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THE MIGHTY THOR



STAY AWAY, THUNDER GOD--OR ELSE YOU PERISH, WITH ALL MANKIND!

AWAY, I COMMAND YOU!

AND I SAY THEE NAY!

IF EARTH MUST DIE-- LET THOR DIE, TOO!

ULIK INVADERS THE SURFACE WORLD!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**

GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTER * JOHN BUSCEMA AND DON PERLIN, ARTISTS *
VINNIE COLLETTA, INKER * ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER * P. GOLDBERG, COLORIST * ROY THOMAS, EDITOR

A dramatic illustration of Thor falling into a furnace of fire. He is shown from the waist down, wearing his iconic blue tunic and red cape. His legs are splayed out in mid-air, and his feet are clad in his characteristic black and yellow striped boots. The background is a swirling, intense fire in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The overall mood is one of peril and divine sacrifice.

THE END OF THE BATTLE!

LIKE A MADMAN--
HE DIVES!

DOWN, DOWN--DOWN
INTO THE FURNACE OF THE
TROLLS--INTO FIRES HOTTER
THAN THE BLACKEST PIT
OF HADES!

ANY OTHER MAN OR GOD
WOULD FIND HIS DEATH
IN THAT HELLFIRE--BUT
NOT THIS GOD--

--FOR
HE IS
THOR,
GOD OF
THUNDER--
--AND NONE
MAY SAY HIM
NAY!

NOT YET **SIXTY SECONDS** HAVE PASSED SINCE LAST MY HAMMER TOUCHED MY **HAND**--

--NOT QUITE ONE **MINUTE** SINCE M^JOLNIR WAS MOST BRUTALLY **TORN** FROM ME-- AND SENT TO THIS FIERY **GRAVE!**



YET--THE **SECONDS FLY**--AND WHEN THAT MINUTE IS **DONE**--

--THOR MAY NOT **REMAIN** GOD OF THUNDER--BUT MUST **RETURN** TO HIS HUMAN GUISE--



--A TRANSFORMATION WHICH WOULD SURELY MEAN HIS **DEATH!**

FOR, WHERE **THOR** MAY TREAD WITH NEAR **IMPUNITY**--

--DOCTOR DONALD **BLAKE** MUST CERTAINLY **DIE!**

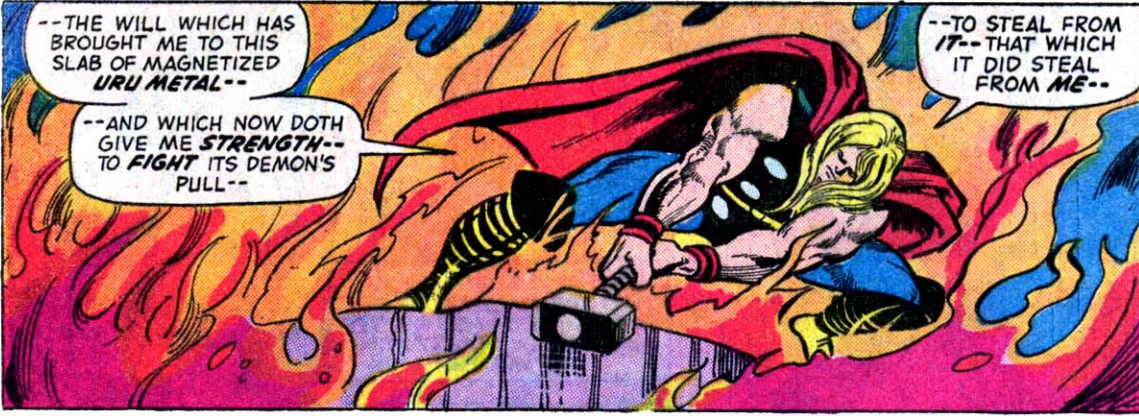
OF THIS, ULIK AND HIS FELLOW TROLLS ARE **SURELY** AWARE--AND 'T WAS THEIR PLAN THAT I SHOULD THUS FALL **PREY** TO THEIR PRECIOUS **FLAMES!**



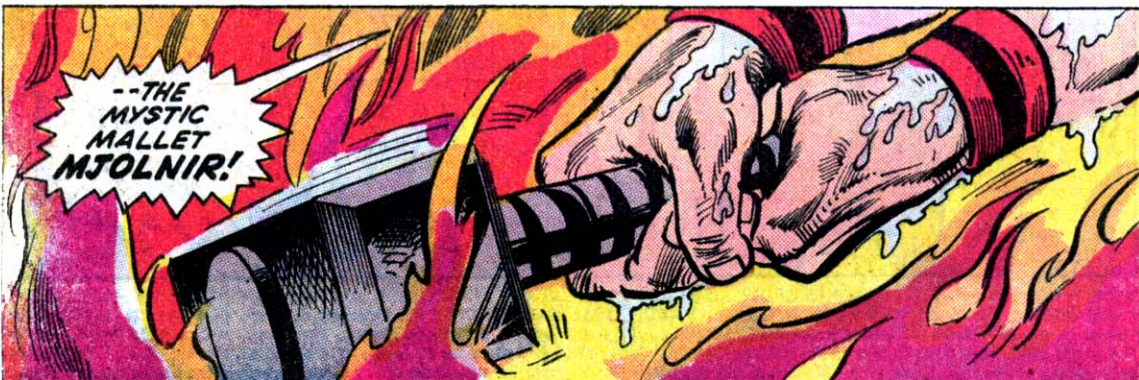
YET THEY RECKONED **NOT** ON THE WILL OF A SON OF **ASGARD**--

--THE WILL WHICH HAS BROUGHT ME TO THIS SLAB OF MAGNETIZED **URU METAL**--


--AND WHICH NOW DOETH GIVE ME **STRENGTH**-- TO FIGHT ITS DEMON'S **PULL**--



--TO STEAL FROM **IT**-- THAT WHICH IT DID STEAL FROM **ME**--



--THE **MYSTIC** MALLET **MJOLNIR!**



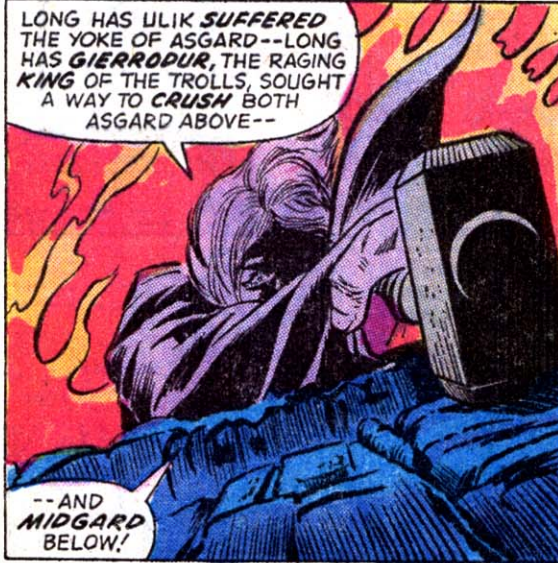
DONE--AND YEA, NOT AN INSTANT TOO SOON!



NOW MAY I RETURN TO THE CAVERNS ABOVE--AND THERE FACE ULIK'S DARK LEGIONS--

--AND PERHAPS LEARN MEANING AND METHOD BEHIND THIS MAD ATTACK--

--THOUGH METHINKS THE REASON IS **ALREADY** CLEAR!

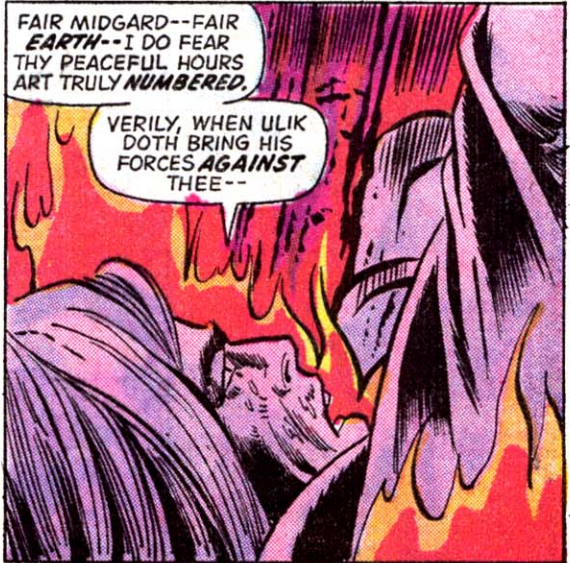


LONG HAS ULIK **SUFFERED** THE YOKE OF ASGARD--LONG HAS **GIERRODUR**, THE RAGING KING OF THE TROLLS, SOUGHT A WAY TO **CRUSH** BOTH ASGARD ABOVE--

FAIR MIDGARD--FAIR **EARTH**--I DO FEAR THY PEACEFUL HOURS ART TRULY **NUMBERED**.

VERILY, WHEN ULIK DOTH BRING HIS FORCES **AGAINST** THEE--

--AND **MIDGARD** BELOW!



--THOU SHALT FIND ALL **OTHER** WARS PALE IN SIGNIFICANCE!

O MANKIND --I DO **PITY** THEE--

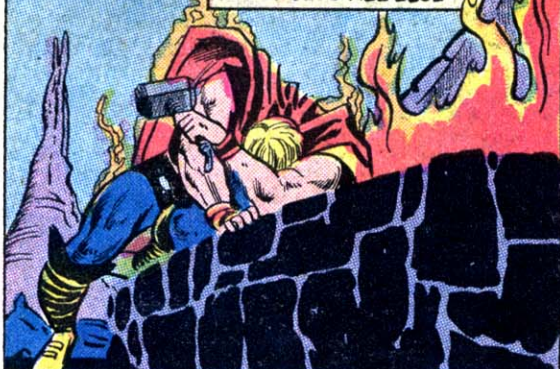


--CHILDREN--WHOSE GREATEST **BATTLE**-- IS ONLY **BEGUN!**

--THOU ART BUT **CHILDREN** IN THE WAYS OF WARFARE--

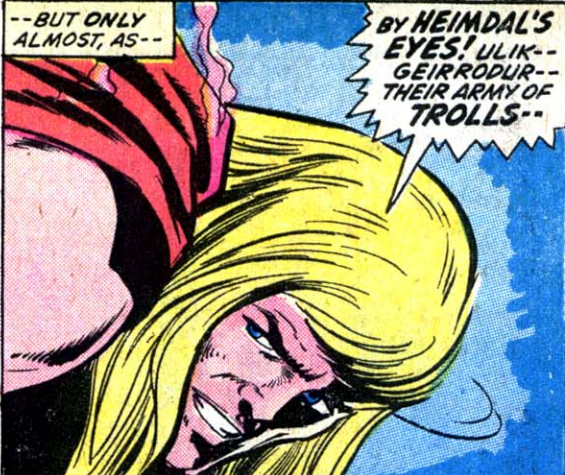
FOR ONE LONG, WEARY MOMENT... HE RESTS.

SO LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE LAST THE FRANTIC PACE EASED, THAT HE ALMOST FORGETS ALL ELSE--



--BUT ONLY ALMOST, AS--

BY HEIMDAL'S EYES! ULIK--GEIRRODUR--THEIR ARMY OF TROLLS--

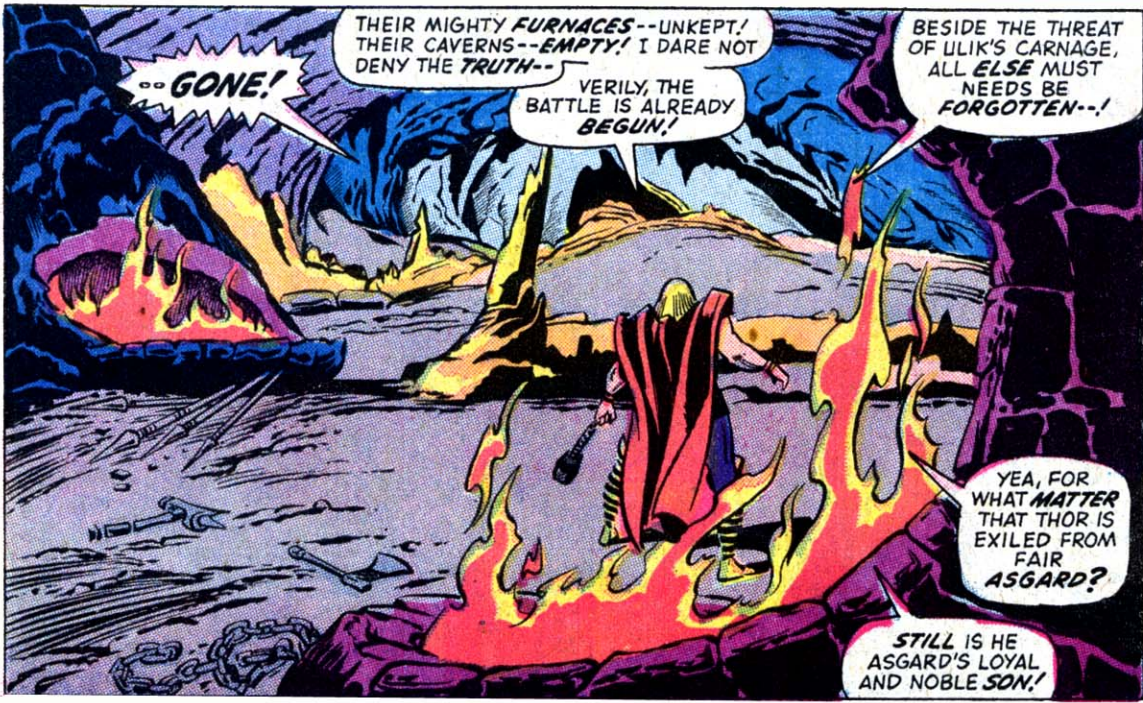


--GONE!

THEIR MIGHTY FURNACES--UNKEPT! THEIR CAVERNS--EMPTY! I DARE NOT DENY THE TRUTH--

VERILY, THE BATTLE IS ALREADY BEGUN!

BESIDE THE THREAT OF ULIK'S CARNAGE, ALL ELSE MUST NEEDS BE FORGOTTEN--!



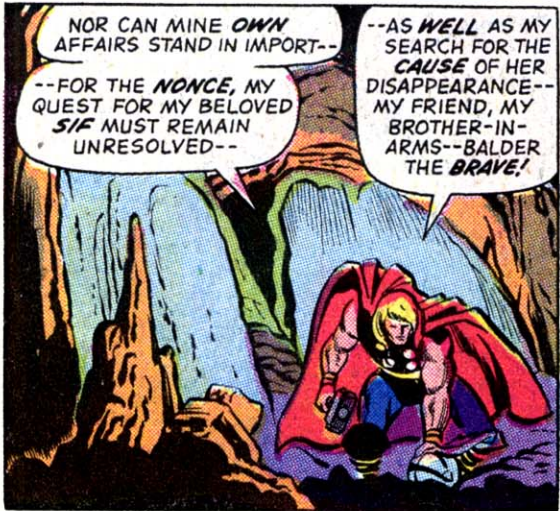
YEA, FOR WHAT MATTER THAT THOR IS EXILED FROM FAIR ASGARD?

STILL IS HE ASGARD'S LOYAL AND NOBLE SON!

NOR CAN MINE OWN AFFAIRS STAND IN IMPORT--

--FOR THE NONCE, MY QUEST FOR MY BELOVED SIF MUST REMAIN UNRESOLVED--

--AS WELL AS MY SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF HER DISAPPEARANCE--MY FRIEND, MY BROTHER-IN-ARMS--BALDER THE BRAVE!



NOBLE SENTIMENTS, THUNDER GOD.

I, TOO, BELIEVED IN JUSTICE OF A SORT--ONCE.



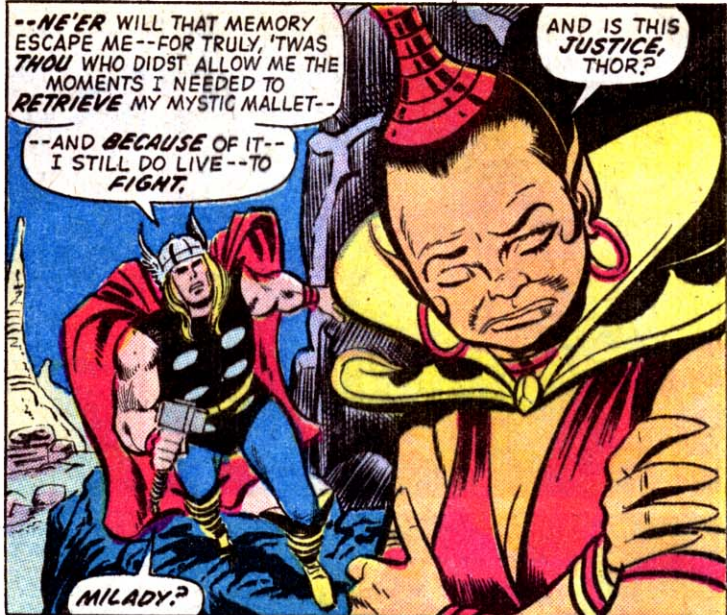


YOU SEEMED SHOCKED, ASGARDIAN. CAN YOU HAVE **ALREADY** FORGOTTEN ULLA, QUEEN OF THE TROLLS--

--SHE WHOSE WARNING CRY SPARED YOU **DEATH** AT ULIK'S BESTIAL HANDS?*

NAY, TROLL QUEEN--

*LAST ISSUE,--R.

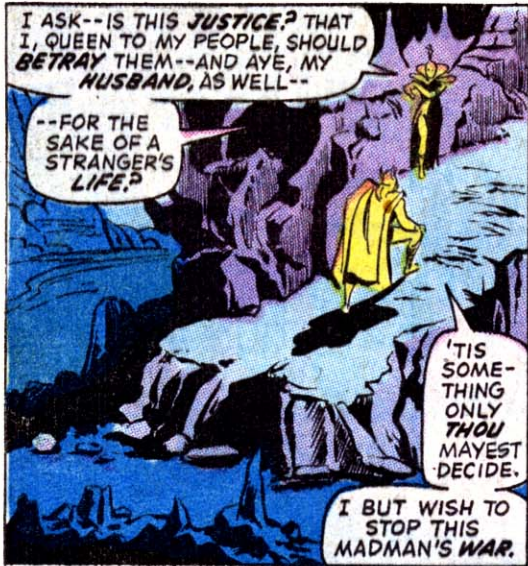


--NE'ER WILL THAT MEMORY ESCAPE ME--FOR TRULY, 'T WAS THOU WHO DIDST ALLOW ME THE MOMENTS I NEEDED TO **RETRIEVE** MY MYSTIC MALLET--

--AND **BECAUSE** OF IT-- I STILL DO LIVE--TO **FIGHT**.

AND IS THIS **JUSTICE**, THOR?*

MILADY?*



I ASK--IS THIS **JUSTICE**? THAT I, QUEEN TO MY PEOPLE, SHOULD **BETRAY** THEM--AND AYE, MY **HUSBAND**, AS WELL--

--FOR THE SAKE OF A STRANGER'S **LIFE**?*

'TIS SOMETHING ONLY THOU MAYEST **DECIDE**.

I BUT WISH TO STOP THIS **MADMAN'S WAR**.



THEN GO **YONDER**, ODINSON.

THERE SHALL YOU FIND **ULIK**--



--ULIK, WHO ACTED UPON THE **SHAME** I BROUGHT MY HUSBAND--

THEN 'T IS TO A **DOUBLE PURPOSE** I BATTLE--TO **SAVE EARTH**--

--AND, IN **GRATITUDE**-- TO RESCUE THINE **HONOR**, AS WELL!*

--AND WHO **USED** THAT SHAME--TO TAKE **CONTROL** OF GIERRODUR'S MIGHTY **ARMY**!*

RACE, THEN, THUNDER GOD--

--FOR 'TIS A RACE
THAT WILL TRULY
NEED WINNING!

EVEN AS YOUR FEET POUND
THE NEWLY-TURNED DIRT
IN A DARKENED TUNNEL,
THE TROLL NAMED ULIK
URGES HIS STOLEN LEGIONS
ONWARD--

ONWARD, THROUGH THE
MILES OF SWOLLEN CRUST--
GRANITE AND SHALE CHURN-
ING INTO DUST BEFORE THE
ONSLAUGHT OF TROLLS' MASSIVE
ENGINES--

ONWARD,
TO THE
SURFACE
OF THE
EARTH!

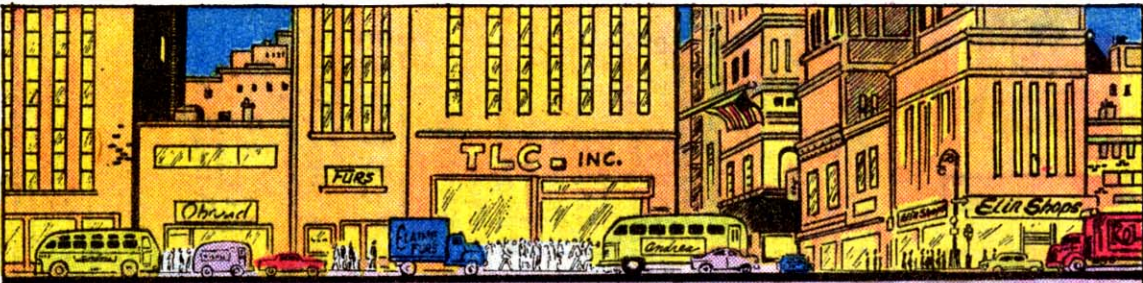
REEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEE

FORWARD,
YOU
FOOLS!
FORWARD!

ULIK
COMMANDS
IT--**U**LIK
THE
INVINCIBLE!





SOON, BROTHERS-- SOON!

DO YOU HEAR? THE EARTHLINGS MOVE ABOVE US-- BUT REMAIN UNAWARE!

ULIK LEADS US TO VICTORY!

AYE-- AND TO REVENGE!

REVENGE AGAINST MANKIND!



AND THE FIRST SIGN OF THAT REVENGE IS A MOMENTARY TREMBLE--

--A SUDDEN ERUPTION--

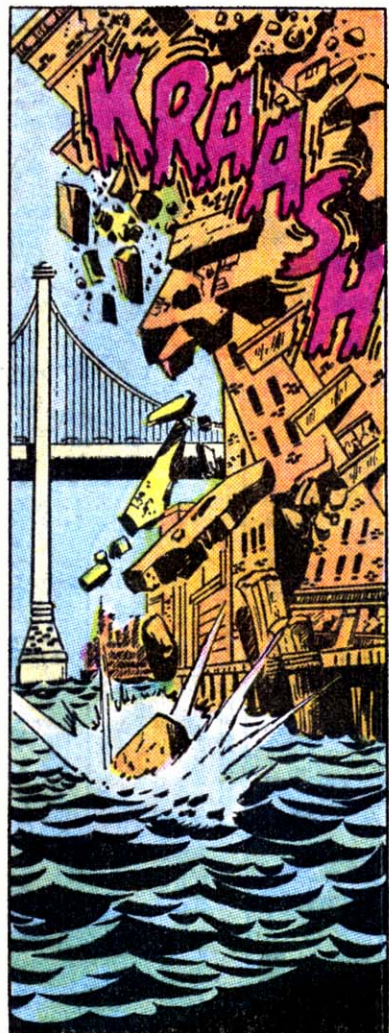
WHUMP!



--AND THE UNEXPECTED BEGINNINGS OF A FULL-SIZED--

RRRUMMMMMBBLE

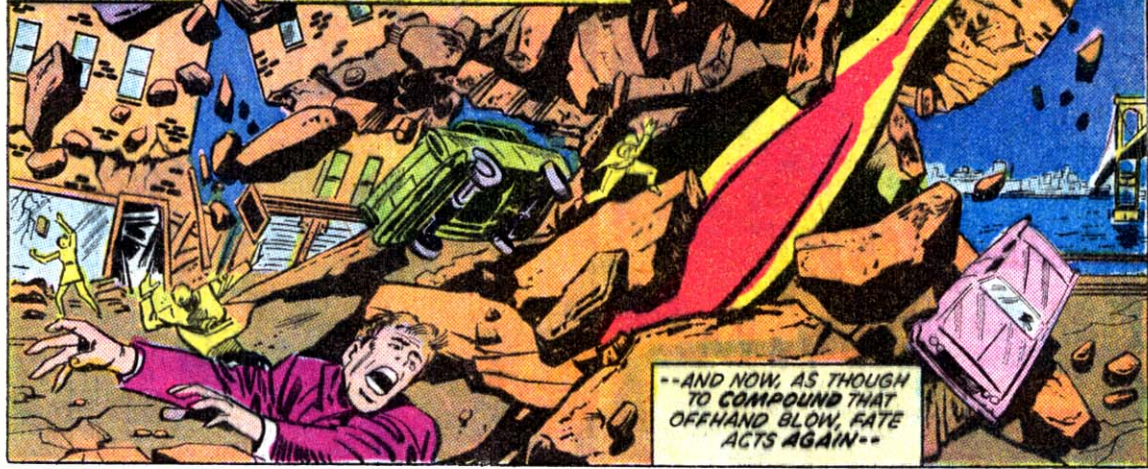
EARTHQUAKE!



KRAASH

FATE HAS NOT BEEN KIND TO THE PLANET EARTH.

IT'S GIVEN HER MAN-- WHO POLLUTES HER ATMOSPHERE AND HER OCEANS, WHO ENDANGERS HER VERY EXISTENCE--



--AND NOW, AS THOUGH TO COMPOUND THAT OFFHAND BLOW, FATE ACTS AGAIN--



--AND GIVES HER ULIK, LEADER OF THE TROLLS!

VENGEANCE, BROTHERS!

VENGEANCE--FOR THOSE EONS LOST BENEATH THIS PLANET'S CRUST--

--FOR THE MILLENNIUM WE SPENT HIDDEN FROM THE SUN--

--AND FROM OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE--AS MASTERS OF THE WORLD!

NOW, BROTHERS! STRIKE NOW--

--AND THE PLANET IS OURS!

YET FAR FROM THE STRIDENT VOICES, SILENCE REIGNS--A WEIGHTY SILENCE NOW BROKEN BY A SOFT FOOTFALL, AND THE SOUND OF SHIFTING GRAVEL.



'TIS NO USE--THESE PASSAGES DO TWINE IN NO RATIONAL PATTERN.

I FEAR I HAVE LOST MY ORIGINAL PATH--

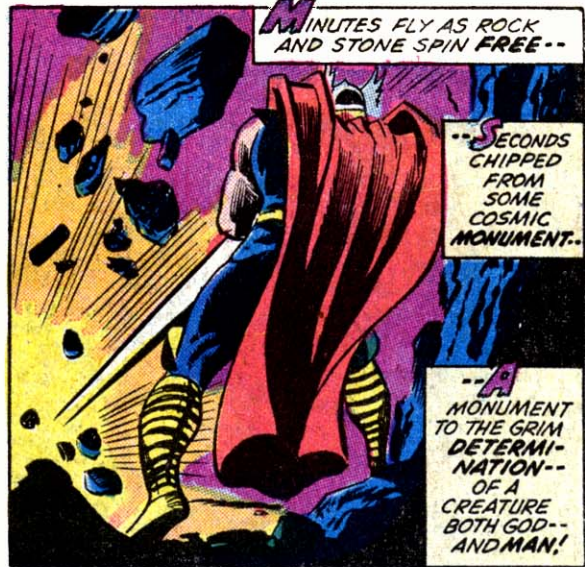


--AND IF I AM TO MEET THE CREATURE CALLED ULIK IN FINAL COMBAT, THEN I MUST FIND ANOTHER ROUTE--



--AS ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!

KRAAAAKK!



MINUTES FLY AS ROCK AND STONE SPIN FREE--

SECONDS CHIPPED FROM SOME COSMIC MONUMENT--

A MONUMENT TO THE GRIM DETERMINATION-- OF A CREATURE BOTH GOD-- AND MAN!



WHILE ELSEWHERE, TIME SEEMS TO MOVE MUCH MORE SLOWLY, AS...

U-SLYN... TYBORR... LEAVE ME.

I WOULD SPEAK ALONE... WITH MY QUEEN.



WOMAN, YOU HAVE DONE YOUR WORK WELL. ULIK HAS USURPED MY POWER...

...AND EVEN NOW, HE WIELDS THAT POWER IN ATTACK AGAINST THE SURFACE MEN IN THEIR CITY OF NEW YORK!

MY LORD-- PLEASE BELIEVE ME-- I NEVER THOUGHT--



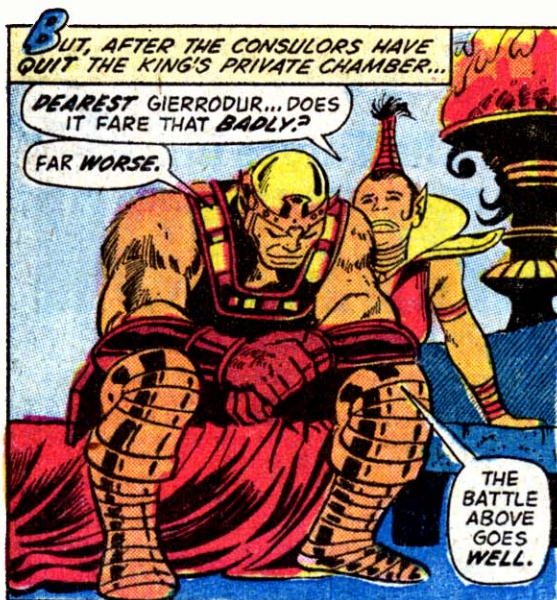
SIRE, YOU WERE WARNED--THAT WOMAN IS FILLED WITH WITCHERY!

EVEN YOUR CHIEF CONSULAR SPOKE AGAINST HER--AND MUTHOS HAS NEVER PLAYED THE FOOL!



I SAID BEGONE!

I WILL SPEAK WITH MY WIFE-- ALONE!



BUT, AFTER THE CONSULORS HAVE QUIT THE KING'S PRIVATE CHAMBER...

DEAREST GIERRODUR... DOES IT FARE THAT BADLY?
FAR WORSE.

THE BATTLE ABOVE GOES WELL.



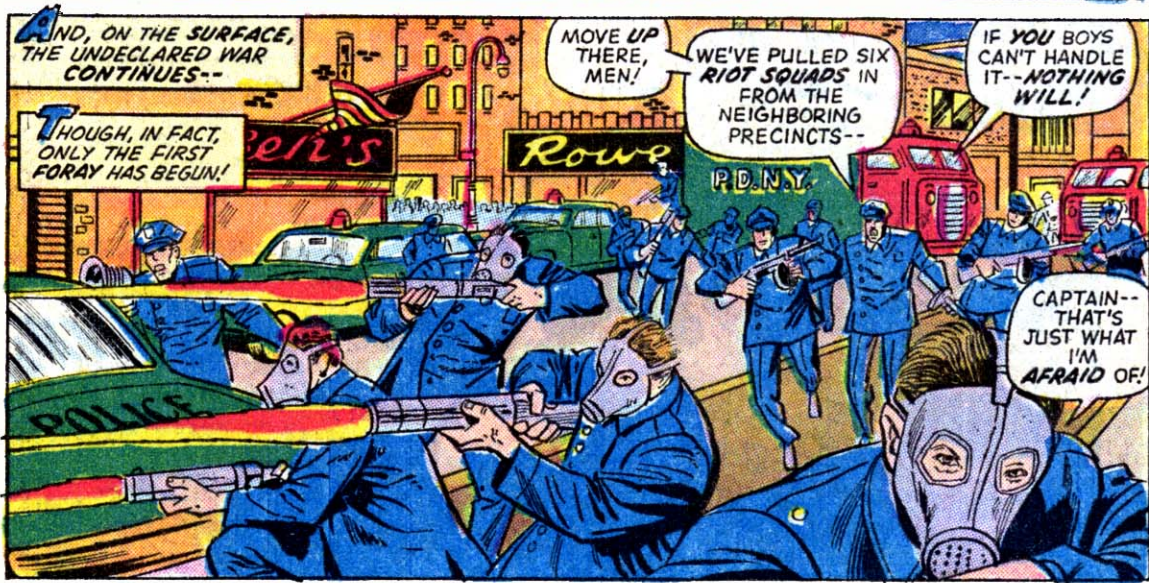
IF ULIK SHOULD WIN HIS HOLY CRUSADE-- THEN ALL IS LOST.

MY KINGDOM IS FORFEIT--

--AS WELL AS OUR LIVES!

THEN HOLD ME, MY KING-- AND PRAY, FORGIVE ME!

MILADY... I CAN DO LITTLE ELSE!



AND, ON THE SURFACE, THE UNDECLARED WAR CONTINUES--

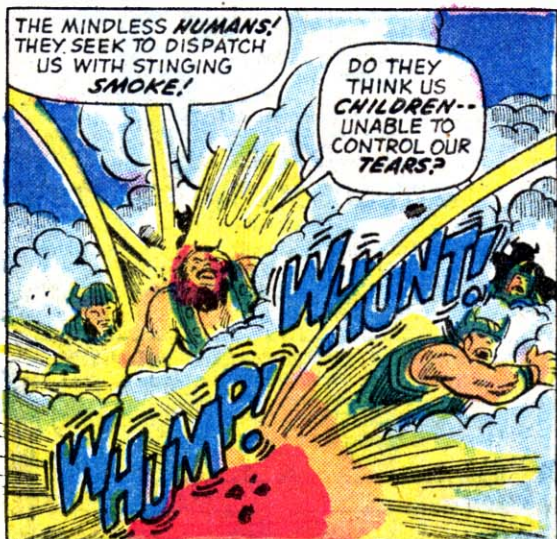
THOUGH, IN FACT, ONLY THE FIRST FORAY HAS BEGUN!

MOVE UP THERE, MEN!

WE'VE PULLED SIX RIOT SQUADS IN FROM THE NEIGHBORING PRECINCTS--

IF YOU BOYS CAN'T HANDLE IT-- NOTHING WILL!

CAPTAIN-- THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!



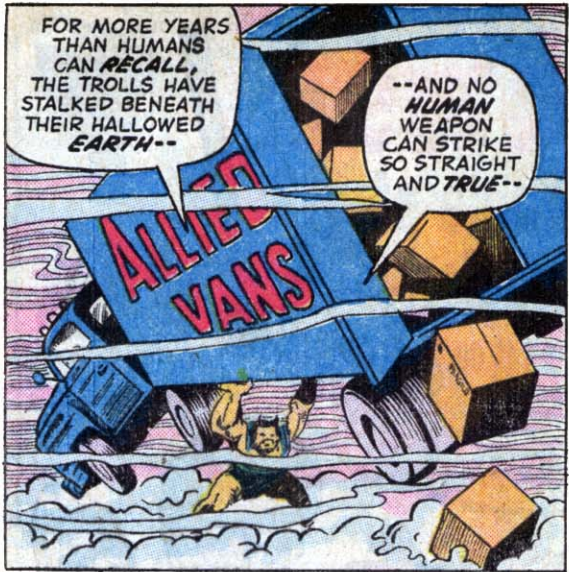
THE MINDLESS HUMANS! THEY SEEK TO DISPATCH US WITH STINGING SMOKE!

DO THEY THINK US CHILDREN-- UNABLE TO CONTROL OUR TEARS?



PERHAPS THEY DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND WHAT FORCE THEY ARE FACING!

PERHAPS IT IS TIME THEY LEARNED!



FOR MORE YEARS THAN HUMANS CAN RECALL, THE TROLLS HAVE STALKED BENEATH THEIR HALLOWED EARTH--

--AND NO HUMAN WEAPON CAN STRIKE SO STRAIGHT AND TRUE--



--AS THE STRENGTH OF AN EARTH-DWELLER BORN!



THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN HAVE SEEN MANY KINDS OF WARFARE!

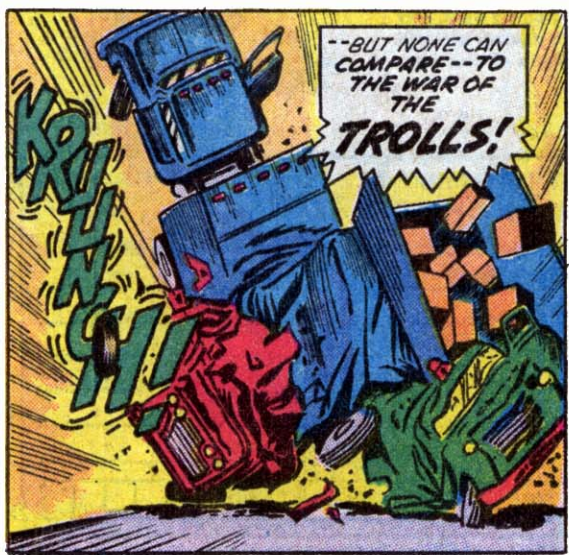


RIOTS, STRIKES, GANGS--THEY'VE EACH WRECKED THEIR OWN BRAND OF HAVOC--

KEVINS, JONES-- GET BACK!

THAT AIN'T NO BLASTED MOVIE PROP--

THAT TRUCK'S FOR REAL!



--BUT NONE CAN COMPARE--TO THE WAR OF THE TROLLS!

KOOLING!



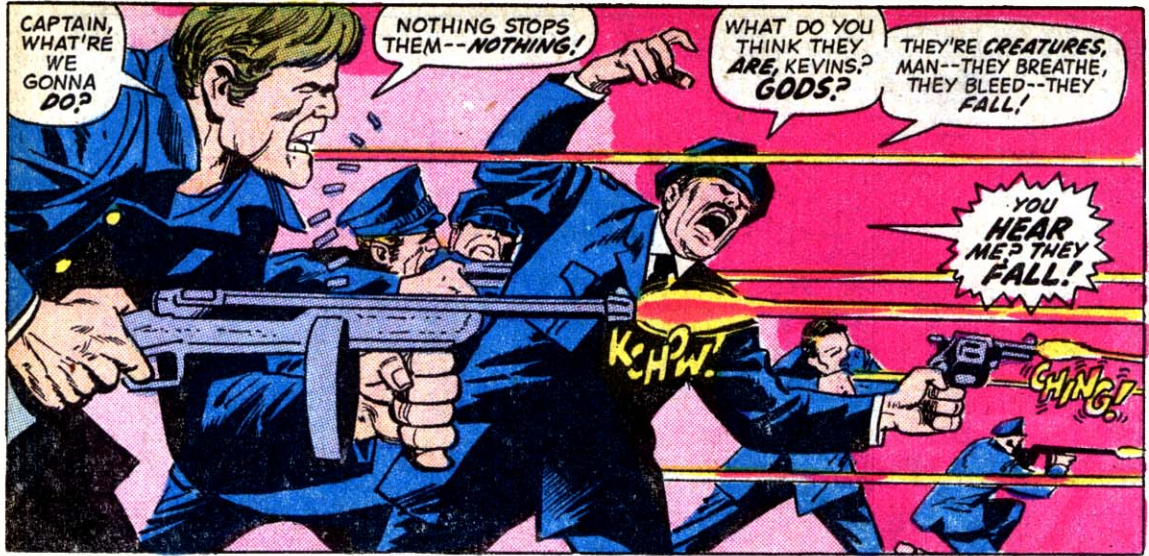
BROTHERS, THE MOMENT IS NOW!

PUSH--AND THE SURFACE WORLD IS OURS--

DESTINY IS OURS--NOW, AND FOR ALL ETERNITY!

ULIK SPEAKS--

--ULIK LEADS!



CAPTAIN, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?

NOTHING STOPS THEM-- NOTHING!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY ARE, KEVINS? GODS?

THEY'RE CREATURES, MAN-- THEY BREATHE, THEY BLEED-- THEY FALL!

YOU HEAR ME? THEY FALL!

KCHW!

CHING!



ULIK, THE HUMANS FIGHT LIKE CREATURES AFIRE!

EVEN THEY CAN DIE, TYGR-- THEY DROP AS WE DROP--

--THOUGH THEY WILL DROP FASTER--FOR THEY ARE ONLY HUMANS--

--WHILE WE ARE TROLLS!

BLAK!



CAPTAIN HAYES! THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH TO THIRTY-FOURTH STREET--

IT'S NO USE! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK!

THEN CALL THE MAYOR!

BLAK!

BLAK!

GET OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

BLAK!



AT THAT INSTANT, SOME SIXTY BLOCKS UPTOWN--

MASTERS HOGAN AND FANDRAL! THERE SEEMS TO BE A BIT OF RIFFICULTY--!

WE'VE TROUBLE ENOUGH, FRIEND JARVIS.

TAKE THY DIFFICULTY ELSEWHERE.



THAT'S JUST IT, SIR-- I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.

THE AVENGERS SEEM TO BE OFF SOMEWHERE-- AND SINCE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THEIR HOSPITALITY THESE PAST DAYS--

AYE-- THAT WE HAVE, JARVIS. OUT WITH IT, THEN--

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

LIFE

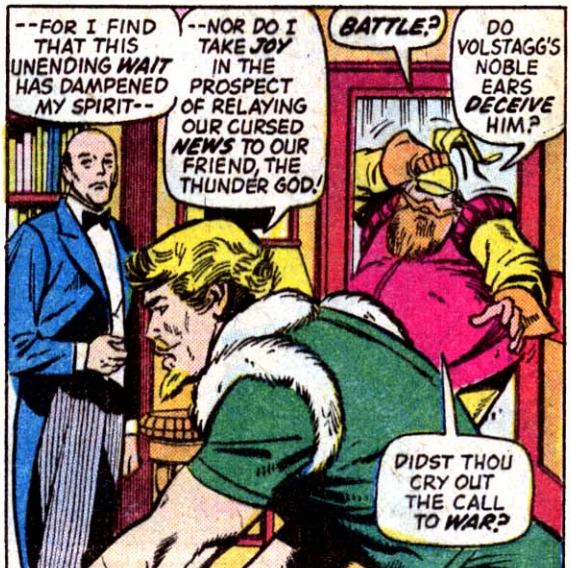


QUICKLY, THE QUIET-VOICED BUTLER EXPLAINS THE SITUATION. HE'S JUST VIEWED ON THE AVENGER'S CLOSED-CIRCUIT MONITOR--AND WHEN HE'S FINISHED--

WE DO LITTLE OF WORTH HERE, FANDRAL--WAITING FOR THOR TO RETURN FROM HIS QUEST.

HOGUN FOR ONE WELCOMES THE STRAIN OF BATTLE.

AS DO I, FRIEND--



--FOR I FIND THAT THIS UNENDING WAIT HAS DAMPENED MY SPIRIT--

--NOR DO I TAKE JOY IN THE PROSPECT OF RELAYING OUR CURSED NEWS TO OUR FRIEND, THE THUNDER GOD!

BATTLE?!

DO VOLSTAGG'S NOBLE EARS DECEIVE HIM?

DIDST THOU CRY OUT THE CALL TO WAR?!



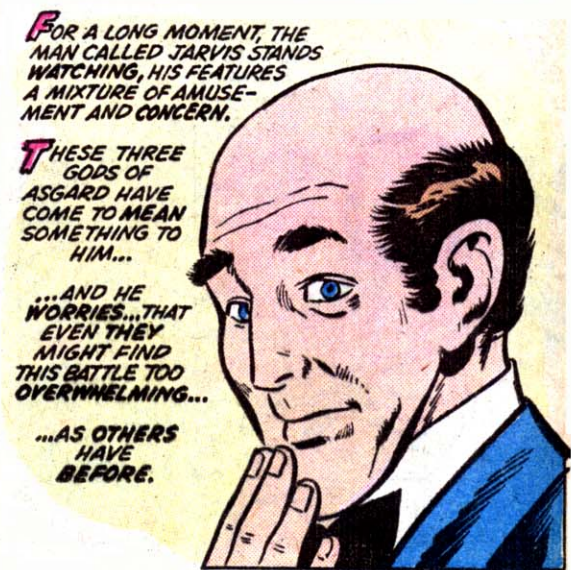
THAT WE DID, FAT ONE!

AND THOU SHALT BATTLE BESIDE US THIS TIME, GREAT MOUTH--

--NOT BEHIND US, AS E'ER BEFORE!

VERILY, THOU DOST INSULT ME!

VERILY, THOU ART A GREAT WEIGHT!



FOR A LONG MOMENT, THE MAN CALLED JARVIS STANDS WATCHING, HIS FEATURES A MIXTURE OF AMUSEMENT AND CONCERN.

THESE THREE GODS OF ASGARD HAVE COME TO MEAN SOMETHING TO HIM...

...AND HE WORRIES...THAT EVEN THEY MIGHT FIND THIS BATTLE TOO OVERWHELMING...

...AS OTHERS HAVE BEFORE.



AT LAST--I SENSE THAT I DO DRAW CLOSER TO THE PASSAGE I SEEK!

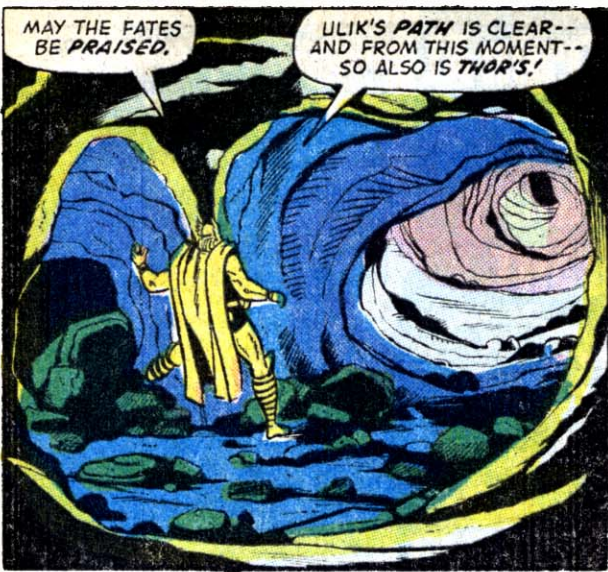
YEA, BEHIND THIS FINAL STONE-- THERE LIES A HOLLOW--

WHETHER THE HOLLOW IS A TUNNEL--



--DO TH REMAIN TO BE SEEN!

BUKOW!



MAY THE FATES BE PRAISED.

ULIK'S PATH IS CLEAR-- AND FROM THIS MOMENT-- SO ALSO IS THOR'S!



YET, AS THOR STRIDES CLOSER TO THE BATTLE SITE-- TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR CAST, A CERTAIN SILAS GRANT AND A GIRL CALLED TANA NILE*, RETURN TO ACTIVE ROLES--

*LAST SEEN IN ISSUE #205.--RT.



SILAS-- DO YOU HEAR WHAT THAT MAN IS SAYING?

'TIS NO STORY, LASS--

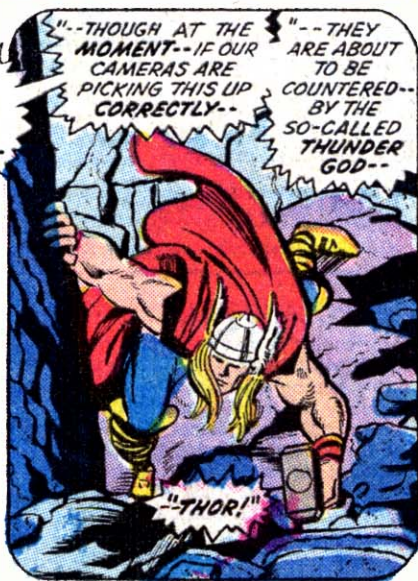
IS IT TRUE-- OR YET ANOTHER "DRAMA"--?

THOSE LADS LOOK MEAN.



"EARLY REPORTS INDICATE TOTAL CHAOS IN THE MIDTOWN AREA."

"THE UNIDENTIFIED CREATURES ADVANCE UNCHECKED--"



--THOUGH AT THE MOMENT-- IF OUR CAMERAS ARE PICKING THIS UP CORRECTLY--

--THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE COUNTERED-- BY THE SO-CALLED THUNDER GOD--

"THOR!"



HE'S BACK, LASS-- AND 'TIS A CURSE HE CHOSE THIS DAY FOR A HOMECOMING!

ARE YOU COMING, TANA, GIRL?

YES, SILAS--



--THOUGH NOT IN THIS COMELY HUMAN FORM--



--BUT RATHER, IN THE SHAPE TO WHICH I WAS BORN--

--AND WHICH WILL SERVE ME BEST--

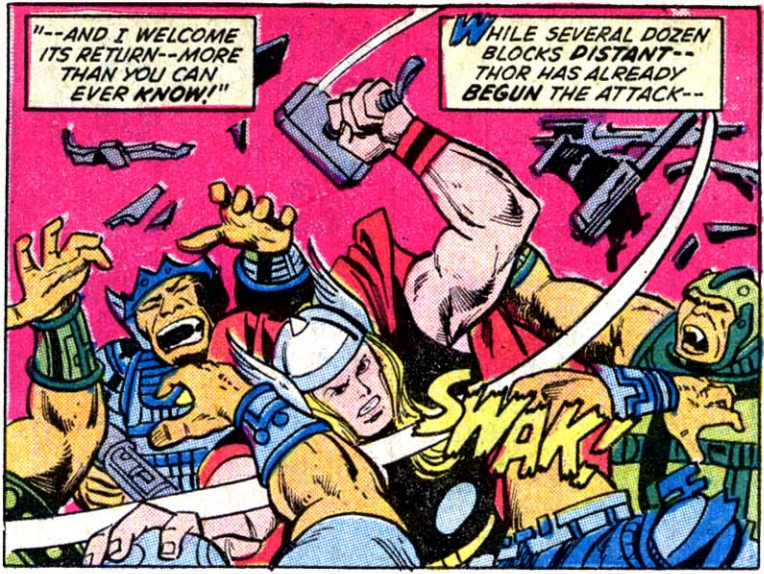
--THE SHAPE OF A RIGELLIAN COLONIZER!

IT IS A SHAPE I HAVE NOT HELD SINCE WE WERE FIRST MAROONED ON EARTH--

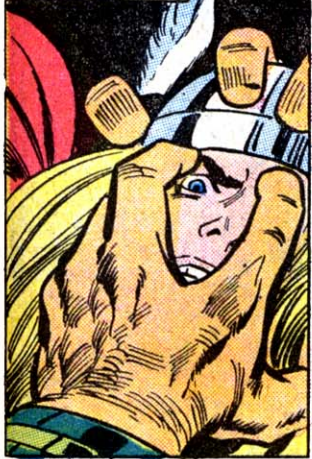


"--AND I WELCOME ITS RETURN--MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER KNOW!"

WHILE SEVERAL DOZEN BLOCKS DISTANT-- THOR HAS ALREADY BEGUN THE ATTACK--



--AND THOUGH AT FIRST HE SEEMS TRULY OUT-NUMBERED--



--STILL IS HE THOR, THE BLOOD-SON OF ODIN!

ULIK!

TURN AND FACE ME, TROLL-- THY WAR DOTH MOVE TO AN END!

YOU!



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SURVIVED, BLONDBAIR-- BUT THIS I PROMISE YOU--

--THOU WILT-- EH?

LAK!

FIRE AGAIN, FOOL!



ULIK WILL BE PLEASED IF WE DESTROY THE ASGARDIAN--NOW!





METHINKS THOU DOST SPEAK TOO QUICKLY, FRIEND FANDRAL.

THE YELLOW-MANED ONE KNOWS HIS FOE, DOLT--

--WHEREAS IT SEEMS THAT YOU--



--DO NOT!



THERE, LASS--AND THEY'RE HAVIN' QUITE A TIME OF IT, TOO!

THINK YOU CAN LEND THEM A BIT OF AID WITH THAT TOY OF YOURS?

IT IS NO TOY, SILAS GRANT.

THE RIGELLIAN STASIS GUN IS ONE OF THE MOST POTENT WEAPONS IN THE CIVILIZED GALAXY!



FOOM!

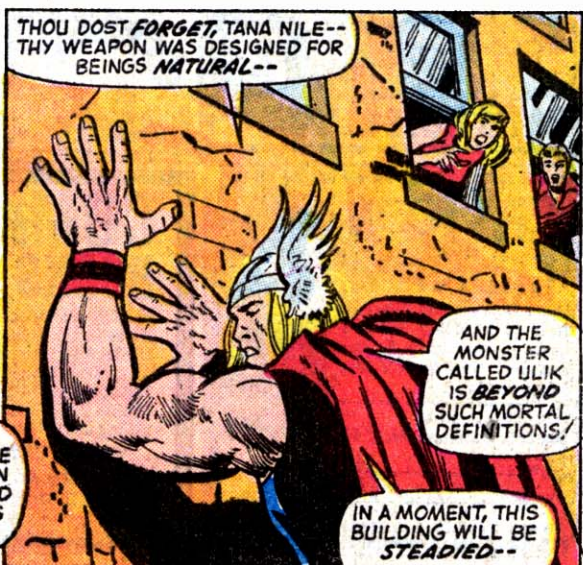


POTENT IT MAY BE, LASS--

--BUT PERHAPS 'TIS NOT QUITE POTENT ENOUGH!

IT--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

NO CREATURE ALIVE CAN WITHSTAND THE STASIS EFFECT!



THOU DOST FORGET, TANA NILE-- THY WEAPON WAS DESIGNED FOR BEINGS NATURAL--

AND THE MONSTER CALLED ULIK IS BEYOND SUCH MORTAL DEFINITIONS!

IN A MOMENT, THIS BUILDING WILL BE STEADIED--



--AND THEN MUST ULIK FACE THE FORCE AND FURY--OF THE ONLY SON OF ODIN--**THOR!**

ZACH!



TURN--DEMON--TURN AND MEET MY ANGER!

TURN--AND MEET THE RAGE OF AN ASGARDIAN BORN!

ZACH!



I SAY THEE, CREATURE --TURN!



ARROGANT PUP! DO YOU REALIZE WHO I AM?

I AM **ULIK!** ULIK, THE INVINCIBLE!



ULIK, THE UNCONTROLL--UNNNNH!

WHUMP!



WHAK!



CHUMP!



BAKOO!



BY SURTUR'S FLAMES... ULIK HAS FALLEN!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WITHOUT ULIK...WE ARE NOTHING!

WE HAVE ONLY ONE CHOICE--



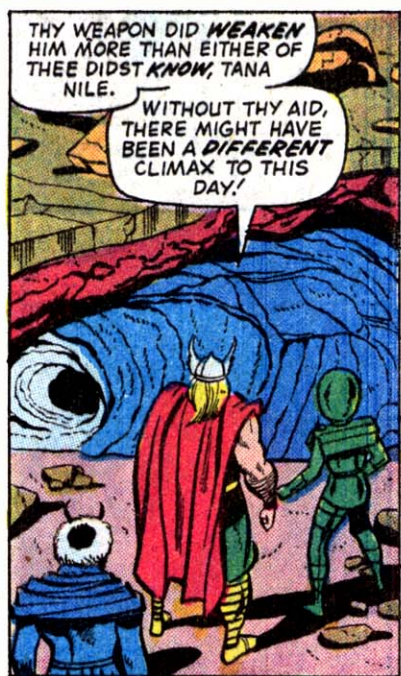
--WE MUST RETURN HIM TO GIERRODUR--AND PRAY FOR OUR KING'S MERCY!

BETTER WE SHOULD ASK PLUTO FOR FREEDOM FROM HADES!



AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT ULIK, ONCE MIGHTY, ONCE LEADER OF ALL THE TROLLS, RETURNED TO THE COURT OF GIERRODUR--

--AND THERE WAS CONSIGNED TO THE DARKEST PITS-- FOR THE DURATION OF ETERNITY!



THY WEAPON DID WEAKEN HIM MORE THAN EITHER OF THEE DIDST KNOW, TANA NILE.

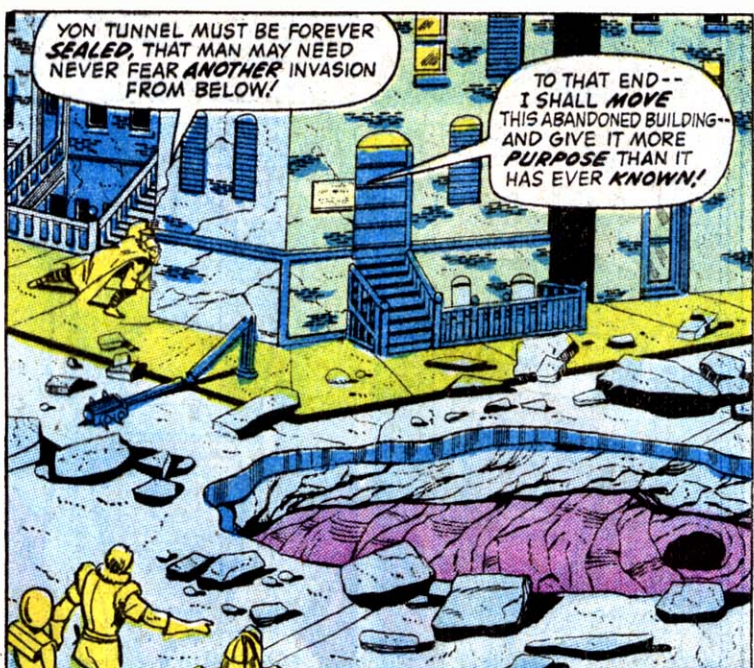
WITHOUT THY AID, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT CLIMAX TO THIS DAY!



MILORD, THERE IS SOMETHING UPON WHICH WE MUST SPEAK--

IN A MOMENT, FRIEND HOGUN.

FOR NOW, THERE IS A CONCERN OF FAR MORE IMPORT IMPENDING.



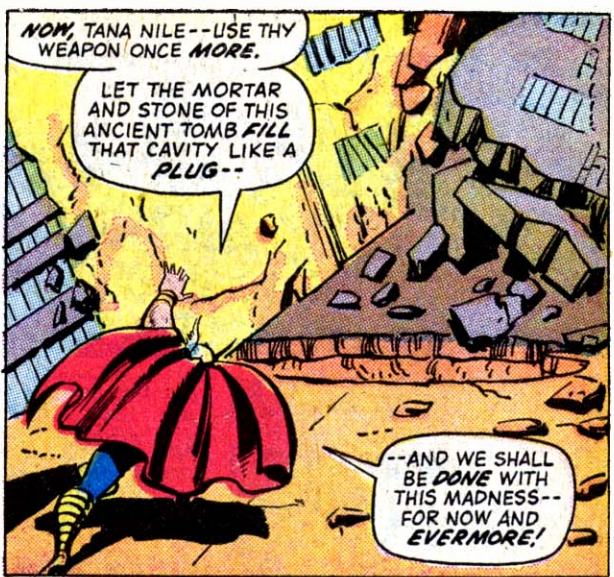
YON TUNNEL MUST BE FOREVER SEALED. THAT MAN MAY NEED NEVER FEAR ANOTHER INVASION FROM BELOW!

TO THAT END-- I SHALL MOVE THIS ABANDONED BUILDING-- AND GIVE IT MORE PURPOSE THAN IT HAS EVER KNOWN!



THEN SHALL WE TALK, HOGUN -- BUT WE MUST BE BRIEF.

MY QUEST FOR BALDER, WHO IS SOUGHT BY SIF AND KARNILLA BOTH, MUST HAVE NO FURTHER SETBACKS!



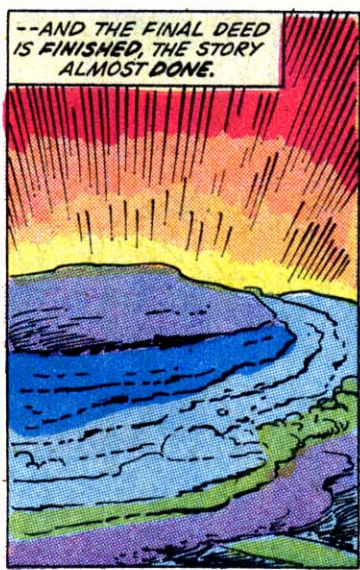
NOW, TANA NILE--USE THY WEAPON ONCE MORE.

LET THE MORTAR AND STONE OF THIS ANCIENT TOMB FILL THAT CAVITY LIKE A PLUG--

--AND WE SHALL BE DONE WITH THIS MADNESS-- FOR NOW AND EVERMORE!



A MINOR ADJUSTMENT TO THE STASIS BEAM--A MOMENT'S AIMING--



--AND THE FINAL DEED IS FINISHED, THE STORY ALMOST DONE.



ALMOST, MY HEART GOES OUT TO THOSE DEMON TROLLS-- VERILY, THEIR PLIGHT IS A DARK ONE.

YET THEIR METHOD BETRAYED THEIR CAUSE.

MILORD... MAY WE SPEAK?

BRIEFLY, FANDRAL.



LORD THOR, WOULD THAT I COULD BE BRIEF.

'TIS ABOUT BALDER, WHOM THOU DOST SEEK.

MILORD-- HE HAS RETURNED.



THEN--THE QUEST IS NIGH OVER.

WHERE IS HE, FANDRAL? I MUST HASTEN TO HIM--

MILORD--



'TIS ON THIS WE MUST CONVERSE.

THOU DOST RIDDLE ME, FANDRAL.

BRAVE BALDER HATH--CHANGED.

SIMPLY THEN, MILORD-- BALDER HATH GONE MAD!

NEXT: RETURN TO ASGARD!