The poem Prospice was written by Browning shortly following the death of Browning’s wife, Elizabeth in 1861. It was published in 1864 in Personae. The poem is in the form of a dramatic monologue, and can be seen as an unusually biographical poem. We can recognise in the speaker, Browning, who is mourning his dead wife.

The speaker can be seen as a soldier who faces death with sheer courage. It appears to be a battle cry to death, and Browning expresses that he does not fear death, in fact he looks forward to it, to be reunited with his wife in the afterlife.

The rhetoric elements in the poem lead us towards a more positive outlook on death, and the title, meaning “Look Forward”, emphasises that there is hope and life after death.