

THOR

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© OCT

THE MIGHTY

# THOR

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP



THE MONSTER AND THE MAN-GOD!

# THE MIGHTY THOR!

# THE AWESOME ANSWER!

IN THE DEEPEST REACH OF ENDLESS SPACE, GALACTUS AND THE GOD OF THUNDER FACE EACH OTHER AT LAST IN A FEARFUL TRUCE-- AS THE BROODING GIANT SLOWLY TELLS THE SECRET OF HIS PAST--

AND NOW, PREPARE TO HEAR WHAT NONE HAVE EVER HEARD--

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:

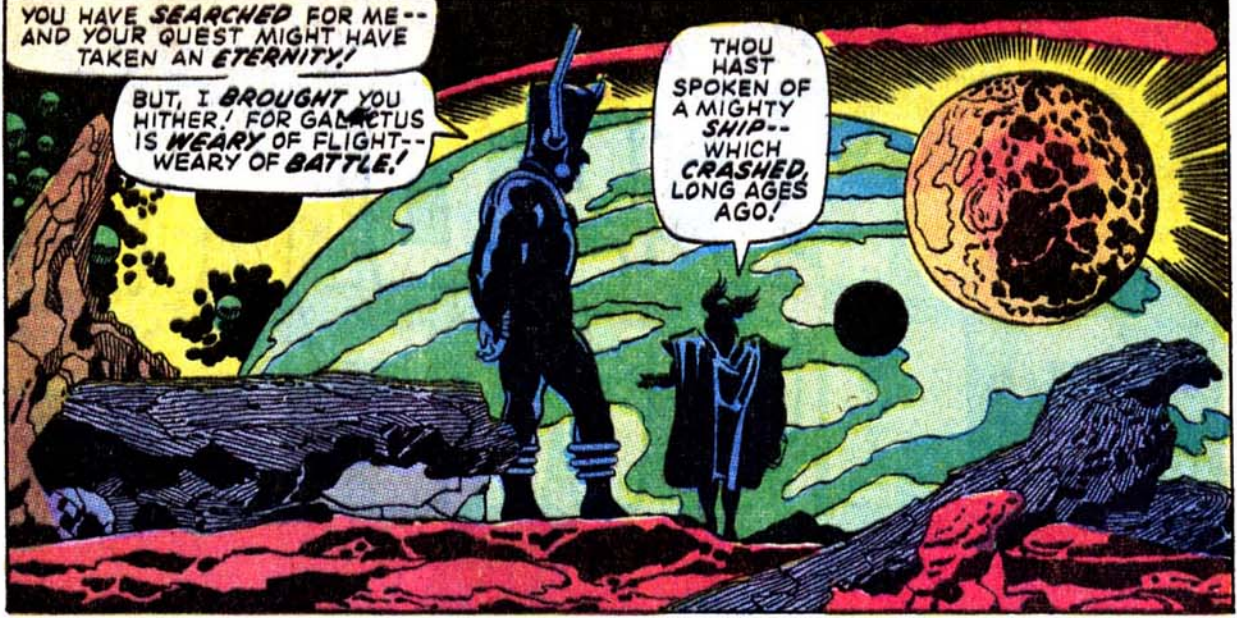
**STAN** (THE MAN) and **JACK** (KING)  
**LEE** and **KIRBY**

INKING: **GEORGE KLEIN** LETTERING: **ARTIE SIMEK**

YOU HAVE SEARCHED FOR ME--  
AND YOUR QUEST MIGHT HAVE  
TAKEN AN ETERNITY!

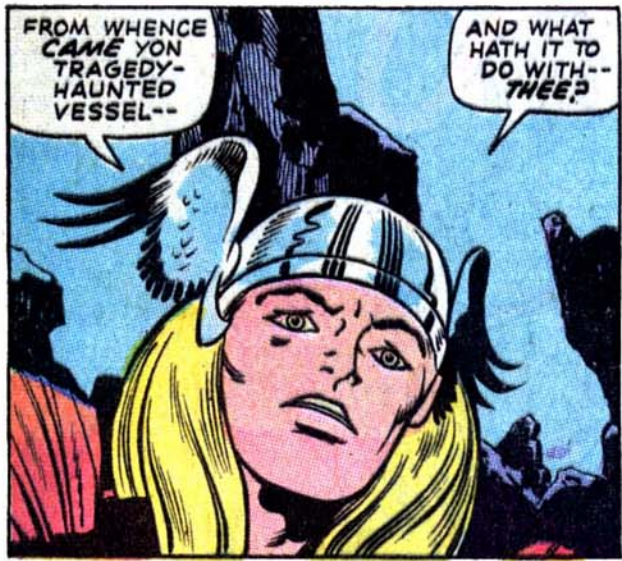
BUT, I BROUGHT YOU  
HITHER! FOR GALACTUS  
IS WEARY OF FLIGHT--  
WEARY OF BATTLE!

THOU HAST  
SPOKEN OF  
A MIGHTY  
SHIP--  
WHICH  
CRASHED,  
LONG AGES  
AGO!



FROM WHENCE  
CAME YON  
TRAGEDY-  
HAUNTED  
VESSEL--

AND WHAT  
HATH IT TO  
DO WITH--  
THEEP?



THE SHIP OF WHICH YOU  
SPEAK WAS THE BE-ALL--  
AND THE END-ALL OF THE  
ONE WHO STANDS BEFORE  
YOU!



"FOR, EVEN IN  
DEATH--IT WAS  
FATED TO SPAWN  
NEW LIFE!"



"ONE THERE WAS WHO HAD WITNESSED  
THE CRASH--ONE WHOM MEN CALL--  
THE WATCHER!"





THE CREW HAS PERISHED--ALL VICTIMS OF LETHAL RADIATION!



BUT STILL, I SENSE A TRACE OF LIFE!

SOMEWHERE ABOARD, THERE IS A SURVIVOR TO BE FOUND!



THIS ONE LIVES! AND YET, HOW STRANGE IT IS--

HE HAS BEEN CLOSEST TO THE DEADLY DETONATION!



YON SURVIVOR, GALACTUS-- 'T WAS MOST SURELY THEE!

BUT NOT THE ME OF OLD! IT WAS THE ME THAT WAS YET TO BE!



NOT EVEN THE WATCHER COULD SUSPECT WHAT HE HAD TRULY FOUND!



HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN IT HAD THE POWER TO SHATTER A PLANET?



THE VERY MEMORY OF WHAT HATH BEFALLEN NOW MAKES HIM FLY INTO MOST TOWERING RAGE!



AND YET YOU--YOU--DARE THINK YOU CAN CHALLENGE GALACTUS!

THOU HAST POWER, TRUE! BUT SO DOTH THE SON OF ODIN!



DO NOT TAUNT ME, THUNDER GOD!



I TALK-- I RAGE-- I STRIKE-- TO FORGET THE HUNGER THAT GNAWS WITHIN!



BUT I HAVE NO WISH TO DO YOU HARM!

GALACTUS-- THOU ART SORELY TROUBLED!



YES--MY HEART IS HEAVY--

AND A GREAT WEARINESS NOW LIES UPON ME!



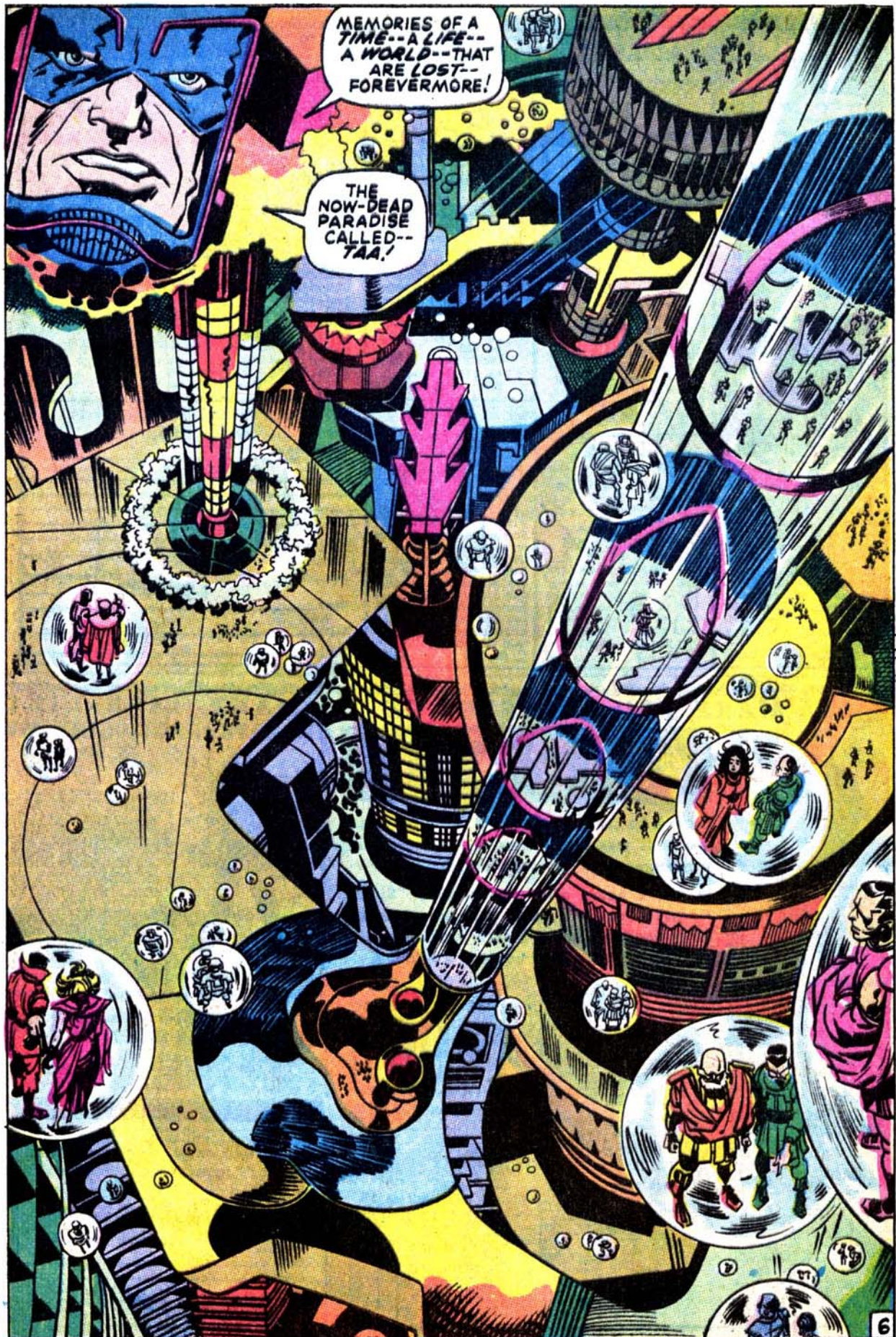
THE TALE! THOU HAST FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE LONE SURVIVOR-- AND HIS FATE!

FORGOTTEN? HOW CAN I EVER FORGET?

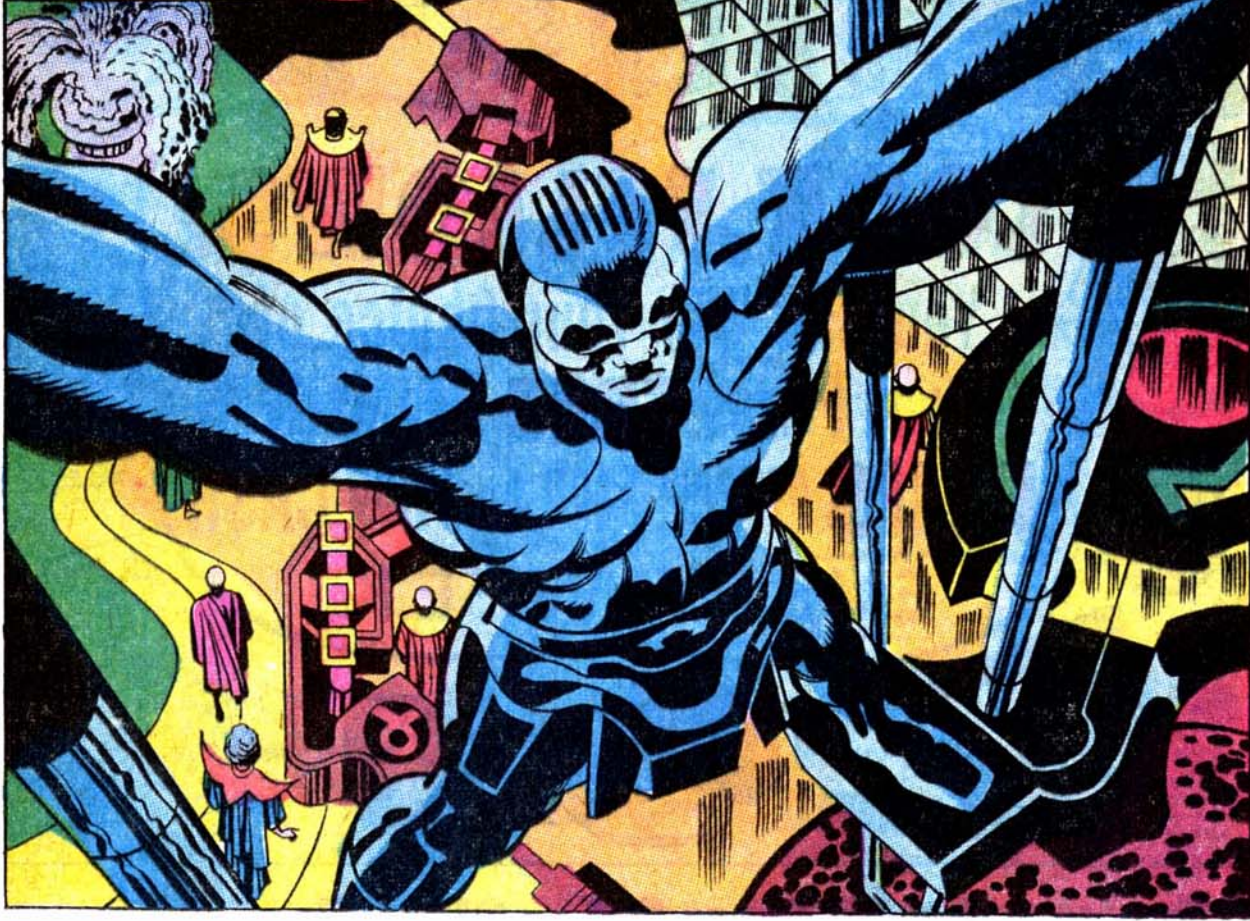
ALL THAT IS LEFT TO ME--WHEN THE HUNGER IS GONE-- ARE THE DREADED MEMORIES!

MEMORIES OF A  
TIME--A LIFE--  
A WORLD--THAT  
ARE LOST--  
FOREVERMORE!

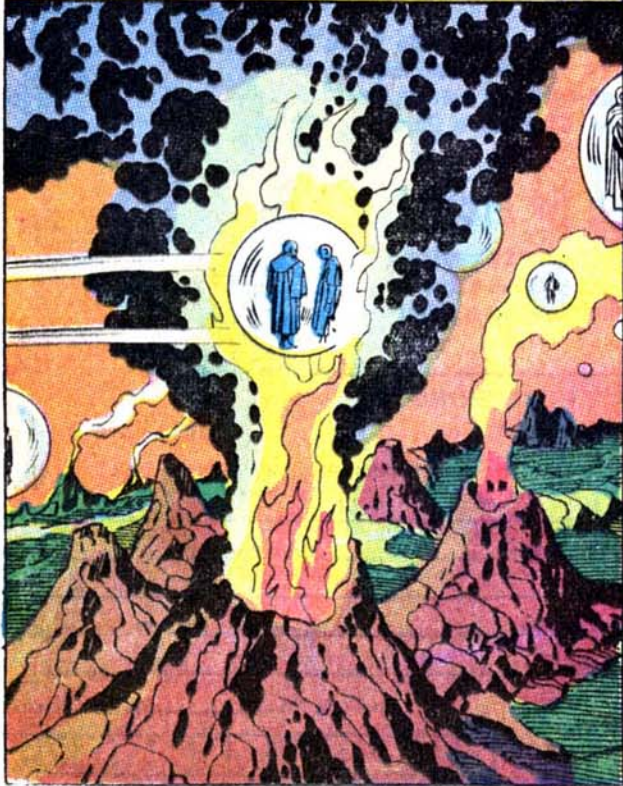
THE  
NOW-DEAD  
PARADISE  
CALLED--  
TAA!



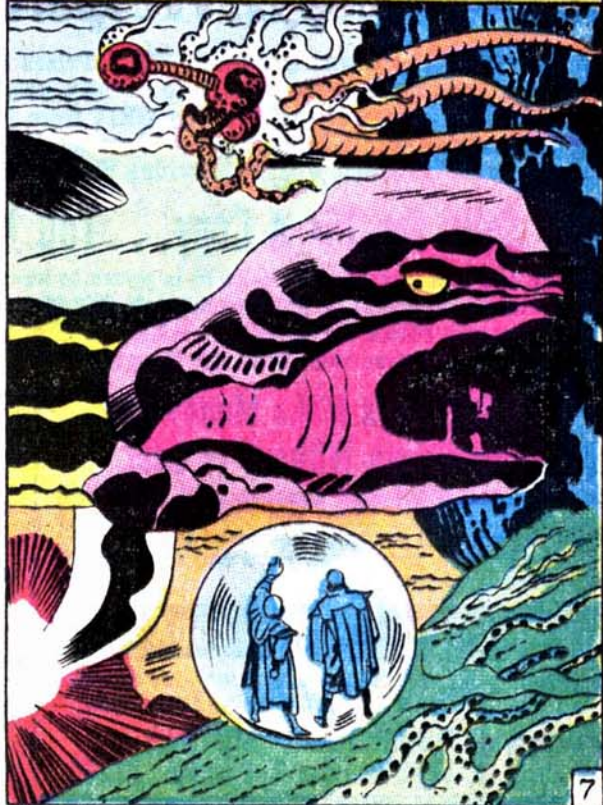
"TAA! A PLANET SO FAR ADVANCED FROM ANY OTHER, THAT THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DO IT JUSTICE!"



"TAA! AMONG THE SIMPLEST OF ITS MANY MIRACLES WERE THE THOUGHT-SPHERES IN WHICH MEN LIVED AND TRAVELLED!"



"TAA! EVER CHANGING--EVER ANCIENT--EVER WONDROUS TO BEHOLD!"

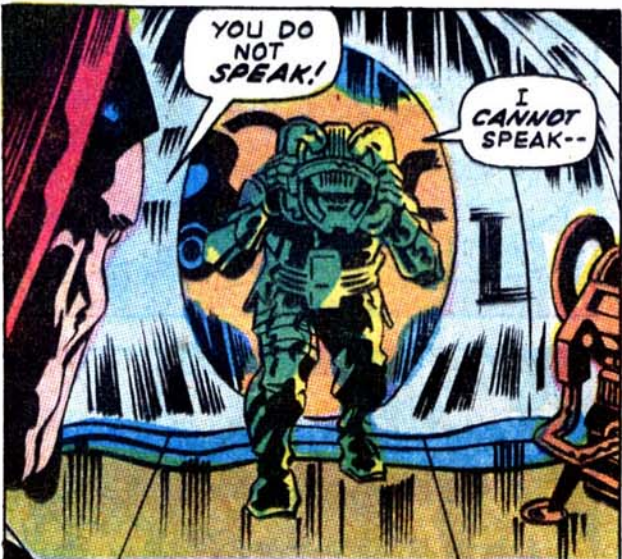
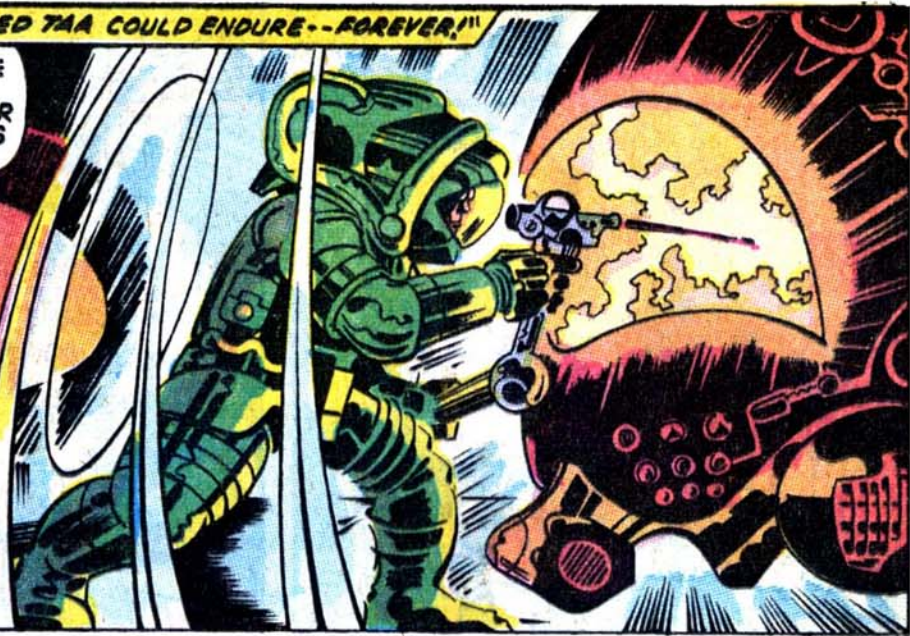




"BUT, NOT EVEN FABLED TAA COULD ENDURE--FOREVER!"

HE RETURNS AT LAST!

NOW WE SHALL LEARN OUR PLANET'S FATE!



YOU DO NOT SPEAK!

I CANNOT SPEAK--



OF WHAT USE ARE WORDS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

A TIME OF DREAD CATASTROPHE!



IT IS AS WE FEARED!! THE WORLD OF TAA IS-- DOOMED!



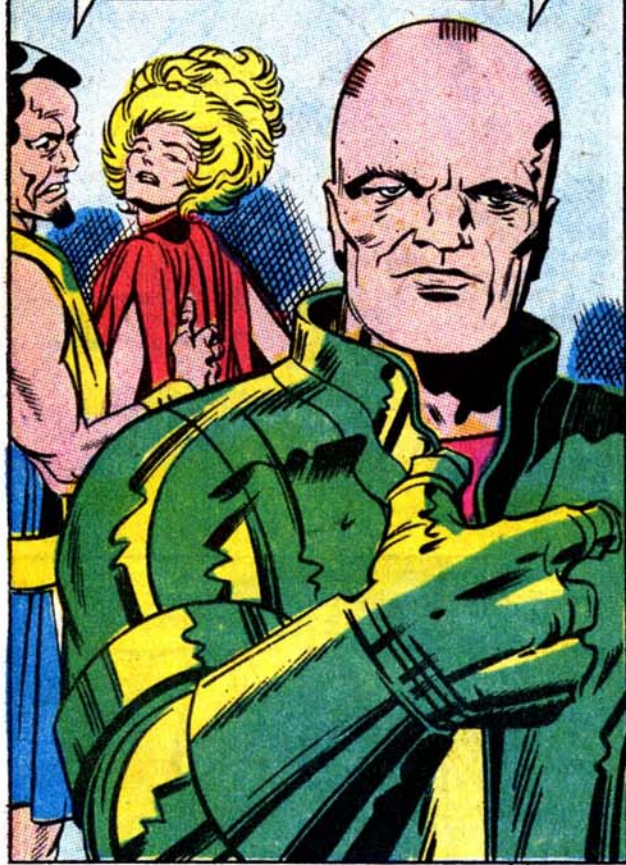
I HAVE BEEN TO THE FARTHEST END OF THE COSMOS--

BUT MY JOURNEY WAS--IN VAIN!

THERE IS NO CURE FOR THE CREEPING PLAGUE!

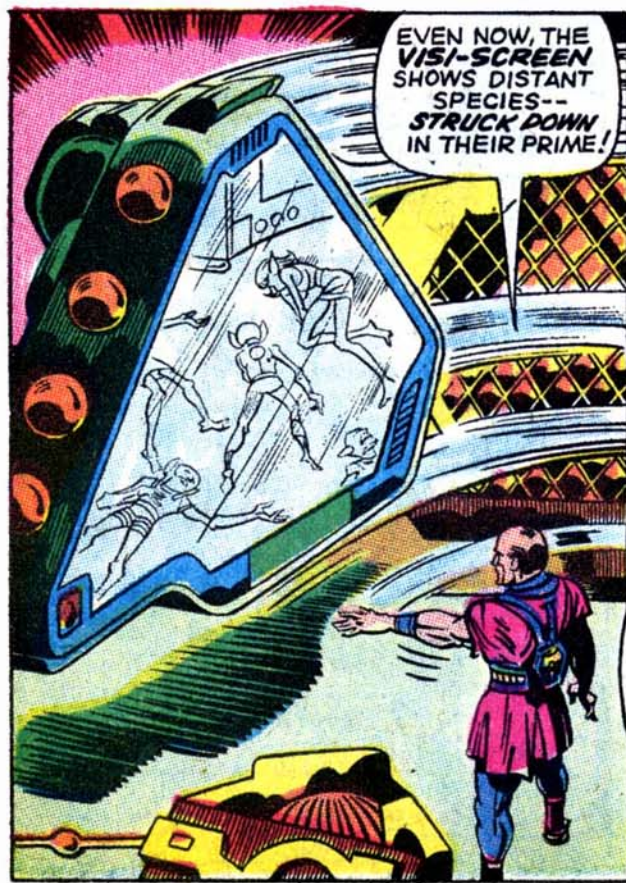
THEN WE MUST PREPARE--FOR THE INEVITABLE!

OUR RACE MUST DIE--IN A MANNER BEFITTING TAA!



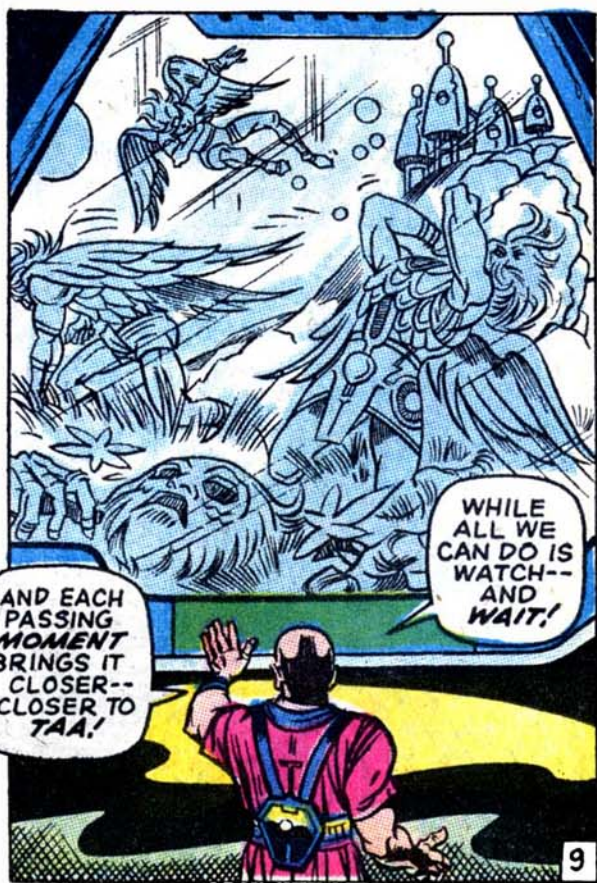
"YES, THE CREEPING PLAGUE HAD COME TO TAA--AND THE GREATEST BRAINS IN ALL THE GALAXY WERE POWERLESS TO FIND A CURE!"

IT IS HOPELESS! NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE THE PLAGUE!

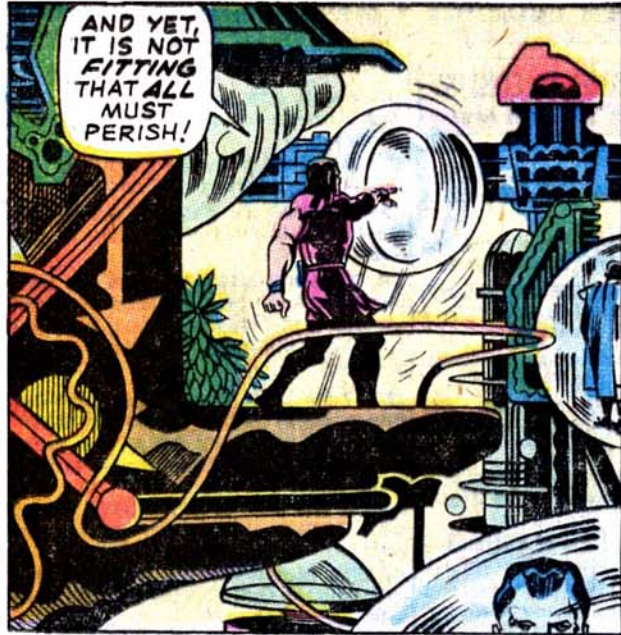


EVEN NOW, THE VISI-SCREEN SHOWS DISTANT SPECIES--STRUCK DOWN IN THEIR PRIME!

AND EACH PASSING MOMENT BRINGS IT CLOSER--CLOSER TO TAA!



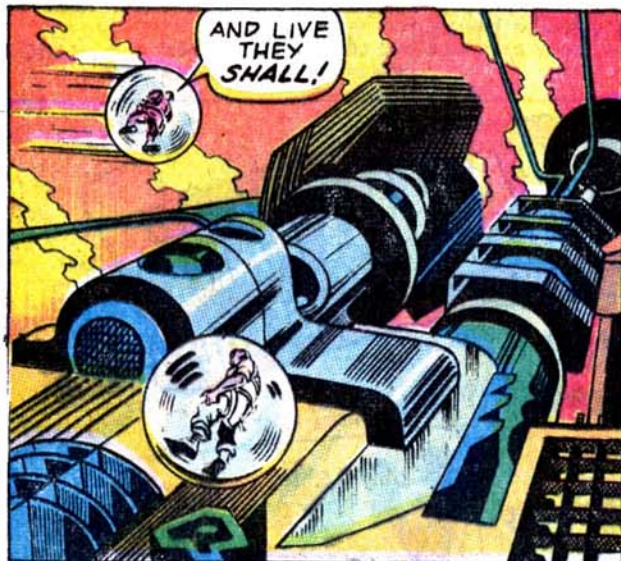
WHILE ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH--AND WAIT!



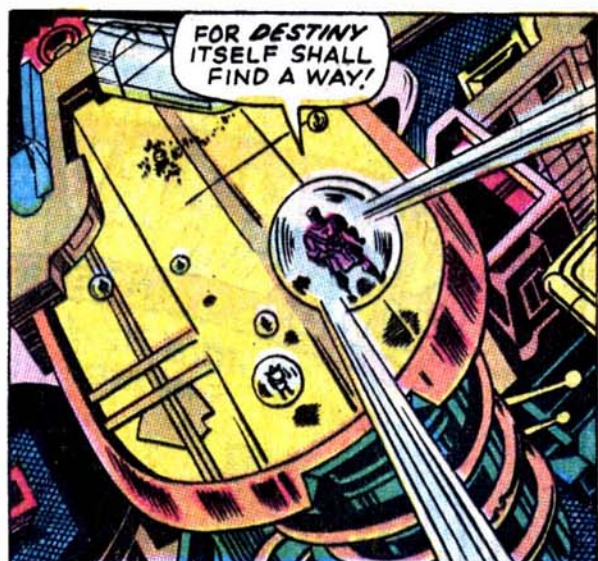
AND YET,  
IT IS NOT  
FITTING  
THAT ALL  
MUST  
PERISH!



SOMEHOW, SOME WAY--  
THE GLORY AND THE  
GRANDEUR THAT ARE  
TAA--MUST LIVE!



AND LIVE  
THEY  
SHALL!



FOR DESTINY  
ITSELF SHALL  
FIND A WAY!



IN THE SQUARE BELOW--THE  
PLAGUE HAS TRAVELLED  
FASTER--EVEN FURTHER  
THAN WE FEARED!

ALREADY  
IT HAS  
REACHED  
OUR HEART-  
LAND!



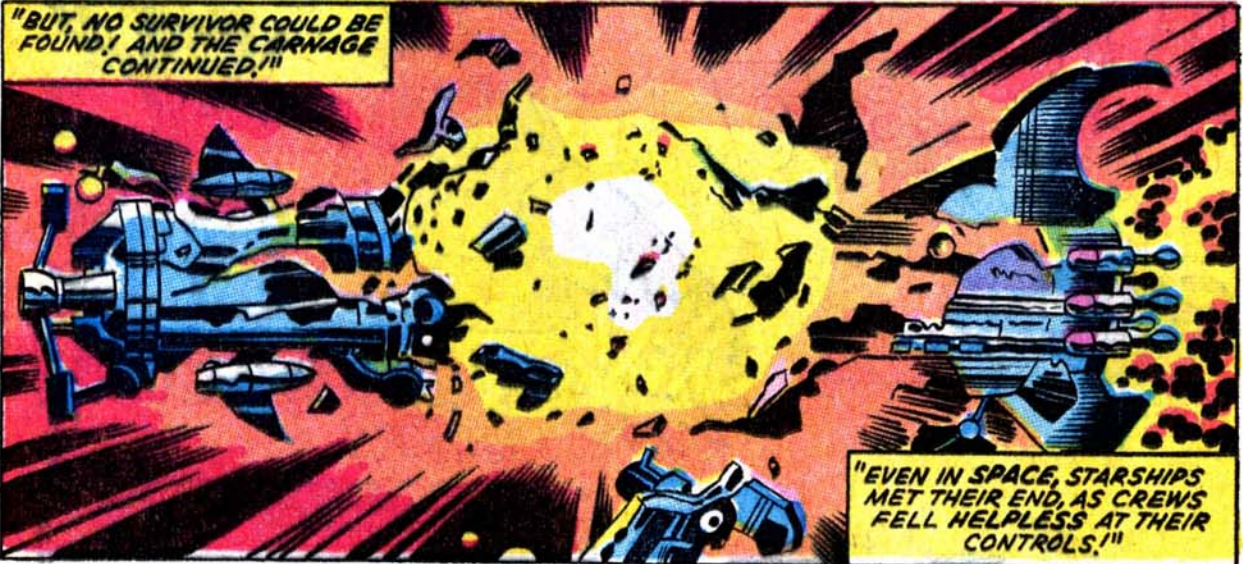
OUR EFFORTS ARE USELESS!  
WITH ALL OUR SKILL,  
WE CAN FIND NO ANTIDOTE!



BUT--EVEN IF THERE IS  
NO CURE--THERE MUST  
BE ONE--ONE LIVING  
BEING--WHOSE BODY  
IS--IMMUNE!

ONE WHO  
CAN SURVIVE--  
SO THAT  
SOMEWHERE,  
A VESTIGE  
OF TAA WILL  
LIVE ON!

"BUT, NO SURVIVOR COULD BE  
FOUND! AND THE CARNAGE  
CONTINUED!"



"EVEN IN SPACE, STARSHIPS  
MET THEIR END, AS CREWS  
FELL HELPLESS AT THEIR  
CONTROLS!"

"NOT EVEN THE WONDROUS THOUGHT-SPHERES  
COULD SHIELD THEM FROM THE PLAGUE!"



"AND THEN--WHERE BILLIONS HAD DWELLED  
IN GLORY--ONLY A HANDFUL REMAINED!"



THE END HAS  
COME! TAA  
SHALL BE--  
NO MORE!

THUS ENDS--  
AN AGE!



THERE ARE ONLY ENOUGH--TO ASSEMBLE ONE FINAL CREW--!

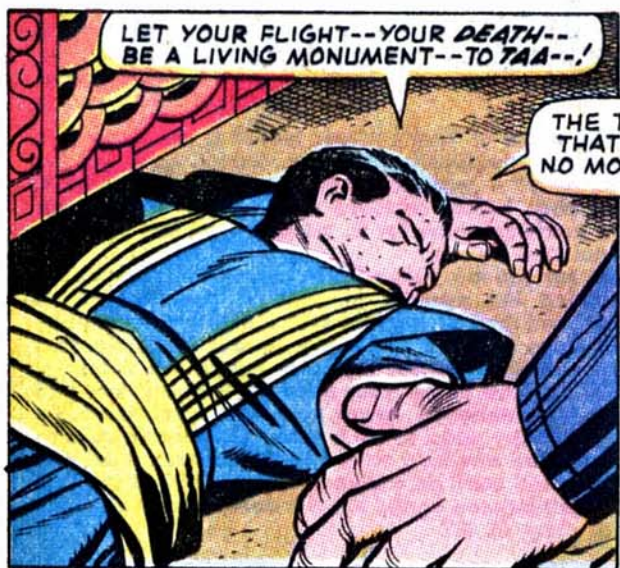
SINCE WE MUST DIE --LET IT BE IN FLIGHT!



WE WILL GO WHERE MEN HAVE NEVER GONE!

THE LARGEST SUN IN ALL THE WORLD WILL BE OUR FUNERAL PYRE!

THEN GO QUICKLY --WHILE YOU CAN!

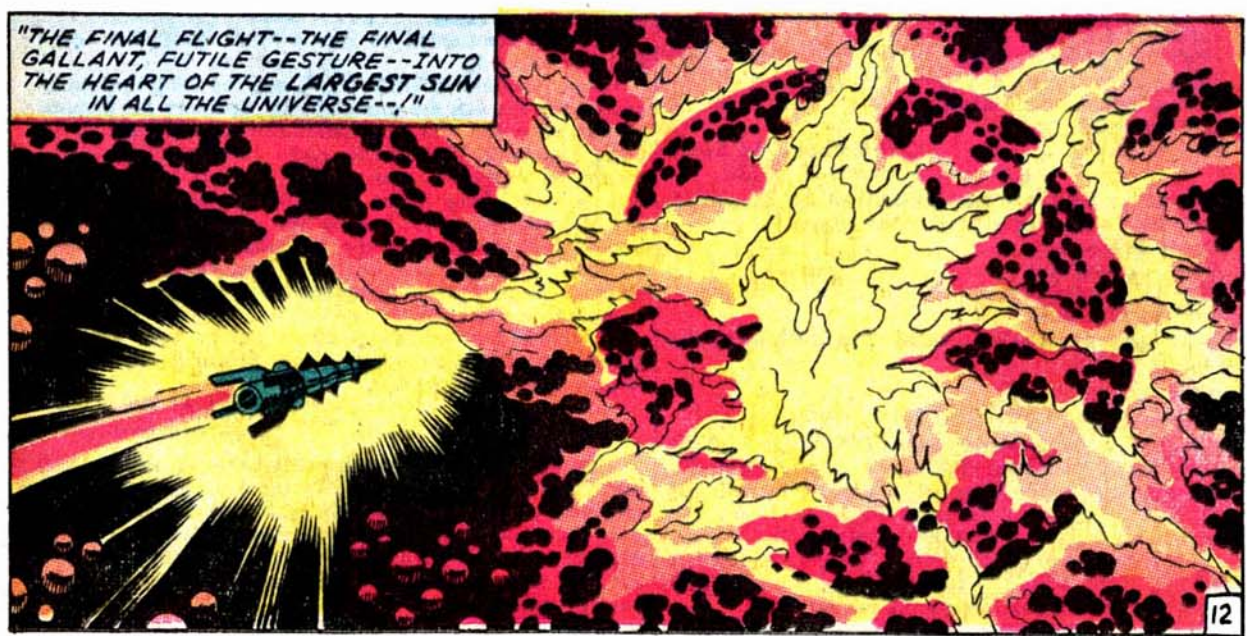


LET YOUR FLIGHT--YOUR DEATH-- BE A LIVING MONUMENT--TO TAA--!

THE TAA THAT IS-- NO MORE--!



"AND SO, IT WAS DONE--"



"THE FINAL FLIGHT--THE FINAL GALLANT, FUTILE GESTURE--INTO THE HEART OF THE LARGEST SUN IN ALL THE UNIVERSE--!"

"AND, AS THEY HURTLED THRU THE HEAVENS--  
EACH AMONG THEM KNEW--"

THOUGH EACH OF US  
MUST SURELY DIE--

LET IT  
BE IN A  
BLAZE OF  
GLORY--  
IN THE  
SUN--

-- BEFORE  
THE  
PLAGUE  
CAN  
REACH  
US!

"THEY WISHED--THEY PRAYED--AND THEN  
THEY FOUND FULFILLMENT--AS THE FIRST  
RADIOACTIVE BURST INUNDATED THE STAR-  
CROSSED SHIP--!"



"THEY FELL--THEY PERISHED--ALL--SAVE  
ONE!"

THE OTHERS  
HAVE MET THEIR FATE--  
BUT I FEEL NEW LIFE--  
A STRANGE NEW FORCE--  
THROBBING, BURSTING  
WITHIN ME!

"AND ALL THE WHILE THE STAR-SHIP SPED  
LIKE A METEOR--NO HAND TO GUIDE IT--  
AS IT CAREENED THRU SPACE--!"



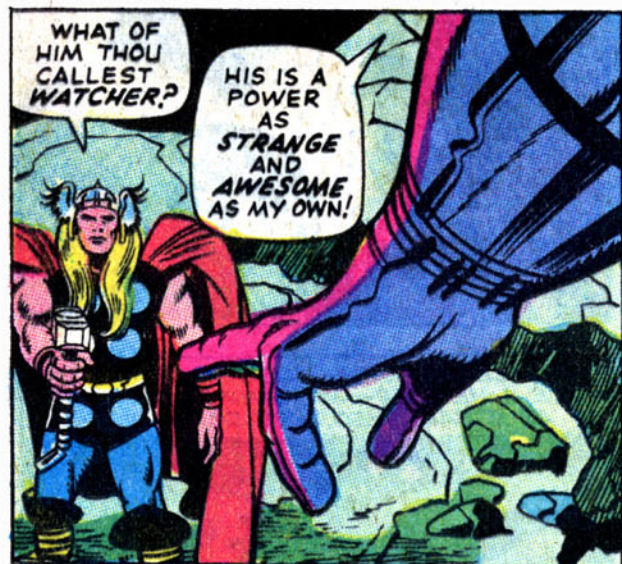


IT WAS THEN THAT THE WATCHER SPIED THE SHIP--AND OBSERVED IT AS IT CRASHED!



AND METHINKS 'T WAS THERE THAT GALACTUS CAME A' BORNING!

PATIENCE, THUNDER GOD! MY TALE IS NOT YET DONE!

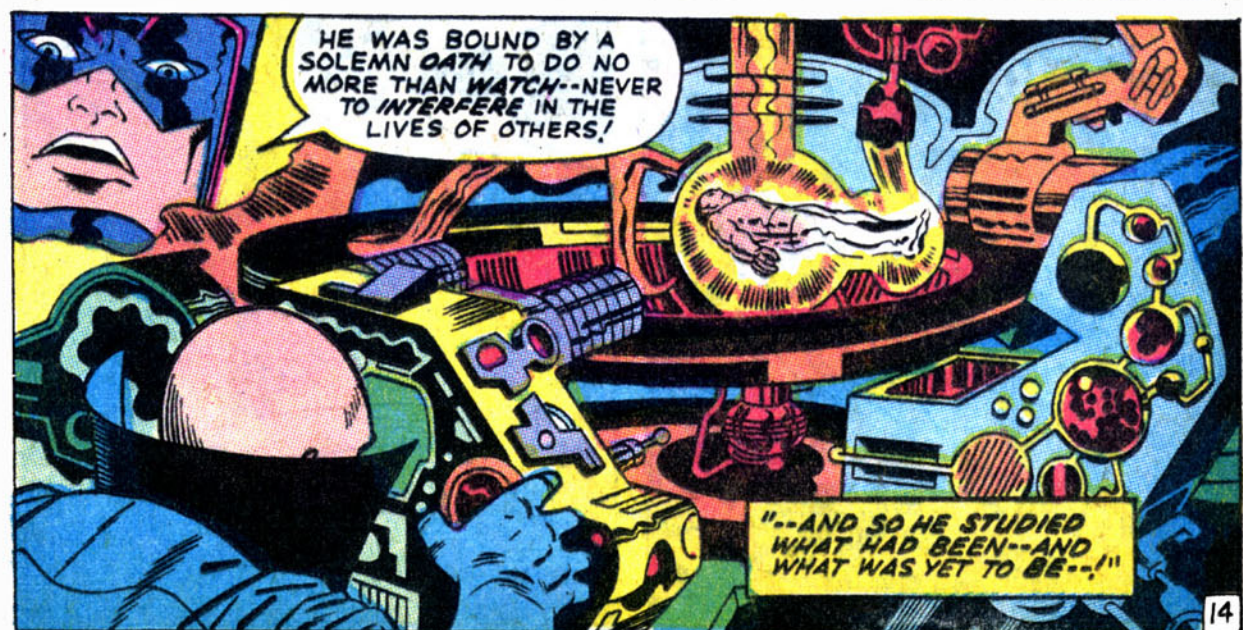


WHAT OF HIM THOU CALLEST WATCHER?

HIS IS A POWER AS STRANGE AND AWESOME AS MY OWN!



HE CAME--AND SAW--AND THIS WAS THE WAY OF IT--



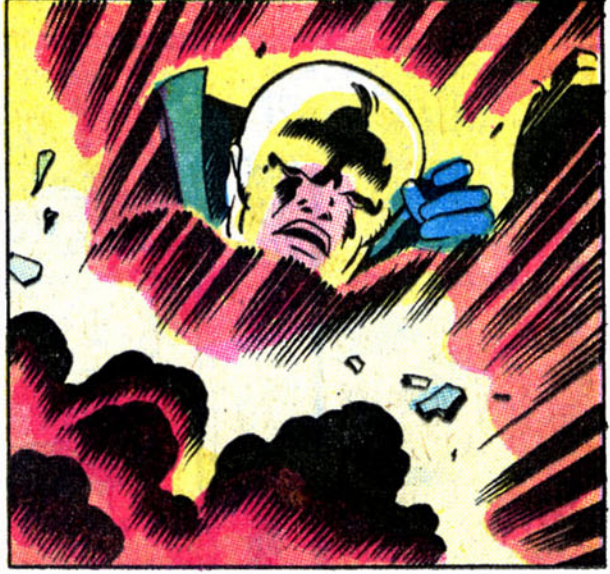
HE WAS BOUND BY A SOLEMN OATH TO DO NO MORE THAN WATCH--NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!

"--AND SO HE STUDIED WHAT HAD BEEN--AND WHAT WAS YET TO BE--!"

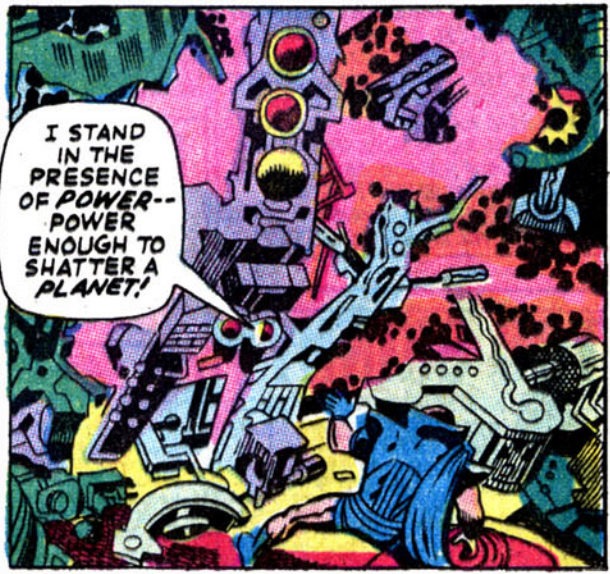
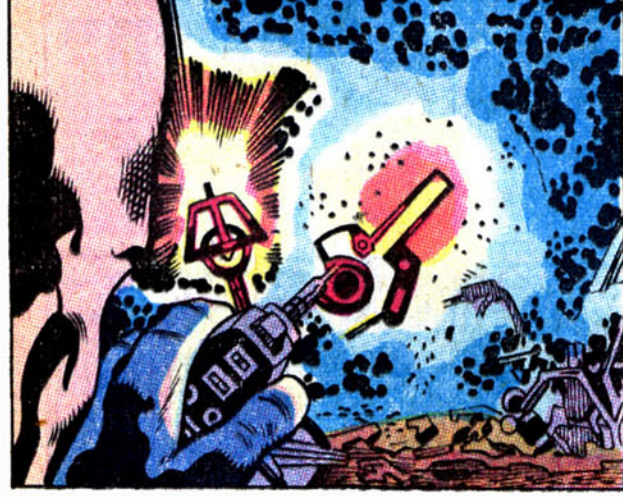
"HE BEHELD AN ARM--GLOWING WITH ENERGY--CRACKLING WITH RAW, LIVING COSMIC POWER--"



"HE SAW THE POWER SURGE--AND GROW--UNTIL IT COULD NOT BE RESTRAINED--!"

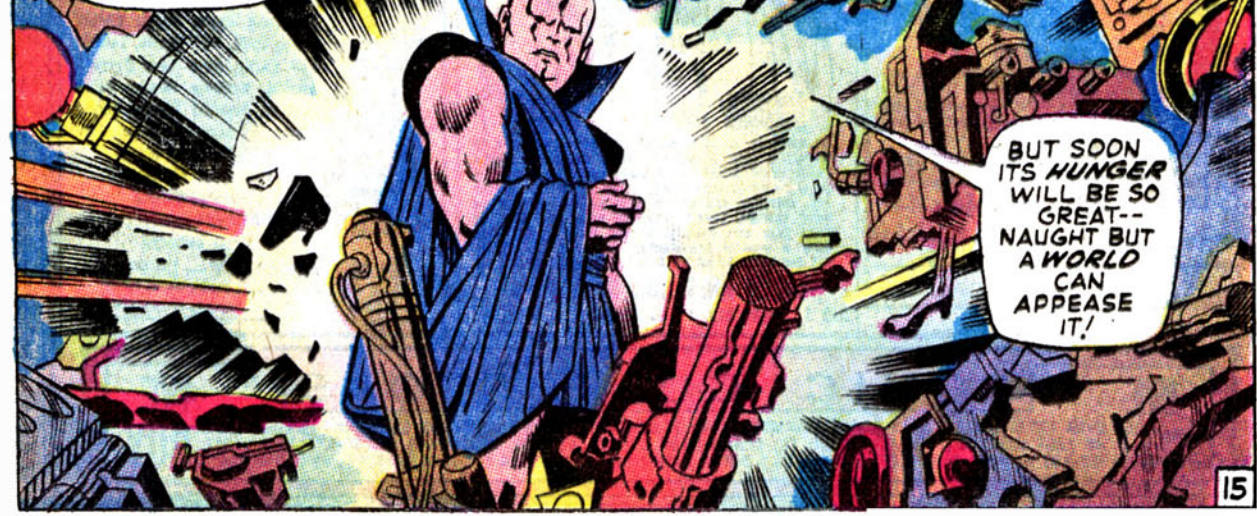


"--UNTIL IT WAS CONSUMED BY A MONSTROUS FIREBALL--OF ITS OWN MAKING!"



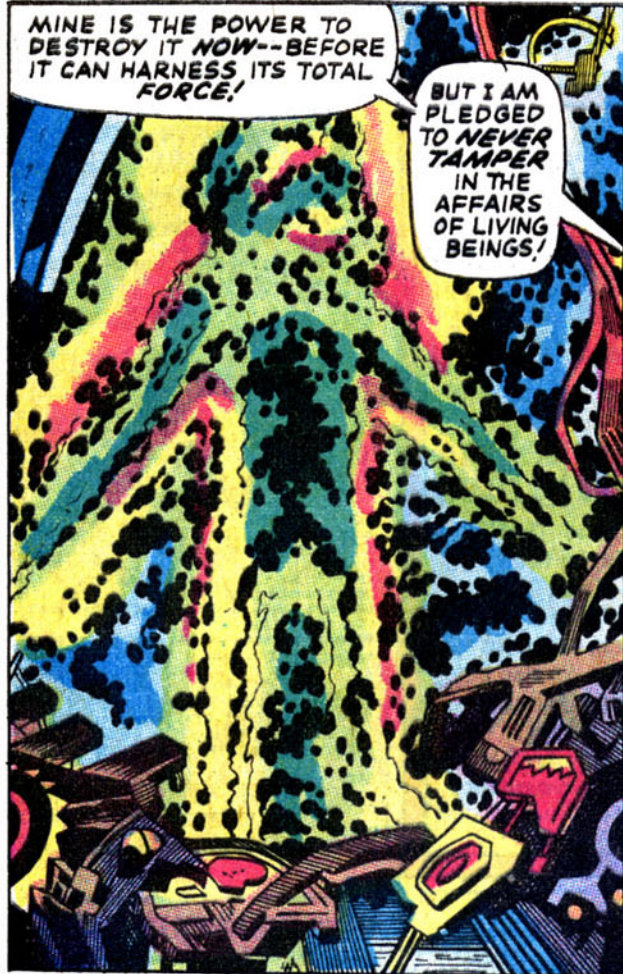
I STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF POWER--POWER ENOUGH TO SHATTER A PLANET!

POWER WHICH FEEDS UPON ITSELF--EVEN AS I WATCH!



BUT SOON ITS HUNGER WILL BE SO GREAT--NAUGHT BUT A WORLD CAN APPEASE IT!





MINE IS THE POWER TO DESTROY IT NOW--BEFORE IT CAN HARNESS ITS TOTAL FORCE!

BUT I AM PLEDGED TO NEVER TAMPER IN THE AFFAIRS OF LIVING BEINGS!



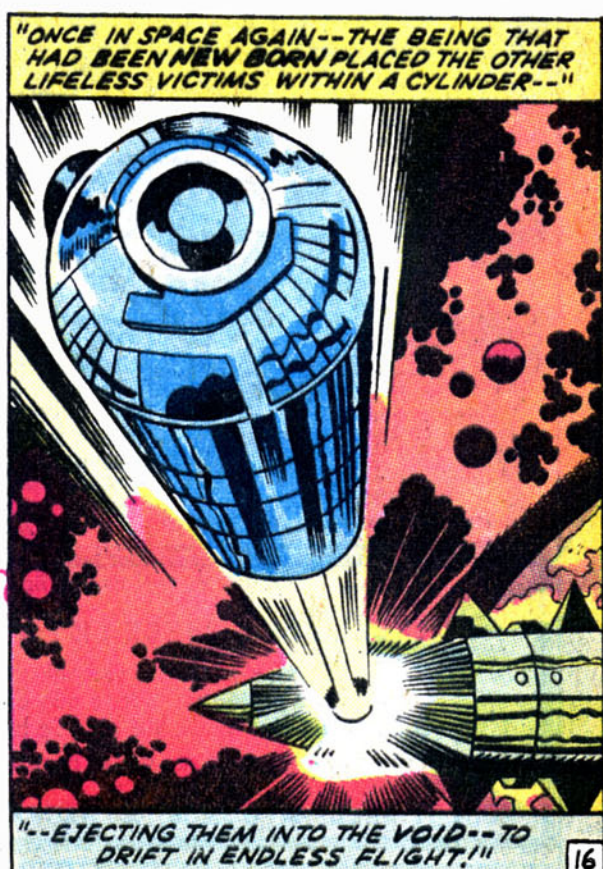
HE SEES ME! HE SENSES THE DANGER! IF I AM TO STRIKE-- IT MUST BE NOW!

BUT I CANNOT! I DARE NOT! I MUST NOT!

IF FATE SO DECREES-- THEN HE MUST LIVE-- THOUGH GALAXIES DIE!



HE DEPARTS! AND FOR AGES YET UNCOUNTED-- I MAY LIVE TO REGRET MY DECISION!



"ONCE IN SPACE AGAIN--THE BEING THAT HAD BEEN NEW BORN PLACED THE OTHER LIFELESS VICTIMS WITHIN A CYLINDER--"

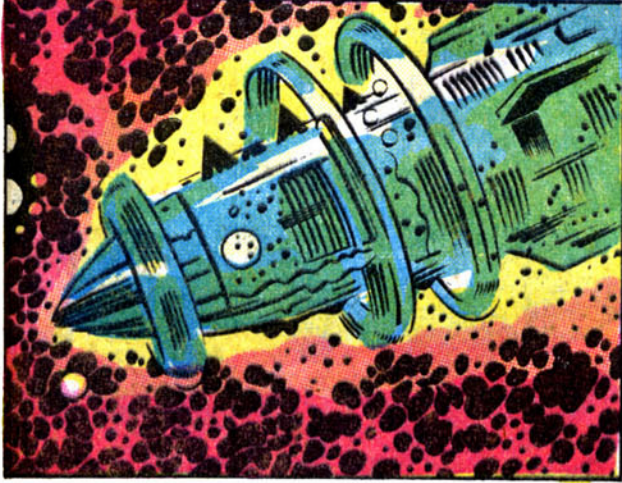
"--EJECTING THEM INTO THE VOID--TO DRIFT IN ENDLESS FLIGHT!"

"WHILE ALONE WITHIN HIS SHIP, THE MIGHTY SURVIVOR LABORED LONG--"

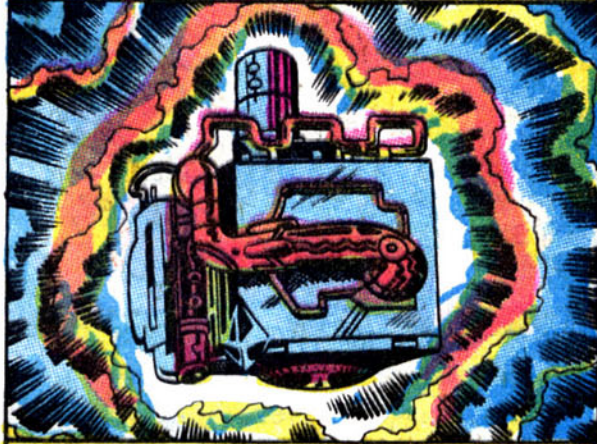


"--LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS POWER, HE CREATED SUITABLE AND UNIQUE ATTIRE WHICH COULD REGULATE HIS ENERGY!"

"NEXT, HE TRANSFORMED HIS SHIP ITSELF-- INTO A CHAMBER IN WHICH HE COULD REST-- AND PLAN-- WHILE HE MATURED!"



"WITHIN HIS SILENT, ORBITING INCUBATOR, HE DROTFD FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES--"



"--UNTIL THE MOMENT CAME-- WHEN HE WOULD EMERGE--"

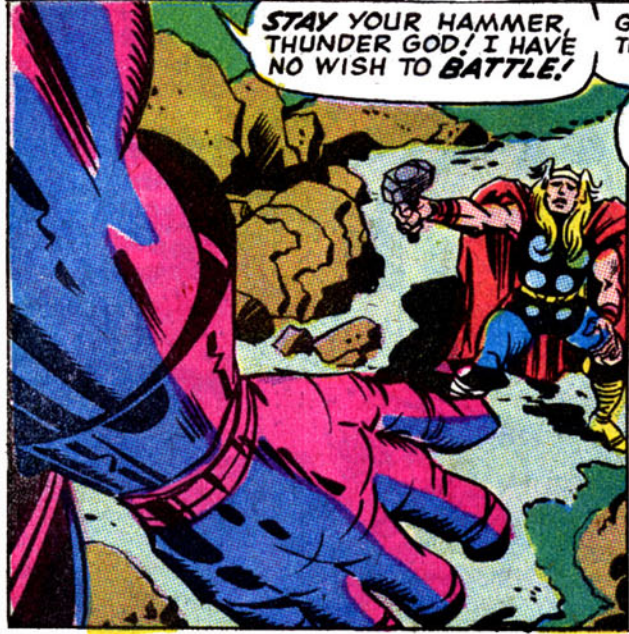


--TO FACE THE WORLD AS-- GALACTUS!

BUT WHAT OF THE FUTURE?



SO LONG AS THOU DOTHT LIVE, THEN NONE CAN E'ER BE SAFE!



STAY YOUR HAMMER, THUNDER GOD! I HAVE NO WISH TO **BATTLE!**

GALACTUS IS **WEARY--** AND THE LONELINESS OF **AGES** RESTS HEAVY UPON ME!

THE HEART OF **THOR** IS TOUCHED!

THOU HATH MEANT **NO HARM** TO LIVING BEING!

BUT STILL HAVE PLANETS **FALLEN** BY THY HAND!

NOW-- WHAT IS THOR TO **DO?**



ALL-FATHER **ODIN!**

THOU HATH **DONE** THY TASK-- AND DONE IT **WELL!**



THY MISSION IS **DONE--** THY **PENANCE** SERVED!

THANKS TO **THEE**, MY PRINCE-- I HAVE **LEARNED** WHAT I MUST KNOW!

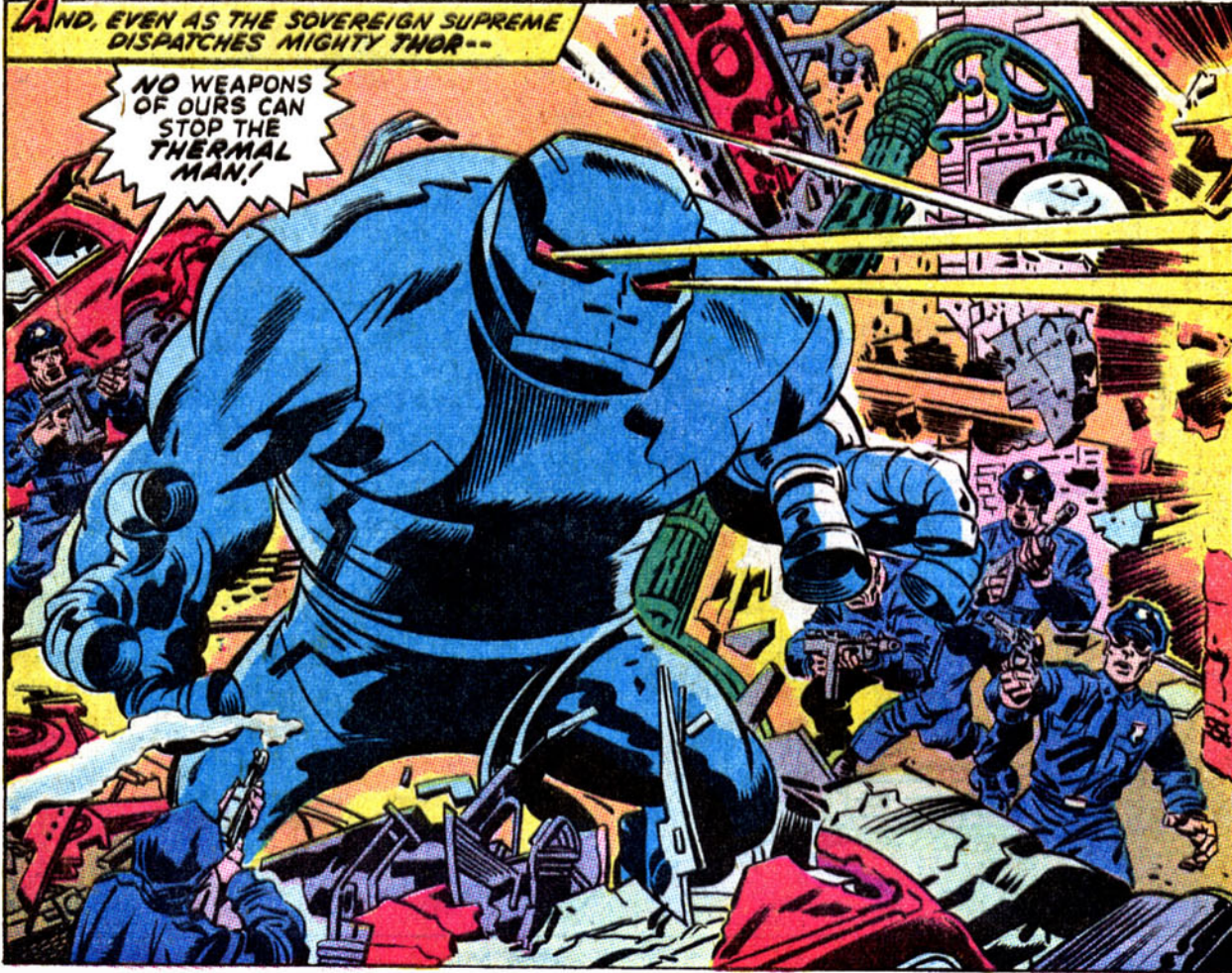
GALACTUS' **TIME** IS NOT YET **COME!**



-- BUT THERE BE NEED OF **THEE** ON **PLANET EARTH!**

**A**ND, EVEN AS THE SOVEREIGN SUPREME  
DISPATCHES MIGHTY THOR--

NO WEAPONS  
OF OURS CAN  
STOP THE  
THERMAL  
MAN!



IN THE  
ABSENCE  
OF THOR--  
WHO  
STRIKES  
FOR  
MANKIND?

I SAY THEE  
BALDER--  
AND HOGUN--  
AND  
FANDRAL!

FORGET NOT  
VALIANT  
VOLSTAGG!

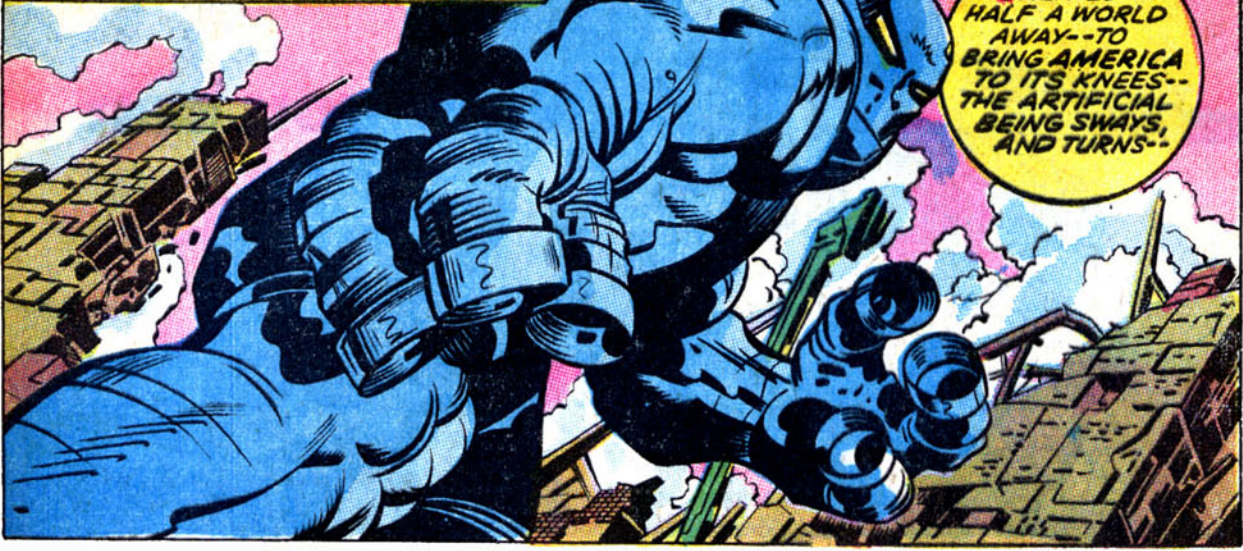


**B**UT, NOT EVEN THE WARRIORS FROM  
THE FABLED REALM CAN WITHSTAND  
THE MONSTER'S THERMAL BLAST--!

ONWARD,  
ASGARDIANS!

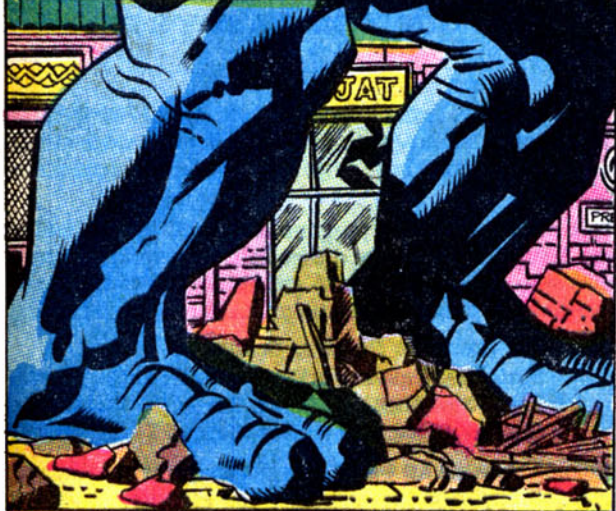


**T**RIUMPHANT, THE CREATURE STANDS--  
SURVEYING ALL ABOUT HIM WITH  
EMOTIONLESS, UNFEELING EYES--



**C**REATED  
HALF A WORLD  
AWAY--TO  
BRING AMERICA  
TO ITS KNEES--  
THE ARTIFICIAL  
BEING SWAYS,  
AND TURNS--

**--THEN LUMBERS ON--**



**AND NONE THERE ARE TO STOP IT!**

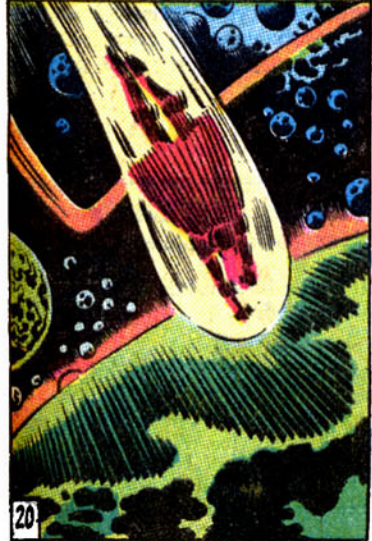


IT'S NOT ALIVE!  
IT'S SOME SORT  
OF MECHANICAL  
CREATION!

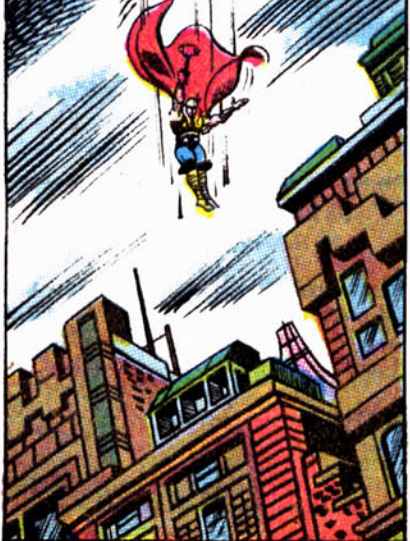
IT CAN STILL  
DESTROY US  
ALL!

WHAT  
DIFFERENCE  
DOES IT  
MAKE?

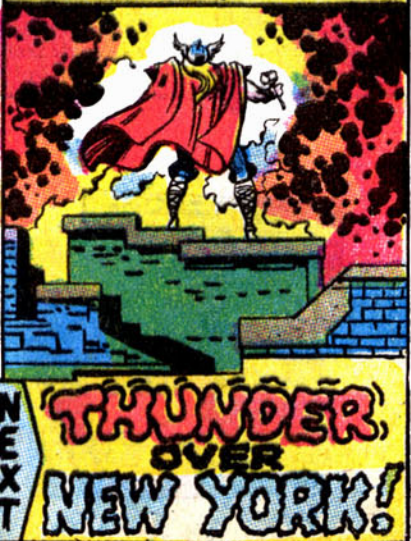
**B**UT THEN, ANOTHER  
PLAYER TAKES THE  
STAGE--



**--AS THE CURTAIN RAISES  
ON GRIM DRAMA ANEW--**



**F**OR, THE GOD OF THUNDER  
STRIDES THE EARTH ONCE  
MORE!



**THUNDER  
OVER  
NEW YORK!**