

determined by extensive consultation with the ParAngel or perhaps Room itself, often facilitated by more mundane operations. It is regrettable that the selection process remains so imperfect, but human leadership entails human methods, even if the Reticulites aspire to otherworldly immanence. ?

### Etiquette: Practical Solutions

Many new Initiates are unsettled by the Reticulites, whose watchfulness and silence can seem at once unbearably direct and utterly diffuse. Needless to say, they never speak aloud, and when they do communicate it's only through cryptic gestures and obscure riddles. → see p. 320

The most important piece of advice: never try to ascertain who a Reticulite is beneath the mask. Never ask a fellow Initiate if they have served, and never ask Reticulites or Runners for a name. P.S. tries not to instill rules as a general, well, *rule*. But in this general protocol we must all stand firm together. We are a large group, and large groups need resounding voices.

continued  
account  
more  
apparent

P.S. decided that if we must have people who speak with power and conviction, they must also be people who speak seldom.

The Reticulites, during their brief terms, take an oath of radical devotion to protect the parasite. From the moment they are selected and are assigned names, masks, and codes to separate them from their day-to-day lives and identities. In essence, they give up their lives to perform the greatest service P.S. can require of any person.

live without several numbers given

hak?

A new Initiate might be tempted to look to the Reticulites for guidance, wisdom, or a model of how to behave. We hope that the Reticulites do not become aspirational figures or models. They are like *homo sacer*: the person who is both sacred and exiled from everyday life. The Reticulites may appear frightening because they stand apart. They serve as a reminder of the sacrifices we must all make for the parasite.

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