

Speech at The House of Democracy

May 22th 1921

Dear friends and fellow believers:

I have always called you my friends as we are all the more intimate because you are fellow believers.

But is there anyone who doubts it? You know that wherever I am, there will always be a republican; that when I speak, even if I speak of astronomy, a republican always speaks.

You cannot doubt this, because your enemies themselves are right! Even if I were to speak of Christian doctrine, they would say that I spoke republican.

I believe that I have that label accredited to me.

But it happens that, even when I write elevated literature, with a purely artistic aim, there are those who do not forget the republican and free-thinking Blasco.

I have the duty to adjust to the circumstances and when I receive a tribute from the whole city I am obliged to be as discreet as possible in my words, out of gratitude and mutual respect, but this does not mean that I renounce my republican ideals.

Of course, when I am spoken to about art, I do not answer with a long live the Republic; but when I am spoken to about politics, I will say that I love the Republic.

I shall die keeping my faith as a romantic; whatever the fate of our party, I shall always be a republican.

I remember Victor Hugo, when, in the time of Napoleon III, he was offered great honours if he would abdicate his ideals, and the great revolutionary poet replied: "Even if there are only a hundred republicans; even if there are only fifty; even if there are only ten; if there is only one republican left, that republican will be me".

I say the same thing. If there were only one republican left in Spain, that would be me.

I know that I will not be able to say this in Valencia, where there will be hundreds and thousands of men always ready to pay the highest honours to the ideal, and all together we will work animated by the magic breath of love for the Republic.

I, who have great faith in our country, look with serenity, with my head held high, to the future; and on studying the situation of Spain, it saddens me to see that the other regions are not on the same level as the republican Valencia.

No republican party in Spain has the strength of this party in Valencia, which must be the Covadonga of national republicanism.

In the rest of Spain, republicanism suffers oscillations; it sometimes falls to the bottom, then rises with a force that seems to swallow it all up, and then disappears again.

This does not happen in Valencia. Valencia is a firm promontory, an impregnable rock that always stands above the great republican sea.

While others hesitate, the party of Valencia is the only one that can be counted on at all times for the cause of the Republic.

We have a great mission to accomplish; we must be the nucleus which will attract all the republican masses of the nation to fight for the future Spanish Republic.

Republican Valencia is in place and all men who want the freedom and progress of Spain will gather around it.

We are the centre of the battle in this struggle for the ideal. If we falter, all is lost; if we hold our ground against the enemy, we will give strength to those who hesitate and those who flee will return to the fight. Let us maintain our strength in the face of the enemy and preserve discipline among the republicans of Valencia.

In us lies the future of Spain and the Spanish Republic.