

Philodemus - On Frank Speech

Post by "Don" of September 16, 2023 at 8:27 PM

btw here's the LSJ entry for parrhesia "frank speech"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, παρρησία](#)

"outspokenness, frankness, freedom of speech, claimed by the Athenians as their privilege"

So, frank speech was not something unique to the Epicurean school, but they definitely seem to have raised it to an integral part of their instruction.

As you'll see there are a number of citations in that definition entry to other authors, including:

Euripides, *Hippolytus*

they may live in glorious Athens as free men, *free of speech* (παρρησία) and flourishing, enjoying good repute where their mother is concerned.

Euripides, *Bacchae*

I wish to hear whether I should tell you in *free speech* the situation there or whether I should repress my report,...

Aristophanes, *Thesmophoriazousae*

Have we not the right to speak frankly at this gathering?

Plato, *Republic*

"It is plain," he said. "To begin with, are they not free? and is not the city chock-full of liberty and freedom of speech? and has not every man licence¹ to do as he likes?"

Demosthenes, *Philippic 2*

I vow that I will *boldly tell you the whole truth* and keep nothing back.