαύσομαι ἐν λεχέεσσι φίλον θάλος, ὄν τέκον αὐτή,      plant, born of mine own self, nay, nor shall thy  
οὐδ' ἄλοχος πολύδωρος: ἄνευθε δέ σε μέγα νῶϊν      bounteous wife; but far away from us by the ships of  
Ἀργείων παρὰ νηυσὶ κύνες ταχέες κατέδονται.”      the Argives shall swift dogs devour thee.”

**13. Evang. Luke 11.27**

Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ λέγειν αὐτὸν ταῦτα, ἐπάρασά τις  
φωνήν γυνή ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Μακαρία ἡ κοιλία  
ἡ βαστάσασά σε, καὶ μαστοὶ οὓς ἐθήλασας.

**As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the**

**crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave  
you birth and nursed you.”**

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05/07/2015

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