



THE MIGHTY THOR

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THE GROWING MAN

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"THE GROWING MAN!"

IN WHICH ONE OF EARTH'S DEADLIEST ENEMIES RETURNS... WITH THE MOST UNCANNY THREAT OF ALL!!

ALL HAIL!!
HAIL TO HIM
WHO IS
HIGHEST OF
THE HIGHEST!

LET IT BE KNOWN!
THE GREAT TROLL WAR HAS BEEN WON BY THE FORCES OF ASGARD!
NOW, 'MIDST THE MOST CELESTIAL POMP AND PAGEANTRY, THE REGAL ODIN VICTORIOUSLY ASCENDS TO THE GOLDEN THRONE!

THE STAGE IS SET! THE CURTAIN IS RISEN! THE CAST ASSEMBLED! LET THE WONDERMENT BEGIN--!

CONCEIVED AND CREATED BY THE NOBLEST COLLABORATIVE COMBO IN COMICDOM:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
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ALL EYES ARE UPRaised! ALL VOICES STILLED! AND THEN, IN TONES MOST STENTORIAN, THE VOICE OF ODIN, THE ALLWISE, BOOMS FORTH... BLANKETING THE ASSEMBLAGE WITH IMPERIAL PRAISE...

I SAY UNTO THEE... THE GOOD FIGHT HAVE YE FOUGHT!!

THE ENEMY IS VANQUISHED! THE CAUSE IS WON! THE REALM ETERNAL STILL DOTHS STAND!

SO BE IT!

AND NOW, I BID THEE, ONE AND ALL... DRAW CLOSER, TO THY LIEGE!

IMMORTALS OF THE REALM... YE MAY APPROACH THE KINGLY PRESENCE!



THANKS TO THY VALOR... THY MATCHLESS DEVOTION... ASGARD ENDURES!

BUT, MANY ARE THE BATTLES THAT LIE AHEAD! MANY ARE THE FOES WE YET MUST FACE! MANY THE PANGERS TO BE OVERCOME!

YET, VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE...

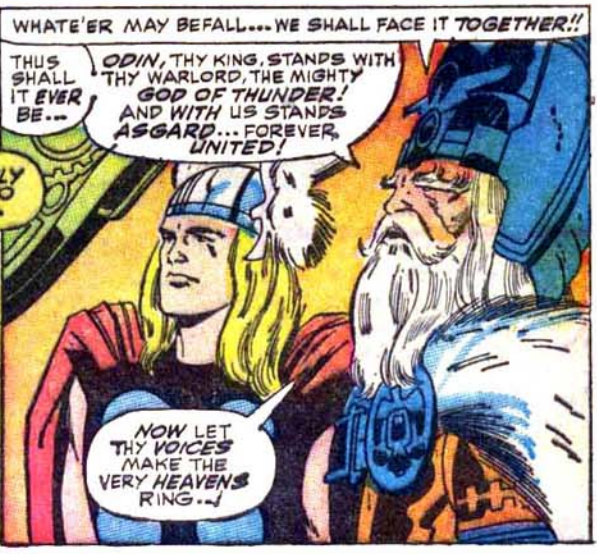


WHATE'ER MAY BEFALL... WE SHALL FACE IT TOGETHER!!

THIS SHALL IT EVER BE...

ODIN, THY KING, STANDS WITH THY WARLORD, THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER! AND WITH US STANDS ASGARD... FOREVER, UNITED!

NOW LET THY VOICES MAKE THE VERY HEAVENS RING..



HAIL ASGARD!

IF YE WONDER, O TRUE BELIEVER, WHY WE DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME TO A MERE CEREMONY, 'TIS MERELY BECAUSE THIS SHALL BE OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH REVELRY BEFORE THE PANDEMONIUM OCCURS...





LATER, HIS CEREMONIAL DUTIES ENDED, THE OVERLORD OF ASGARD PREPARES FOR HIS EVENING RITUAL ...

MAKE READY THE ROYAL BATH THAT I MAY TAKE MINE EASE!

FATHER, I DO CRAVE A WORD WITH THEE!

THEN COME YE TO THE POOL OF PEACE!



SPEAK, FLESH OF MY FLESH! THY FATHER DOETH LEND HIS EAR!

EVEN NOW, IN THIS HOUR OF VICTORY, MY HEART IS SORELY TROUBLED, SIRE!

THE PLANET EARTH IS MINE TO GUARD, BUT I HAVE BEEN TOO LONG ABSENT!

THY WORDS HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH, MY SON!



FOR, SOME DEEP-ROOTED INTUITION WARNS ME OF MOUNTING DANGER TO THE WORLD I HAVE COME TO LOVE!

THEREFORE, MOST NOBLE LORD, I DO CRAVE THY LEAVE TO DEPART...

AND, WHERE THERE BE DANGER... WHERE THERE BE DEADLY PERIL... THERE MUST BE THE GOD OF THUNDER!



EVEN AS THE IMMORTAL AVENGER SPEAKS, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY, THREE MEN STARE IN BREATHLESS BEWILDERMENT AT THE SIGHT THAT GREETS THEIR STARTLED EYES ...!

IS THIS SOME OUTRAGEOUS PRANK? YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD DISCOVERED A MAN THE SIZE OF A DOLL...!

I SAW HIM LAST NIGHT! I COULD HAVE PUT 'IM IN MY POCKET!

DO YOU BOTH REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING??!

HE WAS DOLL-SIZE WHEN OUR MUSEUM EXPEDITION UN-EARTHED HIM LAST NIGHT!



WE'RE AWARE HOW MAD IT SOUNDS... THAT'S WHY WE SENT FOR YOU!

NO ONE CAN GET SO BIG... SO FAST!

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THIS IS THE MOST FANTASTIC SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY OF ALL TIME!

NO ONE HUMAN-ANYWAY!

WE CANNOT TELL WHAT AGE HE'S FROM... NOR HOW HE MANAGES TO GROW THAT WAY!



I CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT HIS ORIGIN IS!

HE'S ACTUALLY WARM TO THE TOUCH! HE... HE'S ALIVE!

IS HE FROM THE DIM PAST... OR... FROM SOME INCREDIBLE FUTURE??

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE CAN'T BE!



HOW CAN HE BE WARM? THIS ISN'T FLESH... IT'S ARMOR OF SOME SORT!

HERE...I'LL TAP IT AND SHOW... WAIT!

BETTER WATCH IT THERE! I COULD'A SWORN I SAW HIM MOVE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S BEGINNING TO STIR...!



THEN SUDDENLY...UNEXPECTEDLY... WITH DAZZLING SPEED...A HUGE ARM LASHES OUT...

HE...HE'S SEIZING ME!!

WH-WHOEVER YOU ARE...LET 'EM GO!!

LET GO OR I'LL SHOOT!!



THE BULLETS DON'T STOP 'EM! THEY JUST BOUNCE OFF!

WHAT IS HE?? WHAT'S HE MADE OF??



PUNY CREATURES... BEGONE! I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH SUCH AS YOU!

HE SPEAKS! HE HAS INTELLIGENCE!

TELL US... WHO ARE YOU?? WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WE MEAN YOU NO HARM...!



STOP FIRING AT HIM! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING??

INSANE AS IT MAY SOUND... EACH TIME A SHELL STRIKES HIM... HE GROWS LARGER!! BUT HE WON'T STOP!

HE KEEPS COMING CLOSER! RUN... GET OUT OF HERE!

I'LL TRY TO HOLD 'EM OFF TILL HELP CAN REACH US!

WHEN I AM READY TO STRIKE, THERE CAN BE NO HELP!



THAT'S MY LAST SHELL...AND HE'S STILL COMIN'!

I COULD CRUSH YOU LIKE A FLEA!

TAKE COVER, PROFESSOR! RUN WHILE YOU CAN!

BUT YOU MEAN NOTHING TO ME! WHERE IS THE MASTER? IT IS HE I MUST FIND!



HE'S STILL GROWING!

IT'S AS THOUGH EACH NEW ATTACK STIMULATES HIS CELLS, CAUSING THEM TO DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY AT AN IMPOSSIBLE RATE!

HE'S LOST ALL INTEREST IN US; HE'S CRASHING THROUGH THE WALL... LIKE IT'S MADE OF PAPER... LIKE IT ISN'T EVEN THERE!

SKRAK!

I MUST FIND... THE MASTER!



UPON REACHING THE STREET, THE NOW-GIGANTIC BEING THROWS THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A WAVE OF PANIC...!

CAN THIS BE MY INTENDED DESTINATION?

WHY DOES THE MASTER NOT APPEAR??? I MUST LEARN MY PURPOSE... MY MISSION! ONLY HE CAN TELL ME!



WITHIN SECONDS, NEWS OF THE GROWING MAN IS FLASHED THROUGHOUT THE NATION, AS THE AWESOME BEING CONTINUES HIS STRANGE, AIMLESS PROGRESS TOWARDS... WHAT?!!

IT'S THE GROWING MAN... LIFTING THAT ABANDONED HOUSE AS THOUGH IT'S A TOY!

I MUST HAVE PURPOSE! I MUST HAVE A GOAL!

NO WONDER NOTHING CAN STOP HIM! I CAN SEE HIM GROWING... RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!

WHY DOES THE MASTER NOT APPEAR? WHY HAS HE FORSAKEN ME?

FOR SALE



WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE I GROW BIGGER!!

SOON, I SHALL BE THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL! SOON, THE EARTH ITSELF WILL BE HELPLESS BEFORE MY BLUDGEONING POWER!

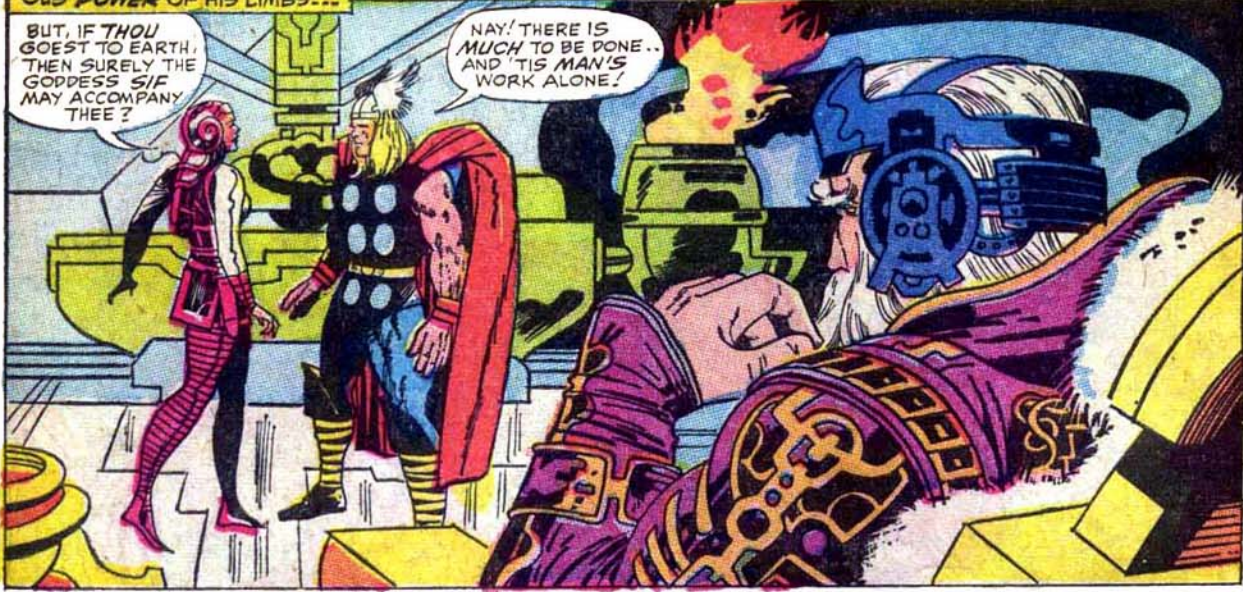
BUT, NONE BUT THE MASTER CAN GUIDE ME! NONE BUT THE MASTER CAN SHOW ME THE WAY!

FOR, IT WAS HE WHO CREATED ME, IT IS HE WHO MUST BE OBEYED!

BUT, ANOTHER THERE IS WHO SHALL SOON HAVE A VITAL STAKE IN THE DESTINY OF THE GROWING MAN... ANOTHER WHO, EVEN NOW, SPEAKS TO THE RAVEN-TRESSED SIF WITH A GENTLENESS IN HIS VOICE THAT DOES BELIEVE THE THUNDEROUS POWER OF HIS LIMBS...

BUT, IF THOU GOEST TO EARTH, THEN SURELY THE GODDESS SIF MAY ACCOMPANY THEE?

NAY! THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE... AND 'TIS MAN'S WORK ALONE!



BUT, HAVE WE NOT FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE IN THE PAST? HAS THE BATTLE SWORD OF SIF BEEN FOUND WANTING?

INDEED, THE BEAUTEOUS ONE SPEAKS TRUE! THE HEART OF THOR IS STILL HEAVY LADEN... WITH THOUGHTS OF THE NOW-DEPARTED JANE FOSTER!

I SAY THEE NAY, SON OF ODIN. THE WORDS OF THY LIPS ARE NOT THE THOUGHTS OF THY HEART!

THERE IS SO MUCH TO THINK UPON... SAD MEMORIES TO BE LAID TO REST... AND THIS I MUST DO ALONE!



I BEG THEE, MAIDEN... THINK NOT ILL OF THOR!

I GO... BUT I RETURN! AND THOU MUST DULY WAIT! SO 'TIS EVER WITH WARRIOR, AND WITH MAIDEN!

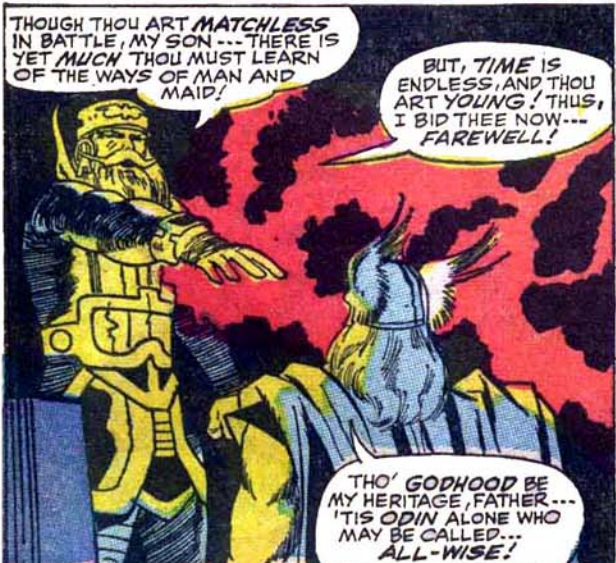
THEN BE THOU GONE! BEGGING I'LL BECOME THE SISTER OF HEIMDALL!



THOUGH THOU ART MATCHLESS IN BATTLE, MY SON... THERE IS YET MUCH THOU MUST LEARN OF THE WAYS OF MAN AND MAID!

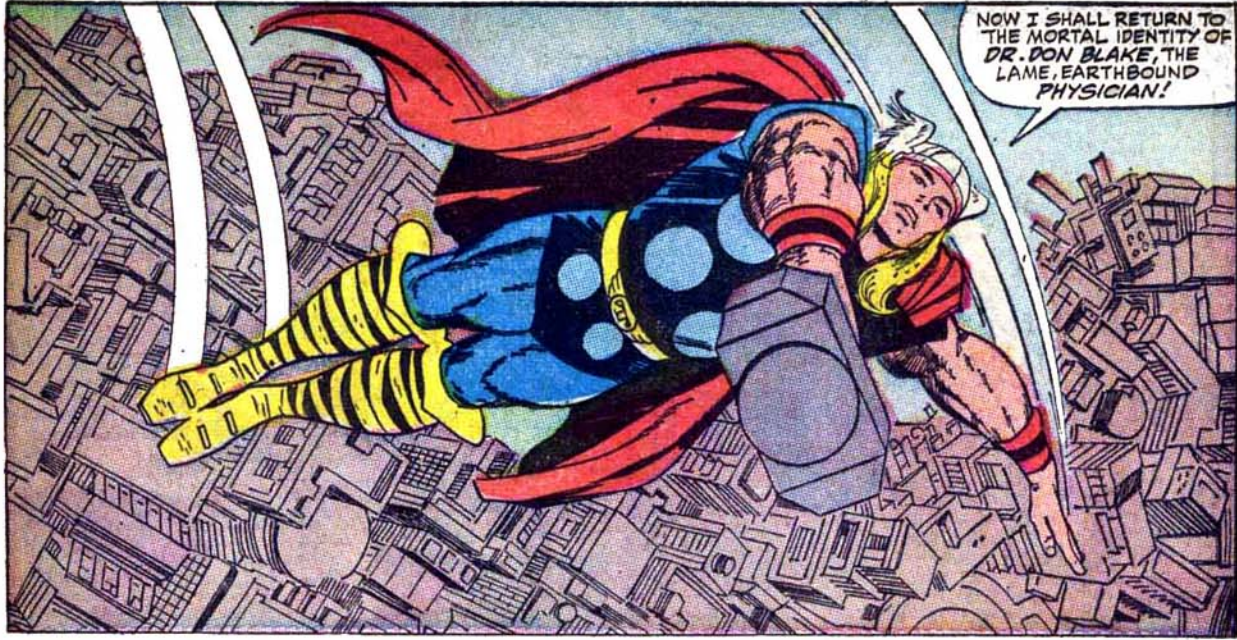
BUT, TIME IS ENDLESS, AND THOU ART YOUNG! THUS, I BID THEE NOW... FAREWELL!

THO' GODHOOD BE MY HERITAGE, FATHER... 'TIS ODIN ALONE WHO MAY BE CALLED... ALL-WISE!

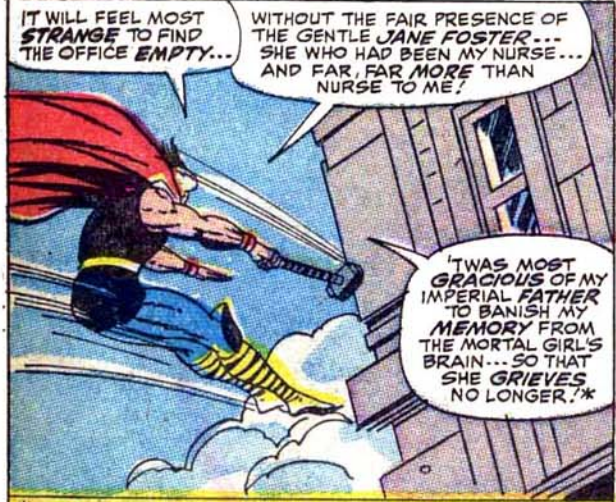


SO BE IT!





NOW I SHALL RETURN TO THE MORTAL IDENTITY OF DR. DON BLAKE, THE LAME, EARTHBOUND PHYSICIAN!

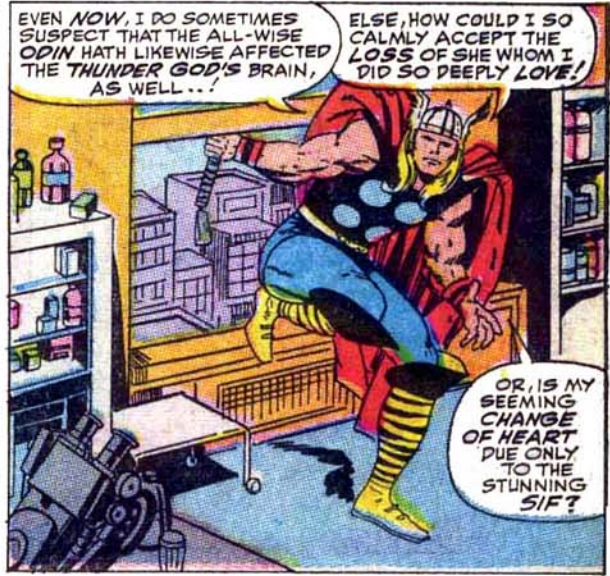


IT WILL FEEL MOST STRANGE TO FIND THE OFFICE EMPTY...

WITHOUT THE FAIR PRESENCE OF THE GENTLE JANE FOSTER... SHE WHO HAD BEEN MY NURSE... AND FAR, FAR MORE THAN NURSE TO ME!

'T WAS MOST GRACIOUS OF MY IMPERIAL FATHER TO BANISH MY MEMORY FROM THE MORTAL GIRL'S BRAIN... SO THAT SHE GRIEVES NO LONGER.*

*FOR THE FULL-LENGTH VERSION OF THIS CAPTIVATING CAPSULE SUMMARY, WE SUGGEST YOU RE-READ THE UNFORGETTABLE THOR #136!... SOPHOMORIC STAN.



EVEN NOW, I DO SOMETIMES SUSPECT THAT THE ALL-WISE ODIN HATH LIKEWISE AFFECTED THE THUNDER GOD'S BRAIN, AS WELL...!

ELSE, HOW COULD I SO CALMLY ACCEPT THE LOSS OF SHE WHOM I DID SO DEEPLY LOVE!

OR, IS MY SEEMING CHANGE OF HEART DUE ONLY TO THE STUNNING SIF?



BUT, LET THERE BE AN END TO FUTILE SOUL-SEARCHING!

THE TIME NOW IS COME...



THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST RETURN...



...TO HUMAN FORM... TO PICK UP THE TANGLED PIECES OF DON BLAKE'S LIFE...

AND TO AWAIT THE NEXT DEADLY CHALLENGE TO THE PLANET EARTH!

MY FACE IS THE FACE OF A SCHOLAR... A HEALER... A DEDICATED MAN OF PEACE!

AND YET... EVEN AS MIGHTY THOR HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO FIGHTING EVIL...

SO HAVE I DEDICATED MINE TO FIGHTING THE ILLS AND AILMENTS THAT AFFLICT MANKIND!

PERHAPS THAT IS THE REASON DESTINY HAS CHOSEN ME TO PLAY THE MOST FATEFUL SECRET ROLE OF ALL!

MY FILES ARE ALL IN ORDER!

LUCKILY, MY OTHER PHYSICIAN FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES FILLED IN FOR ME DURING MY ABSENCE!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE A FEW DAYS!

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED THAT IT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY! AND YET...

DR. BLAKE! I... I WAS IN THE HALL FOR HOURS! I DIDN'T SEE YOU RETURN!

IT'S OLSON, THE JANITOR! I CAN HARDLY TELL HIM I FLEW IN THROUGH THE WINDOW WITH MY ENCHANTED HAMMER!

I ARRIVED EARLY THIS MORNING, OLSON! I'VE BEEN HARD AT WORK ALL DAY, TRYING TO CATCH UP ON MY PATIENTS' RECORDS!

WELL, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK, DOCTOR! DID YOU ENJOY YOUR VACATION?

MY WHA...? OH, YES... IT WAS VERY, EH... VERY RESTFUL! ... JUST WHAT I NEEDED!

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NURSE? WHEN WILL MISS FOSTER BE BACK?

I, EH... I'M NOT SURE, OLSON! AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... I STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO FINISH!

BUT, DR. BLAKE IS ABOUT TO FIND EVEN MORE WORK THAN HE EXPECTS! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN AN EVACUATED SUBURBAN PARK...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW COULD ONE MAN HAVE DONE ALL THIS?

MAYBE THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, CHARLIE! MAYBE HE IS SOME KINDA NUTTY GIANT FROM OUTER SPACE!

I WAS HERE JUST THIS MORNING... AND EVERYTHING LOOKED LIKE A PICTURE BOOK!

NOW, THERE'S NOT A TREE LEFT STANDING!

HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! LISTEN! UP AHEAD... WHAT'S THAT?!

THUMP!



IT'S THE GIANT!! WE FOUND HIM!!

KRAK!

THR
KRAK!



BACK!! ALL OF YOU! I MUST NOT BE STOPPED TILL I HAVE FOUND THE MASTER!

IT'S LIKE SOME SORT OF CRAZY NIGHTMARE...!

HE'S GETTIN' BIGGER WHILE WE'RE WATCHING HIM!



HE'S THE SIZE OF A SMALL MOUNTAIN NOW!

HE GROWS EVERY TIME HE TOUCHES ANYTHING... LIKE THAT PROFESSOR SAID!



THEN, SUDDENLY... FROM BEHIND A NEARBY BOULDER... A STRANGE WEAPON FIRES A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT..!

ENOUGH! YOUR POWER MUST NOT BE RECKLESSLY WASTED!

IN A BLINDING BURST OF LIGHT, AS THE POTENT BEAM STRIKES THE GIGANTIC CREATURE, HIS ATOMIC CELL STRUCTURE INSTANTLY CONTRACTS, CAUSING HIM TO SHRINK WITH PAZZLING SPEED ---

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED OFFICERS CAN REACH THE SCENE, A FORBIDDING FIGURE REACHES FOR THE NOW DOLL-SIZED CREATURE --- THE FIGURE OF KANG, THE CONQUEROR!

I MUST RETRIEVE YOU, WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME!

I BURIED YOU DEEP, HERE IN THE PRIMITIVE 20TH CENTURY...

NEVER DREAMING THE FOOLS WOULD UN-EARTH YOU BEFORE I, YOUR MASTER, WAS READY!

BUT FORTUNATELY, MY DE-ENERGIZER, BY REDUCING YOUR SIZE, WILL ENABLE ME TO HIDE YOU ONCE AGAIN ---

HIDE YOU...UNTIL THE MOMENT ARRIVES WHEN I COMMAND YOU TO STRIKE... AND TO DESTROY ALL WHO LIVE!

NOTE FOR NEWCOMERS: THE MYSTERIOUS KANG, A MURDEROUS MENACE FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE, HAS OFTEN TRIED TO ADD THE 20TH CENTURY EARTH TO HIS CONQUESTS, AS WE'VE SEEN IN VARIOUS OTHER MARVEL MAGS! --- STATISTICAL STAN.

HEY, LOOK! THE GIANT'S GONE! BUT WE FOUND SOMEONE ELSE...!

I DON'T GET IT! THERE'S NO PLACE FOR SOMEONE AS BIG AS HIM TO BE HIDING!

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, MISTER... SUPPOSE YOU TELL US WHO YOU ARE... AND WHY THE NUTTY GETUP?

C'MON!! I SAID TALK!

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!! TO ME YOU ARE LIKE ANTHROPOID CAVE-MEN...

FOR I AM THE CONQUEROR...KANG!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE SON OF KONG!!

WE'VE GOT NICE LITTLE CELLS FOR CLOWNS LIKE YOU!

SO REACH, FELLA-- LIKE FAST!



AND, IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN OUR HERO WILL PLUNGE INTO ACTION, HANG LOOSE, LOYAL ONE... CAUSE HERE WE GO...

WE'LL BE REACHING THE SPOT IN A FEW MINUTES, DR. BLAKE!

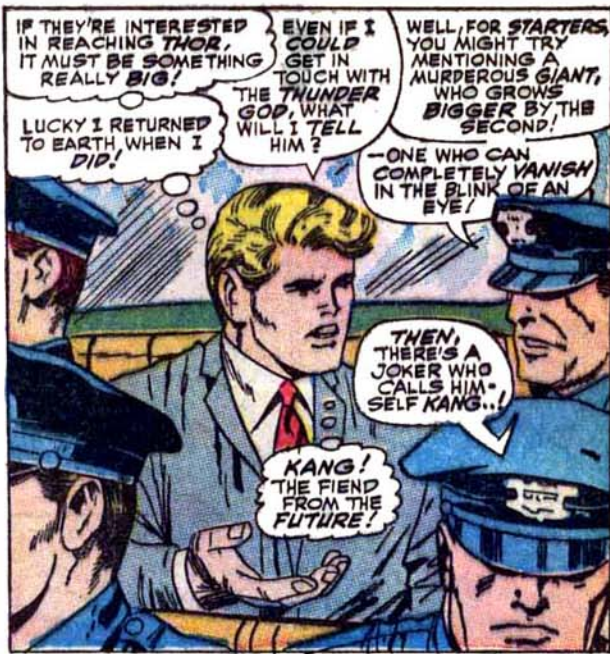
I STILL WISH YOU'D TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

IT SOUNDS SO FANTASTIC, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...!

BUT, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CONTACT THOR IN THE PAST...

AND, WE MAY BE NEEDING HIM AGAIN!

WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO COME ALONG ON THIS JOY-RIPE WITH YOU?



IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN REACHING THOR, IT MUST BE SOMETHING REALLY BIG!

EVEN IF I COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE THUNDER GOD, WHAT WILL I TELL HIM?

LUCKY I RETURNED TO EARTH WHEN I DID!

WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU MIGHT TRY MENTIONING A MURDEROUS GIANT, WHO GROWS BIGGER BY THE SECOND!

—ONE WHO CAN COMPLETELY VANISH IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

THEN, THERE'S A JOKER WHO CALLS HIMSELF KANG...

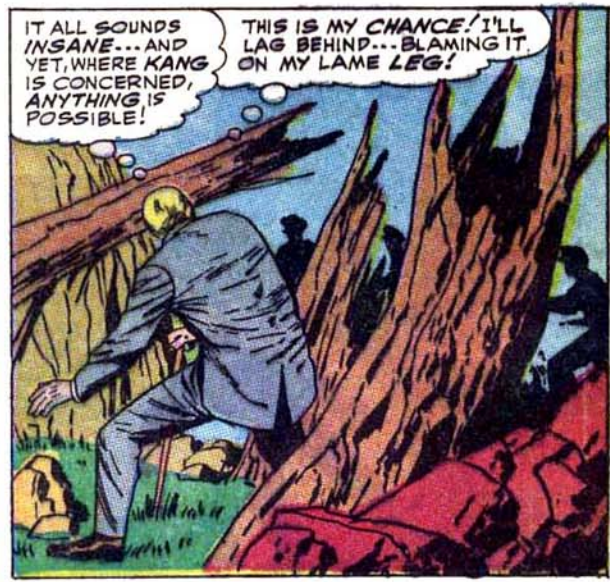
KANG! THE FIEND FROM THE FUTURE!



ACCORDING TO OUR LAST REPORT, THE GIANT LEVELLED THESE TREES WITH ONE BLOW!

EVEN THOUGH HE VANISHED, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE CORNERED KANG SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA!

LOOK SHARP, MEN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THE GIANT MAY BE RIGHT NOW!



IT ALL SOUNDS INSANE... AND YET, WHERE KANG IS CONCERNED, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

THIS IS MY CHANCE! I'LL LAG BEHIND... BLAMING IT ON MY LAME LEG!



ALL IT WILL TAKE IS ONE SPLIT-SECOND...



...TO STRIKE THE GROUND WITH MY INNOCENT-LOOKING CANE...



...AND BE TRANSFORMED...

...TO THE MIGHTY THOR!!

A STRANGELY-GARBED BEING...ACTUALLY RIPPING A SECTION OF EARTH OUT FROM BENEATH HIS ATTACKERS!

BUT, THOUGH HIS STRENGTH IS SUPER-HUMAN, HE IS SURELY NO GIANT!

AND, 'TIS EQUALLY CERTAIN HE IS NOT THE DEMONIC KANG!

LOOK OUT! HE GREW AGAIN! THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!

HE WAS DOLL-SIZE JUST A MINUTE AGO... AND THEN, WHEN WE TRIED TO GRAB KANG...!

KRAK!

YOU DARED ATTACK THE MASTER!

EVEN THOUGH YOUR WEAPONS COULD NOT PENETRATE HIS FORCE FIELD, I MUST MAKE SURE HE IS NEVER THREATENED AGAIN!

WE'VE GOTTA CATCH 'IM! IF HE GETS AWAY, NOBODY'LL EVER BELIEVE US!

ROK!

STAY THY HAND!! IF 'TIS BATTLE THOU SEEKEST, THOU SHALT FIND IT...WITH THOR!

SPROOM!

WHAT UTTER MADNESS IS THIS?!!

THE MORE I DO STRIKE THEE, THE LARGER DOST THOU GROW!

'TIS AS THOUGH MY VERY BLOWS PROVIDE THEE ADDITIONAL STRENGTH!



NOW I AM BIG ENOUGH TO LIFT YOU LIKE A PEBBLE...!

AND TO SQUASH YOU LIKE A BUG!

THERE! THAT HOLE IN THE GROUND WILL BE YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE!



WHETHER I STAND AGAINST A THUNDER GOD, OR AN ARMY, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! NONE CAN DEFEAT ME!



NONE... SAVE THOR!



BLOW!



TRULY HE DOTH INCREASE IN SIZE WITH EVERY BLOW!

YET, THE SAME HAMMER THAT HELPED TO VANQUISH THE ABSORBING MAN* SHALL NOW BE HURLED AGAINST YON GIANT...!

* REMEMBER ABSORBY FROM A WHOLE KABOODLE OF PREVIOUS ISSUES? SURE YOU DO! -- SMUG STAN.



IN THE NAME OF ETERNAL ASSGARD, I DO STRIKE!



THE HAMMER BLOW MADE HIM DOUBLE HIS SIZE!!

IT CAN ONLY MEAN...THERE'S NO WAY TO BEAT HIM!



YOUR HAMMER BLOW WAS TOO POWERFUL!! IT WILL MAKE ME GROW SO LARGE, THAT EARTH ITSELF CANNOT HOLD ME!

ONLY THE MASTER CAN SAVE ME NOW!

MASTER!! WHERE ARE YOU? I NEED YOU!!



I UNDERSTAND, AT LAST!

HE IS BUT A **STIMULOID**, CREATED BY THE FATEFUL, FUTURISTIC SCIENCE KNOWN BEST TO KANG!

A **STIMULOID**... A DEADLY ARTIFICIAL CREATURE, WHOSE CELLS ARE **STIMULATED** BY EACH NEW BLOW... CAUSING HIM TO GROW EVER LARGER!!

IF HE BE NOT STOPPED, SO DEADLY A BEING COULD CRUSH AN ENTIRE CONTINENT BENEATH HIS FEET...YEA, DESTROY THE PLANET ENTIRE!



BUT, IF 'T WAS KANG WHO CREATED HIM, THEN IT MUST BE KANG WHO DO TH POSSESS THE MEANS TO CONTROL HIM!

I MUST FIND THE EVIL ONE, AND... >UHHHHH!!!<

HAH! IT IS I WHO HAVE FOUND YOU, THUNDER GOD!!

EVEN YOUR IMMORTAL POWER CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM THE COBALT ENERGY WHICH IS CONTAINED WITHIN MY PROTECTIVE GLOVE!

EVEN A THOUSAND TIMES A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, IT IS ONLY I WHO POSSESS TOTAL MASTERY OVER COBALT FORCE!

A FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD YOU POWERLESS, AS THOUGH THE WEIGHT OF HALF A PLANET IS BEARING DOWN UPON YOU... AT THE SUPREME COMMAND OF KANG!

BUT, THIS TIME IT IS NOT YOU WHOM I SEEK TO CONQUER...

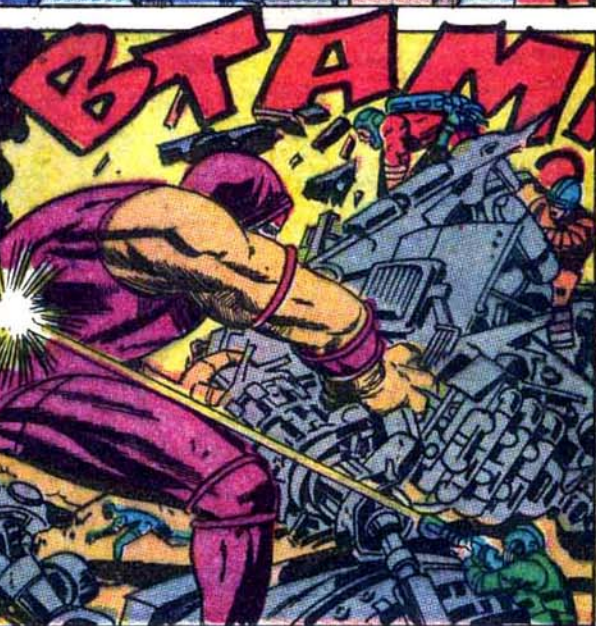
IT IS THE FORCES WHO OPPOSE ME IN MY OWN WORLD... IN MY OWN CENTURY... IN THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE!

THAT IS WHY I CREATED MY STIMULOID IN SECRET... HIDING HIM HERE, WHERE I THOUGHT NONE COULD FIND HIM 'TILL IT WAS TIME FOR HIM TO SERVE ME IN THE CONQUEST OF THE FUTURE!

HE IS THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL TIME... SMALL ENOUGH TO BE HIDDEN IN A POCKET... YET, ABLE TO GROW TO A SIZE BEYOND COMPREHENSION!

WHEN HE SERVES ME IN THE FUTURE, HE WILL BE SUPREME!

EACH BLOW HE RECEIVES WILL MAKE HIM LARGER!! THE MORE MY FOES RESIST, THE CLOSER THEY WILL COME TO TOTAL ANNIHILATION!!



"HE WILL ATTAIN A SIZE LARGE ENOUGH FOR HIM TO DEMOLISH ENTIRE FORTRESSES WITH A SINGLE STRIDE! WITHIN MERE HOURS, MY STIMULOID WILL HAVE GAINED ME... A WORLD!!"

BUT NOW, MY DE-ENERGIZER WILL RETURN HIM TO DOLL-SIZE, SO THAT HE MAY FIT INTO MY TIME MACHINE WITH ME!

THEN, WITH MY VICTORY IN THE FUTURE ASSURED, I SHALL RETURN TO YOUR BESTIAL CENTURY AND WIPE OUT ALL VESTIGE OF HUMAN LIFE...

FOR ONLY THIS VERY AGE HAS EVER SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED ME!



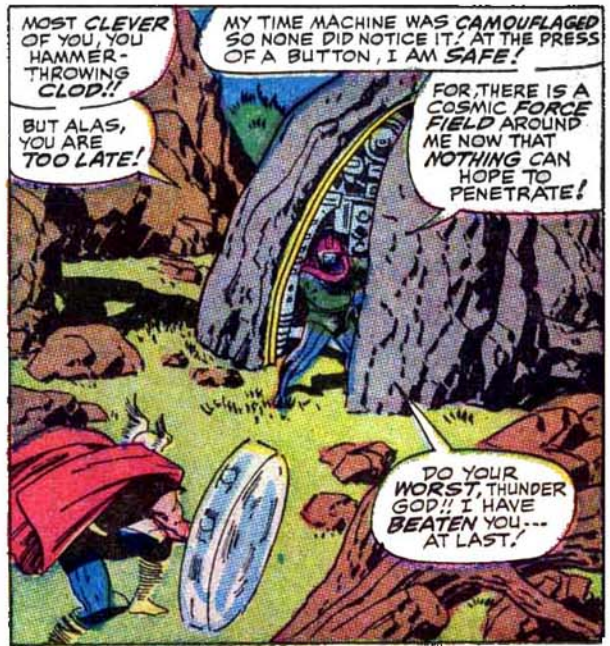
EVEN NOW, MY ENEMIES ARE SEARCHING FOR MY SECRET WEAPON...NEVER DREAMING I HAVE HIDDEN HIM HERE...IN THE 20TH CENTURY!

THERE IS ONE THING THOU DOST NOT DREAM AS WELL, EVIL ONE!

INDEED, THUNDER GOD? AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

'TIS THE FACT THAT NO MERE COBALT FORCE CAN RESTRAIN THE SON OF ODIN!

I DID BUT HUMOR THEE, TO LEARN OF THINE INTENTIONS!



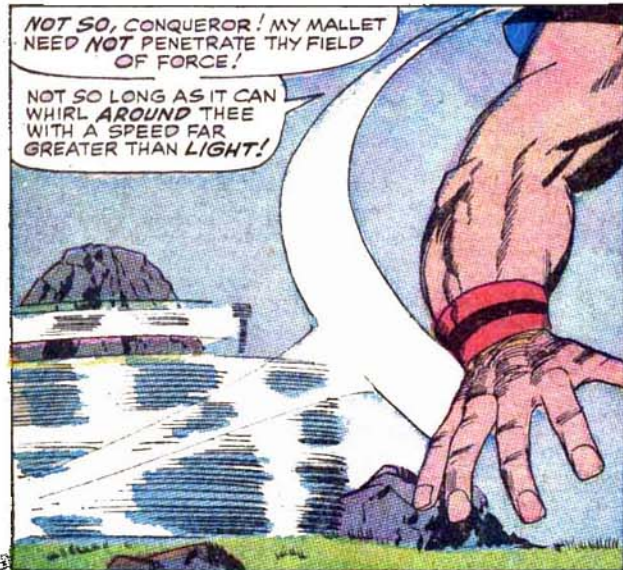
MOST CLEVER OF YOU, YOU HAMMER-THROWING CLOD!!

BUT ALAS, YOU ARE TOO LATE!

MY TIME MACHINE WAS CAMOUFLAGED SO NONE DID NOTICE IT! AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I AM SAFE!

FOR, THERE IS A COSMIC FORCE FIELD AROUND ME NOW THAT NOTHING CAN HOPE TO PENETRATE!

DO YOUR WORST, THUNDER GOD!! I HAVE BEATEN YOU... AT LAST!



NOT SO, CONQUEROR! MY Mallet NEED NOT PENETRATE THY FIELD OF FORCE!

NOT SO LONG AS IT CAN WHIRL AROUND THEE WITH A SPEED FAR GREATER THAN LIGHT!



IT IS DONE!

NOW, TO ME, MIGHTY MJOLNAR! THOU HAST PLACED YON TIME MACHINE WITHIN A UNIVERSAL INFINITY VORTEX!



AND SINCE NAUGHT CAN LONG ENPURE IN A FASTER-THAN-LIGHT CONTINUUM... THERE MUST OCCUR A CATAclysmic DISPLACEMENT!!



THE EVIL ONE SHALL NEVER REACH THE FUTURE.. FOR HE IS NOW BEYOND ALL TIME.. BEYOND ALL PLACE...

AND THERE SHALL THEY STAY.. THE MAN, THE STIMULOID, AND THE FOREVER SHATTERED DREAM OF CONQUEST!



AND NOW, 'TIS TIME THAT THOR PICKS UP THE THREADS OF HIS OWN SHATTERED EARTHLY EXISTENCE.. WONDERING TOO WHAT LIES IN STORE...!

NEXT THE MYSTERY OF REPLICUS!

TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

"THE BATTLE BEGINS!"

SEARCHING FOR MOGUL OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN... HEREDITARY ENEMY OF HOGUN THE GRIM... MIGHTY THOR, AND HIS THREE IMMORTAL COMPANIONS, ARE ATTACKED BY MOGUL'S GIGANTIC SLAVE... THE MIND-BY STAGGERING JINNI DEVIL...!! AND NOW, LET THE GRANDEUR THUS UNFOLD...

KROOW!

TO ARMS!
THE JINNI STRIKES!

NO MATTER HIS SIZE!
THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL SHALL PUNCTURE HIM ENOW!

CAN IT BE? HE DWARFS EVEN VOLSTAGG!!

A
GLORY-DRENCHED
MASTERWORK BY:
STAN ^(THE MAN) **LEE**
and
JACK ^(KING) **KIRBY**
INKING: **YINCE * SAM**
LETTERING: **COLLETTA ROSEN**

MOGUL!! NOT A THOUSAND JINNIS SHALL KEEP HOGUN FROM THEE!

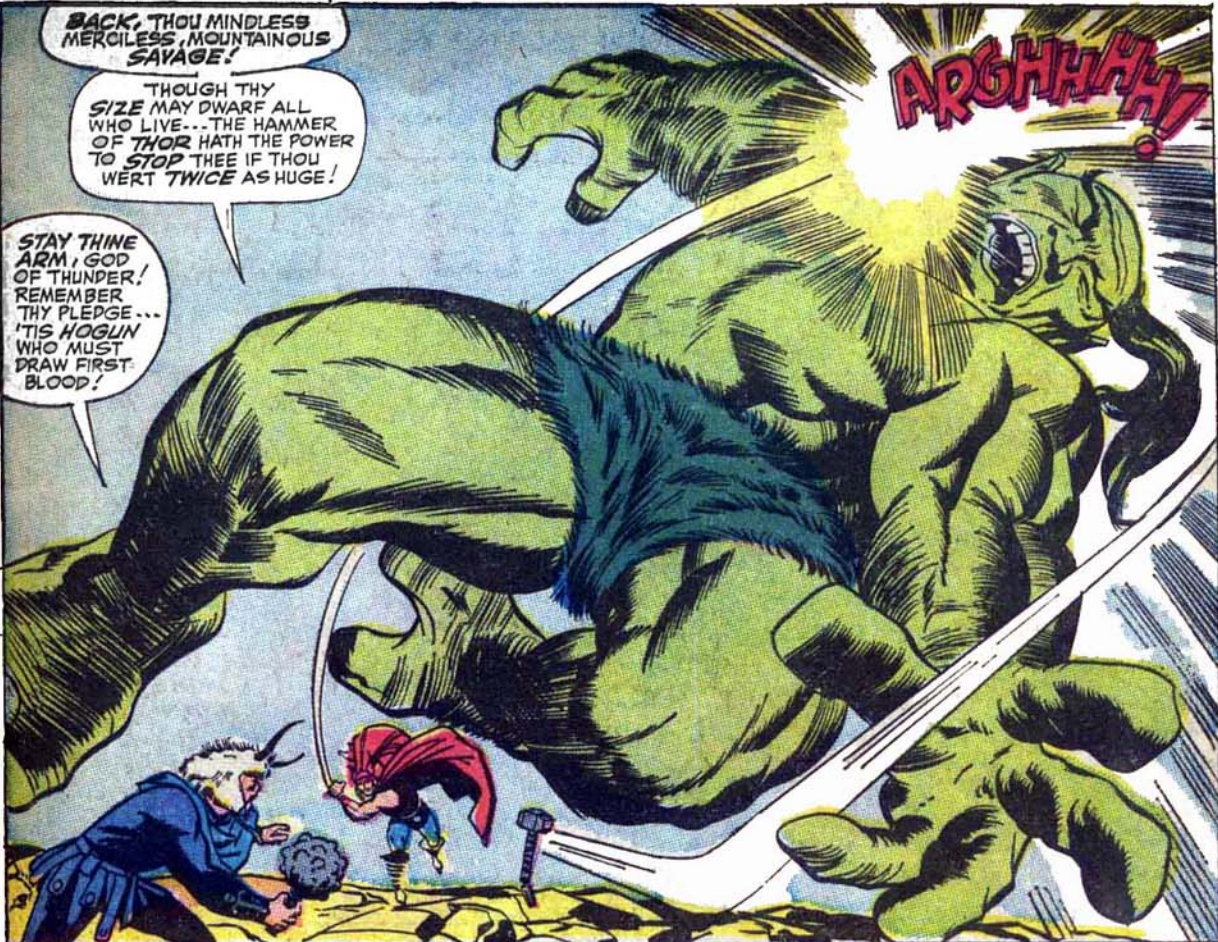


**BACK, THOU MINDLESS
MERCILESS, MOUNTAINOUS
SAVAGE!**

THOUGH THY
SIZE MAY DWARF ALL
WHO LIVE... THE HAMMER
OF THOR HATH THE POWER
TO STOP THEE IF THOU
WERST TWICE AS HUGE!

STAY THINE
ARM, GOD
OF THUNDER!
REMEMBER
THY PLEDGE...
'TIS HOGUN
WHO MUST
DRAW FIRST
BLOOD!

ARGHHH!



**GRIM ONE...
HAVE A CARE!!**

**WHAT?! SO PUNY
A LIVING FLEA DARES
THREATEN THE JINNI
DEVIL?!!**

THE MACE OF
HOGUN DARES
ANYTHING IN
THE NAME OF
VENGEANCE!

IN SHEER,
BRUTAL
STRENGTH...
THOU CANST
NOT BE HIS
MATCH!



HAH!



'TIS LIKE
THE VAIN ATTACK
OF A FOREDOOMED
INSECT!



AND NOW... THE INSECT DIES!!

NEVER, WHILST FANDRAL LIVES!

NAY, DASHING ONE... STAY THEE BACK!



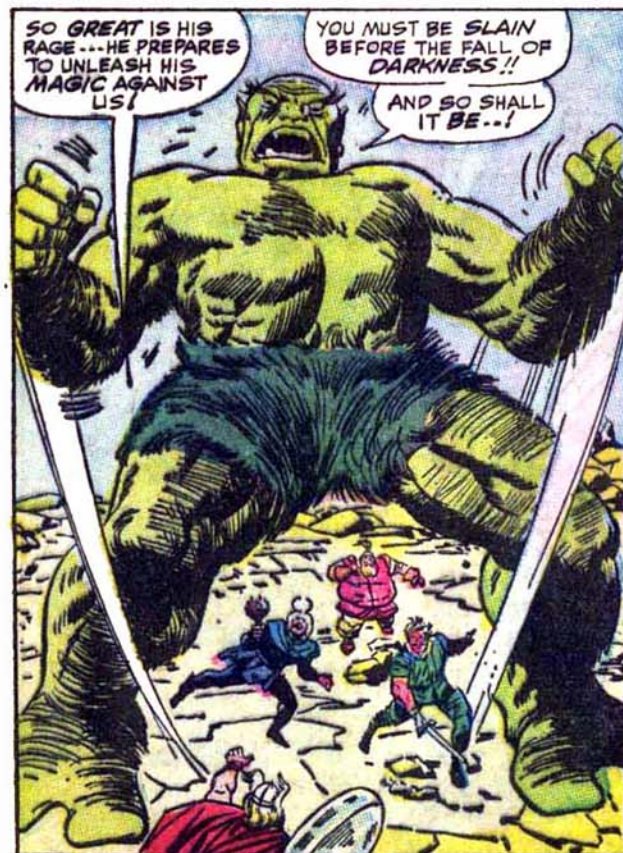
WHAT?!! SHALL FANDRAL STAND BY WHEN A BROTHER-IN-BATTLE BE THREATENED?

THOUGH I HOLD LIFE MOST DEAR...LET MY BROADSWORD STRIKE!

THOU HAS STUNG HIM MIGHTILY! I AM RELEASED!

FANDRAL!! HOGUN!! TAKE TO THY HEELS!!

A STILL DEADLIER DANGER DOTH THREATEN!



SO GREAT IS HIS RAGE...HE PREPARES TO UNLEASH HIS MAGIC AGAINST US!

YOU MUST BE SLAIN BEFORE THE FALL OF DARKNESS!!

AND SO SHALL IT BE...!



DEMONS OF EVIL.. ANSWER MY CALL! LET THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE ME FALL!!

THE SUPPEN FORCE IS TOO GREAT!! I CANNOT HURL MY HAMMER!!

DESPAIR NOT! I'LL SOON BE DARK!

FIE UPON THEE, HOGUN!

DEATH IS NO BETTER IN THE NIGHT!

BY MY BLADE.. IT MUST NOT END LIKE THIS!

MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE... DEEP WITHIN THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN, IN THE LAND OF ZANADU, WE FIND THE MURDEROUS MOGUL OBSERVING THE PROCEEDINGS WITH BALEFUL, BROODING EYES...

TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF THE INVADERS!

BY DAWDLING TOO LONG WITH HIS ASSGARDIAN FOES, THE JINNI DEVIL HAS MADE A FATAL MISTAKE!

IN TRUTH, MASTER... WITH THE FALL OF NIGHT, THE TEMPERATURE DOETH CHANGE THE VERY BODY FABRIC OF THE MINDLESS JINNI!

AY!! HE MUST SLAY THEM ALL BEFORE THE FIRST SHADOW IS SEEN... ELSE IT SHALL BE TOO LATE!

'TIS BECAUSE OF THAT ONE WEAKNESS... AND THAT ALONE... THAT ALL THE OTHER JINNI HAVE PERISHED... AND HE IS THE LAST OF THE ANCIENT RACE!

BUT, MINE EYES HAVE SEEN ENOUGH!

MIGHTY MOGUL NEED HAVE NO CONCERN!

AM I NOT TRULY THE STRONGEST OF ALL?

HAVE I NOT CAPTURED MORE BATTLE STANDARDS THAN ANY WHO LIVE??!

HAH! THIS IS WHY HOGUN HUNTS ME...!

THIS IS THE BATTLE STANDARD OF HIS OWN VANQUISHED TRIBE...!

THE TRIBE WHICH MOGUL FELLED, LO, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO!

IF HE SURVIVES THE JINNI'S ATTACK... 'TIS THIS THAT SHALL DESTROY HIM...

THIS CRUSHING HIS ACCURSED SPIRIT FOREVER!

FOR, MYSTIC MOGUL CAN NEVER TASTE DEFEAT!

AND, EVEN AS MOGUL SPEAKS... AS THE SWIFTLY-SPREADING SHADES OF NIGHT BEGIN TO BLANKET THE ENCHANTED LAND...

NO!! NO!! IT IS TOO SOON!... TOO SOON!!

THE SHADOWS MUST NEVER STRIKE ME BEFORE TOTAL VICTORY BE MINE...!!

LOOK!! HE TURNS TO DRIFTING SMOKE BEFORE OUR EYES...!!

HE IS GONE!!

BORN AWAY ON THE WINDS OF EVENING LIKE A GREAT, GHASTLY WRAITH... NEVER TO RETURN!

AGAINST THE MIGHT OF ASGARD, HIS STRENGTH AVAILED HIM NAUGHT!

AND, WHEN SEEKING TO ENCHANT US, HE FELL VICTIM TO HIS OWN MYSTIC MADNESS!

BUT, WE DARE NOT PAUSE...!

FEARLESS VOLSTAGG AGREES! LET US FORTH- WITH RETURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM!

NAY, VOLUMINOUS ONE! THE MISSION IS NOT YET ENDED... WHILST MOGUL LIVES!

THEN WAIT FOR VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!! I CANNOT LET THEE FACE NEW DANGERS WITHOUT LENDING THEE MY MIGHT!

MIGHT, INDEED!! THOU ART BUT FEARFUL OF REMAINING ALONE, THOU OVERSTUFFED BUMPKIN!

BEYOND THESE STEPS LIES ZANADU... AND THERE SHALL HOGUN FIND HIS FINAL DESTINY!

WHATE'ER SHALL NOW BEFALL... GRIM HOGUN WILL FACE IT FIRST...

AND SORELY DO I PRAY THAT HIM WHO FIRST CONFRONTS US BE... THE MERCILESS MOGUL!!

FOR, KNOW YOU THIS... THOUGH HE BE WARLOCK SUPREME... HE SHALL FALL BY THE MACE OF HOGUN... ELSE WILL I PERISH IN THE STRIVING!

SUCH IS MY MISSION-- SUCH IS MY VOW!

NEXT **ALIBAR, AND THE FORTY DEMONS!** 5.