

Philodemus - On Frank Speech

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Ex. From above book...

Plutarch’s remark on frank speech as the “language of friendship” and as the “most potent medicine in friendship,” needing all care to find the right occasion, shows the close connection of frank speech with friendship and the difficulties in its use.²¹ Both of these aspects of παρρησία surface in *On Frank Criticism* where Philodemus discusses frank speech under the topic of how and when frankly to reprimand your friends’ failings. The topic of frank speech is thus a part of the theme of moral education, or the correction of faults among friends in the improvement of character, discussed earlier by Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, and Isocrates.²² It is especially in Isocrates that we find the change in connotation of the word παρρησία that was originally used in the political sphere of the right of the free-born Athenian to express his views unhindered. From then on, the word παρρησία was seen as a sign of goodwill towards one’s friends and close in meaning to ἐλέγχω and βουθετέω.²³ The pinnacle of this development is