

FUNDACIÓN
**CORRIPIO
ALONSO**

SPEECH BY PEPÍN CORRIPIO

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

I wasn't expecting to speak today. I hope you're not too tired to listen to two or three more words, because this is a memorable occasion in the life of the Corripio-Alonso family, and I feel I have to take advantage of this moment. After all, we never know how much time we may have. Let us hope that God grants us enough time to carry out some of the projects we have in mind—projects aimed at promoting development and improving life in the municipalities of Villaviciosa and Piloña, as well as in Arroes, where I was born.

I feel it is my duty to tell you that we are fully committed to listening to the ideas and suggestions we may receive from local residents, particularly from these communities, so that, with the support of the Corripio Alonso Foundation, we can contribute to genuine and meaningful development. That is our sincere and wholehearted intention.

Development is important, and of course we must pursue it. But there are other values that are equally important: generosity and gratitude. Not long ago, during a speech before the Congress of the Dominican Republic, I said that gratitude is perhaps the only virtue that never loses its value, no matter how abundant it may be. Please excuse me... I am a little emotional. But what I mean is this: gratitude is the one virtue that, even in abundance, never loses its worth or its goodness.

Gratitude is the driving force behind our Foundation. It is at the heart of what we hope to achieve, and it takes us back to the very beginnings of our family's story—to the day my father and my uncle arrived in the Dominican Republic on a ship in 1917. They travelled third class, because my father used to say that there was no fourth class. It was in the Dominican Republic that the Corripio family found so much for which to be grateful. And now we hope to give something back—to the place where we were born, to this blessed land, so fertile and so beautiful—so that its people may have the encouragement and opportunities they need to continue developing. And, within our means, we also hope to provide support wherever it may be needed: in culture, sport and other areas of human endeavour.

You do not need great wealth to do good. You do not need an abundance of money to do something worthwhile or important. It is not about how much money you have. The richest person is the one who has the most money left over to do something useful for the community in which they live. And that person has a duty to be grateful. The true value of money lies not in how much you possess, but in how much you are willing and able to devote to doing good for others. I



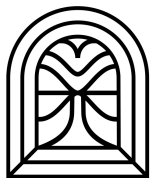
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hope these principles—which lie at the heart of the Corripio Alonso Foundation—will guide us in the years ahead.

God willing, next year we will hold the first edition of these awards, and we hope that all of you will contribute to this project: helping us improve our procedures, sharing your ideas and approaching the collective efforts we wish to undertake with a positive spirit. Because, as Andrés said, no achievement is the work of one person alone. It is something we accomplish together, as a community.

And perhaps the best way to earn a place in the memory of our fellow citizens—and of the people with whom we share our lives—is through the memory we leave behind during our time. Ultimately, we are remembered for our willingness to help.

We intend to address all these areas through the work of the Foundation.

And I want you to know that I have many more things I could say, but I was not on the programme, and I am already taking more time than I should. I am speaking with great pleasure and from the heart, but I do not wish to keep you any longer. So, everything I have not said in words, my heart gives to you in gratitude for being here with us today.

Everything I have said is only a faint reflection of what I truly feel—an imperfect attempt to put into words the emotions of this very special moment in our lives, a moment that feels complete today, here before all of you.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



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