



THE MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

12¢
IND. **139**
APR



"TO DIE LIKE A GOD!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"TO DIE LIKE A GOD!"

THE HAMMER OF THOR HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE NOW-DEPARTED TROLLS! LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS REMAIN BEFORE THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL BE TRANSFORMED BACK TO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE... UNLESS...

DO NOT DESPAIR, MIGHTY ONE! WE SHALL YET PREVAIL! KNOW YOU THAT SIF WILL NEVER LEAVE THY SIDE!

NOW... WITH ASGARD BESIEGED BY THE DEADLIEST OF FOES... WITH MY POWER NEEDED MOST... I AM BEREFT OF MY HAMMER... REDUCED TO IMPENDING HELP-LESSNESS!

A PEERLESS, PICTORIAL PAGEANT, PAINSTAKINGLY PRODUCED WITH PERFECTLY PARDONABLE PRIDE, BY:

STAN LEE and **JACK KIRBY**

INKED WITH THE PROWESS OF VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED WITH THE PEN-POINTS OF SAM ROSEN

WHATEVER ELSE YOU DO, WE ASK YOU TO PROMISE THAT YOU'LL READ THIS STIRRING SAGA SLOWLY!

BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD, IT'S JUST TOO GOOD TO FINISH QUICKLY!

ODIN, MY IMPERIAL FATHER, DOTH HAVE DIREST NEED OF ME... AND YET, WITHOUT MY ENCHANTED MALLET, I AM... NOW AND FOREVER... POWERLESS TO RETURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD!

NO, THUNDER GOD!! YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP! YOU ARE A WARRIOR BORN... YOU ARE MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTIEST...!

BUT, OF WHAT AVAIL IS MY MIGHT WHEN I AM TRAPPED UPON THE PLANET EARTH?!



'TIS IN ASGARD WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST!



THAT ROARING NOISE... GROWING EVER LOUDER... 'TIS A SPEEDING UNDERGROUND TRAIN!!

I SHALL REVERT TO THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS... AND REMAIN ON EARTH FOREVER... UNLESS...

THOR! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHAT DO YOU PLAN?

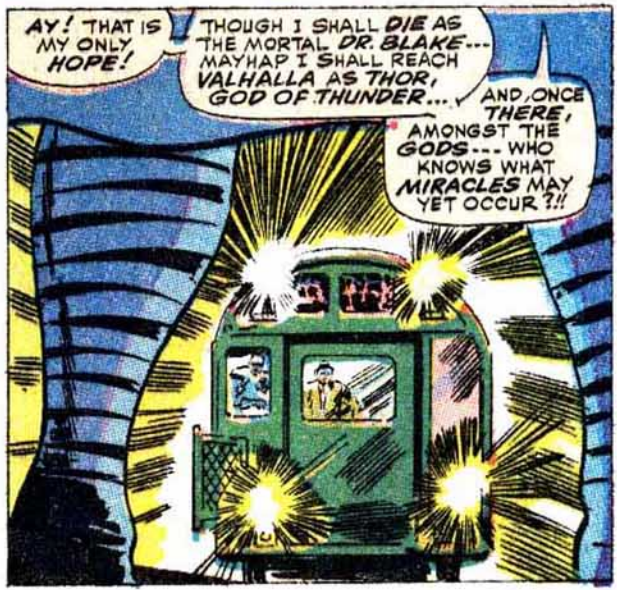


STAND ASIDE, FEMALE

GET THEE TO SAFETY AGAINST YONDER WALL!

THE SIXTIETH SECOND IS ALMOST UPON ME... THE TIME IS NOW!

BUT, IF YOU CHANGE TO MORTAL FORM... THE VEHICLE WILL SLAY YOU!!



AY! THAT IS MY ONLY HOPE!

THOUGH I SHALL DIE AS THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE... MAYHAP I SHALL REACH VALHALLA AS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER...

AND, ONCE THERE!

AMONGST THE GODS... WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES MAY YET OCCUR?!!



NO! THE ODDS AGAINST THEE ARE TOO GREAT!

IF THOU HAST GUESSED WRONG... ODIN LOSES THEE FOREVER... AND SO, ALAS, DOES SIF!

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY... MY WAY...!

FOR AM I NOT A GODDESS BORN??



SUDDENLY, EXACTLY ONE-TENTH OF A MICROSECOND BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD IS ABOUT TO CHANGE INTO HIS MORTAL FORM, THE BLACK-HAIRED BEAUTY UNLEASHES A SPELL... SUCH AS ONLY A GODDESS CAN...!

IT IS DONE!

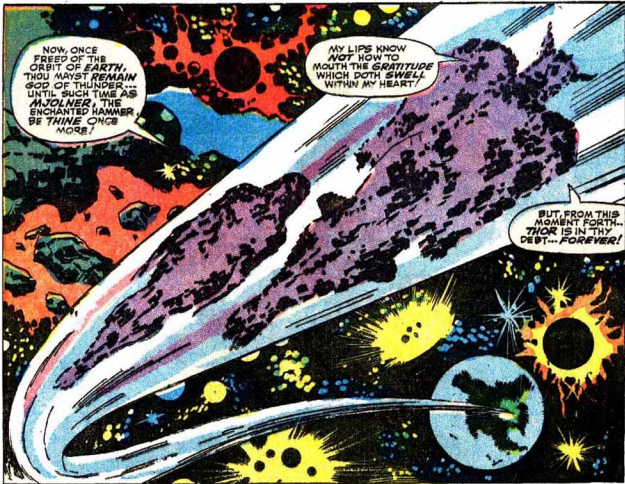
WHATEVER FATE BEFALLS THEE... THOU SHALT FACE IT AS THE SON OF ODIN... AS A TRUE IMMORTAL!!

FOR, REMEMBER... ONLY UPON EARTH DOST THOU LAPSE BACK TO HUMAN FORM WITHOUT THY HAMMER!

THEREFORE, WE JOURNEY ELSEWHERE!

FORGIVE ME, LOVELY ONE... I HAD FORGOT...

THOU TOO HAST THE POWER TO REACH ASGARD... TO BYPASS TIME AND SPACE!!



NOW, ONCE FREED OF THE ORBIT OF EARTH, THOU MUST REMAIN GOD OF THUNDER... UNTIL SUCH TIME AS Mjolner, THE ENCHANTED HAMMER, BE THINE ONCE MORE!

MY LIPS KNOW NOT HOW TO MOUTH THE GRATITUDE WHICH DOth SWELL WITHIN MY HEART!

BUT, FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH... THOR IS IN THY DEBT... FOREVER!



THOUGH WE HAVE REACHED THE GOLDEN REALM, WE MUST NOT PAUSE!

WE MUST CONTINUE DOWNWARD...UNTIL OUR GOAL BE REACHED!

AH, 'TIS ONLY BELOW THAT WE SHALL FIND THE ONES WE SEEK-!

...THE THRICE-ACCURSED TROLLS WHO THREATEN TO WREST ASGARD ITSELF FROM THY FATHER'S RULE!



NEVER HAVE ASGARDIANS VENTURED SO DEEP!!

THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE... THE VERY ATOMS ABOUT US ARE TINGED WITH EVIL INCARNATE!

I HAVE BROUGHT THEE TO WHERE THY HAMMER MATH BEEN TAKEN! WE ARE IN THE DREADED HEART OF...THE TROLL DOMAIN!

WHATEVER
MUST NOW BE
DONE, MUST BE
DONE BY THOR
ALONE!

THE DANGERS IN
THIS UNSPEAKABLE
REALM SURPASSETH
ALL DESCRIPTION!!
THE POWER THAT
SHALL CONFRONT
US IS VERILY BEYOND
BELIEF!

SO, GET THEE
HENCE, FAIR SIF!
FOR, THOUGH THY
HEART IS GALLANTRY
ITSELF... STILL ART
THOU MERELY WOMAN!

I SAY THEE
MAY, GOD OF THUNDER!
THOUGH MY FORM BE
FEMALE, I DO FIGHT
FOR ASGARD...

...AND, IF
NEED BE, SO
SHALL I DIE!

LISTEN!
THAT SOUND...
THE TREAD OF
HEAVY
FEET...!

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

'TIS A COMPANY
OF TROLL
ARMORERS...
THEY WHO
FORGE THE
MIGHTIEST
WEAPONS OF
ALL...

THEY BRING STRANGE,
MOLTEN ELEMENTS DEEP
WITHIN THEIR
CATACOMBS!

IF IT IS
THY DESIRE
TO FOLLOW,
THEN SIF SHALL
MOVE WITH THE
SILENCE OF
THE BREEZE
AT DAWNING!

THUS, SECONDS
LATER...

WEAPONS
SUCH AS MINE
EYES HAVE NEER
BEHELD!

WHOSE WAS THE
BRAIN THAT DID
CONCEIVE SUCH
AWESOME, ALIEN
INSTRUMENTS
OF DOOM!

THOR!!
LOOK YOU
YONDER!!
DARE I
BELIEVE
THAT WHICH
MY EYES
REVEAL...?!!

BUT, EVEN AS THE STUNNING SIF RECOILS IN SHOCK, ANOTHER GRIM TABLEAU TRANSPIRES WITHIN THE VERY WALLS OF IMPERIAL ASGARD ITSELF...

ONWARD!! ONWARD!! DEATH TO ASGARD!! NOTHING CAN STOP THE TROLL INVASION!

IN THE NAME OF KING GEIRRODUR... ODIN MUST FALL!! ASGARD MUST BE DESTROYED!

EVEN THE ETERNAL REALM WILL NOT SURVIVE THE WEAPONS OF ORIKAL!

BUMBOOM!

SHRUSHH!

KRACK!

WE CANNOT STEM THE TIDE OF INVASION! THEY STOP FOR NOTHING!

FORWARD!! ASGARD IS TOPPLING BENEATH OUR ATTACK! SHOW THEM NO MERCY! GIVE NO QUARTER!!

EVERY SECOND IS VITAL!! THE VICTORY MUST BE WON BEFORE THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN APPEAR!!

IT IS TOO LATE! EVEN HIS HAMMER CANNOT SAVE ASGARD!

NO IMMORTAL SPELL... NO ENCHANTED MALLET... NOTHING CAN DEFY THE WEAPONS OF ORIKAL...

WEAPONS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE... WEAPONS WHICH OBEY NO NATURAL LAWS OF SCIENCE OR SORCERY!

STAP!

KLAKK!

AND, AS THE BATTLE RAGES... A BATTLE MORE CATASTROPHIC THAN ANY EVER KNOWN... EVEN OMNIPOTENT ODIN MUST FINALLY PAUSE TO REST HIS AGED LIMBS...

LET THINE EYELIDS CLOSE, MOST NOBLE SIRE! WE SHALL GIVE OUR LIVES THAT THOU MAY SLEEP!

YAY, FAITHFUL ONE! 'TIS A TIME FOR PLANNING... FOR COURAGE... AND FOR HIGH RESOLVE!

WARRIORS... TO MY SIDE!

WE DO NOT FIGHT THE TROLLS ALONE! SOME MYSTIC POWER DOETH FURNISH THEM AID!

IN WEAPONRY, WE BE NOT THEIR EQUALS... NOW, ONLY THE POWER OF ODIN... ONLY THE MIGHT OF THOR, MAY SAVE THE DAY!

BUT, WITH THE FRUIT OF ASGARD ASSEMBLED, THE THUNDER GOD DOETH NOT APPEAR!!

TRULY THE HEART OF ODIN IS SORELY TROUBLED!



NOW, LET US HAVE DONE WITH RESTING...LET THERE BE AN END TO TALK!

THE REALM ETERNAL HATH BEEN INVADED!! THE COVENANT OF AGES HATH BEEN BREACHED! THE TIME IS COME TO ACT!

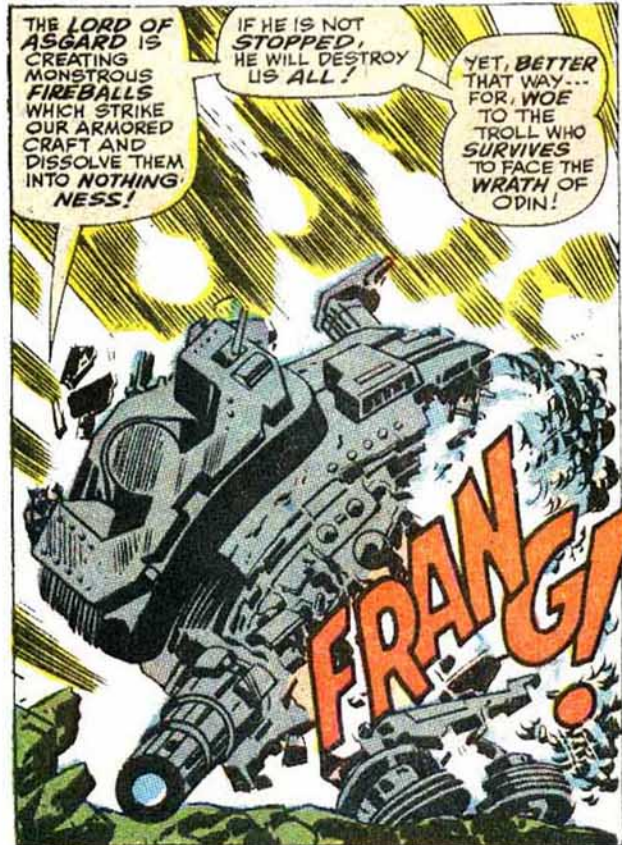
NO MERE WEAPONS SHALL THE ALL-FATHER EMPLOY!! ONLY THE POWER WHICH BE MINE ALONE... BY RIGHT DIVINE!



ATTEND MY WORDS, YE WHO HAVE DARED OPPOSE ME!

ABANDON THINE UNHOLY QUEST... OR THOU SHALT FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF ODIN... FOR TIME WITHOUT END!

YEA I AM THE WILL... AND THE WAY... AND THE WONDER!!



THE LORD OF ASGARD IS CREATING MONSTROUS FIREBALLS WHICH STRIKE OUR ARMORED CRAFT AND DISSOLVE THEM INTO NOTHINGNESS!

IF HE IS NOT STOPPED, HE WILL DESTROY US ALL!

YET, BETTER THAT WAY... FOR, WOE TO THE TROLL WHO SURVIVES TO FACE THE WRATH OF ODIN!

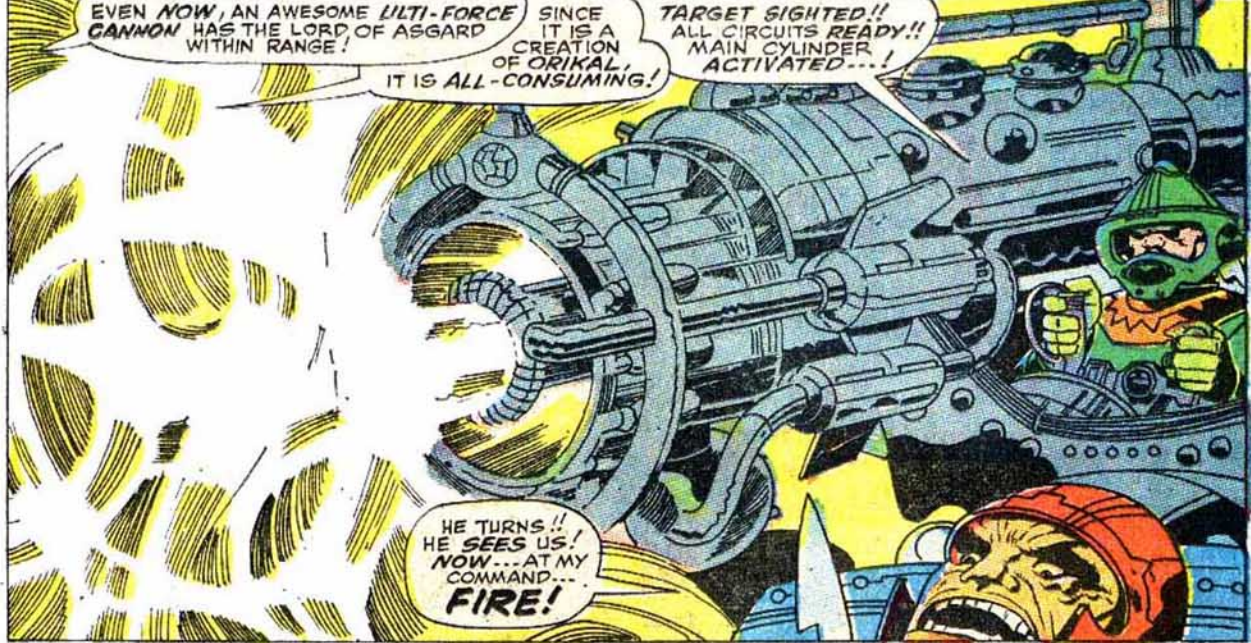
FRANGI!



WHERE IS KING GEIRRODUR?? WHERE IS THE MIGHTY ULIK?? CAN NOTHING SAVE US FROM THE UNTHINKABLE ATTACK OF ODIN??

KEEP YOUR COURAGE, SNIVELLING FOOL! HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?? DO WE NOT STILL HAVE ORIKAL TO COMMAND??

HIS POWERS ARE THOSE OF AN ALIEN UNIVERSE! NOT EVEN ODIN CAN STAND AGAINST THEM!!

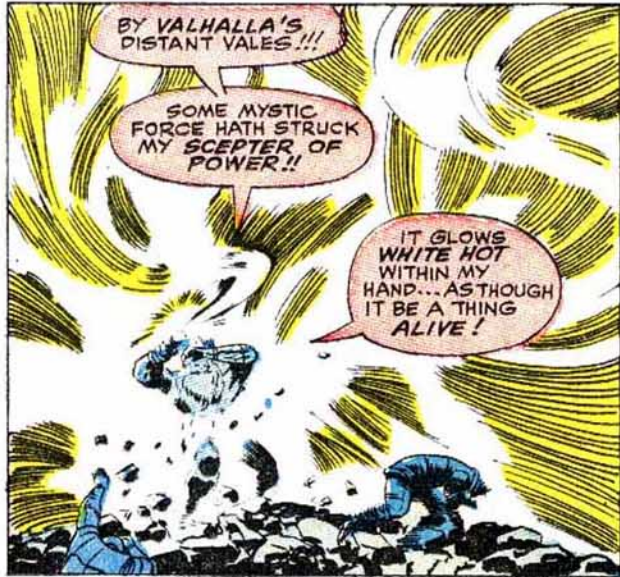


EVEN NOW, AN AWESOME ULTI-FORCE CANNON HAS THE LORD OF ASGARD WITHIN RANGE!

SINCE IT IS A CREATION OF ORIKAL, IT IS ALL-CONSUMING!

TARGET SIGHTED!! ALL CIRCUITS READY!! MAIN CYLINDER ACTIVATED....!

HE TURNS!! HE SEES US! NOW... AT MY COMMAND... FIRE!



BY VALHALLA'S DISTANT VALES!!!

SOME MYSTIC FORCE HATH STRUCK MY SCEPTER OF POWER!!

IT GLOWS WHITE HOT WITHIN MY HAND... AS THOUGH IT BE A THING ALIVE!



THE SHOCK HATH PASSED... THE SCEPTER COOLED... BUT THE HARM IS DONE!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A THOUSAND AGES... IT HATH BEEN RENDERED USELESS!

IT HATH VERILY BEEN DRAINED OF ASGARDIAN ENERGY!!

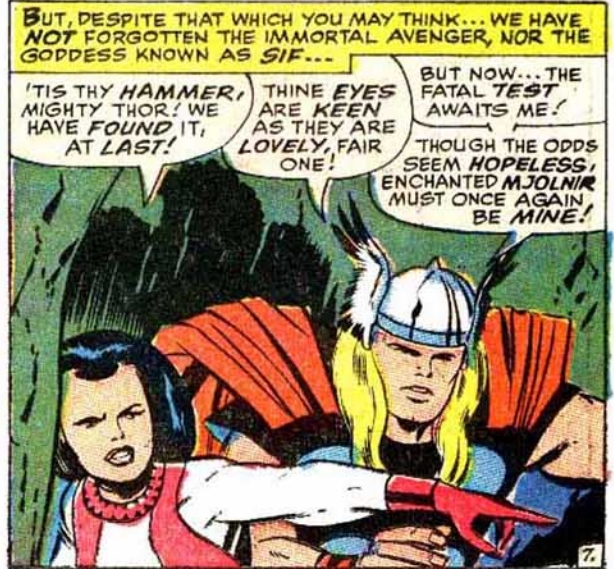


BUT, WHAT CARES ODIN FOR SUCH TRINKETS!!

NO FORCE SHALL STIFLE THE SPIRIT WITHIN... NO FOE SHALL STILL MINE OMNIPOTENT HEART!!

ONWARD, ASGARDIANS!

WHERE ODIN LEADS, LET HONOR NOW FOLLOW!!



BUT, DESPITE THAT WHICH YOU MAY THINK... WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE IMMORTAL AVENGER, NOR THE GODDESS KNOWN AS SIF...

'TIS THY HAMMER, MIGHTY THOR! WE HAVE FOUND IT, AT LAST!

THINE EYES ARE KEEN AS THEY ARE LOVELY, FAIR ONE!

BUT NOW... THE FATAL TEST AWAITS ME!

THOUGH THE ODDS SEEM HOPELESS, ENCHANTED MJOLNIR MUST ONCE AGAIN BE MINE!

BEHOLD, BESTIAL ULIK...
THE UNMATCHABLE POWER
OF ORIKAL HAS DUPLICATED
THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER!

WITH SUCH A
WEAPON..NOT
EVEN ODIN'S
MIGHT CAN
STAND AGAINST
US!

ODIN MUST
WAIT!! THE FIRST
TO FEEL YON
MALLET'S
CRUSHING BLOW
WILL BE THOR!

HE
ESCAPED
ME IN THE PAST..
BUT, WITH A WEAPON
SUCH AS THIS IN
ULIK'S HAND, HE
IS DOOMED!



STAND ASIDE,
GEIRRODUR!!

I GO TO
FIND THE SON
OF ODIN...
TO SLAY ME
A THUNDER
GOD!

BUT HE PROVED TO
BE YOUR MASTER
BEFORE !! WHAT IF HE
DEFEATS YOU AGAIN!?

STILL
YOUR TONGUE,
ERE I FORGET
YOU ARE KING!

POSSESSING POWER
SUCH AS THIS, I
CAN BE DEFEATED BY
NONE!! ULIK IS
SUPREME!



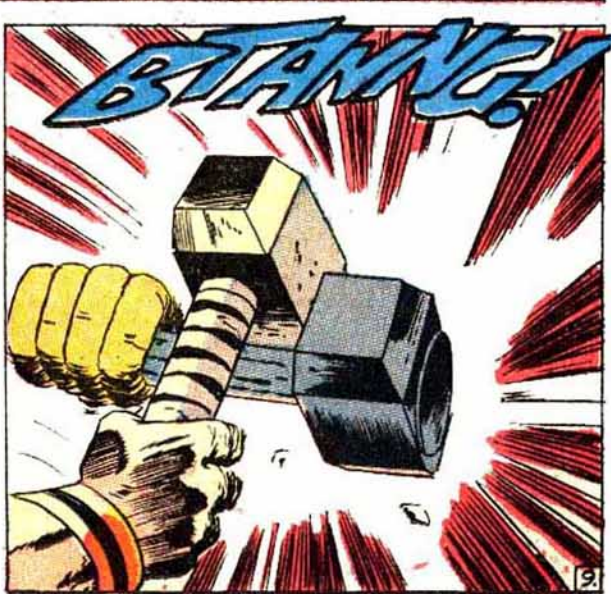
SUPREME?
AY! BUT, IN
VILLAINY
ALONE!

TO ME, MY
FAITHFUL MALLET!
THOU MUST DO MY
BIDDING ONCE
AGAIN!

THOR!!

STILL YOU
MUST DIE...
FOR ULIK
POSSESSES
THE OTHER
HAMMER!





THE FEMALE!! WHILE ULIK SLAYS THE SON OF ODIN... SHE IS OURS!!

WHAT?! YOU THINK TO CONQUER THE GODDESS SIF THUS EASILY?

ATTACK, THEN... ONE OR ALL... AND LIVE TO REGRET IT... ETERNALLY!!

FIRST, I AM IN NEED OF WEAPON IN HAND...

AND, EVEN SO CLUMSY A SWORD AS THINE WILL PROVE MOST POTENT WHEN WIELDED BY A HIGH-BORN ASGARDIAN!

AWAY WITH THEE, TROLL! THOU ART NO LONGER OF USE TO ME!

IN YON BOTTOMLESS PIT SHALT THOU FIND FINAL REST!

NOW BACK, MINIONS OF THE DARK AND FETID DEPTHS!!

BACK TO THE STYGIAN SHADOW-WORLD FROM WHENCE THOU COMEST!

KRLAK!

HOW FAREST THOU, MIGHTY THOR??

MY HAMMER, STILL POUNDS, FAIR SIF! AND THEE??

I PERSEVERE, MY LORD... FOR MY FOES BE NOT SO AWESOME AS THINE!

BEHOLD, GEIRRODUR!! THE THUNDER GOD DOTH HOLD ULIK AT BAY... WHILST THE FEMALE FIGHTS WITH THE FURY OF A VALKYRIE!

I MUST USE THE MENTI-HORN!

BE SILENT, ALL!

THE TIME IS COME TO SUMMON ORIKAL!

HEAR ME, STRANGER FROM SPACE!! GEIRRODUR'S COMMANDS!!

YOU MUST STRIKE... AGAINST THE GOD OF THUNDER!

DESTROY HIM... ELSE YOU REMAIN MY PRISONER HERE... TILL ETERNITY'S END!

CLICK!

NO SOONER HAS THE GUTTURAL COMMAND ESCAPED GEIRRODUR'S LIPS, THAN A MYSTIC VIBRATION SEEMS TO FILL THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN, LIFTING THE TWO LONE ASGARDIANS ABOVE THE HEADS OF THEIR SAVAGE FOES...!

WE ARE IN THE GRIP OF SOME STRANGE ENCHANTMENT!!

'TIS THE WORKINGS OF A POWER BEYOND ANY TROLL!!

NOW HOVER WE HERE... UNABLE TO DESCEND!



THE FORCE THAT HOLDS US HERE MAKES US HELP-LESS TARGETS FOR THE ENEMY'S JAVELINS!!

FTOK!

TO MY SIDE!! VALIANT ONE! NO HARM SHALL COME TO THEE WHILE THOR DOTH LIVE!



GODDESS... SHIELD THY FACE!!

BY THE THOUSAND THREATS OF RAGNAROK...

WE SHALL TAKE SHELTER BEYOND THE WALL... FOR YON WALL SHALL EXIST NO MORE...!!



THOR HAST SPOKEN!



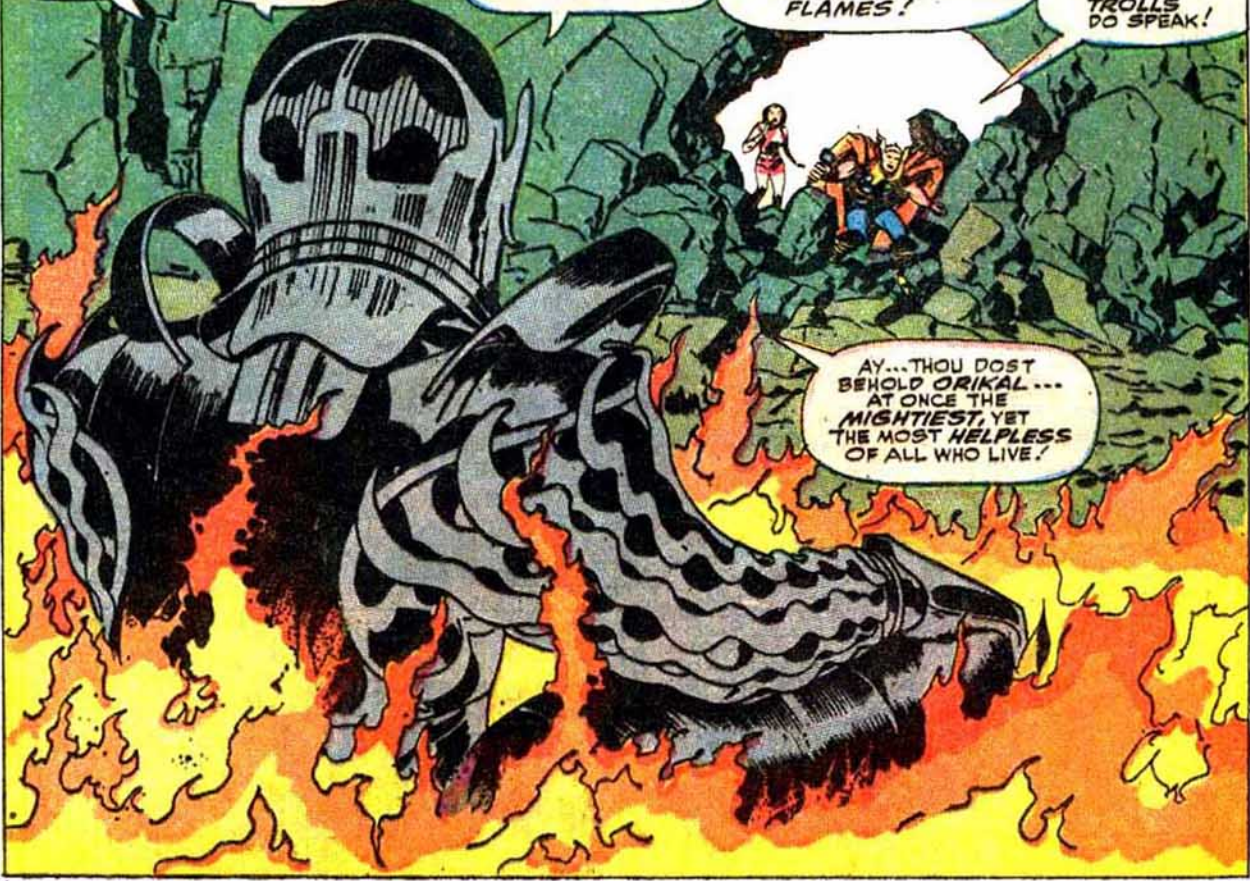
TINY CREATURES...
YOU MUST ADVANCE
NO FURTHER!

FOR YOU ENTER THE
PLACE WHERE
ORIKAL HOLDS
SWAY!

BUT, THOUGH I AM
POSSESSED OF
POWER UNDREAMED
OF IN THIS UNIVERSE...

I MYSELF AM PRISONER
HERE... BOUND TO OBEY THE
COMMANDS OF THOSE WHO
CONTROL THE ACCURSED
FLAMES!

THEN THOU
ART TRULY
ORIKAL... HE
OF WHOM THE
TROLLS
DO SPEAK!



AY... THOU DOST
BEHOLD ORIKAL...
AT ONCE THE
MIGHTIEST, YET
THE MOST HELPLESS
OF ALL WHO LIVE!

SO LONG AS THE
WRETCHED FLAMES
SURROUND ME, I
AM BUT SLAVE TO
HIM CALLED
GEIRRODUR!

THOUGH I HAVE NO INTEREST IN
THY PETTY STRUGGLE, I MUST
DO HIS BIDDING IN HOPE OF
GAINING MY FREEDOM!



NAY!! THERE
IS ANOTHER
COURSE!!
ATTEND THOU
THE WORDS
OF THOR..!

THUNDER
GOD!! CAN
THOSE BE
FOOTFALLS
BEHIND US..?

SO!! I
HAVE
FOUND
YOU... AT
LAST!!



HE LUMBERS
TOWARDS US
AS THOUGH THE
MADNESS
BE UPON
HIM!

BUT HE SEEMS TO SEE US NOT!! 'TIS
ORIKAL UPON WHOM HE TURNS HIS
RAGE-FILLED EYES!

YOU'RE THE ONE!
YOU STOLE THE GLORY
AWAY FROM ME! I AM
MIGHTIEST OF ALL...
NOW GEIRRODUR COUNTS
ON YOU FOR
VICTORY!



BUT, HE'LL COUNT
ON YOU NO LONGER!!
NOW, BY THE HAND
OF ULIK... ORIKAL
DIES!



HE HAS FORGOTTEN ALL... SAVE THE ONE HE VOWS TO SLAY!

LET ME MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE ARE SAFE FROM OUR PURSUERS...

...THEN SHALL I TURN MY ATTENTION TO THE MATTERS AT HAND!

ORIKAL IS TOO POWERFUL TO SLAY BY DIRECT ATTACK... BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY...AN EASIER WAY...!

I MUST BIDE MY TIME... TILL I LEARN HIS PURPOSE, AND HIS PLAN!

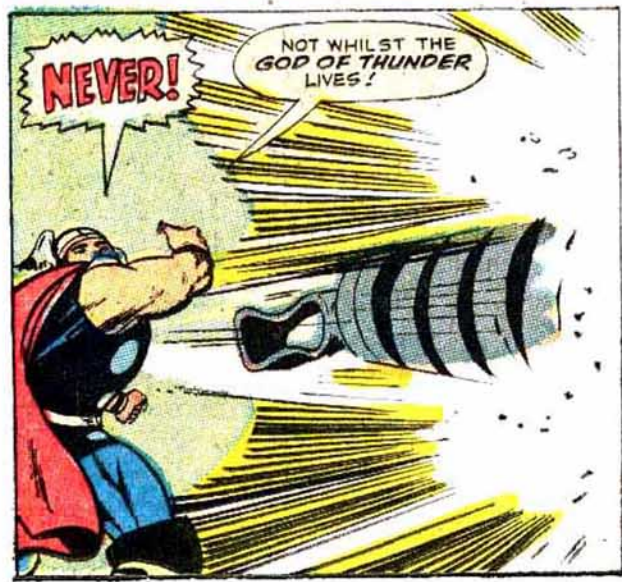
FOR ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE... ALL YOUR POWER... YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS IS THE SWITCH THAT CONTROLS THE FLAMES THAT TRAP YOU!!

IT FEEDS DIRECTLY DOWN... TO THE ETERNAL FIRES THAT BURN BELOW!!

NOW, BEFORE YOU CAN STOP ME, I CAN MOVE IT TO FULL HEAT...!

CLACK!

WITHIN ONE SECOND, ORIKAL WILL EXIST NO MORE... AND ULIK WILL AGAIN BE MIGHTIEST OF ALL!



NEVER!

NOT WHILST THE GOD OF THUNDER LIVES!



ASGARDIAN, THOU HAST SAVED THE LIFE OF ORIKAL!

AY! AND NOW THAT ULIK HATH REVEALED THE FATAL SWITCH, I CAN RELEASE THEE FROM THY BONDAGE!



BUT FIRST, THOU MUST SWEAR TO RETURN TO THINE OWN UNIVERSE... AT THE VERY INSTANT OF THY LIBERATION!

A WORD SUCH AS "SWEAR" IS WITHOUT MEANING TO ORIKAL!

WE MUST MAKE HASTE! THE ACCURSED TROLLS WILL SOON BE UPON US!

HASTEN NOT! I DO POSSESS THE INFINITE EYE, WHICH SEES ALL THAT SHALL OCCUR!



I SAY NOW UNTO YOU... THE LEGIONS OF THE TROLL HAVE OVER-WHELMED ASGARD... BUT THEY SHALL HENCE-FORTH BE DRIVEN BACK!

AND, ONCE ORIKAL HATH FLED THIS DEADLY PLACE, THE WEAPONS WHICH I HAVE PROVIDED SHALL BE ETERNALLY USELESS TO MY FORMER CAPTORS!

PREPARE THEN FOR THY FREEDOM! ALREADY THE FLAMES DO DIMINISH! WITHIN MERE SECONDS, THEY SHALL BE GONE!

MIGHTY ARE THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD! THOUGH HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED... THOUGH FACED WITH ALIEN WEAPONS... THEY DID NOT SUCCEMB! NEVER HATH ORIKAL SEEN THE LIKE!

THE FLAMES GROW COLD! THUS, ORIKAL SHALL NOW DEPART! FOR, NOT EVEN I DARE FACE THE WRATH OF MIGHTY ODIN!



BEHOLD!! WHAT WAS ONCE A BEING HATH TURNED TO AN AURA OF SHIMMERING, GLOWING ENERGY!

EVEN NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS OF HIM WHO HAD TOWERED SO AWESOMELY ABOVE US!

BUT, WHAT IF HE CONTINUES TO AID THE TROLLS? WHAT IF HE MERELY TRICKED US INTO SAVING HIM FROM ULIK??



THERE IS YOUR ANSWER!! HE HATH ALREADY FLED THIS HALLOWED UNIVERSE! METHINKS WE SHALL NEVER SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN!

BUT LOOK! THE TROLLS HAVE REGROUPED!! THEY ARE ALMOST UPON US!

STILL, WITH THY HAMMER, AND THE SWORD OF SIF... WE SHALL YET PREVAIL!

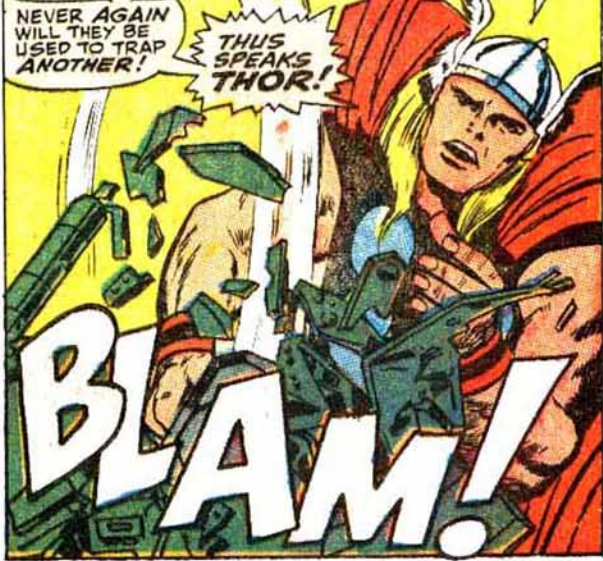
WHAT UNSPEAKABLE INFAMY IS THIS??!
THE PIT IS DARK... COLD... AND DESERTED!!

THEN WE ARE LOST!! EVEN WITH HIS POWER, WE COULD NOT CONQUER ODIN!

BUT NOW... WITHOUT IT... WE'RE DOOMED TO THE UNDER-GROUND PITS FOREVER!

NO LONGER WILL YOU CONTROL THE FLAMES BENEATH YOU!!

NOW, GEIRRODUR... STAND THEE BEFORE ME!!



SURRENDER... RECALL THY HORDES... OR FEEL THE SHATTERING MIGHT OF THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER!

I WAS SO CLOSE TO VICTORY...!! SO CLOSE!!

I STILL HAVE MY ARMY... I CAN STILL FIGHT!!

I CAN'T GIVE IT ALL UP NOW!!



HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?

ULIK IS OVER-COMB!! ORIKAL IS GONE! AND THE SON OF ODIN STANDS BEFORE THEE IN FULL POWER!

BUT YOU... AND THE FEMALE... ARE ALONE... SURROUNDED BY THE PICK OF MY GREATEST WARRIORS!

THOUGH ORIKAL ESCAPED, WE STILL HAVE YOU!



FOOL!! THOU HAST EARS, BUT DO NOT HEAR!!

... 'TIS THOR WHO HAS THEE!!

SO LONG AS MJOLNIR IS MINE... SO LONG AS ASGARD ENDURES... SO LONG AS ODIN REIGNS SUPREME...



LET US RETURN TO OUR CATA-COMBS... THAT WE MAY PLAN FOR OUR NEXT INVASION!!

AY!! WHEN NEXT WE ATTACK, IT IS THE THUNDER GOD WHO WILL BE FIRST TO DIE!

MY LORD... SO LONG AS THEY LIVE, WE ARE IN DANGER! WHY DO YOU NOT SLAY THEM WHERE THEY STAND?



NO! 'TIS NOT THE WAY OF ASGARD!

ALL LIFE... EVEN SUCH AS THEIRS... IS PRECIOUS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING!

MEANWHILE, FROM EVERY PART OF THE GOLDEN REALM, RETREATING TROLLS RACE HEADLONG INTO THE TUNNELS AND CAVERNS WHICH LEAD TO THEIR HIDDEN LANDS BELOW...

THE TIDE HAS TURNED!! THE FORCES OF ODIN ATTACK! FLEE! FLEE! BACK TO THE DEPTHS!!

PAK KOW!

WHOOOM!

THUMP! THUD! THUMM!

AND OVER ALL, THE BOOMING VOICE OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN SEEMS TO BLANKET THE LAND...

BACK TO THY STYGIAN DEPTHS, THOU BASE AND LOWLY EVIL ONES!!

KNOW YE THAT ODIN SHALL BE LESS MERCIFUL ANON!

THE VICTORY IS OURS... BUT, FOR ME 'T'WILL BE A HOLLOW ONE, FOR THE SON OF MY HEART DID NOT SHARE IT!

SIRE, MOST NOBLE...

BEHOLD YON TUNNEL! WHERE ALL OTHERS HAVE FLED, THERE ARE TWO WHO APPROACH!

'TIS THY SON... THE GOD OF THUNDER!

AND WITH HIM, THE LADY SIF!

IF THEY COME FROM A TUNNEL OF THE TROLLS, THEN THE BATTLE DID NOT ELUDE HIM!

FATHER! I BRING THEE THE SURRENDER OF KING GEIRRODUR! THE WAR IS ENDED!

IF THOU COULDST HAVE BUT SEEN THY SON, SIRE!

VIRTUALLY ALONE, YET UNAFRAID... HE DID BATTLE THE MOST OPPRESSIVE ODDS... YET, TRIUMPHED, HE ALWAYS!

FATHER... HOW STANDS ASGARD?

THE REALM ENDURES, MY SON!

AS DO THY PRIDE IN THEE!

SO BE IT!!

**NEXT ISSUE:
A NEW
ENEMY OF EARTH!**

"THE SECRET OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!"

MARK YOU WELL THIS SIGHT, O TRUE BELIEVER--FOR, THINE AWE-STRUCK EYES DO NOW BEHOLD THE MURDEROUS, MERCILESS MOGUL--SAFE WITHIN HIS HIDDEN KINGDOM, AS HE DOTHS PARTAKE OF THE PLEASURES HE HATH WON BY MEANS OF PILLAGE, PILLORY, AND PLUNDER IN LANDS BEYOND NUMBER...

MOGUL HATH SPOKEN!!
NOW LET ALL BEGONE!

ENOUGH!
I DO WEARY OF YON REVELS!

A
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
RHAPSODIC RABELAISIAN ROMP!

INKED BY VINCE COLLETTA | LETTERED BY ART SIMOK

ALL HAVE DEPARTED! NOW, ABU DAKIR, TELL ME THE NEWS ONCE MORE! SPEAK, OR LOSE THE USE OF THY TONGUE --FOREVER!

OUTSIDERS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED APPROACHING THY REALM, SIRE! FOUR STRANGERS OF WHOM THERE IS NOTHING KNOWN!

STRANGERS--DARING TO ENTER MY FORBIDDEN DOMAIN?? THEY ARE SURELY MADMEN--BUT, EVEN MADNESS IS NO EXCUSE!



MOGUL CARES NOT WHOM THEY MAY BE--NOR WHAT THEIR PURPOSE IS!

IS IT NOT KNOWN FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON--ALL WHO ENTER THE FORBIDDEN LAND MUST END THEIR JOURNEY IN THE BAREN HALLS OF DEATH!!



THE ENCHANTED CRYSTAL!! AT MY COMMAND--LET IT RISE BEFORE ME, THAT IT MAY REVEAL THE SECRETS I WISH TO BE UNLOCKED!

SIRE!! AN IMAGE FORMS WITHIN THE GLISTENING RADIANCE!!

'TIS AS I SUSPECTED!! THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD--GOADED ON BY MINE ARCH-FOE, HOGUN!

BUT, SIRE--DO MINE EYES DECEIVE ME? IS NOT HE OF THE GOLDEN-HAIR THE TRUE SON OF ODIN??

JUST AS I HAVE SLAIN HIS FOREBARS, AND LAID WASTE HIS LAND, SO SHALL I DESTROY THE PRESUMPTUOUS ASGARDIANS AS WELL!



AY, BUT IT MATTERS NOT! IF HE WERE ODIN HIMSELF, HE WOULD STILL BE SO SURELY DOOMED!

JINNI DEVIL!! COME THOU FORTH! MOGUL HATH NEED OF THEE--AND THOU ART PLEDGED TO SERVE ME EVER!

NOW, LET THINE EYES BE AVERTED AS I SUMMON MY SLAVE!

I DO HEAR AND OBEY!

I HUNGER FOR BATTLE!! I THIRST FOR VICTIMS ANEW!



MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE VERY HEART OF MOGUL'S FORBIDDEN DOMAIN--

HAVE A CARE, WORTHY HOGUN! METHINKS A GRAVE PERIL DOETH SURELY AWAIT US!

HAVE DONE WITH THEE, THUNDER GOD! THE TIME FOR CARE IS PAST!

IS THIS NOT THE LAND WAZIR THE ANCIENT DID LEAD US TO??

IS IT NOT HERE THAT I SHALL FIND HIM WHO HATH SLAIN MY BRETHREN-- HIM WHO NOW MUST FACE THE VENGEANCE OF HOGUN, THE GRIM!!



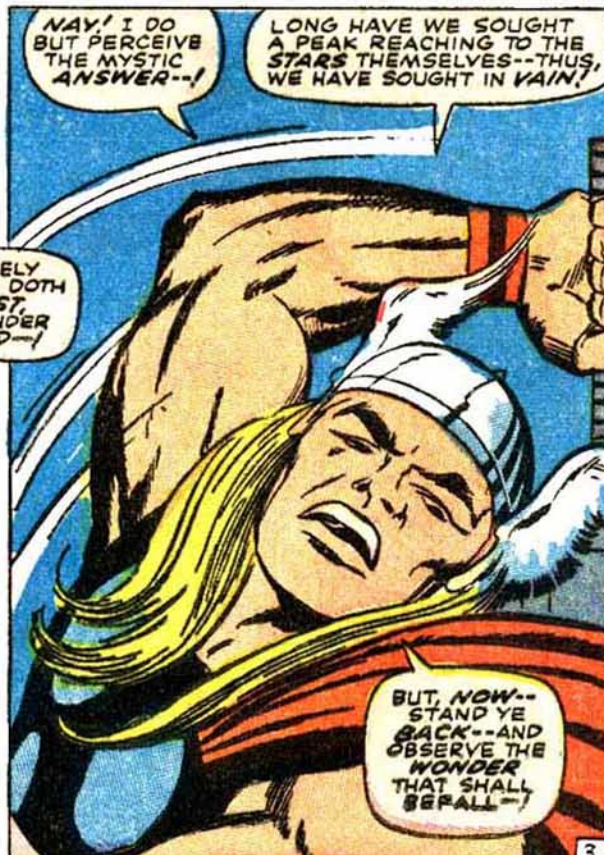
HOLD, NOBLE COMRADE! VERILY DOETH VOLSTAGG'S BRAVE AND BATTLE-WISE BRAIN SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS MOST SORELY AMISS!

WERE WE NOT TOLD OF A GIANT MYSTIC MOUNTAIN?

INDEED-- AS FAR AS EYE CAN SEE, THERE IS NAUGHT BUT ROUGH--HEWN DESOLATION!

IN TRUTH, MINE EYES HAVE NEVER WITNESSED LAND SO BARREN-- SO BARE OF TOWERING PEAKS!

THE BLADE OF FANDRAL CRIES OUT TO STRIKE IN HOGUN'S CAUSE! IF THE MOUNTAIN EXISTS-- THEN, BY MY TROTH-- IT MUST BE FOUND!



NAH! I DO BUT PERCEIVE THE MYSTIC ANSWER--!

LONG HAVE WE SOUGHT A PEAK REACHING TO THE STARS THEMSELVES--THUS, WE HAVE SOUGHT IN VAIN!

SURELY THOU DOETH JEST, THUNDER GOD--!

BUT, NOW-- STAND YE BACK-- AND OBSERVE THE WONDER THAT SHALL BEFALL--!

ACCURSED MOGUL-- HEAR THOU THE WORDS OF MOGUN--!

NEVER SHALL I ABANDON THE QUEST!! THOU CANST NOT FOREVER HIDE FROM HOGUN'S MACE!! THOU SHALT PAY FOR THINE DARK DEEDS--

DESPAIR THEE NOT, GRIM ONE! THE MOUNTAIN IS TRULY WITHIN SIGHT!





THY BLOW
HAST FLUNG
ASIDE THE
CRUST OF
GROUND
UPON WHICH
WE DID
STAND!

AND NOW--ALL BENEATH OUR
FEET IS SMOOTH AS PUREST
MARBLE!

LOOK YOU
WELL AT WHAT
LIES BELOW!
WE HAVE
FOUND THAT
WHICH WE
DID SEEK!



IN TRUTH--
THERE BE
MOUNTAINS
THAT REACH
DOWNWARD
--AS WELL AS
TO THE
SKIES!

'TIS A GIGANTIC,
GLEAMING
STALAGMITE--
COMPOSED OF
PUREST CRYSTAL--

AND, IF THE WITNESS OF
MINE EYES BE TRUE, IT
DOETH CONTAIN A VERITABLE
CITY WITHIN ITS SPARKLING
HEART!

THERE CAN BE
NO DOUBT--
'TIS ZANADU,
WHEREIN THE
ACCURSED
MOGUL
DWELLS!!

ZANADU-- WHOSE
HIDDEN SPIRES HAVE
BEEN SOUGHT FOR AGES
--SOUGHT BY THOSE
WHOSE SOULS STRIVE
FOR JUSTICE-- AND FOR
RIGHTEOUS RETRIBUTION!!

ZANADU-- WHERE
THE MURDEROUS
MOGUL RULES WITH
POWER ABSOLUTE!
BUT, HE SHALL RULE
NO LONGER!! THIS
DOETH HOGUN SWEAR!!



NO SHINING CRYSTAL SHALL BAR THE WAY TO HOGUN!

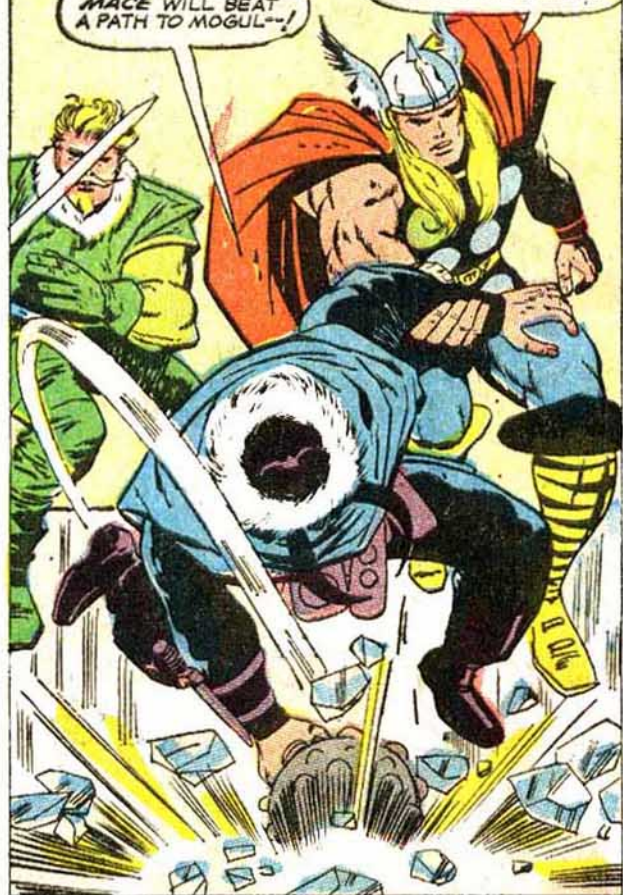
WASTE NOT THY STRENGTH, WARRIOR! DIDST THOU NOT SAY THAT NONE MAY LEAVE THIS LAND ALIVE!

MY SHATTERING MACE WILL BEAT A PATH TO MOGUL--!

THEREFORE, ONCE OUR PRESENCE HERE BE KNOWN, 'TIS THEY WHO SHALL COME FOR US!

I CAN ILL AFFORD TO WAIT!! THE RAGE WITHIN MY HEART DOTH WELL UP LIKE A LIVING THING!

SO LONG AS MOGUL'S EXISTENCE DOTH PROFANE THE VERY WORLD ABOUT US--SO LONG CAN HOGUN KNOW NO PEACE!



SEER MIGHTY THOR WAS RIGHT! AN OPENING APPEARS--LEADING DOWN INTO THE LAND OF ZANADU!

VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL BE FIRST TO GO BELOW AND SOW THE SEEDS OF FEAR AMONGST THE LESSER BEINGS!

THAT NOISE-- LIKE THE ROAR OF A HUNDRED DRAGONS--!

FIE UPON IT! VOLSTAGG WILL PROVE HIS GENEROSITY! I SHALL LET MY FELLOWS GAIN THE GLORY--WHILST I REMAIN ABOVE--LEST IT BE THOUGHT THAT VOLSTAGG IS THE ONLY HERO AMONGST US!

DOWN BELOW-- SOMETHING MOVES-- SOMETHING DOTH APPROACH-- SLOWLY RISING FROM BENEATH OUR FEET--!



YOU HAVE DARED TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF DOOM!

THEREFORE, WELCOME TO ZANADU--WHERE THE PRICE OF ADMITTANCE IS-- YOUR PALTRY LIVES!



NEXT THE BATTLE BEGINS!