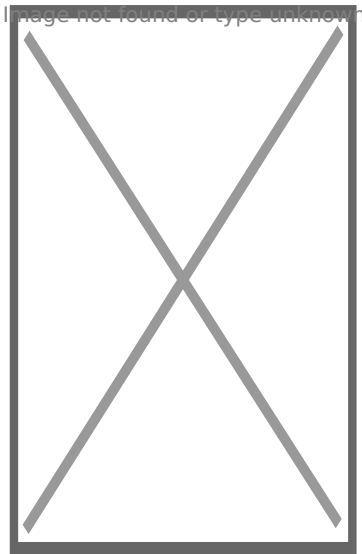


# "Setting Before the Eyes"

Post by "Don" of January 28, 2022 at 11:56 PM

I tracked down "set before the eyes" in both Philodemus's On Frank Criticism and in his On Anger. I found the first two mentions but haven't had a chance to read all the columns yet. But Tsouna is absolutely correct in using that phrase. It is a literal translation of τιθῶμεν πρὸ ὀμμάτων:

On Frank Criticism/Peri parressias Column 26.4-5



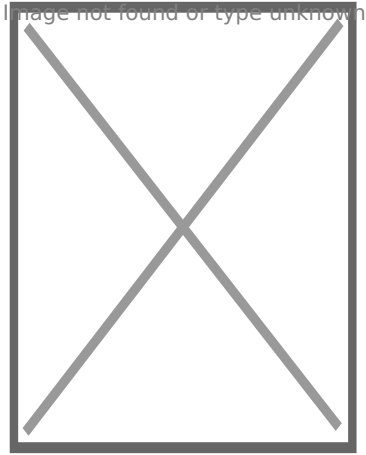
[Philodemi Peri parresias libellus; edidit Alexander Olivieri : Philodemus, ca. 110-ca. 40 B.C : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

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τιθῶμεν πρὸ ὀμμάτων

On Anger/Peri orges (De ira (Latin)) Column 1.23



[De ira liber. - \(Google eBook\) : Philodemus, Theodor Gomperz : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

in aedibus B. G. Teubneri, 1864 - 198 pages  
archive.org

τιθέναι πρὸ ὀμμάτων

[τίθημι - Wiktionary](#)

τιθῶμεν/τιθέναι < τίθημι "place or put"

(with ἐν ὀμμασι (en ómmasi)) I set before one's eyes

522 BCE – 443 BCE, Pindar, Nemean Ode 8.43:

μαστεύει δὲ καὶ τέρψις ἐν ὀμμασι θέσθαι πιστόν

"yet delight also seeks to set a trustworthy pledge before the eyes"

(Full ode: <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...3DN.%3Apoem%3D8> )

LSJ entry for τίθημι: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...7:entry=ti/qhmi>

ὀμμάτων = poetic word for "eye" (very popular! See quotations at Wiktionary entry: [https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E1%BD%84...1#Ancient Greek](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E1%BD%84...1#Ancient%20Greek) )

LSJ entry: [http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...57:entry=o\)/mma](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...57:entry=o)/mma)

I think Pindar's use of the phrase is instructive since the whole context seems to point toward a vivid picture in the mind:

[Pindar, Nemean, Nemean 8 For Deinias of Aegina Double Foot Race ?459 B. C.](#)

Excellence grows among skillful and just men up to the liquid air,

as a tree shoots up fed by fresh dew.

The uses of friends are of all kinds;  
those in times of toil are the highest,  
yet delight also seeks to set a trustworthy pledge before the eyes.