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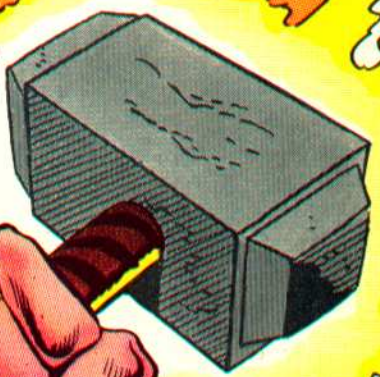
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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# THE MIGHTY THOR

THE HAMMER  
OF THOR--  
IN THE HANDS OF  
WARLORD KRO!



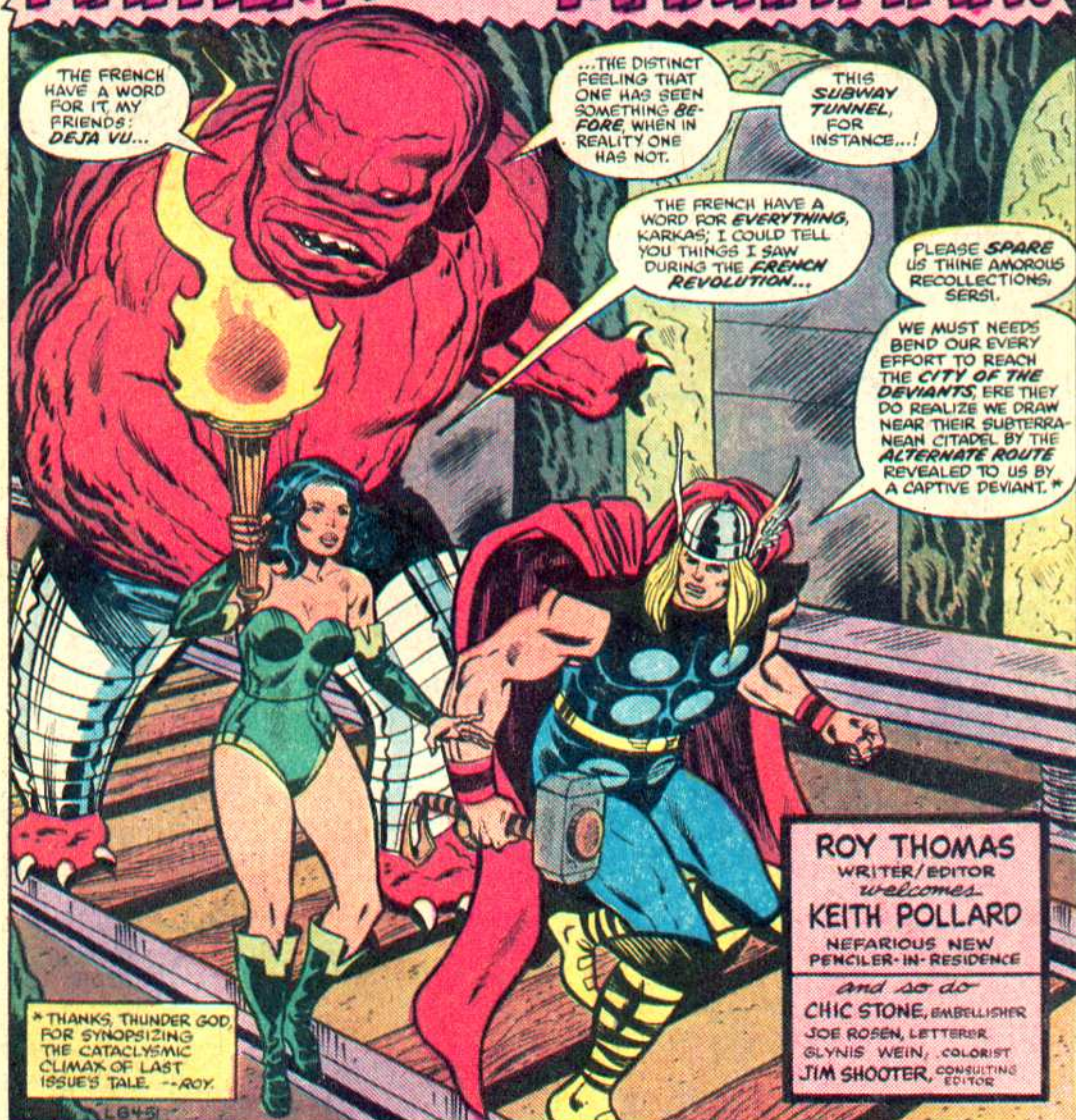
NOW, IN TRUTH--  
MANKIND  
STANDS  
DOOMED!

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pollard  
&  
MILGR

When DR. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking-stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic hammer MJOLNIR—and the lame physician is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm, Lord of the Living Lightning—and heir to the throne of eternal Asgard...

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY THOR!

## MAYHEM UNDER MANHATTAN!



THE FRENCH HAVE A WORD FOR IT, MY FRIENDS: **DEJA VU...**

...THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT ONE HAS SEEN SOMETHING BEFORE, WHEN IN REALITY ONE HAS NOT.

THIS SUBWAY TUNNEL, FOR INSTANCE...

THE FRENCH HAVE A WORD FOR EVERYTHING, KARKAS; I COULD TELL YOU THINGS I SAW DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION...

PLEASE SPARE US THINE AMOROUS RECOLLECTIONS, SERSI.

WE MUST NEEDS BEND OUR EVERY EFFORT TO REACH THE CITY OF THE DEVIANTS; ERE THEY DO REALIZE WE DRAW NEAR THEIR SUBTERRANEAN CITADEL BY THE ALTERNATE ROUTE REVEALED TO US BY A CAPTIVE DEVIANT.\*

\* THANKS, THUNDER GOD, FOR SYNOPSISING THE CATAclysmic CLIMAX OF LAST ISSUE'S TALE. --ROY.

**ROY THOMAS**  
WRITER/EDITOR

welcomes

**KEITH POLLARD**

NEFARIOUS NEW  
PENCILER-IN-RESIDENCE

and so do

**CHIC STONE**, EMBELLISHER

**JOE ROSEN**, LETTERER

**GLYNIS WEIN**, COLORIST

**JIM SHOOTER**, CONSULTING  
EDITOR



DOUBTLESS THOU WILT REJOICE, KARKAS, TO RESCUE THY FRIEND CALLED *REJECT* FROM THE EVIL ONE'S CLUTCHES.

NO MORE THAN I HOPE WE CAN RESCUE THE *OTHER* CAPTIVES-- IKARIS, THENA, AND THE HUMAN FEMALE NAMED MARSO DAMIAN.



THOU DOST PROTEST O'ERMUCH, LOOMING ONE. THINE OWN WORDS, EARLIER, DID CONVINCE ME THERE BE A GREAT *BOND* 'TWEEN THEE AND THY FELLOW MUTATE.

AND WHAT OF THY FEELING FOR THE NOBLE *IKARIS*, SERSI?

NO COMMENT, GOLDILOCKS...



... BUT IF YOU'D CARE TO ASK ME THAT NEXT FRIDAY AT STUDIO 54...

HOW DOES YOUR *TRAP* WARLORD KRO?

ABOUT TO BE *SPRUNG*, BROTHER TODE...



"THE THREE INTRUDERS HAVE LEFT THE NEW YORK SUBWAY SYSTEM...

"... AND ARE NOT FAR AWAY, THINKING THEMSELVES *UNDETECTED*."



"THEY'RE ABOUT TO DISCOVER THE *ERROR* OF THEIR DIVERGENT WAYS..."

*THOR!* *KARKAS!* I SENSE DANGER HERE!



I WAS RIGHT! *DEVIANTS!*

SLAY THE *MUTATE* IF YOU GET THE CHANCE, FELLOW *DEVIANTS!*

*SURRENDER*, *INTERLOPERS!*

PERHAPS THE *ASSARDIAN*, LIKE ALL *ETERNALS*, CANNOT BE KILLED--

BUT OUR *FLAMERS* CAN MAKE THEM WISH THEY WERE DEAD!



THESE UGLY ONES SEEM GROSSLY MIS-INFORMED CONCERNING THE STRENGTH INHERENT IN A GOOD RIGHT ARM, THUNDER GOD--

-- WITH EMPHASIS ON THE "GOOD."

FROM CREATION'S DAWN TO RAGNAROK'S LAST GLEANING KARKAS' EVIL HATH EER MISTAKEN FORBEARANCE FOR WEAKNESS... PEACEFUL INTENT FOR COWARDICE.



MAYHAP 'TIS TIME WE THREE DID DISABUSE THEM OF THEIR FOLLY.

SERS! WHERE ART THOU ETERNAL?

THWAM!



HERE, ASGARDIAN! I AM NO FIGHTER AS YOU AND THE MUTATE ARE; I WOULD ONLY BE IN THE WAY.

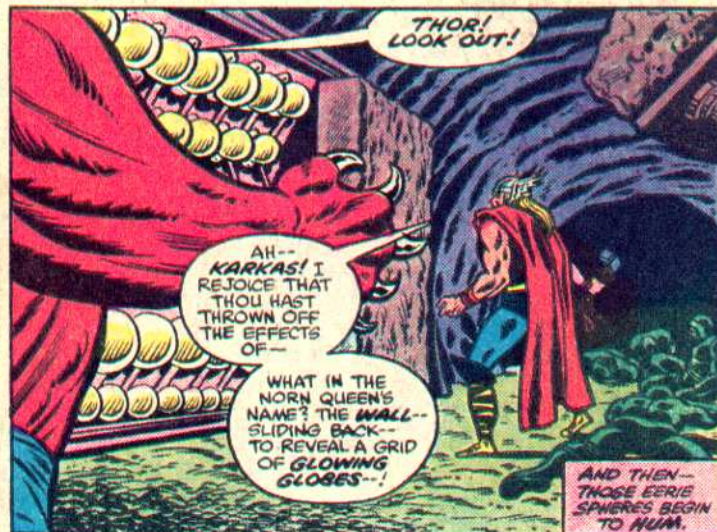
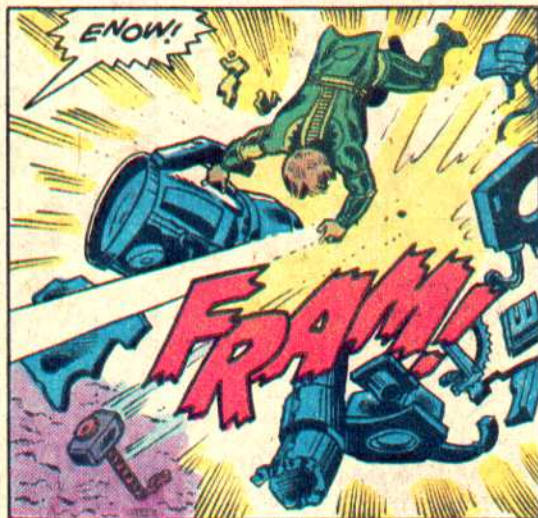
I MUST FLEE! I-- I AM SORRY--!

SERS! WAIT THEE!



SHE'S GONE, THOR-- BUT YOU AND I CAN HANDLE THESE INEPTS ALONE, CAN'T WE?

AYE! IN SOOTH, THE FRIVOLOUS FEMALE DID PROVE UN-WORTHY TO STAND ALONGSIDE US, FOR ALL HER GLIB WORDS.



NEXT INSTANT, WITH A BLINDING CRACKLE OF SEARING LIGHT--

**ZZRAKKK**

TH-- THAT SOUND!  
I-- CANNOT--

KARKAS FALLS-- AND EVEN THE POWERFUL FIGURE OF THOR HIMSELF IS LOST FROM SIGHT, AS ONLY A JAGGED OUTCROPPING OF ROCK PREVENTS HIS SHARING THE HUGE MUTATEE'S FATE.

THEN, AS THE DEVIANT-MADE LIGHTNING FADES, A FAMILIAR FORM STEPS OUT OF THE SHADOWS, TO FACE--

BEWANTS!  
STEP THOU FORWARD--  
AND PERISH!

MINE Mallet  
will--

OH, WHY DON'T  
YOU STOW THE  
HISTRIONICS,  
ASGARDIAN...

THERE'S A LIMIT  
TO WHAT EVEN  
YOU CAN DO  
ALONE, YOU  
KNOW.

AND WHO ART  
THEE  
VILLAIN?

WARLORD KRO, AT YOUR SERVICE. NOW, SURRENDER YOUR ENCHANTED HAMMER TO ME, OR MY WARRIORS WILL OPEN FIRE-- ON DOWNED KARKAS!

HE'S NOT IMMORTAL LIKE YOU AND THE ETERNALS, AFTER ALL.

THEN-- I'VE NO CHOICE, IT SEEMS.

TH--THOR--NO! LET THEM SLAY ME! I DON'T--

SUCH NOBILITY FROM ONE SO REPULSIVE.

AH YES... THE HAMMER, PLEASE.

FOR UNTOLD YEARS WE HAVE HEARD LEGENDS OF IRRESISTIBLE Mjolnir, AND HOW NONE SAVE THOR CAN HOLD IT.

BUT THEN, THOSE LEGENDS SPOKE OF GODS AND HUMANS-- NOT OF DEVIANTS!

THE HAMMER OF THOR IS OURS! WHAT CAN STAND AGAINST US?

NOTHING!  
NOTHING!  
GREAT KRO!

WHILE, A WORLD AND TIME AWAY...

WHY HAST THOU SHOWN ME THIS SCENE OF THOR'S MOST DISMAL DEFEAT, MIMIR?

NAY, ANSWER NOT, O FIERY AND VENGEFUL WELL OF WISDOM... I KNOW THE REASON FULL WELL.

AYE, WRETCHED ODIN! WHAT BETTER WAY TO TORTURE THE FATHER, EVEN OF A WAYWARD, WILLFUL SON --

-- THAN TO SHOW HIM THAT OFFSPRING IN DIRE DANGER?

ALL-FATHER! DIDST THOU, IN TURN, SUMMON US FOUR HERE ONLY THAT WE MIGHT SHARE THINE ANGUISH?

THE THUNDER GOD-- HELPLESS! 'T WAS NOT A SIGHT VOLSTAGG'S EYES DID LONG TO SEE.

AND WOULD THAT I HAD NO EYES, RATHER THAN ONE, TO SEE IT WITH, VOLLUMINOUS' ONE.

GREAT SIRE! LET THE FOUR OF US GO FORTH TO MIDGARD, AND TO THE VILE CITY BENEATH IT-- TO RESCUE THY BANISHED SON-- MINE OWN BELOVED!

THE LADY SIF DOTH SPEAK FOR US ALL, GOOD ODIN.

\* MIDGARD = EARTH, -- ROY.

I SAY THREE NAY!

REVILE ME IF YE MUST, FOR REFUSING SUCH HEARTFELT REQUESTS--

YET, 'T WAS NOT TO SEND YE TO MIDGARD'S SUBTERRANEAN DEPTHS THAT I DID SUMMON YE... BUT RATHER FOR OTHER MISSIONS, OF GREATER IMPORT TO ASSGARD ITSELF!

WHAT GOOD TO SAVE THE REALM ETERNAL, ALL-FATHER-- WHEN ITS MOST VALIANT SON STANDS IMPERILED, E'EN HIS MIGHTY HAMMER STRIPPED SOMEHOW FROM HIM?

FANDRAL STANDS WITH HOGUN THE GRIM, SIRE.

AS DOTH VOLSTAGG.

COME THEN, MY WARRIORS THREE! LET US HIE TO MIDGARD, WHERE--



ONCE MORE I MUST FORBID THEE, SCIONS OF ASGARD!

AND WHEN ODIN DOETH COMMAND, ALL IN THE GLEAMING REALM MUST BEND THE KNEE!

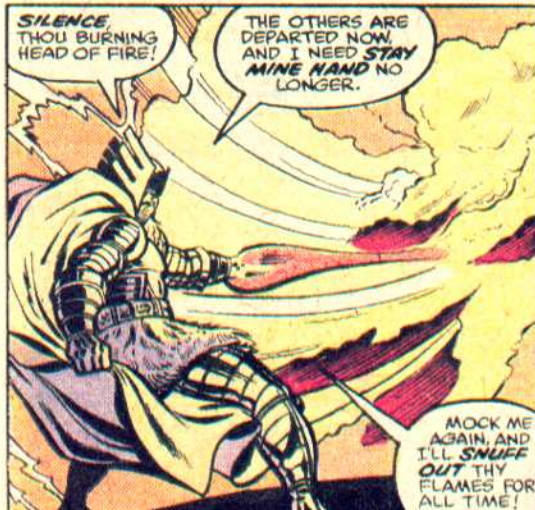
W-WE DO SO, MILORD... THOUGH IN MUTED PROTEST.



WITHIN MOMENTS, TWIN MISSIONS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE QUARTET OF ASGARDIANS...

GO NOW, MY CHILDREN--AND CONCERN YOURSELVES NO MORE WITH THE FATE OF THOR!

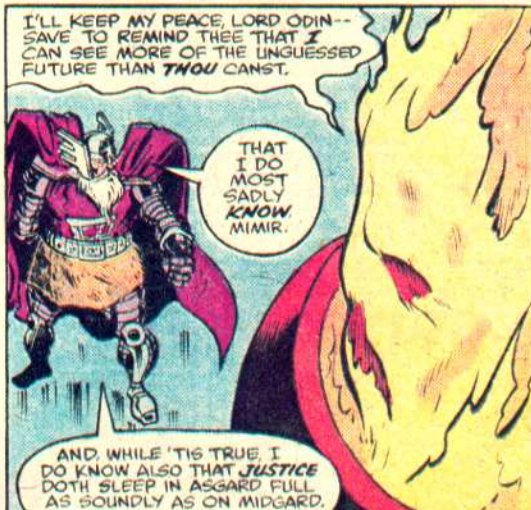
DOST THOU NOT WISH THINE OWN WORRIES COULD BE DISMISSED AS EASILY, LORD ODIN?



SILENCE THOU BURNING HEAD OF FIRE!

THE OTHERS ARE DEPARTED NOW, AND I NEED STAY MINE HAND NO LONGER.

MOCK ME AGAIN, AND I'LL SNIFF OUT THY FLAMES FOR ALL TIME!



I'LL KEEP MY PEACE, LORD ODIN--SAVE TO REMIND THEE THAT I CAN SEE MORE OF THE UNGUESSED FUTURE THAN THOU CANST.

THAT I DO MOST SADLY KNOW MIMIR.

AND WHILE 'TIS TRUE, I DO KNOW ALSO THAT JUSTICE DOETH SLEEP IN ASGARD FULL AS SOUNDLY AS ON MIDGARD.



AS BENEATH MANHATTAN'S STREETS...

WE HAVE THEM ALL BROTHER TODE.

I EVEN HAVE THE HAMMER OF THOR, WHICH HE DID SURRENDER TO ME, RATHER THAN SEE HIS ALLIES SLAIN.

YOU HAVE REDEEMED YOURSELF IN OUR EYES FOR YOUR PREVIOUS FAILURES, WARLORD KRO... AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.





STILL, ARE YOU POSITIVE THE BELTS OF BEHEMESTUM ARE SECURE-- ESPECIALLY ON THE ETERNALS AND THE THUNDER GOD?

I AM! STILL, TO PLEASE YOU, THEY SHALL BE CHECKED AGAIN

THE ASGARDIAN BAND IS SET AT FULL POWER, WARLORD.

SEE HOW HE CAN BARELY STAND?



EXCELLENT! ER-- STAND AWAY, DEVIANT! I MYSELF WILL SEE TO *THENA'S* BONDS!

AND TO WHAT DO I OWE ALL THIS PERSONAL ATTENTION, KRO?



YOU *KNOW* THE REASON, *THENA!* WE WERE OTHER THAN FOES ONCE-- MORE EVEN THAN *FRIENDS!*

I COULD INDUCE TODE TO SPARE YOU, IF YOU WOULD ONLY--

THOSE DAYS ARE FOREVER GONE, WARLORD.

WE KNEW EACH OTHER IN WHAT THE BAND WOULD TERM MY "*SALAD DAYS,* WHEN I WAS GREEN IN JUDGMENT."

YOU DARE QUOTE A MORTAL PLAYWRIGHT TO ME!?



WISDOM IS WISDOM -- HOWEVER LOWLY AND EPHEMERAL THE SOURCE.

ACCEPT IT, ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHATEVER WAS BETWEEN US WAS OVER *MILLENNIA* AGO.

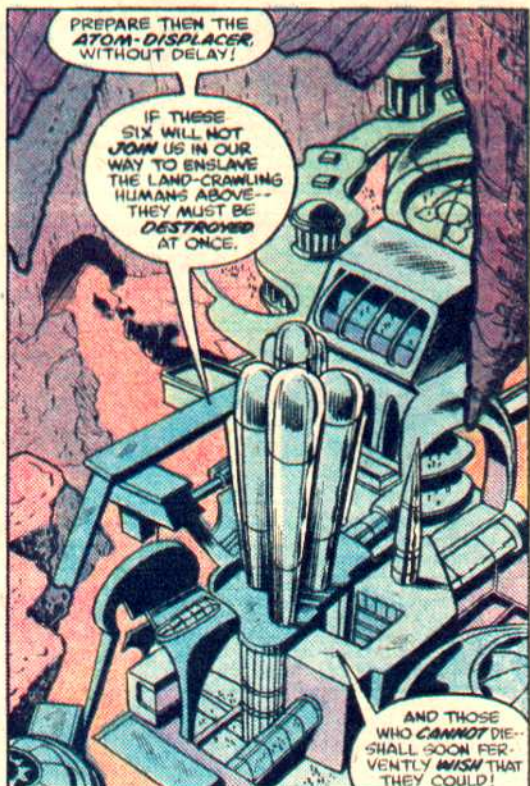
AS YOU WISH ETERNAL...



BROTHER TODE! THE PRISONERS ARE ALL SECURE --

MORTALS, MUTATES, ETERNALS, AND ASGARDIANS ALIKE!

WELL DONE, WARLORD.



PREPARE THEN THE *ATOM-DISPLACER,* WITHOUT DELAY!

IF THESE SIX WILL NOT JOIN US IN OUR WAY TO ENSLAVE THE LAND-CRAWLING HUMANS ABOVE-- THEY MUST BE DESTROYED AT ONCE.

AND THOSE WHO CANNOT DIE-- SHALL SOON PERVENTLY *WISH* THAT THEY COULD!



WAIT, BROTHER TODE! HEAR ME OUT!

WHAT, IKARIS? HAVE YOU A LAST FEW WORDS, BEFORE THE VERY CELLS THAT MAKE UP YOUR THROAT ARE REDUCED TO RANDOM ATOMS?

I HAVE!



YOU KNOW WELL THAT THE CELESTIALS FOURTH HOST LANDED ON EARTH THREE YEARS AGO-- TO BEGIN THEIR FIFTY-YEAR JUDGMENT.

IF THE EARTH IS JUDGED UNWORTHY AT THAT TIME, THE ENTIRE PLANET WILL BE REDUCED TO A MOTE OF DUST-- AND YOU DEVIANTS WITH IT!

THUS, HUMANS-- ETERNALS-- DEVIANTS-- ALL MUST JOIN FORCES TO STAVE OFF THIS FATE...



AND YOU'D ASK US DEVIANTS TO CO-OPERATE NOT ONLY WITH YOU ETERNALS-- BUT WITH MERE HUMANS?!

FOR THE COMMON SURVIVAL, YES.

NEVER!



ONCE BEFORE POLAR ETERNAL, WE DEVIANTS CHALLENGED THE SPACE GODS--

AND LOST!

YES, BUT WE'VE MADE MANY WEAPONRY ADVANCES SINCE THEN, WHICH EVEN THE CELESTIALS DO NOT KNOW ABOUT.



THIS TIME ALSO, WE HAVE THE HAMMER OF THOR, AS WELL-- AND PERHAPS EVEN THE FABLED SON OF ODIN HIMSELF, IF HE'S BECOME WISE AT THE LAST MOMENT.

YOU REFUSE MY PLEA, THEN?

I DO, IKARIS...



NOW, BE SILENT-- FOR I'VE NO MORE INTEREST IN YOU.

WHAT SAY YOU, THUNDER GOD? YOU STAND SO STILL, FOR ONE WHOSE ELOQUENCE IS LEGEND THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE.

I HAD TO KEEP QUIET, LORD OF KROGS--

EH?



ELSE, MY LACKLUSTRE SYNTAX MIGHT BETRAY THE FACT--



-- THAT I WASN'T REALLY THOR, AT ALL --



-- BUT RATHER A CERTAIN MISTRESS OF ILLUSIONS.

SERSI!

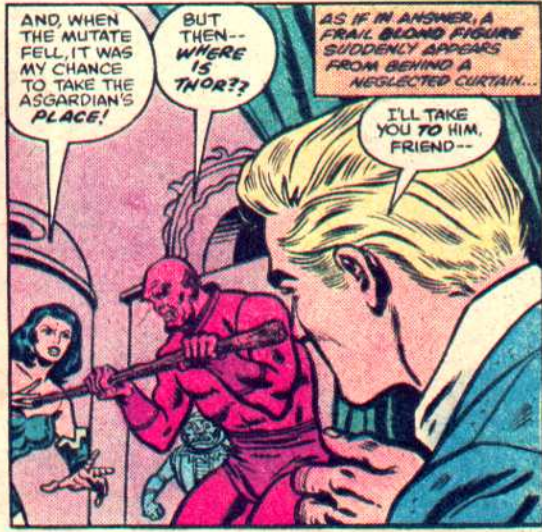


BUT, IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHAT DO I HOLD IN MY--?

A STICK!?

A SIMPLE CANE WARLORD-- GIVEN ME BY THE REAL THOR, AND CHANGED BY MAGIC TO THE SEMBLANCE OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER.

THOR, KARKAS, AND I HAD ARRANGED IN ADVANCE FOR ME TO 'FLEE' IF A DEVIANT ATTACK CAME...



AND, WHEN THE MUTATE FELL, IT WAS MY CHANCE TO TAKE THE ASGARDIAN'S PLACE!

BUT THEN-- WHERE IS THOR??

AS IF IN ANSWER, A FRAIL BEING FIGURE SUDDENLY APPEARS FROM BEHIND A NEGLECTED CURTAIN...

I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM, FRIEND--



--IF YOU'LL JUST HAND ME BACK MY WALKING-STICK!

WHO--?

DON BLAKE'S REPLY IS A LAME-FOOTED, HALTING LEAP--



--WHICH SUCCEEDS SOLELY BY VIRTUE OF ITS SHEER, UNEXPECTED AUDACITY.

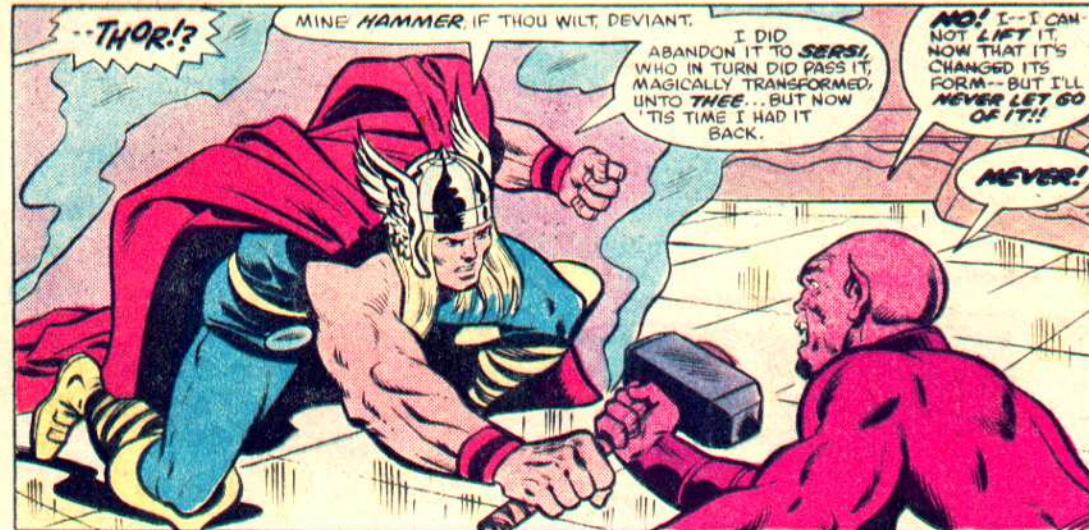
THERE! HE LET THE CANE HIT THE GROUND!

THUMP!



LIGHTNING-- FROM OUT OF NOWHERE!

NO MATTER! WHEN IT FADES, WARLORD KRO WILL SOON DISPOSE OF--



--THOR!?

MINE HAMMER, IF THOU WILT, DEVIANT.

I DID ABANDON IT TO SERSI, WHO IN TURN DID PASS IT, MAGICALLY TRANSFORMED, UNTO THEE... BUT NOW 'TIS TIME I HAD IT BACK.

NO! I--I CAN NOT LIFT IT, NOW THAT IT'S CHANGED ITS FORM-- BUT I'LL NEVER LET GO OF IT!!

NEVER!



VERILY, "NEVER" DOETH SEEM A WORD YE DEVIANTS DO TOSS ABOUT MOST FREELY.

NIGH AS FREELY, METHINKS.



... AS I DO TOSS ABOUT THEE!

SLAMM!



NEXT MOMENT, EVEN AS SERSI FINISHES FREEING THE OTHER FIVE CAPTIVES--

ON GUARD, ETERNALS AND MUTATES--

AND KEEP THEE BACK FROM HARM'S WAY, MARGO DAMIAN--



THE MOMENT OF TRUTH BE NIGH AT HAND!

FWOON!



IN MY READINGS, THOR, I'M FINDING THAT TRUTH IS A MOST RELATIVE THING.

DON'T PHILOSOPHIZE, KARKAS! FIGHT!

I'LL RACE YOU TO SEE WHO GETS THE MOST DEVIANTS!

**WARLORD KRO!**  
YOU HAVE FAILED  
ME AGAIN, IT  
SEEMS.

YOU ARE  
WRONG,  
MOST  
REVERED  
MASTER...

FOR, HAVE WE NOT AT OUR DISPOSAL THE  
CREATURE I HELPED DEVELOP-- THE  
POWERFUL PROTOTYPE OF A NEW  
KIND OF SUPER-MUTATE--

--THE ONE  
WE CALL  
**METABO?**



HE'S JUST ANOTHER  
**MUSCLE-MAN** AS FAR  
AS I'M CONCERNED,  
KRO. I'LL--

**DEMONS OF  
THE  
PITS!**

**THENA!**  
HE SEEMS  
IMMUNE  
TO OUR  
EYE-BLASTS!

MORE  
THAN  
THAT!  
ETERNALS! HE  
ABSORBS THEM...



AND HIS EERIE, UNSTABLE METABOLISM  
INSTANTLY GIVES THEM BACK MAGNIFIED  
BY HIS OWN HUGE BODY!

UNNNH--!

OHNN--!



BUT THEN, NOT BEING  
PRIVY TO THE SECRET  
FILES OF THE DEVIANTS,  
YOU DON'T KNOW  
THAT, DO YOU...?

NOR DO KARKAS  
AND THE REJECT-  
MUTATE WHOM  
THENA HAS  
CHRISTENED 'SWEET  
PRINCE'...

COME ON, KARKAS!  
THIS IS MY KIND OF  
FREE-FOR-  
ALL NOW!



WAIT!  
I THINK  
I'VE AN  
INKLING  
OF HOW  
HE DID  
THAT...

AND, IF I'M CORRECT,  
IT WON'T HELP TO--  
**AAAAAH!**

THE SUPER-  
MUTATE  
TAKES  
REJECT'S  
FIRST BLOW--



--THEN PAYS IT BACK IN KIND!



KARKAS BE THE WISER OF THAT TWIN, FOR ALL HIS UGLINESS, WE MUST NEEDS DEVISE NEW STRATEGY TO--

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT, THOR.



THE TWO MUTATES WILL BE DEAD BY THEN--



--SOMETHING IKARIS WILL NOT ALLOW!

AH, SO YOU CAN TALK--OR MAKE SOUNDS, AT LEAST.



THEN, LET ME HEAR YOUR SCREAM OF PAIN-- AND I'LL STRIKE NO MORE!

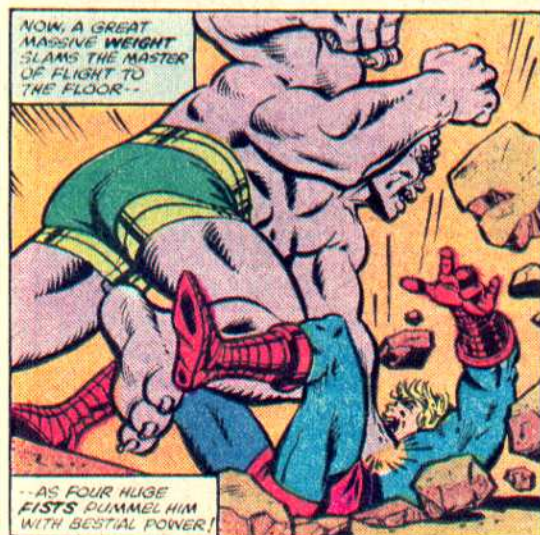
I'VE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING A POOR, DUMB BRUTE.



BUT, INSTEAD OF FALLING OR CRYING OUT--

BY THE POLAR WINDS!

IT ATTACKS-- WITH RENEWED STRENGTH!



NOW, A GREAT MASSIVE WEIGHT SLAMS THE MASTER OF FLIGHT TO THE FLOOR--

--AS FOUR HUGE FISTS PUMMEL HIM WITH BESTIAL POWER!



NEXT MOMENT, BEFORE IKARIS CAN REGAIN HIS FOOTING-- THE DEVIANTS' CREATION HURLS HIM BODILY ACROSS THE WIDE CHAMBER--

--SUCCEEDING AS MUCH BY THE ETERNAL'S STARK SURPRISE AS BY ITS OWN MIGHT AND MAIN.



IT SEEMS-- YOU WERE *RIGHT*, ASGARDIAN.

FOR ALL THY YEARS, FRIEND, THOU HAST NOT FOUGHT BEINGS AS STRANGE AS ONE I KNOW CALLED THE *ABSORBING MAN*--

--WHO, IN DIVERSE WAYS, YON MONSTER DOTTH *RESEMBLE*.



NOW, TAKE THEE BUT A FEW MOMENTS TO *REGAIN* THY FULL PROWESS--



FOR, WE SHALL SORELY *NEED* IT, WHEN I HAVE DISPOSED OF--

YET, AS THE LUMBERING SUPER-MUTATE CHARGES INTO HIS NEWFOUND PREY--



--THE SCENARIO SEEMS NOT WILDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH, SECONDS EARLIER, STARRD *IKARIS*.

**BLAM!**

THY MALEVOLENT MASTERS HAVE MADE THEE *STRONG* INDEED, MUTATE...



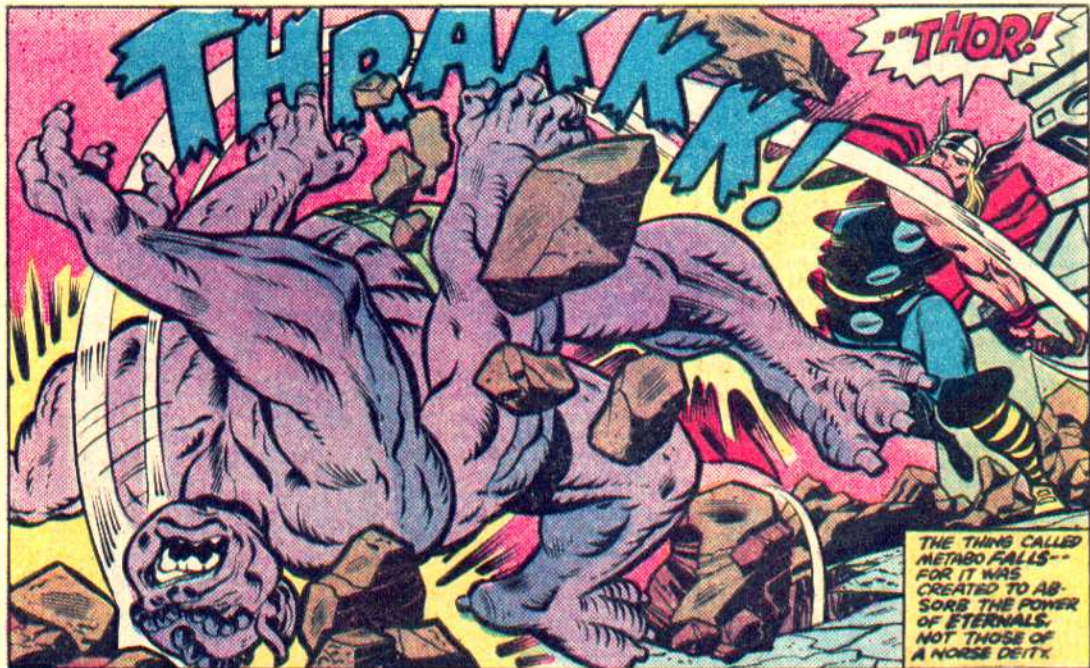
**FWOOM!**

STILL, THOU DOST NOW FACE *THOR*, GOD OF THUNDER--



--*THOR*, LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING--

**BTOK!**



...**THOR!**

**THRACK!**

THE THING CALLED METAGO FALLS-- FOR IT WAS CREATED TO ABSORB THE POWER OF ETERNALS, NOT THOSE OF A HORSE DEITY.

AND IN THE MEANTIME...



THIS WAY BROTHER TODE!

YOU KNOW THE WAY TO FLEE, KRO, IF NOTHING ELSE.

HURRY, DEAR DRAGONA!

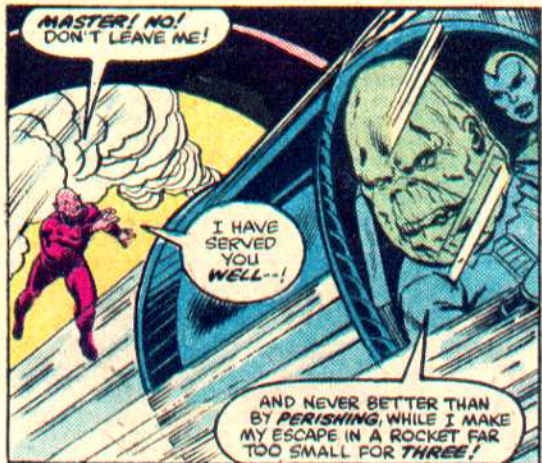


YOU WRONG ME, SIRE. IT WAS OUR OWN FOOL-HARDY DEVIANT WARRIORS WHO FAILED YOU, NOT I.

YET, THE ETERNALS AND THEIR ALLIES WILL NOT ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR VICTORY--

-- WHEN, IN SECONDS, IT ROCKS BENEATH THEIR VERY FEET, WHILE YOU AND I SHALL BE--

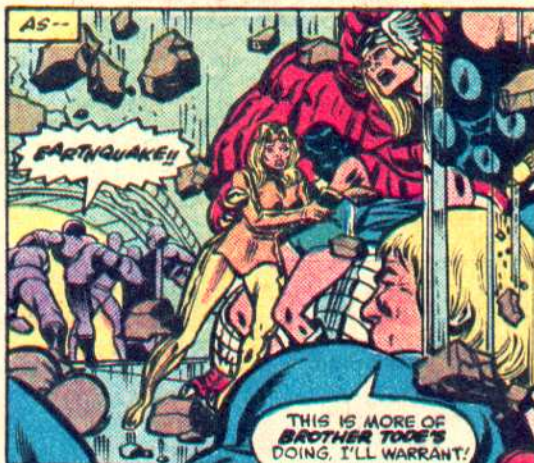
GOODBYE, WARLORD.



MASTER! NO! DON'T LEAVE ME!

I HAVE SERVED YOU WELL--!

AND NEVER BETTER THAN BY PERISHING, WHILE I MAKE MY ESCAPE IN A ROCKET FAR TOO SMALL FOR THREE!



AS--

EARTHQUAKE!!

THIS IS MORE OF BROTHER TODE'S DOING. I'LL WARRANT!



IKARIS HAS NO TIME, HOWEVER, TO INVESTIGATE THE TRUTH OR FALSITY OF HIS GUESS--

--AS THE SOUL-SHATTERING VIBRATIONS GROW IN INTENSITY, SECOND BY SPLIT SECOND, UNTIL--

**THRAKKA!**  
**KBOOM!**

--THE RELOCATED DEVIANT CAPITAL IS TORN APART BY THE HAND OF ITS OWN MASTER--AS SURELY AS ITS PREDECESSOR HAD BEEN SMASHED BY THE MASSIVE FIST OF ESON THE CELESTIAL!

THOUGH THE COMBINATION EARTH-QUAKE AND EXPLOSION ARE DESIGNED TO BE SELF-CONTAINED, ITS REVERBERATIONS ARE FELT EVEN IN THE CITY ABOVE...

AN EARTH-QUAKE?! BUT--IT CAN'T BE--NOT IN NEW YORK!

TELL THAT TO MY QUIVERIN' KNEES, SISTER!

UH OH! NOW WHAT?

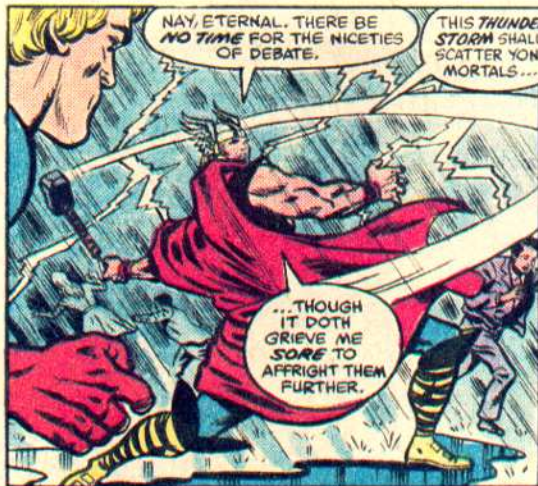
THERE'S SOMETHING PUSHING ITS WAY UP--THRU THE CONCRETE! WH--?

FEAR NOT, MORTALS! THE SHOCK WAVES WILL CEASE, IN A FEW MOMENTS, WHEN--

IT'S THAT THOR GUY--THE ONE THEY SAY IS A REAL LIVE THUNDER GOD!

MAYBE HE AND HIS BUDDIES CAUSED THE QUAKE!

WE MUST MAKE THEM UNDER-STAND, THOR--!



NAY, ETERNAL. THERE BE NO TIME FOR THE NICETIES OF DEBATE.

THIS THUNDER-STORM SHALL SCATTER YON MORTALS...

...THOUGH IT DOTH GRIEVE ME SORE TO AFFRIGHT THEM FURTHER.



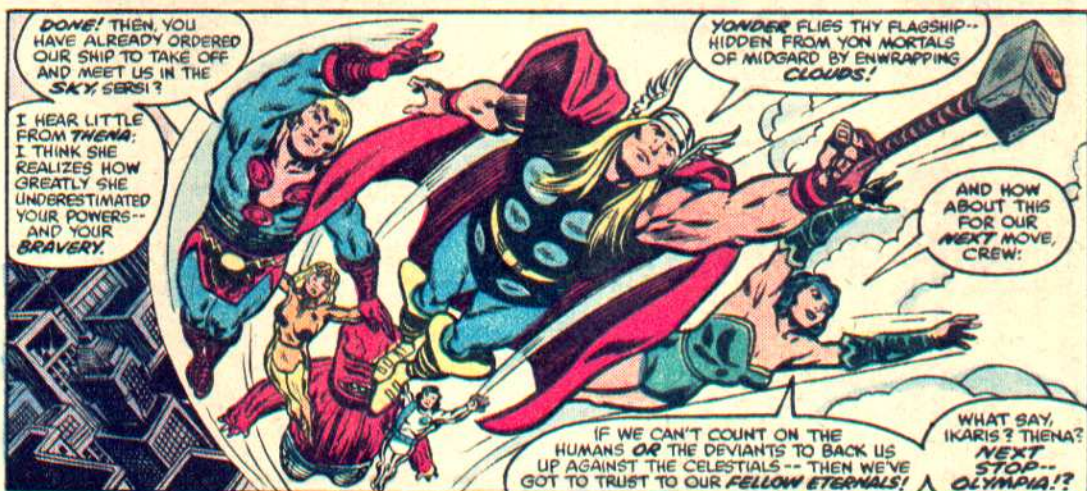
EVERYBODY HERE? GOOD!

IS IT? I SUSPECT THE MULTIA ARE ALREADY BEING SUMMONED.

FINE! I COULD USE A GOOD FIGHT.

OH "SWEET PRINCE"!

LET THOSE WHO LEVITATE, THEN, BRING THOSE WHO CANNOT.



DOVE! THEN, YOU HAVE ALREADY ORDERED OUR SHIP TO TAKE OFF AND MEET US IN THE SKY, SERSI?

I HEAR LITTLE FROM THENA; I THINK SHE REALIZES HOW GREATLY SHE UNDERESTIMATED YOUR POWERS-- AND YOUR BRAVERY.

YONDER FLIES THY FLAGSHIP-- HIDDEN FROM YON MORTALS OF MIDGARD BY ENWRAPPING CLOUDS!

AND HOW ABOUT THIS FOR OUR NEXT MOVE, CREW:

IF WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE HUMANS OR THE DEVIANTS TO BACK US UP AGAINST THE CELESTIALS-- THEN WE'VE GOT TO TRUST TO OUR FELLOW ETERNALS!

WHAT SAY, IKARIS? THENA? NEXT STOP-- OLYMPIA!?



IT APPEARS WE'VE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

OLYMPIA? DOST THOU MEAN OLYMPUS-- FAVORED REALM OF ZEUS, HERCULES, AND THOSE WHO ONCE WERE WORSHIPPED IN GREECE AND ROME?

--MAIN HOMELAND OF THE ETERNALS-- OLYMPIA WHERE NOBLE ZURAS LORDS IT OVER ALL.

IF SO, MINE HAMMER CAN TAKE US TO--

NO, THOR-- SHE MEANS OLYMPIA



SET THY COURSE THEN FOR THIS OLYMPIA, MY FRIENDS!

THOR SHALL SET HIS FOOT AS FAR AS ANY MAN OF IMMORTAL--

HE ALONE IS SUFFICIENT, IN HIS GRIM MIGHT, TO UNITE ALL ETERNALS AGAINST THE SPACE GODS, IF NEED BE.

--AYE, E'EN THOUGH I SHOULD FIND MYSELF ARRAYED IN THE END 'GAINST GLEAMING ASSGARD ITSELF!!

AND YOU JUST AIN'T THUNDER... YOU JUST AIN'T...!

# NEXT ISSUE: OLYMPIA!

(PLUS A FEW MYTH-SHATTERING SURPRISES TO BOOT!)



Dear Roy,

THOR #282 was a pretty neat issue. A lot of old plotlines were tied neatly together, we saw that Thor is not totally dependent on his hammer for his heroism, and Thor was nicely sent off to the Eternals tie-in. It was indeed worthy of being Thor's 200th-issue.

But, depleting Thor's hammer of its "time-energies"? First he is exiled from Asgard forever, and now this! This would all be fine if I could be sure that it was really and truly permanent. But even though the Fantastic Four break up more or less regularly, they always reunite again. And as soon as Roy Thomas is promoted to Senior Editor or some such post that he deserves, a new writer will take over THOR and these restrictions will be bypassed.

In the meantime, the removal of the time-powers from Thor's hammer brings to mind two minor points:

(1) Thor is currently unable to return to Asgard, since Asgard lies outside our normal space-time and one requires some ability at time-and-space manipulation to go from here to there. Since Thor is forbidden to return, this is ideal.

(2) Thor is unable to travel in time, and so is unable to take the quickest course in solving the Eternals/Celestials problem—traveling fifty years into the future (no, 47 now—the Celestials landed in 1976 and Arishem will move down from his pylon(s) in 2026 A.D.) and seeing what the Celestials are doing then and taking direct action against Arishem if he can.

One last thought: Mr. Machine is due to enter the Marvel Universe in the pages of THE HULK, bringing with him the defunct pages of Kirby's 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and along with that, the influence of the Monolith on mankind. How does the Monolith relate to the presence of the Celestials, the Inhumans in Attilan, the ancient Atlantean and Hyborian eras of civilization, and the Watcher?

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Many thanks for your thought-provoking letter concerning Ralph and Mark's fill-in two-parter in THOR #281-282, Bill. You have, indeed, pointed out several vexing problems, but we're working on them. To wit:

(1) The way we see it, Thor cannot go forward or backward in time—and we hope and intend that this shall be a permanent thing, since time-travel stories have a way of getting out of hand. No, we can't promise that some subsequent writer or editor won't overrule us—but we intend to make the time-travel restriction stick forever, if we can.

(2) However, we don't count that restriction as limiting Thor's return to Asgard. Rather, we consider the restriction as applying only to Thor's moving forward or backward in earth-time, not totally outside it to a different dimension entirely.

(3) You're dead on course, though, when you say this prevents Thor's traveling into the future to solve the Eternals problem—which is as it should be.

(4) Finally, we'll let the MACHINE MAN crew take care of matters concerning Kirby's earlier creation; however, we suspect that the Marvel Universe will have to make do without the Monolith of Kubrick's (and Clarke's) 2001. That's one of the drawbacks of licensing properties on the short term: If and when the contract runs out, you no longer can use the materials licensed. Thus, we could never allow the Monolith to become of real importance in the Marvel version of earth and space.

Keep watching the near-future pages of THOR for more revelations concerning the Marvel Universe, ol' buddy. Roy hopes, some months from now, to wrap up things with a bright red ribbon—even if a few of the edges may be frayed a bit!

Dear Mark and Ralph,

THOR #283 was such a delight that I wish you had made the

credits more specific, because both plot and script were sharp, on target, and completely and totally right. Thanks. Though if I could offer up a guess, Mark did the plot and Ralph the script. You are two of the newest Marvel writers, and yet you've both developed little trademarks in your work.

The return of Immortus from "death" is one of the very few times a Marvel character has been returned from presumed death with any trace of reality. In fact, it was the Englehart "death" which was fiction, although it had a lyrical quality; the more Omniversal view of the "lives" of the separate individuals who make/made up "Immortus" seems more "true." Because of this far better reworking of the time paradox, I credit the plot to Mark, who's work with reordering the Omniverse is legend.

Furthermore, I was delighted to see Roy's Tempus return [Actually, Tempus was the creation of Gerry Conway during his stint on the book. —R.T.], since his first appearance came completely out of left field in GIANT-SIZE FF #2. This bit of continuity was delightful, although it showed a rather cruel strain in Immortus. Why would he force constant rebirth on his suicidal, very obviously imperfect creation? And the concept of the "outside" view of Immortus' Castle was brilliant!

The script also dazzled, Ralph. Like most of your dialogue, there were few wasted words, even with the usually long-winded thunder god. The Space Phantom (whose personality and potency have always been on the same level as the Toad) was a delightful character who transcended our concepts of good and evil, and won my heart with his comment, "Tempus' deaths never last very long." The whole journey to the castle took on a flavor of Alice in Wonderland, with the Space Phantom acting as a Cheshire Cat-type guide.

And the removal of Mjoinir's time-energies was a nice touch. Somehow, I don't think the trolls who made it originally intended it to be (nor had the know-how to make it) a device for time/space travel.

THOR #281-282 were a flowing experience which captured the spirit of the early Marvels, which is some very high praise.

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And since that praise was meant mainly for Ralph Macchio and Mark Gruenwald, the guest writers of THOR #281-282, Rascally Roy Thomas has turned the rest of this space over to that pulsating pair of assistant/associate editors for a reply:

"Thanks for your good words, Steven. Ralph and Mark were as tickled as trolls digging a trench to get the chance to scribe a tale for one of their all-time favorite heroes. Particularly so, since it gave them a chance to both resolve Immortus' unsettling denouement in AVENGERS #143 and bring back Tempus and the Space Phantom, two characters with too much potential to be left languishing in limbo. (Though, come to think of it, they never left Limbo in the whole two-issue tale!)

"Ralph and Mark aren't telling if your guess about the plotting/writing division of labor was right (although they do want to thank Pithy Peter Gillis for his contribution to S.P.'s long-untold origin). If you want to read more of their cosmic collaborations and take another guess about who does what, check out MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, now on sale.

"Incidentally, for those of you Marvelites who were puzzled by Steven's cryptic reference to "Omniverse," Om is a fascine about "fictional reality" (the treatment of the events depicted in comicbooks as if they were real) published by none other than Madcap Mark himself. Issue 2, now on sale, cover features an article about the inimitable Immortus, Master of Time, no less! Send \$2.00 to Alternity Enterprises, 211 W. 88th St., #3A, NYC, NY 10024, and tell 'em Marvel sent you!"

(Okay, Mark—you owe us one for this plug!)