

THOR

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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# THE MIGHTY THOR



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**ESCAPE TO OBLIVION!**



**IT'S ALIEN AGAIN-- WITH THE THUNDER GOD RIGHT IN THE THICK OF IT!**





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!**™

**ESCAPE INTO OBLIVION!**

THE SCENE: THE SLAVE QUARTERS IN THE BOWELS OF THE STAR-SPANNING PIRATE CRAFT, BIRD OF PREY.

THE SITUATION: MORE THAN DESPERATE!



STAY THY GROUND STONY ONE--

--OR FEEL THE UNFETTERED FURY OF--  
**THOR!**

BUT ALL YOUR FURY IS FUTILE, THUNDER GOD, WHEN YOU FACE THE TERRIBLE STONE TOUCH OF--  
**THE GREY GARGOYLE!**

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STILL, I DID NOT COME HERE TO FIGHT WITH YOU, ASGARDIAN, IF I COULD POSSIBLY AVOID IT.

I CAME BECAUSE... I HAVE DESPERATE NEED OF YOUR HELP!

WHAT--?!

SURELY THOU DOST JEST, STONY ONE!



MERE HOURS AGO, THOU DIDST TURN US TO STONE--AND MADE US ALL THY SLAVES!

WHY SHOULD WE HELP THEE NOW?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP! I HAD TO DO AS I DID TO KEEP MY CREW FROM SUSPECTING!

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO CONVINCe YOU OF MY SINCERITY...

AH... OF COURSE.



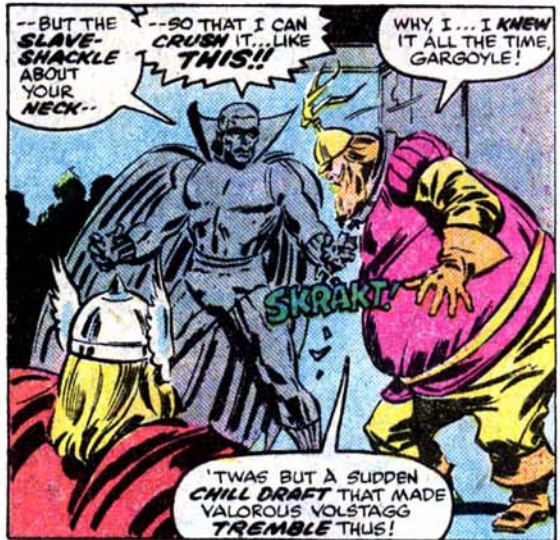
STAND PERFECTLY STILL FOR A MOMENT, FAT ONE--

N-NAY, GARGOYLE!

M-METHINKS THAT IS AN ANSWER I WOULD MUCH RATHER DECLINE!

--AND LET ME TOUCH YOU!

CALM DOWN, ASGARDIAN! IT ISN'T YOUR OBSE BODY I WISH TO TURN TO STONE--



--BUT THE SLAVE-SHACKLE ABOUT YOUR NECK--

--SO THAT I CAN CRUSH IT... LIKE THIS!!

WHY, I... I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME, GARGOYLE!

SKRAKT!

'T WAS BUT A SUDDEN CHILL DRAFT THAT MADE VALOROUS VOLSTAGG TREMBLE THUS!



THOU WOULDST BE WISE TO HAVE A CARE WHEN THOU DOST TOUCH ME, STONY ONE, LET THY TERRIBLE HAND SLIP BUT THE SLIGHTEST...

...AND, VERILY, THOU SHALT LOSE IT!

THOU NEEDEST NOT WORRY, GRIM HOGUN! ODDLY ENOUGH, METHINKS I AM STARTING TO BELIEVE THE GREY GARGOYLE!

SKRAKT!



BUT STILL, I WOULD KNOW MORE OF HIS PLIGHT ERE I DEIGN TO OFFER HIM MY HAND!

VERY WELL THEN, ASGARDIAN, LISTEN CLOSELY...

...AND I WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN MY SORRY SITUATION AS BEST I CAN!



IT BEGAN MANY MONTHS AGO WHEN I WAS WORKING WITH THE SECRET ORGANIZATION CALLED A. I. M. TO PLACE A **SATELLITE** INTO ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH THAT WOULD ENABLE ME TO TURN ENTIRE CITIES TO **STONE!**

THE CURSED **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND THE WEB-SLINGING **SPIDER-MAN** HAD SOUGHT TO **STOP** ME...

\*THAT'S **ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS** FOR ALL YOU **NEOPHYTES**--LEN.

...BUT WITH THE **MEREST TOUCH**, I HAD **INCAPACITATED** THEM BOTH, AND PREPARED TO **LAUNCH** THEM INTO SPACE, **CHAINED** TO MY **SATELLITE MISSILE**...

HOW **FITTING**-- THAT TWO WHO SOUGHT TO **THWART** MY PLANS...

...SHALL BE THE **FIRST** TO SEE THEM REACH **FRUITION!**

"BUT, IN A MANNER I'VE **YET** TO UNDERSTAND, THEY BOTH BROKE **FREE** OF MY **STONE SPELL** BEFORE THE **MANDATORY HOUR**..."

**NO--! IT CAN'T BE--!**

"...AND THEY HURTLIED INTO MY HENCHMEN WITH A **VENGEANCE!**"

**IMPOSSIBLE!** MY TOUCH OF **STONE** HAS NEVER **FAILED** BEFORE!

THERE'S A **FIRST** TIME FOR **EVERYTHING**, MISTER!

**HUH??**

AND I'VE NO INTENTION OF GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO TOUCH ME **AGAIN!**

**STAR-SPANGLED FOOL!** SUCH A **SIMPLE** FALL CANNOT HARM A BEING MADE OF **RAW STONE!**

**THRAMM!**

AS SOON AS I REGAIN MY **FEET**, I SHALL...

**WHA--?**

THAT **CHAIN**--CAUGHT AROUND MY **ANKLE**--!





STOP THE COUNTDOWN!  
IN PITY'S NAME--STOP THE COUNT-DOWN!!

"BUT IT WAS ALREADY FAR, FAR TOO LATE!\*

\*THE PRECEDING EVENTS COURTESY OF MARVEL TEAM-UP #13. --LEN.



"WITH MY ADDED WEIGHT TO SPOIL ITS TRAJECTORY, THE MISSILE HURTLER DEEP INTO THE STYGIAN VOID OF SPACE, INTO A FRIGID VACUUM THAT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ANYONE SAVE A BEING MADE OF STONE!

"WITH A TOUCH, I SHATTERED THE CHAIN THAT BOUND ME TO THE MISSILE...



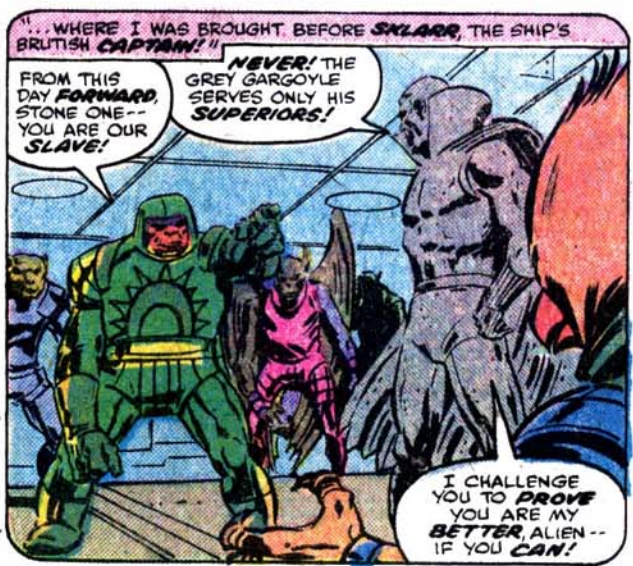
"...BUT, IN *DOING* SO I SEALED MY FATE!

"FOR, WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF PROPULSION, I WAS LEFT ALONE--TO DRIFT HELPLESSLY AMONG THE STARS.



"MANY TIMES, IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS THAT PASSED, I WISHED I TRULY COULD DIE--TO PUT AN END TO THE TERRIBLE LONELINESS.

"I WAS ON THE VERY VERGE OF MADNESS, WHEN THIS STURDY PIRATE CRAFT CAME UPON ME AT LAST, AND TOOK ME ABOARD...



"...WHERE I WAS BROUGHT, BEFORE SKLARR, THE SHIP'S BRITISH CAPTAIN!"

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, STONE ONE-- YOU ARE OUR SLAVE!  
NEVER! THE GREY GARGOYLE SERVES ONLY HIS SUPERIORS!

I CHALLENGE YOU TO PROVE YOU ARE MY BETTER, ALIEN-- IF YOU CAN!



"SKLARR COULD NOT REFUSE MY CHALLENGE WITHOUT SHAMING HIMSELF BEFORE HIS CREW.

"THUS, MINUTES LATER, OUR BATTLE WAS BEGUN!"





I COULD END THIS SWIFTLY STONE ONE-- BUT I THINK I SHALL MAKE YOU **SUFFER** SOME FIRST!

H- HE HANDLES THAT STAFF AS IF HE WAS **BORN** TO IT--!?!

OF COURSE YOU FOOL!



HOW DO YOU THINK I BECAME **CAPTAIN** OF THIS CRAFT IN THE **FIRST** PLACE?

NOW HOLD STILL, STONE ONE! IT WILL ALL BE **OVER** IN A MOMENT!

"BUT EVEN AS SKLARR'S **STAFF** SPED SAVAGELY TOWARDS MY **SKULL**, MY FINGERS **BRUSHED** HIS SCARRED AND RUTTED **CHEEK**...



"...AND TURNED HIM TO UNMOVING **STONE**!"

"NEED I ADD THAT THE BATTLE WAS **FINISHED** WITHIN **MILLI-SECONDS**?"



**SKRA-KOOM!**

"THE **BIRD OF PREY** NOW HAD NEED OF A NEW **CAPTAIN**..."

"...AND I FIGURED I WAS AS FIT TO **FILL** THAT POSITION AS **ANYONE!**"



I HAVE **DEFEATED** SKLARR IN FAIR **COMBAT!** HENCEFORTH, YOU WILL ALL SERVE **ME**--

-- OR YOU WILL **SUFFER** MY **TOUCH** OF **STONE!**

TH-THAT IS NOT **NECESSARY**, GARGOYLE!

WHEREVER YOU **GO**, WE SHALL **FOLLOW!**

"AND THAT IS HOW I CAME TO **COMMAND** THIS ALIEN VESSEL, ASGARDIAN. IT WAS NOT REALLY BY **CHOICE**..."



"...BUT AS THE POET **MILTON** SAID, 'BETTER TO **REIGN** IN HELL THAN **SERVE** IN HEAVEN'... OR ANYWHERE **ELSE** FOR THAT MATTER!"





THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO TELL, I SUPPOSE. **NOW** DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I NEED YOUR **HELP**, ASGARDIAN?

FRANKLY, GARGOYLE... I DO **NOT**.



IT'S BECAUSE I'M **TIRED** OF LIVING AMONG **CREATURES** I NEVER WOULD HAVE CONCEIVED IN MY DARKEST **NIGHTMARE**...

...TIRED OF BEING A **FREAK** AMONG **FREAKS!**

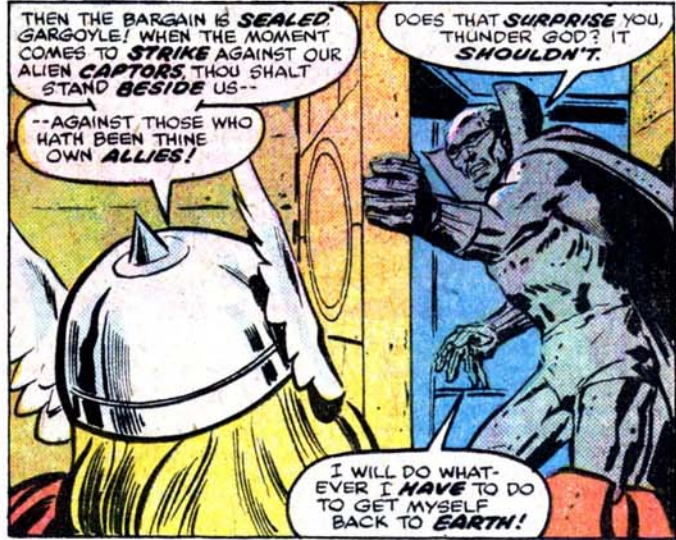
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME **WITH** YOU WHEN YOU **LEAVE** HERE, ASGARDIAN!

I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME... **HOME!**



AND, FOR **ALLOWING** THEE TO ACCOMPANY US, GARGOYLE -- THOU WOULDST **SUPPORT** OUR STRUGGLE FOR **FREEDOM**?

**GLADLY**, THUNDER GOD... **EAGERLY!**



THEN THE BARGAIN IS **SEALED**, GARGOYLE! WHEN THE MOMENT COMES TO **STRIKE** AGAINST OUR ALIEN **CAPTORS**, THOU SHALT STAND **BESIDE** US--

--AGAINST THOSE WHO HATH BEEN THINE OWN **ALLIES!**

DOES THAT **SURPRISE** YOU, THUNDER GOD? IT **SHOULDN'T**.

I WILL DO WHATEVER I **HAVE** TO DO TO GET MYSELF BACK TO **EARTH!**



BESIDES, IN A FASHION, THOSE WHO **CONTROL** THIS VESSEL ARE AS MUCH **MY** CAPTORS AS **YOURS!**

I OWE THEM **NOTHING**...SAVE MY UNDYING **HATRED!**

SO, I WAS **RIGHT** TO FOLLOW THE STONY ONE WHEN HE STOLE SILENTLY FROM HIS **CHAMBERS**.



IT APPEARS THE CREW OF THE **BIRD OF PREY** HAS A **TRAITOR** IN ITS MIDST.

HOW **ODD** THAT IT SHOULD TURN OUT TO BE OUR VERY OWN **CAPTAIN!**

THE QUESTION **NOW** IS, HOW CAN **FEE-LON** TURN THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT TO HIS **ADVANTAGE?**



AND EVEN AS THE **BIRD OF PREY'S** SCREAMING FIRST MATE **PONDERS** HIS POSSIBILITIES, A **FRAIL-BUT-PROUD OLD MAN** STANDS UPON A **STAR-LIT BALCONY**-- AND **PONDERS THE FATE OF HIS WORLD!**

PERHAPS I HAVE BEEN THE **GRAND VIZIER** TO THE **THRONE IMPERIAL** FOR FAR **TOO LONG A TIME!**

BETTER THAT MY **SPIRIT** HAD FLED TO **VALNALLA** ERE I HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS **DAY!**

"FOR THE **ENCHANTRESS** AND THE **EXECUTIONER** HAVE AT LAST **RETURNED** TO **GOLDEN ASGARD**, AT THE HEAD OF A **MYSTERIOUS ARMY**--

"--AND ONLY THE **BRAVE BALDER** AND THE **NORN QUEEN KARNILLA**, DARE STAND **AGAINST** THEIR **UNKLY POWER!**"



VERILY, IN TIMES PAST, ONLY THE **THUNDER GOD THOR** OR **OMNIPOTENT ODIN** HIMSELF HAD POWER ENOW TO **DEFEAT** THAT **DEMONIC PAIR...**

...BUT **NOBLE ODIN** HATH BEEN **LONG GONE** FROM THE **REALM** **ETERNAL**, **VANISHED** WITHOUT A **TRACE...**

...AND **THUS**, THE **THUNDER GOD** AND HIS **COMPANIONS** HATH **DEPARTED** **IMMORTAL ASGARD** ON A **QUEST** TO **DISCOVER** THE **ALL-FATHER'S** **WHEREABOUTS!**



BUT **UNLESS THOR** AND HIS **FATHER** **RETURN** TO **ASGARD**, AND **SWIFTLY**--

--I **FEAR** THERE IS **NAUGHT** THAT CAN BE **DONE** TO **SAVE** THE **GOLDEN REALM!**



FOR THE **FINAL TIME**, **BALDER**-- **SURRENDER** THIS **CITY** TO US!

OR WE SHALL **UNLEASH** OUR **SILENT ARMY**-- AND **WREST** IT FROM **THEE!**



AND FOR THE **FINAL TIME**, **SAVAGE** ONE--  
--**BALDER** SAYS **THEE NAY!!**

DESPITE THE **MONSTROUS FORCES** AT THY **COMMAND**, THE **REALM** **ETERNAL** SHALL **NEVER** **SUBMIT** TO SUCH AS **THEE!**

IF THAT BE THE **WAY** THOU **DOST WANT** IT, **FOOL...**

SOONER WOULD WE SEE ITS **GLEAMING TOWERS** **FALLEN** TO **RUIN** AT OUR **VERY FEET!**









THAT MAY WELL BE ASGARDIAN, BUT *SOMEONE* HAS TO KEEP THE FURNACES THAT PROVIDE *POWER* FOR THIS SHIP STOKED WITH *STARDUST*--

YET SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME *ALTERNATIVE*, GARGOYLE--

-- AND YOU CERTAINLY COULDN'T EXPECT ANY OF *US* TO PERFORM MENIAL LABOR!

-- SOME WAY THOU COULDST *TEMPER* THY NEEDS WITH *MERCY*!



DON'T SPEAK TO ME OF *MERCY*. THUNDER GOD! *MERCY* IS A QUALITY INVENTED BY THE *WEAK* TO PREVENT THEIR ELIMINATION BY THE *STRONG*!

STILL, I DID NOT *SUMMON* YOU HERE TO DISCUSS *ABSTRACT PHILOSOPHY*, ASGARDIAN--!



RATHER, I CALLED YOU HERE TO *INFORM* YOU--

-- THAT THE *MOMENT* HAS COME AT LAST TO *STRIKE*!!





THEN THE TIME FOR DECEPTION IS **PAST**, MY FRIENDS!

REMOVE THY DEACTIVATED **SLAVE-SHACKLES--**

-- AND PREPARE THYSELVES FOR **BATTLE!!**



BUT THERE WILL NOT **BE** A BATTLE, GOLDEN-HAIR-- THERE WILL BE A **SLAUGHTER!**

COVER THEM, MATES-- THE **GARGOYLE** INCLUDED!

AND AT THE FIRST SIGN OF RESISTANCE-- **DESTROY THEM ALL!!**



HOLD THY **GROUND**, GOOD WARRIORS-- BUT MAKE NO MOVE TO **ATTACK!** THE ADVANTAGE BELONGS TO OUR **OPPONENTS** FOR THE MOMENT!

SOMEHOW, THEY DID **LEARN** WHAT WE INTENDED-- AND THEY WERE **READY** FOR US!

THOUGH, IN ODIN'S NAME, I CANNOT **FATHOM** WHAT **BETRAYED** US!



DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THIS A **SECRET** GOLDEN-HAIR?

I **KNEW** WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO ALMOST BEFORE YOU **KNEW!**





JUST AS I'VE KNOWN OF **YOUR** TREACHERY, GROTESQUE ONE -- KNOWN HOW YOU'VE SECRETLY **HATED** AND **REVILED** US--!

YOU WERE NEVER **FIT** TO BE OUR CAPTAIN, GARGOYLE, BUT NO ONE EVER HAD THE COURAGE TO **DEFY** YOUR STONE-HANDED RULE...

...UNTIL **NOW!!**



YOU MADE THE MISTAKE OF DISPLAYING YOUR **TRUE FEELINGS** BEFORE THE ENTIRE **CREW**--

PR'KASH, SET YOUR **DESTRUCTROID RIFLE** AT ITS WIDEST FOCUS...

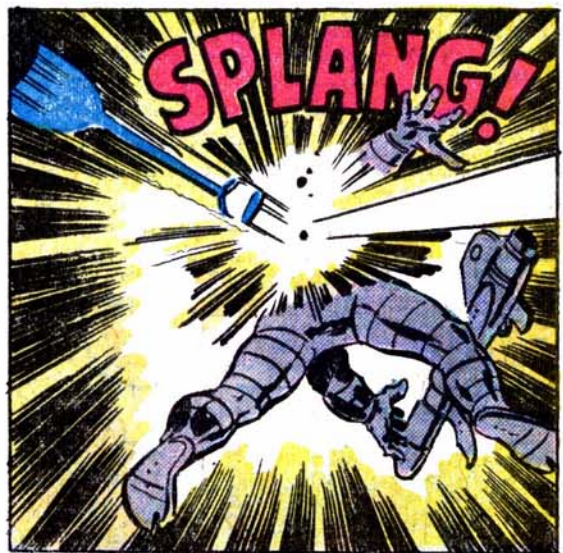
--AND NOT EVEN **YOU** HAVE THE POWER TO STAND AGAINST US **ALL!**



"...AND, ON MY COMMAND, USE IT TO **REDUCE** THE GREY GARGOYLE AND HIS ASGARDIAN FRIENDS TO DRIFTING **ASH!**"

IT WILL BE PR'KASH'S PLEASURE... CAPTAIN FEE-LON!

JUST A MOMENT LONGER NOW, TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY ARE SQUARELY IN MY SIGHTS, AND THEN...



**SPLANG!**



IF YOU WISH TO **FIGHT**, TYRANTS-- MAKE IT AN **EVEN** BATTLE!

WE NO LONGER WEAR THE **SHACKLES** OF SUBMISSION THAT HAVE BOUND US TO YOUR UNHOLY **SERVICE**, MONSTERS!

NOW, FOR PERHAPS THE **FIRST** TIME WITHIN RECALL, WE ARE OUR **OWN MEN** ONCE MORE--

--AND WE WILL STRUGGLE TO THE **DEATH** TO **REMAIN** THAT WAY!!





AND BEFORE THE STARTLED STAR-PIRATES CAN REGAIN THE UPPER HAND...

THE BATTLE IS BOLDLY JOINED, GOOD COMRADES--

-- AND CURSED BE HE WHO FIRST CRIES HOLD!!



THEN CLEAR THE WAY BEFORE ME, CHURLS!

IF THERE IS GLORIOUS COMBAT TO BE FOUND, VIGOROUS VOLSTAGG WOULD BE IN THE THICK OF IT!

WHUMP



OBSERVATION: WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE BATTLE, MY FRIEND-- THERE WOULD BE THE THICK OF IT!

CONCLUSION: THOUGH THE RECORDER HAS SEEN COUNTLESS FORMS OF COMBAT ON NUMEROUS WORLDS, NEVER HAVE I SEEN A FIGHTING STYLE SUCH AS YOURS!

CHOK!

CHUD!



AYE RIGELLIAN...

...TRULY IS THE VOLUMINOUS ONE UNIQUE AMONGST ALL THE GODS OF IMMORTAL ASGARD--

--AND PRAISE BE TO ALL-WISE ODIN FOR THAT!

WHOK!



BUT ALL WHO DWELL WITHIN THE REALM ETERNAL ARE WARRIORS BORN, RECORDER--

BROK!

--AND EVEN THE MAIL-CLAD FIST OF THE LADY SIF IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR SUCH CREATURES AS THESE!





NOW YOU CAN TURN AROUND **SLOWLY**, GARGOYLE--

--AND **DIE!!**

FEE-LON.

SO THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN **WAITING** FOR HAS **ARRIVED**, EH?  
I KNEW OUR FINAL CONFRONTATION WAS **INEVITABLE**.



BY ALL RIGHTS, THE **BATTLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN LONG OVER** BY NOW--

-- BUT SOMEHOW, THE **FIERCE DETERMINATION** OF THEIR **ASGARDIAN ALLIES** SPURS THE **FREED SLAVES ONWARD...**  
...TO **GLORY!**



WELL, YOUR **VICTORY** WILL NOT BE AN **EASY ONE**, ANIMAL--

--NOT SO LONG AS MY **VERY TOUGH** CAN STILL TURN YOUR WEAPON TO **STONE!**

WHAT--?!!?

FOOL!



I DO NOT **NEED** A WEAPON TO **FINISH** YOU, GARGOYLE!

MY **ALIEN RACE** WAS **BRED** FOR ITS **SHEER SAVAGERY--**

**THWAK!**

UUNNGGHH!!

--AND, IN THE END, **INSTINCT** WILL ALWAYS **PREVAIL!!**

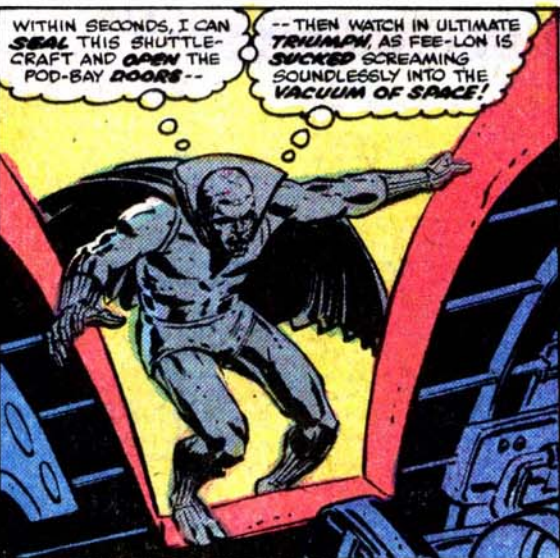


BUT SINCE MY **TALONED HANDS** CANNOT HARM YOUR **STONY FLESH**, I AM FORCED TO RESORT TO ONE OF THOSE **PHOTON-GUNS--**

--SO THAT I CAN **BEAT** YOU TO **DEATH** WITH IT!

HE THINKS ME FAR **GROGGIER** THAN I **TRULY AM...**

...AND THAT WILL BE **FEE-LON'S FINAL MISTAKE!**



WITHIN SECONDS, I CAN **SEAL** THIS SHUTTLE-CRAFT AND **OPEN** THE **POD-BAY DOORS--**

-- THEN WATCH IN **ULTIMATE TRIUMPH**, AS **FEE-LON** IS **SUCKED** SCREAMING SOUNDLESSLY INTO THE **VACUUM OF SPACE!**





THE CONFLICT IS BECOMING SO SAVAGE, I DOUBT ANYONE WILL NOTICE MY SUDDEN ABSENCE!

IT APPEARS THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO ESCAPE THIS MADNESS AT LAST!



BUT, UNFORTUNATELY...

I KNEW I WOULD BE WISE TO KEEP MY EYE ON THE GARGOYLE!

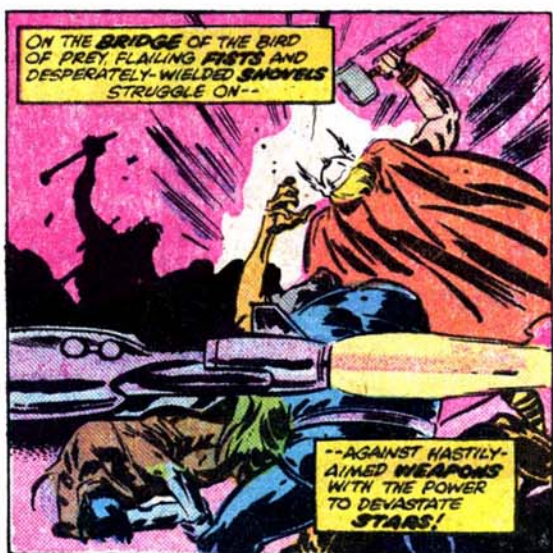
HE LEAVES THE OTHERS TO FIGHT HIS BATTLE FOR HIM WHILE HE FLEES LIKE A SPINELESS WORM!



BUT IF I AM EVER TO TRULY BECOME CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, I WILL REQUIRE SOME DISPLAY OF MY POWER BEFORE THE CREW--

--AND THE SUREST WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING THAT IS TO LAY THEIR FORMER CAPTAIN AT THEIR FEET...

...A BROKEN CORPSE!!



ON THE BRIDGE OF THE BIRD OF PREY, FLAILING FISTS AND DESPERATELY-WIELDED SHOVELS STRUGGLE ON--

--AGAINST HASTILY-AIMED WEAPONS WITH THE POWER TO DEVASTATE STARS!



WHILE, IN THE STAR-SPANNING VESSEL'S SHUTTLECRAFT BAY...

THERE IT IS--MY SOLE REMAINING HOPE!

I ONLY PRAY I'VE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT THE STARCRAFT'S WORKINGS DURING MY TIME HERE, SO I CAN PROGRAM ITS AUTOMATIC PILOT TO RETURN ME TO EARTH!



I NEVER DARED ATTEMPT THIS BEFORE, FOR FEAR FEE-LON OR ONE OF THE OTHERS WOULD DETECT MY ESCAPE--

--AND BLAST ME INTO SO MUCH SPACE DEBRIS WITHOUT HESITATION!

BUT NOW I CAN...





TOUCH THAT CONTROL PANEL, GARGOYLE--

--AND YOU'LL FORCE ME TO PULL THIS TRIGGER DESPITE MYSELF!

BUT I HAVE NO NEED TO TOUCH THIS PANEL, ANIMAL...



...WHEN I CAN SIMPLY TOUCH YOU INSTEAD!!

I EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM YOU, GARGOYLE! BUT BEFORE YOUR CURSED HANDS CAN TURN ME TO STONE THEY MUST FIRST STRIKE ME--

--AND I'VE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING THEM TO DO THAT!



PANIC SEIZES THE PIRATE CREW AS THE RELENTLESS EX-SLAVES PRESS THEIR UNEXPECTED ADVANTAGE...

ONWARD, MY FRIENDS-- TO VICTORY!!

THE PIRATES' CAUSE IS AT LONG LAST LOST... AND THEY KNOW IT!



YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE GARGOYLE! SURRENDER NOW--

--OR I SWEAR YOUR DEATH WILL BE FAR MORE PAINFUL THAN THE DEATH YOU SUFFERED ON SKLARR!

STOP THRASHING ABOUT, YOU FOOL-- BEFORE YOU DAMAGE THIS SHUTTLECRAFT BEYOND REPAIR!



BUT EVEN AS THE GREY GARGOYLE WRENCHES FREE OF THE DESPERATE FEE-LON'S GRASP...

EH? I-- I'VE SLAMMED AGAINST THE CONTROL PANEL-- AND ACCIDENTALLY ACTIVATED THE SHUTTLECRAFT'S LAUNCH SEQUENCE!



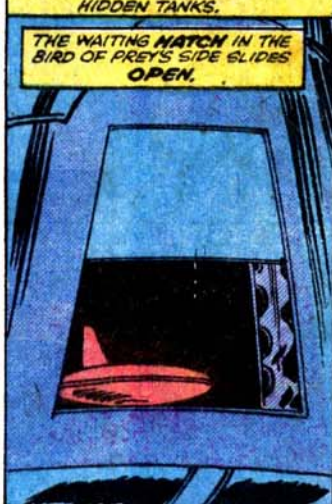
AND INSTANTLY, SENSITIVE AUTOMATIC RELAYS COME INTO PLAY:

THE SHUTTLECRAFT SEALS SHUT WITH A SIBILANT HISS.

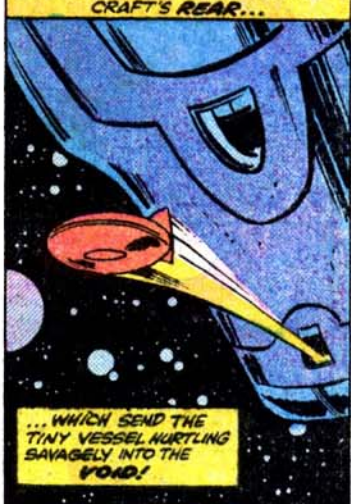


THE STERILIZED AIR WITHIN THE CHAMBER IS PUMPED INTO HIDDEN TANKS.

THE WAITING MATCH IN THE BIRD OF PREY'S SIDE SLIDES OPEN.



AND, SILENTLY, POWERFUL ROCKETS ARE ACTIVATED AT THE SHUTTLECRAFT'S REAR...



... WHICH SEND THE TINY VESSEL HURLING SAVAGELY INTO THE VOID!



METHINKS THE BATTLE AT LAST IS OVER, FRIEND THOR.

AYE, DASHING FANDRAL-- OUR NEW-FOUND COMRADES HATH MORE THAN EARNED THEIR LONG- SOUGHT FREEDOM!



OBSERVATION: IT APPEARS THE GREY GARGOYLE FLED DURING ALL THE CONFUSION, MY FRIENDS.

THEN ENLISTING OUR AID SO THAT HE MIGHT ESCAPE HIS GRIM CAPTIVITY HERE WAS NAUGHT BUT A VILE RUSE!



SO IT WOULD APPEAR, MILADY! FOR A SMALL SHUTTLECRAFT DO TH FLEE THIS VESSEL EVEN AS WE SPEAK--

--AND I'D WAGER THAT THE GARGOYLE DO TH SIT AT ITS CONTROLS!



BUT UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE MOMENT, NOBODY SITS AT ITS CONTROLS...

I MUST TURN THIS SHIP AROUND-- RETURN IT TO THE BIRD OF PREY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

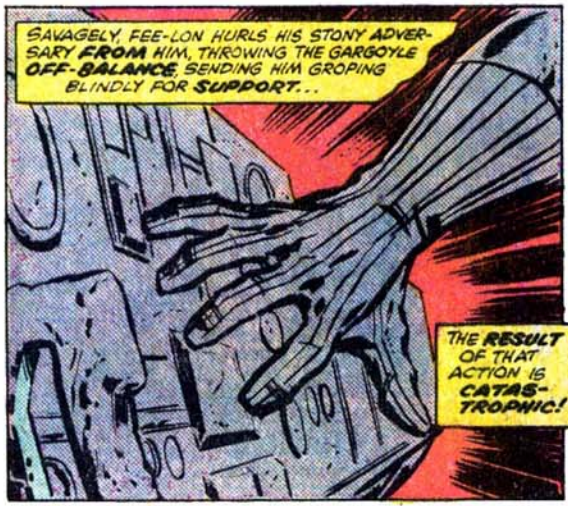
NO!!



I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY MY FINAL CHANCE TO RETURN HOME!

YOU CRAZY FOOL-- LET GO OF ME--!!





**SAVAGELY, FEE-LON HURLS HIS STONY ADVERSARY FROM HIM, THROWING THE GARGOYLE OFF-BALANCE, SENDING HIM GROPING BLINDLY FOR SUPPORT...**

**THE RESULT OF THAT ACTION IS CATAS-TROPIC!**



**YOU FOOL! YOU'VE DOOMED US BOTH! YOUR TOUCH HAS TURNED THE VERY CONTROL PANEL TO STONE!**

**NO! WITHOUT THE CONTROL PANEL I HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER OF FINDING EARTH AGAIN!**



**I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO CHANGE IT BACK BEFORE...**

**EH? IT--IT'S CRUMBLING TO POWDER IN MY HANDS!**

**WHAT HAVE I DONE TO MYSELF? WHAT HAVE I DONE??**



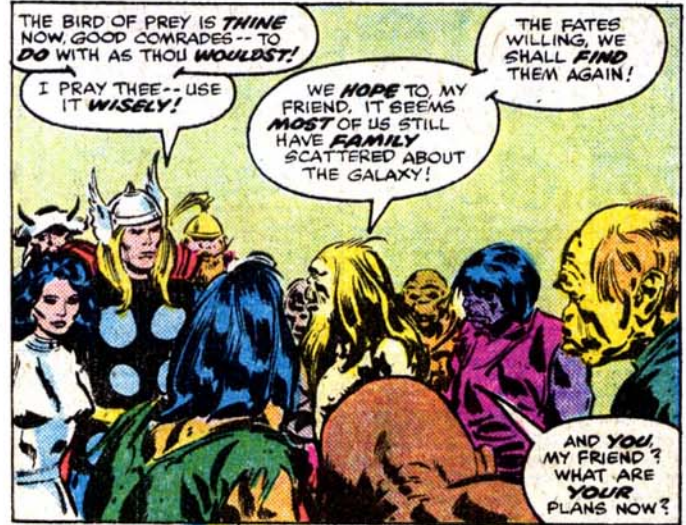
**THE ANSWER WOULD BE OBVIOUS TO ANYONE WATCHING THE SHUTTLE-CRAFT CAROM OUT OF CONTROL ON THE BIRD OF PREY'S VIEW-SCREEN:**



**THE GREY GARGOYLE HAS COMMITTED UNINTENTIONAL SUICIDE!!**

**GONE...**

**...AS IF HE HAD NEVER BEEN!**



**THE BIRD OF PREY IS THINE NOW, GOOD COMRADES -- TO DO WITH AS THOU WOULDST!**

**I PRAY THEE--USE IT WISELY!**

**WE HOPE TO, MY FRIEND. IT SEEMS MOST OF US STILL HAVE FAMILY SCATTERED ABOUT THE GALAXY!**

**THE FATES WILLING, WE SHALL FIND THEM AGAIN!**

**AND YOU, MY FRIEND? WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?**



**I ALSO SEEK MISSING FAMILY, GORMOK, AND MY QUEST SHALL GO ON UNTIL MY FATHER HATH BEEN FOUND--**

**-- BE HE ALIVE... OR DEAD!**

**NEXT ISSUE:**

**BALDER AND KARNILLA STAND ALONE AGAINST THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER! PLUS THE BOULEVARD OF BROKEN GODS... THE WALL AROUND THE WORLD... AND A SHOCKING SURPRISE YOU DARE NOT MISS! BE HERE FOR...**

**"THE VICIOUS AND THE VALIANT!"**