

THOR

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THE  
MIGHTY

# THOR

GOD OF  
THUNDER  
VERSUS THE  
**SERVITOR**  
WHILE THE  
UNIVERSE  
CRUMBLES!

THE **TEMPLE** AT  
THE END OF TIME!



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

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# THE TEMPLE AT THE END OF TIME

ARMAGEDDON PLUS ONE:  
THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO  
DO AFTER THE END OF THE  
WORLD--AND THE FIVE  
SORROWFUL FIGURES WHO,  
REMARKABLY, SOMEHOW  
SURVIVED THE PLANETARY  
HOLOCAUST DON'T EVEN  
BOTHER TO TRY!

YOU SEE, THEY BLAME  
THEMSELVES FOR THE  
STILL-SMOLDERING DE-  
VASTATION THAT SURROUNDS  
THEM--BY FAILING TO STOP  
THE MYSTERIOUS TIME-  
TWISTERS BEFORE THEY  
COULD DESTROY THE WORLD  
THAT HAD BEEN 50<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURY EARTH!

THEY DID THEIR BEST,  
BUT IT JUST WASN'T  
ENOUGH--AND NOW  
ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR  
THEM TO DO IS--

--MOURN!

MILORD THOR, MY POOR MIND FAIRLY REELS WITH QUESTIONS!

WHY PRITHEE, DID WE FIVE ALONE SURVIVE THE FLAMING STORM THAT CONSUMED ALL ELSE?



WHY WERE WE FIVE SO SINGLY BLESSED?

IN TRUTH, FRIEND VOLSTAGG, I KNOW NOT-- BUT METHINKS THE ANSWER DOETH LIE WITH WITH MILADY JANE--



--SHE WITHIN WHOM THE SPIRIT OF THE GODDESS SIF DOETH DWELL--

--FOR SIF'S WAS THE POWER TO BYPASS TIME AND SPACE!\*

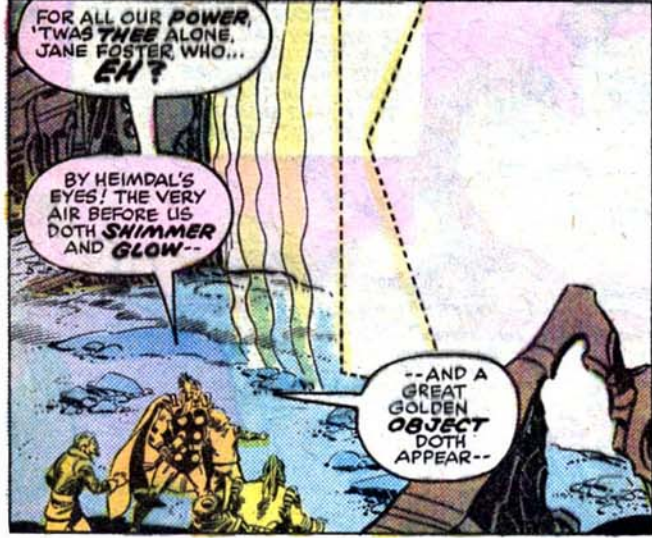
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DARLING.

\*IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, JUST CHECK THOR #139 & 143 AMONG OTHERS. --LEN.

'TIS SIMPLE, MY LOVE. SOMEHOW WHEN THE MOMENT OF CATAclySM WAS UPON US, THOU DIDST SUMMON THAT POWER FROM THE VERY DEPTHS OF THY SOUL--



--AND HIED US AWAY UNTIL THE MOMENT PASSED!



FOR ALL OUR POWER, 'T WAS THEE ALONE, JANE FOSTER, WHO... EN?

BY HEIMDAL'S EYES! THE VERY AIR BEFORE US DOETH SHIMMER AND GLOW--

--AND A GREAT GOLDEN OBJECT DOETH APPEAR--



"--THE TIME CUBE OF-- ZARRKO, THE TOMORROW MAN!"

SO, ASGARDIANS-- IT SEEMS YOU ALSO ESCAPED THE DISASTER!

A PITY, MASTER. IT IS MORE THAN THEY DESERVE!



MY SERVITOR'S WORDS ARE JUSTIFIED, THUNDER GOD! I BROUGHT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE 20th CENTURY TO HELP ME SAVE MY WORLD--

-- BUT WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, YOU FAILED ME--

--AND BECAUSE OF YOU, AN ENTIRE PLANET IS DEAD!

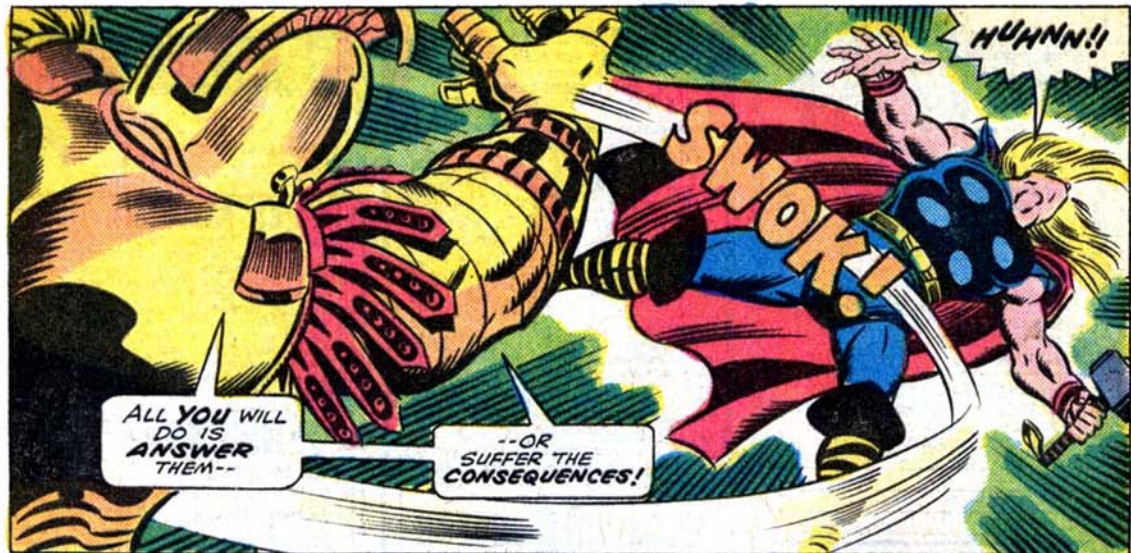


WE DO NOT DENY OUR GUILT, ZARRKO, SHOULDST THOU NOT DO THE SAME?

IN THINE OWN WORDS, THOU DIDST SUMMON US ONLY TO HELP THEE--

--YET WHERE WERT THOU WHEN THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ARRIVED?

MY MASTER WILL ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS HERE, ASGARDIAN!



ALL YOU WILL DO IS ANSWER THEM--

--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

HUHHN!!



THOU HADST NO CALL TO DO THAT, SERVITOR!

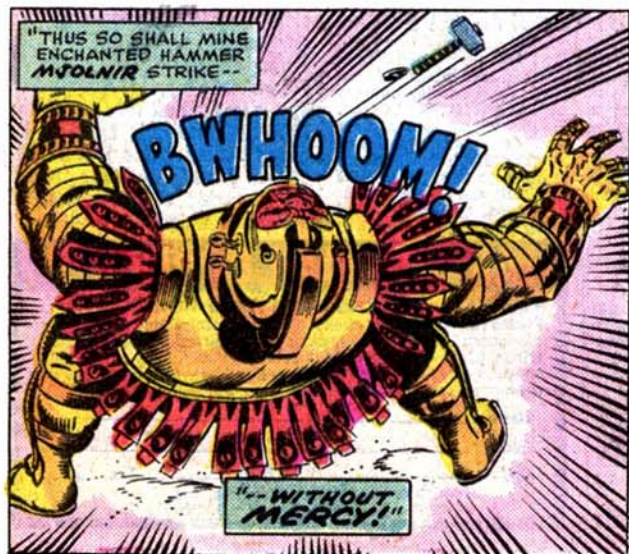
I HAD LOOKED ON THEE AS AN ABLE COMRADE-- IN-ARMS-- MAYHAP EVEN AS A FRIEND!



BUT, IF THOU DOST CHOOSE TO SET THYSELF AGAINST ME--

-- SO BE IT!

THOU DIDST STRIKE ME FROM BEHIND-- WITHOUT QUALM, WITHOUT WARNING!



"THUS SO SHALL MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER Mjolnir STRIKE--

BWHOOOM!

"-- WITHOUT MERCY!"



BUT HAVING STRUCK ONCE, IT NEED STRIKE NO MORE--

-- FOR I HAVE NO WISH TO BATTLE THEE, SERVITOR!

THOU DIDST STRIKE ME AND THOU WERT STRUCK IN TURN! THE SCALES ARE BALANCED!



WRONG, THUNDER GOD! YOU HAVE SHAMED ME BEFORE MY MASTER!

THE SCALES CANNOT BE BALANCED UNTIL I HAVE WASHED THAT SHAME AWAY-- WITH YOUR BLOOD!



THEN THOU DOST LEAVE ME LITTLE CHOICE, SERVITOR!

I STRIKE NOW WITH RELUCTANCE--



"--BUT, NONETHELESS, I STRIKE!"



ONCE BEFORE, WE CLASHED LIKE THIS\*--

--BUT THEN THY MASTER SAVED THEE!

\* IN THOR # 242. -- LEN.



THIS TIME ONLY ONE OF US SHALL SURVIVE!



AND SINCE ALL EYES ARE ON THE TWO COMBATANTS, NOBODY EVEN NOTICES A TATTERED FIGURE STAGGER NUMBLY FROM THE TIME CUBE--

--A FIGURE NO ONE HAD EVEN KNOWN WAS ABOARD!

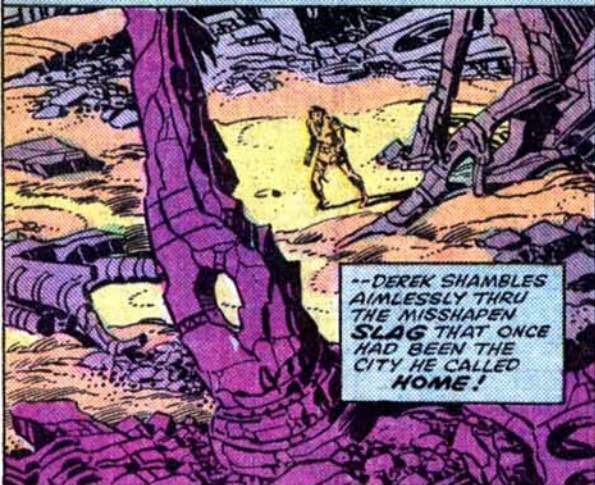


HIS NAME-- NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS NOW-- IS DEREK! JUST BEFORE THE CATASTROPHY, HE HAD STOLEN INTO ZARRKO'S CASTLE TO MAKE THE TOMORROW MAN PAY FOR THE DEATHS OF HIS FRIENDS!\*

HE NEVER CAME CLOSE TO GETTING THE CHANCE!

\* LAST ISSUE, RIGHT? --L.

NOW, HIS MIND **AWHIRL** WITH THE THINGS HE HAS WITNESSED DURING ZARRKO'S TIME-FLIGHT TO ESCAPE THE HOLOCAUST--



--DEREK SHAMBLES AIMLESSLY THRU THE MISSHAPEN **SLAG** THAT ONCE HAD BEEN THE CITY HE CALLED **HOME!**

GRANTED, A CITY WITHOUT **ENERGY** WITHOUT **HOPE--**



--BUT HIS CITY, **NONETHELESS.**

FOR DEREK'S WIFE HAD LIVED HERE!



OUT OF MY WAY, **WOMAN!**

NO, SERVITOR-- THIS **INSANITY** HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!

MILADY, GET THEE **BACK!** GET THYSELF TO **SAFETY!**

NOW STOP THIS STUPIDITY, BOTH OF YOU-- AND LISTEN TO ME!

IT'S NOT MY SAFETY I'M WORRIED ABOUT, DARLING!

MAYBE WE **DID** FAIL TO SAVE THE **EARTH--** BUT ONLY IN THIS CENTURY!

THE **TIME-TWISTERS** ARE STILL ON THE LOOSE-- AND UNLESS WE PURSUE THEM--

--THE **20TH CENTURY** WILL BE THE NEXT TO FALL!



WHAT DOES THAT MATTER TO ME, WOMAN? MY WORLD HAS **ALREADY** BEEN DESTROYED!

WHY SHOULD MY SERVITOR AND I EVEN BOTHER TO FACE THE TIME-TWISTERS NOW?



TO GAIN THY **VENGEANCE** PERHAPS, ZARRKO?

THE DASHING FANDRAL SPEAKS **TRULY**, ZARRKO, WHAT IF I WERE TO SAY TO THEE THY WORLD MIGHT YET BE **SAVED?**



THEN I'D CALL YOU A RAVING **LUNATIC**, ASGARDIAN! HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT RESTORING **LIFE** TO A SMOLDERING **RUIN?**

ZARRKO, THE TIME-TWISTERS DO TH LIVE **BACKWARD** THRU TIME-- TOUCHING AND **DESTROYING** THE EARTH EACH **30 CENTURIES!**\*

WHAT IF WE WERE TO TRAVEL **FORWARD** IN TIME-- TO THE **80TH** CENTURY PERHAPS? IF WE CAN DEFEAT THE TIME-TWISTERS **THERE**, THEY WILL NEVER **REACH** THIS CENTURY--

AN **INTRIGUING** IDEA, THUNDER GOD-- BUT LET ME GO YOU ONE **FURTHER!**

SUPPOSE INSTEAD OF THE **80TH** CENTURY, WE WENT TO THE VERY **END** OF TIME-- AND PREVENTED THE TIME-TWISTERS FROM EVER COMING INTO **BEING**?

--AND THUS ITS **DESTRUCTION** WOULD BE **AVERTED!**

\*AS DETAILED IN ISSUE #243. --L.

IS SUCH A JOURNEY **POSSIBLE**, ZARRKO?

"WHAT SAY WE FIND OUT **TOGETHER**, ASGARDIAN?"

WHAT SAY **INDEED**, TOMORROW MAN!

WHAT SAY **INDEED!**

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE SEVEN DETERMINED FIGURES ARE SAFELY **INSIDE** THE GREAT GLEAMING **MECHANISM**-- AND ZARRKO SITS ONCE MORE AT THE **CONTROLS!**

LIKE A **MASTER PIANIST**, HIS HANDS **FLY** ACROSS THE **DIALS**-- AND THE **TIME-CUBE** **BLURS** SOFTLY OUT OF THE **RUINED 50th CENTURY**--

--AND **HURTLES** HEADLONG THRU THE **AGES**--

--LEAVING BEHIND ONLY **BITTER MEMORIES**--

--AND THE **FORGOTTEN** MAN CALLED **DEREK!**

WILL THE JOURNEY  
TAKE LONG, ZARRKO?

DEFINE "LONG" FOR ME, THUNDER  
GOD. IS IT A MINUTE? AN  
HOUR? AN EON?

HOW DOES ONE MARK TIME,  
AS GARDIAN-- WHEN ONE TRAVELS  
SO EASILY THRU IT?

THINE IMPERIOUS  
TONE IS UNNECESSARY,  
ZARRKO! 'T WAS A  
SIMPLE ENOUGH  
QUESTION TO...

**ZOUNDS!** DARLING,  
WH-WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

"THE TIME-CUBE DOTHS SHUDDER, MILADY--  
IT DOTHS TREMBLE AS IF SORELY AFRAID!"

THIS IS BEYOND MY POWER TO  
CONTROL, THOR! I'VE NEVER  
PUSHED THE TIME-CUBE THIS  
HARD BEFORE!

IT'S BEING  
BUFFETED  
BY FORCES  
WE COULD  
NOT BEGIN TO  
COMPREHEND!

"ZARRKO, I SAY THEE--  
WHY?"

"ARE WE RESET ONCE MORE BY CREATURES  
TORN FROM TIME-- OR ART THOU MERELY  
UNABLE TO COMMAND THY VESSEL AS ITS  
MASTER SHOULD?"

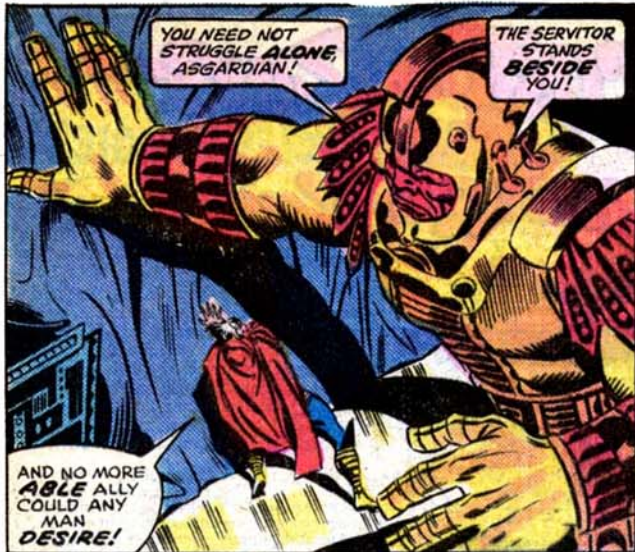
AYE, TOMORROW MAN--  
ALREADY THY CRAFT STARTS  
TO BUCKLE 'NEATH THE  
STRAIN!

DARLING IF THAT BULKHEAD  
RUPTURES, WE'RE LOST  
BEFORE WE EVEN BEGIN!

FEAR NOT,  
MILADY-- THE  
WALL SHALL  
STAND!

IN THE NAME OF  
ALL THAT HATH  
EVER BEEN AND  
ALL THAT MAY  
EVER BE-- IT  
SHALL STAND!!





YOU NEED NOT STRUGGLE ALONE, ASGARDIAN!

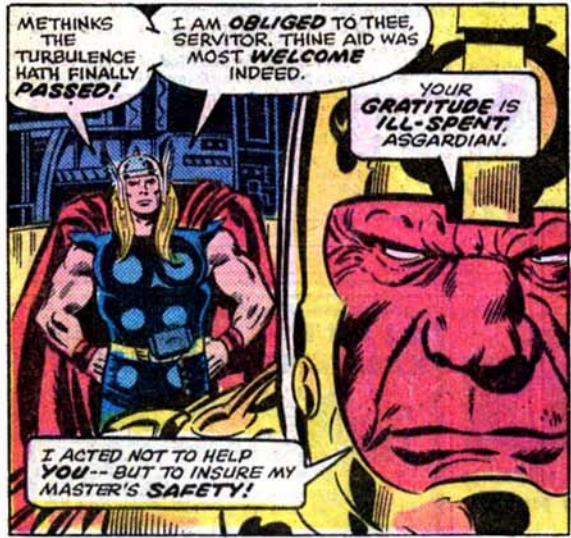
THE SERVITOR STANDS BESIDE YOU!

AND NO MORE ABLE ALLY COULD ANY MAN DESIRE!



THE SERVITOR DOES NOT RESPOND-- BUT MERELY CLENCHES HIS TEETH, AND PRESSES THAT MUCH HARDER AGAINST THE DANGEROUSLY BUCKLING WALL.

THE TIME-CUBE HURTTLES ONWARD-- AND FORCES LOCKED IN CONFLICT ABRUPTLY REACH ACCORD.



METHINKS THE TURBULENCE HATH FINALLY PASSED!

I AM OBLIGED TO THEE, SERVITOR, THINE AID WAS MOST WELCOME INDEED.

YOUR GRATITUDE IS ILL-SPENT, ASGARDIAN.

I ACTED NOT TO HELP YOU-- BUT TO INSURE MY MASTER'S SAFETY!



THIS TIME, 'TIS THE THUNDER GOD WHO OFFERS NO REPLY. INSTEAD HE TURNS TO HIS COMPANIONS AND SADLY SNAKES HIS HEAD--

-- THEN SNAPS HIS GAZE TOWARDS ZARRKO AS THE TIME-CUBE SUDDENLY WHINES IN EFFORT--

-- THEN BEGINS TO WIND DOWN!



WHAT NEW TROUBLE ASSAILS THY VESSEL, ZARRKO?

NONE WHATSOEVER, THOR. WE'RE SIMPLY APPROACHING OUR DESTINATION!

WITHIN MOMENTS, WE SHALL BE THE FIRST IN HISTORY TO WITNESS HISTORY'S END!

IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY OBSERVE OUR TARGET THRU THE VIEWSCREEN!



'TIS TRULY BREATHTAKING IS IT NOT? THE PRIMAL SUN DOETH HEAVE IN FUTILE EFFORT--

-- AS IF IT KNEW EACH MOMENT COULD BE ITS VERY LAST!

BUT WHAT'S THAT STRANGE BUILDING ON THAT OUTCROPPING OF ROCK?

"IT'S A **TEMPLE** OF SOME SORT," ZARRKO REPLIES GRIMLY. "THE ONLY **LIFE ENERGIES** RECORDED IN THIS TIME PERIOD BY MY INSTRUMENTS EMANATE FROM **THERE!**"

"ART THOU **CERTAIN**, TOMORROW MAN?" QUERIES THE DASHING FANDRAL. "METHINKS MAYHAP THINE INSTRUMENTS HATH **SUFFERED** FOR OUR JOURNEY."

"AYE, ZARRKO" OFFERS HOGUN THE GRIM. "LOOK THEE AT YON **STATUARY** STANDING STAUNCH BEFORE THE DWELLING'S **PORTALS!**"

"WOULD SUCH NOBLE **SCULPTURES** BE LEFT IN SUCH **ILL REPAIR** WERE THERE ANYONE **ABOUT?**"

FRANKLY, ASGARDIAN-- YOUR QUESTION HARDLY DESERVES AN **ANSWER!**

I WOULD ASSUME WHO-EVER HAS **SURVIVED** HERE TO AWAIT THE FINAL HOLOCAUST WOULD HAVE MORE **IMPORTANT** THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT!

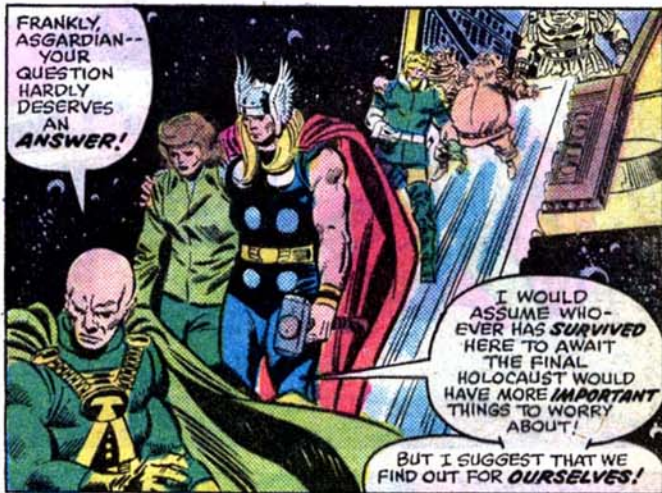
BUT I SUGGEST THAT WE FIND OUT FOR **OURSELVES!**

FORTUNATELY, THIS CRUMBLING PLANETOID HAS RETAINED ITS **GRAVITY** AND A BREATHABLE **ATMOSPHERE**, SO WE NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT... **EH?**

THE ENTIRE **TEMPLE AREA**--IT'S SURROUNDED BY AN **UNSEEN FORCE FIELD!**

WE CAN'T GET **THRU!**

ONCE AGAIN, ZARRKO-- THOU DOST RECKON WITHOUT THE **POWER** OF MINE **ENCHANTED HAMMER!**





BY GEIRRODUR'S FLAMING FURNACES! MYSTIC M.JOLNIR HATH NO EFFECT 'PON YON BARRIER!

IT SEEMS YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED POWER IS NOT ALL IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE, GODLING!

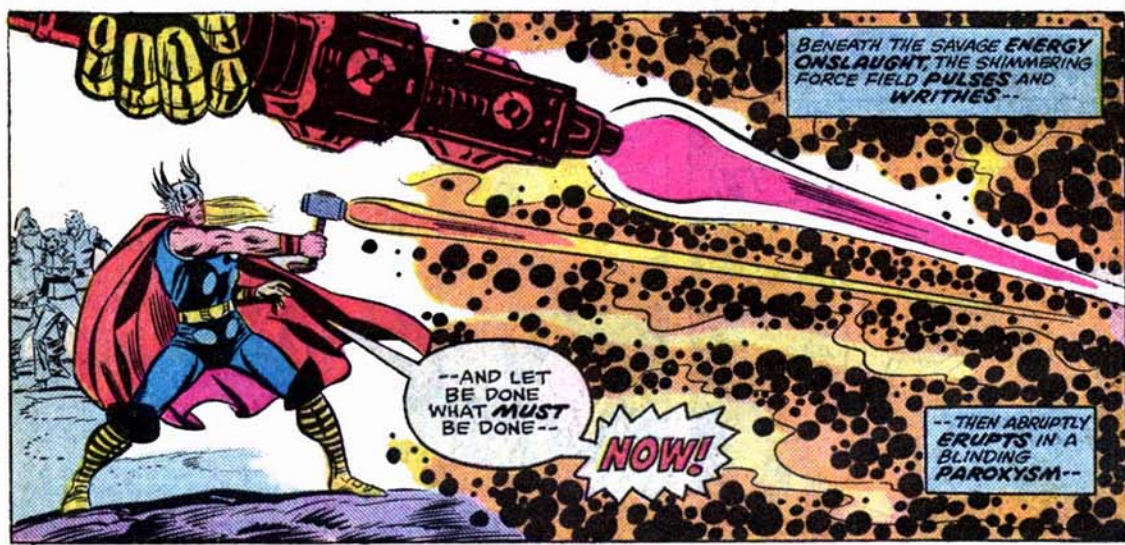


BUT PERHAPS, MASTER, IF MY POWER-LANCE WAS JOINED WITH THE ASGARDIAN'S HAMMER, THE FORCE FIELD COULD BE BREACHED!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS, THOR!

HAVE I EVER REFUSED THINE AID, SERVITOR?

STAND TEE BESIDE ME SWIFTLY--



BENEATH THE SAVAGE ENERGY ONSLAUGHT, THE SHIMMERING FORCE FIELD PULSES AND WRITHES--

--AND LET BE DONE WHAT MUST BE DONE--

NOW!

-- THEN ABRUPTLY ERUPTS IN A BLINDING PAROXYSM--



--AND IS GONE!

YOU'VE DONE IT!

NOW NOTHING STANDS BETWEEN US AND OUR GOAL!

MAYHAP THOU DOST SPEAK TOO SOON, ZARRKO!



FOR IT SEEMS YON STATUES ARE FAR MORE THAN MERE GRAVEN IMAGES!

VERILY THEY ARE ALIVE!



INTRUDERS, YOU HAVE VIOLATED SACRED GROUND! TURN BACK-- OR PERISH!

SO SPEAK-- THE PROTECTROIDS!



DEFEND THYSELVES, MY COMRADES! THE BATTLE HATH BEEN JOINED AND WE MUST TRIUMPH--

--OR ALL THAT TIME HATH EVER SPANVED WILL GO FOR NAUGHT!

ZZAAKK



ZOUNDS! METHINKS 'TWOULD BE WISE FOR VALOROUS VOLSTAGG TO BRAVELY ATTEND THE REAR--

--AND SWIFTLY!

RRAAKK!



THE VAST ONE DOTH FLEE, FRIEND FANDRAL-- BUT WE SHALL STAND OUR GROUND!

AYE, FRIEND HOGUN! IF IT IS WRITTEN WE WILL FALL THIS DAY, THEN LET IT BE HERE!



THEN FALL YOU WILL, FOOLS! OUR SOLE PURPOSE IN BEING IS TO PROTECT THOSE WHO SLEEP--

--AND NOTHING THAT LIVES MAY STAY US FROM OUR SACRED TRUST!



I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO BATTLE THOSE CREATURES! BETTER GET TO COVER-- AND LET THE ASGARDIANS HANDLE...

NO!?!?

KKRRAAKK!



NOW, INTRUDER-- YOU WILL SUFFER THE FATE OF ALL WHO DARE TO THREATEN THOSE WHO SLEEP!

N-NO-- YOU MUSTN'T--!

I CAN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR ONLY TO DIE!



FEAR NOT, MASTER! I WILL...

AARRGH!

VVRRRAK!

THE SERVITOR! HE TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF THE BLAST MEANT FOR ME!

"HIS INNER CIRCUITRY IS ALL BUT DESTROYED-- YET STILL HE MOVES TO DEFEND ME--!"



"HE'S ATTACKING THE PROTECTROID-- WASTING HIS LAST IOTA OF ENERGY ON MY BEHALF--"



"-- STRAINING HIMSELF TO THE POINT OF SELF-DESTRUCTION--"



BUT THY SERVITOR'S SACRIFICE HATH NOT BEEN IN VAIN, ZARRKO!



HIS NOBLE DEED HATH DISTRACTED THE REMAINING PROTECTROIDS--



--AND E'ER THEY CAN REGAIN THEIR WITS--

-- MINE AVENGING HAMMER DOTN STRIKE!

COME, ZARRKO-- THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.

HE WAS MORE THAN JUST MY SERVANT, ASGARDIAN.

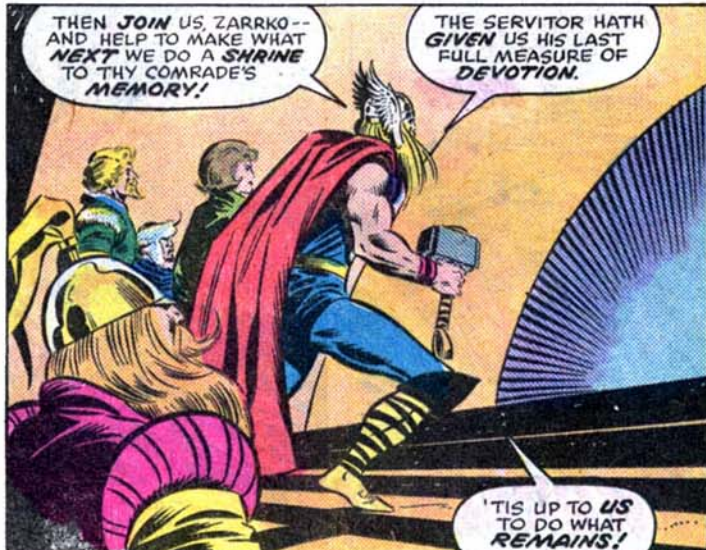
THY SERVANT HATH PASSED BEYOND OUR POWER TO ATTEND HIM!



HE WAS... MY FRIEND.

THEN JOIN US, ZARRKO-- AND HELP TO MAKE WHAT NEXT WE DO A SHRINE TO THY COMRADE'S MEMORY!

THE SERVITOR HATH GIVEN US HIS LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION.



'TIS UP TO US TO DO WHAT REMAINS!

A HOLLOW NUM FILLS THE TEMPLE HALL AS THE ANXIOUS BAND ENTERS, TO FIND...



THE ENTIRE CHAMBER IS FILLED WITH MACHINERY--!

AND ALL DEDICATED TO ONE END, METHINKS--

"...PRESERVING THOSE WHO DOTH SLEEP WITHIN YON SHIMMERING EGGS!"

"MY FRIENDS, VERILY WE HAVE FOUND THE TIME-TWISTERS!"



THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

DESTROY THEM-- NOW!



THE SON OF ODIN DOTH NOT TAKE LIFE LIGHTLY, ZARRKO--

--BUT 'TWOULD SEEM I HAVE NO CHOICE!

FOR THE UNIVERSE TO LIVE, THE TIME-TWISTERS MUST...



INTRUDER-- HOLD!

SMASH THOSE NURTURE-PODS AND YOU CONDEMN UNTOLD GENERATIONS TO THE BLACK PITS OF IGNORANCE!

YOU WILL DEPRIVE A FUTURE YET UNBORN OF THE PRICELESS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST!

COULD YOU BE THAT CRUEL?



OLD ONE, THOU KNOWEST NOT WHAT THOU DOST SAY!



I KNOW ALL THAT I NEED TO KNOW, STRIPLING.

I AM... HE WHO REMAINS!



I ALONE, OF ALL MY RACE, AM LEFT TO GUARD THOSE WHO SHALL SURVIVE ETERNITY'S ENDING!



I ALONE AM LEFT TO SOW DESTINY'S SEEDS!



BUT IF THY BITTER SEEDS BEAR **FRUIT**, WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER WILL **PERISH!**

THUS, THOUGH IT DOTHSORELY **GRIEVE** ME, MINE ENCHANTED **HAMMER** MUST...



**STRIPLING-- STOP!** COULD YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND?

MY **STRENGTH--!**

IT DOTHS **DRAIN** FROM MY VERY **LIMBS!**



AS I INTENDED. NOW YOU WILL **LISTEN** AS I EXPLAIN.

YOU SEE, STRIPLING-- **TIME** IS BUT A **CIRCLE**. FROM THE ASHES OF THE **FINAL HOLOCAUST**, THE UNIVERSE WILL BEGIN **ANEW**.

THOSE WHO SLEEP ARE OUR **GIFT** TO THE FUTURE-- THREE BEINGS WHO ARE **KNOWLEDGE INCARNATE**-- AND WILL **TEACH** THOSE OF THE NEXT CYCLE TO **AVOID** THE ERRORS WE MADE.



BUT THAT'S THE **PROBLEM**-- DON'T YOU **UNDERSTAND?** ARMAGEDDON IS **FINAL!** IT CANNOT BE **BREACHED!**

YOUR SLEEPERS WILL **SURVIVE** THE **CATACLYSM**-- BUT SOMEHOW THEY'LL BE **TWISTED** IN TIME! SEEKING TIMES **BEGINNING**. THEY'LL MOVE **BACK** THRU THE AGES--

-- AND EVERY WORLD THEY **TOUCH**, THEY'LL **DESTROY!**



WOMAN, YOU SPEAK **NONSENSE!**

I ONLY WISH I **DID**-- BUT WITH MY OWN EYES I **SAW** YOUR PRECIOUS SLEEPERS **DEVASTATE** 50th CENTURY **EARTH!**

THAT'S WHY WE'VE **COME** HERE-- TO **PREVENT** SUCH WANTON **DESTRUCTION** FROM EVER **HAPPENING!**



BUT ALL OUR **HOPES**-- OUR DREAMS OF A **UNIVERSAL UTOPIA**--?

ARE YOU WILLING TO **MURDER** COUNTLESS TRILLIONS OF **LIVING BEINGS** TO MAKE THOSE DREAMS **COME TRUE?**

THAT'S WHAT IT **COMES DOWN** TO, YOU KNOW.

CAN YOU BE THAT **SELFISH?**

BUT BEFORE THE WIZENED FIGURE CAN VOICE A REPLY, THERE COMES A ROAR LIKE THE BELLOW OF SOME WOUNDED BEAST--

THAT WAS THE FIRST SNOCK-WAVE FROM THE ERUPTING PRIMAL SUN!

THEN-- THE CATAclySM HAS BEGUN!!

--AND THE TEMPLE IS SHAKEN TO ITS VERY FOUNDATIONS.

THEY WILL GET WORSE AS THEY GO ON!

BY THE BEARD OF MY FATHER! WHAT DOETH BE THE MEANING OF THIS?



QUICKLY, EVERYONE-- TO THE TIME-CUBE! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPPE OF LEAVING HERE ALIVE!

WE DO NOT LIKE LEAVING HERE ZARRKO-- WITH OUR MISSION NOT YET COMPLETE!

GO SWIFTLY THEN, STRIPLINGS. TIME GROWS SHORT.

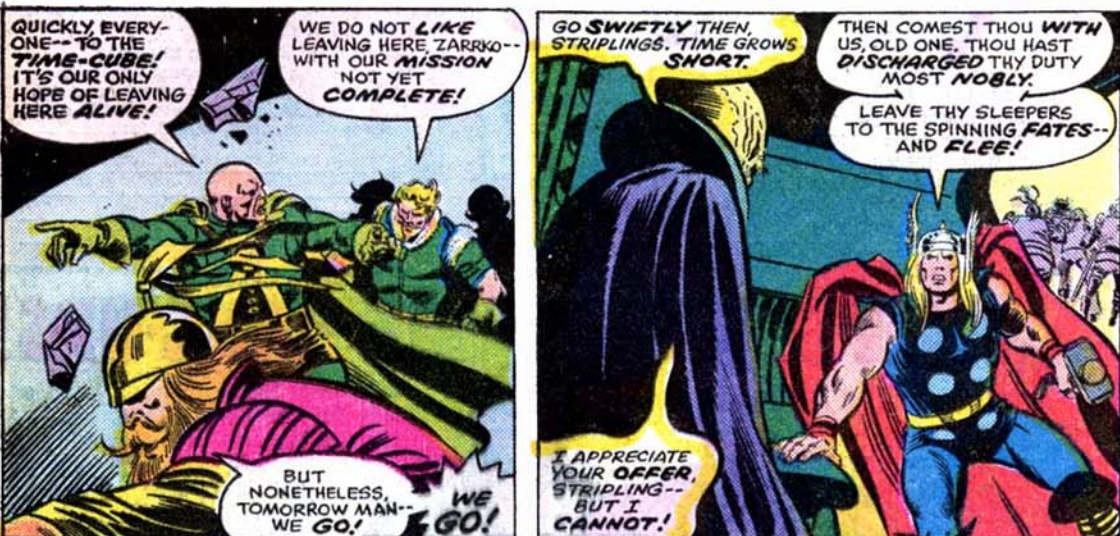
THEN COMEST THOU WITH US, OLD ONE, THOU HAST DISCHARGED THY DUTY MOST NOBLY.

LEAVE THY SLEEPERS TO THE SPINNING FATES-- AND FLEE!

BUT NONETHELESS, TOMORROW MAN-- WE GO!

WE GO!

I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER, STRIPLING-- BUT I CANNOT!



THERE ARE THINGS LEFT TO BE DONE HERE-- THAT ONLY I CAN DO.

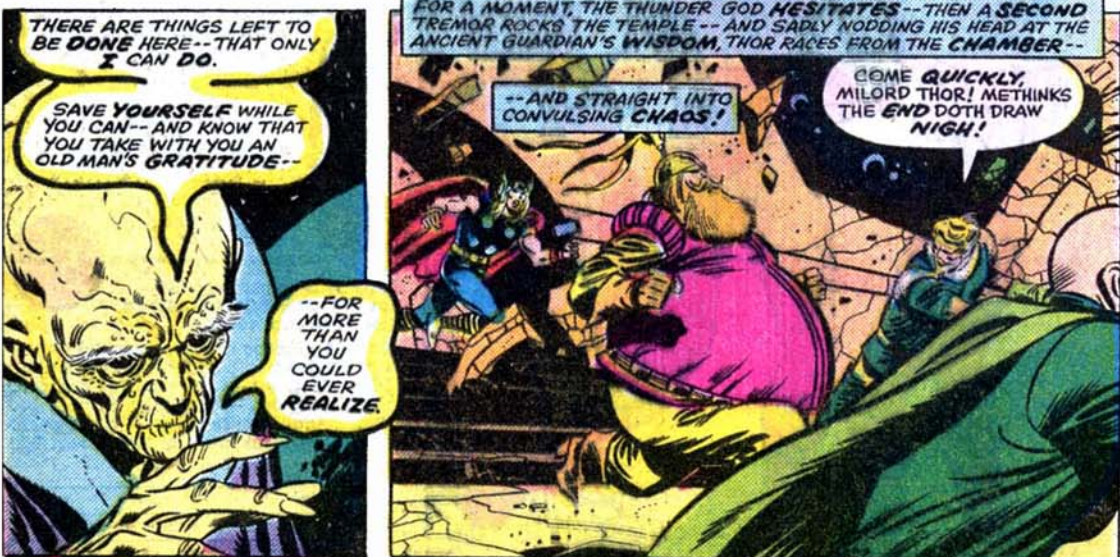
FOR A MOMENT, THE THUNDER GOD HESITATES-- THEN A SECOND TREMOR ROCKS THE TEMPLE-- AND SADLY NODDING HIS HEAD AT THE ANCIENT GUARDIAN'S WISDOM, THOR RACES FROM THE CHAMBER--

SAVE YOURSELF WHILE YOU CAN-- AND KNOW THAT YOU TAKE WITH YOU AN OLD MAN'S GRATITUDE--

--AND STRAIGHT INTO CONVULSING CHAOS!

COME QUICKLY, MILORD THOR! METHINKS THE END DOETH DRAW NIGH!

--FOR MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER REALIZE.





MAKE **HASTE**,  
COMRADES. THE  
TIME-CUBE CANNOT  
**LINGER**.

A **MOMENT**, VOLSTAGG--  
WHILE I BID A **FINAL FARE-  
WELL** TO ONE FAR **NOBLER**  
THAN WE.

THE **PRINCE OF ASGARD** GAZES ONE **LAST TIME** UPON THE  
TEMPLE OF **SLEEPERS**, AND BOWS HIS HEAD **SLOWLY**  
IN **SILENT SALUTE**--

--THEN THE  
MASSIVE **METAL PORTAL**  
WUSHES **BACK**  
BEHIND HIM--

--AND THE **GREAT GLEAMING**  
CUBE **VANISHES** BACK  
INTO THE **MISTS OF TIME**.

WITHIN THE **TEMPLE**, HE WHO **REMAINS**  
AWAITS THE **CATACLYSM** **QUIETLY**.

HE **SHUFFLES** ABOUT THE **CHAMBER**,  
MAKING CERTAIN THAT ALL IS IN  
ITS **PROPER PLACE**--

THE **NURTURE-PODS** BEFORE HIM  
STILL **PULSATE** AND **GLOW**,  
THEIR **SOFT INCANDESCENCE**  
GLINTING **BLINDLY** OFF THE  
SINGLE **BEAD OF MOISTURE**  
THAT **CURLS** FROM THE **OLD**  
ONE'S **EYE**.

THEN A **WITHERED HAND** REACHES  
TREMBLING **CROSS** THE **CONTROL**  
CONSOLE--

**TERMINATE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

--AND DOES  
WHAT **MUST**  
BE **DONE!**

THE **JOURNEY** BACK  
THRU THE **CENTURIES**  
IS **TINGED** WITH AN  
ATMOSPHERE OF  
**ANTICIPATION**--

-- AND  
**DREAD**.

FOR, **WHATEVER** THE **TIME-  
TRAVELLERS** HAD **EXPECTED**  
TO **FIND** UPON THEIR  
RETURN TO THE **50th**  
**CENTURY**--

--IT **CERTAINLY** HAD  
NOT BEEN-- **THIS!**



TH-THIS ISN'T MY WORLD!

THERE IS **TECHNOLOGY** EVIDENT HERE THAT I'D NEVER HAVE **PERMITTED!**

CITIZEN **ZARRKO?** WE WERE TOLD TO **EXPECT YOU** SOMEDAY,

FIRST CITIZEN **DEREK** WISHES TO **SPEAK** WITH YOU, YOU WILL **ACCOMPANY US** PLEASE?



WHO **ARE YOU?** WHAT HAVE YOU **DONE** TO MY WORLD?

I AM THE **LEGACY** THAT YOU LEFT **BEHIND, ZARRKO;**

--AND THIS WORLD IS **YOURS** NO LONGER!

THE GUARDS ARE **POLITE BUT PERSISTENT, THUS SHORTLY...**



WHEN YOU **AVERTED** THE TRAGEDY THAT BEFELL US AND THE TIMESTREAM **RESTORED** ITSELF, YOU WERE TRAVELLING **BETWEEN THE AGES--**

--FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YOU DID NOT **EXIST--**

--AND THUS THE EARTH WAS **REBORN WITH-OUT YOU!**



AS FIRST CITIZEN, I **WELCOME** YOU TO THE **FREE FEDERATION OF EARTH!** YOU ARE INVITED TO DWELL AMONG US IN **PEACE--**

--OR YOU ARE **FREE TO DEPART!**



THE CHOICE, **ZARRKO, IS ENTIRELY YOURS!**

**NO!** YOU CAN'T **DO** THIS TO ME! I WON'T LET YOU **STEAL** MY WORLD!

ASGARDIANS, YOU'VE GOT TO **HELP ME REGAIN MY...**

**EH?**



EVEN IF WE WOULD **WANT** TO HELP **THEE, ZARRKO-- WE CANNOT!**

MILORD **THOR, W-WE GROW MOST PALE--!**

**NO-- STOP!** YOU CAN'T **LEAVE** ME LIKE THIS!



BUT WE **MUST, ZARRKO!** THE TIME-TWISTERS WERE **DEFEATED** ERE THEY COULD E'EN BE **BORN--**

--THUS THERE WAS NO **CAUSE** FOR THEE TO HAVE **SUMMONED** US TO THIS CENTURY--



"--AND SINCE THOU DIDST NOT **SUMMON** US--

"--WE WERE NEVER **HERE!**"

THE TIMESTREAM RIPPLES, THEN GROWS CALM ONCE MORE--AND IN THE APARTMENT OF JANE FOSTER...



I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU ALL WAITING VERY LONG?

FOR THEE, LADY JANE-- WE WOULD GLADLY WAIT FOREVER.

IS THE REPAST SERVED, MILADY?



I'M AFRAID YOU GENTS WILL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR LEMON-ADE, THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT IN THE REFRIGERATOR.

'T WAS ALMOST--ER--EMPTY WHEN WE ARRIVED, MILADY.

THOU ART A MOST GRACIOUS HOSTESS, JANE FOSTER.

THY COLD BEVERAGE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.



MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR DOUR HOGUN, MAYHAP--

--BUT NOT SO FOR FANDRAL THE CONNOISSEUR!

HAST THOU NOTHING STRONGER, LADY JANE?

WELL... THERE'S A WARM BOTTLE OF PERS! IN THE KITCHEN.



'T WAS NOT--AH-- QUITE WHAT I HAD IN MIND, LADY JANE. COULDST THOU...

IF THOU DOST NOT PLAN TO DRINK THY LEMON NECTAR, FRIEND FANDRAL--

BY ODIN!

--PRAY OFFER IT TO SOMEONE WHO WILL!

CARE FOR THAT PERS! NOW, FANDRAL?



THE MOMENT PASSES.



NO GREAT GOLDEN HAND BURSTS IN THRU THE WALL TO ABDUCT JANE FOSTER.

NO TIME-TRAVELLER APPEARS TO SUMMON THE ASGARDIANS FORTH TO WAR!



IT IS AN EVENING NOT UNLIKE A THOUSAND OTHERS--

--AND IT PASSES IN GOOD HUMOR--AND PEACE.

NEXT ISSUE BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT...

THE FURY OF FIRELORD!