



## **The Inscription from the Tomb of the Unknown Ratepayer**

Here lie the mortal remains of one who has no name  
But we can be sure he was the customer of a regulated utility  
We know this by what he said that day he expressed his anguish in  
The power company offices

Into the lobby he strode and said  
*“Riders, riders everywhere, but not a drop of relief from  
over earnings”*

Clearly he had studied his power bill closely

Everyone turned to hear his comments as he raised his voice  
*“Renewable credits are just paper, they keep the tax credits”*  
This indicates our antagonist was a victim of the utility’s  
green energy program

Then he proclaimed  
*“The coincident peak should be divided by an equal percentage  
before being applied to embedded costs”*

An onlooker gasped  
*“This poor S.O.B has tried to find logic in revenue allocation, no  
wonder he’s gone mad!”*

*“Madman, madman”* Cried the gathering crowd  
*“Someone call security”*

Suddenly he clutched his chest and keeled over, saying  
*“Return should be limited to three points above Treasury”*

They strapped him to a gurney to wheel him out  
But not before his final screams echoed down the hall  
*“The amortization of the regulatory compact should be recognized  
in FERC account 2063”*

The birds sing, the seasons change and life goes on  
Yet the meaning of this strange prophet’s words remain a mystery  
We can only speculate that perhaps he was trying to tell us that  
The way we price electricity is more complicated than it needs to be