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THIS IS IT!! THE SPECTACULAR 250th ISSUE!

THE MIGHTY THOR

IF MANGOG DRAWS THE ODINSWORD, THE UNIVERSE WILL BE DESTROYED!

AND NOT EVEN MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN STOP HIM!

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When lame Dr. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic mallet MJOLNIR—and Blake is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm and the Lightning, Heir to the Throne of Immortal Asgard...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!** J.V.990

IF ASGARD SHOULD PERISH...!

AYE, THUNDER GOD--'TIS THE MIGHTY ANSGOG WHO NOW RULES IMMORTAL ASGARD!

AND IF ANYONE DARES TRY TO STEAL THE GOLDEN THRONE FROM ME, I WILL PULL THE DREADED ODINSWORD FROM ITS SCABBARD--

-- AND BRING THE VERY UNIVERSE TO A SWIFT AND FIERY END!!

AND ON THAT GRIM NOTE, PREPARE THYSELF FOR WUNDERMENT SUCH AS THOU HAST NE'ER BEFORE KNOWN--STARTING NOW!

JOURNEY BEYOND THE IMAGINATION WITH...

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WRITER/EDITOR

JOHN BUSCEMA
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TONY DOZUNIGA
EMBELLISHER

JOHN COSTANZA
letterer

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WE PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT!



BUT WHAT ART THOU DOING HERE, MANGOG?

'TWAS SAID THOU DIDST CONSUME THYSELF IN BATTLE WITH THE MIGHTY THOR! *

HATRED SUCH AS MINE CANNOT BE DESTROYED, ASGARDIAN!

THE SPARK OF MY FURY LIVED ON--AND 'TIS THAT WHICH YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

BACK IN THOR #198, RIGHT?--LEN

ONCE MINE WAS THE POWER OF A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS-- BUT THE ACCURSED ODIN FREED THE ALIEN RACE WHICH SPAWNED ME-- AND NOW ONLY MY ALL- ENCOMPASSING ANGER SUSTAINS ME--

--SO THAT SOME DAY I CAN CONQUER ALL OF ASGARD!

I TOO HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE REALM ETERNAL, MONSTROUS ONE.

MAYHAP IF WE ALLIED OURSELVES, WE MIGHT TOGETHER SUCCEED WHERE SINGLY WE SO SADLY DID FAIL!

AGREED, ASGARDIAN. BUT I CAN BE OF LITTLE HELP TO YOU WHILE TRAPPED IN THIS DIMINUTIVE FORM!

THEN THOU SHALT REGAIN THY LONG- LOST POWER, MIGHTY ONE!

FOR IGRON DOTH KNOW THE ARCANES SECRETS OF THE EVIL LOKI--

--AND THUS THERE IS LITTLE I CANNOT ACCOMPLISH!

AGAIN I CAN FEEL THE POWER COURSEING THRU ME LIKE QUICKSILVER!

BUT WHERE DOES MY NEWFOUND STRENGTH COME FROM?

FROM THE VERY CITIZENS OF ASGARD, MY FRIEND!

UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, I DID DRAIN A PORTION OF THE ETERNAL LIFE-FORCE FROM EACH-- AND DID SIPHON IT INTO THIS! *

IT WILL NOT SUSTAIN THEE FOREVER-- BUT FOR NOW, 'T WILL SERVE!

* WHICH FINALLY EXPLAINS THE STRANGE LETHARGY THAT BEFELL ASGARD BACK IN ISSUE #240 --LEN AGAIN.

THE IRONY OF IT PLEASES ME, IGRON-- BUT ALL THE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE WILL NOT HELP US SO LONG AS THE ACCURSED ODIN STILL LIVES!

EVEN OUR COMBINED POWERS CAN NEVER HOPE TO TRIUMPH AGAINST HIM!

AYE, MONSTROUS ONE-- BUT THE ALL-FATHER HATH BEEN GONE FROM ASGARD LO THESE MANY WEEKS--

--AND NO MAN CAN SAY WHERE!

NO MAN, THAT IS, SAVE IGRON!
MY DARK SORCERY HATH ENABLED ME TO LOCATE ODIN ON EARTH, BEREF OF HIS MEMORY!*

IF HE STILL REMAINS THIS, WE CAN THEN STRIKE WITHOUT FEAR OF...



* AS SHOWN IN ISSUES #233-241. -- STILL LEN.

CURSE IT, THE ALL-FATHER HATH **REAINED** HIS SENSES!

EVEN NOW, HE DOETH DEPART EARTH IN A GREAT FLASH OF LIGHTNING!*



* AS SHOWN IN THOR #242, WHEN... AH, FORGET IT.

ALTHOUGH HE DID LEAVE THE GREEN FIELDS OF EARTH, ODIN HATH NEVER ARRIVED UPON THE GOLDEN STREETS OF ASGARD!

SOMETHING UNSEEN HATH INTERCEPTED HIM ALONG THE WAY!



LORD ODIN IS... GONE!

"AND THAT IS WHEN THE IDEA CAME TO ME."

"ONLY MANGOG AND I DID KNOW THAT ODIN HAD VANISHED. THIS, IF THE PEOPLE OF THE REALM ETERNAL NEEDED A MONARCH TO BELIEVE IN...



"... THEN, BY MY DARK POWERS-- I WOULD GIVE THEM ONE!"

WHAT HAST THOU DONE TO ME, ASGARDIAN?

MERELY DRESSED THEE IN A CLOAK OF ILLUSION, MY FRIEND.



FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, THOU ART ODIN, REGAL RULER OF THE REALM ETERNAL!

LET THEIR HONOR GIVE THEE STRENGTH!

NOW GOEST THOU FORTH, ALMIGHTY ONE-- AND LET THE LOVE OF THY PEOPLE REPLENISH THEE!

"AND MANGOG TOOK TO THE ROLE MOST SWIFTLY..."



GUARDS, UNLOCK THIS DOOR! THY MASTER COMMANDS YE!

NOBLE ODIN?!? BUT 'TIS SAID THOU HAST VENTURED FAR FROM THE GOLDEN REALM.

WHAT ART THOU DOING IN THE CELL OF IGRON?!

ODIN DOTH NEED EXPLAIN HIMSELF TO NO ONE, GUARD!



I AM THE WISDOM, THE WILL, AND THE WAY-- AND THOU WOULDST DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT!

F-FORGIVE ME, MILORD. I--I MEANT THEE NO OFFENSE.

"THEN I WATCHED IN SATISFACTION AS MANGOS STRODE OFF TO TAKE HIS PLACE UPON THE GOLDEN THRONE..."



VERILY THE CROWN OF COMMAND DOTH SIT WELL UPON THE MONSTROUS ONE'S BROW.

MAYHAP SOMEDAY SOON 'TWILL SIT AS WELL UPON MINE!

AND IN THE DAYS SINCE PAST, MANGOS AND I HAVE RESHAPED THE REALM ETHERNAL TO OUR LIKING--

--FOR NONE WILL DARE STAND AGAINST US!

NAY, INSIDIOUS ONE--I DARE!



I SHALL TELL THE PEOPLE OF THY DEVILISH DECEPTION-- AND WE SHALL DRAG THEE SCREAMING FROM THE THRONE!

THUNDER GOD, THY NAIVETE DOTH TRULY ASTOUND ME!

TELL YOUR SIMPLE-MINDED PEOPLE WHATEVER YOU WILL, GODLINGS-- BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE YOU!



AFTER ALL, MY PRINCE-- WHAT PROOF HAST THOU OF ANY OF THIS?



WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE TO SHOW THAT REGAL ODIN IS NOT ALL HE DOTH APPEAR TO BE?



THY FOUL MASQUERADE CANNOT
ENDURE FOREVER, CHURLS!
SOONER OR LATER, THOU SHALT
MAKE A MISTAKE, AND THEN...

ZOUNDS!!

AYE, THUNDER
GOD, 'TIS THOU
WHO DIDST ERR--

--IN THINKING THOU
WOULDST EVER BE
ALLOWED TO LEAVE
THE PALACE ROYAL!

MALEVOLENT ONE, THOU
ART TRULY MAD IF THOU
THINKEST ME SO EASILY
DEFEATED!



I AM PLEDGED
TO WARN THE
CITIZENS OF ASGARD
OF THY BASE AND
HEINOUS
TREACHERY--



--AND THERE BE
NOT POWER ENOW
IN ALL THE REALM
ETERNAL TO STAY
ME FROM MY GIVEN
DUTY!

WHAMM!



BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE
POWER OF THE REALM ETERNAL
FAIRLY PALES BEFORE THE POWER
OF HE WHO IS ITS MONARCH--



--AND EVEN THE GOD
OF THUNDER MUST
FALL BEFORE THE FULL
UNLEASHED FURY OF
ODIN--

--OR THE FURY OF HE WHO WEARS THE ALL-FATHER'S FACE!

GUARDS, REMOVE THIS VERMIN FROM MY SIGHT--



--AND CARRY HIM OUT BEFORE THE CITY GATES!

THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH CONSPIRED TO OVERTHROW THY JUST AND RIGHTFUL RULER!

NOW LET HIM SERVE AS A BITTER EXAMPLE, THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DARE COMMIT SO VILE AN ACT AGAIN!



BUT EVEN NOW, THOSE WHO SHARE THE THUNDER GOD'S CAUSE ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY-SIDE--

--EACH STRIVING IN HIS OR HER OWN WAY TO RALLY THE ABBARDIAN PEOPLE TO THEIR SIDE.



OF COURSE, SOME ARE MORE SUBTLE IN THEIR URGING THAN OTHERS.

BUT, AT LAST, DESPITE MUCH FRIGHTENED PROTEST, EACH OF THOR'S COMRADES RETURNS FROM THE OUTLANDS WITH AN ANGRY ENTOURAGE IN TOWN...



ONWARD, GOOD WARRIORS!

VALOROUS VOLSTAGG DOETH LEAD YE ON TO TRIUMPH!

ACROSS THE REALM ETERNAL, THE SCENE IS REPEATED OVER AND OVER...



NO, GRIM HOGUN-- I SEE THOU HAST DONE WELL!

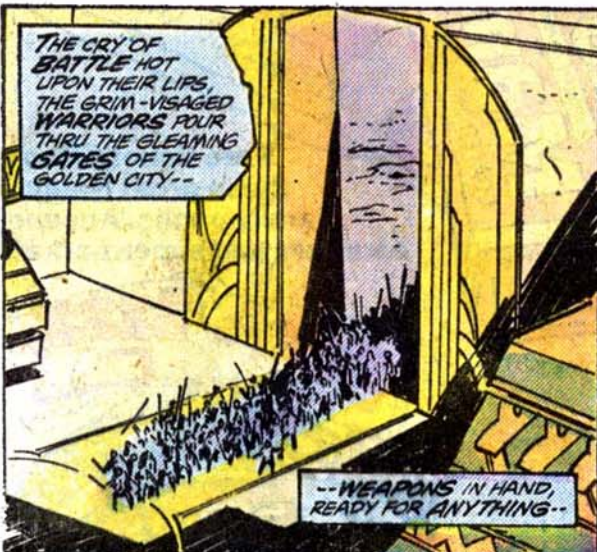
NO BETTER THAN THEE, DASHING FANDRAL-- OR OUR BRETHREN!



THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, MY FRIENDS?

ON TO THE PALACE ROYAL!

TO THE PALACE ROYAL-- AND VICTORY!!



THE CRY OF BATTLE HOT UPON THEIR LIPS, THE GRIM-VISAGED WARRIORS POUR THRU THE GLEAMING GATES OF THE GOLDEN CITY--

--WEAPONS IN HAND, READY FOR ANYTHING--



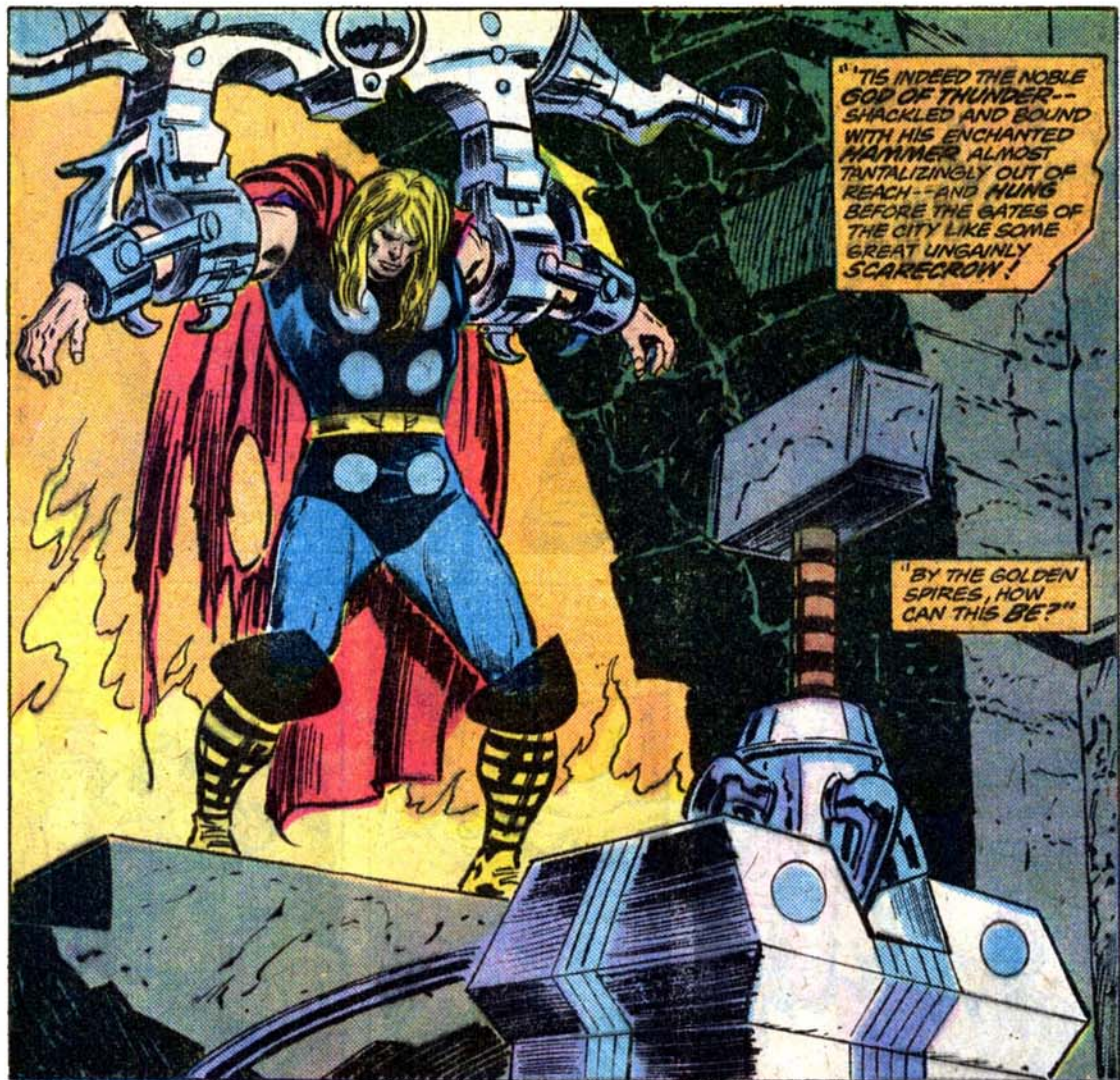
--ANYTHING, THAT IS, SAVE THAT WHICH THEY ACTUALLY FIND!

BRAVE BALDER, PRAY TELL ME 'TIS BUT A DREAM!

BY VOLSTAGG'S BILLING BEARD!

'TIS NOT POSSIBLE--!

WOULD THAT I COULD, MILADY SIF-- BUT I CANNOT!



"TIS INDEED THE NOBLE
GOD OF THUNDER--
SHACKLED AND BOUND
WITH HIS ENCHANTED
HAMMER ALMOST
TANTALIZINGLY OUT OF
REACH--AND HUNG
BEFORE THE GATES OF
THE CITY LIKE SOME
GREAT UNGAINLY
SCARECROW!

"BY THE GOLDEN
SPIRES, HOW
CAN THIS BE?"



WHAT MATTERS THE
REASON, BALDER, WHEN
MY BELOVED DOTH
SUFFER SO?

I PRAY THEE,
HELP ME RELEASE
HIM ERS!!



TAKE NOT
ANOTHER STEP,
LADY SIF!

LIFT THINE HAND TO
COMFORT THE TREASON-
OUS THUNDER GOD--
AND THOU SHALT FEEL
MY RIGHTEOUS WRATH!!

IN ODIN'S
NAME,
WHO--?!



A MOST WELL-CHOSEN EXPLETIVE, MY DEAR-- FOR 'T WAS INDEED IN ODIN'S NAME THAT THOU WERT COMMANDED TO HALT!

'T WAS I WHO DID ORDER THE THUNDER GOD THUS HUNG THERE--

--AND 'T IS THERE HE SHALL REMAIN UNTIL I DEEM OTHERWISE!



BUT MY LIEGE, DOST THOU NOT THINK THE PUNISHMENT UNSEEMLY HARSH?

THE GOD OF THUNDER IS THINE OWN SON AFTER ALL--AND JUSTICE HATH NO MEANING LEST IT BE TEMPERED WITH MERCY.



DOST THOU ONCE MORE PRESUME TO CONTRADICT THY LORD AND MASTER, VIZIER?

NAY, MY LIEGE-- NEVER WOULD I ARGUE THY WISDOM. I MERELY SUGGEST MOST HUMBLY THAT THOU HAST...



HOLD THY TONGUE, VIZIER! I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH DISSENSION OF LATE TO LAST ME AN ETERNITY!



I AM ODIN, MONARCH MOST HIGH OF IMMORTAL ASGARD--

--AND I WILL BE OBEYED!!



LIES.

HE DOTHS... SPEAK LIES MOST... FIERCELY FOUL.

'T IS NOT THY... RIGHTFUL LIESE... WHO STANDS BEFORE YE... BUT RATHER... THE MALEVOLENT...




AARRGGH!!

SILENCE, PERFIDIOUS ONE!

THOU SHALT SPREAD THY SEDITION NO FURTHER!

WELL DONE, ALMIGHTY SIRE.





BUT SHALL THAT
DETER US FROM
OUR DUTY, MY
BROTHERS--
IN-ARMS?

NAY, FRIEND HOGUN! FOR ONCE, MY
SOUL BE AS GRIM AS THINE OWN!

THEN WE MUST FIGHT
ON, MY FRIENDS--AYE,
EVEN UNTO...



BUT THE REST OF DASHING FANDRAL'S SOLEMN PLEDGE
IS LOST AMIDST A SUDDEN FLURRY OF BRAYING,
GRUNTING, AND HOWLING--

--AS THE THREE BOLD ASGARDIANS
JOIN THE BARKING BALDER IN
DEFEAT!



A DEFEAT NOT EVERYONE IS
YET READY TO ADMIT!

MILADY SIF--
COME THEE
BACK!


I BEEG THEE, LORD ODIN--
THOU MUST COME TO THY
SENSES ERE... NO!

THEN 'TIS ALL THAT
THOU SHALT LOSE,
MY DEAR LADY SIF!

SO THOU WOULDST
RISK ALL TO RESCUE
THY PRECIOUS
THUNDER GOD, AY?

NAY,
LOYAL
HILDE-
GARDE--
I CANNOT!

MY BELOVED THOR
MUST BE FREED
FROM HIS UNJUST
IMPRISON-
MENT!



LET US SEE IF THE
OH-SO-NOBLE THOR
CAN FEEL ANYTHING
FOR THEE NOW... SAVE
REVULSION!

IN ASGARD, THERE IS AN ANCIENT PROVERB ABOUT THE PEBBLES THAT BROKE THE TROLL KING'S BACK.

TO HIS DISMAY, THE MIGHTY THOR NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT PROVERB'S MEANING ALL TOO WELL!



I SAY THEE-- ENOUGH!

NO LONGER CAN I STAND IDLY BY WHILST THOU DOST COMMIT SUCH TERRIBLE ATROCITIES AGAINST MY CLOSEST COMPANIONS--

--AND THE RAVEN-TRESSED GODDESS THAT I LOVE!



NAY, DESPITE MINE OVERWHELMING EXHAUSTION, DESPITE THE UNIMAGINABLE STRAIN--

--I SHALL BE FREE OF THE CURSED SHACKLES WHICH DOTH BIND ME--



--OR PERISH IN THE ATTEM--



PROPHETIC WORDS, THUNDER GOD-- ALL TOO SADLY PROPHETIC INDEED!

DOST THOU SEE? THERE IS NOT A BEING IN ALL ASGARD WHO CAN STAND BEFORE MY POWER!

EVEN THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH BEEN CRUSHED LIKE SOME INSIGNIFICANT INSECT!



I PRAY THEE ALMIGHTY ONE-- CONTROL THYSELF!

THERE DOTH BE NO NEED FOR THEE TO CONFIRM THE VAGUE SUSPICIONS ALREADY GROWING AMONGST THY PEOPLE!

THOU WOULDST HAVE ME DENY MY LONG-SOUGHT VICTORY FOR THE SAKE OF THAT MINDLESS RABBLE?

LOOK UPON THEM, SLY ONE-- THEY ARE BUT SHEEP READY TO BE LED TO PASTURE OR TO SLAUGHTER AS THEIR MASTER BEES FIT!

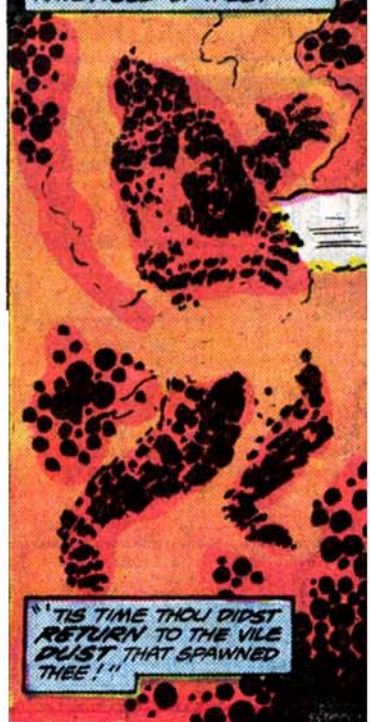


AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, IGRON-- I AM THEIR MASTER!

I--AND I ALONE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT ME, MY LIEGE.

"ALAS, THOU HAST SERVED THY PURPOSE, LITTLE IGRON-- AND I FIND I NO LONGER HAVE NEED OF THEE!"



'TIS TIME THOU DIDST RETURN TO THE VILE DUST THAT SPAWNED THEE!"

IGRON'S DEATH-SCREAM FADES SWIFTLY-- AND, FOR A MOMENT, A SILENT PALLOR FALLS ACROSS THE CROWD--

--THEN A TREMBLING HAND POINTS EXCITEDLY-- AND A FRIGHTENED MURMUR SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGH THE MILLING THROGS--



--A MURMUR THAT FINDS ITS VOICE IN THE DEFIANT FIGURE OF HILDEGARDE!

VARLET, THOU ART NOT OUR GOOD AND NOBLE LORD ODIN--



AYE, WOMAN-- AND THERE IS LITTLE YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
--BUT THE MALEVOLENT MENEGE WHO HATH EVER BEEN CALLED MANGOS!



THOUGH MY STOLEN VISAGE HAS FADED WITH IGRON'S DEATH, STILL NO GOD LIVES IN ALL OF ASGARD WITH THE POWER TO DEFEY ME!

NAY, MONSTER--



EH?

--THOR DOTH DEFEY THEE--

--UNTO DEATH-- AYE, AND BEYOND!



THOU HAST TWISTED THE POWER OF THE REALM ETHERNAL TO THY FOUL WILL!

THOU HAST SOUGHT TO SULLY THE ALL-FATHER'S PROUD AND NOBLE NAME!

"AND FOR THOSE CRIMES AND MYRIAD OTHERS YET UNCOUNTED, SHALT THOU NOW FEEL THE MIGHT OF MINE ENCHANTED GIRU HAMMER--



"--AND THOU SHALT KNOW IT STRIKES FOR JUSTICE-- AND FOR VENGEANCE!"

WITLESS GODLING, YOUR WEAPON WILL NOT STRIKE AT ALL!

MANGOS IS STILL POWER INCARNATE--



--AND ALTHOUGH IT IS NO LONGER THE POWER OF AN ENTIRE RACE, IT IS STILL POWER SUPPLIED ME BY THE WORSHIP OF YOUR SIMPLE-MINDED SUBJECTS--

-- AND THAT IS POWER ENOUGH FOR THE TASK WHICH LIES BEFORE ME!



NAY, MONSTROUS ONE, THOU CANST NOT MEAN...

THUNDER GOD, I WARNED YOU THAT IF I COULD NOT RULE ASGARD, I WOULD DESTROY IT--

...AND MANGOG ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD!



KRUNN!

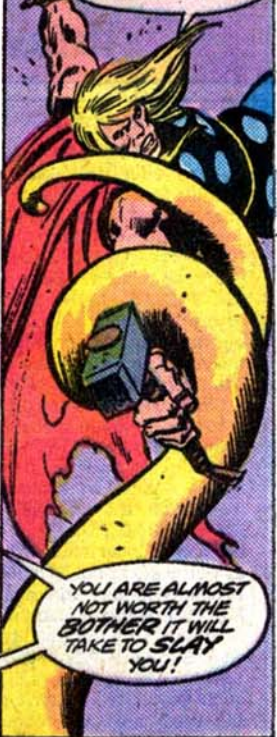
THOR'S WORD DOETH BE HIS BOND AS WELL, FOUL DEMON--

-- AND I HAVE SWORN TO PUT AN END TO THEE!



'IMPUDENT FLEA!

ODIN'S EYES! I HAD FORGOTTEN MANGOG'S FLASHING TAIL!



YOU ARE ALMOST NOT WORTH THE BOTHER IT WILL TAKE TO SLAY YOU!

AND 'TIS A LAPSE OF MEMORY THAT MAY COST THE VERY UNIVERSE!

FOR MANGOG DOETH SEEK TO REACH THE ENCHANTED ODIN-SWORD--



WRUUNCH!

-- AND IF ANY SAVE THE ALL-FATHER HIMSELF DOETH DRAW THAT DREADED WEAPON FROM ITS SCABBARD, 'T WILL SIGNAL THE DAWN OF RASGNAROK--

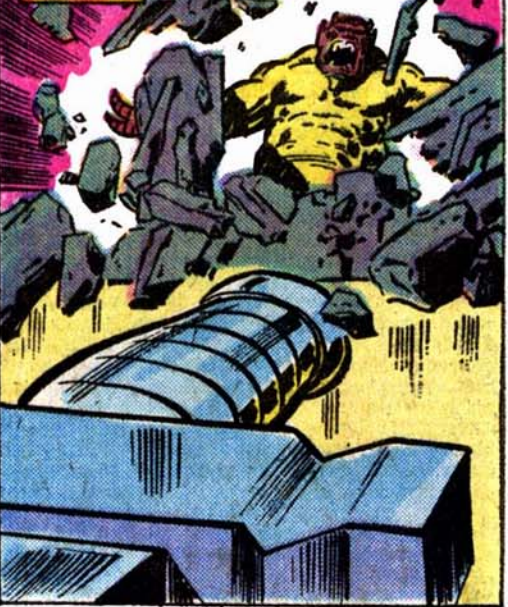
-- THE DAY WHEN ALL THAT MAN AND GOD HATH WROUGHT MUST PERISH!



I MUST HALT THE MONSTROUS ONE ERE... NAY, 'TIS TOO LATE--!

"THE GLOATING MANGOG HATH BREACHED THE VERY RAMPARTS OF THE PALACE IMPERIAL--

"-- AND THERE BE NAUGHT TO STAND BETWEEN HIM AND HIS MOST TERRIBLE GOAL."





ONE MOMENT LONGER-- AND I SHALL REPAY ACCURSED ODIN FOR HIS CRIME AGAINST MY RACE!

ONE MOMENT MORE-- AND I SHALL HAVE MY LONG-SOUGHT REVENGE!



THEN THAT MOMENT MUST NEVER COME TO PASS, THOU HEINOUS BEAST!



AYE, MANGOS-- NEVER SHALT THOU LAY THY FILTHY CLAW UPON THE ODIN-SWORD WHILST THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH LIVE!

THOR???



THEN YOU SHALL LIVE NO LONGER, LITTLE GNAT!

MANGOS EXISTS SOLELY TO KILL-- AND YOU SHALL BE MY GREATEST VICTIM!



THINE ONLY VICTIM SHALL BE THYSELF, MONSTER!

FOR THE HATRED THAT FILLS THY SOUL SHALL SOON CONSUME THEE LIKE A RAGING FLAME--

--LEAVING NAUGHT BUT BITTER ASHES TO MARK THAT THOU HADST EVER BEEN!



YOU FELLEDD ME, THUNDER GOD! NONE BUT ODIN HAS EVER DONE THAT BEFORE!

VERILY, MANGOS-- I AM NOBLE ODIN'S SON!

'TIS HIS BLOOD THAT FLOWS WITHIN ME-- AND 'TIS IN HIS GLORIOUS NAME THAT I DEFEND THE REALM ETERNAL!



THEN IN HIS NAME SHALL YOU BE TORN LIMB FROM WRITHING LIMB, IF NEED BE--

-- SO THAT I MAY REACH THE WAITING ODINSWORD AT LAST!!



**NEXT
ISSUE**

JOIN THE GOD OF THUNDER
ON A GRIM JOURNEY TO
VALHALLA, AS THE QUEST
FOR THE MISSING ODIN BEGINS
WITH A BLAST! BE HERE FOR...

TO HELA... AND BACK!