



THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. 142 JULY

FROM THE EDGE OF INFINITY HE COMES, POSSESSING ALL THE BLOCK-BUSTING POWERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



"THE SCOURGE OF THE SUPER-SKRULL!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"THE SCOURGE OF THE SUPER SKRULL!"

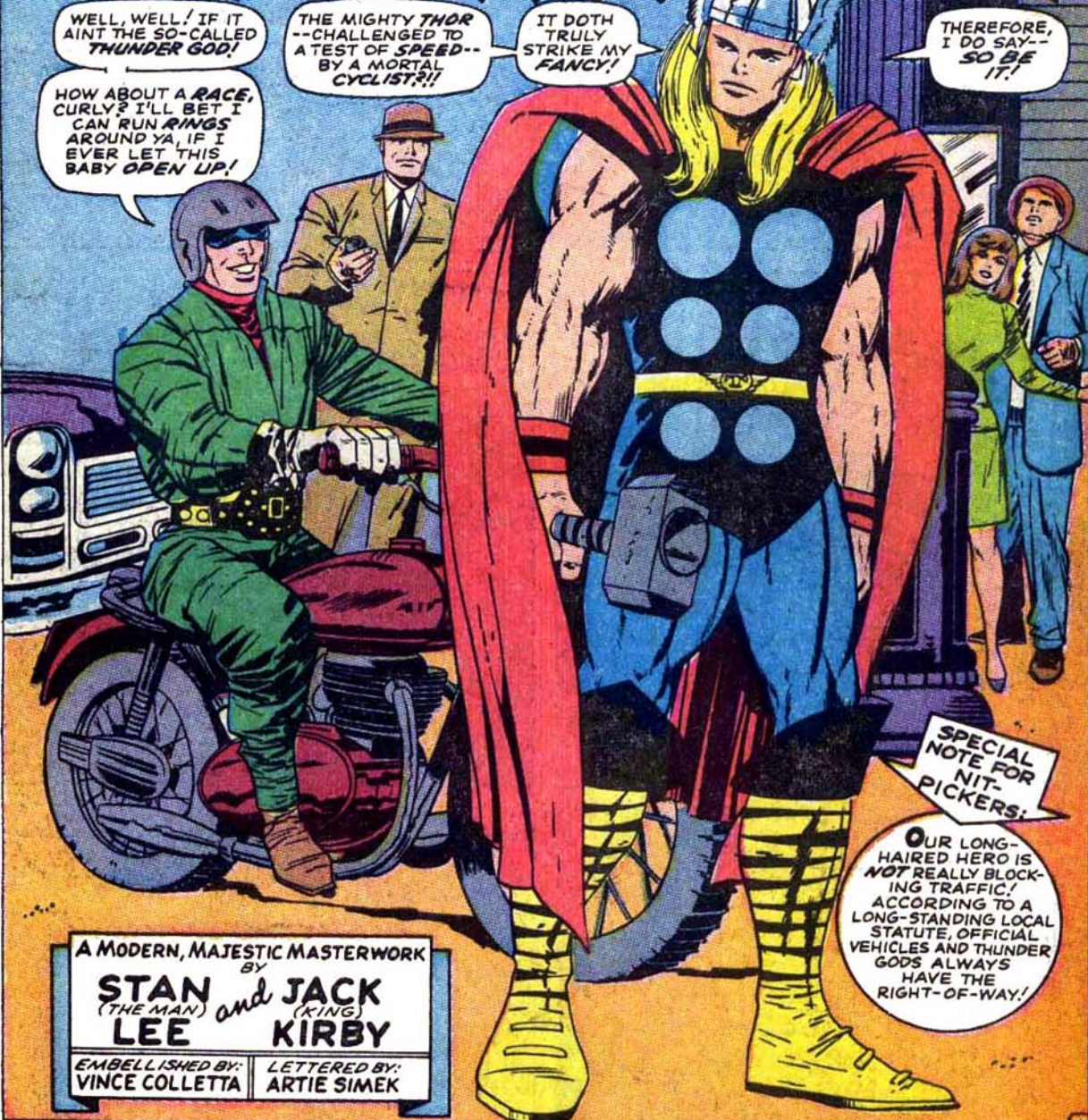
WELL, WELL! IF IT AINT THE SO-CALLED THUNDER GOD!

THE MIGHTY THOR --CHALLENGED TO A TEST OF SPEED-- BY A MORTAL CYCLIST?!!

IT DOTH TRULY STRIKE MY FANCY!

THEREFORE, I DO SAY-- SO BE IT!

HOW ABOUT A RACE, CURLY? I'LL BET I CAN RUN RINGS AROUND YA, IF I EVER LET THIS BABY OPEN UP!



SPECIAL NOTE FOR NIT-PICKERS:

OUR LONG-HAIRED HERO IS NOT REALLY BLOCKING TRAFFIC! ACCORDING TO A LONG-STANDING LOCAL STATUTE, OFFICIAL VEHICLES AND THUNDER GODS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!

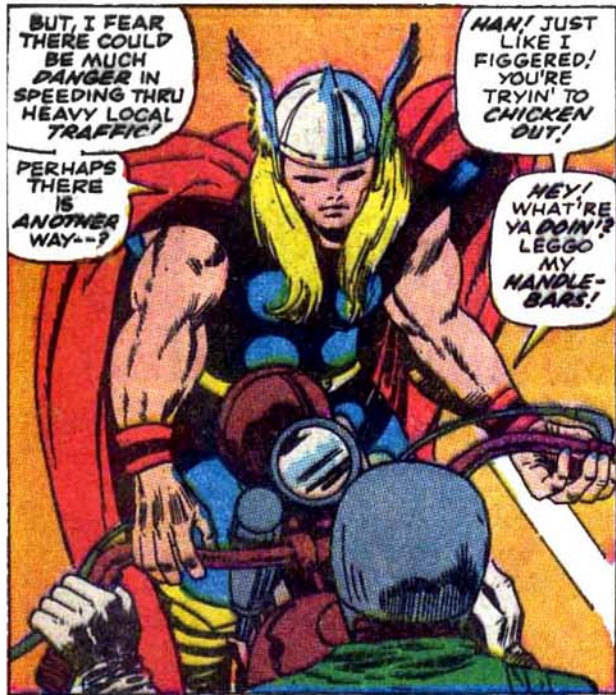
A MODERN, MAJESTIC MASTERWORK

By **STAN LEE** (THE MAN) and **JACK KIRBY** (THE KING)

EMBELLISHED BY: VINCE COLLETTA

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BUT, I FEAR THERE COULD BE MUCH DANGER IN SPEEDING THRU HEAVY LOCAL TRAFFIC!

PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER WAY--?

HAN! JUST LIKE I FIGGERED! YOU'RE TRYIN' TO CHICKEN OUT!

HEY! WHAT'RE YA DOIN'? LEGGO MY HANDLE-BARS!

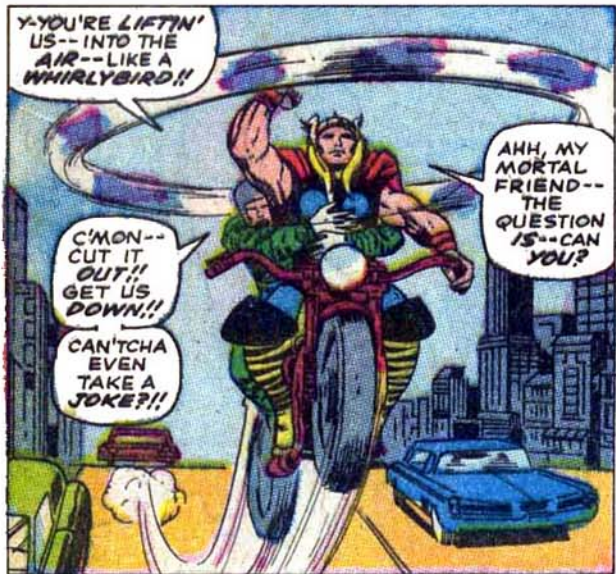


DO NOT BE ALARMED!

I MERELY WISH TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER DOES NOT "CHICKEN OUT"!

WE SHALL FIND AN AREA WHERE WE MAY RACE IN SAFETY!

LOOK OUT WITH THAT HAMMER! DON'T--!!



Y--YOU'RE LIFTIN' US-- INTO THE AIR-- LIKE A WHIRLYBIRD!!

C'MON-- CUT IT OUT!! GET US DOWN!!

CAN'TCHA EVEN TAKE A JOKE?!!

AHH, MY MORTAL FRIEND-- THE QUESTION IS-- CAN YOU?



I SHALL BRING THEE TO A PLACE WHERE WE MAY MATCH OUR SPEED IN COMPANY WITH METEORS AND BLAZING COMETS!

AND, SHOULD THY CYCLE PROVE VICTORIOUS, THOU SHALT BE AWARDED THE ASGARDIAN WREATH OF HEROES!



IT AINT POSSIBLE!! WE--WE'RE ALMOST IN ORBIT!!

YOU GOT US UP HERE-- IN NO TIME FLAT!

LOOK--I DON'T WANT A WREATH-- HONEST!! I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'!!

I JUST WANT-- ONE THING--!

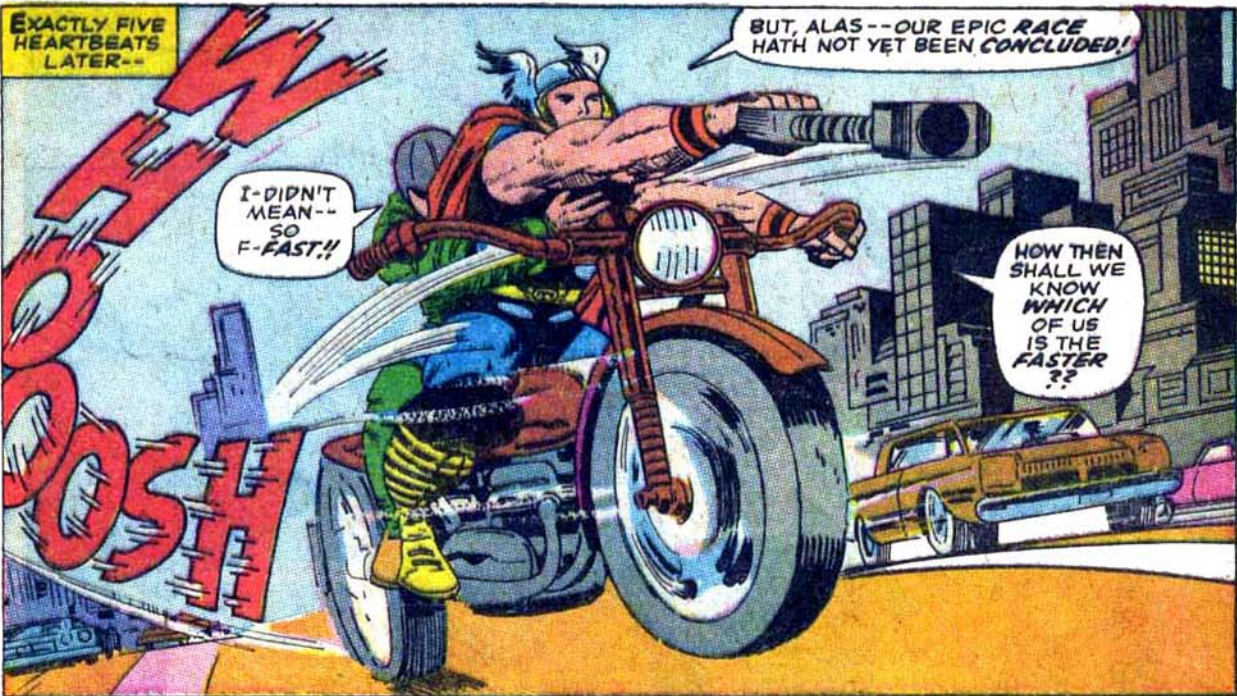


I WANNA GET DOWN AGAIN!!

--IN ONE PIECE!

THEN THOU SHALT HAVE THY WISH--!

EXACTLY FIVE
HEARTBEATS
LATER--



BUT, ALAS--OUR EPIC RACE
HATH NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED!

I-DIDN'T
MEAN--
SO
F-FAST!!

HOW THEN
SHALL WE
KNOW
WHICH
OF US
IS THE
FASTER
??



DON'T WORRY, MISTER--
I KNOW NOW!

HOOO BOY--
HOW I KNOW!!

THOU SHALT
HAVE MUCH
TO RELATE
TO THY
FRIENDS!

BUT
WHAT
GOOD'LL
IT DO?

THEY'LL
NEVER
BELIEVE
ME!

REMEMBER
EVER, YOUTHFUL
ONE--SPEED,
LIKE TIME,
IS MERELY
RELATIVE!



BUT NOW--THE GOD
OF THUNDER MUST
RETURN TO HIS
MORTAL PURSUITS--!

I MUST NEEDS FIND
A SECLUDED AREA--
AND THEN--!



BY STRIKING MY HAMMER
UPON THE GROUND--



I AM
INSTANTLY
TRANSFORMED--



--TO THE
QUIET, ALL-
TOO-HUMAN
DR. DON
BLAKE--

--WHO DESIRES
NO GREATER
ADVENTURE THAN
HEALING THE SICK
AND AFFLICTED!

BUT, UNBEKNOWNST
TO THE LAME
PHYSICIAN, ONE OF THE
GREATEST ADVENTURES
OF ALL IS ABOUT
TO BE HIS--!

FAR, FAR BEYOND THE REACHES OF OUR OWN UNIVERSE--YEA, ALMOST BEYOND THE REACH OF HUMAN IMAGINATION ITSELF--IN A LONELY, ENDLESS SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM--WE FIND THE EVIL LOKI, STILL VICTIM OF THE HAUNTING EXILE TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY IMPERIUS ODIN--

'T WAS BECAUSE OF MY ACCURSED STEP-BROTHER-- THE UNMENTIONABLE THOR-- THAT I AM SENTENCED TO THIS LIFE WHICH IS LESS THAN LIFE!

I, WHO AM THE MOST CUNNING-- THE MOST CRAFTY-- THE MOST CRUEL OF ALL WHO WEAR THE MANTLE OF IMMORTALITY!

I, WHO BY RIGHT OF BIRTH SHOULD BE MOST FAVORED

BUT, INSTEAD-- I ENDURE THE MOST LOATHSOME OF PUNISHMENTS, BECAUSE OF MY IGNOBLE DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!

STILL, THE PRINCE OF EVIL IS NEVER TRULY VANQUISHED!

LO, THESE LONG AND TORTUROUS MONTHS I HAVE PLANNED --AND SCHEMED--

AND NOW-- AT LAST-- THE TIME IS COME-- THE TIME FOR LOKI TO HAVE HIS INEVITABLE REVENGE UPON HIM WHOM I DESPISE!

FOR, THOUGH THE BODY OF LOKI BE HEREWITH IMPRISONED --MY MIND MAY ROAM THE UNIVERSE AT WILL!

AND, AFTER COUNTLESS DAYS AND NIGHTS OF SEARCHING, I HAVE FOUND THE ONE WHO SHALL BE MY INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE!

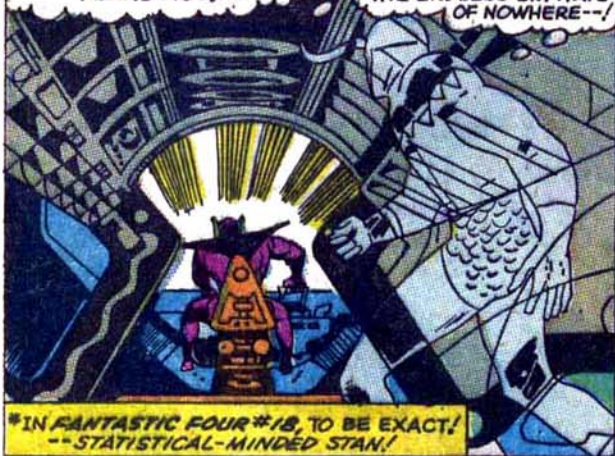
HERE, WITHIN THE FURTHER-MOST REACHES OF THE FAR-OFF SKRULL GALAXY, WITHIN A LONELY SURVEY SHIP, IS A VIRTUAL EXILE, LIKE MYSELF--!

ONE WHOSE POWER MAY PROVE EQUAL TO THE TASK!



HE IS KNOWN AS THE SUPER SKRULL--SPECIALLY BRED AND TRAINED TO DEFEAT THE MORTAL FANTASTIC FOUR MANY YEARS AGO!*

WHEN SUCCESS HAD SEEMED WITHIN HIS VERY GRASP--HE FAILED--AND THUS HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO PATROL THE ENDLESS SKYWAYS OF NOWHERE--!



*IN FANTASTIC FOUR #18, TO BE EXACT!-- STATISTICAL-MINDED STAN!

BUT, WHEN HE BATTLED ON EARTH BEFORE, HE DID NOT HAVE THE WICKED WIZARDRY OF LOKI TO AID HIM!

ALL I NEED DO IS PLANT THE PROPER THOUGHT WITHIN HIS UNSUSPECTING BRAIN--!

THIS TIME THERE SHALL BE A DIFFERENT RESULT-- AGAINST A DIFFERENT FOE!!



YOU CAN STILL REDEEM YOURSELF TO THE WORLD OF SKRULLS!

IF YOU DEFEAT THE GOD OF THUNDER, THEN ASGARD ITSELF MIGHT BE INVADED BY THE SKRULL LEGIONS!

AND IMMORTAL LOKI, THE PRINCE OF EVIL, WOULD BATTLE AT THY SIDE!

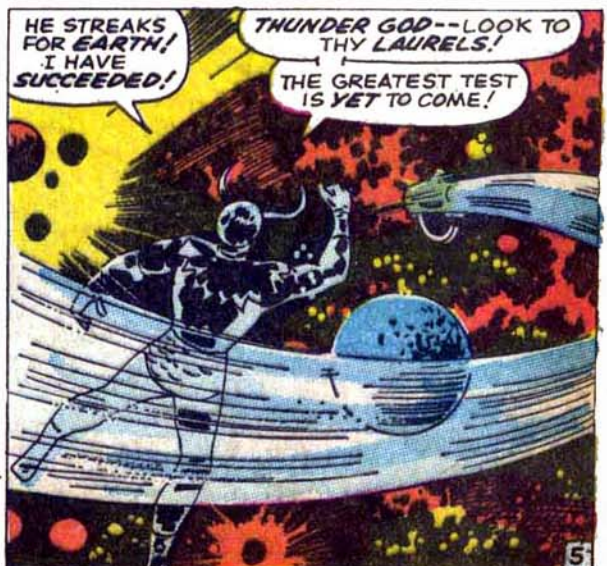


CONSIDER THE GREATNESS-- THE GRANDEUR-- THE GLORY THAT WOULD BE THINE!

HE STREAKS FOR EARTH! I HAVE SUCCEEDED!

THUNDER GOD--LOOK TO THY LAURELS!

THE GREATEST TEST IS YET TO COME!





SECONDS LATER--(COSMIC TIME-WISE, THAT IS!)--

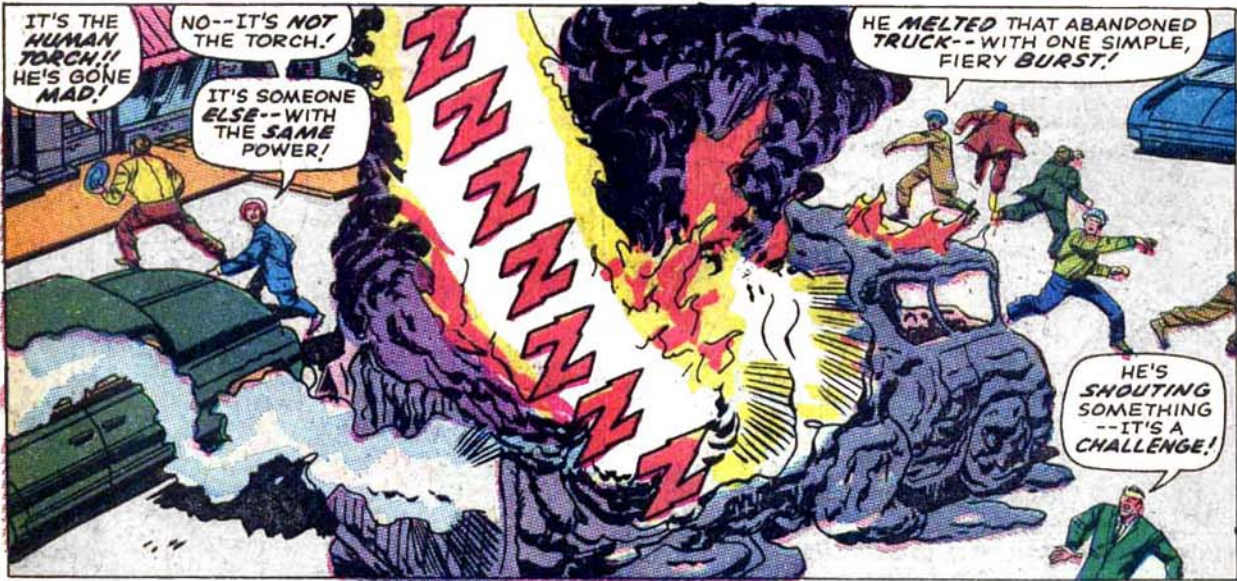
MY SHIP WILL REMAIN IN ORBIT!

AND I WILL ENTER EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE USING MY FORCE FIELD LIKE A RE-ENTRY CAPSULE.*

*AS ALL TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW, THE SUPER SKRULL POSSESSES THE POWERS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!--SAGE OL' STAN.



NOW I CAN UTILIZE MY FLAMING POWER TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE ONE I MUST DESTROY!



IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!! HE'S GONE MAD!

NO--IT'S NOT THE TORCH!

IT'S SOMEONE ELSE-- WITH THE SAME POWER!

HE MELTED THAT ABANDONED TRUCK-- WITH ONE SIMPLE, FIERY BURST!

HE'S SHOUTING SOMETHING --IT'S A CHALLENGE!



WHERE IS THE GOD OF THUNDER??

WHY DOES HE NOT APPEAR??

IF IT'S THOR HE WANTS-- SOMEBODY GET HIM!! HURRY!



AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT--

IT'S THE SUPER SKRULL!

--EXACTLY AS DESCRIBED BY THE OLD NEWSPAPER REPORTS!!

HE'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO BLAZE THRU THE CITY THAT WAY-- UNCHECKED!

HE MUST BE STOPPED!

--AND HE SHALL BE STOPPED--!

--BY MIGHTY THOR!!

BACK, THOU MERCILESS, ALIEN MONSTROSITY!!

GET THEE BACK-- BEFORE THE BLUDGEONING Mallet OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!

HAH! MY INTENDED VICTIM HAS DARED ACCEPT MY CHALLENGE!

ONCE I HAVE SLAIN YOU, I WILL AGAIN BE ACCLAIMED AS MASTER OF ALL!!

I SAY THEE-- NEVER!

IF FIRE BE THY MOST POTENT WEAPON-- THEN WE MUST NEEDS HAVE AN END TO IT!

HE HAS CREATED A WHIRLWIND--

--DEADENING MY FLAME!

SO SAYETH THOR!

THINK YOU THE SON OF ODIN MAY BE SO CAVALIERLY THREATENED -- WITH IMPUNITY??!

THY FLAME IS EXTINGUISHED!

NOW SHALT THOU FACE THE MIGHT OF THOR--NOW SHALL THERE BE THE FINAL RECKONING!

YES!! THE RECKONING NOW IS DUE--!

BUT, NOT THE WAY YOU EXPECT--

I POSSESS THE POWER OF EACH MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

SINCE YOU HAVE DEPRIVED ME OF THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAME--I SHALL EMPLOY THE SHATTERING STRENGTH OF THE UNSTOPPABLE THING!



ONCE BEFORE, DUE TO MY OWN ABYSMAL CARELESSNESS, I WAS FORCED TO TASTE THE BITTER DREGS OF DEFEAT--

BUT NOW I AM WISER-- MORE CAUTIOUS--AND INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL--AS YOU CAN EASILY SEE!

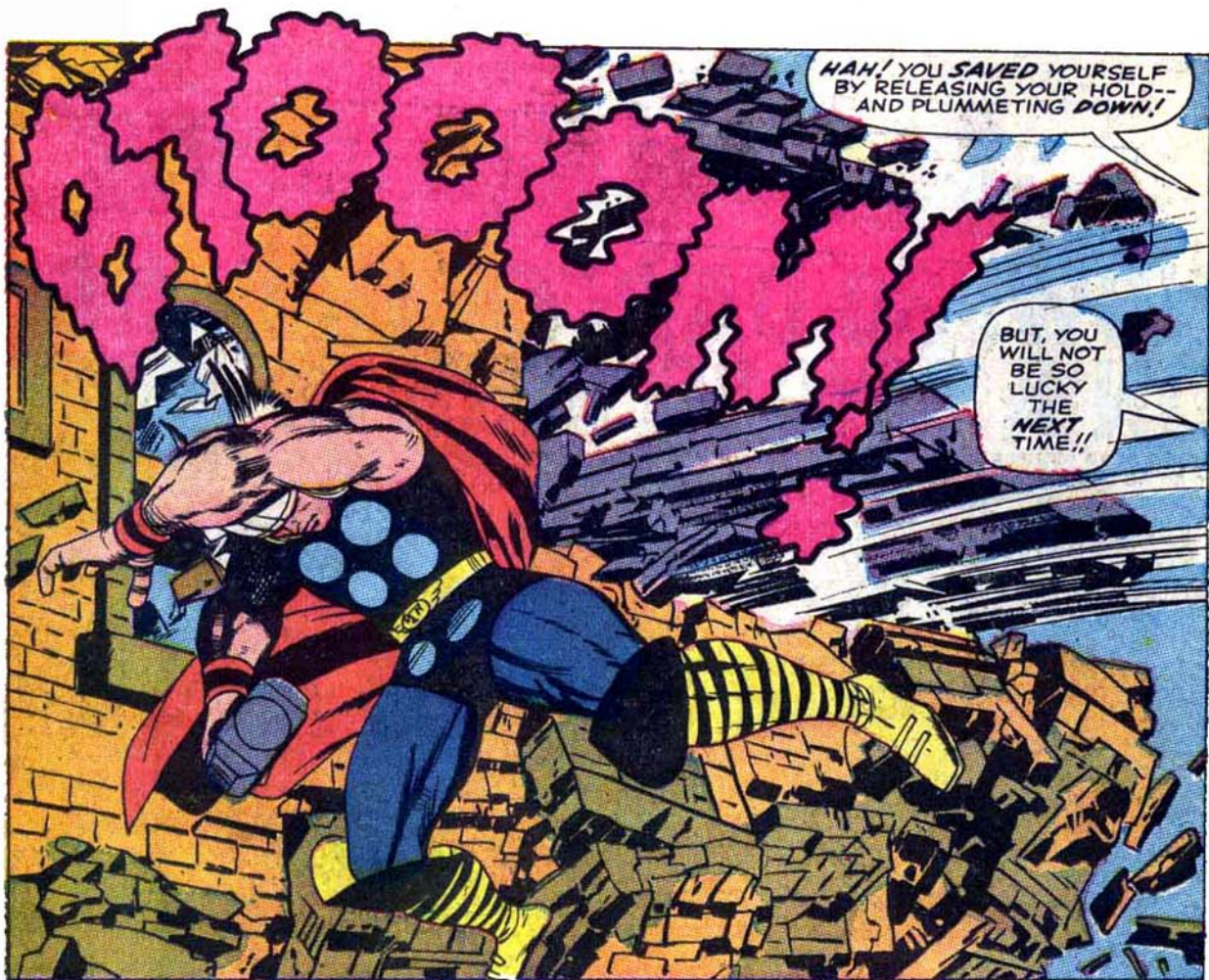
**SKR
N
G!**

HE DOETH LIFT THE VERY WALL FROM YONDER ROOF-- WITH THE STRENGTH WITHIN HIS OWN TWO ARMS!



THIS IS WHY THE SUPER SKRULL CANNOT LOSE!!

THIS IS WHY THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST SURELY BE DESTROYED!



HAH! YOU SAVED YOURSELF BY RELEASING YOUR HOLD-- AND PLUMMETING DOWN!

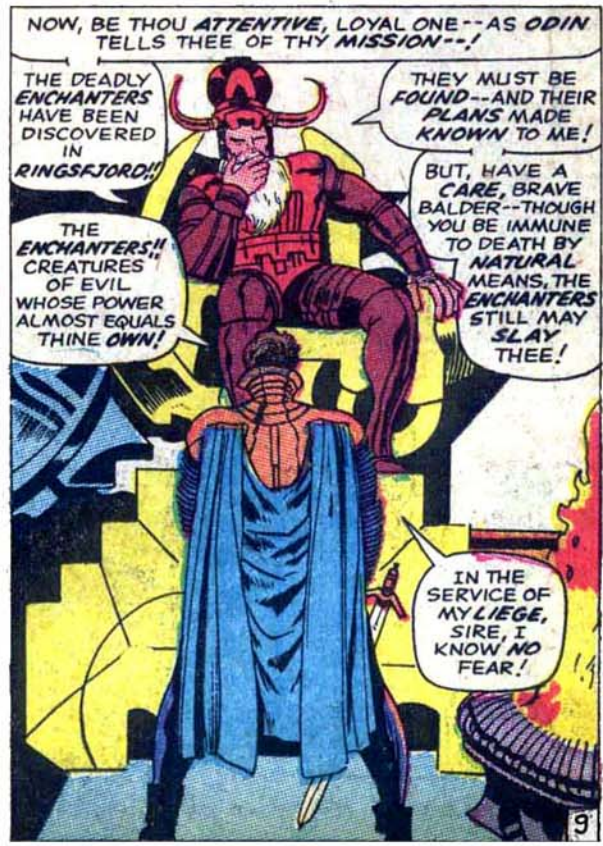
BUT, YOU WILL NOT BE SO LUCKY THE NEXT TIME!!



BUT, AS THE SORELY-PRESSED THUNDER GOD HURTTLES EARTHWARD, LET US BRIEFLY TURN OUR OWN EYES UPWARD-- TOWARDS THE GOLDEN REALM --THE SHIMMERING SPIRES-- THE ETERNAL GRANDEUR OF-- ASGARD!!

I HAVE COME, OMNIPOTENT ONE, IN ANSWER TO THY ROYAL SUMMONS!

MINE EYES ARE PLEASED TO GAZE AT THEE AGAIN, NOBLE BALDER! TOO LONG HAST THOU BEEN ABSENT FROM THIS COURT!



NOW, BE THOU ATTENTIVE, LOYAL ONE-- AS ODIN TELLS THEE OF THY MISSION--!

THE DEADLY ENCHANTERS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN RINGSFJORD!!

THEY MUST BE FOUND--AND THEIR PLANS MADE KNOWN TO ME!

THE ENCHANTERS!! CREATURES OF EVIL WHOSE POWER ALMOST EQUALS THINE OWN!

BUT, HAVE A CARE, BRAVE BALDER--THOUGH YOU BE IMMUNE TO DEATH BY NATURAL MEANS, THE ENCHANTERS STILL MAY SLAY THEE!

IN THE SERVICE OF MY LIEGE, SIRE, I KNOW NO FEAR!

MY LORD! I CRAVE PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY HIM WHO IS FRIEND OF THOR!

THE LADY SIF!!

I BEG THEE, FAIR ONE--RECONSIDER! EACH STEP OF THE WAY SHALL BE FRAUGHT WITH DEADLY PERIL!

THOU DOST BUT SEEK TO OVERCOME THY LONELINESS-- THY LONGING FOR THOR'S RETURN!

BUT, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER IS LIKE UNTO A BROTHER TO BALDER, I CANNOT PERMIT ONE WHOM HE TREASURES SO HIGHLY TO TAKE SUCH RISK!

THE LAND OF RINGSFJORD IS WELL-KNOWN TO ME-- AND I MAY SERVE AS GUIDE!



I BID THEE RISE, MY CHILD-- AS I WEIGH THY PLEA!

IS MY ARM NOT SKILLFUL AS ANY WARRIOR? IS MY EYE NOT AS KEEN? IS MY COURAGE LESS TRUE?

I RULE FOR THE LADY SIF! AS NOBLE OF THE REALM, SHE DOTHS POSSESS THE RIGHT TO THUS VOLUNTEER! SO BE IT!!

SHALL WE DEPART AT ONCE, MY LORD?



SO DOES DESTINY CONSPIRE TO UNITE TWO IMMORTALS-- BOTH BELOVED OF MIGHTY THOR-- IN WHAT WILL PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE STRANGEST ENCOUNTERS OF ALL TIME--

SO COURAGEOUS A HEART-- IN SO GENTLE A FORM!

EVEN AMONGST THE GODS, MIGHTY THOR IS THrice BLESSED FOR HAVING WON THE LOVE OF SUCH AS SHE!

LET US THEN RIDE, NOBLE LADY!

WHATE'ER MAY BEFALL, KNOW YE THE LIMBS AND THE LIFE OF BALDER ARE EVER AT THY SERVICE!



AND, RIDE ON THEY DO-- INTO A MIND-STAGGERING EPIC ADVENTURE WHICH SHALL HOLD YOU BREATHLESS NEXT ISSUE!

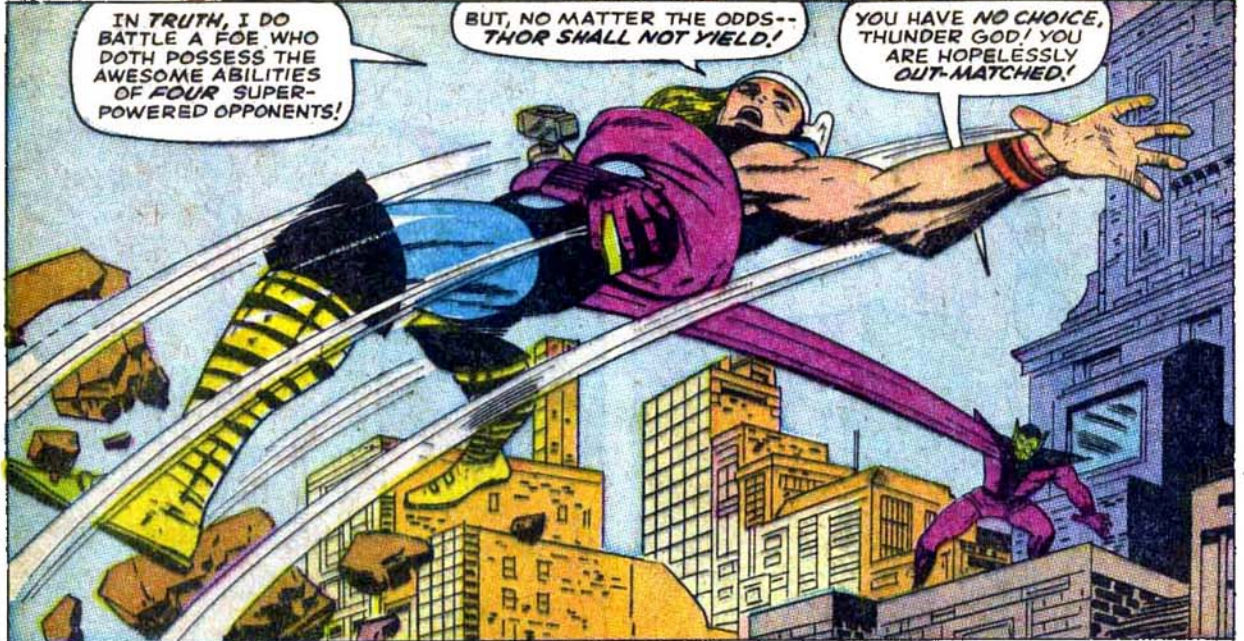
BUT, LITTLE DOES EITHER OF THEM SUSPECT THAT THE SON OF ODIN IS FIGHTING FOR HIS VERY LIFE, AN INCALCULABLE DISTANCE AWAY--

SO! YOU HAVE SAVED YOURSELF BY GRASPING THAT LEDGE!

BUT, IT SHALL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

I MERELY EMPLOY THE POWER OF MR. FANTASTIC, AND REACH OUT FOR YOU--!

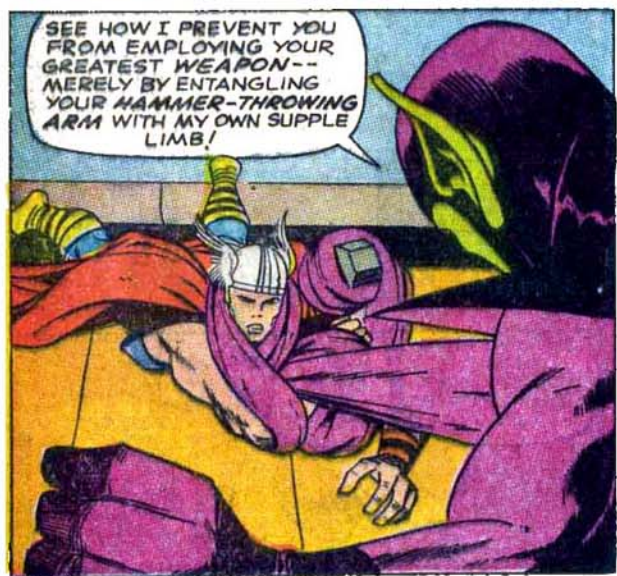




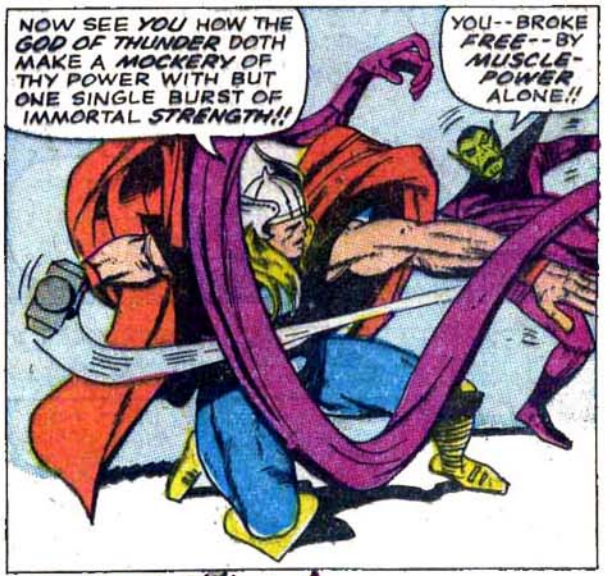
IN TRUTH, I DO BATTLE A FOE WHO DOETH POSSESS THE AWESOME ABILITIES OF *FOUR* SUPER-POWERED OPPONENTS!

BUT, NO MATTER THE ODDS--
THOR SHALL NOT YIELD!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE,
THUNDER GOD! YOU
ARE HOPELESSLY
OUT-MATCHED!



SEE HOW I PREVENT YOU FROM EMPLOYING YOUR GREATEST WEAPON-- MERELY BY ENTANGLING YOUR *HAMMER-THROWING ARM* WITH MY OWN SUPPLE LIMB!



NOW SEE YOU HOW THE GOD OF THUNDER DOETH MAKE A *MOCKERY* OF THY POWER WITH BUT ONE SINGLE BURST OF IMMORTAL STRENGTH!!

YOU-- BROKE *FREE--* BY MUSCLE-POWER ALONE!!



YIELD, CREATURE OF EVIL!!!

YIELD, AT THOR'S COMMAND--OR FACE THE FATEFUL CONSEQUENCE!

NO!! THE VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!



THROKK!

HAA! ONCE AGAIN THE STRETCHING POWER OF REED RICHARDS HAS SAVED ME!!

AND NOW-- IT IS I WHO WILL ATTACK !!



ATTACK AS THOU WILT!!

THE THUNDER GOD STANDS READY!

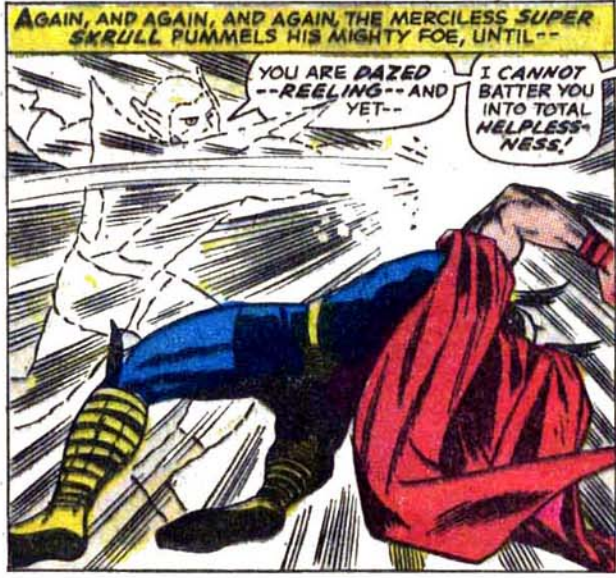
WHAT WITCHERY IS THIS?? MY ALIEN FOE HATH VANISHED!

BUT, I AM FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE FAMOUS INVISIBLE GIRL--

FOR, EVEN THOUGH INVISIBLE, I CAN STRIKE WITH THE SENSES-SHATTERING FORCE OF THE THING HIMSELF!

EVEN A THUNDER GOD CANNOT COPE WITH THE POWER OF-- INVISIBILITY!!

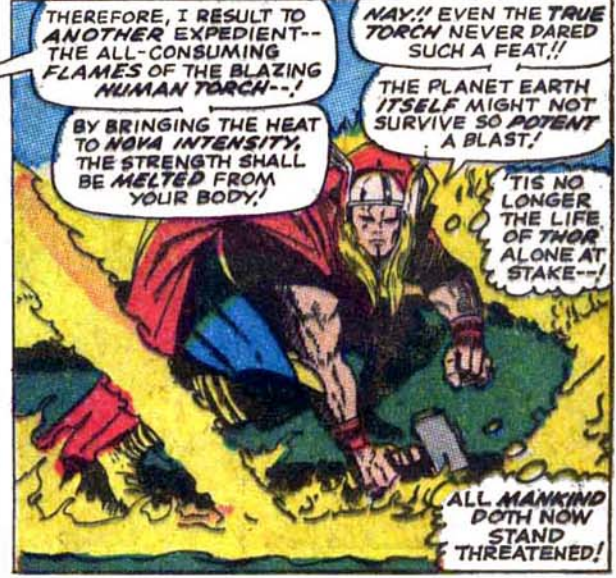
YOU CANNOT FIGHT WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE!



AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN, THE MERCILESS SUPER SKRULL PUMMELS HIS MIGHTY FOE, UNTIL--

YOU ARE DAZED --REELING-- AND YET--

I CANNOT BATTER YOU INTO TOTAL HELPLESSNESS!



THEREFORE, I RESULT TO ANOTHER EXPEDIENT-- THE ALL-CONSUMING FLAMES OF THE BLAZING HUMAN TORCH--!

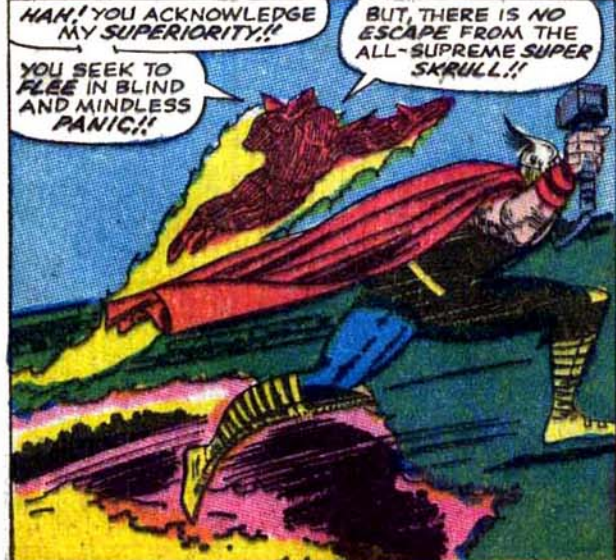
NAY!! EVEN THE TRUE TORCH NEVER PARED SUCH A FEAT!!

BY BRINGING THE HEAT TO NOVA INTENSITY, THE STRENGTH SHALL BE MELTED FROM YOUR BODY!

THE PLANET EARTH ITSELF MIGHT NOT SURVIVE SO POTENT A BLAST!

'TIS NO LONGER THE LIFE OF THOR ALONE AT STAKE--!

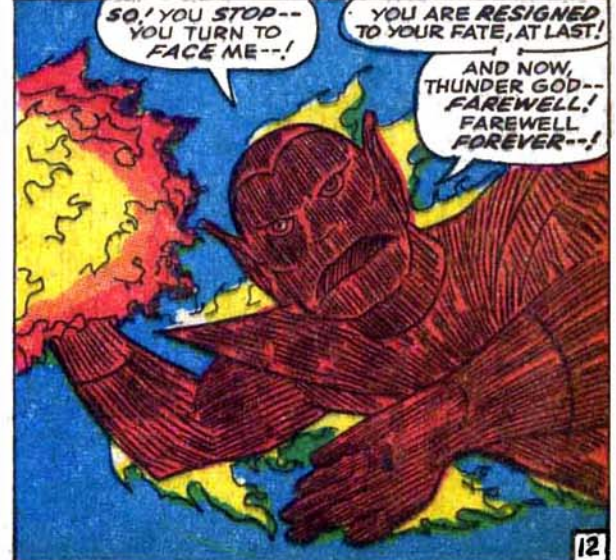
ALL MANKIND DO TH NOW STAND THREATENED!



HAN! YOU ACKNOWLEDGE MY SUPERIORITY!!

BUT, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE ALL-SUPREME SUPER SKRULL!!

YOU SEEK TO FLEE IN BLIND AND MINDLESS PANIC!!



SO, YOU STOP-- YOU TURN TO FACE ME--!

YOU ARE RESIGNED TO YOUR FATE, AT LAST!

AND NOW, THUNDER GOD-- FAREWELL! FAREWELL FOREVER--!

BABBLING FOOL!! THINE ARROGANCE IS BUT BORN OF WITLESS IGNORANCE!

I RESORTED NOT TO FEARFUL FLIGHT--TWAS BUT A RUSE--TO GAIN THE TIME TO WHIRL MY MALLET!

NO DO THY WORST!!

NO NOVA FLAME CANST THOU PRODUCE --NOT IN THE FACE OF THE BLINDING STORM I THUS CREATE!!



WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU CANNOT FOREVER SPIN THAT ACCURSED HAMMER!

WHEN YOUR LIMBS GROW WEARY--WHEN YOU FINALLY HALT-- IT IS THEN THAT I WILL STRIKE!

WHAT? THINKEST THOU I HAVE BUT ONE WEAPON AT MY COMMAND?!!



HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN 'TIS THE GOD OF THUNDER WHO DOTH OPPOSE THEE!

'TIS MIGHTY THOR-- AT WHOSE BEHEST THE STORM DOTH ERUPT-- THE LIGHTNING DOTH FLASH-- THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES REVEAL THEIR AWESOME MAJESTY!!

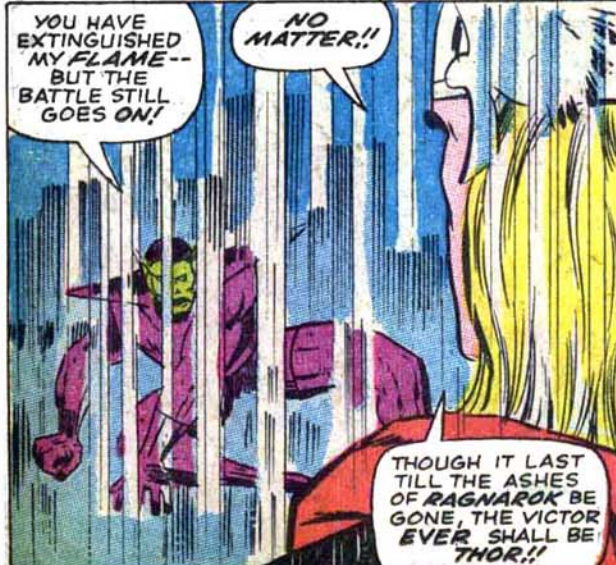
SO BE IT!



YOU HAVE EXTINGUISHED MY FLAME-- BUT THE BATTLE STILL GOES ON!

NO MATTER!!

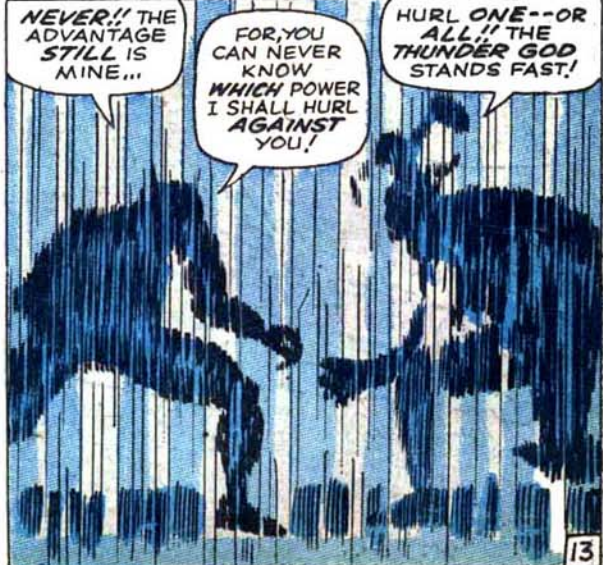
THOUGH IT LAST TILL THE ASHES OF RAGNAROK BE GONE, THE VICTOR EVER SHALL BE THOR!!



NEVER!! THE ADVANTAGE STILL IS MINE...

FOR, YOU CAN NEVER KNOW WHICH POWER I SHALL HURL AGAINST YOU!

HURL ONE--OR ALL!! THE THUNDER GOD STANDS FAST!





FIRST, I'LL SURROUND YOU WITH MY INVINCIBLE FORCE FIELD!! AND THEN, WHEN YOU ARE TRAPPED WITHIN, I WILL--WHA--??!!

HAY! NO FIELD OF FORCE CAN WITHSTAND MY URU MALLET!

THOUGH MINE EYES BEHOLD NOTHING-- I STRIKE AGAIN--AND AGAIN--



--AND AGAIN!! OVER, AND OVER, AND OVER-- DRIVING THEE BACK, UNTIL THY FORCE FIELD IS FOREVER SHATTERED!

BUT REMEMBER -- I HAVE MANY POWERS AT MY COMMAND!

WHERE ONE MAY SERVE TO NO AVAIL, I NEED ONLY RESORT TO ANOTHER--!



-- SUCH AS THE BLUSTERING, BATTERING, BLUDGEONING POWER OF THE TITANIC THING ONCE AGAIN!!



HAY! I CAUGHT YOU UNAWARE-- OFF-BALANCE--!

I'LL DASH YOU TO THE GROUND BELOW--AS I WOULD HURL A LIMP AND HELPLESS PUPPET--!

AND NOW, BEFORE YOU HAVE TIME TO WHIRL YOUR SUDDENLY-USELESS HAMMER--



BUT THE SON OF ODIN IS NO MERE PUPPET--!

HE REQUIRES BUT A SINGLE HEARTBEAT IN WHICH TO GRIP THEE WITH HIS LEGS!

AND THEN--!

NO! NO! YOU CANNOT FIGHT BACK NOW!

NOT WITH VICTORY SO NEARLY WITHIN MY GRASP--!!



AGAIN THOU HAST MADE A GRIEVOUS ERROR!

NEVER COULD SUCH AS THEE TRIUMPH OVER MIGHTY THOR!



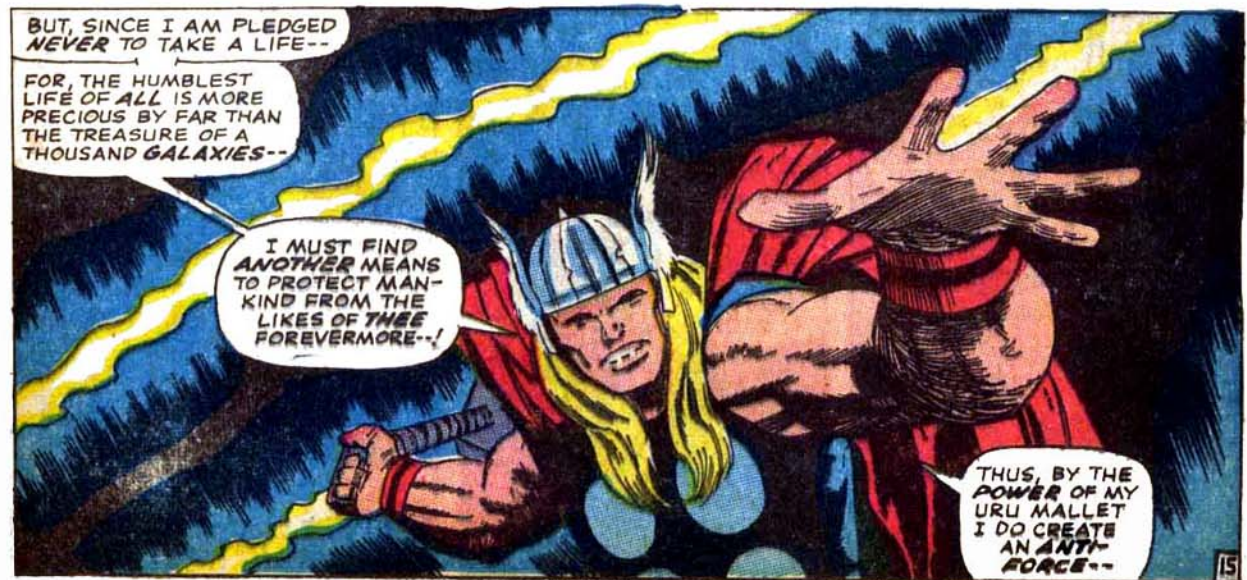
AND NOW, LET ONE PRINCELY BLOW PUT AN END TO THIS IGNOBLE CHARADE-- FOREVER!

I THOUGHT--YOU WERE DEFEATED!! I WAS CERTAIN-- THAT I HAD--WON!

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?? --WHAT DID I DO-- THAT WAS WRONG-- ??



THOU DIDST ATTACK-- THE GOD OF THUNDER!!



BUT, SINCE I AM PLEDGED NEVER TO TAKE A LIFE--

FOR, THE HUMBLEST LIFE OF ALL IS MORE PRECIOUS BY FAR THAN THE TREASURE OF A THOUSAND GALAXIES--

I MUST FIND ANOTHER MEANS TO PROTECT MANKIND FROM THE LIKES OF THEE FOREVERMORE--!

THUS, BY THE POWER OF MY URU MALLET I DO CREATE AN ANTI-FORCE--



BEGONE THEN, SUPER SKRULL!!

NEVER AGAIN WILL THE PLANET EARTH OFFER HAVEN FOR SUCH AS THEE!



I AM HELPLESS-- CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF A FORCE I CANNOT BEGIN TO COMPREHEND!

RETURN FROM WHENCE THOU HAST COME! THY DEFEAT IS ASSURED --THY BANISHMENT ETERNAL!



THUS SPEAKETH THOR!



THE BATTLE IS ENDED-- THE CAUSE IS WON!

AND YET, A SENSE OF UNEASE DOETH LIE HEAVY UPON MY HEART!



I FEEL YON FOE WAS NOT THE ENEMY TRUE!

ANOTHER THERE IS--FAR MORE SINISTER--FAR MORE DEADLY--

ONE WHO WILL NEVER REST, TILL THE THUNDER GOD BE CRUSHED!



AND, AS THOUGH PRIVY TO THOR'S THOUGHT, A LONE FIGURE STANDS IN A NAMELESS NOWHERE, NURTURING HIS BRUTAL, BOUNDLESS RAGE--

THE SKRULL HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

BUT, IT SHALL NOT BE ALWAYS THUS--!!

AGAIN MY MOST DESPISED ENEMY HAS WON THE DAY!!



I WILL PLAN-- AND PLAN AGAIN--TILL THE VICTORY IS MINE!

THOUGH IT TAKES AN ETERNITY, I SHALL DESTROY THE GOD OF THUNDER--

AND WITH HIM, HIS BELOVED EARTH AS WELL!

NEXT: THOU MUST NOT MISS...

THE ENCHANTERS!

"WE, WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE...!"

IN THE COMPANY OF THOR, FANDRAL, AND VOLSTAGG, HOGUN THE GRIMM HAS INVADEN ZANADU, THE DEADLY DOMAIN OF MOGUL, OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN, IN ORDER TO FREE HOGUN'S ENSLAVED COUNTRYMEN AND REGAIN HIS CAPTURED BATTLE STANDARD!

BUT, LEARNING OF THE INCREDIBLE INVASION, THE MERCILESS MOGUL PREPARES TO BRING DEATH TO ALL, RATHER THAN FACE THE AWESOME JUSTICE OF THE MIGHTY ASGARDIANS...!

FIREBOLTS!! HURTLING DOWN UPON US FROM BEYOND THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!

'TIS THE DOING OF MURDEROUS MOGUL!

KNOWING OUR RESCUERS ARE NEAR AT HAND, HE CHOOSES TO DESTROY THE REALM RATHER THAN YIELD!

FACE IT, FAITHFUL ONE...
STAN JACK
(THE MAN) (KING)
LEE and KIRBY
HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
AIDED BY--
VINCE COLLETTA,
INKER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER



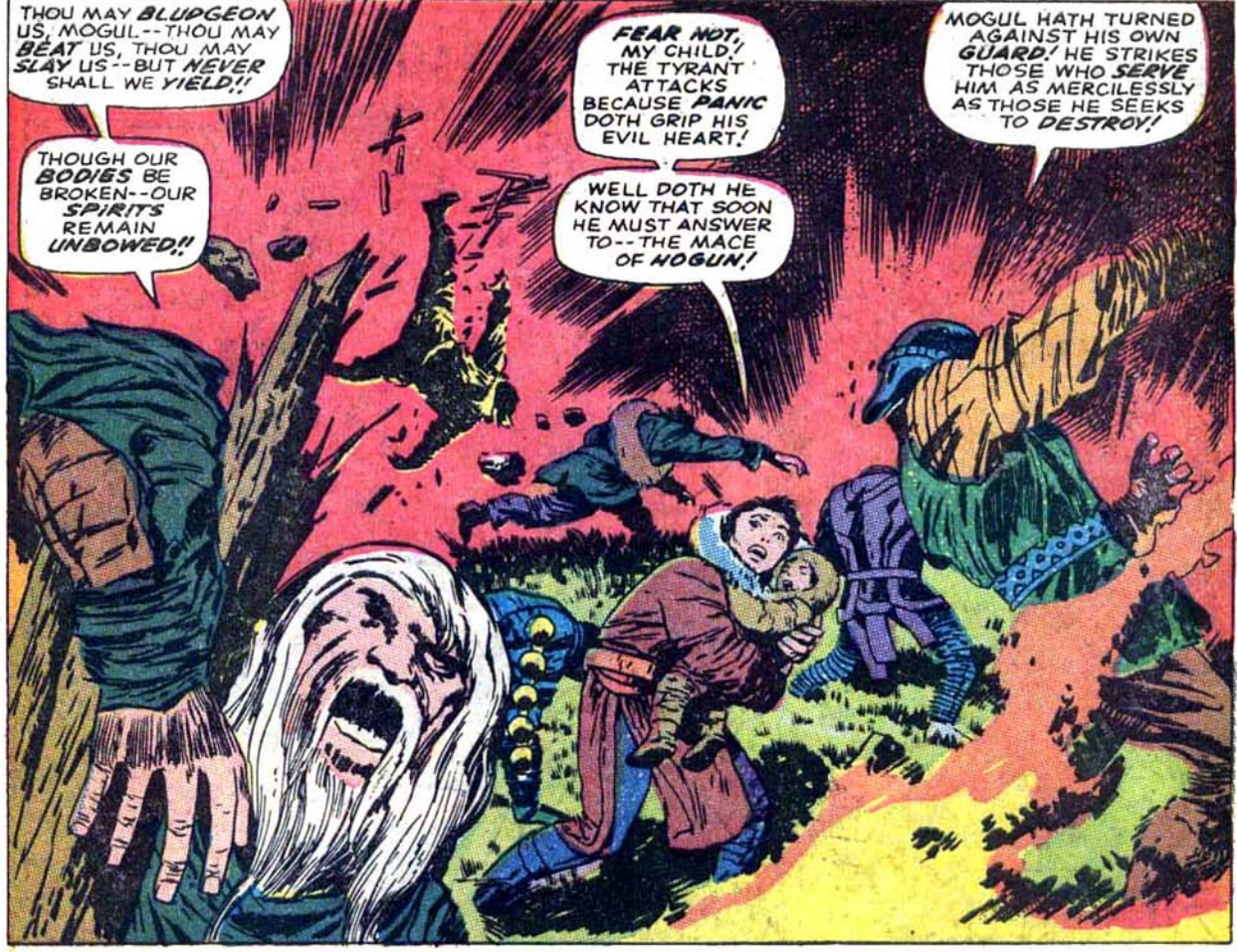
THOU MAY **BLUDGEON** US, MOGUL--THOU MAY **BEAT** US, THOU MAY **SLAY** US-- BUT **NEVER** SHALL WE **YIELD**!!

THOUGH OUR **BODIES** BE **BROKEN**--OUR **SPIRITS** REMAIN **UNBOWED**!!

FEAR NOT, MY CHILD! THE **TYRANT** ATTACKS BECAUSE **PANIC** DOTH GRIP HIS **EVIL** HEART!

WELL DOTH HE KNOW THAT SOON HE MUST ANSWER TO--THE **MACE** OF **HOGUN**!

MOGUL HATH TURNED **AGAINST** HIS OWN **GUARD**! HE STRIKES THOSE WHO **SERVE** HIM AS **MERCILESSLY** AS THOSE HE SEEKS TO **DESTROY**!



BUT, THERE IS YET **ANOTHER** DARK DEED WHICH MOGUL HAS PERPETRATED--THE NEWS OF WHICH A **LONE RIDER** TRIES TO BRING TO THE PEOPLE--BUT TRIES IN **VAIN**--!

MOGUL HATH LOOSED **SATAN'S FORTY HORSE-MEN**!! EVEN **NOW** THEY THUNDER THRU THE NIGHT TO TRAMPLE THE **WARRIORS** OF **ASGARD**!

BUT, ONCE **HOGUN** AND HIS FELLOWS ARE SLAIN, THERE WILL BE NONE TO **STOP** THEM! THE **FORTY MOUNTED DEMONS** SHALL **OVERRUN** THE **WORLD**!!

BUT NOW--I **PERISH**! THRU SOME **DARK**, **DEMONIAC** **WITCHERY**, THE **MYSTIC** MOGUL HAS STILLED MY **TONGUE**--FOREVER--!



AND, WITHIN THE **SORCERER'S SANCTUM**--IN THE **CASTLE** OF **ZANADU**--

BY THE **DEMONS** OF **DARKNESS**--NONE ARE AS **MIGHTY** AS **MOGUL**!!

HOGUN THINKS TO SET HIS PEOPLE **FREE**--HE THINKS TO LOOSEN THE **YOKE** OF **SLAVERY** WHICH I HAVE PUT O'ER THE **LAND**!



BUT INSTEAD--HE HAS CAUSED **DESTRUCTION** WITHOUT **END** TO RAIN DOWN FROM THE **SKIES**!!



KEEP FIRING!!
MORE--MORE--
MORE!!

LET FIREBOLTS
BE MY ANSWER
TO THE HELPLESS
CARRION!

LET THE
DOOMED ONES
LEARN WHAT
IT MEANS TO
DEFY THE RULE
OF MOGUL!



AS FOR HOGUN,
AND HIS FELLOW
ASSGARDIANS,
THEY WILL FALL
BEFORE THE NEXT
DAWN 'NEATH THE
THUNDERING
HOOVES OF MY
DEMON RIDERS!

BUT HOLD!! WHO DARES
APPROACH THE MIGHTY
MOGUL?? WHAT MORTAL
CREATURE DOTH PRESUME
TO ENTER THE PRESENCE??

'TIS I, MASTER
--THY LOYAL
SERVANT,
SULIBEG!

I HAVE MIXED
THY POTION
--AS THOU DIDST
COMMAND!

SERVANT?? THOU
DOST FLATTER
THYSELF!

THOU ART BUT
SLAVE TO MOGUL--
AS ALL WHO LIVE
ONE DAY SHALL BE!



NOW--THE
POTION!!
I WOULD
FAIN
POSSESS
IT!

THOU MUST HANDLE IT WITH GREATEST
CARE, MASTER!

IT DOTH CONTAIN THE SPOTTED
PLAGUE!! ONE SLIGHT SPRINK-
LING CAN FELL A TRIBE ENTIRE!



WELL THEN--
LET ME
PUT IT
TO A
TEST!

I MUST
BE CERTAIN
THAT IT HATH
BEEN
PROPERLY
BLENDED!
I SHALL
PLACE A
DROP UPON
LOYAL
SULIBEG!

MAY, MASTER--
MAY! MERCY!
MERCY! HAVE
I NOT SERVED
THEE FAITH-
FULLY AND
WELL??

**FAH! AWAY WITH THEE,
THOU BASE AND SERVILE
FAWNING DOG!**

**YON POTION IS FOR THOSE
WHO DARE TO DEFY--NOT
FOR CRINGING, CRAVEN
VERMIN SUCH AS THEE!**

**THOU HAST
SERVED THY
PURPOSE
--HENCE,
LET THEE
BE GONE!**

**NOW, THE VERY
HAND OF MOGUL
SHALL SPREAD
THE SPOTTED
PLAGUE
THRUOUT THE
REALM!**

**OPEN THEN THE DOOR
WHEREIN MY MYSTIC
FLYING SKY-CRAFT
STANDS!**

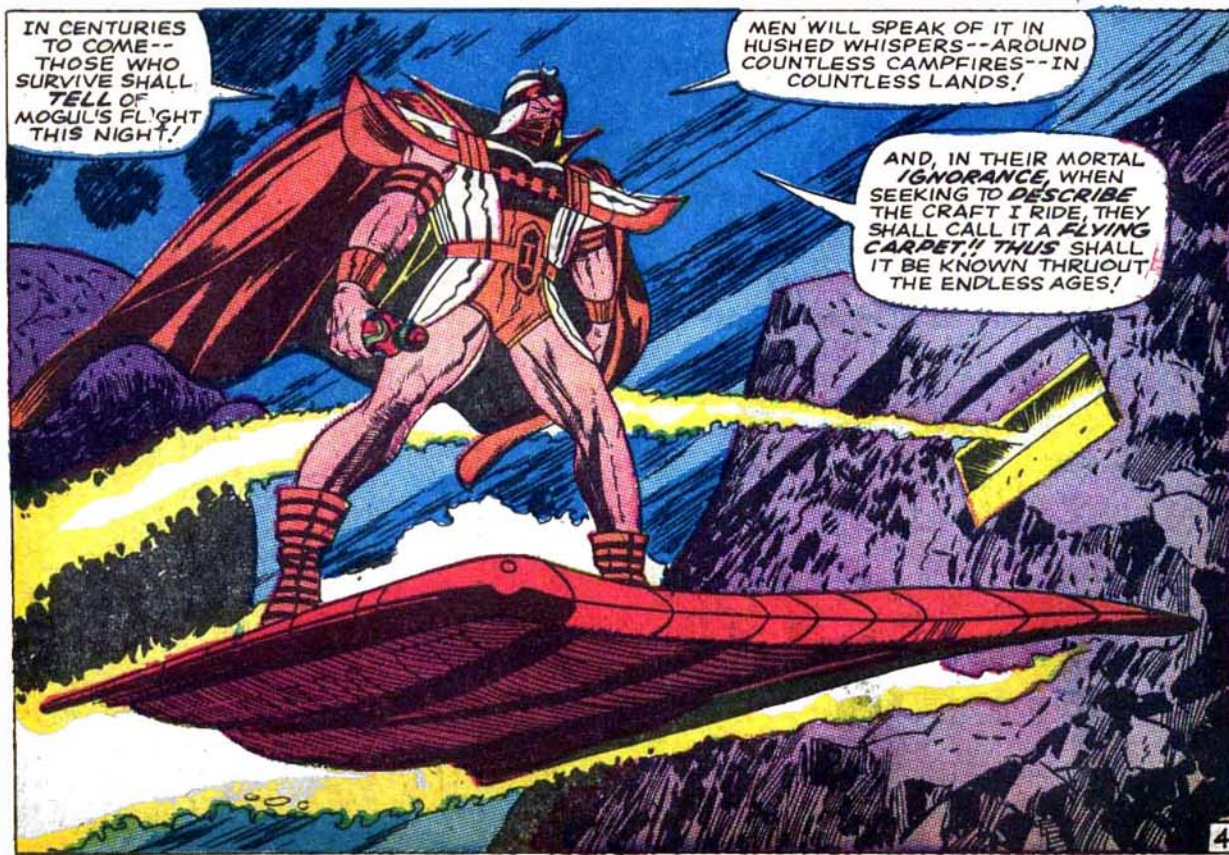
**THE TIME IS
COME FOR SORCERY--
FOR WITCHERY MOST
SINISTER!**



**IN CENTURIES
TO COME--
THOSE WHO
SURVIVE SHALL
TELL OF
MOGUL'S FLIGHT
THIS NIGHT!**

**MEN WILL SPEAK OF IT IN
HUSHED WHISPERS--AROUND
COUNTLESS CAMPFIRES--IN
COUNTLESS LANDS!**

**AND, IN THEIR MORTAL
IGNORANCE, WHEN
SEEKING TO DESCRIBE
THE CRAFT I RIDE,
THEY SHALL CALL IT A FLYING
CARPET!! THIS SHALL
IT BE KNOWN THRUOUT
THE ENDLESS AGES!**



AND, AS MOGUL SOARS THRU THE SKIES OVERHEAD, THE INVADERS FROM ASGARD, LED BY THE IMPLACABLE HOGUN THE GRIM, DEFEAT THE LAST OF THE TYRANT'S DEFENDING LEGION--

IN THE HALLOWED NAME OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN-- WE DO STRIKE!!

BACK, YE DENIZENS OF DARKNESS!! BACK, YE PAWNS OF PLUNDER! BACK BEFORE THE MACE OF HOGUN!!



THE MACE, THE HAMMER, AND THINE OWN GLEAMING BLADE, DASHING FANDRAL, HAVE WON THE DAY!

NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS BUT THE HUMBLING OF MOGUL!

BUT, WHAT OF THE VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG? HATH HE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER?

NAY, SON OF ODIN! ME-TINKS HE PAUSED FOR A SMALL REPAST, AND WILL JOIN US WHEN THE BATTLE'S DONE!



BUT, STAY!! WHAT NEW DANGER NOW DOTH FACE US?

AN ARRAY OF CHARGING HORSEMEN-- LED BY ONE WHO CARRIES THE LOST BATTLE STANDARD OF HOGUN!

THEN MY QUEST IS NEARLY ENDED!

NO MATTER THE ODDS! WITHIN THE SPACE OF A DOZEN HEARTBEATS, YON STANDARD SHALL BE MINE! BY THE GLITTERING SPIRES OF ASGARD, THIS DO I SWEAR!

THE HORSEMEN DRAW NEARER! BEHOLD THEIR EVIL VISAGES!

HE WHO CARRIES THE STANDARD DOTH NOT LEAD THEM--HE IS BY THEM PURSUED!!



'TIS THE GRAVEST DANGER OF ALL! THOSE WHO THUNDER TOWARD US ARE DEMONS INCARNATE!

EVEN THE POWER WHICH WE POSSESS MAY BE TRAMPLED BENEATH THE HOOVES OF THOSE WHO SLAY ANY WHO LIVE!

NEXT:

"TO THE DEATH!"