

**1861**

**PROSPICE**

***Robert Browning***

**Browning, Robert (1812-1899) - British Victorian Poet, noted for his dramatic monologues, his rejection of overly-florid language, and his mastery of psychological characterization. In 1846 he married Elizabeth Barrett and shared with her one of the world's most celebrated romances. Prospice (1861) - Prospice, from the Latin, means "Look forward!" This poem, written after Browning's wife's death, expresses an optimistic attitude toward death. Opening line: Fear death?- to feel the fog in my throat, ...**

**PROSPICE**

FEAR death?- to feel the fog in my throat, The mist in my face,  
When the snows begin, and the blasts denote I am nearing the  
place, The power of the night, the press of the storm, The post of  
the foe; Where he stands, the Arch Fear in a visible form, Yet the  
strong man must go:

For the journey is done and the summit attained, And the barriers  
fall, Though a battle's to fight ere the guerdon be gained, The  
reward of it all.

***I was ever a fighter, so- one fight more, The best and the last!***

I would hate that death bandaged my eyes, and forbore, And bade  
me creep past.

No! let me taste the whole of it, fare like my peers The heroes of  
old, Bear the brunt, in a minute pay glad life's arrears

Of pain, darkness and cold.

For sudden the worse turns the best to the brave, The black  
minute's at end, And the elements' rage, the fiend-voices that rave,  
Shall dwindle, shall blend, Shall change, shall become first a peace  
out of pain, Then a light, then thy breast, O thou soul of my soul! I  
shall clasp thee again, And with God be the rest!

**THE END**