

Philodemus - On Frank Speech

Post by “Don” of October 3, 2023 at 9:45 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Some questions to consider (and if anyone wants to reply):

At what point does frank speech come across as rude, harsh, or insensitive? Is the phrase "frank speech" ever used to justify harsh speech? What is harsh speech and when should we avoid it? And, what kinds of word choices appear to have a domineering, shaming, or power-over (controlling) attitude? When is frank speech just an expression of anger and a kind of punishment?

Those are all excellent questions, and I believe Philodemus addressed most or all of them in *Peri Parrhesias (Concerning Frank Speech)*. Voula Tsouna also addresses the topic in her *The Ethics of Philodemus*. If I get a chance soon, I'll try to find some specific citations.