

# Philodemus - On Frank Speech

Post by "Don" of September 16, 2023 at 10:49 AM

A big part of classical Epicurean practice in the original Garden through the time of Philodemus and beyond to even Oenoanda appears to be the one on one consultation or counseling between student and teacher to correct mistaken views and actions. Philodemus outlines this practice and its implementation and importance in *On Frank Speech*. That is a major component that is lost in our current moment, not to say that we don't help each other hone our understanding, but there are no teachers with authority per se.

Some quotes from On Frank Speech:

Even if we demonstrate logically that, although many fine things result from friendship, there is nothing so grand as having one to whom one will say what is in one's heart and who will listen when one speaks. For our nature strongly desires to reveal to some people what it thinks.

Fr. 40: ...for it is necessary to show him his errors forthrightly and speak

of his failings publicly. For if he has considered this man to be the one guide

of right speech and [action], whom he calls the only savior, and {to whom},

citing the phrase, "with him accompanying {me},"

he has given himself over

to be treated, then how is he not going to show to him those things in which he

needs treatment, and [accept admonishment]?

Fr. 45: ...we shall admonish others with great confidence, both now and

when those {of us} who have become offshoots of our teachers have become

eminent. And the encompassing and most important thing is, we shall obey

Epicurus, according to whom we have chosen to live, as even..

And so on.