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THE  
MIGHTY

# THOR



THOUGH I HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF MY MYSTIC HAMMER, STILL SHALL THOR BATTLE THEE-- UNTO **DEATH!**

BEHOLD THE POWER OF **TEMPUS,** THE **GOD-KILLER!**



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Stan Lee presents the 200th Journey into Mystery of the **Mighty Thor**

# rites of passage

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THERE IS A PLACE BEYOND SPACE AND TIME THAT IS ADJACENT TO ALL SPACE AND ALL TIME! IT IS CALLED BY THOSE WHO DARE TO SOJOURN THROUGH IT... LIMBO! INTO THIS NEBULOUS REALM HAS COME THE THUNDER GOD THOR TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE OF A DANGER BEYOND HIS IMMORTAL COMPREHENSION. BUT INSTEAD, HE FALLS PREY TO A DANGER OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN...

... A DANGER FOUND AT THE VERY HEART OF A LIMBO-LOST PLANET... A DANGER WROUGHT BY THE TREACHEROUS SPACE PHANTOM!

BY THE FATES! I BE TRAPPED AT THIS JUNCTURE 'TWIXT TIME AND LIMBO-- AND THE HALF OF MY BODY THAT JUTS INTO REAL-TIME DOTH CHANGE TO MY MORTAL FORM-- A FORM THAT CANNOT SURVIVE THE PRESSURES OF A PLANET'S CORE!

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THE SPACE PHANTOM HATH LIED TO ME! MY MYSTIC MALLET DOETH NOT BE MIDST THIS SWIRLING VORTEX!

AND WITHOUT MIGHTY MJOLNIR, I CANNOT STEM THE INEXORABLE METAMORPHOSIS INTO DONALD BLAKE!



WITH EACH PASSING INSTANT, I SINK FURTHER INTO THE MAW OF DEATH.

THAT MEANS THE IMMORTAL'S BODY IS NOT HAVING THE CALCULATED EFFECT, BUT HOW--? I MUST SET MY FOCUS ON THOR.

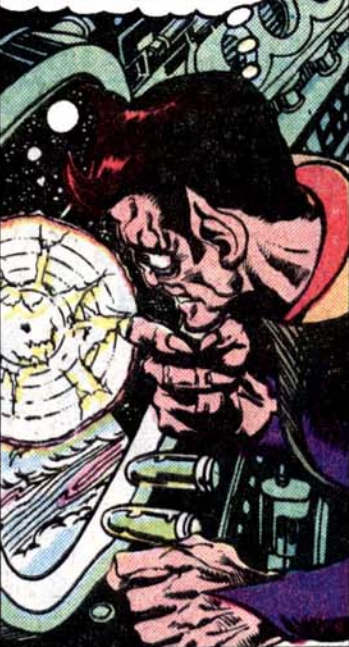
DAMN! SOMETHING IS CAUSING HIM TO LOSE HIS GODLY ATTRIBUTES!



THOR, WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU?

MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET PHANTUS' SURFACE, THE SPACE PHANTOM OBSERVES THE FRUITS OF HIS MACHINATIONS.

WITH THOR'S IMMORTAL BODY TO PLUG THE NEXUS AT PHANTUS' TEMPORALLY-UNSTABLE CORE...



... MY HOMEWORLD WILL BE DELIVERED OUT OF THE LIMBO OUR ENDLESS CHRONAL WARS HAVE THRUST US INTO.

BUT WAIT-- MY MONITORS PERCEIVE NO CHANGE IN PHANTUS' PRECARIOUS POSITION!



IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL-FATHER ODIN'S ENCHANTMENT, IF MY HAMMER BE GONE FROM MY GRASP SIXTY SECONDS FULL...



...MINE IMMORTAL FRAME BE SUPPLANTED BY THAT OF A MORTAL!

HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT? SECONDS DO NOT PASS IN TIMELESS LIMBO, BUT THEY DO AT THE NEXUS TO REAL-TIME!



I KNOW NOT WHY I HAVE BEEN DECEIVED, PHANTOM--BUT IF THOU DOST SEEK MY AID, THOU MUST FIRST RESCUE ME!



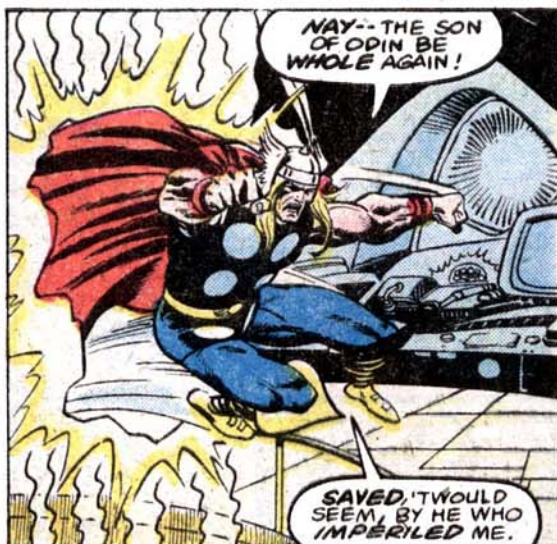
IN TRUTH, IF I WOULD BE SAVIOR OF MY PLANET, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FREE THE ASGARDIAN WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME.

A RELUCTANT PUSH OF A BUTTON...



... AND A GOLD-TRESSED GODDRESS IS SNATCHED BY A TELEPORTER AND DEPOSITED BEFORE THE BRINGING PHANTOM.

A TREMOR PASSES THROUGH MY BEING. BE THIS MORTALITY... ?



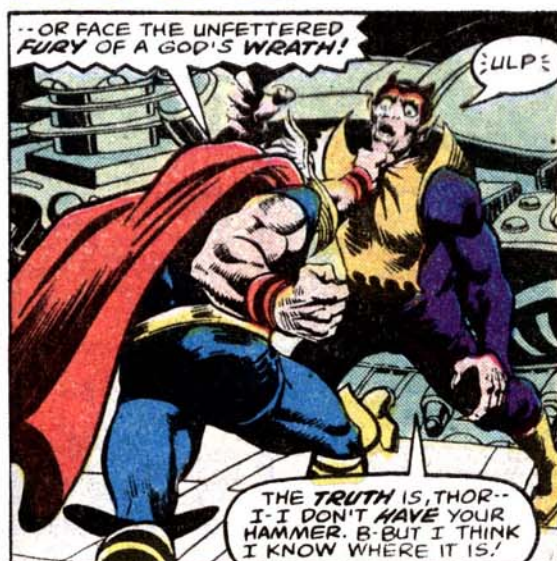
NAY-- THE SON OF ODIN BE WHOLE AGAIN!

SAVED, 'TWOULD SEEM, BY HE WHO IMPERILED ME.



AND NOW FOR THEE, CONNING SCOUNDREL--

TELL ME WHERE THOU HAST SECRETED MY MYSTIC HAMMER--



-- OR FACE THE UNFETTERED FURY OF A GOD'S WRATH!

!ULPE!

THE TRUTH IS, THOR-- I-I DON'T HAVE YOUR HAMMER. B-BUT I THINK I KNOW WHERE IT IS!



IF THIS BE YET ANOTHER DECEIT--!

IT IS NOT, I-I SWEAR IT.

I WILL HELP YOU FIND IT...

...IF YOU WILL PROMISE TO HELP MY PLANET.

'TWOULD SEEM THOU BE IN NO POSITION TO BARGAIN. WHY DIDST THOU DECEIVE ME EARLIER WHEN THOU NEED ONLY HAVE ASKED FOR MY INTERVENTION ON THY PLANET'S BEHALF?



MY CULTURE VALUES TRICKERY AND COERCION. THERE IS NO HONOR IN NEGOTIATION.



VERILY, THIS ALIEN'S ETHICS SIT POORLY WITH MINE OWN. STILL, NO PLANET SHALL PERISH IF IT BE IN THE OPINSON'S POWER TO SAVE IT.



LEAD ME TO MINE HAMMER, AND THE MIGHT OF MJOLNIR SHALL AID THEE.

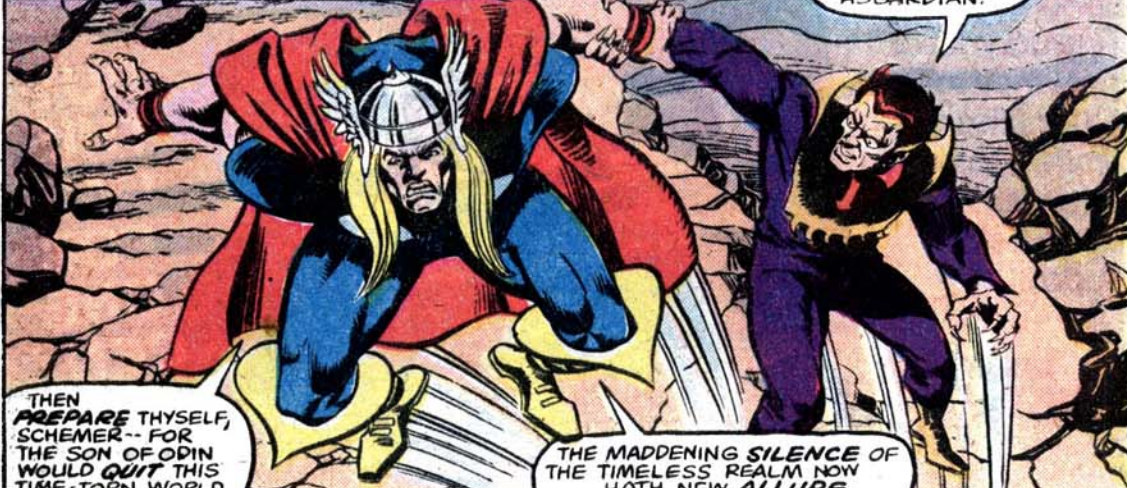
LEAVING THE LABORATORY, THE ASGARDIAN AND THE PHANTOM EMERGE AMIDST THE DIN OF TIME-DISRUPTING CARNAGE...



... CARNAGE WROUGHT IN A WAR THAT PERMEATES EVERY STRATUM OF REALITY HERE AT THIS MOMENT OUT OF TIME...

WALK SWIFTLY, AVENGER-- I KNOW A SHORTCUT TO THE WORLD'S EDGE.

SOON, THE UNEASY ALLIES STAND ON THE RIM WHERE PHANTUS PHASES OUT OF LIMBO...



THIS IS WHERE MY PLANET ENDS, ASGARDIAN.

THEN PREPARE THYSELF, SCHEMER-- FOR THE SON OF OPIN WOULD QUIT THIS TIME-TORN WORLD.

THE MADDENING SILENCE OF THE TIMELESS REALM NOW HATH NEW ALLURE.

WITH A RIPPLE OF GODLY THEWS, THOR BOUNDS OFF THE EDGE OF THE WORLD INTO THE SWIRLING REACHES BEYOND...



AND NOW, VARLET-- LEST I STRAY FROM THE PATH-- WHERE SHALL WE LOOK FOR MJOLNIR?



AS I SAID, I AM NOT CERTAIN OF YOUR HAMMER'S PRECISE WHEREABOUTS...

...BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DWELLS IN LIMBO FROM WHOM NOTHING ESCAPES, NOTICE-- IMMORTUS, MASTER OF TIME.

"IMMORTUS? BUT WHEN LAST I SAW SAID MAGE\* HE CLAIMED THAT THE DEATH OF KANG WAS ALSO HIS UNDOING..."



THE CIRCLE IS BROKEN. WE ARE FREE.

\*AVENGERS #143. --JIM AND ROY.



IMMORTUS-- DEAD? HAHA-HAHA! HOW CAN SOMEONE BEYOND TIME NOT BE BEYOND MERE DEATH? IMMORTUS MEANS IMMORTAL, IMBECILE!

STILL THY TONGUE, KNAYE, OR I--

FORGIVE ME, THOR. IT'S JUST THAT I DID NOT KNOW MY MASTER ENJOYED DECEPTION AS MUCH AS I.

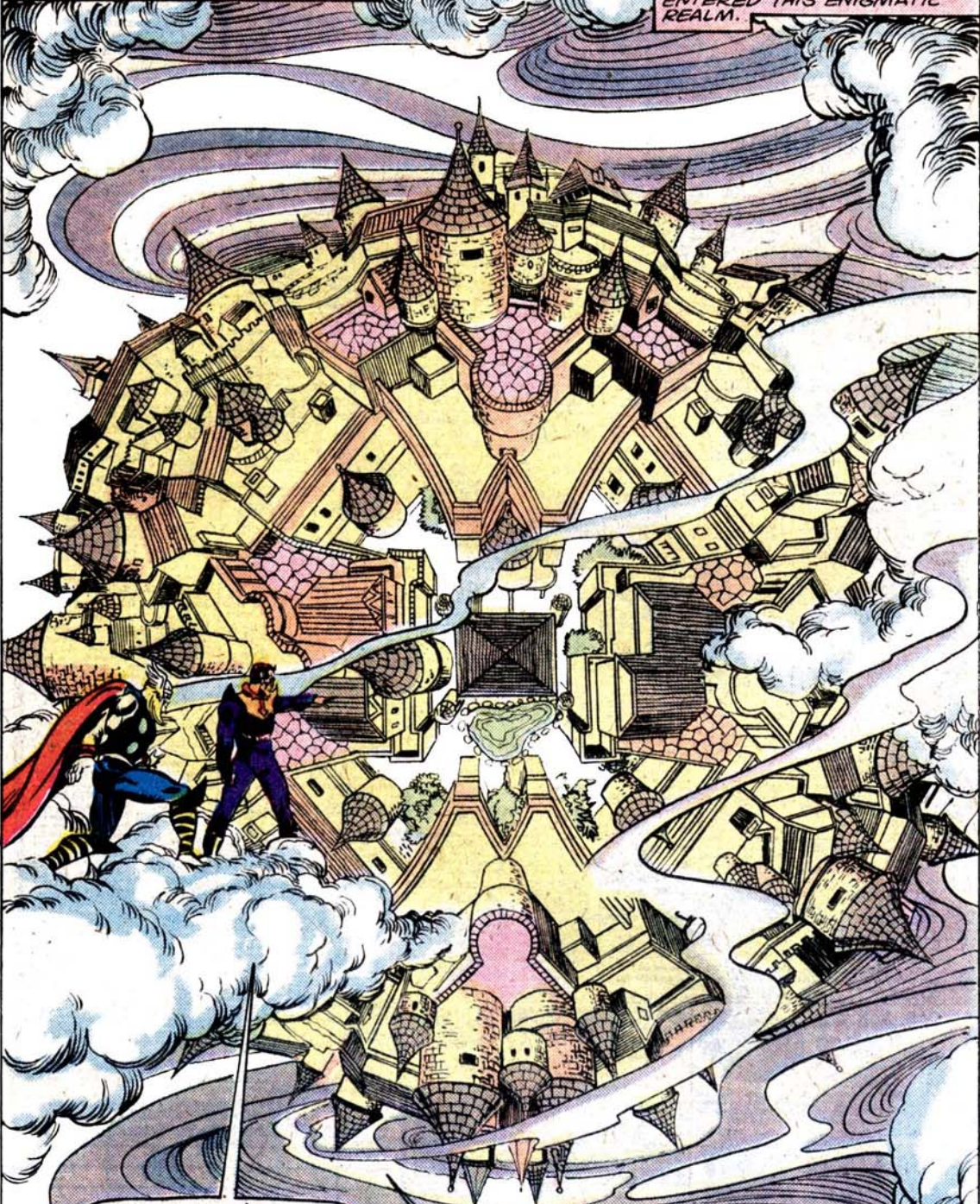


NO, AVENGER, IMMORTUS SHALL BE ALIVE AS LONG AS TIME ITSELF ENDURES, AND IF ANYONE CAN HELP YOU, IT IS HE.

WE SHALL REACH OUR DESTINATION PRESENTLY.

HOW MUCH LONGER THEY TREK THROUGH THE ENDLESS HAZE, THOR DOES NOT KNOW, ANY MORE THAN HE KNOWS THE NATURE OF THE SOLID FOG BENEATH HIS FEET.

BUT FINALLY, THE MISTS PART AND HIS IMMORTAL EYES WIDEN IN AWE FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE HE ENTERED THIS ENIGMATIC REALM.



BEHOLD, THUNDER GOD--  
THE CASTLE OF...

**IMMORTUS!**

THOUGH I HAVE BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE, NE'ER HAVE I SEEN YON EDIFICE FROM WITHOUT. ITS DESIGN DEFIES GRAVITY ITSELF.

THOUGH I HESITATE TO APPROACH UNINVITED, LET US ALIGHT IN THE COURTYARD...



FOLLOW ME, ASGARDIAN. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE CITADEL'S WALKWAYS...

PHANTOM, IF THOU BE ACQUAINTED WITH THIS PLACE AS THOU SAYEST...

HOW DOST THOU ACCOUNT FOR YON BEING MATERIALIZING BEFORE ME?

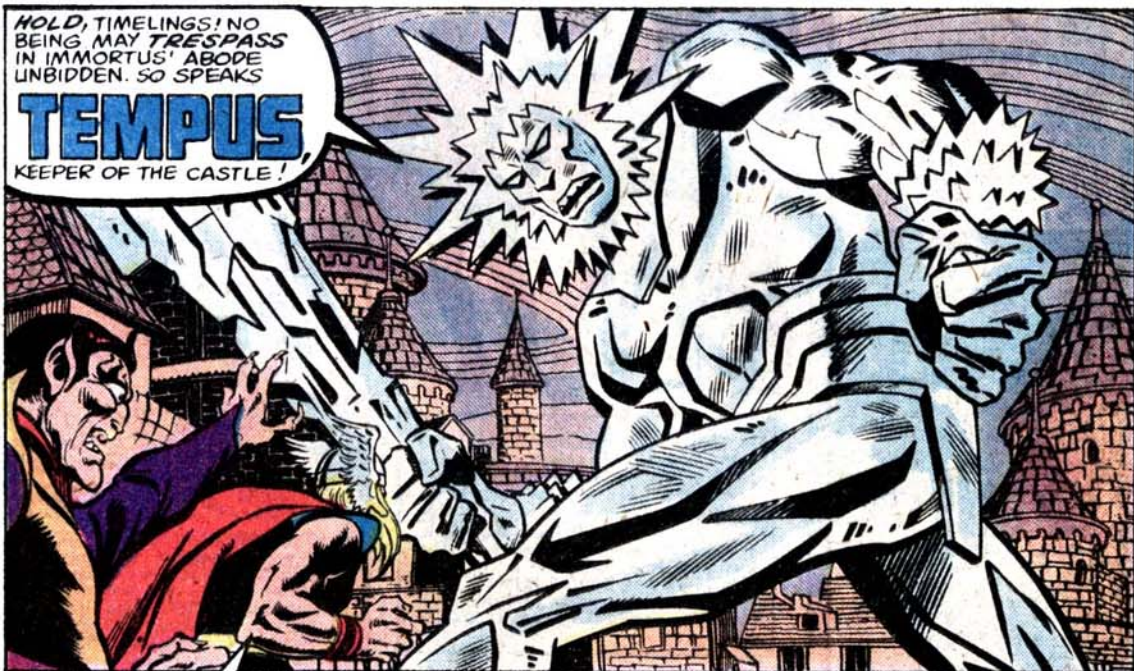
WHAT?!



HOLD, TIMELINGS! NO BEING MAY TRESPASS IN IMMORTUS' ABODE UNBIDDEN. SO SPEAKS

**TEMPUS**

KEEPER OF THE CASTLE!



HE HATH THE SEEMING OF A FROST GIANT.

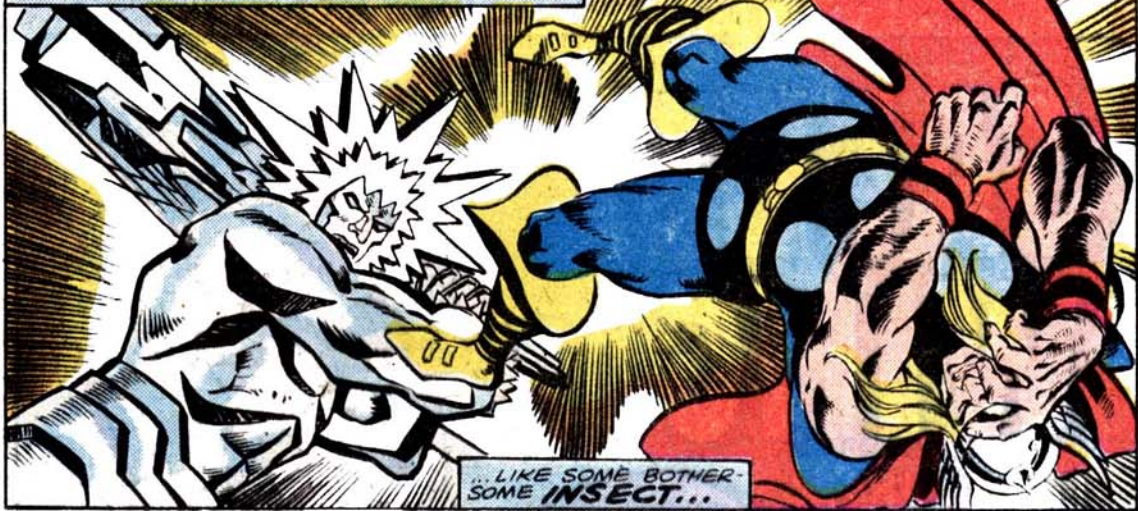
E'EN MINUS THE MIGHT OF MJOLNIR, I WILL CHALLENGE HIM FOR MY RIGHT OF PASSAGE!

HAVE A CARE, THOR. IMMORTUS HAS INVESTED HIS GUARD WITH TIME-SPAWNED POWER!





WITH A CASUAL SWING OF HIS QUARTZ-LIKE BLUDGEON, TEMPLUS SWATS THE AIRBORNE ASGARDIAN...



...LIKE SOME BOTHER-SOME INSECT...



... AND SENDS HIM REELING INTO THE ROCK-HEWN CASTLE WALL.

IN TRUTH, I BE UNACCUSTOMED TO BATTLE WITHOUT MINE HAMMER.



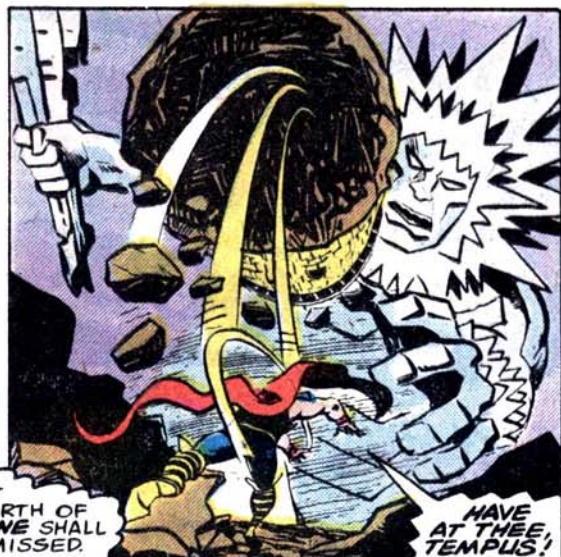
NOW, INTRUDER; VAGATE THESE PREMISES AT ONCE OR I WILL BE FORCED TO DEAL WITH YOU HARSHLY.

I SAY THEE MAY, GIANT.



NO BEING MAY SMITE THE GOD OF THUNDER WITH IMPUNITY!

MIDST THIS DEARTH OF SPIRES, ONE SHALL NOT BE MISSED.



HAVE AT THEE, TEMPLUS!

WITLESS TIMING-- DO YOU THINK A MISSILE OF MERE STONE CAN REND A BEING WHOSE EXISTENCE IS LIKE UNTO ROCK ITSELF!?

OH, THAT IT WOULD END MY LIFELESS EXISTENCE OF SERVITUDE TO HIM WHO CREATED ME!

**VOL-THOOM**

'TWOULD SEEM TEMPUS WOULD DYSOWN HIS VERY REASON-TO-BE!

TRY HARDER, LITTLE ONE!

GET THEE BEHIND ME PHANTOM! I SHALL SHIELD THEE WITH MY GODLY FRAME!

I ADMIRE YOUR VALOR AT THE SAME TIME I BEGAIN YOUR FUTILITY.

NO MORE TRICKS? THEN I MUST SUBJECT YOU TO THE ONE FORCE TO WHICH I AM RUEFULLY IMMUNE...

I KNOW NOT THE NATURE OF THIS OPTIC-BOMBARDMENT, BUT E'EN THINE ICY GLARE CANNOT AFFECT ONE IMMORTAL BORN!

...THE RAMPANT RAVAGES OF AGING!

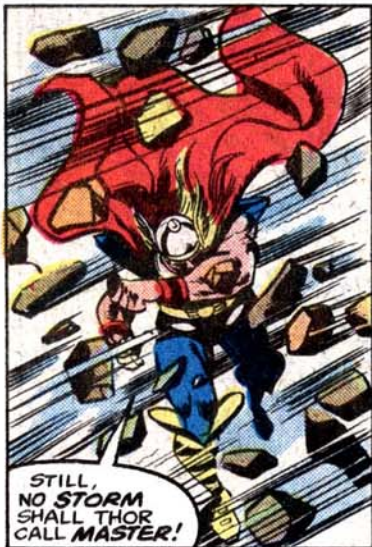


SO YOU TOO DO NOT KNOW THE LUXURY OF NATURAL DEATH. BUT WHILE I AM FORE-DOOMED TO LIFE-WITHOUT-CEASE, YOU MAY YET BE VANQUISHED BY A TURBULENT **TIMESTORM!**

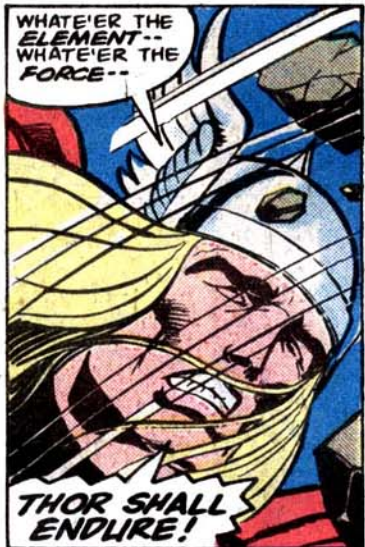


TEMPUS! MALLET CONTROLS THE VERY ELEMENTS OF LIMBO...

... MUCH AS MJOLNIR CONTROLS ELEMENTS ATMOSPHERIC!



STILL, NO STORM SHALL THOR CALL MASTER!



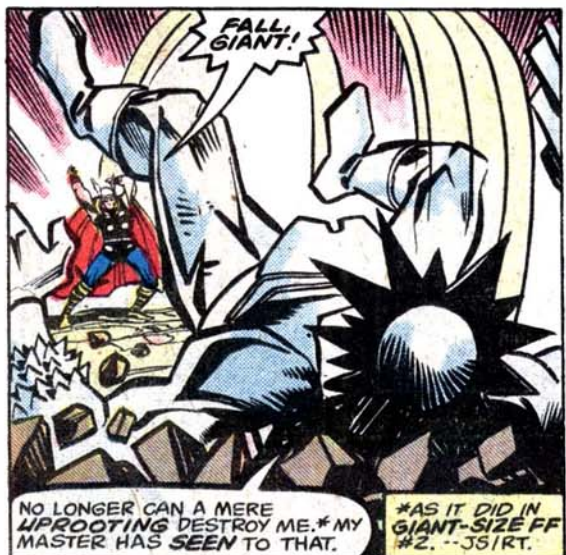
WHATE'ER THE ELEMENT-- WHATE'ER THE FORCE--

**THOR SHALL ENDURE!**



IMPOSSIBLY, THOR INCHES THROUGH THE TEMPORAL TEMPEST UNTIL...

THOUGH THE STORM HATH STOLEN ALL SIGHT, I FEEL MY ADVERSARY'S FOOT BEFORE ME!



FALL, GIANT!

NO LONGER CAN A MERE UPROOTING DESTROY ME.\* MY MASTER HAS SEEN TO THAT.

\*AS IT DID IN GIANT-SIZE FF #2. --JS/RT.



IN TRUTH, TEMPUS, I WISHED ONLY TO ABATE THY STORM--

-- AND REDUCE THEE TO MY STATURE!

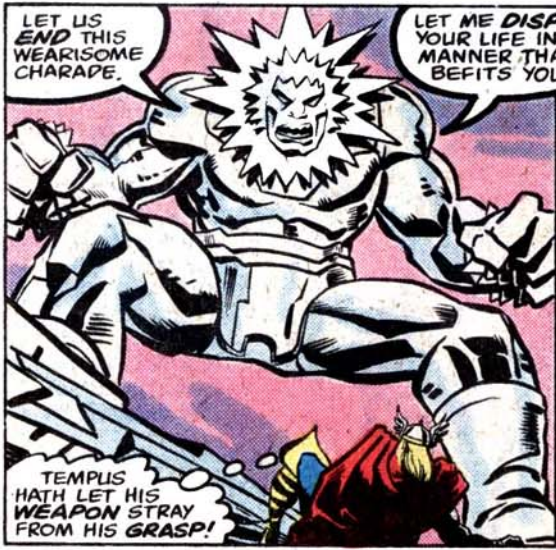


NOW, MONSTER--  
FEEL THE POWER  
OF THE HAND  
THAT WIELDS  
MATCHLESS  
MJOLNIR!



WOULD THAT IT  
WERE POWER  
ENOUGH--

-- THAT I'D  
BE UNABLE TO  
LIFT MY HAND  
AGAINST YOU!



LET US  
END THIS  
WEARISOME  
CHARADE.

LET ME DISPATCH  
YOUR LIFE IN A  
MANNER THAT  
BEFITS YOU.

TEMPUS  
HATH LET HIS  
WEAPON STRAY  
FROM HIS GRASP!



THOUGH ITS MASS  
DWARF THAT OF  
MJOLNIR-- NO HAM-  
MER DOETH BE  
BEYOND THOR'S  
MIGHT TO  
WIELD!

AND  
MAYHAP TEMPUS'  
OWN WEAPON BE THE  
KEY TO HIS LINDOING!



HOISTING THE MOUNTAINOUS MALLET ABOVE HIS  
HEAD AS IF IT WERE NO MORE THAN A SERPENT'S  
TOOTH, THOR STRIKES A BLOW THAT SENDS  
TREMORS THROUGHOUT IMMORTUS' CASTLE.



I HAVE GIVEN TEMPUS THE OBLIVION HE CRAVED. I PRAY IT BE TO HIS LIKING.

TEMPUS' DEATHS NEVER LAST VERY LONG. WE MUST HURRY.



I SHALL COMMANDEER THIS WEAPON AND FASHION A HASTY ENTRANCE!



BY MIMIR'S MOCKERY! THIS CASTLE'S INTERIOR BE AT GREATER ODDS WITH NATURE THAN ITS FACADE!



GRAVITY, LIKE ALL NATURAL LAW, IS SUSPENDED HERE.

DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH SUCH TRIFLES.



HOLD! WHAT BE THIS CLAMOR BEYOND THE WINDOW? IT IS I-- IN BATTLE WITH THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER!

BUT THAT OCCURRED HERE O'ER A YEAR PAST!\*

\*AVENGERS# 132.--J.S./R.T.



SUCH IS THE NATURE OF TIME-LESS-NESS...

...THAT THE PAST IS EVER PRESENT.

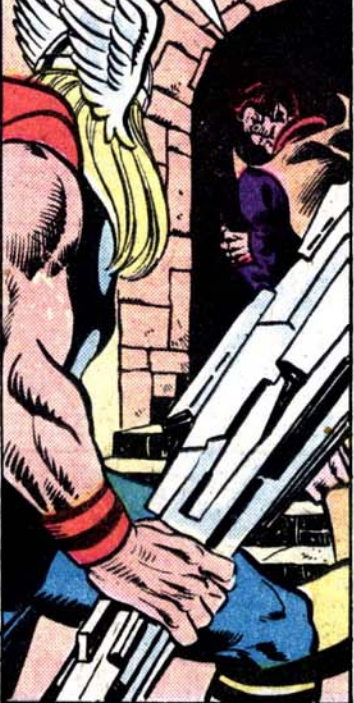
HOW CANST THOU DWELL IN A REALM WHERE LOGIC AND NATURE HAVE LOST THEIR REASON?

ONE LEARNS TO ACCEPT THE SEEMING PARADOXES OF LIMBO, OR ONE SOON GOES MAD.

BEFORE US LIES THE MASTER'S CHAMBERS. YOU MAY LEAD FROM HERE. I CONFESS NO FONDNESS TO SEE HIM I SERVE.

GREETINGS, ASGARDIAN!

THEN THE PHANTOM DID NOT LIE. IMMORTUS INDEED DOTH LIVE!



THE PHANTOM LEADS THE VISITOR THROUGH A LABYRINTH OF ROOMS AND CORRIDORS, UNTIL...

BUT IF THOU BE A LATER SELF OF KANG AS THOU HAST SAID, AND KANG BE DEAD—THEN HOW--?

\* GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #3 - J.E.R.

MY LIFE IS NOT A CIRCLE AS I ONCE DESCRIBED IT, THOR. IT IS MORE LIKE UNTO A TREE...

NOW THEN. I BELIEVE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THIS...?

HERE. I'LL TRADE YOU...



...FOR MY GUARD'S FRAGMENTARY IMPLEMENT.



IT FADES FROM MY GRASP!

THOU DOST TOSS MINE HAMMER AS IF ODIN'S ENCHANTMENTS WERE ABSENT!

THE ONLY ENCHANTMENTS HERE ARE MY OWN, GODLING.

THOUGH ONE BRANCH HAS BEEN PRUNED, THE TREE STILL STANDS.

I REJOICE THAT I NEED NOT **BATTLE** THEE TO RECLAIM WHAT IS **MINE**. BUT WHY DIDST THOU **STEAL** MINE HAMMER?

I DID NOT **STEAL** IT, MY FRIEND. I SIMPLY **BORROWED** IT.

WITH YOUR NUMEROUS **PASSAGES** THROUGH MY REALM OF LATE, \* I WAS REMINDED OF MY INTENTION TO **INVESTIGATE** THE TIME-TRAVEL PROPERTIES INVESTED IN YOUR **HAMMER**. I HAVE TAKEN **THIS** OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

NOW, IN **RETURN** FOR SATISFYING MY CURIOSITY, I WILL SATISFY **YOURS...** ABOUT **ME!**

\*AS TOLD IN **AVENGERS #175**.  
-- JIM & ROY.

"IN THE TWILIGHT OF MY **EARTHLY** YEARS, I DECIDED TO **THWART** DEATH'S IMPENDING **EMBRACE** BY SEQUESTERING MYSELF IN AGELESS **LIMBO**. HERE FOR **ETERNITY**, I WOULD FURTHER MY **STUDIES** OF TIME.

"I BUILT A WONDROUS **CASTLE** IN WHICH TO DWELL-- BUILT WITH **STONE** AND **LABORERS** SALVAGED FROM THE **BROKEN DREAMS** OF A FORMER LIFE.

"DONNING MY FINAL **REGALIA**, I TOOK **TWO** SUBJECTS ... **TEMPUS**, WHO I FASHIONED FROM THE VERY **ETHER** OF LIMBO TO GUARD MY DOMAIN, AND THE **SPACE PHANTOM**, WHO DESTINY DELIVERED TO ME.

"BOTH ARE CONSTANT **DISAPPOINTMENTS**. THE PHANTOM IS A **NUISANCE**, WHILE **TEMPUS** SEEKS TO END HIS SERVITUDE THROUGH **SUICIDE** WHENEVER I AM NOT **WATCHING**.\*

\*AS IN **G-S FF #2**. -- J.S./R.T.

"I WAS READY TO **BEGIN** MY STUDIES, OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ME WAS THE **ERA** IN WHICH I **ORIGINATED**. ENLISTING THE AID OF THE SO-CALLED **MASTERS OF EVIL**, I SET OUT TO LEARN WHAT **EFFECT** MY COUNTERPART **KANG** HAD ON THE **AVENGERS'** DEVELOPMENT.\*

"YOU ARE **UNKNOWNING** OF THIS MEETING SINCE IT BECAME A **DIVERGENT** PATH.

\*WAY BACK IN **AVENGERS #10**. -- J.S./R.T.

"SOME TIME THEREAFTER, I HAD MY FIRST VISITATION BY A TRINITY OF BEINGS SPAWNED AT THIS TIME-CYCLE'S END.

"THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE CULLED ME FROM THE RANKS OF TIME TRAVELERS TO BE TUTORED IN THE SECRETS OF TIME... SO THAT I MIGHT HELP THEM IN THEIR CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE TIME-STREAM.

"I LAUGH WHEN I COMPARE THE MEAGER KNOWLEDGE I AMASSED IN FIVE LIFE-TIMES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF ETERNITY THEY IMPARTED.

"AS THEIR APPRENTICE, I WAS ASSIGNED TO OVERSEE THE SEVEN MILLENNIA IN WHICH I HAD LIVED. MY TASK WAS TO MONITOR ALL TIME TRAVEL THEREIN AND TO UNTANGLE THE MULTIPLICITIES I CREATED IN FORMER LIVES.

"THE CELESTIAL MADONNA AFFAIR WAS BUT ONE OF MANY CAMPAIGNS I UNDERTOOK TO CURTAIL MY RENEGADE COUNTERPARTS THROUGHOUT THE MULTIVERSE.

\*AVENGERS #129-135.--J.R.

WITH KANG'S DISCORPORATION, I SOUGHT TO REASSURE YOU THAT THE IMMEDIATE THREAT WAS OVER. HENCE I GAVE YOU A FACILE EXPLANATION OF MY OWN UNDOING.\*

IF THE TRUTH BE KNOWN, THE DEATH OF ONE COUNTERPART DOES NOT AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE REST OF MY LEGION OF TEMPORAL COUNTERPARTS ONE IOTA. THE TREE OF MY EXISTENCE IS EVER-GROWING, AND ONCE HAVING BEEN, ALWAYS IS.

\*AVENGERS #143.--J.R.

THY TALE MYSTIFIES AS MUCH AS IT ENLIGHTENS. BY YOUR LEAVE, I WOULD CONTINUE MY JOURNEY TO EARTH'S PAST. IT IS THE CELESTIALS' ORIGINS THAT CONCERN ME NOW, NOT THINE.

GO THEN. BUT DO NOT EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING THAT WILL ALTER WHAT IS TO BE.

AVENGER, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE TO DELIVER MY PLANET FROM LIMBO?

BY HELPING YOU FIND YOUR HAMMER, I HAVE FULFILLED MY PART OF THE BARGAIN.

A GOD'S WORD IS HIS BOND. I WILL HELP THEE BEFORE I LEAVE. LET US HIE TO THY WORLD.





NO NEED, ASSGARDIAN. NOT WHEN I CAN OPEN A PORTAL THROUGH SPACE AND BRING PHANTUS TO YOU.

TRULY THY MAGICKS ARE ENDLESS.

LET ME WARN YOU, THOR. TO ACCOMPLISH THE DEED YOU ENDEAVOR WILL DEplete EVERY VESTIGE OF YOUR HAMMER'S TIME-ENERGIES!

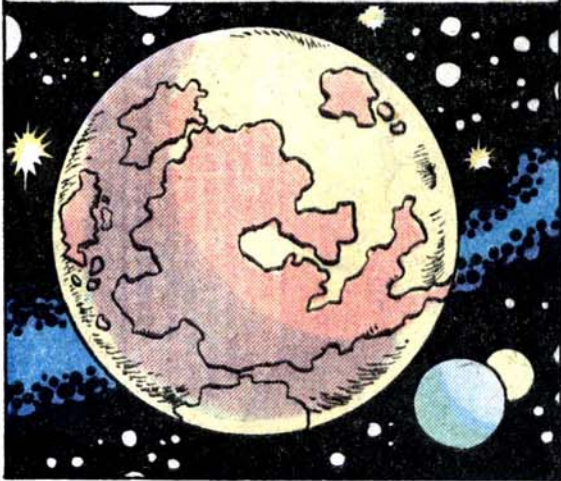
DOST THOU MEAN I WILL NEITHER BE ABLE TO SEEK THE CELESTIALS NOR RETURN TO MINE OWN TIME?

I WILL SEE TO YOUR RETURN. MORE THAN THAT I SHALL NOT DO.

THEN SO BE IT! FOR THE HONOR OF AN OATH-- FOR THE COMFORT OF AN ENEMY-- FREELY DOTH THOR SACRIFICE A PORTION OF MJOLNIR'S MYSTIC MIGHT!

WITH A PEAL OF ETHEREAL THUNDER, THOR'S HAMMER ERUPTS, AND A BURST OF CORUSCATING ENERGY STABS THROUGH THE HOLE-IN-SPACE, BOMBARDING THE HEMISPHERE BEYOND.

PHANTUS SHIMMERS A MOMENT, THEN PULSES FROM THEIR SIGHT, AS THE PLANET'S CELESTIAL AXIS IS THRUST OUT OF LIMBO BACK INTO THE SPACE/TIME CONTINUUM.



IT IS DONE, THY WORLD IS WHOLE. THANKS TO MIRACULOUS MJOLNIR.

IT IS NOT WITHIN THE ETHICS OF MY CULTURE TO GIVE THANKS.



I CAN SEE WHY IMMORTUS FINDS THEE A VEXATION.

AND NOW, THOR, I WILL KEEP MY WORD BY SENDING YOU HOME TO THE 20TH CENTURY A MERE INSTANT AFTER YOU LEFT IT.



SOON, BACK OVER EARTH...

I AM SNAWED BY THE NOTION THAT THIS WAS ALL A CONTRIVANCE TO CLEAVE MINE HAMMER OF ITS TIME-SPANNING MIGHT!



AND, FOR ALL MINE EFFORTS, THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF ARISHEM AND KIN BE STILL UNKNOWN TO ME.

BUT WHATE'ER THE CHALLENGE THE CELESTIALS POSE, THOR SHALL MEET IT IN A MANNER BEFITTING A GOD!

WHEN NEXT WE MEET, ASSGARDIAN, IT SHALL BE BY MY WILL.



NEXT: AT LAST--THE CELESTIALS!