

Third-World Applicants

Ticket of completion acquired;
mental capacity so tired;
celebrating achievements with bliss.
Pictures and smiles aplenty,
humble bragging eloquently:
may these memories not be dismissed.

Officially a free range,
embracing of this life change:
tackling my responsibilities, head on.
The type of living I must savor,
presenting my ticket for labor,
whilst academic security is long gone.

Is my knowledge not enough,
a diamond in the rough:
fulfilling your requirements with my ticket?
Irreverence, then, paired with ghosting,
atop, their executives toasting—
laughing, as their recruiters tell me to “stick it.”

Time goes with ruthless lament,
being on unemployment:
weeping the work I wanted and envisioned.
Survival is all I seek,
struggling to eat for weeks;
my bleeding caused by corporate incisions.

Depressively sighing relentlessly,
as I question life existentially;
losing my personhood this governance shan't.
For the land that prides as free,
proudly born in liberty,
views their citizens as third-world applicants.

KRIS CABALLERO (JUNE 15, 2026)

Note

Third-World Applicants is an original poem published by **KC Universal Publishing** at <https://publishing.kcuniversal.net>: the publishing sub-domain of **KC Universal Network**. All content was written—typed—by hand, without the aid and guidance of AI nor any writing assistance. Production of this poem was done on Emacs.

First draft composed on June 07, 2026; then proofread and edited on June 14, 2026; finalized for publication on June 15, 2026. Title, and meaning, for this poem was inspired from the song “Standing On The Corner of the Third World” by Tears For Fears.