

R . K . J O H N S T O N

Earth's Next Era—The Age of Loneliness

Minimal earmarks of
ageless nature
are disappearing finch by finch.

Will I hear
tiny increments of sound,
paced by its bobbing head
seeking the seed.

An ancient earth in
this nuclear age exhausted,
pushes me forward in
search of finch life.

Transformational loneliness
points to a surrealistic canvas
with the dripping blood of the redwood.
It repels the flesh
of torn time.

Humans mostly extinct
remain alone with bacteria
and forgotten birds
in this age of loneliness.

R. K. JOHNSTON has worked as a professional musician, and served as Dean of the Boston Conservatory and Associate Dean of the University of Southern Mississippi School of Fine Arts. His books of poetry include *The System Is Broken*, *Seeds of Tolerance*, and *Kenosis, San Luis Obispo*.