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THE MIGHTY

# THOR



NOT ALL THE GODS OF ASGARD MAY STAND AGAINST THE 4-D MAN--

--NO, NOT EVEN THE GOD OF THUNDER!

THEN, IF PERISH I MUST-- LET IT BE ALONGSIDE THE BODIES OF MY COMRADES--

--AND LET IT BE AFTER BATTLE WHICH DOTH SHAKE THE VERY COSMOS!!



## INTO THE DARK NEBULA

# INTO THE DARK NEBULA!

**THE DARK NEBULA:** WORDS WHISPERED BY **SSSTHGAR THE SLY**, TELLING THOR AND HIS FELLOW ASSGARDIANS THE **WHISPERABOUTS** OF THE LADY **SIF**, AND THE **MORN-QUEEN KARNILLA!**

**THE DARK NEBULA:** OMINOUS WORDS--FOR NO MAN HAS YET SET FOOT WITHIN ITS CLOUDY DOMAIN, AND RETURNED TO DESCRIBE THE WORLD WITHIN!

**THE DARK NEBULA:** THIS STARJAMMER'S GOAL--AND THE DESTINATION OF ALL THE LORDS OF ASSGARD!

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MEET THEM NOW, THESE LORDS:

HEIMDAL, WHOSE EYES SEE WHAT MORTAL EYES CANNOT-- WHOSE EARS HEAR THE VERY SIGN OF THE UNIVERSE!

ODIN, ALL-FATHER SUPREME! LORD OF ASGARD-- LIEGE OF THE REALM ETERNAL!

THOR, THE ODINSON, LORD OF THUNDER, MASTER OF THE WORLD'S WINDS!

HOGUN, QUIET, COLD-- A DEATH TO ALL HIS LORD'S FOES.

HILDEGARDE, FRIEND AND COMPANION OF THE LADY SIF-- BUT FAR MORE, WHEN BATTLE IS CLOSED-- AND MEN SEEK HER STRENGTH IN A FIGHT!

AND TANA NILE--

GUEST OF THE REALM, COLONIZER OF RYSEL, MARoonED WITH-OUT A SWIP-- AND NO PATH TO FOLLOW HOME.

FANDRAL, HE OF THE FLASHING BLADE!



TELL ME, HILDEGARDE-- HOW CAME SIF TO YAMSH?

AND WHAT PLACE DOES KARNILLA HAVE IN THE TALE?

THOU WERT NOT PRESENT, TANA NILE-- SO THOU DOST NOT KNOW WHAT TRANPIRED THOSE MONTHS AGO--



"-- WHEN LOKI DID BATTLE THOR IN A NEW ENGLAND TOWN CALLED RUTLAND, AND POWERED WITH THE STRENGTH OF A THOUSAND MINDS--



"-- CAME NEAR TO WINNING THAT STRUGGLE!"

"IT SEEMED ONLY KARNILLA COULD SAVE THE THUNDER GOD WITH HER MAGIC--



"-- AND SHE DID SO, EXTRACTING FIRST A PROMISE THAT SIF WOULD ACCOMPANY HER ON HER QUEST FOR BALDER.



"THE BATTLE THEN WAS QUICKLY RESOLVED.



"KARNILLA CONJURED A STORM-- THOR USED THE ENERGIES SUMMONED--

"-- AND LOKI WAS DEFEATED, THE WORLD MADE SAFE ONCE MORE."



FOR MONTHS HAS THOR SEARCHED THE WORLD CALLED EARTH-- AND FOR MONTHS, NAUGHT HAS HE FOUND BUT **FRUSTRATION.**

THEN-- BUT A FEW DAYS PAST-- BALDER DID RETURN TO US-- AND SPOKE IN MADNESS OF A DOOM WHICH HAD BEFALLEN **ASSARD.**

WHEN WE DID **INVESTIGATE,** WE LEARNED THAT ASSARD'S WARRIORS HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY SLAVERS--



--AND AMONG THEM WAS THE NORN-QUEEN **KARNILLA--** AND MY LADY **FAIR, SIF!**

QUICKLY WE FOLLOWED THE SLAVER'S **TRAIL--** TO A WORLD CALLED **GOLDEN STAR,** WHERE WE **FREED** THE CHAINED AND DRUGGED **ASSGARDIANS--**



--AND LEARNED FROM THE **LEADER** OF THE SLAVER BAND, **SSSTHGAR,** THAT SIF HAD BEEN SOLD TO **MINERS** IN THE **DARK NEBULA,** WHERE EVEN NOW SHE AND **KARNILLA LANGUISH--** WITHOUT HOPE OR PRAYER OF **RESCUE!**

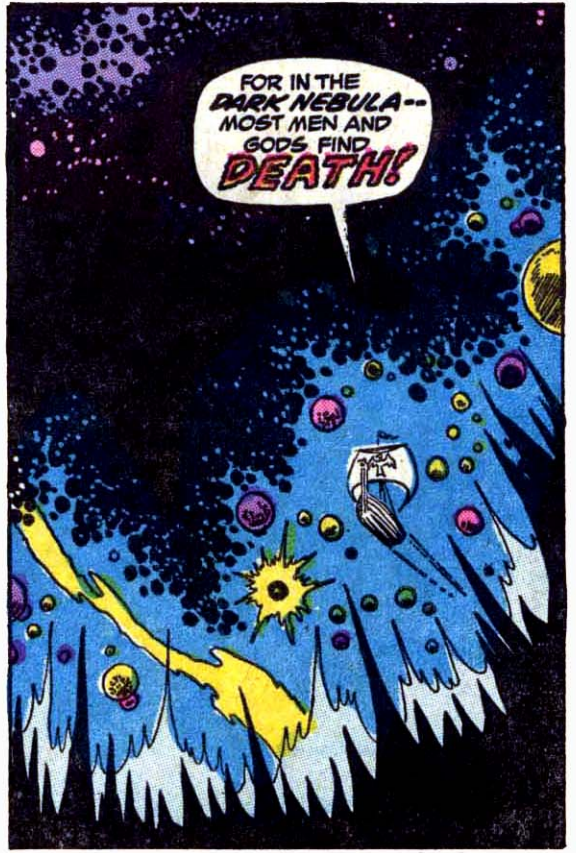


'TIS **THERE** THAT WE GO NOW-- THE **EIGHT** OF US.

THE **OTHER** WARRIORS HAVE BEEN **RETURNED** TO **ASSGARD--** FOR ONLY WE SHALL BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THIS **QUEST.**

I **SEE,** **HILDEGARDE,** YES... I BEGIN TO **UNDERSTAND.**

THOR MUST FEEL A GREAT **LOVE** FOR THIS WOMAN, TO TRAVEL SO FAR TO **FIND** HER, SO FAR-- AND INTO SUCH **DANGER.**



FOR IN THE **DARK NEBULA--** MOST MEN AND GODS FIND **DEATH!**

**BUT, DANGER IS NO NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE GODLING THOR.**

**HE THRIVES ON IT-- AS OTHER GODS THRIVE ON POWER.**



**AND IN THIS, THE GOD OF THUNDER IS NOT ALONE--**

**-- FOR HIS FATHER ALSO WELCOMES THE APPROACHING MOMENT OF STRUGGLE--**

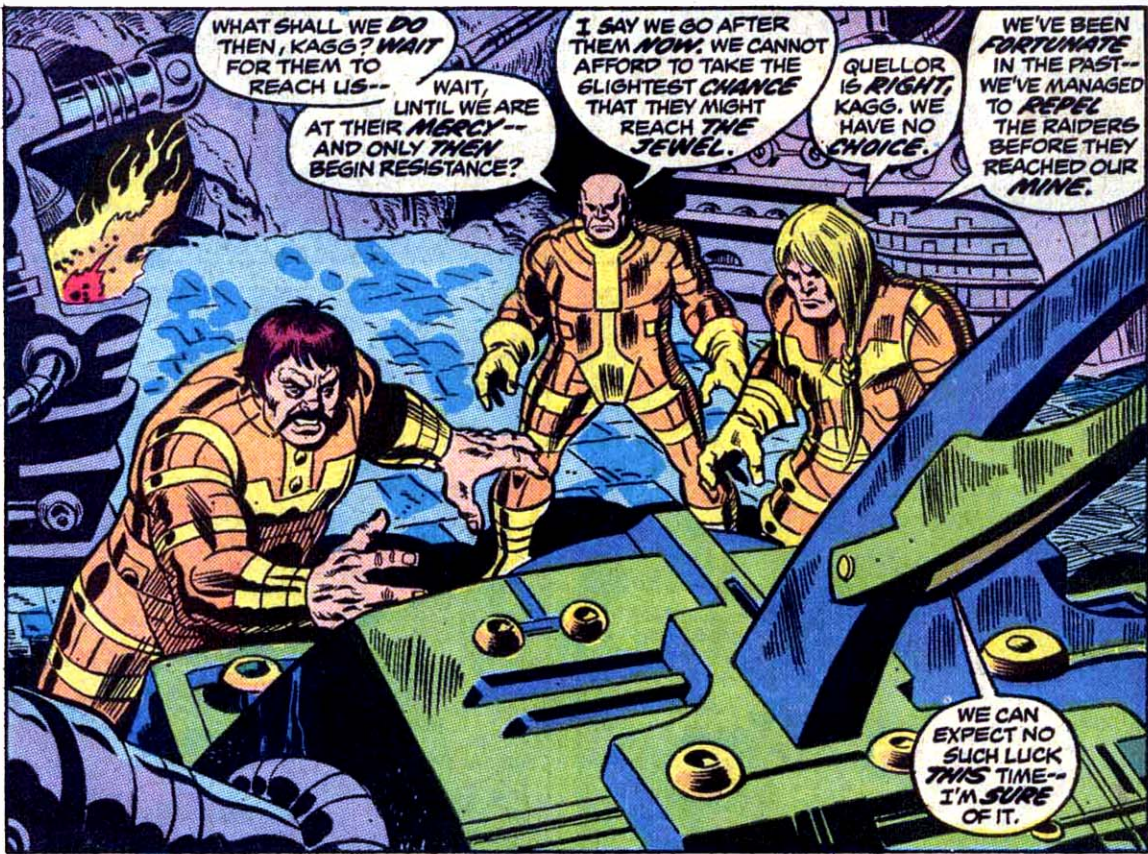
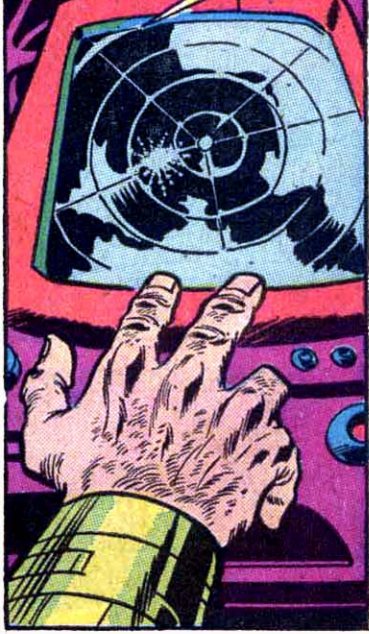


**-- WHATEVER FORM IT MAY TAKE-- NATURAL OR--**

**-- MAN-MADE!**

**THE RAIDERS! THEY'VE COME AGAIN--**

**JUST AS I SAID THEY WOULD!**



**WHAT SHALL WE DO THEN, KAGG? WAIT FOR THEM TO REACH US--**

**WAIT, UNTIL WE ARE AT THEIR MERCY-- AND ONLY THEN BEGIN RESISTANCE?**

**I SAY WE GO AFTER THEM NOW. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT THEY MIGHT REACH THE JEWEL.**

**QUELLOR IS RIGHT, KAGG. WE HAVE NO CHOICE.**

**WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE IN THE PAST-- WE'VE MANAGED TO REPEL THE RAIDERS BEFORE THEY REACHED OUR MINE.**

**WE CAN EXPECT NO SUCH LUCK THIS TIME-- I'M SURE OF IT.**

VERY WELL, ROTHGAR. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

I SHALL STAY HERE IN THE MINE-- THE TWO OF YOU, MAN THE SPACE SLEDS, AND GREET OUR UNWELCOME VISITORS!

DIS BE WITH YOU-- YOU'LL NEED HIS AID!

KAGG IS QUITE THE PESSIMIST, ROTHGAR.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD VOTE A NEW MINE FOREMAN--?

DON'T BE A FOOL. HE'S THE BEST ASTEROID ENGINEER IN THIS HALF OF THE GALAXY.

WE NEED HIM-- FOR THE JEWEL.

PERHAPS, EVEN SO-- I'D FEEL SAFER WITH ONE OF US PROTECTING OUR ASTEROID MINE.

KAGG IS TOO CONSERVATIVE FOR MY COMFORT-- I THINK HE FEELS A CERTAIN AFFINITY WITH THIS BLASTED NEBULA.

QUIET, QUELLOR.

OUR VISITORS ARE AHEAD..

--AND WE MUST BE PREPARED TO HELP THEM DIE!

HOGUN! LOOK THEE ABOVE--

ALREADY-- THE BATTLE DOTH BEGIN!

THEN LET IT!

HOGUN IS EVER READY FOR WAR!



MY SON--IT DOTH SEEM WE ART ATTACKED!

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURES ARE THESE, WHO FLY TO BATTLE 'PON SILVER SLEDS?

ALIENS, ALL-FATHER!

NO DOUBT THEIR SHELLS ARE ARMOR-- TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE EXTREMES OF AIRLESS SPACE!

AND MORE-- TO PROTECT THEM FROM OUR BLADES AS WELL!



BEWARE, HILDEGARDE-- THEIR WEAPONS FIRE!

TO SUCH AS THESE, EVEN SIMPLE LIGHT MAY TAKE THE ASPECT OF DEATH!



ZZACK!



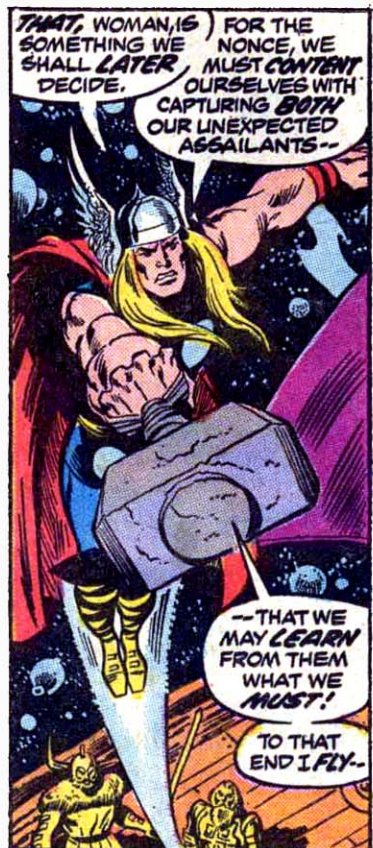
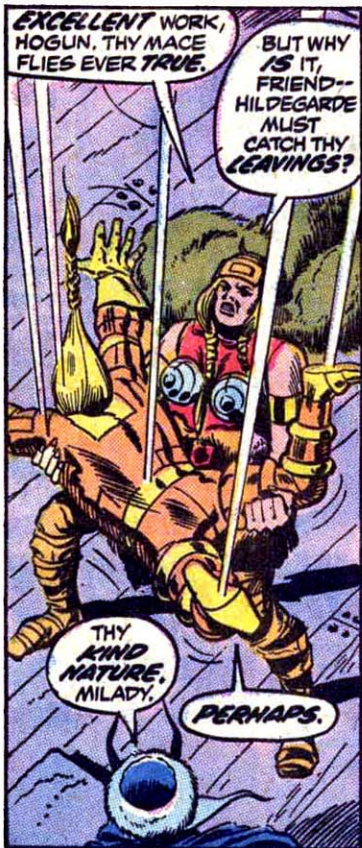
THY WORDS PROVE TRUE, MILORD THOR.

THEIR WEAPONS ARE POWERFUL-- BUT MAYHAP OUR SIMPLE TOOLS CAN WORK EQUAL HAVOC!



WHY, FRIEND FANDRAL -- IT SEEMS THOU HAST LOST THY ARMOR.

DOST THOU THINK TO STEAL MY PLACE?  
ONLY AOSUN MAY TRULY BE CALLED GRIM!



EXCELLENT WORK, HOGUN. THY MACE FLIES EVER TRUE.

BUT WHY IS IT, FRIEND-- HILDEGARDE MUST CATCH THY LEAVINGS?

THY KIND NATURE, MILADY.

PERHAPS.

THAT, WOMAN, IS SOMETHING WE SHALL LATER DECIDE.

FOR THE NONCE, WE MUST CONTENT OURSELVES WITH CAPTURING BOTH OUR UNEXPECTED ASSAILANTS--

-- THAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THEM WHAT WE MUST!

TO THAT END I FLY--

I, THOR-- THE LIVING GOD OF THUNDER!

WHAT NOW, MY LORD? SHALL WE PUT THE QUESTION TO THEM?

AYE... BUT GENTLY.

LET THOR DO THE ASKING, HOGUN. I WISH THEM TO SPEAK--

-- AND PERHAPS REASON CAN DO WHAT FORCE SOMETIMES MAY NOT.

FIRST, THEN: WHY DID YE FIRE UPON US?

AND SECOND: WHERE BE THE LADY SIF-- SHE WHOM WE SEEK?

NO DOUBTLESS, THERE ARE THOSE AMONG YOU WHO WILL QUESTION THE USE OF A SOUND EFFECT IN AIRLESS SPACE. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, EXPLANATIONS FOR SUCH AN OCCURRENCE BUT WE SHALL NOT BORE YOU BY RELATING THEM.  
-- GERRY & JOHNNY C.

REMEMBER, HOGUN-- THEY ARE ONLY FLESH.

WE KNOW NOTHING OF ANY WOMAN.



**QUIET, QUELLOR--** THEIR TRUE DESIRE IS TO LEARN HOW MANY MEN THERE ARE AT OUR **ASTER-OLD MINE.**

THEY ONLY WANT TO **BAIT US.**

THEN THEY WILL KNOW WHETHER TO ATTACK AT **ONCE--**

--OR WAIT FOR THEIR **REINFORCEMENTS!**

YOU'RE **RIGHT, ROTHGAR.**

THESE **RAIDERS ARE A TRICKY LOT!**

**"RAIDERS"?**

**HOLD, IT APPEARS 'TIS SOME... MIS-UNDERSTANDING.**

**AFTER SOME EXCHANGED EXPLANATIONS, THE FULL STORY OF THE MINERS' EXPERIENCE COMES OUT, AND...**

...THEN FOR THESE FEW WEEKS, THY MINE HAS BEEN **BESIEGED!**

YOU THOUGHT US PART OF THAT **SIEGE--**

--AND **UNTHINKING, ATTACKED!**

TAKE US TO THY **FOREMAN.** PERHAPS WE CAN **ASSIST EACH OTHER** IN OUR **QUESTS!**

AND SO, SCANT MOMENTS LATER, IN THE ILL-LIT CAVERN WITHIN THE JAGGED BULK OF PLANETARY RUBBLE...

THEY ARE **FRIENDS, KAGG.** LORD ODIN AND HIS **LIEGEMEN... FROM ASSGARD!**

BY **DIS!** THEN YOU ARE NO MYTH--

--BUT LIFE **INCARNATE!**

MEN HAVE CALLED ME AS MUCH, THOUGH AT THE MOMENT, MY STRENGTH IS BUT A **SHADOW** OF ITS TRUE SELF, DUE TO A **TREACHEROUS DRUG** MY BODY HAS NOT YET FULLY THROWN OFF--\*

-- I AM INDEED **ODIN,** AND THESE ARE THE **LORDS AND LADY OF ASSGARD!**

PLEASE **FORGIVE YOUR RUDE RECEPTION,** LORD ODIN. WE WERE EXPECTING **OTHERS.**

AS YOU HAVE BEEN **TOLD,** THESE PAST WEEKS HAVE BEEN **DIFFICULT** FOR THE MINERS OF THE **DARK NEBULA--** AND WE **THREE** ON **ORION BASE** SEEM TO HAVE HAD IT THE MOST **DIFFICULT** OF ALL.

ONCE THERE WERE **SIXTY** OF US--

ONLY **QUELLOR, ROTHGAR** AND A HANDFUL OF MEN REMAIN **ALIVE.**

\*GIVEN HIM LAST ISSUE BY THE SLAVERS OF **GOLDEN STAR.** -- RT.



WE BURIED THE OTHERS IN SPACE--

--AND WE WAITED TO BURY EACH OTHER-- UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG.

WITH YOUR AID, WE CAN REPULSE THE RAIDERS-- SAVE OUR MINES --AND--



HOLD, FRIEND.

WE SHALL HELP THEE IF 'TIS IN OUR POWER-- BUT THOU MUST ALSO AID US.

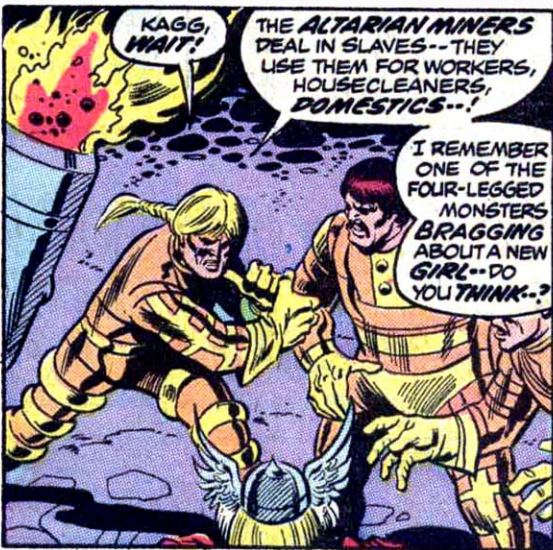
'TIS A WOMAN WE SEARCH FOR-- A GODDESS NAMED SIF!



WE KNOW OF NO ONE BY THAT NAME.

IF SHE IS A SLAVE, PERHAPS ONE OF THE OTHER MINERS WOULD KNOW OF HER.

BUT IN THAT CASE, WE CAN NEVER--



KAGG, WAIT!

THE ALTARIAN MINERS DEAL IN SLAVES-- THEY USE THEM FOR WORKERS, HOUSECLEANERS, DOMESTICS--!

I REMEMBER ONE OF THE FOUR-LEGGED MONSTERS BRAGGING ABOUT A NEW GIRL-- DO YOU THINK--?



IT IS POSSIBLE.

COME, MY FRIENDS... AND WE WILL CHECK WITH THE ALTARIAN MINES.

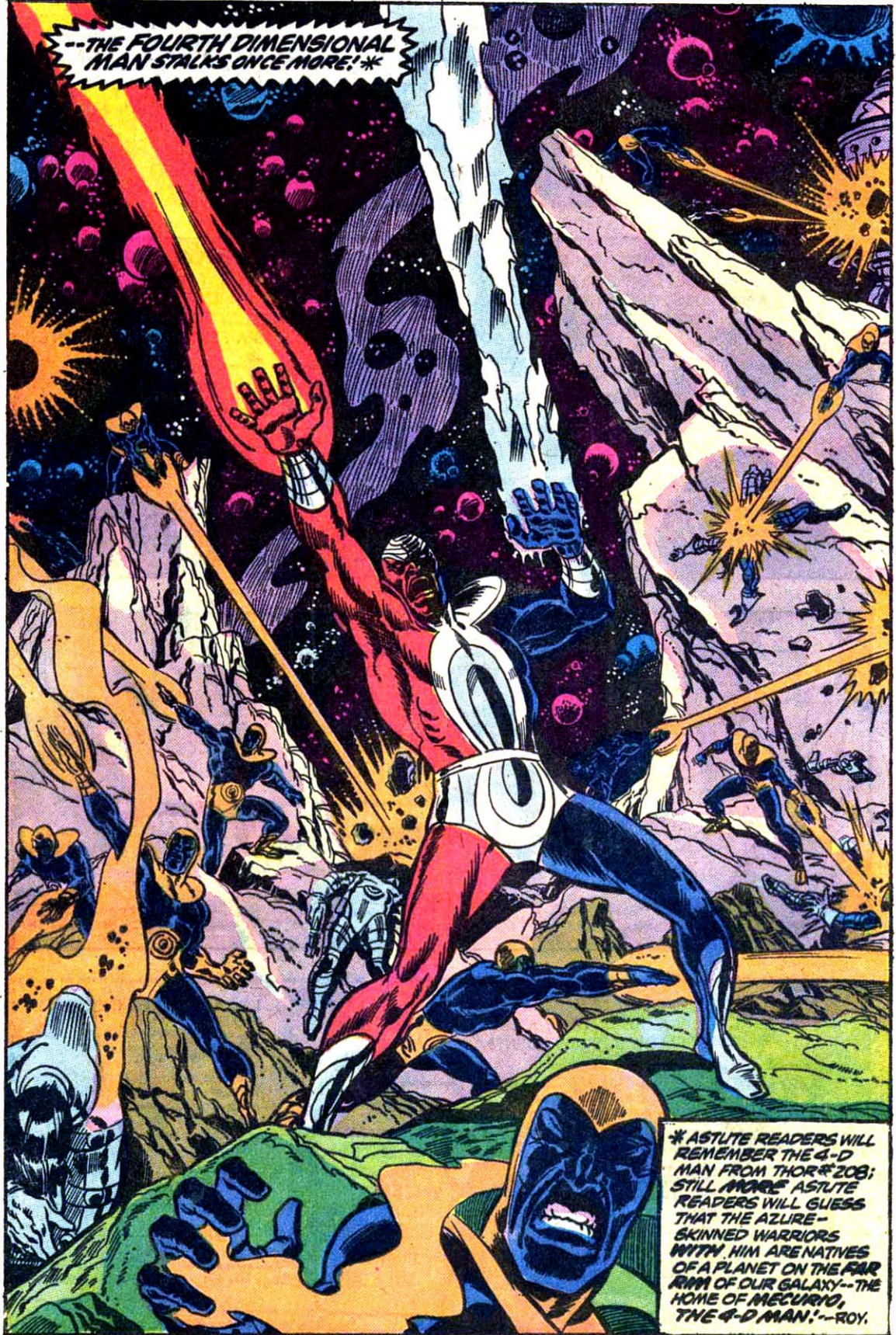
I CAN PROMISE NOTHING, BUT PERHAPS--



BEFORE THE MINER CAN GO ANY FURTHER-- A TREMENDOUS IMPLOSION ROCKS THE ASTEROID FOUNDATIONS, BLASTS RADIATING FROM THE SURFACE ABOVE, WHERE--

WHUMP!

**--THE FOURTH DIMENSIONAL  
MAN STALKS ONCE MORE!\***



**\* ASTUTE READERS WILL  
REMEMBER THE 4-D  
MAN FROM THOR #208;  
STILL MORE ASTUTE  
READERS WILL GUESS  
THAT THE AZURE-  
SKINNED WARRIORS  
WITH HIM ARE NATIVES  
OF A PLANET ON THE FAR  
RIM OF OUR GALAXY--THE  
HOME OF MERCURIO,  
THE 4-D MAN!--ROY.**

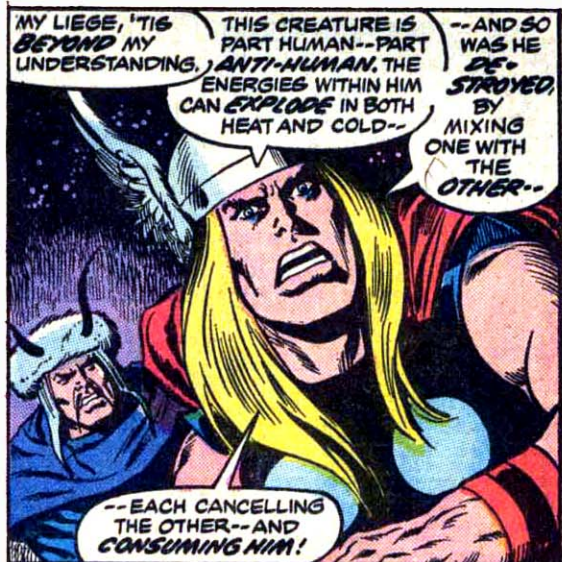


BY THE SEVEN STARS! 'TIS THE ONE NAMED MERCURIO--!

DID HE NOT DIE, MILORD--WHEN LAST WE BATTLED WITH HIM FOR THE PLANET EARTH?

THOU DOST KNOW THIS MAN, MY SON?

SPEAK, I COMMAND THEE!



MY LIEGE, 'TIS BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING,

THIS CREATURE IS PART HUMAN--PART ANTI-HUMAN. THE ENERGIES WITHIN HIM CAN EXPLODE IN BOTH HEAT AND COLD--

--AND SO WAS HE DESTROYED BY MIXING ONE WITH THE OTHER--

--EACH CANCELLING THE OTHER--AND CONSUMING HIM!



AND SO IT DID, THUNDER GOD,

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE-- THE DESTRUCTION WAS HARDLY PERMANENT.

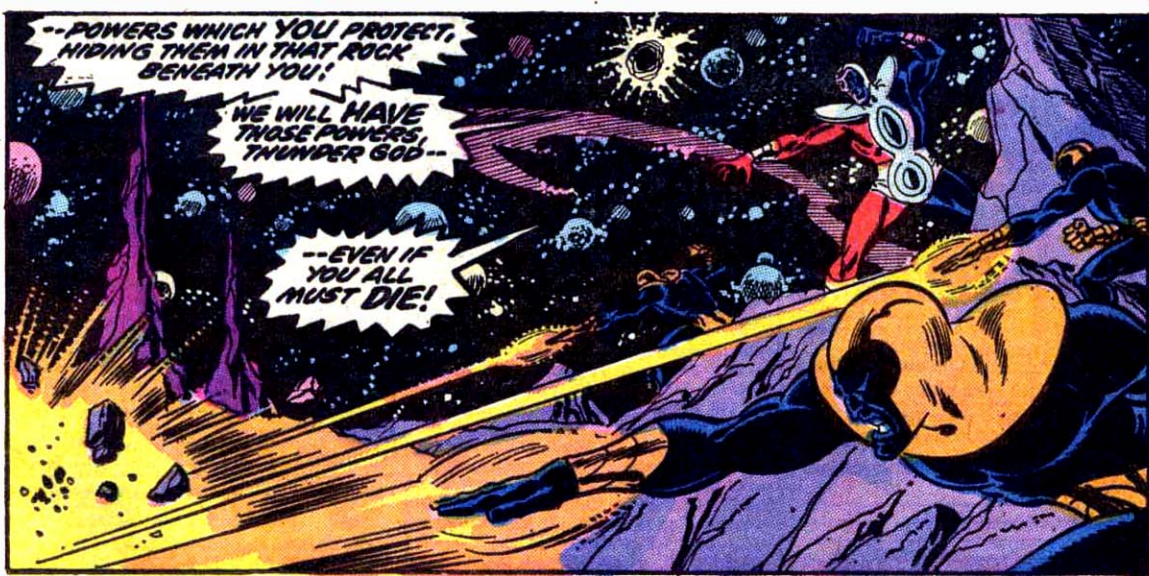
THE 4-D MAN HAS RETURNED--



--AYE, RETURNED, TO SEIZE THE ONE ELEMENT IN THE UNIVERSE WHICH CAN SAVE MY HOME DIMENSION FROM EXTINCTION!

BEFORE, I THOUGHT ONLY EARTH'S ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD WOULD DO THAT SAVING--

--BUT I WAS WRONG! THERE ARE OTHER POWERS I MAY USE--



--POWERS WHICH YOU PROTECT, HIDING THEM IN THAT ROCK BENEATH YOU!

WE WILL HAVE THOSE POWERS, THUNDER GOD--

--EVEN IF YOU ALL MUST DIE!



**HISSSSS  
GUMP!**

THOU DOST MOUTH MADNESS, DEMON!

WE HIDE NOTHING-- YET IF 'TIS A BATTLE THOU DOST SEEK--

THEN BATTLE SHALT THOU RECEIVE!



EXCELLENT, ASGARDIAN! MECURIO HAS CLAIMED YOU FOR HIMSELF-- BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE OUR GAME!

SUCH AS THIS MACE-WIELDING BUFFOON BEFORE US!

BUFFOON?

THOU SHALT REGRET THAT INFORMALITY, WRETCH--



**KLUMP!**

--FOR NONE MAY CALL HOGUN FOOL!



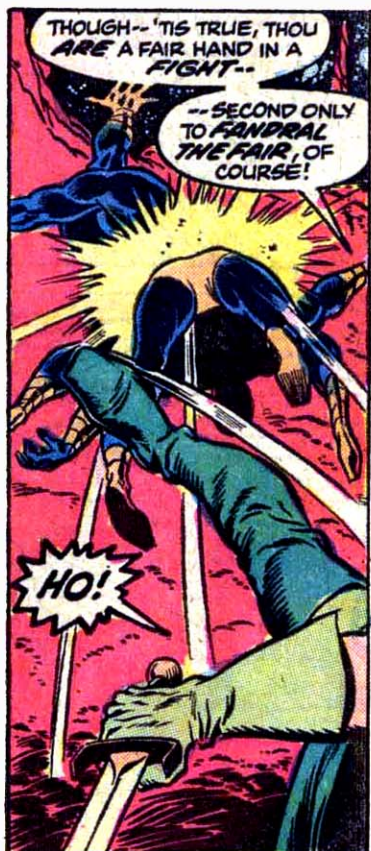
HAST THOU SUCH A FEAR OF THE TRUTH, FRIEND HOGUN?

OR DOST THOU ONLY WISH IT PARTLY CONCEALED--



--KNOWN TO THY FRIENDS ALONE!

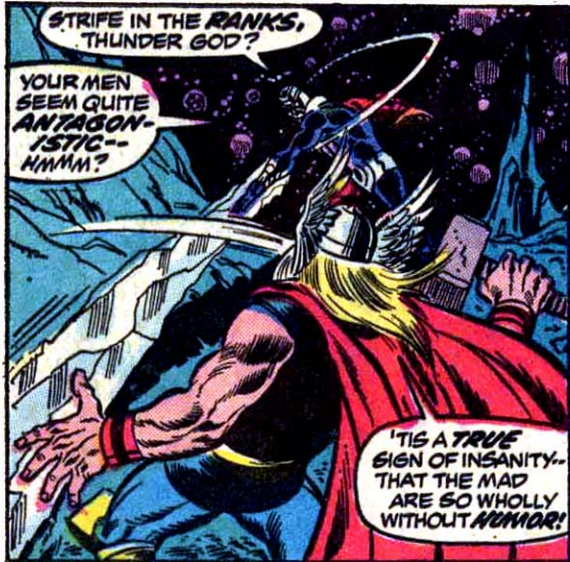
**SWAK!**



THOUGH-- 'TIS TRUE, THOU ARE A FAIR HAND IN A FIGHT--

--SECOND ONLY TO FANDRAL THE FAIR, OF COURSE!

**HO!**



STRIKE IN THE RANKS, THUNDER GOD?

YOUR MEN SEEM QUITE ANTAGONISTIC-- HMMM?

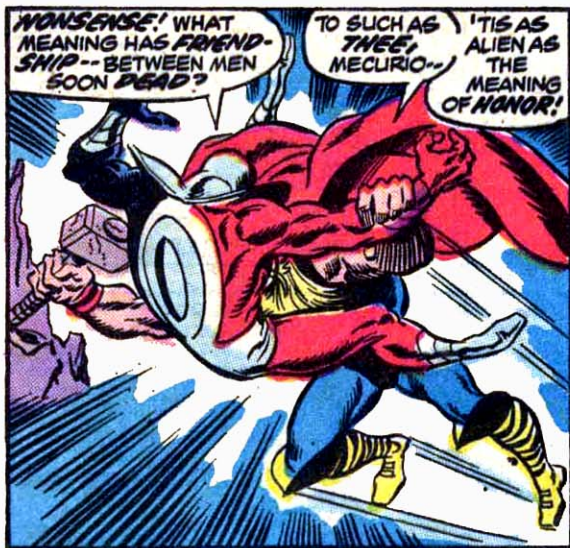
'TIS A TRUE SIGN OF INSANITY-- THAT THE MAD ARE SO WHOLLY WITHOUT HONOR!



NONE THERE ARE WHO HAVE GREATER FRIENDSHIP THAN FANDRAL AND HOSUN--

-- EACH WOULD DIE FOR THE OTHER--

-- WITHOUT QUESTION-- OR DESPAIR!



MONSENSE! WHAT MEANING HAS FRIENDSHIP-- BETWEEN MEN SOON DEAD?

TO SUCH AS THEE, MEURIO--

'TIS AS ALIEN AS THE MEANING OF HONOR!



I'LL TALK NO MORE, ASSGARDIAN!

WITHOUT DOUBT-- YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT DRIVES ME--



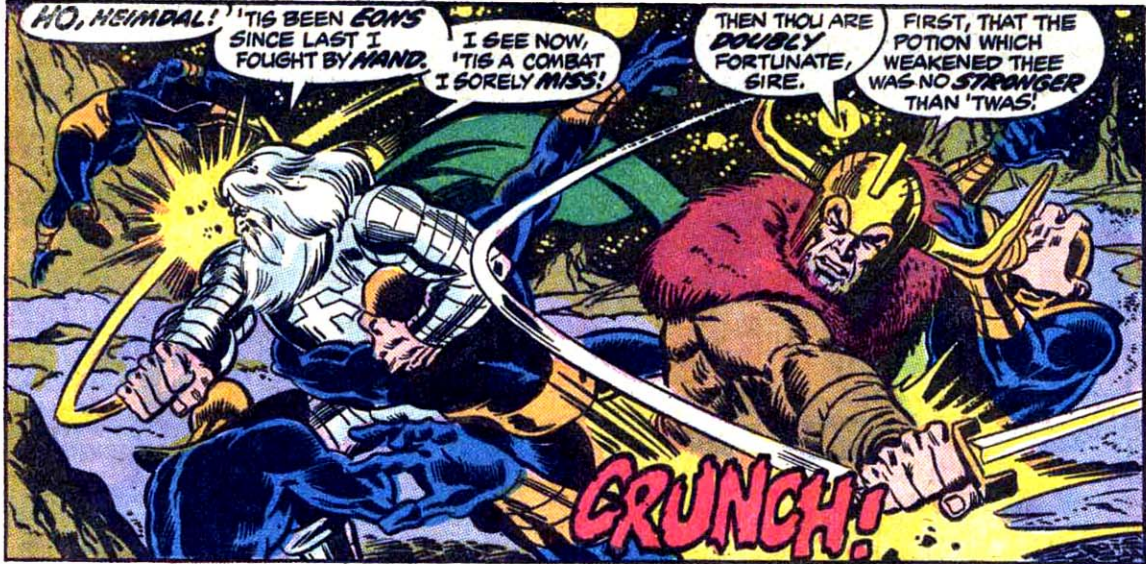
-- FOR IF IT IS NOT HONOR-- IF IT IS NOT MY DUTY TO MY PLANET AND ITS DIMENSION--

-- THEN TRULY I AM A MAN MAD--



-- AND THE WHOLE WORLD WITH ME!

WHUNK



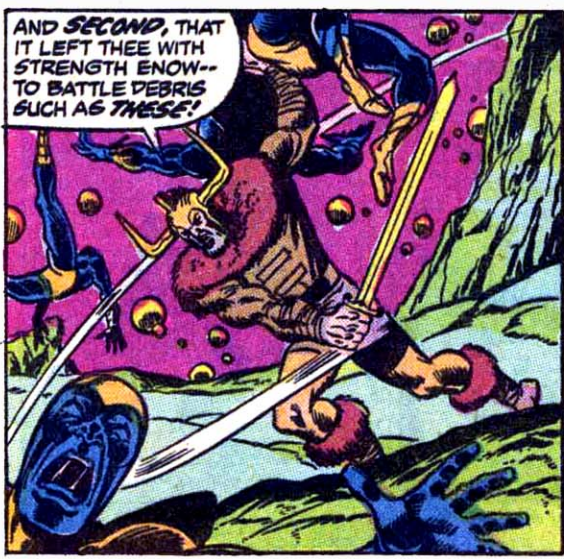
NO, HEIMDAL! 'TIS BEEN EONS SINCE LAST I FOUGHT BY HAND.

I SEE NOW, 'TIS A COMBAT I SORELY MISS!

THEN THOU ARE DOUBLY FORTUNATE, SIRE.

FIRST, THAT THE POTION WHICH WEAKENED THEE WAS NO STRONGER THAN 'T WAS!

**CRUNCH!**

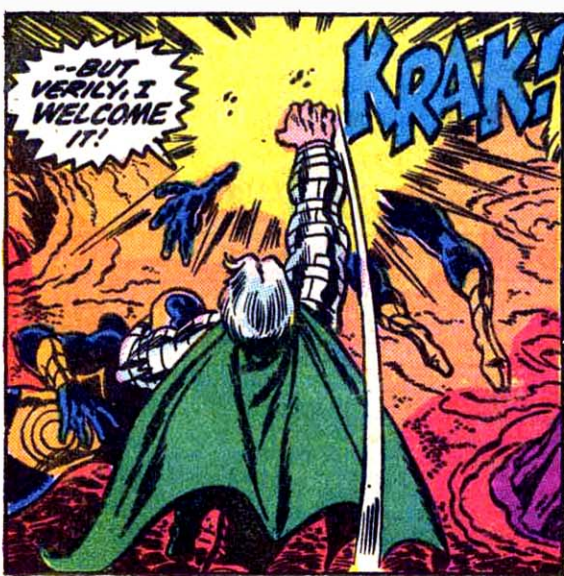


AND SECOND, THAT IT LEFT THEE WITH STRENGTH ENOUGH TO BATTLE DEBRIS SUCH AS THESE!



'TIS AN ODD FORTUNE, HEIMDAL--

**SWUNT!**



--BUT VERILY, I WELCOME IT!

**KRAK!**



**BAAM!**

AS DO I, SIRE!

AS DO I!

BUT, THE LORD AND THE WOMAN  
THE GUARDIAN OF ASSGARD ARE  
NOT THE ONLY WARRIORS  
WHO REVEL IN THIS BATTLE.

... CALLED HILDEGARDE  
ALSO TAKES JOY IN ITS  
FIRE AND FURY...

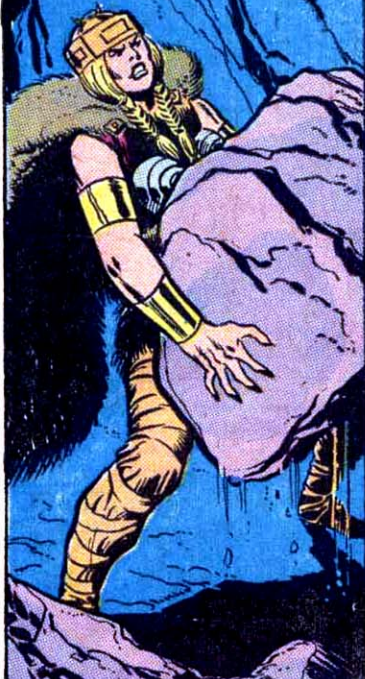


AND WHEN ONE GROUP OF FOES  
HAS BEEN FELLED, SHE  
TURNED TO ANOTHER.



HER EYES  
SMILE. HER  
LIPS TWIST  
INTO A GRIN...

... AND WITH THE RIGHTeous  
GLEE ONLY A FIGHTER  
BORN MAY EVER  
COMPLETELY UNDER-  
STAND...



... SHE  
STRIKES!



NOW SHE STANDS, EYES  
SEARCHING THIS AIRLESS  
ROCK ITS MINERS CALL A  
WORLD.

SHE LOOKS FOR  
MORE ENEMIES TO CONQUER,  
NOT AWARE THAT SUCH AN  
ENEMY APPROACHES.



SHE REMAINS UNAWARE...



... EVEN  
WHEN  
IT IS...  
TOO  
LATE.





THEIR EYES ARE HARD WITH THE EFFECT OF THE LIVES THEY LEAD.

NO HUMOR EXISTS WITHIN THOSE EYES... AND NEITHER DOES GRATITUDE OR SYMPATHY.



WE MUST SAVE THE JEWEL.

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

BUT THE ASSGARDIANS-- YOU WOULD ABANDON THEM, KAGG?



WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH-- THEY WOULD JOIN WITH THEIR ENEMIES IN ATTACKING US.

NO--



OUR ONLY CHANCE LIES WITH THE JEWEL.

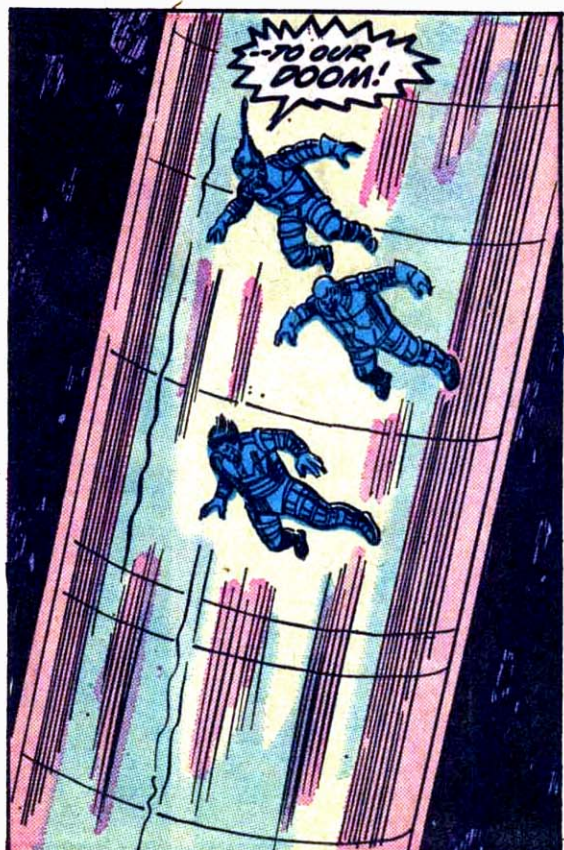
WE MUST SURRENDER OUR WILLS, WE MUST PROVIDE IT WITH THE POWER WHICH IT NEEDS TO SAVE ALL OF US-- REGARDLESS OF WHAT THAT MEANS TO THE ASSGARDIANS, AND THE WOMAN FOR WHOM THEY SEARCH.

THESE PAST YEARS HAVE BEEN LONG AND LONELY, MY FRIENDS--

I'LL NOT SEE THEM WASTED BY OUR FORMER ALLIES-- WOULD YOU?!

CURSE YOU, KAGG. WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE?

WE ARE FOOLS AS GREAT AS YOU ARE! LEAD US, KAGG--



--TO OUR DOOM!

--YOUR DOOM, ASSGARDIAN! YOUR POWERS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO MINE!

IN MY RIGHT HAND, I HOLD THE FREEZING POWER OF INFINITE SPACE!

AND IN MY HAND, MEURIO, I HOLD Mjolnir--

Mjolnir, FORGED IN THE FURNACES OF GIERRODUR THE TROLL-- THE MYSTIC Mallet SUPREME--

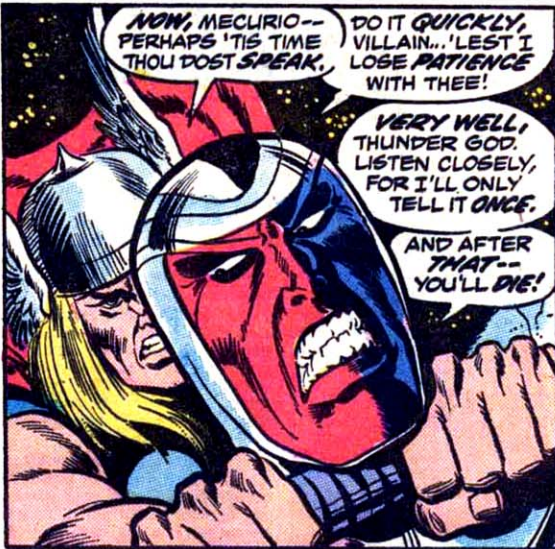


AND IN MY LEFT-- THE FIRE OF A BILLION STARS!

--WHICH MAY STRIKE WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING!



AND WHICH WILL WITHSTAND-- THE FARTHEST EXTREMES OF HEAT AND COLD!



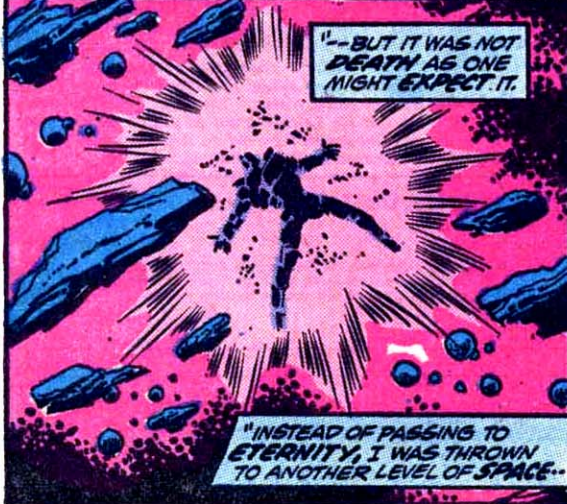
NOW, MEURIO-- PERHAPS 'TIS TIME THOU DOST SPEAK.

DO IT QUICKLY, VILLAIN... 'LEST I LOSE PATIENCE WITH THEE!

VERY WELL; THUNDER GOD. LISTEN CLOSELY, FOR I'LL ONLY TELL IT ONCE.

AND AFTER THAT-- YOU'LL DIE!

"AS I SAID, I DIED WHEN YOU TRAPPED THE TEMPERATURE EXTREMES OF MY BODY--



"-- BUT IT WAS NOT DEATH AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT IT.

"INSTEAD OF PASSING TO ETERNITY, I WAS THROWN TO ANOTHER LEVEL OF SPACE--

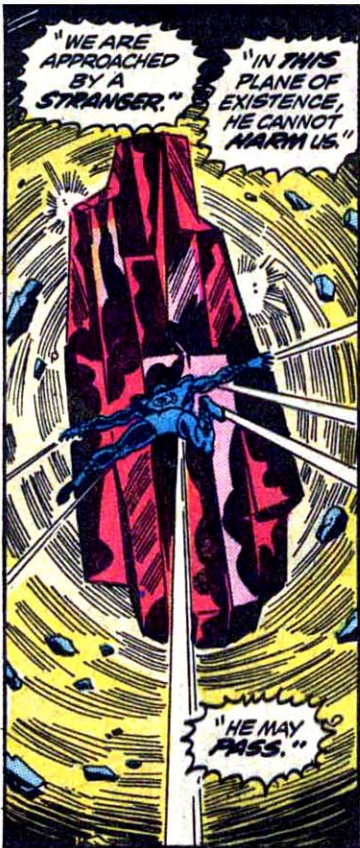


"-- WHERE I FOUND MYSELF CAUGHT IN A MYSTIC WHIRLPOOL, DRAWN TO A DESTINATION BEYOND MEAGER MORTAL UNDERSTANDING!

"YOUR MIND CANNOT CONCEIVE THE TERROR I FELT, THOR. I FREELY ADMIT IT--I WAS FRIGHTENED TO ANSANITY, AND SO YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN--"



"--IF YOU'D HEARD WHAT I NEXT HEARD, AND SAW WHAT I SAW!"



"WE ARE APPROACHED BY A STRANGER."

"IN THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE, HE CANNOT HARM US."

"HE MAY PASS."

"AT THE MOMENT I HEARD THE GHOST-VOICE, I STRUCK THE SURFACE OF THE VAST CRIMSON JEWEL..."



"SOMETHING HAPPENED WITHIN MY MIND AT THAT INSTANT--AND WITHIN MY BODY AS WELL--"

"--FOR WHEN MY MIND STOPPED REELING FROM THE EFFECT OF THAT TRANSFORMATION--I FOUND MYSELF RETURNED TO MY HOME PLANET--"



"--AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT ONE HIMSELF!"

THEN THIS JEWEL-- 'TIS A DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER!

THAT AND MUCH MORE, BLOND-HAIRED FOOL!

IT'S POWER BEYOND IMAGINING--



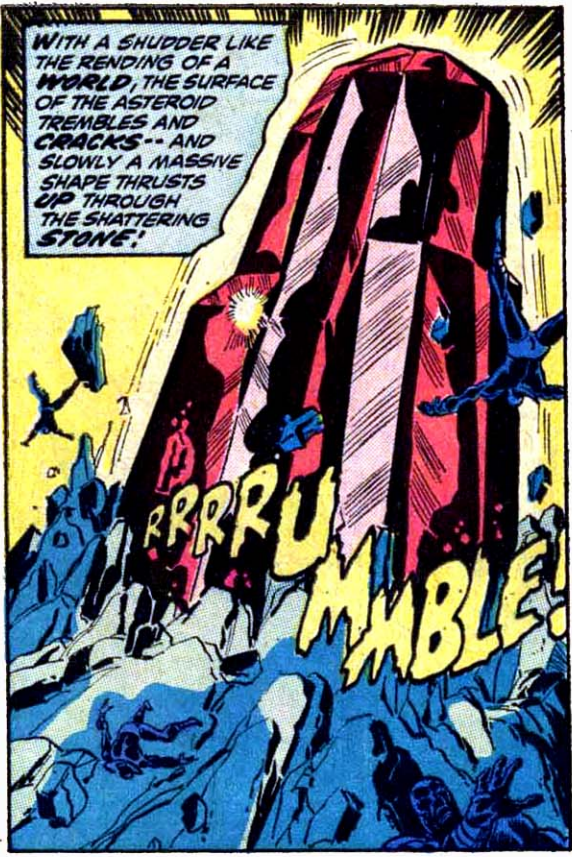
--POWER TO SAVE MY WORLD FOR ALL TIME!

THIS JEWEL MUST EXIST IF WHAT THOU SAYEST IS TRUE, THEN-- ONCE-- WITH ITS PLACE IN OUR WORLD HERE, IN THIS ASTEROID.



BY ASGARD'S WALLS!

THE ASTEROID! IT'S VIBRATING-- BREAKING APART!



WITH A SHUDDER LIKE THE RENDING OF A WORLD, THE SURFACE OF THE ASTEROID TREMBLES AND CRACKS-- AND SLOWLY A MASSIVE SHAPE THRUSTS UP THROUGH THE SHATTERING STONE!

**RRRRUMMABLE!**



FOR LONG SECONDS THOR STARES AT THE FIGURES TRAPPED WITHIN THAT SCARLET CRYSTAL--AND THEN ONE NAME ESCAPES HIM AS HE CRIES--

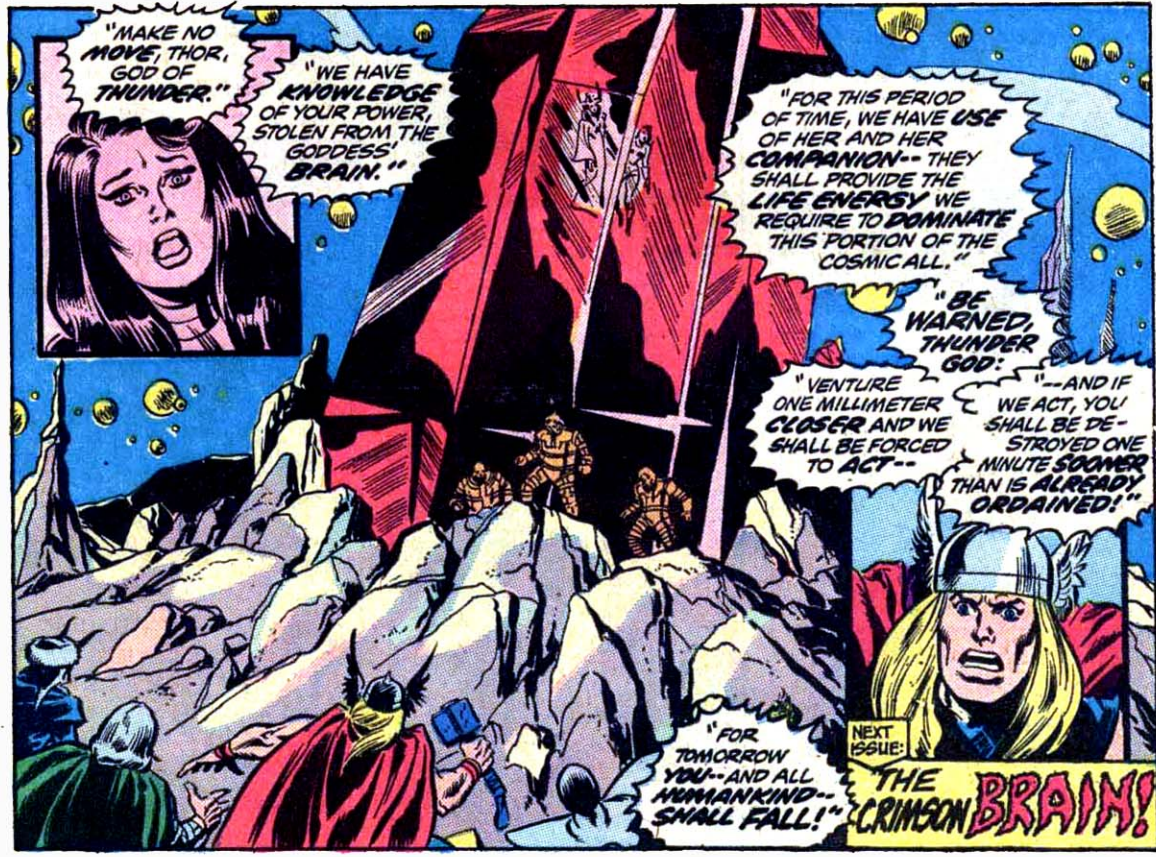
**SIF!**



NEITHER SIF NOR THE NORN-QUEEN ANSWERS-- BUT THEIR EYES SPEAK MOST ELOQUENTLY.

AND THEN--A VOICE THUNDERS IN THE THIN AIR OF THE ASTEROID--

--A VOICE ALIEN-- AND COLD!



"MAKE NO MOVE, THOR, GOD OF THUNDER."

"WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR POWER, STOLEN FROM THE GODDESS' BRAIN."

"FOR THIS PERIOD OF TIME, WE HAVE USE OF HER AND HER COMPANION-- THEY SHALL PROVIDE THE LIFE ENERGY WE REQUIRE TO DOMINATE THIS PORTION OF THE COSMIC ALL."

"BE WARNED, THUNDER GOD:"

"VENTURE ONE MILLIMETER CLOSER AND WE SHALL BE FORCED TO ACT--"

"--AND IF WE ACT, YOU SHALL BE DESTROYED ONE MINUTE SOONER THAN IS ALREADY ORDAINED!"



"FOR TOMORROW YOU-- AND ALL HUMAN KIND-- SHALL FALL!"

NEXT ISSUE:

**THE CRIMSON BRAIN!**