

THOR

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THE
MIGHTY

THOR

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THEY WALK LIKE GODS!

THE MIGHTY THOR!

THEY WALK LIKE GODS!

MY LORD,
THOU MUST
RISE--THOU
MUST!

AS WE SPEAK,
EGO-PRIME DOTH
INCREASE
HIS POWER AND
AWESOME
STRENGTH--

--TILL NOT E'EN
THE HAND OF NOBLE
THOR MAY STRIVE
TO VICTORY
AGAINST HIM!

WOMAN,
I HEAR THY
WORDS--YET I
CAN DO NAUGHT
TO SERVE
THEM!

CONSCIOUSNESS
BEGINS TO LEAVE
ME--BUT TRY AS I
MIGHT, I CANNOT
BRING MY HAMMER
TO MY HAND!

MILADY SIF,
GET THEE BACK--
FOR WITHIN THE
MINUTE--

--THOR
WILL BE NO
MORE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:	GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTEUR JOHN BUSCEMA, ARTIST	VINCE COLLETTA INKER JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER	ROY THOMAS EDITOR
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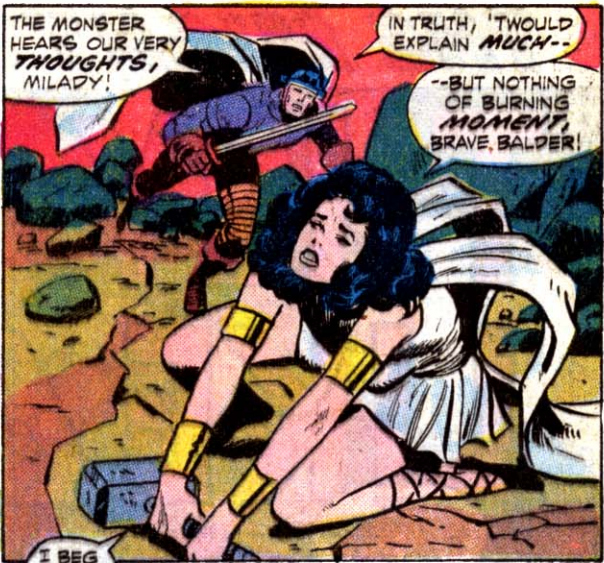


AYE, ASGARDIAN: FOR I SAW IT IN YOUR THOUGHTS--

-- THAT THE WAY TO DEFEAT YOU, WAS TO BRING DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR TRICE-DAMNED WEAPON!

AND SO I DID, BY BURYING YOU ALIVE--

--FOR IN TRUTH, I AM EGO-- EGO-PRIME!



THE MONSTER HEARS OUR VERY THOUGHTS, MILADY!

IN TRUTH, 'TWOULD EXPLAIN MUCH--

--BUT NOTHING OF BURNING MOMENT, BRAVE, BALDER!

I BEG THEE, AID ME--

HELP ME RAISE THOR'S MALLET-- AND THUS SAVE HIM--

--ERE THE CHANGE BEGINS, MILADY? I FEAR 'TIS FUTILE.

ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER MAY LIFT THE MYSTIC Mjolnir.

OUR EFFORTS-- MUST BE IN VAIN.



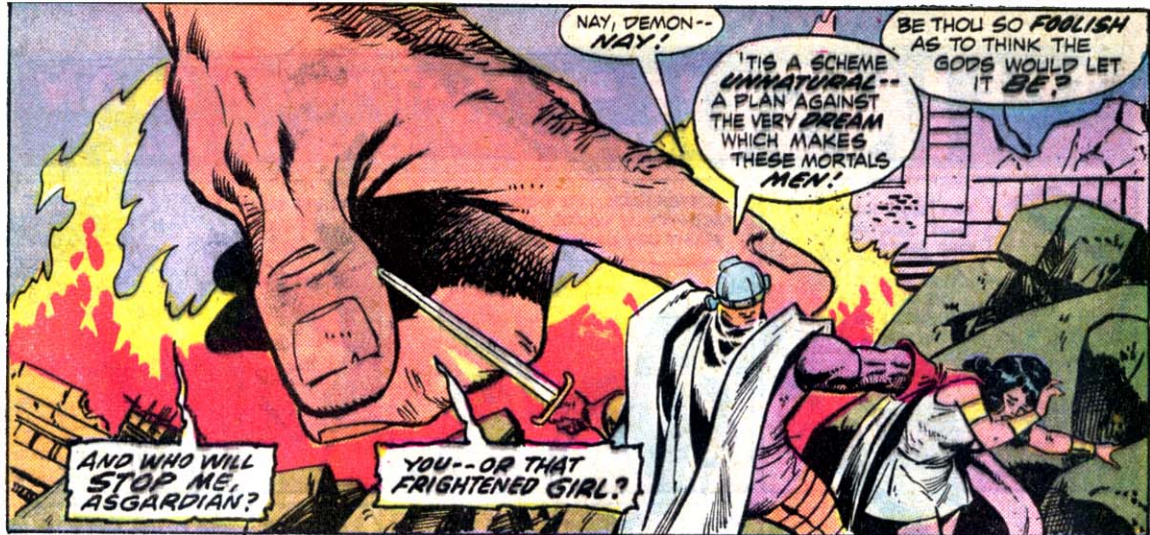
VAIN! VAIN AS YOUR HOPELESS ATTACHMENT TO INDIVIDUAL LIFE!

SOON, THERE'LL BE AN END TO MAN-KIND'S WASTING OF ITS WORLD--



... SOON, ALL FLESH WILL BECOME ONE... EARTH AND ITS SPAWN WILL JOIN, TO BECOME A SINGLE SENTIENT ENTITY...

... A BIOVERSE, LIKE THE PLANET WHICH CREATED ME... A WORLD WITH ONE MIND... THE MIND OF EGO-PRIME!



NAY, DEMON--
NAY!

BE THOU SO FOOLISH
AS TO THINK THE
GODS WOULD LET
IT BE?

IT'S A SCHEME
UNNATURAL--
A PLAN AGAINST
THE VERY **DREAM**
WHICH MAKES
THESE MORTALS
MEN!

AND WHO WILL
STOP ME,
ASGARDIAN?

YOU--OR THAT
FRIGHTENED GIRL?



MAYHAP YOUR
FRIENDS WILL--
THE ONE CALLED
FANDRAL--THE
OTHER, HOODUN--



--OR EVEN THE
GODDESS
HILDEGARDE?

SHALL THEY
STAY MY
HAND?



--OR WILL YOUR
PRECIOUS EARTH-
MEN FIGHT ME?

WILL THOSE I'VE TURNED
INTO MONSTERS... BETRAY
I'VE SPAWNED... BETRAY
THEIR CREATOR?



NO, ASGARDIAN...
I THINK NOT.

EARTH WILL DIE,
THIS DAY... FOR,
EVEN NOW, ITS
TOWERS CRUMBLE...

...AND ITS GLORIOUS
CITY... BURNS!

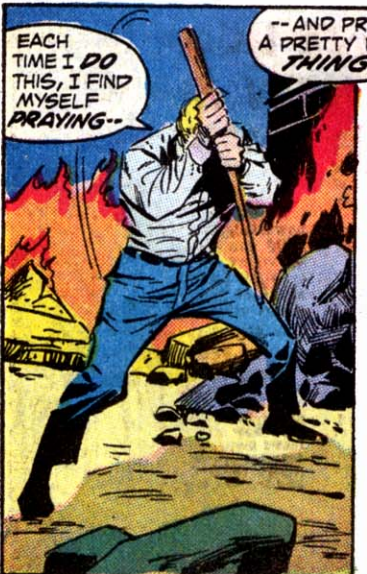


ONLY THE GOD CALLED
THOR THREATENED ME...

... AND HE, AS YOU SEE,
IS A THREAT NO MORE!

NOT SO,
DEMON! THINE
ARROGANCE IS
THY GREATEST
ENEMY--

--FOR WHILE
THOU HAST
SPOKEN, THE
SECONDS HAVE
FLED--





-- THE FIGHT GOES ON!

FOR ODIN! FOR ASGARD!

FOR EARTH!

A PAUSE... TIME FOR A SHIFTING OF SCENES, A RELOCATION OF CONCERNS...



BACK TO A DAY NINETY-SIX HOURS AGO... AND A SPEEDING SEDAN THAT CHURNS THE LITTER OF A TWILIT BROOKLYN STREET...

...A CAR WITH SOME MOST UNUSUAL OCCUPANTS...



HEY, LOOK--MAYBE YOU SAVED MY LIFE BACK IN THAT TENEMENT--

--AND MAYBE YOU DIDN'T--

MORTAL, MASTER HEMIDAL SHALL SPEAK WHEN HE DOTH PLEASE--

--BUT DON'T YOU FIGURE YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION, OR SOMETHING?

LIKE TELLING ME WHERE WE'RE HEADED, FOR STARTS?



--AND NOT, I FEAR, ONE INSTANT BEFORE!

YEAH, A FAT LOT 'A GOOD THAT DOES ME, SHORTIE.

WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY? A BLASTED PLEASURE-CRUISE?



MISTER KIMBAL, I DO ASSURE THEE--

--THIS SHALL BE NO "PLEASURE-CRUISE" FOR, AS THOU NO DOUBT DOTH SEE--

--THIS IS, IN TRUTH, NO RICH MAN'S YACHT--AND OUR PURPOSE, NO MATTER OF FRIVOLITY.

MY EYES--SOMETHING KNIFING INSIDE THEM--!

OH SWEET LORD!



CALM THYSELF, MISTER KIMBAL.

'TIS TWICE NOW I'VE HAD TO ADMONISH THEE, AND I'LL NOT--EH?

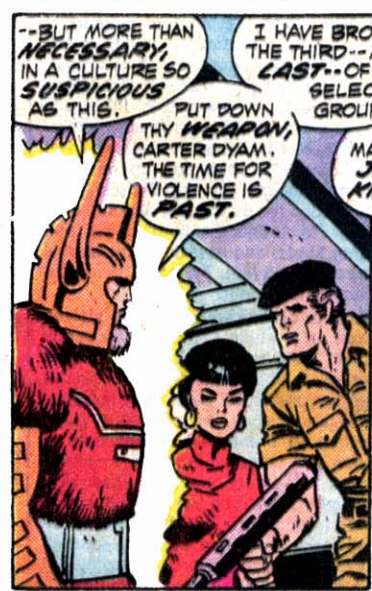
TALK, MY FRIEND--AND QUICKLY, OR THE SMALL ONE DIES.



FIRST, WHO ARE YOU-- AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH--?

--HEIMDAL! FRIEND, WE'D NOT RECOGNIZED YOU--

YEA, THESE GARMENTS ARE DISTASTEFUL--



--BUT MORE THAN NECESSARY, IN A CULTURE SO SUSPICIOUS AS THIS.

PUT DOWN THY WEAPON, CARTER DYAM. THE TIME FOR VIOLENCE IS PAST.

I HAVE BROUGHT THE THIRD--AND LAST--OF OUR SELECT GROUP--

--THE MAN CALLED JASON KIMBAL.



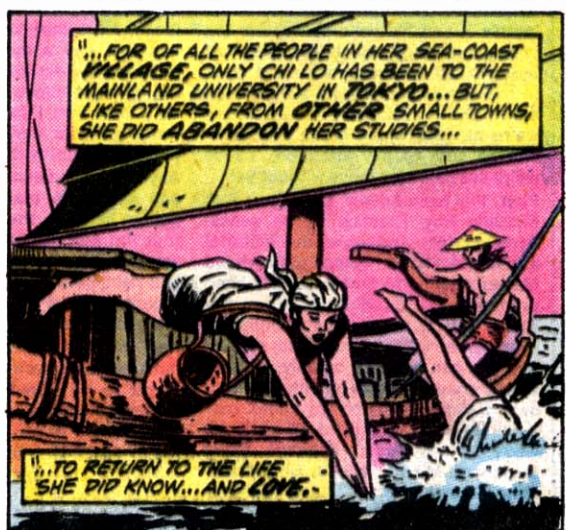
MAYBE YOU PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THIS GAME'S ALL ABOUT-- BUT ME, I'M LOST. BIG MAN SAVED ME FROM A TEAM OF GUN-HAPPY COAN-SHARKS--

--WHAT'D HE DO FOR YOU?



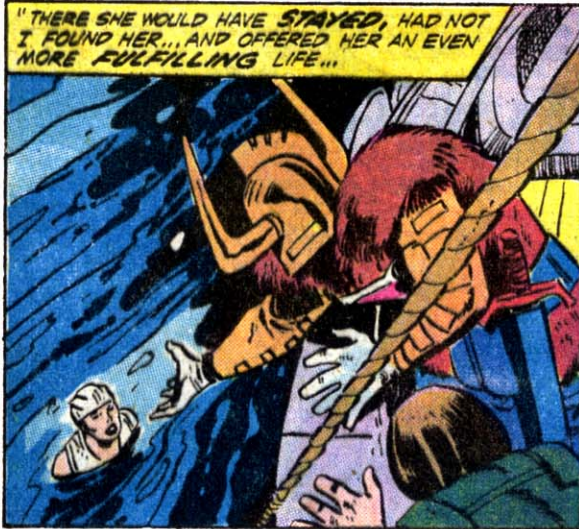
PERHAPS I MAY BETTER ANSWER FOR THIS GIRL, CHI LO.

HER FACILITY WITH ENGLISH IS, AT BEST, ONLY PARTIAL... AND AT THAT, MIRACULOUS...



"...FOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN HER SEA-COAST VILLAGE, ONLY CHI LO HAS BEEN TO THE MAINLAND UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO... BUT, LIKE OTHERS, FROM OTHER SMALL TOWNS, SHE DID ABANDON HER STUDIES...

"...TO RETURN TO THE LIFE SHE DID KNOW... AND LOVE."



"THERE SHE WOULD HAVE STAYED, HAD NOT I FOUND HER... AND OFFERED HER AN EVEN MORE FULFILLING LIFE..."



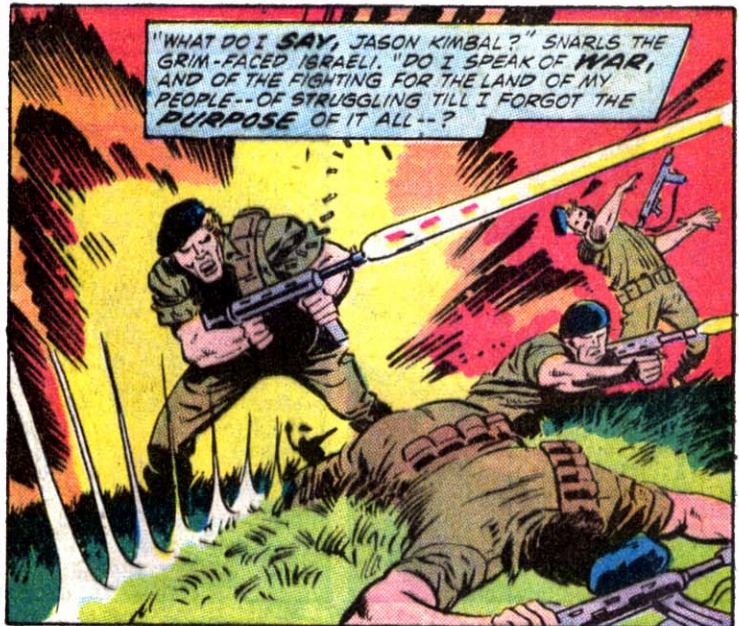
"...ONE THAT WILL COMBINE THE JOYS OF WORKING WITH THE EARTH..."

"...AS WELL AS TOILING BENEATH THE WAVES."



AS FOR CARTER DYAM, PERHAPS A MAN OF HIDDEN SENSITIVITY... WE SHOULD RELATE THE TALE OF OUR MEETING..."

"...FOR ONLY WE CAN KNOW ITS FULLEST MEANING."



"WHAT DO I SAY, JASON KIMBAL?" SNARLS THE GRIM-FACED ISRAELI. "DO I SPEAK OF WAR, AND OF THE FIGHTING FOR THE LAND OF MY PEOPLE-- OF STRUGGLING TILL I FORGOT THE PURPOSE OF IT ALL--?"



"-- OR DO I SPEAK OF WEARINESS, AND THE SICKNESS IN MY HEART--"

"-- AN ILLNESS BORN OF THE FEAR THAT THE ONLY PURPOSE-- ULTIMATELY-- WAS DEATH."



"SHOULD I SPEAK OF THIS-- OR ANOTHER THING?"

"SHOULD I MENTION THE FEAR-- OR THE HAND REACHING OUT OF THE DARKNESS? TELL ME WHICH."



"... PERHAPS THEN I'LL KNOW WHY ONE LOOK INTO HEIMDAL'S EYES CHANGED MY LIFE..."

"PERHAPS THEN I'LL UNDERSTAND BOTH HIM... AND MYSELF."



YEAH, MAN, THAT'S REALLY NEAT.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A FARMER AND A FIGHTER--

-- SO WHAT IN HECK DO YOU WANT WITH ME?



METHINKS IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, MORTAL.

--THAT ONCE, THOU DIDST CALL THYSELF-- AN ARTIST.

HAST THOU COME SO FAR THOU DOST NOT REMEMBER THY PURPOSE--THY VERY MEANING?

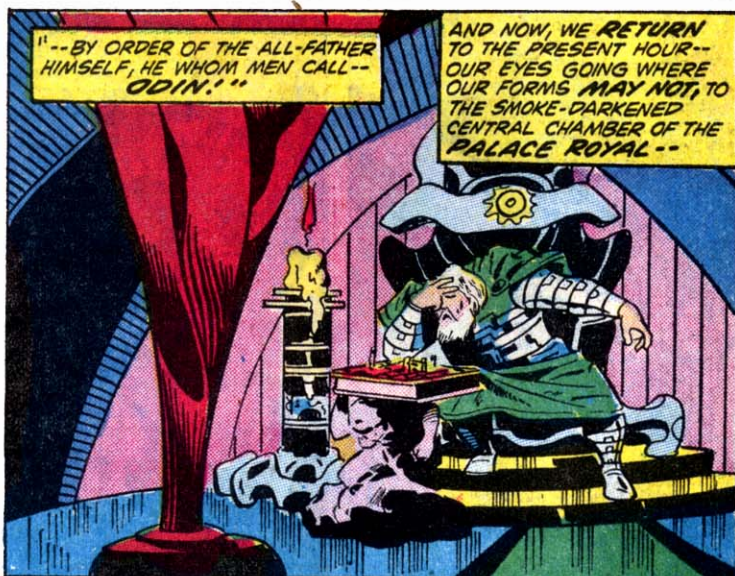
YEAH, BUT--

--THAT WAS SO--SO LONG AGO--!



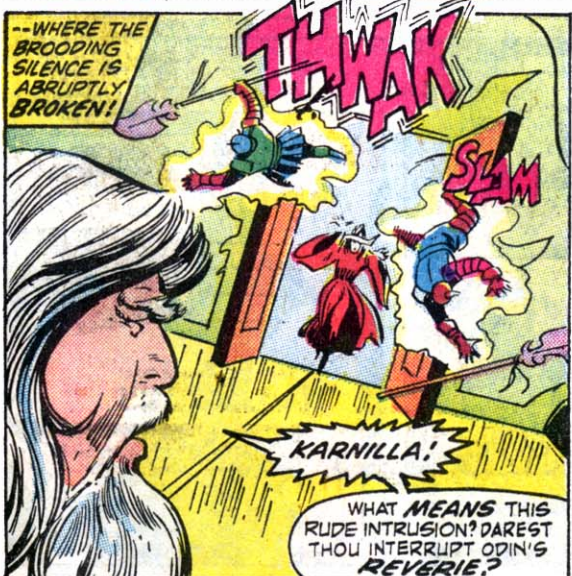
JASON KIMBAL, I SAY THESE NAY.

THY TALENT DOTH REMAIN WITH THEE--AND FOR THAT REASON, THOU WERT SOUGHT--



"--BY ORDER OF THE ALL-FATHER HIMSELF, HE WHOM MEN CALL-- ODIN!"

AND NOW, WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT HOUR-- OUR EYES GOING WHERE OUR FORMS MAY NOT, TO THE SMOKE-DARKENED CENTRAL CHAMBER OF THE PALACE ROYAL--



--WHERE THE BROODING SILENCE IS ABRUPTLY BROKEN!

THWAK

SLAM

KARNILLA!

WHAT MEANS THIS RUDE INTRUSION? DAREST THOU INTERRUPT ODIN'S REVERIE?



AYE, THAT I'LL DARE--AND MORE--

-- AND DARE THICE OVER TILL THOU TELL ME WHAT THOU HAST DONE WITH BALDER!

CRACK



MILORD, I BEG THY FORGIVENESS.

I FEAR I DID SPEAK TOO OPENLY--FOR 'T WAS I WHO TOLD THE NORM QUEEN OF WHAT DOTH TRANSPIRE ON THE PLANET EARTH!

I PLEAD WITH THEE, MY LIEGE, DON'T-- BUT WAIT!



MY MIND FAIR SPINS!

LORD ODIN-- TELL ME 'T IS NOT TRUE--

NOT THIS! NOT 'THE GAME'!



WHAT ANSWER MAY I GIVE THEE, VIZIER? THY WORDS BE MEANINGLESS--

THOU HAST SEEN... WHAT THOU HAST SEEN. ART BOTH OF THESE MAD?

THY WORDS BE MEANINGLESS--



--AND TELL ME NAUGHT OF MY FAIR BELOVED BALDER!

I PRITHEE, ALL-FATHER-- IF ANGER WILL NOT TOUCH THEE--

--LET MY TEARS REACH THY HARDENED SOUL!

PLEASE, TELL ME: WHAT IS THY PLAN?

WHAT DOST THOU WANT-- OF THE MAN I TRULY LOVE?



KARNILLA, THY TEARS DO TOUCH ME!

FOR THIS--AND OTHER REASONS, BEYOND THY KEN-- I'LL SHOW THEE WHAT THOU DOST NEED TO KNOW!

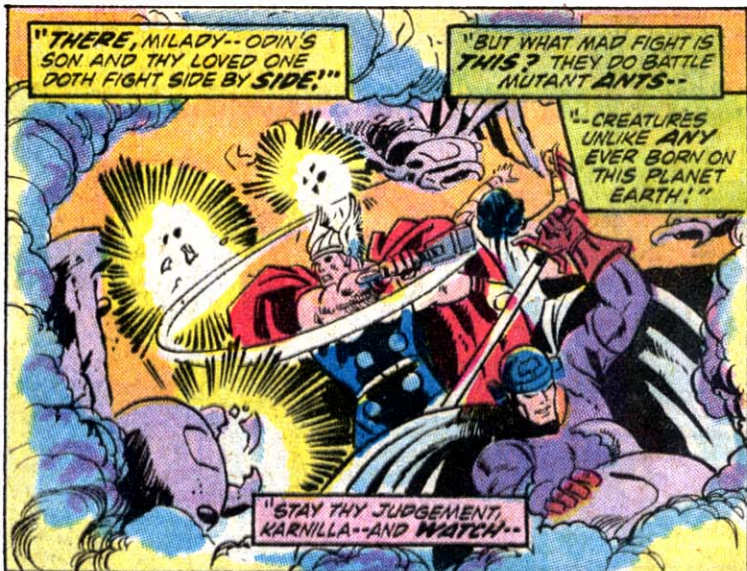
BUT, WOMAN, I WARN THEE--



--'T WILL NOT BE A VISION TO THY LIKING--

--THIS I PROMISE THEE.

THE SMOKE DOTH CLEAR-- I SEE MOVING FIGURES--

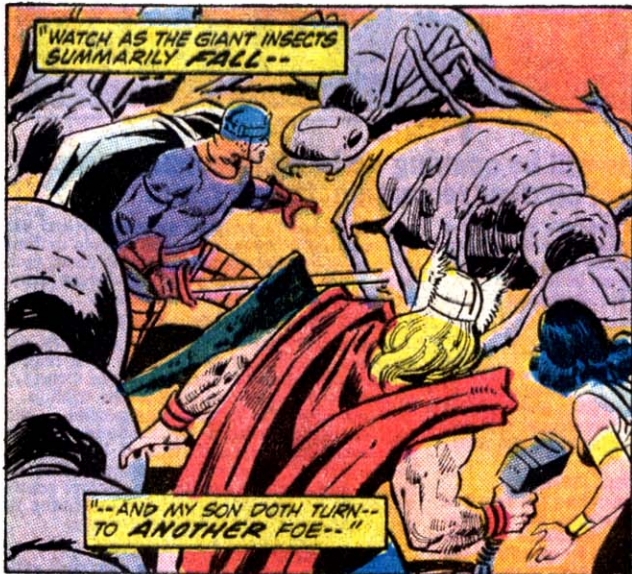


"THERE, MILADY-- ODIN'S SON AND THY LOVED ONE DOTH FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE!"

"BUT WHAT MAD FIGHT IS THIS? THEY DO BATTLE MUTANT ANTS--

"--CREATURES UNLIKE ANY EVER BORN ON THIS PLANET EARTH!"

"STAY THY JUDGEMENT, KARNILLA--AND WATCH--



"WATCH AS THE GIANT INSECTS SUMMARILY FALL--

"--AND MY SON DOTH TURN-- TO ANOTHER FOE--"



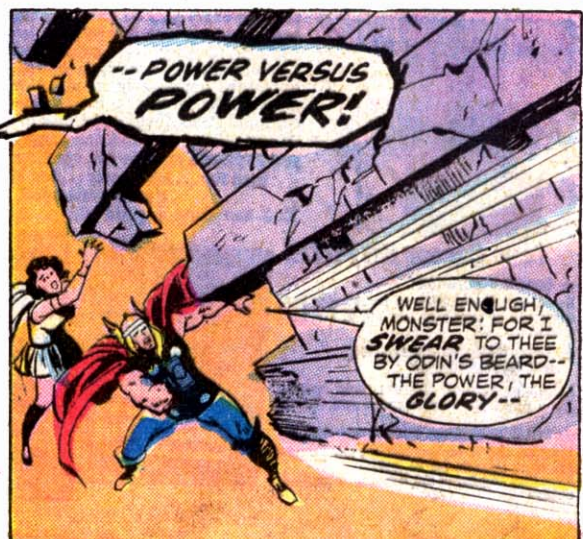
EGO-PRIME!

THY MUTANT SLAVES HAVE BEEN ROUTED, DEMON--

--WILT THOU AT LAST FIGHT-- THOR?

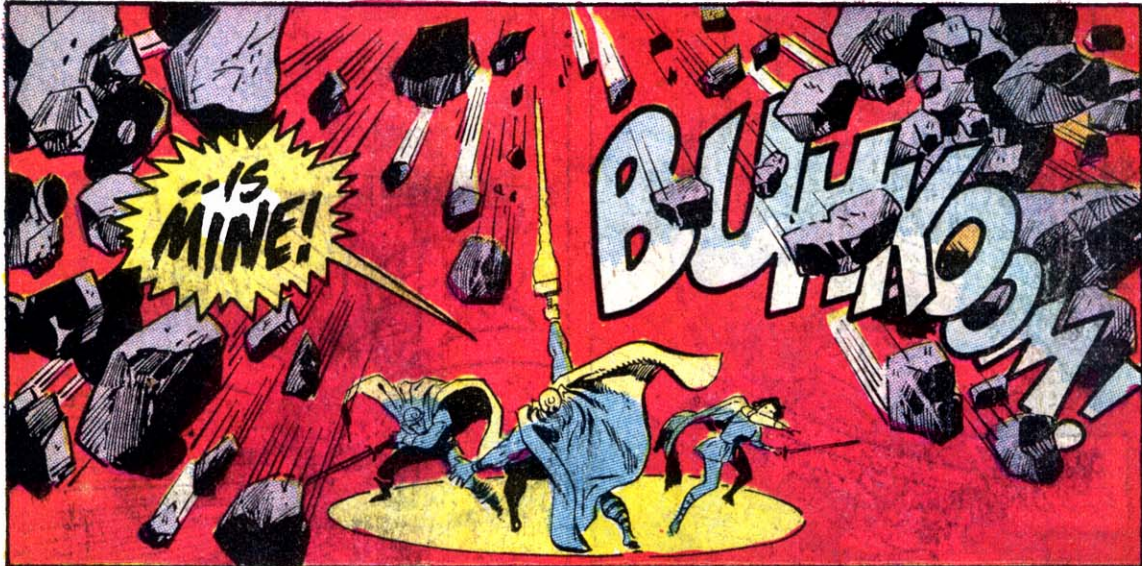


AYE, THUNDER GOD, I'LL FIGHT YOU-- STRENGTH VERSUS STRENGTH--



-- POWER VERSUS POWER!

WELL ENOUGH, MONSTER: FOR I SWEAR TO THEE BY ODIN'S BEARD-- THE POWER, THE GLORY--



THOR, HE FALTERS NOT! STILL, HE RAGES--

--STILL, HE SURVIVES!

MILADY, THOU DOST FORGET THYSELF--



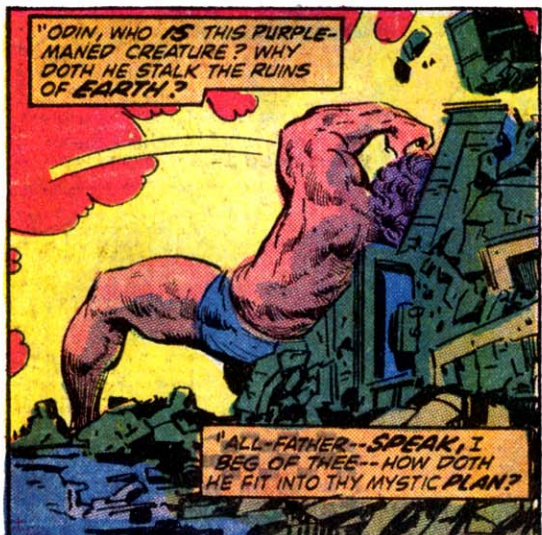
-- ARE WE NOT ASGARD'S FINEST WARRIORS-- THE GREATEST OF THE LIVING GREAT?

SHALL WE BUCKLE LIKE KNEE-WEAK CHILDREN? OR SHALL WE GO ON--

--ON TO OUR FINAL HOUR--



--ON TO OUR NOBLE DEATHS!



"ODIN, WHO IS THIS PURPLE-MANED CREATURE? WHY DOTH HE STALK THE RUINS OF EARTH?"

"ALL-FATHER--SPEAK, I BEG OF THEE--HOW DOTH HE FIT INTO THY MYSTIC PLAN?"

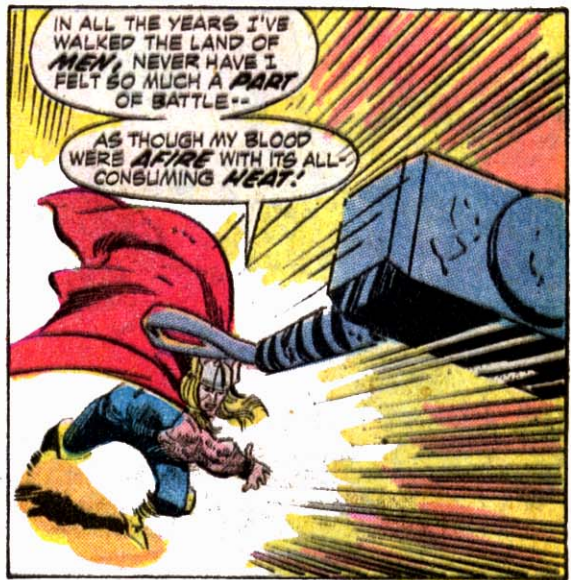


"--IF PLAN THERE BE!"

"NORN-QUEEN, I DO ASSURE THEE--THERE IS A PLAN--AND THE MONSTER CALLED EGO-PRIME IS, IN TRUTH, ITS VERY PIVOT--"



"--AND MORE THAN THIS, I DARE NOT SAY!"



IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE WALKED THE LAND OF MEN, NEVER HAVE I FELT SO MUCH A PART OF BATTLE--

AS THOUGH MY BLOOD WERE AFIRE WITH ITS ALL-CONSUMING HEAT!



KRRAK!

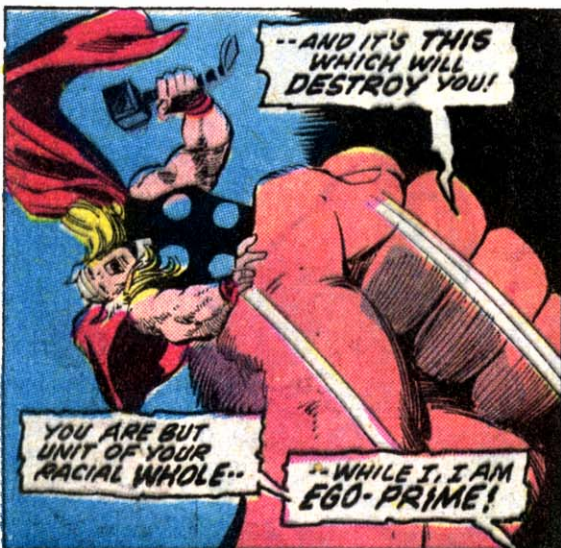


AND YET, I DO WELCOME THIS STRANGE SENSATION--

--FOR I DO UNDERSTAND IT, AND KNOW ITS CAUSE! I FIGHT NOT FOR MY OWN SURVIVAL--

--BUT FOR THE LIFE OF A LIVING RACE!

'TIS THIS WHICH DOTH FIRE ME--



--AND IT'S THIS WHICH WILL DESTROY YOU!

YOU ARE BUT UNIT OF YOUR RACIAL WHOLE--

--WHILE I, I AM EGO-PRIME!

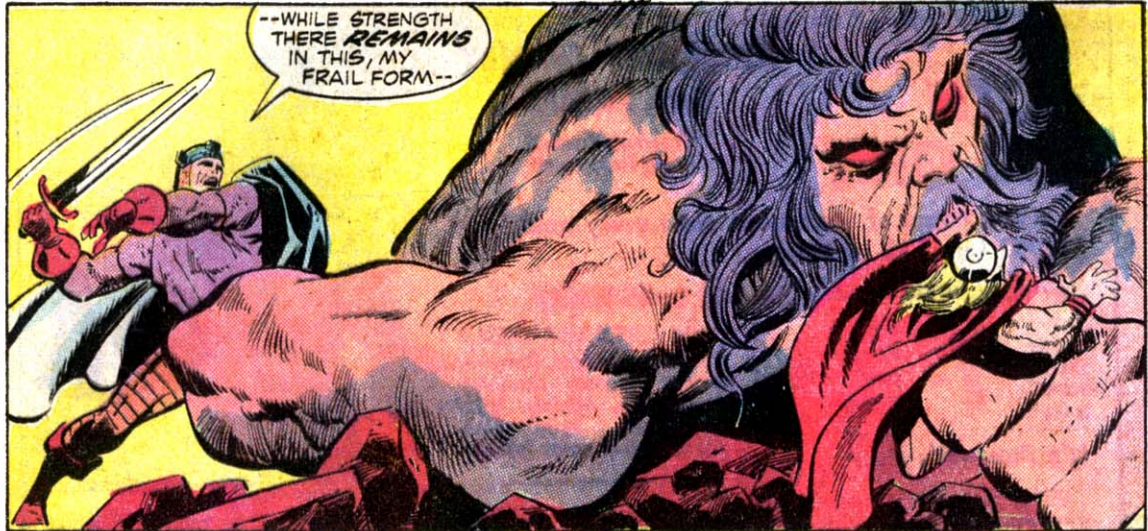


BALDER, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

THE CREATURE DOTH IGNORE OUR MIGHTIEST BLOWS--

THEN MUST WE FIND MIGHTIER ONES, MILADY!

FOR, THIS DO I SWEAR--



--WHILE STRENGTH THERE REMAINS IN THIS, MY FRAIL FORM--



-- THOR SHALL NOT DIE!

THERE IS A TENSION IN THINGS ALIVE--



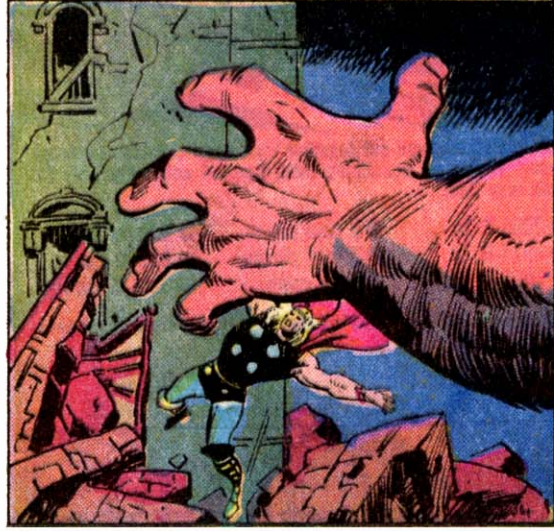
--A BOND 'TWEEN ELEMENTS ANIMATE AND INANIMATE--

KATOOM!

-- AND WHEN THAT BOND IS BROKEN-- MAYHAP, BY STROKE OF SWORD--

THERE IS TENSION RELEASED!

SILENCE: A SILENCE SO DEEP, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE VERY WORLD HAS DIED...



... AND YET, THIS SILENCE IS ONLY A FORESHADOWING OF THAT AWESOME MOMENT YET TO COME...

...A MOMENT WHICH RAPIDLY APPROACHES, AS EACH INSTANT MUST E'ER FOLLOW THE ONE BEFORE...



MY LORD, THOU ART FREE... AND YET...

THE CREATURE STILL DOETH LIVE... AND RISES ONCE MORE!

YEA, 'TIS AS I FEARED. NAUGHT MAY HOLD 'GAINST THAT GREY FORM!

MILADY, GET THEE BACK--

NAY! I'LL STAY WITH THEE, M'LOVE--



"--FOR, I THINK, THE FINAL SECONDS ARE NEAR 'PON US-- AND I'LL HAVE THINE ARMS IN MINE WHEN THAT FATAL INSTANT COMES!"

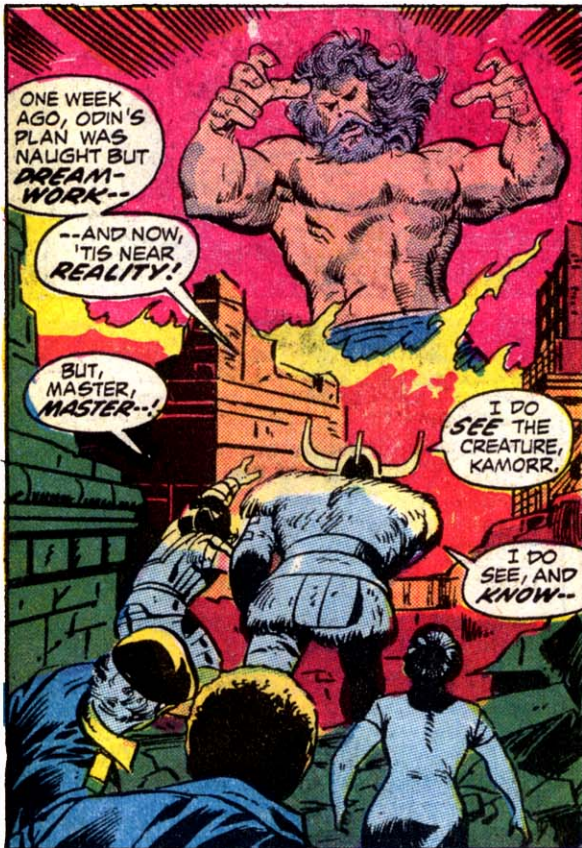
SUDDENLY, THE GODDESS SIF'S WORDS DIE AWAY-- HER FORM BECOMES MOTIONLESS, AND HER EYES RIVETED TO THE VISION BEFORE HER--

--RIVETED, AS ARE THE EYES OF CERTAIN NEW ARRIVALS--!

LORD HEIMDAL, WHAT DOETH ALL THIS WRECKAGE MEAN?

BUT ONE WEEK AGO--

-- BUT ONE WEEK AGO, WE STOOD ABOARD A SHIP, FRIEND KAMORR--!



ONE WEEK AGO, ODIN'S PLAN WAS NAUGHT BUT DREAM-WORK--

--AND NOW, 'TIS NEAR REALITY!

BUT, MASTER, MASTER--!

I DO SEE THE CREATURE, KAMORR.

I DO SEE, AND KNOW--



"THE MOMENT OF TRUTH-- IS NOW!"

A CROSS-SECTION, IF YOU WILL, OF THIS COSMOS-CHANGING MOMENT; FIRST, TO SILAS GRANT AND TANA NILE-- AND A TENEMENT SCANT BLOCKS AWAY--

BACK, YE DEMON-SPAWN OF HADES!

AN HOUR AGO YE MAY HAVE BEEN MEN--

--BUT NOW, YE'RE LUSTIN' SCAVENGERS-- AN' TO THE PIT WITH YE ALL!



THERE, WOMAN... WE'LL BE SAFE... FOR A TIME.

YE'D BETTER BE QUICK ABOUT FIXIN' THAT BLASTED PISTOL OF YOURS...

...I'VE A FEELIN' WE'LL BE NEEDIN' IT!

TELL ME, SILAS GRANT: WHY HAVE YOU AIDED ME--?

NOW THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN ASKIN' MESELF, LADY.

GUESS I CAN'T RIGHTLY BLAME YOU FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME PEOPLE AND ME PLANET *--

-- ONLY FOR THAT CREATURE YOU UNLEASHED!

* THE PLANET WAS BLACKWORLD -- AND IT HAPPENED TWO ISSUES AGO! --S.



A STRANGELY SAME ATTITUDE, SILAS...

...FOR A HUMAN WHAT WAS AN UNCIVILIZED SAVAGE TILL HE GOT EVOLVED BY THAT THING OUT THERE?

MAYBE SO, MISSIE... OR MAYBE I AIN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GET TOO CIVILIZED JUST YET...

...LIKE YOU.

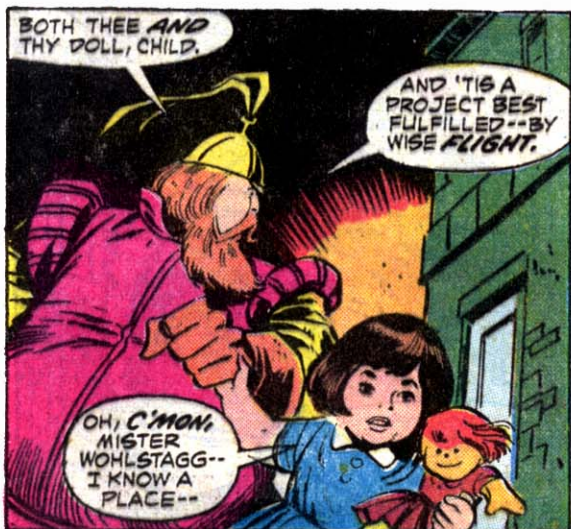


NEXT, TO ANOTHER CROSS-SECTION, IN THE FORM OF VOLUMINOUS A WARRIOR NAMED VOLSTAGG, AND HIS FRESHLY-ACQUIRED CHARGE!

TAKE HEART, CHILD-- THOUGH THE BATTLE DRAWS EVER NEARER...

-- NOBLE VOLSTAGG SHALL SURELY PROTECT THEE!

AND MISSIE POMPADOUR, TOO?



BOTH THEE AND THY DOLL, CHILD.

AND 'TIS A PROJECT BEST FULFILLED -- BY WISE FLIGHT.

OH, C'MON, MISTER WOHLSTAGG-- I KNOW A PLACE--

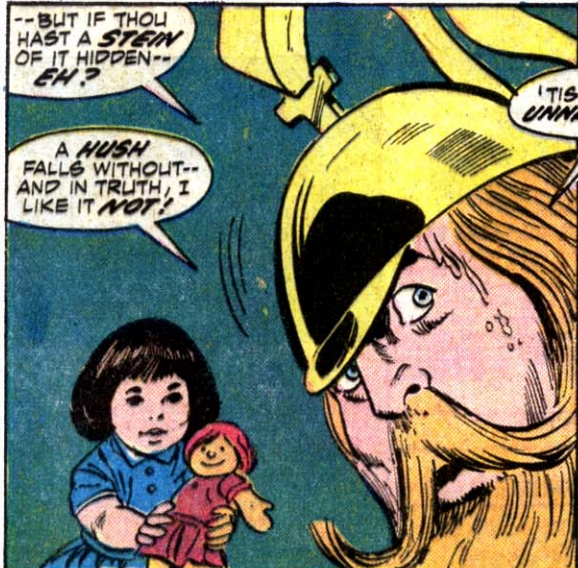


-- WHENEVER AUNTIE DOESN'T WANT ME.

DO YOU LIKE TEA?

MISSIE AN' ME PLAY HERE ALL THE TIME--

I KNOW NOT THE BEVERAGE--



-- BUT IF THOU HAST A STEIN OF IT HIDDEN-- EH?

A HUSH FALLS WITHOUT-- AND IN TRUTH, I LIKE IT NOT!

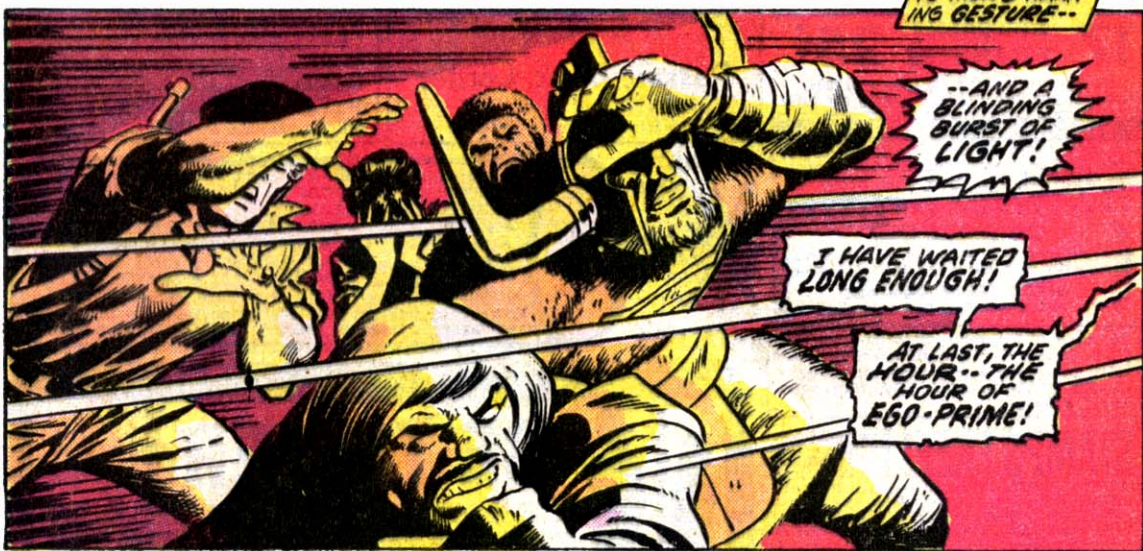
'TIS A SILENCE UNNATURAL--



CROSS-SECTIONS: SLICED, AND NOW REFORMED--

-- LIKE THE PAUSE BEFORE A STORM!

-- AS WE COME FULL CIRCLE, TO THOR'S WARNING GESTURE--



-- AND A BLINDING BURST OF LIGHT!

I HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!

AT LAST, THE HOUR-- THE HOUR OF EGO-PRIME!



SINCE FIRST I SAW DAY-- SINCE FIRST I FELT NIGHT-- I HAVE KNOWN--

EVOLUTION IS MINE TO CONTROL-- ALL LIFE IS BUT A FLESHY PUTTY IN MY HANDS--

-- MINE TO CHANGE-- AS CHANGE I WILL!

TODAY, OLD EARTH DIED; NOW, LET THE NEW BEGIN!

IMAGINE YOURSELF A GOD--A MOBILE
SECTION OF A LIVING PLANET!

IMAGINE THE WORLD TREMBLING
IN THE LIGHTEST GRASP OF YOUR
IDLE FINGERS--

-- THE UNIVERSE A
COSMIC TOY, THE
MYRIAD SUNS NO
MORE THAN PASSING
PLAYTHINGS!

IMAGINE ALL THIS,
AND TRY, TRY, TO
IMAGINE EVEN
MORE--

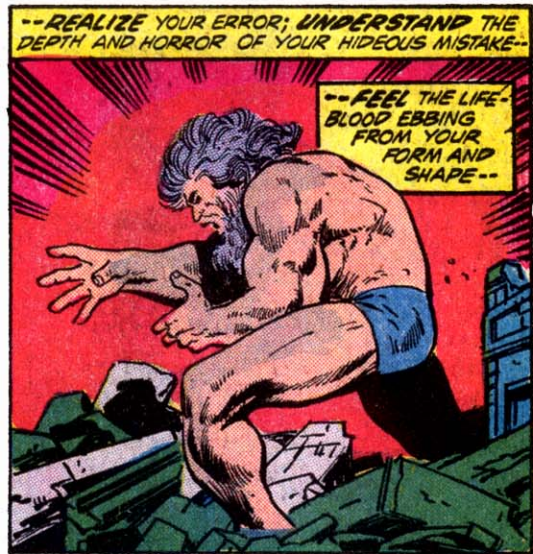
-- AND THEN, AS ALL
YOUR MIGHTY IMAGINED
WORLD SWELLS TO
COMPLETION--

-- DESTROY IT,
UNWITTINGLY,
UNKNOWNLY--
WITH A SINGLE
FOOLISH
GESTURE!



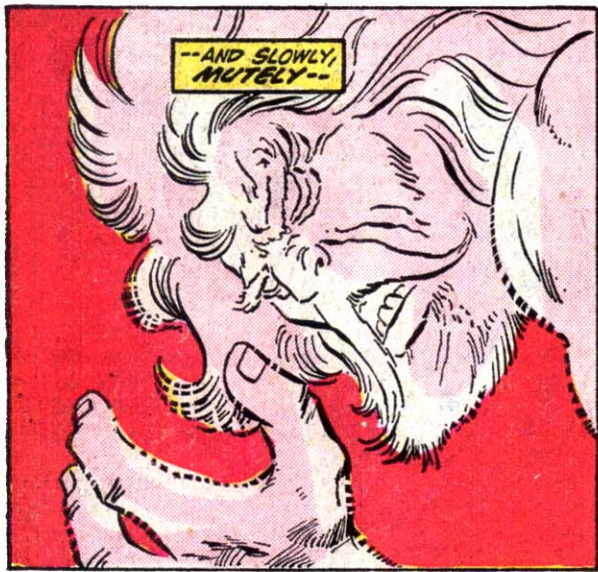


AND IN THE MOMENT **AFTER**--
AS THOSE AROUND YOU STARE
IN BEWILDERED **DISBELIEF**--



--**REALIZE YOUR ERROR; UNDERSTAND THE
DEPTH AND HORROR OF YOUR HIDEOUS MISTAKE**--

--**FEEL THE LIFE-
BLOOD EBBING
FROM YOUR
FORM AND
SHAPE**--



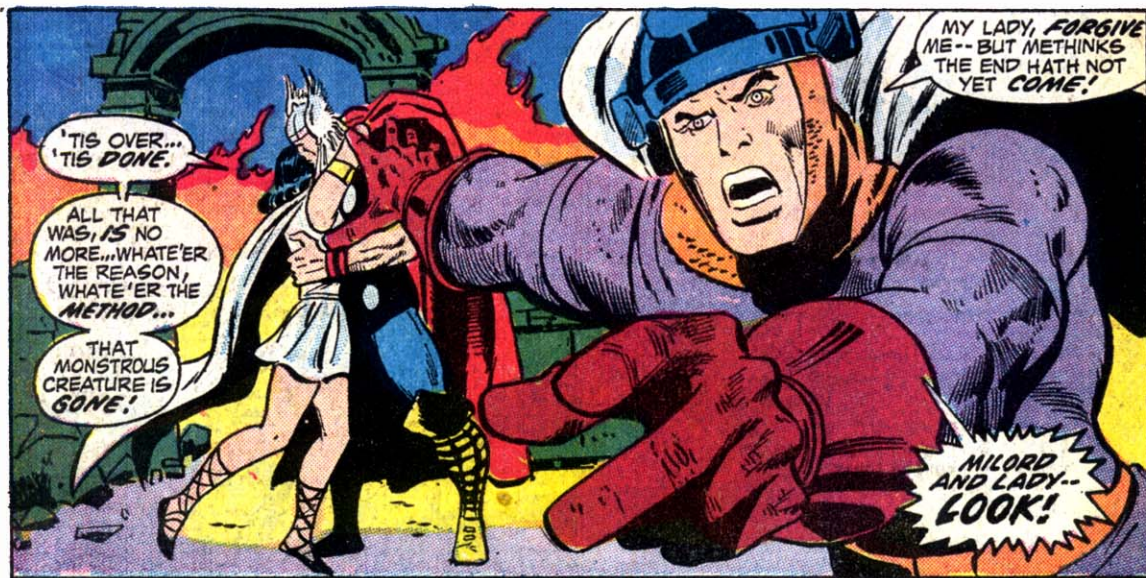
--**AND SLOWLY,
MUTELY**--



--**FADE
AWAY!**

BY ODIN'S SACRED
SWORD... THE
DEMON
DID **DRAIN**
ITSELF... OR,
MAYHAP... **WAS**
DRAINED.

MILORD,
MILORD...
WHAT CAN IT
MATTER?



'TIS OVER...
'TIS DONE.

ALL THAT WAS, IS NO
MORE... WHATE'ER
THE REASON,
WHATE'ER THE
METHOD...

THAT
MONSTROUS
CREATURE IS
GONE!

MY LADY, **FORGIVE**
ME-- BUT METHINKS
THE END HATH NOT
YET COME!

MILORD
AND LADY--
LOOK!

HOW OFTEN HAVE POETS SUNG OF THE GREATNESS WHICH LIES SLEEPING IN THE SOUL OF MAN?

ON THIS COLD MORNING, NO POETS SING. WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR SONG, WHEN THE THEME IS FULFILLED?

TOO OFTEN...TOO OFTEN... TOO OFTEN HAVE WE TURNED A DEAF EAR TO THEIR SONG, TOO OFTEN HAVE WE PREFERRED A BLIND INNER EYE...

... RATHER THAN A TRUE VIEW OF OUR ULTIMATE AND CEASELESSLY FRUSTRATED POTENTIAL!

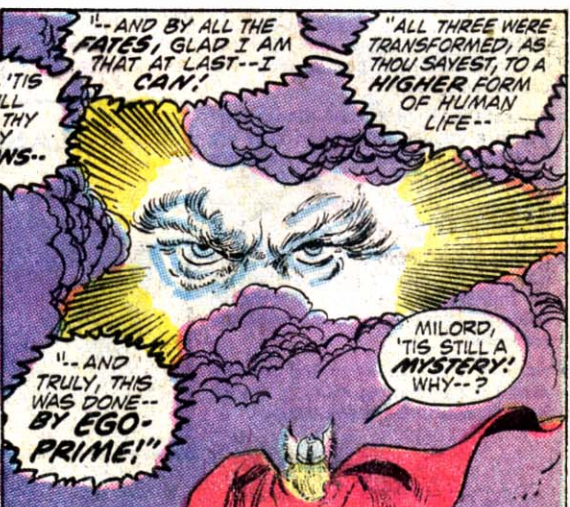


HEIMDAL, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE--!

FRIEND AND FELLOW, WHAT MEANING HAS THIS? WHO ARE THESE TRANSFORMED MORTALS?

WHAT BE THEIR PURPOSE, AND THINE--AND IN THE NAME OF ODIN, HOW--?

"MY SON, 'TIS I WHO WILL ANSWER THY WORTHY QUESTIONS--"

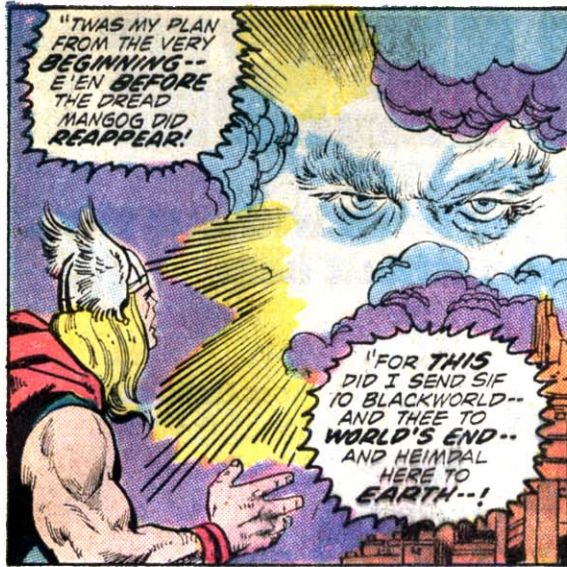


"--AND BY ALL THE FATES, GLAD I AM THAT AT LAST--I CAN!"

"ALL THREE WERE TRANSFORMED, AS THOU SAYEST, TO A HIGHER FORM OF HUMAN LIFE--"

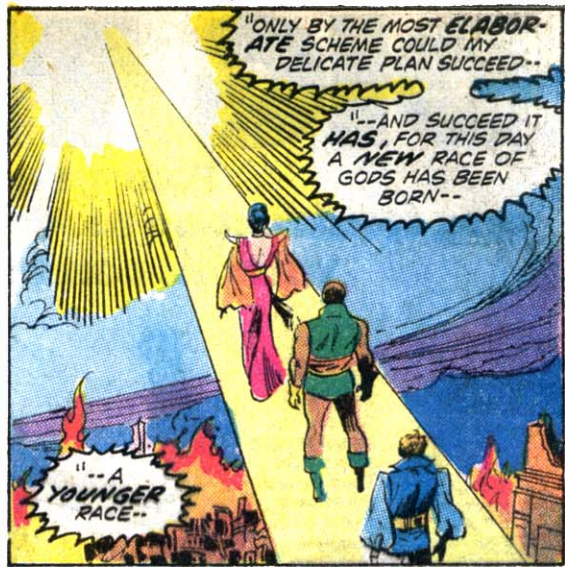
"--AND TRULY, THIS WAS DONE-- BY EGO-PRIME!"

MILORD, 'TIS STILL A MYSTERY! WHY--?



"T'WAS MY PLAN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING-- E'EN BEFORE THE DREAD MANGOG DID REAPPEAR!"

"FOR THIS DID I SEND SIF TO BLACKWORLD-- AND THEE TO WORLD'S END-- AND HEIMDAL HERE TO EARTH--!"



"ONLY BY THE MOST ELABORATE SCHEME COULD MY DELICATE PLAN SUCCEED--"

"--AND SUCCEEDED IT HAS, FOR THIS DAY A NEW RACE OF GODS HAS BEEN BORN--"

"--A YOUNGER RACE--"



"--ONE WHICH WILL BREATHE FRESH FIRE INTO THE FURNACE OF THE COSMIC ALL!"

AND WHAT OF EARTH?

DIDST THOU NEED TO DECIMATE A WORLD-- FOR A PLAN?

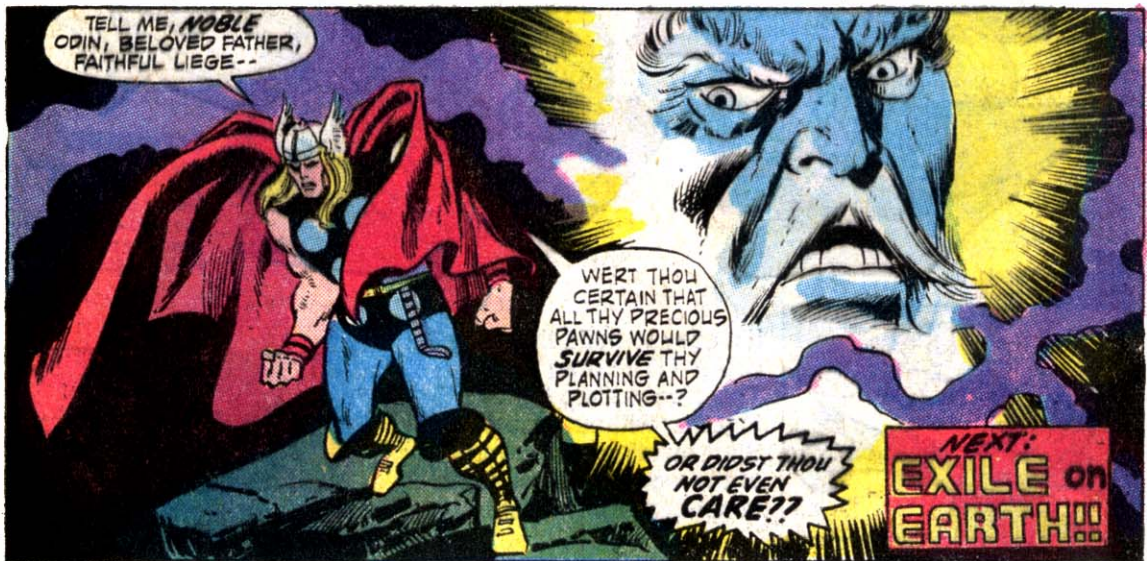


"ALL SHALL BE AS IT WAS BEFORE--"

"THE MORTALS WILL HAVE NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED--"

YEA-- AND OUR MEMORIES, MILORD?

THOU DIDST MAKE US PAWNS-- PIECES IN A GAME--!"



TELL ME, NOBLE ODIN, BELOVED FATHER, FAITHFUL LIEGE--

WERST THOU CERTAIN THAT ALL THY PRECIOUS PAWNS WOULD SURVIVE THY PLANNING AND PLOTTING--?

OR DIDST THOU NOT EVEN CARE??

NEXT: EXILE on EARTH!!