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THE MIGHTY THOR

FIGHTS ALONE!



IF THOR SHOULD FALL-- A WORLD MUST DIE!

BUT NONE SHOULD SLAY A GOD!

WHAT MONSTROUS SECRET LIES BEYOND THE 5 PLANETS OF DEATH!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY THOR!

GERRY CONWAY * JOHN BUSCEMA * JIM MOONEY * ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER * ROY THOMAS
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LEADS HELD HIGH, THEY WALK PROUDLY FROM THE CASTLE-KEEP OF THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN... YET IN THEIR EYES WISE MEN MIGHT SEE FEAR, FOR IN TRUTH, THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WALK FORWARD TO MEET... THE UNKNOWN!

ODIN HATH COMMANDED US TO SEEK OUT THE PLANET OF TANA NILE'S PEOPLE... THE DISTANT HOME OF THE RACE OF COLONIZERS...

...THE WORLD CALLED RIGEL.

AND IF THAT'S WHAT YOUR FATHER WANTS, THOR...

THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL BLOODY WELL DO!

TO RIGEL... AND IF 'TIS THERE THAT THOR DOTH GO...

...THEN 'TIS THERE THAT SIF SHALL GO AS WELL!

(AND IF YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO CLUTTER UP A SPLASH-PAGE LIKE THIS WITH A TITLE... YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING! ONWARD, FRANTIC ONE--THE GRANDEUR'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!--R.T.)

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WHAT OF OUR FELLOWS, MILORD? WILL THEY ACCOMPANY US ON THIS MOST MYSTERIOUS QUEST?

NAY, 'TIS TOO DANGEROUS... AND ODIN HATH COMMANDED, NONE BUT WE MAY CHANCE SUCH A VOYAGE.

WAIT, MILORD THOR... SURELY THOU WILT RECONSIDER.

WHAT OF BALDER--

--HE WHO HATH SHARED THY TROUBLES, WHO HATH BEEN THY CLOSEST FRIEND, FAIR WEATHER AND FOUL.

WILT THOU NOT LET HIM SHARE THIS BATTLE ALSO?

HOW COULD I DENY THEE, BRAVE ONE? SO BE IT.

WE SHALL BE FIVE...

...AGAINST A MADNESS OF WHICH I DARE NOT SPEAK.

THEN LET US BE OFF, MILORD.

WHAT E'ER DANGER STANDS BEFORE US, MY LIEGE--

--WE SHALL FACE THAT DANGER AS TRUE ASGARDIANS BORN!

THEY ARE BRAVE, VIZIER... BRAVER THAN ANY GODS BEFORE THEM, OR ANY WHO WILL COME AFTER, I THINK.

WOULD THAT I COULD SAIL WITH THEM... BUT ASGARD HOLDS ME.

THERE IS MUCH WHICH MUST BE DONE... FOR US TO MEET THIS NEW CRISIS.

THEY KNOW THY HEART GOES WITH THEM, LORD ODIN.

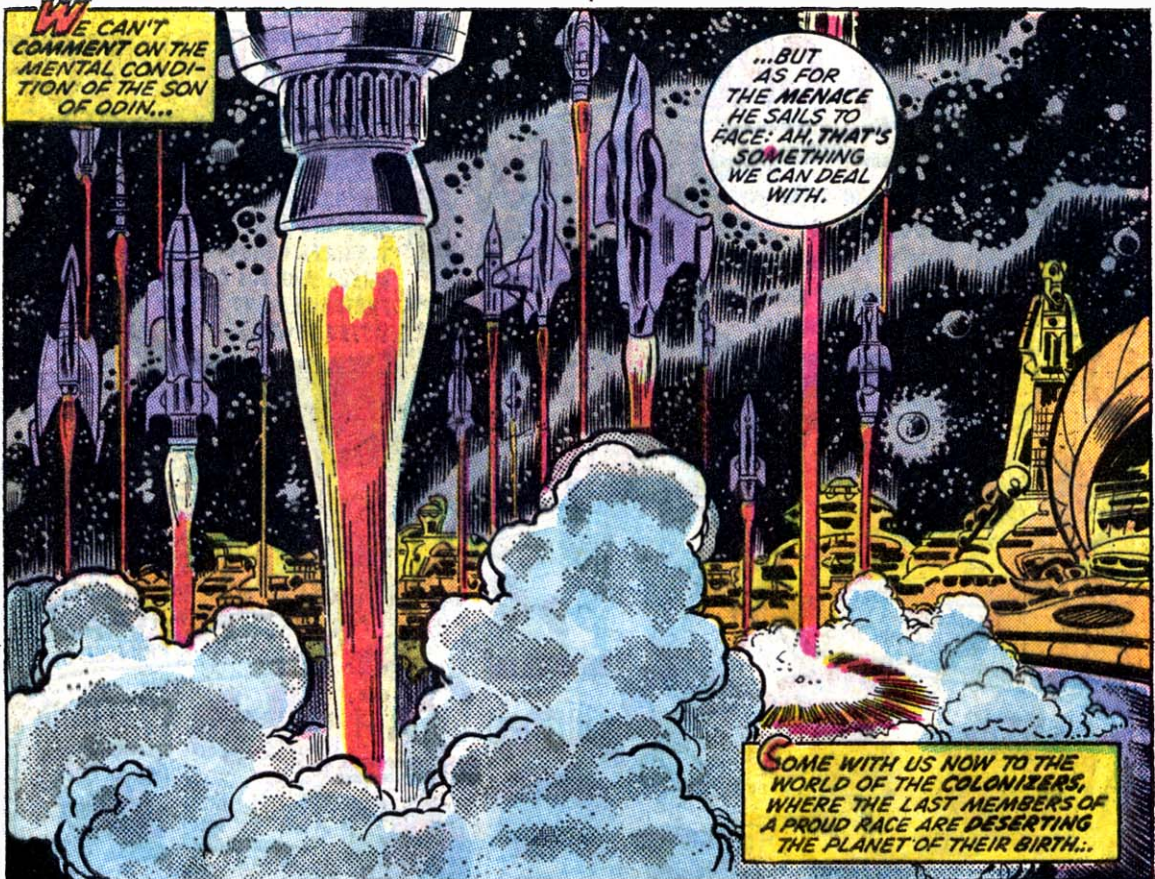
DO THEY, VIZIER? I PRAY IT IS SO.

FOR 'T WAS NOT SO LONG AGO MY SON AND I WERE ENEMIES SWORN.

I HOPE THAT I HAVE NOT SENT HIM TO SUCH A TERROR... WITH ENMITY STILL BURNING IN HIS BREAST.

'T WOULD BE TOO GREAT AN IRONY FOR THIS ELDER GOD'S MIND TO BEAR.

W E CAN'T COMMENT ON THE MENTAL CONDITION OF THE SON OF ODIN...



...BUT AS FOR THE MENACE HE SAILS TO FACE: AH, THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN DEAL WITH.

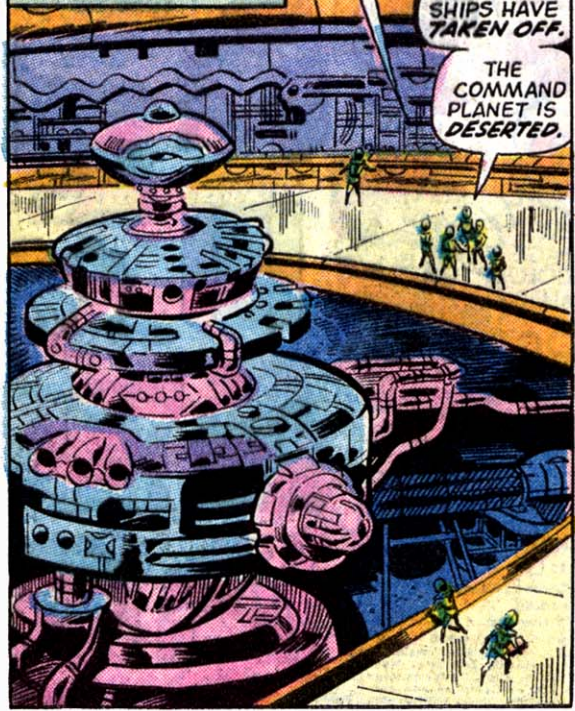
COME WITH US NOW TO THE WORLD OF THE COLONIZERS, WHERE THE LAST MEMBERS OF A PROUD RACE ARE DESERTING THE PLANET OF THEIR BIRTH...

... AND ARE BEGINNING AN EXODUS THAT WOULD HAVE BOGGLED THE MIND OF THE EARTH-MAN MOSES.

ALL GOES ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN, GRAND COMMISSIONER.

THE LAST SHIPS HAVE TAKEN OFF.

THE COMMAND PLANET IS DESERTED.



AN APT CHOICE OF WORDS, COLONIZER 12. WE HAVE INDEED DESERTED OUR HOME WORLD...

BUT, YOUR EXCELLENCY... WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A MIRACLE.

...ABANDONING HER LIKE SAND-LIZARDS ON A SINKING DUNESHIP.



PLEASE, COLONIZER. LET US NOT *BOAST* ABOUT OUR COWARDICE.

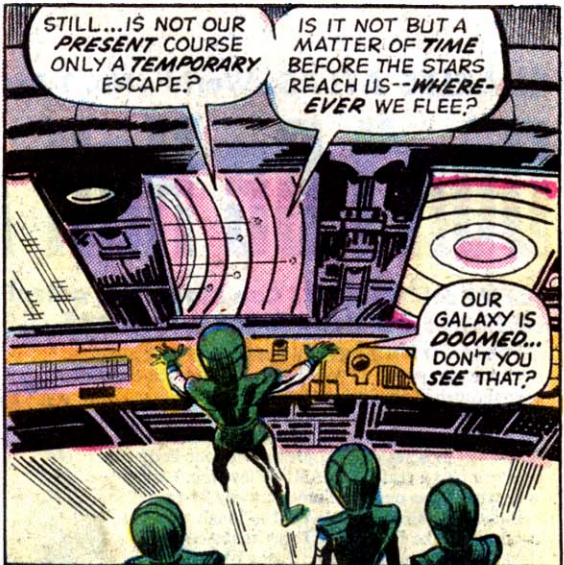
THERE IS NO HONOR IN WHAT WE HAVE DONE... MERELY EXPEDIENCE.



GRAND COMMISSIONER, WOULD THERE HAVE BEEN HONOR IN HAVING OUR PEOPLE FACE THAT?

WHAT CHANCE WOULD WE HAVE HAD AGAINST THE BLACK STARS?

NONE. I KNOW THAT AS WELL AS YOU.



STILL...IS NOT OUR PRESENT COURSE ONLY A TEMPORARY ESCAPE?

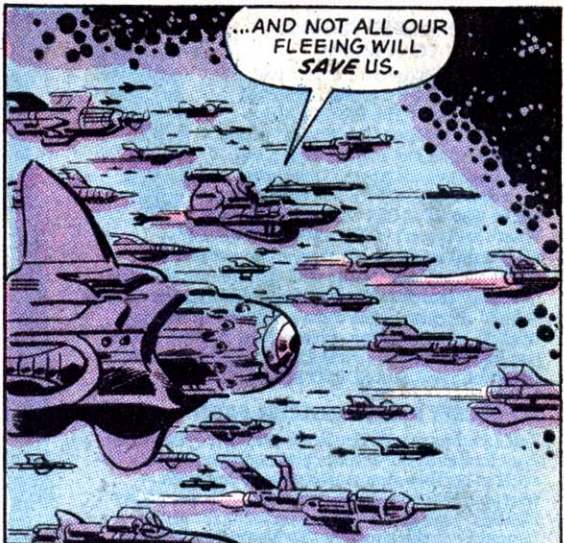
IS IT NOT BUT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE STARS REACH US--WHEREVER WE FLEE?

OUR GALAXY IS DOOMED... DON'T YOU SEE THAT?



BY MOVING THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF OUR PLANET WE HAVE ONLY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE.

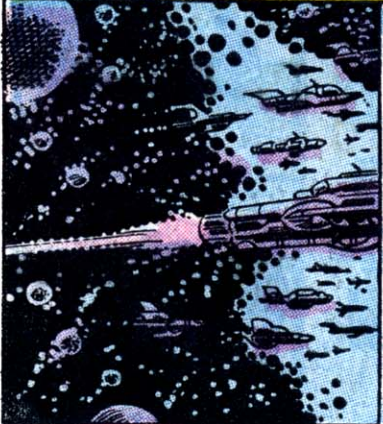
SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE... THAT MENACE FROM BEYOND OUR GALAXY WILL DESTROY US...



...AND NOT ALL OUR FLEEING WILL SAVE US.

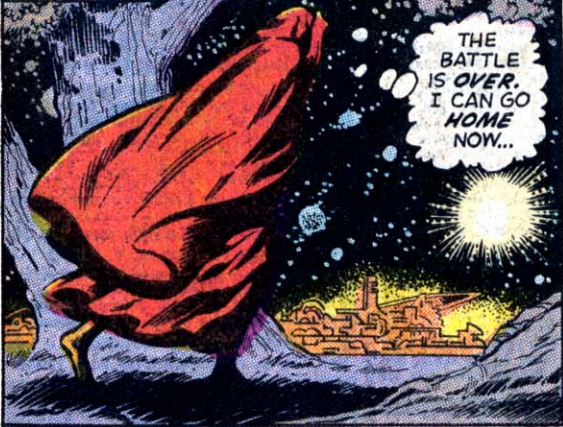
SPACE SWALLOWS THE COLONIZER FLEET, THE LIGHT-YEARS OF ACHING VOID ACTING AS AN OPEN MAW TO RECEIVE THE STREAKING VESSELS, OFFERING BUT AN ILLUSIONARY SAFETY FROM THE MENACE WHICH SWELLS BEHIND THEM...

A MENACE WHICH EVEN NOW REACHES TOWARD THE COLONIZER'S HOME WORLD OF RIGEL...



...LIKE SOME VAST, METAPHORICAL SHADOW UPON THE STARS!

ELSEWHERE IN THIS WONDROUS UNIVERSE, A YOUNG GIRL HURRIES HOMEWARD TO THE DISTANT LIGHTS OF ASGARD, FROM WHENCE SHE FLED BUT A SHORT TIME AGO...



THE BATTLE IS OVER. I CAN GO HOME NOW...

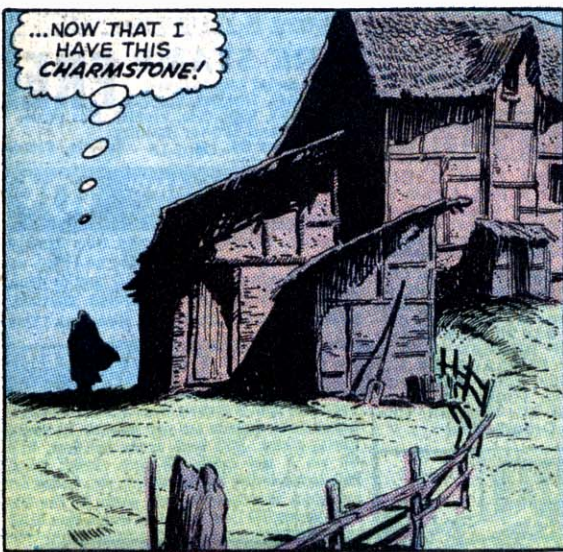


I PRAY FATHER IS NOT TOO ANGRY WITH ME FOR LEAVING... BUT THE SOUNDS OF WARRING* FRIGHTENED ME...

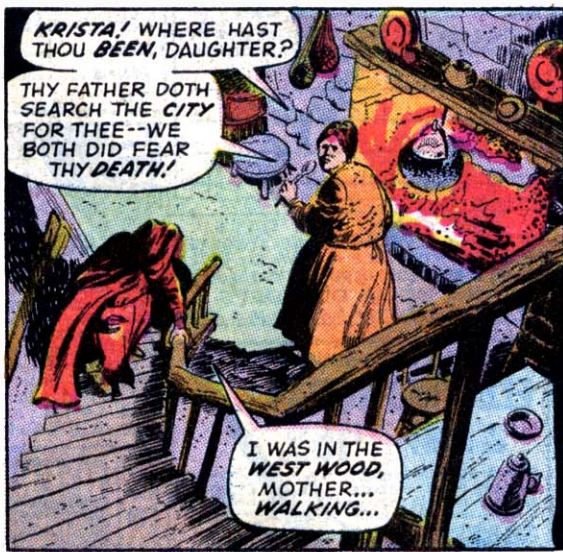
...AND HE WILL THINK HIS DAUGHTER A COWARD, NOT BRAVE, LIKE HER SISTER HILDEGARDE.

I DON'T CARE WHAT HE THINKS... NOT NOW...

*LAST ISSUE. --ROY.



...NOW THAT I HAVE THIS CHARMSTONE!



KRISTA! WHERE HAST THOU BEEN, DAUGHTER?

THY FATHER DOTHT SEARCH THE CITY FOR THEE--WE BOTH DID FEAR THY DEATH!

I WAS IN THE WEST WOOD, MOTHER... WALKING...



...AND THE TREK DID TIRE ME GREATLY. BY THY LEAVE, I WOULD REST THIS EVE.

TOMORROW I WILL TELL THEE ALL.



BUT HOW WILL I TELL HER OF THEE, JEWEL? HOW MAY I SAY I FOUND THEE, IN THE MIDST OF A FIELD...?

SURELY THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME. THEY WILL TAKE THEE FROM ME...

...AND SOMEHOW... I KNOW THIS MUST NOT BE!



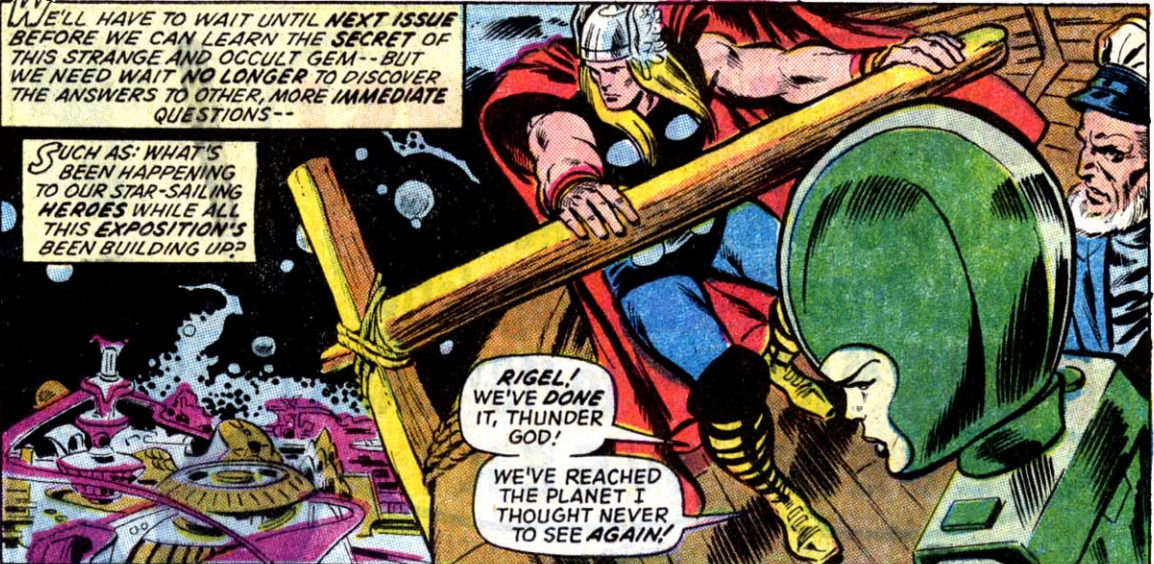
THOU ART MINE, CHARMSTONE... AND MINE THOU SHALT REMAIN!

AND NO ONE WILL STEAL THEE--EVER!

I WOULD KILL BEFORE I LET THEE GO!

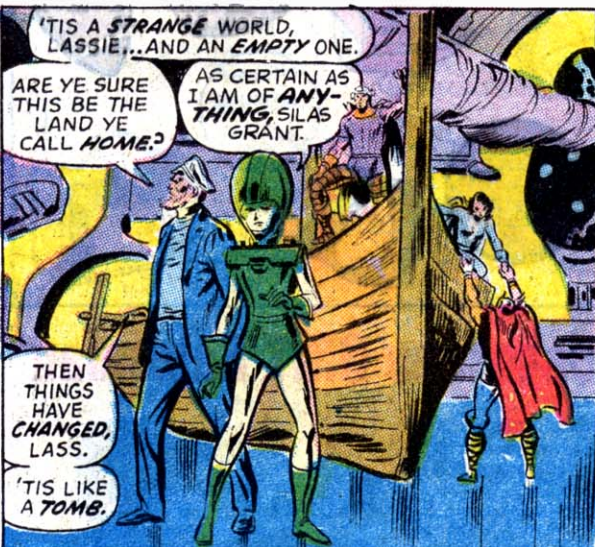
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT ISSUE BEFORE WE CAN LEARN THE SECRET OF THIS STRANGE AND OCCULT GEM-- BUT WE NEED WAIT NO LONGER TO DISCOVER THE ANSWERS TO OTHER, MORE IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS--

SUCH AS: WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO OUR STAR-SAILING HEROES WHILE ALL THIS EXPOSITION'S BEEN BUILDING UP?



RIGEL! WE'VE DONE IT, THUNDER GOD!

WE'VE REACHED THE PLANET I THOUGHT NEVER TO SEE AGAIN!



'TIS A STRANGE WORLD, LASSIE... AND AN EMPTY ONE.

ARE YE SURE THIS BE THE LAND YE CALL HOME?

AS CERTAIN AS I AM OF ANY-THING, SILAS GRANT.

THEN THINGS HAVE CHANGED, LASS.

'TIS LIKE A TOMB.



TANA NILE KNOWS WHERE OF SHE SPEAKS, ANCIENT ONE.

THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE... THIS IS INDEED THE PLANET RIGEL. ALL IS AS IT WAS WHEN LAST I VISITED THIS EARTHEN SPHERE.*

*BACK IN THOR #132. --ROY.



SAVE FOR ONE PROFOUND DIFFERENCE: WHERE ONCE TEAMED LIFE, THERE NOW IS ONLY DUST.

WHAT ODIN FEARED MUST HAVE COME TO PASS...



THE COLONIZERS HAVE LEFT THEIR WORLD... WHICH DOETH MEAN THE BLACK STARS CANNOT BE LONG IN COMING!

IF WHAT THE ALL-FATHER DID HINT IS TRUE... THE END OF HISTORY IS NIGH UPON US!

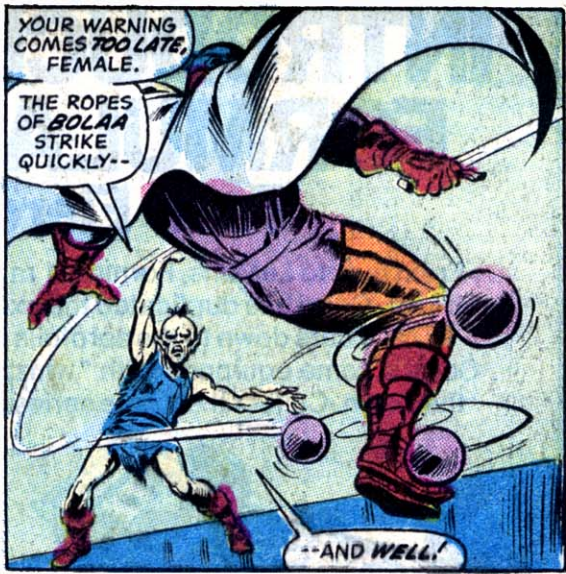


NOT SO, INTRUDER!

IT IS NOT HISTORY WHICH FALLS UPON YOU-- BUT YOUR DEATHS!

MILORD!

ABOVE THEE--!



YOUR WARNING COMES TOO LATE, FEMALE.

THE ROPES OF BOLAA STRIKE QUICKLY--

--AND WELL!



SILAS, BEWARE! WE'VE FALLEN AFOUL OF THE MUTANT CLASS-- THE UNDERGROUND DWELLERS OF RIGEL, CREATURES DEFORMED BOTH IN BODY--AND MIND!

I CAN SEE THAT, LASS--

TELL ME NOW WHAT I'M TO DO ABOUT IT! THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!

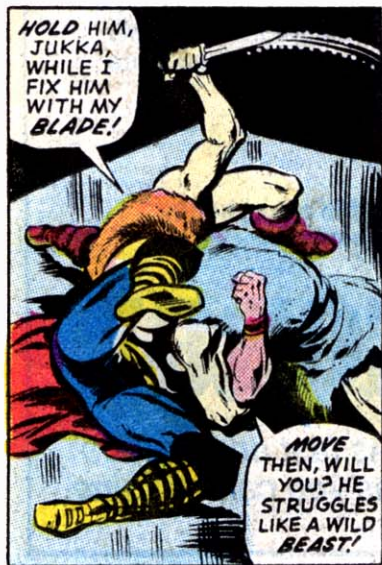


THAT WE ARE, OLD ONE. SURRENDER NOW, BEFORE THE AXE OF TRYX MAKES SHORT WORK OF YOU--

SPANNING!

--AFTER I DEFEAT THIS EAGER FEMALE!

IF THOU CAN, MUTANT! IF THOU CAN!



HOLD HIM, JUKKA, WHILE I FIX HIM WITH MY BLADE!

MOVE THEN, WILL YOU? HE STRUGGLES LIKE A WILD BEAST!



NO, NOT LIKE A BEAST... BUT LIKE A WARRIOR BORN, FOR THIS IS NO ORDINARY GODLING STRAINING BENEATH A KNIFE...



THIS IS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER!

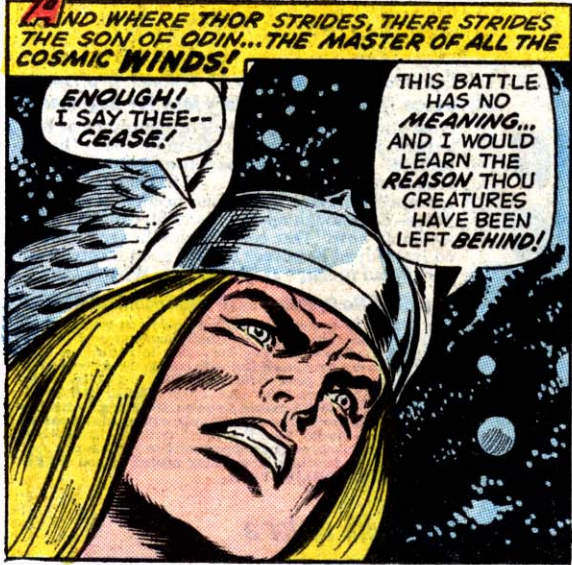
WHAM!

AND WHERE THOR STRIDES, THERE STRIDES THE SON OF ODIN...THE MASTER OF ALL THE COSMIC WINDS!

ENOUGH!
I SAY THEE--
CEASE!

THIS BATTLE
HAS NO
MEANING...
AND I WOULD
LEARN THE
REASON THOU
CREATURES
HAVE BEEN
LEFT BEHIND!

I SAY THEE, LET THE
FIGHTING BE
STILLED!
SO
SPEAKS
THOR,
AND SO DOETH
HE ENFORCE
HIS WILL--



--BY AID OF
THE MYSTIC
MALLET
MJOLNIR!



BY THE SILVER
STAR, YOU ARE A
WORTHY
OPPONENT,
BLONDBAIR.

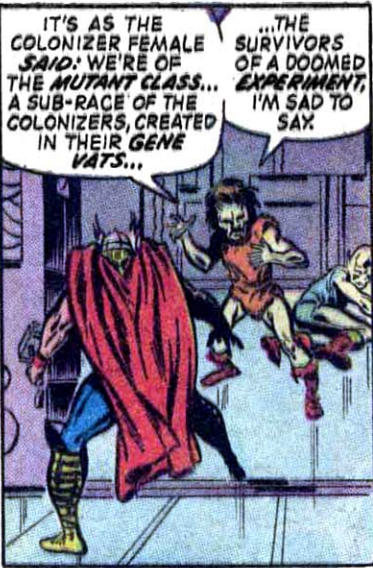
STILL, WE
MIGHT YET
BEST YOU, CON-
SIDERING OUR
ALIEN STRENGTH...



...BUT IT'S A
BATTLE I'D
RATHER AVOID...
TO OUR, AH,
MUTUAL
BENEFIT.

WE'LL ACCEDE
TO YOUR DEMAND,
"THOR."

I, JUKKA,
WILL TELL
YOU WHAT
YOU WISH
TO KNOW!



IT'S AS THE COLONIZER FEMALE SAID: WE'RE OF THE MUTANT CLASS... A SUB-RACE OF THE COLONIZERS, CREATED IN THEIR GENE VATS...

...THE SURVIVORS OF A DOOMED EXPERIMENT, I'M SAD TO SAY.



OUR LORDS AND MASTERS CONSIDER US INFERIOR... AND SO WE WILL BE THE LAST OF OUR KIND, WITHOUT WOMEN, TO CARRY ON OUR SPECIES.

THE COLONIZERS LEFT US HERE TO DIE...



...WHILE THEY WENT ON TO ESCAPE THE THREAT OF THE BLACK STARS.

WE ATTACKED YOU BECAUSE WE WERE SICK WITH FEAR... WE WERE AFRAID TO MEET DEATH.



ALL MEN FEAR DEATH, JUKKA... AS DO ALL GODS, FOR SOMEDAY WE TOO MUST MAKE THE JOURNEY TO VALHALLA.

THOU WILL COME WITH US ABOARD THE STARJAMMER.

TOGETHER WE SHALL SEEK THY CREATORS, THE COLONIZERS...

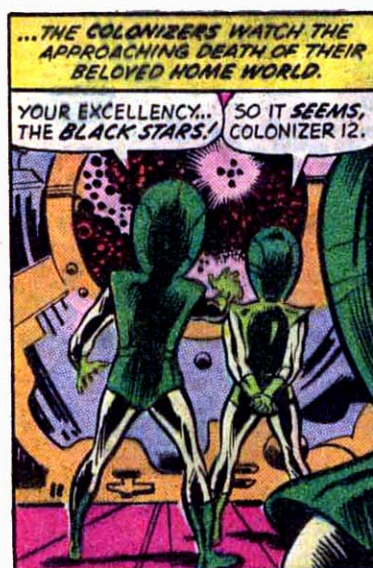


...AND THEN PERHAPS LEARN THE MEANING OF THESE... BLACK STARS.

YOU ARE KIND, THOR. ALLOW US A MOMENT TO GATHER SPACESUITS, AND WE WILL JOIN YOU...



AND SO THE ASGARDIAN SPACE BOAT LIFTS STARWARD ONCE MORE, WHILE, AT THE FAR END OF ITS TRAIL...



...THE COLONIZERS WATCH THE APPROACHING DEATH OF THEIR BELOVED HOME WORLD.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE BLACK STARS!

SO IT SEEMS, COLONIZER 12.



DO YOU THINK THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE, GRAND COMMISSIONER?

WILL THE BLACK STARS... DEVOUR OUR PLANET?



I EXPECT WE SHALL SEE, COLONIZER 12.

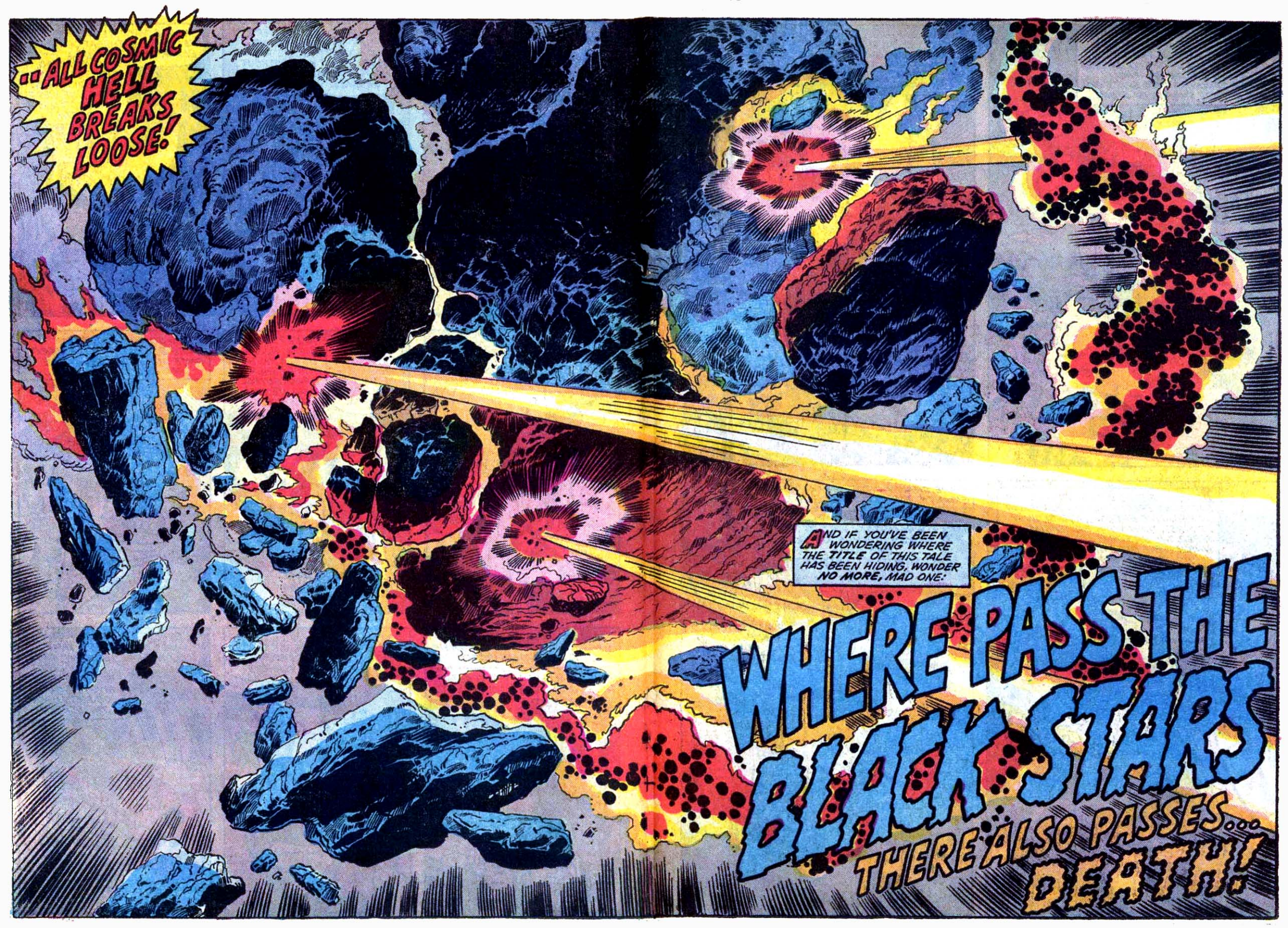
AT THAT INSTANT, RAYS LANCE OUT FROM THE FIVE MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS UPON THE SCREEN--

--AND ON A PLANET RECENTLY ABANDONED--

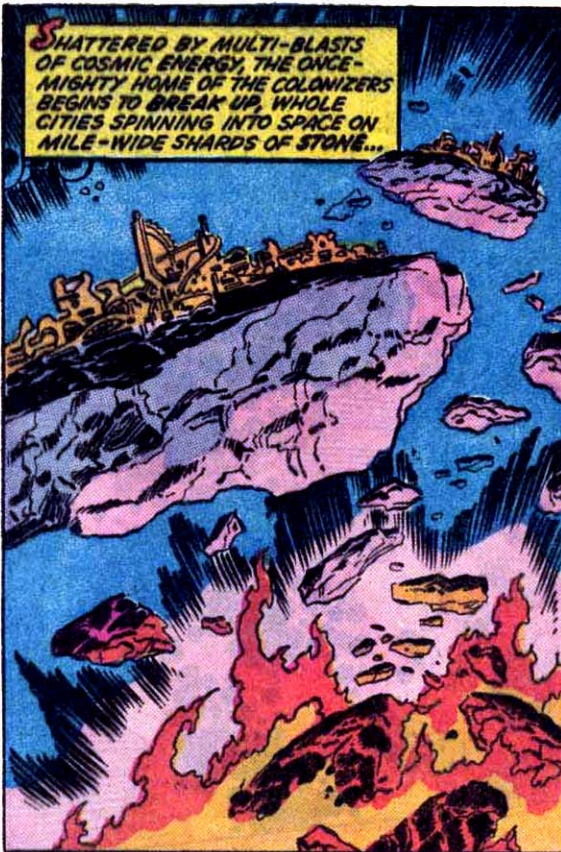
...ALL COSMIC
HELL
BREAKS
LOOSE!

AND IF YOU'VE BEEN
WONDERING WHERE
THE TITLE OF THIS TALE
HAS BEEN HIDING, WONDER
NO MORE, MAD ONE!

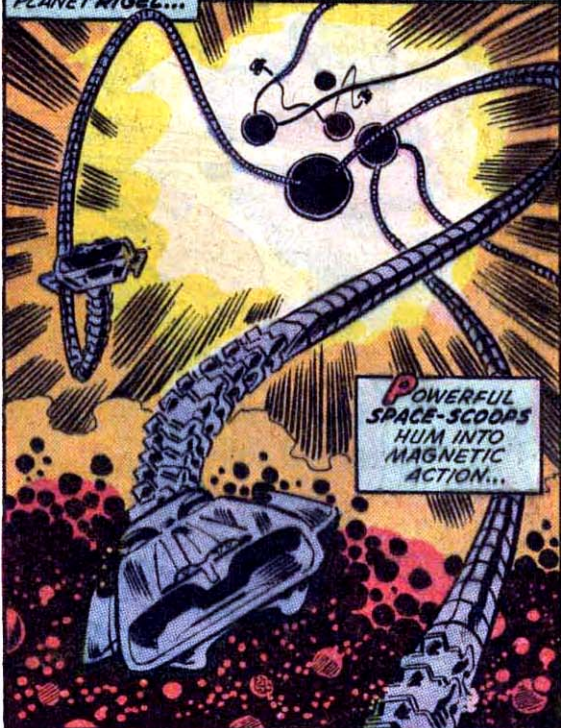
WHERE PASS THE
BLACK STARS
THERE ALSO PASSES...
DEATH!



SHATTERED BY MULTI-BLASTS OF COSMIC ENERGY, THE ONCE-MIGHTY HOME OF THE COLONIZERS BEGINS TO BREAK UP, WHOLE CITIES SPINNING INTO SPACE ON MILE-WIDE SHARDS OF STONE...

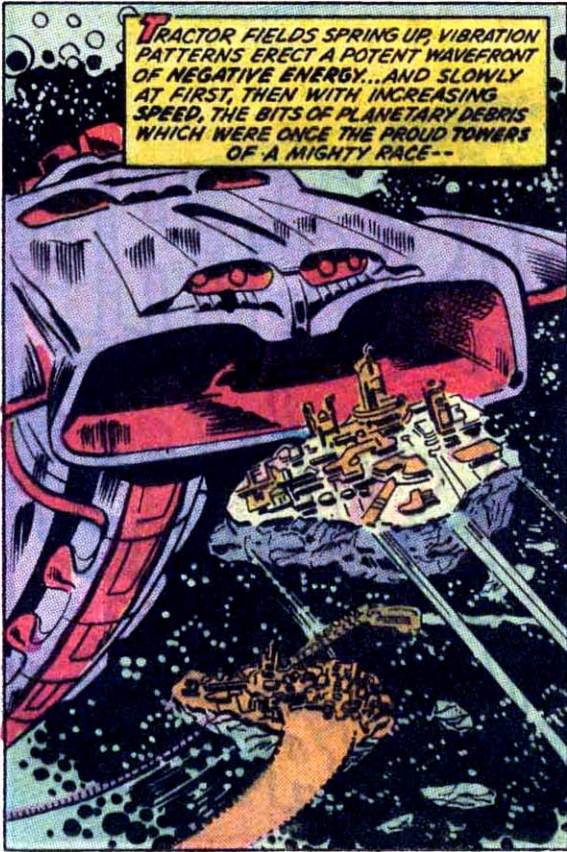


THEN, AS THOUGH TO COMPOUND THE INSANITY WITNESSED BY THE GRAND COMMISSIONER UPON HIS VAST MONITOR SCREEN, IMMENSE TENDRILS STRETCH FORTH FROM THE SILHOUETTED GLOBES APPROACHING THE DRIFTING REMAINS OF THE PLANET RIGEL...



POWERFUL SPACE-SCOOPS HUM INTO MAGNETIC ACTION...

TRACTOR FIELDS SPRING UP, VIBRATION PATTERNS ERECT A POTENT WAVEFRONT OF NEGATIVE ENERGY... AND SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN WITH INCREASING SPEED, THE BITS OF PLANETARY DEBRIS WHICH WERE ONCE THE PROUD TOWERS OF A MIGHTY RACE--



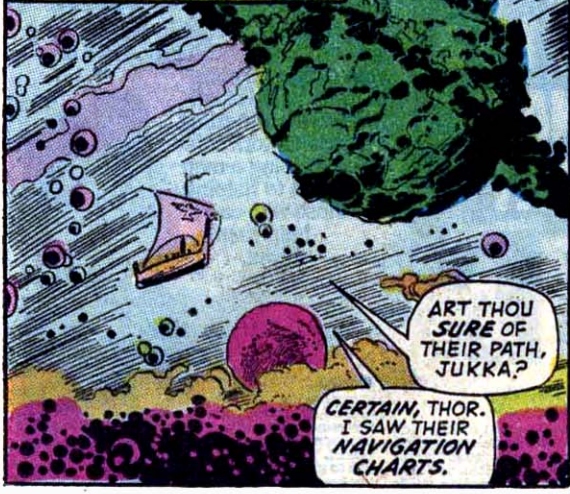
--ARE DRAWN INTO THE MAW OF GIGANTIC WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS--

--WHERE THEY WILL BE BROKEN DOWN INTO PURE ENERGY--

--AND USED TO POWER THE MACHINES OF AN INCREDIBLY SUPERIOR RACE!



MEANWHILE (IF THE TERM HAS ANY POINT IN THIS RELATIVISTIC COSMOS)...



ART THOU SURE OF THEIR PATH, JUKKA?

CERTAIN, THOR. I SAW THEIR NAVIGATION CHARTS.



THEN PERHAPS WE HAVE GONE ASTRAY, FOR I SEE NO SIGN-- BY THE STARS!

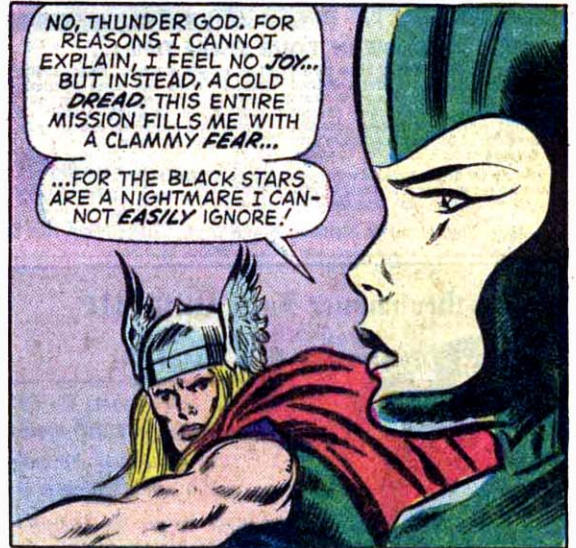
AHEAD OF US! 'TIS THE COLONIZER FLEET-- THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT!



O, THAT THESE PROTON SAILS CAUGHT MORE STELLAR LIGHT-- THAT OUR SHIP MIGHT MORE QUICKLY OVERTAKE YON SPEEDING FLEET.

WHAT SAYEST THOU, TANA NILE?

ARE THOU EAGER TO MEET THY FRIENDS ONCE MORE?



NO, THUNDER GOD. FOR REASONS I CANNOT EXPLAIN, I FEEL NO JOY... BUT INSTEAD, A COLD DREAD. THIS ENTIRE MISSION FILLS ME WITH A CLAMMY FEAR...

...FOR THE BLACK STARS ARE A NIGHTMARE I CANNOT EASILY IGNORE!



BUT WAIT, THOR... LOOK THEE AHEAD.

THE COLONIZER SHIP NEAREST US-- IT EXTENDS A SPACE CANNON-- TAKES AIM--



SPOOM!

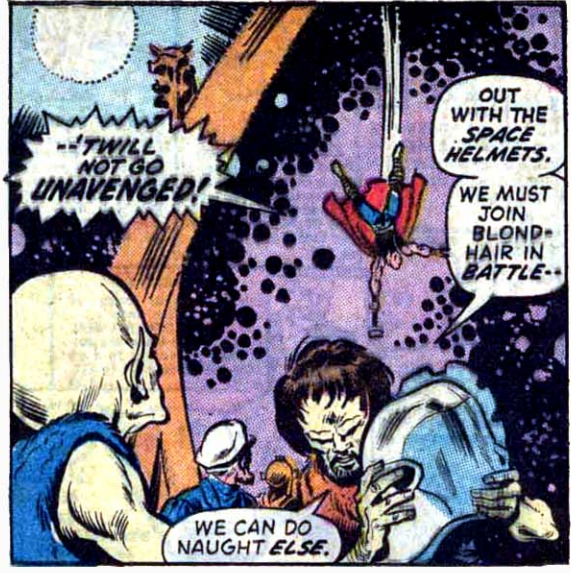
AND FIRES!



GET THEE BACK... ALL OF THEE!

'TIS NOT CLEAR WHAT MEANS THIS UNTOWARD ATTACK--

--BUT THIS I DO SWEAR--



--I WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED!

OUT WITH THE SPACE HELMETS.

WE MUST JOIN BLOND-HAIR IN BATTLE--

WE CAN DO NAUGHT ELSE.



WOULD THAT THOU COULDST HEAR MY WORDS IN AIRLESS SPACE.

AS 'TIS, THOU SHALT ONLY FEEL MY ANGER!

IT'S THE GODLING, THOR. MUST WE FIGHT HIM, COLONIZER 12?



WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THE GRAND COMMISSIONER HAS ORDERED THAT NONE MAY IMPEDE OUR JOURNEY--

--AND SO ANY WHO SO THREATEN-- MUST DIE!

ZZAK!



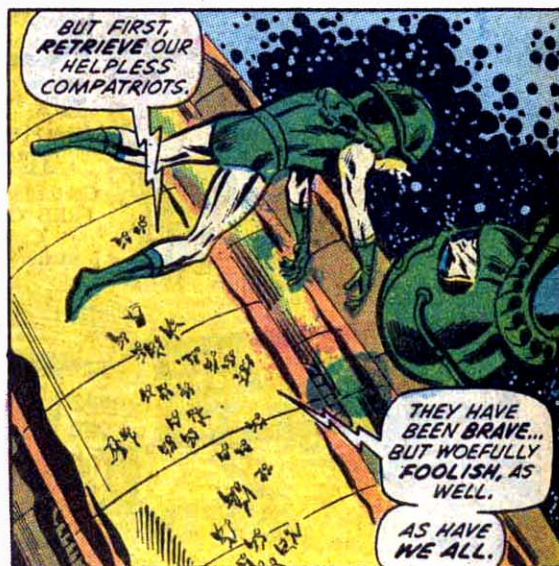
I KNOW NOT WHAT THOU DOST SAY WITHIN THY CRYSTAL HELMETS, BUT THIS I SAY TO THEE--

--NOT ALL THY MIGHT WILL PREVAIL-- 'GAINST THE WONDER OF MYSTIC MJOLNIR!



WILL WE STAND AND WATCH AS OUR LORD BATTLES DEMONS?

SO THOU MAY DO... BUT AS FOR BALDER, CALLED THE GRAVE...



AND SO, AFTER THE GRAND COMMISSIONER'S INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED ASGARDIANS, AND ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE MUTANTS TO REMAIN ON BOARD THE DOCKED STARJAMMER...

I DO NOT WELL LIKE FORCING OUR NEW-FOUND FRIENDS TO DO AS THOU DOST BID.

WHY CANNOT THEY JOIN US, AS FREE BEINGS AMONG THE CIVIL?

BECAUSE THEY ARE MUTANTS, THUNDER GOD--



--AND BECAUSE IF MY PEOPLE LEARNED OF THEIR PRESENCE ABOARD THIS, OUR FLAGSHIP THEY WOULD REBEL.

IT'S A BARBARIC CUSTOM, I MUST ADMIT... BUT THESE ARE BARBARIC TIMES.

THE DANGER IN A POTENTIAL RIOT IS INCONCEIVABLE.



WHAT DANGER? SURELY ABOARD A SHIP SUCH AS THIS, WITH SO MUCH SPACE--?

THE SENSE OF SPACE IS AN ILLUSION, THOR, SO FAR YOU HAVE SEEN ONLY THE ENGINEERING SECTION OF OUR VESSEL.

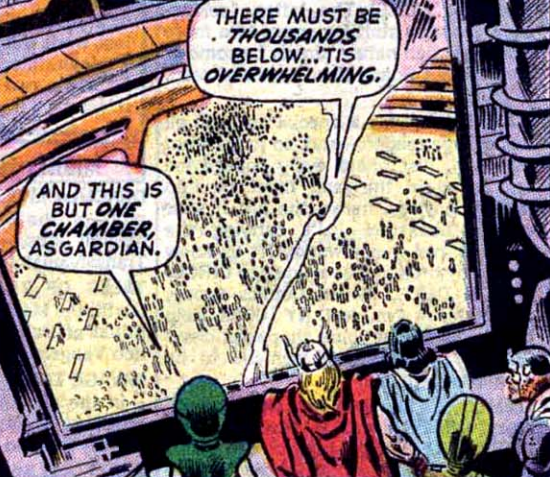
LOOK NOW UPON THE LIFE AREA... AND SEE WHY WE FEAR MASS HYSTERIA.



BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF THE ETERNAL REALM!

THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS BELOW... 'TIS OVERWHELMING.

AND THIS IS BUT ONE CHAMBER, ASGARDIAN.

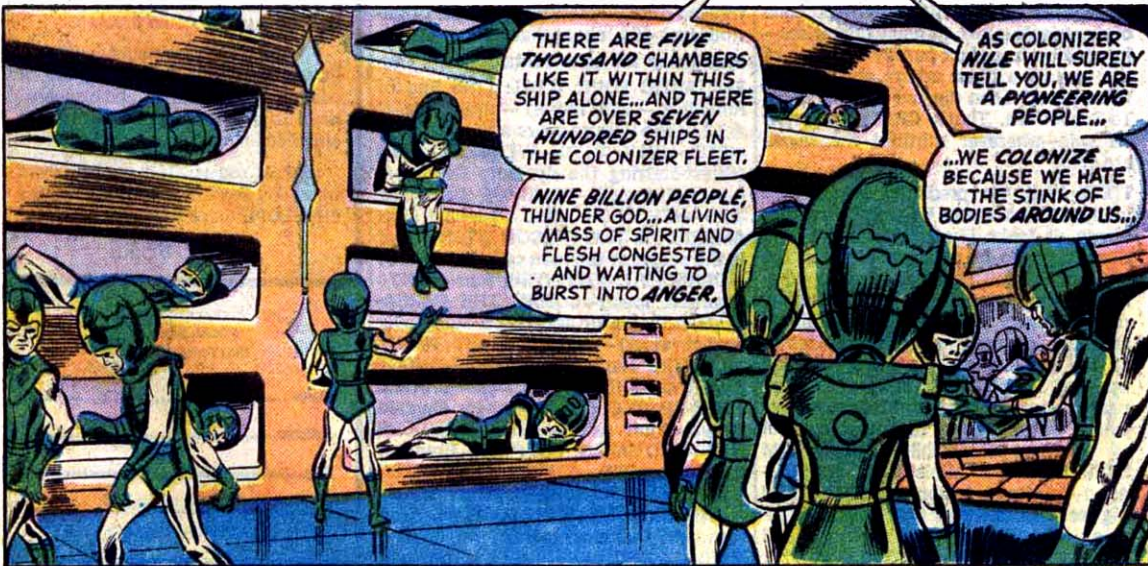


THERE ARE FIVE THOUSAND CHAMBERS LIKE IT WITHIN THIS SHIP ALONE... AND THERE ARE OVER SEVEN HUNDRED SHIPS IN THE COLONIZER FLEET.

NINE BILLION PEOPLE, THUNDER GOD... A LIVING MASS OF SPIRIT AND FLESH CONGESTED AND WAITING TO BURST INTO ANGER.

AS COLONIZER NILE WILL SURELY TELL YOU, WE ARE A PIONEERING PEOPLE...

...WE COLONIZE BECAUSE WE HATE THE STINK OF BODIES AROUND US...



WE SEEK OTHER WORLDS TO RELIEVE THE CROWDING OF OUR OWN... SO YOU MAY WELL IMAGINE OUR DESPERATION, THAT WE LET OURSELVES BE PRESSED TOGETHER IN SUCH AN UNDIGNIFIED MANNER.

YEA, I DO UNDERSTAND THEE NOW. SPEAK OF OTHER MATTERS...

OF THE BLACK STARS, PERHAPS.

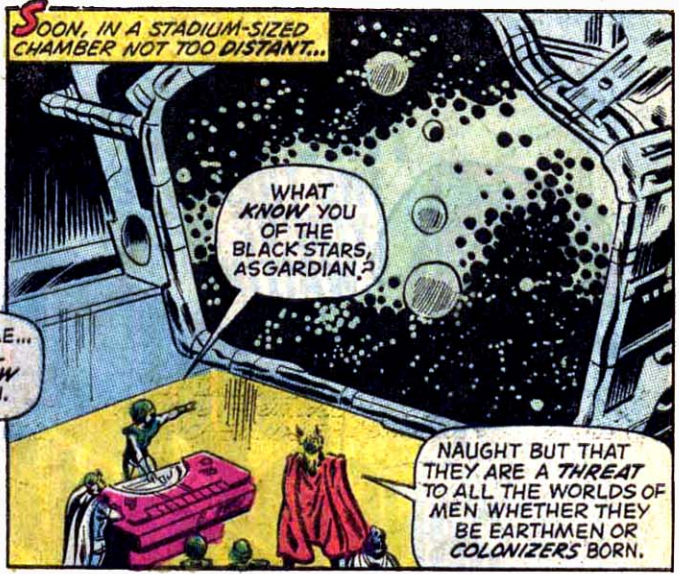
COME... I'LL SHOW YOU.



SOON, IN A STADIUM-SIZED CHAMBER NOT TOO DISTANT...

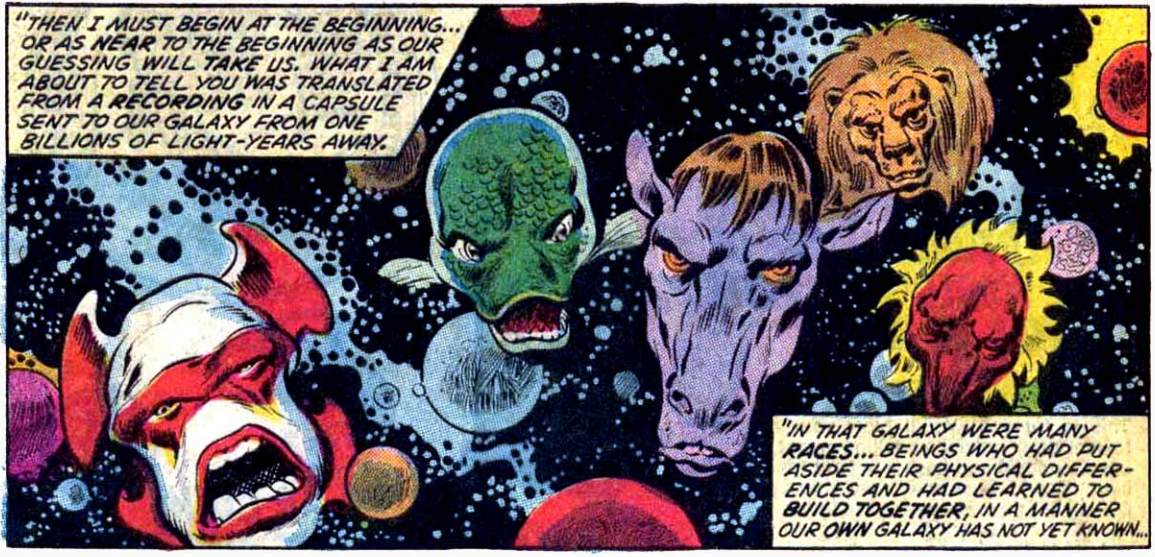
WHAT KNOW YOU OF THE BLACK STARS, ASGARDIAN?

NAUGHT BUT THAT THEY ARE A THREAT TO ALL THE WORLDS OF MEN WHETHER THEY BE EARTHMEN OR COLONIZERS BORN.



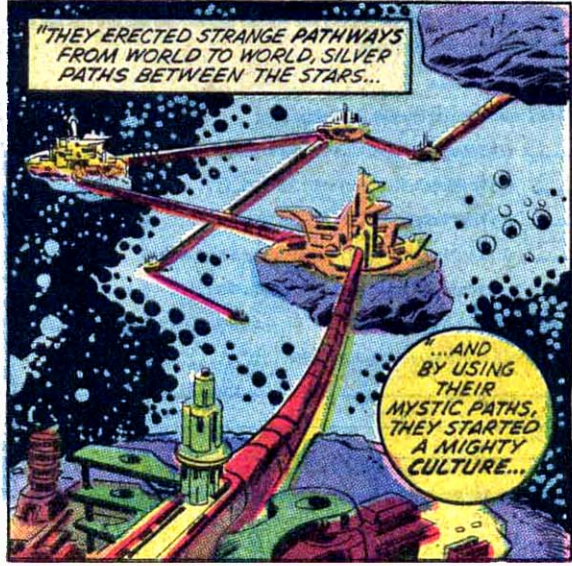
"THEN I MUST BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING... OR AS NEAR TO THE BEGINNING AS OUR GUESSING WILL TAKE US. WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU WAS TRANSLATED FROM A RECORDING IN A CAPSULE SENT TO OUR GALAXY FROM ONE BILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

"IN THAT GALAXY WERE MANY RACES... BEINGS WHO HAD PUT ASIDE THEIR PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES AND HAD LEARNED TO BUILD TOGETHER, IN A MANNER OUR OWN GALAXY HAS NOT YET KNOWN...



"THEY ERECTED STRANGE PATHWAYS FROM WORLD TO WORLD, SILVER PATHS BETWEEN THE STARS...

"...AND BY USING THEIR MYSTIC PATHS, THEY STARTED A MIGHTY CULTURE...

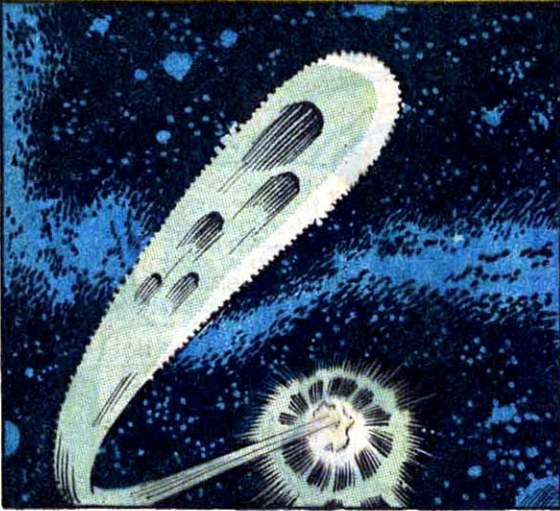


"...A CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION WHICH IS PERHAPS THE BASIS FOR ALL THE MYTHS OF UTOPIA, OR RY-LEPH, AS IT IS CALLED BY MY PEOPLE. FOR EONS THIS SOCIETY GREW, REACHING TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THAT GALAXY AND OURS...

"AND THEN, ON A DAY WHICH WILL LIVE IN RECORDED HISTORY--



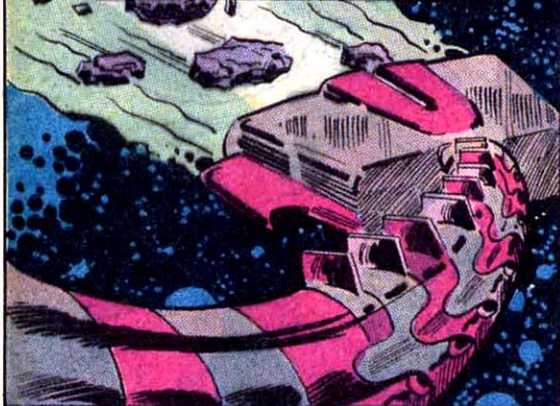
"...THERE CAME THE BLACK STARS, PASSING FROM THE VOID BETWEEN THE GALACTIC SPIRALS--"



"...AND DESTROYING THE STAR-SPANNING CULTURE OF THE RY-LEPH IN A SINGLE DAY AND NIGHT."



"USING GIGANTIC MATTER SCOOPS, THE INHABITANTS OF THE BLACK STARS SWEEP UP THE REMAINS OF RY-LEPH, AS THEY'D SWEEP THE REMAINS OF OTHER GALAXIES THROUGHOUT TIME..."



...AS THEY HAVE ALREADY SWEEP UP THE REMAINS OF RIGEL, THAT WHICH WAS ONCE THE HOME OF THE COLONIZERS.



BUT--WHY DIDST THOU ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?

PERHAPS I HAVE NOT BEEN CLEAR ENOUGH, LADY SIF.

WE DID NOT "ALLOW" IT...

...WE HAD NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER AT ALL.

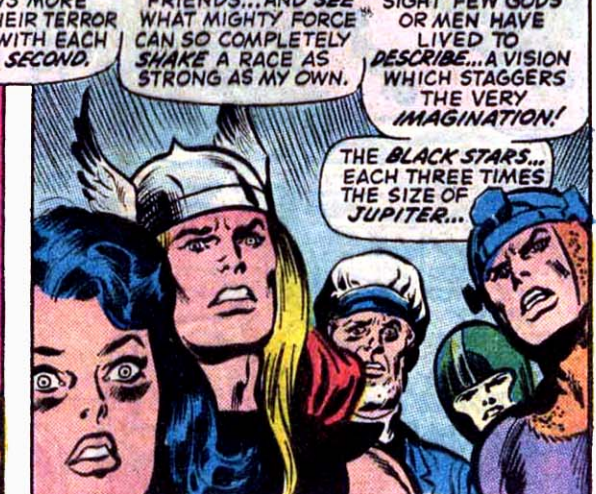


BUT WHEN DID THIS "SWEEPING" OCCUR? WE LEFT THY PLANET BUT SIX SHORT HOURS AGO.

AN HOUR PAST, NO MORE.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE MENACE OF THE BLACK STARS GROWS MORE OMINIOUS...THEIR TERROR GREATER WITH EACH PASSING SECOND.

LOOK AT THE VIEW SCREEN, MY NOBLE FRIENDS...AND SEE WHAT MIGHTY FORCE CAN SO COMPLETELY SHAKE A RACE AS STRONG AS MY OWN.



LOOK...AND TREMBLE AT A SIGHT FEW GODS OR MEN HAVE LIVED TO DESCRIBE...A VISION WHICH STAGGERS THE VERY IMAGINATION!

THE BLACK STARS... EACH THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF JUPITER...

...EACH ALONE A GIANT,
BUT TOGETHER WITH
THEIR FLAMING SUN,
THE BLACK STARS ARE
A SOLAR SYSTEM UNTO
THEMSELVES!

WHAT CONCEIVABLE
FORCE COULD STAND
AGAINST SUCH MAJESTY...
SUCH AWESOME FURY?
EVEN THE POWER OF
ODIN IS DWARFED BY
THAT RAGING SUN--
AND BESIDE THE STRENGTH
OF THE ALL-FATHER, THE
STRENGTH OF THE
COLONIZERS DWINDLES
INTO INSIGNIFICANCE!

WE CAN DO
NAUGHT BUT
ESCAPE, THUNDER
GOD--AND IF WE
SUCCEED IN THAT,
WE WILL BE MOST
FORTUNATE INDEED!

FOR MAKE NO
MISTAKE--THE
BLACK STARS
ARE HUNGRY,
NOBLE THOR--

AND THEY
WILL NOT
REST
TILL OUR
GALAXY IS
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED!

NEXT ISSUE:
**A GALAXY
CONSUMED!**

