

Telling people the truth can be painful for the speaker. Still, living by the known truth is cause for persecution.

I remember my dad, about 35 years ago, back in the days of Czechoslovakia, when there was a fencing issue between landowners. Dad was alone at the meeting with the neighbouring landowner having his son-in-law there. The son-in-law in point kept interfering in the owners' conversations. Dad was bothered by this and he spoke up - I'm talking to the landowner and you, you're just the owner of your pants. The reaction was very unpleasant and if it hadn't been for the quick action of the elders involved, who knows what would have happened.

One more - now humorous memory.

Dad was travelling in a fully occupied subway car. Some people were reading, others were staring blankly ahead, others were talking quietly, and Dad was reading a newspaper. There were two girls and they were having a loud conversation about whom they liked. At that time, 30 years ago, the British TV series Professionals from Scotland Yard and CI5 was very popular in Czechoslovakia. The series featured three main characters - CI5 agents Bodie and Doyle and their elderly boss Mr Cowley. And the girls were chattering amongst themselves, you know, I used to like Doyle, but now I like Bodie better. Do you know why? They asked each other. That's really strange, you must be growing up, replied the other. In short, empty loud talk that could be heard throughout the subway car. People heard it, some people smiled, others frowned and the girls were impressed with themselves. Only Dad, when he had had enough, called out loudly - Girls and enough! who is supposed to listen to this all the time, whom do you like! Don't do that - **you'll like Mr Cowley in a few years anyway!** At that moment all the people (except the girls) burst into loud laughter. The girls stopped talking, red in the face, and got off at the nearest subway station.