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THE
MIGHTY

THOR

NOT EVEN
MY MYSTIC
HAMMER
CAN STOP--
**EL TORO
ROJO!**



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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!**

RING AROUND THE RED BULL!

METEOR: FROM THE GREEK "METEÖROS" MEANING "LOFTY" OR "RAISED"; ORIGINALLY USED TO REFER TO ANY PHENOMENON OR OBJECT IN THE SKY.

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE PLANET EARTH, IN ANY GIVEN 24-HOUR PERIOD, ENCOUNTERS UP TO 200,000,000 METEORS OF VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES.

THIS ONE HOWEVER IS DESTINED TO BE A WEE BIT UNIQUE...!

ROY THOMAS * **ARVELL JONES**
WRITER / EDITOR GUEST PENCILER

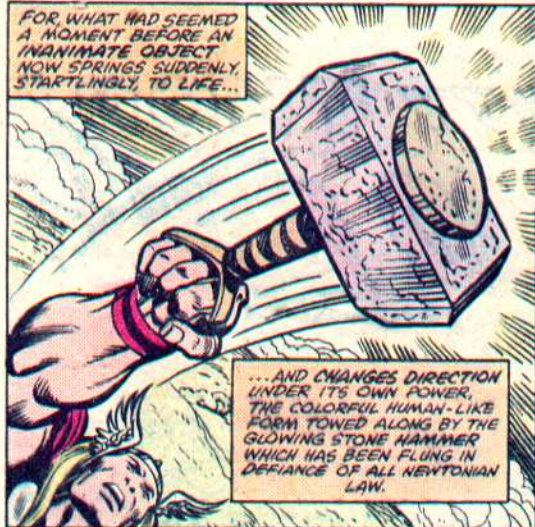
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FOR, WHAT HAD SEEMED A MOMENT BEFORE AN INANIMATE OBJECT NOW SPRINGS SUDDENLY, STARTLINGLY, TO LIFE...



...AND CHANGES DIRECTION UNDER ITS OWN POWER, THE COLORFUL HUMAN-LIKE FORM TOWED ALONG BY THE GLOWING STONE HAMMER WHICH HAS BEEN FLUNG IN DEFIANCE OF ALL NEWTONIAN LAW.



THEN, EVEN AS ITS FALL TO EARTH IS THUS SLOWED, THIS OBJECT... THIS BEING... REMEMBERS:



...REMEMBERS A BATTLE WITH GOD-BEINGS LIKE ITSELF, IN A LAND WHICH WAS SOMEHOW BEYOND BOTH TIME AND SPACE...

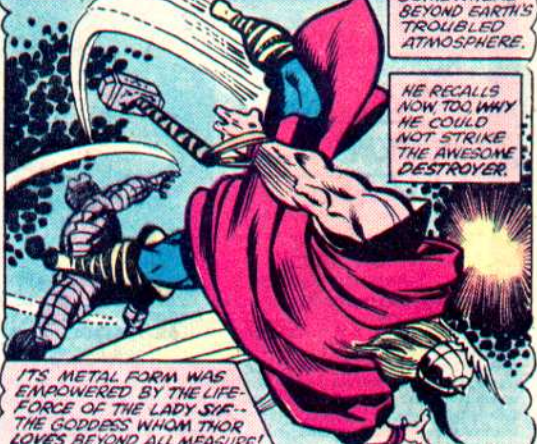
...A RAGING MELEE WHICH OCCURRED BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT LET HIM ENTER HIS GLEAMING HOMELAND... THE PLACE CALLED ASGARD.

AYE-- ASGARD! THE MEMORIES CROWD HIM 'ROUND NOW, AND THE PLUMMETING FIGURE SEES HIMSELF ONCE MORE UPON A BRIDGE WHICH IS NEITHER LIGHT NOR SUBSTANCE... AND COLORED LIKE THE VERY RAINBOW.



HE BATTLES AGAIN, IN HIS MIND'S EYE, A THING OF LIVING METAL WHICH FOR SOME REASON, HE CAN NOT BRING HIMSELF TO SMITE...

...WITH THE RESULT THAT HE HIMSELF IS HURLED DEFEATED NOW AS THEN, FROM THE GLOWING BRIDGE... WHENCE HE RE-ENTERS THE DIMENSION OF MEN.



SOMEWHERE BEYOND EARTH'S TROUBLED ATMOSPHERE.

HE RECALLS NOW TOO WHY HE COULD NOT STRIKE THE AWESOME DESTROYER.

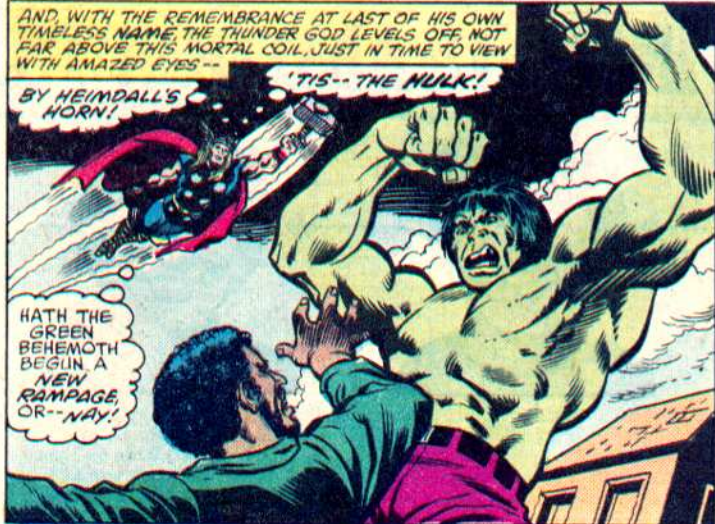
ITS METAL FORM WAS EMPOWERED BY THE LIFE-FORCE OF THE LADY SIF-- THE GODDESS WHOM THOR LOVES BEYOND ALL MEASURE!

AND, WITH THE REMEMBRANCE AT LAST OF HIS OWN TIMELESS NAME, THE THUNDER GOD LEVELS OFF, NOT FAR ABOVE THIS MORTAL COIL...JUST IN TIME TO VIEW WITH AMAZED EYES--

BY HEIMDALL'S WORN!

'TIS-- THE NULK!

HATH THE GREEN BEHEMOTH BEGIN A NEW RAMPAGE, OR--NAY!

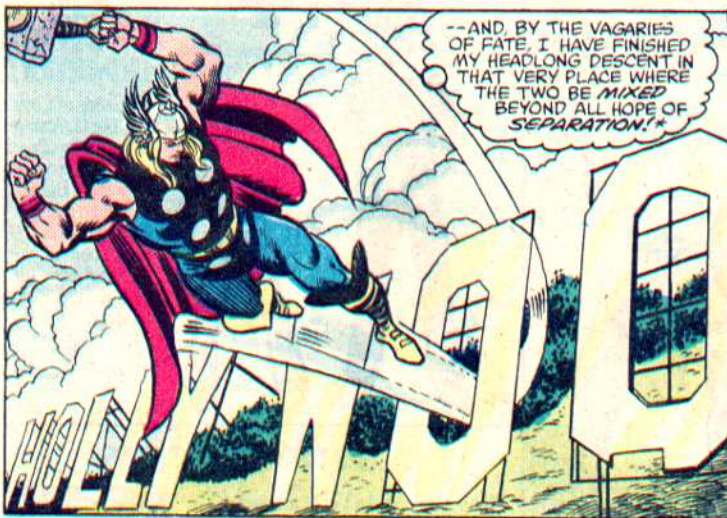


I SEE NOW THE FILM CAMERAS WHICH DO PROCLAIM THAT HE BE BUT AN ACTOR BATHED IN GREEN!



VERILY, I MUST BE BACK ON EARTH, WHERE ALONE REALITY AND ILLUSION BE THUS SHACKLED TOGETHER--

--AND, BY THE VAGARIES OF FATE, I HAVE FINISHED MY HEADLONG DESCENT IN THAT VERY PLACE WHERE THE TWO BE MIXED BEYOND ALL HOPE OF SEPARATION!*



*WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO ALICE COOPER, HUGH HEFNER, AND OTHERS FOR RESTORING OUR BELOVED SIGN IN TIME FOR THIS COMICBOOK. --ROY.

BUT--WHAT'S THIS AHEAD OF ME?

IT SEEMS A MAN--GLIDING AWKWARDLY THROUGH THE SKY.



SURELY, 'TIS MORE VAUNTED "MOVE MAGIC," AS THEY OF MIDGARD DO CALL IT...

YET--NAY! I SEE NOW THERE BE NO HIDDEN HELICOPTER--NO NIGH-INVISIBLE WIRES TO SUSTAIN HIS FLIGHT--



--BUT ONLY A MAN BEATING WITH INEFFECTUAL WINGS IN A VAIN EFFORT TO REMAIN ALOFT!

MORE: HE FALLS, LIKE ICARUS GONE TOO NEAR THE SUN!





ICARUS! THE VERY WORD REMINDS ME OF IKARIS, THAT WORTHY ETERNAL FOR WHOM THE MYTHICAL GREEK HERO WAS NAMED.

OR WAS IT, AS THE LATIN'S SAID, VICE VERSA?

TIME ENOW LATER FOR SUCH THOUGHTS...



NOW, I MUST NEEDS DISCOVER WHO THIS MORTAL IS... IF MORTAL HE BE... AND HOW HE HATH GAINED THE POWER OF FLIGHT... ONLY TO LOSE IT AGAIN.

GRACIAS... SENOR THOR...!

YOU SPEAK SPANISH! OF COURSE! NOW I DO REALIZE--

WE BE ABOVE THE BARRIO, THAT PART OF LOS ANGELES WHERE MANY CHICANOS* DO DWELL.

*MEXICAN-AMERICANS, OF COURSE.--RT.



WHO ART THOU, FRIEND-- AND HOW HAST THOU COME TO HARM?

FOR I SEE NOW THOU HAST BEEN MOST SAVAGELY GORED-- AS IF BY A RAGING BULL.

SI, THUNDER GOD... THAT IS JUST WHAT HAPPENED.

MY NAME... THE ONLY ONE YOU NEED KNOW... IS VAMPIRO...



THEN THOU ART WELL-NAMED, VAMPIRO... FOR I DO SEE THAT THY STRANGELY SHARP TEETH BE REAL, NOT SOME DENTIST'S FAKERY.

THEY ARE... INDEED REAL... AS REAL AS I AM.

BUT WHO-- WHAT ART THOU? THOU HAST NOT--

I KNOW OF YOU, THUNDER GOD... MORE THAN MOST MEN DO...



"...SO I WILL TELL YOU... WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.

"YOU MUST KNOW, FIRST, THAT I AM A WRESTLER-- AND ONE NOT WITHOUT FAME... BOTH HERE... AND IN MEXICO. *

NO, DEMONIO! TONIGHT IS VAMPIRO'S NIGHT TO FLY, NOT YOURS!

* MASKED WRESTLERS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY POPULAR IN MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL DECADES. --ROY.

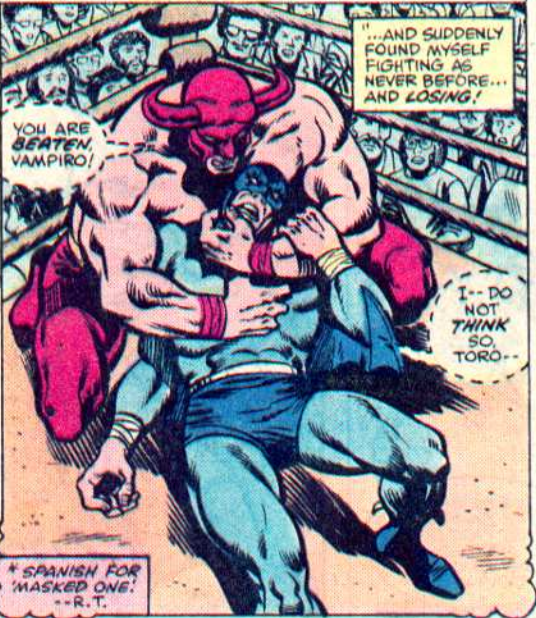


"SINCE I ENTERED THE RING... SOME YEARS AGO... I HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR OF THE MASKED VICTORIES... VICTORIOUS...

THE WINNER-- EL VAMPIRO!

VIVA VAMPIRO!

"THEN, ONLY DAYS AGO... I ANSWERED THE PUBLIC CHALLENGE OF AN ENMASCARADO* UNKNOWN TO ME... ONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF EL TORO ROJO... THE RED BULL..."



YOU ARE BEATEN, VAMPIRO!

"...AND SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF FIGHTING AS NEVER BEFORE... AND LOSING!"

I-- DO NOT THINK SO, TORO--

*SPANISH FOR 'MASKED ONE.'
--R.T.



-- FOR I KNOW SECRETS OF WRESTLING-- AND OF OTHER THINGS-- YOU COULD NEVER GUESS!

"THE NEXT MOMENT, HOWEVER... I LEARNED THAT EL TORO ROJO HAD SECRETS OF HIS OWN... AND THAT HE WAS NOT WHAT HE HAD SEEMED."



"FOR THE FIERCE HORNS ON HIS HEAD WERE NOT ATTACHED TO HIS MASK..."

"THEY WERE REAL!"



"EL TORO WAS... A DEVIANT!"

"AH, MI AMIGO... I SEE YOU ARE ASTONISHED... THAT I KNOW THIS WORD... 'DEVIANT.'"

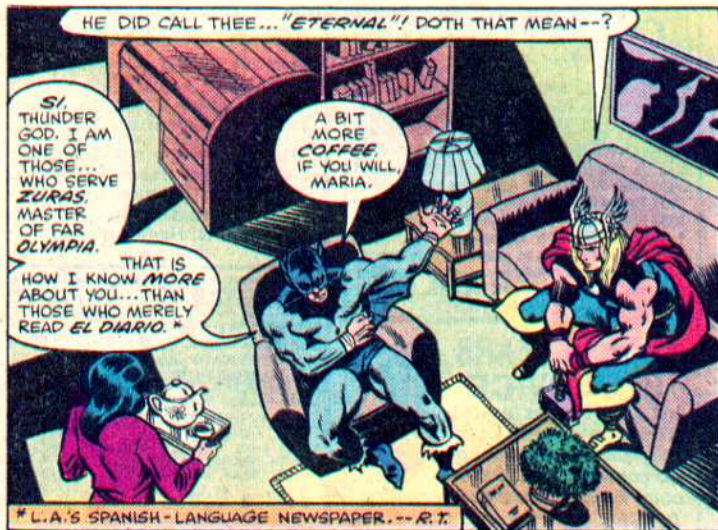


"AND, AS I WAS CARRIED... BADLY GORED BY HIS HORNS... FROM THE RING... I HEARD HIM HISS WORDS AT ME... IN A TONGUE NO OTHER MAN PRESENT COULD HAVE KNOWN..."

"I HAVE KNOWN IT FAR LONGER... FAR MORE DEEPLY THAN YOU, I FEAR."

THAT WAS BUT A WARNING!

FROM TODAY I SHALL MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL-- ETERNAL!



HE DID CALL THEE... "ETERNAL"! DO TH THAT MEAN--?

SI, THUNDER GOD. I AM ONE OF THOSE... WHO SERVE ZURAS, MASTER OF FAR OLYMPIA.

THAT IS HOW I KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU... THAN THOSE WHO MERELY READ EL DIARIO.*

A BIT MORE COFFEE, IF YOU WILL, MARIA.

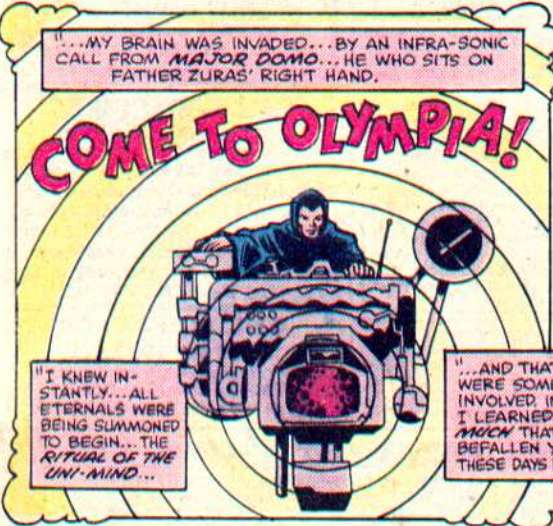
* L.A.'S SPANISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER... R.T.



IT IS ALSO HOW I KNOW THAT YOU KNOW... ABOUT THE ETERNALS AND THEIR AGE-OLD WAR WITH THE MORTAL-HATING DEVIANTS.

HOW? I STILL UNDERSTAND NOT.

A SHORT WHILE AGO... AS I LAY RECOVERING FROM EL TORO ROJO'S ATTACK...



"...MY BRAIN WAS INVADED... BY AN INFRA-SONIC CALL FROM MAJOR DOMO... HE WHO SITS ON FATHER ZURAS' RIGHT HAND.

COME TO OLYMPIA!

"I KNEW INSTANTLY... ALL ETERNALS WERE BEING SUMMONED TO BEGIN... THE RITUAL OF THE UNI-MIND..."

"...AND THAT YOU WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED. INDEED, I LEARNED... MUCH THAT HAS BEFALLEN YOU... THESE DAYS PAST.

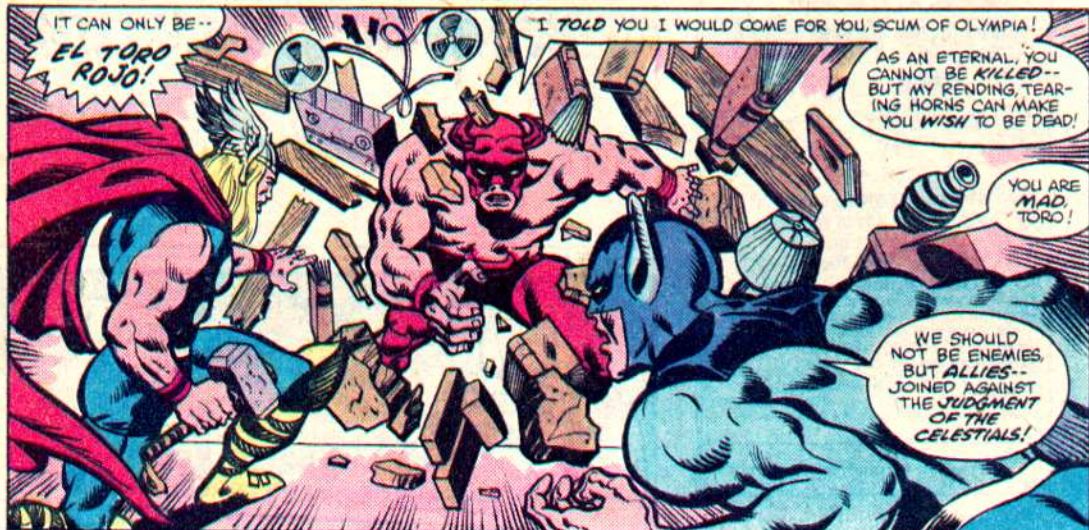


I SUPPOSE ONE CAN TRANSMIT OR UNDERSTAND MUCH, WHEN 'TIS DONE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

THOU DOST THINK, THEN, THAT THY DEVIANT FOE WISHED TO PREVENT THEE FROM RETURNING TO DISTANT OLYMPIA?

EVERY ETERNAL WHO IS MISSING... MERELY WEAKENS THE POWER OF THE UNI-MIND. I-- WHAT'S THAT??

THE STAMPING OF MOVIES, WITHOUT STAND THEE BACK; BOTH!



IT CAN ONLY BE--

EL TORO ROJO!

I TOLD YOU I WOULD COME FOR YOU, SCUM OF OLYMPIA!

AS AN ETERNAL, YOU CANNOT BE KILLED-- BUT MY RENDING, TEARING HORNS CAN MAKE YOU WISH TO BE DEAD!

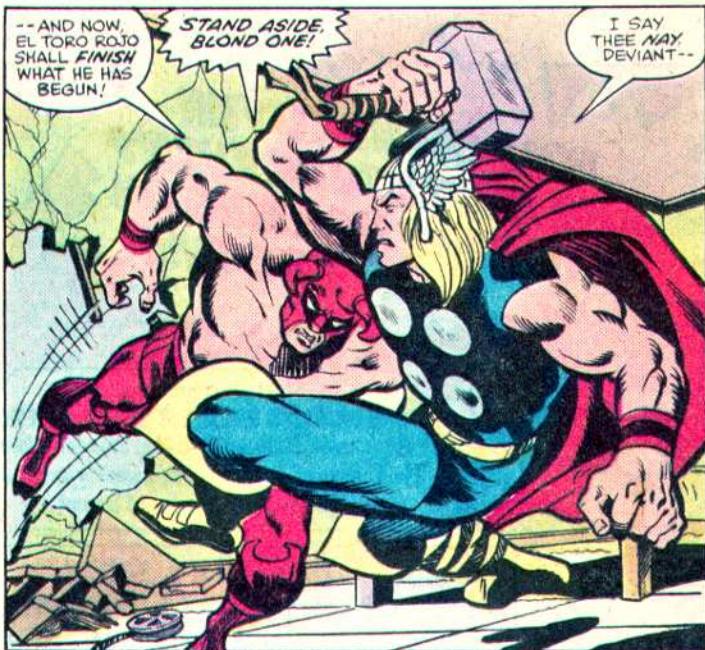
YOU ARE MAD, TORO!

WE SHOULD NOT BE ENEMIES, BUT ALLIES-- JOINED AGAINST THE JUDGMENT OF THE CELESTIALS!



"IMBECIL!" YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN HURT BEYOND ALL HEALING, WHEN YOU STUPIDLY TRIED TO ANSWER ZURAS' CALL-- BUT FOR THE INTERFERENCE OF THE ASSGARDIAN.

FORTUNATELY, I WAS WATCHING FROM AFAR WHEN HE SAVED YOU--



--AND NOW, EL TORO ROJO SHALL FINISH WHAT HE HAS BEGUN!

"STAND ASIDE, BLOND ONE!"

I SAY THEE MAY DEVIANT--



--NAY, A THOUSAND THOUSAND TIMES!

WOK!



BY HEIMDALL'S HORN! YON BLOW WOULD HAVE CRUSHED MOST MORTAL SUPER-VILLAINS I HAVE BATTLED--

YET, THOU DOST MERELY CAREEN FROM PILLAR TO POST!



THEN, 'TIS TIME THOU DIDST FEEL THE FULL, UNFETTERED POWER OF THOR--

--AND OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER CALLED M.JOLNIR!



I DO NOT THINK SO, AMIGO.

PERHAPS MAÑANA.



GOOD! AT LEAST I FORCED HIM FROM EL VAMPIRO'S HOUSE, SO THAT THE WOUNDED ETERNAL AND HIS MORTAL WIFE ARE IN LESS DANGER.

NOW, WHEN MAJLNIR DOTH RETURN TO MINE HAND, I SHALL WIELD IT PERSONALLY AGAINST MY FOE.

HAVE AT THEE, TORO! THOR STANDS READY!



WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE VORN QUEEN--?

WE DEVIANTS HAVE STUDIED MUCH ABOUT YOU AS WELL, THUNDER GOD-- SINCE YOU HELPED THE ETERNALS DESTROY OUR UNDERGROUND CITY.

WE LEARNED HOW DEPENDENT YOU ARE UPON YOUR VAUNTED HAMMER-- AND HOW IT MUST EVER RETURN TO YOUR HAND, NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS HURLED.

*SEE ISSUE #286:R



BUT, OF ALL DEVIANTS, EL TORO ROJO ALONE HAS THE STRENGTH TO STOP IT-- TO SEND IT HURLING AWAY--

--BY BUTTING IT WITH MY INVULNERABLE HEAD!

SLAM!

'TIS BEYOND BELIEF! THOU HAST DEFLECTED MAJLNIR'S COURSE!

5% INTRUDING ONE...



AND NOW, WE SHALL SEE HOW WELL YOU FARE WHEN IT IS FIRST AGAINST POUNDING FIST!

SO BE IT!



FOR LONG SECONDS, ASSGARDIAN AND DEVIANT LOCK IN COMBAT, NEITHER PROTAGONIST GAINING OR LOSING AN INCH...

THOU ART STRONGER, BY FAR-- THAN ANY DEVIANT OR MUTATE I HAVE FOUGHT-- ERE NOW!

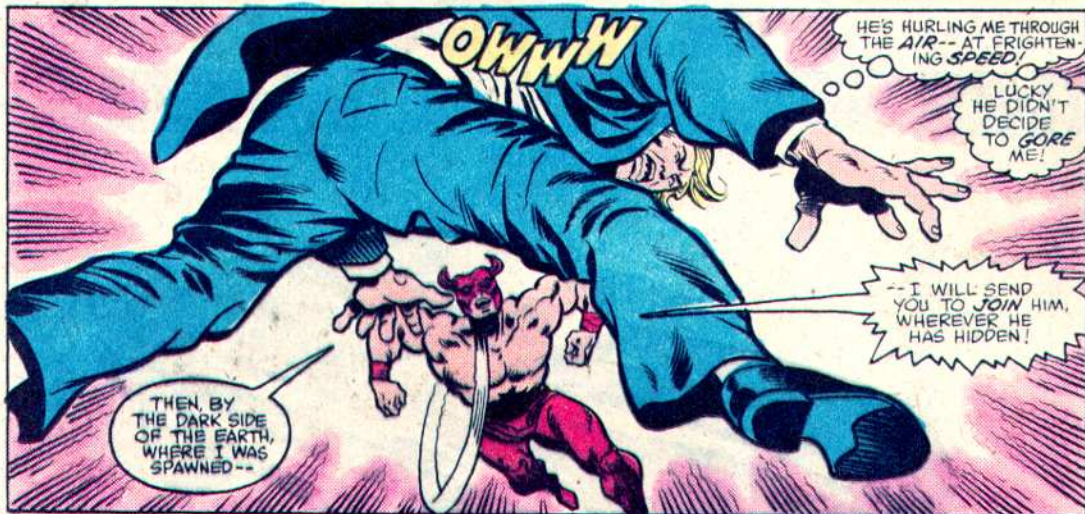
I HAVE TRAINED FOR THIS MOMENT-- TRAINED LONG--



--AND THIS, AS THE MATADORS SAY, IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

'TIS WELL! HE DOETH NOT SUSPECT!

I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE HURLED HEADLONG THUS--





OH-- MIO ESPOSO!

YOUR HUSBAND'LL LIVE, MARIA. BEING AN ETERNAL, HE'S A LOT HARDIER THAN US MORTALS.

BUT, THAT MANIAC CALLED EL TORO ROJO--?



HE FLED-- WITH YOUR WALKING STICK-- I DID NOT SEE WHERE.

WITH MY--? WONDERFUL!

BUT WHY WOULD HE HAVE RUN OFF? HE WAS WINNING!

TAKE ME... INSIDE... I WILL TELL YOU...!

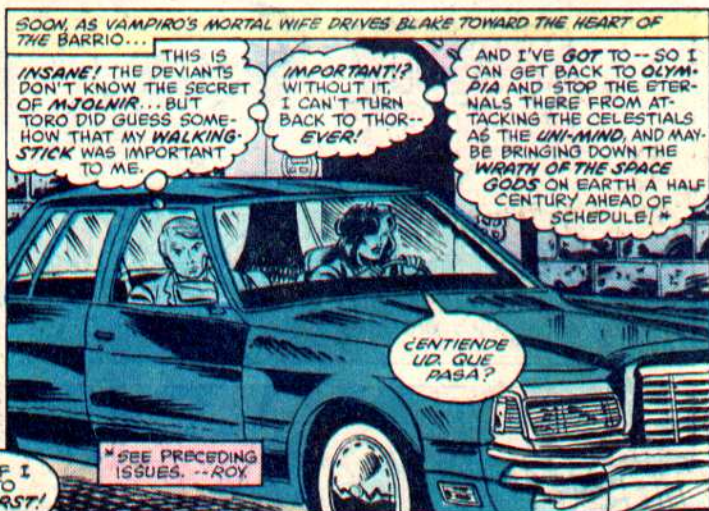


HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOU A DEAD MAN... AND THOR GONE.

I KNOW... EL TORO HAS A MATCH TONIGHT.

HE WILL RETURN FOR ME-- WHEN HE HAS FINISHED.

NOT IF I GET TO HIM FIRST!



SOON, AS VAMPIRO'S MORTAL WIFE DRIVES BLAKE TOWARD THE HEART OF THE BARRIO...

THIS IS INSANE! THE DEVIANTS DON'T KNOW THE SECRET OF MJOLNIR... BUT TORO DID GUESS SOMEHOW THAT MY WALKING STICK WAS IMPORTANT TO ME.

IMPORTANT!? WITHOUT IT, I CAN'T TURN BACK TO THOR-- EVER!

AND I'VE GOT TO-- SO I CAN GET BACK TO OLYMPIA AND STOP THE ETERNALS THERE FROM ATTACKING THE CELESTIALS AS THE UNI-MIND, AND MAYBE BRINGING DOWN THE WRATH OF THE SPACE GODS ON EARTH A HALF CENTURY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE! *

CENTIENDE UD. QUE PASA?

*SEE PRECEDING ISSUES. --ROY



OH, I AM SORRY, SEÑOR. YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND SPANISH, SI?

VERY LITTLE-- BUT MY ALTER EGO THOR KNOWS MOST EARTHLY LANGUAGES.

IT MUST BE-- DIFFICULT, MARIA... A MORTAL, MARRIED TO AN ETERNAL.

SI... FOR I KNOW I SHALL DIE ONE DAY, WHILE VAMPIRO SHALL SIMPLY RETURN TO OLYMPIA.

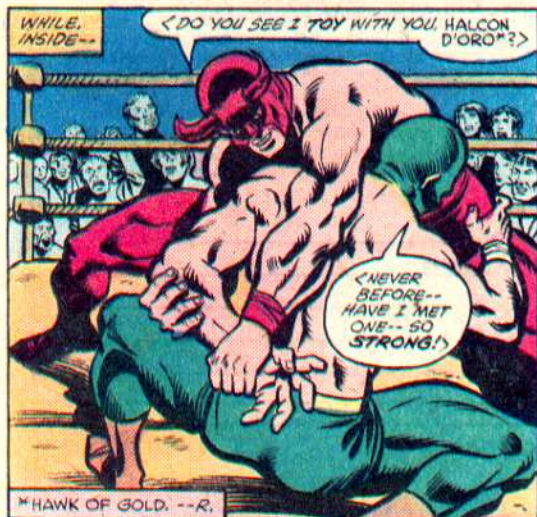
BUT, WHILE I LIVE, HE IS MY HUSBAND, SEÑOR...

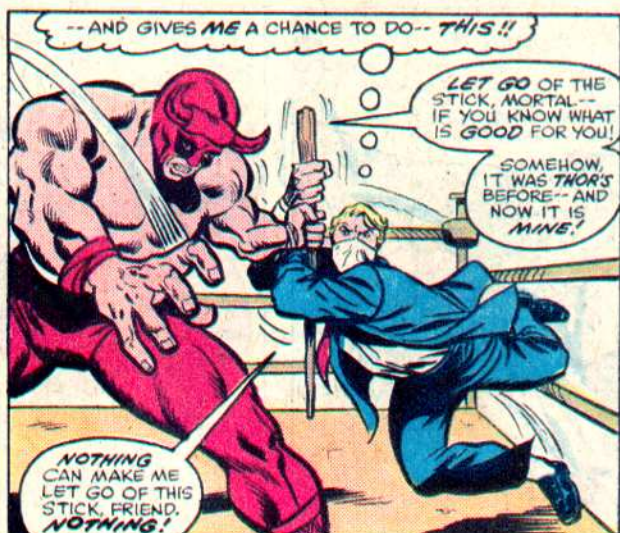
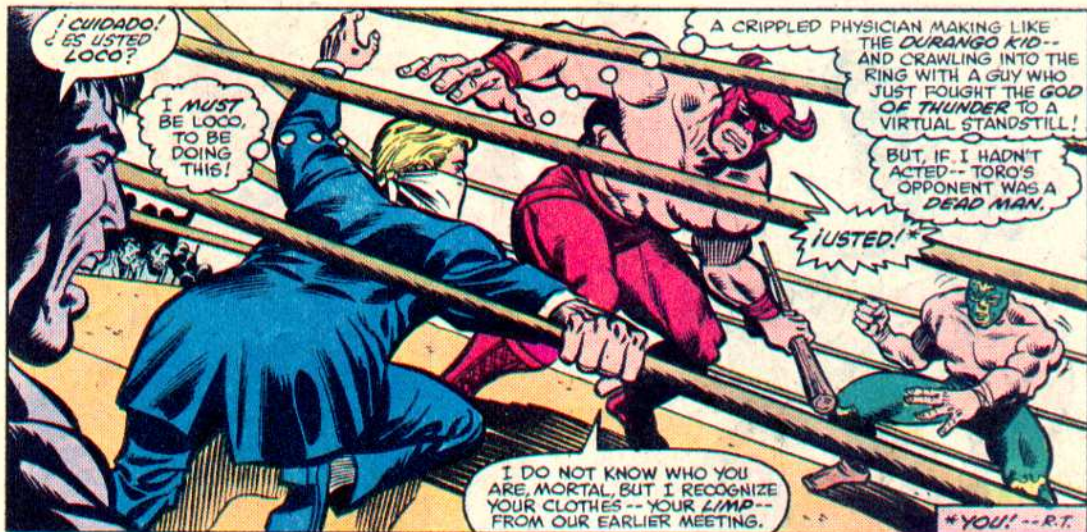


-- AND I SHALL DO WHAT I MUST, TO HELP HIM... AND THOSE WHO ARE HIS FRIENDS.

IF I DON'T SEE YOUR HUSBAND AGAIN, MARIA, PLEASE TELL HIM...

...TELL HIM I SAID HE WAS A VERY LUCKY... ETERNAL.







NOTHING, FOOL? NOT EVEN-- DEATH??

WELL-- MAYBE THAT!

THOMP!



GREAT! I GOADED HIM INTO SWINGING THE STICK HARD ENOUGH TO HIT THE FLOOR!



YOU AGAIN-- AND HERE!?

THEN-- AT LAST I HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF THE STICK!

MAYHAP THOU HAST EVIL ONE--



-- MUCH GOOD MAY IT DO THEE!

¿QUE--?

STOP! THE FIGHT IS OVER!

NAY, REFEREE 'TWILL ME'ER BE ENDED--



--TILL EL TORO ROJO BE DEFEATED-- THUS!

SLAMM!



LOOK! THE WINGED ONE HURLED EL TORO RIGHT THROUGH THE FLOOR OF THE RING!

BUT IS HE THE REAL THOR, OR ONLY A MASKED WRESTLER IN A GOLDEN WIG?

I HAVE HEARD THY WORDS, MAN OF MIDGARD...



AND SO, KNOW THEE THIS: 'TIS THOR WHO DOTH WALK AMONGST THEE THIS DAY OF DAYS!

THOR-- LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING AND HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ETERNAL ASSGARD!



YET, IN REVELING OVER HIS RESTORED Mjolnir-- EVEN A THUNDER GOD CAN MISS A DETAIL OR TWO.

THIS, THE FOLLOWING SECOND--

NOW WE SHALL HAVE THE TRUE AND FINAL TEST THOR-- MY POWER, AGAINST YOURS!

THE VERY PLANET ITSELF DOETH STAND IN PERIL MOST DIRE, FROM THE WORLD-SPANNING HANDS OF THE CELESTIALS--

--AND THOU ART STILL CONSUMED WITH PASSION FOR THE WRESTLING RING-- AYE, E'EN 'GAINST MERE MORTALS THOU CANST EASILY DEFEAT! WHY?



¿POR QUE NO?*

LIKE ALL DEVIANTS, MI AMIGO, I HAVE LIVED MANY YEARS.

LIFE CAN BECOME BORING AFTER SO MANY MILLENNIA...

*"WHY NOT?"--R.

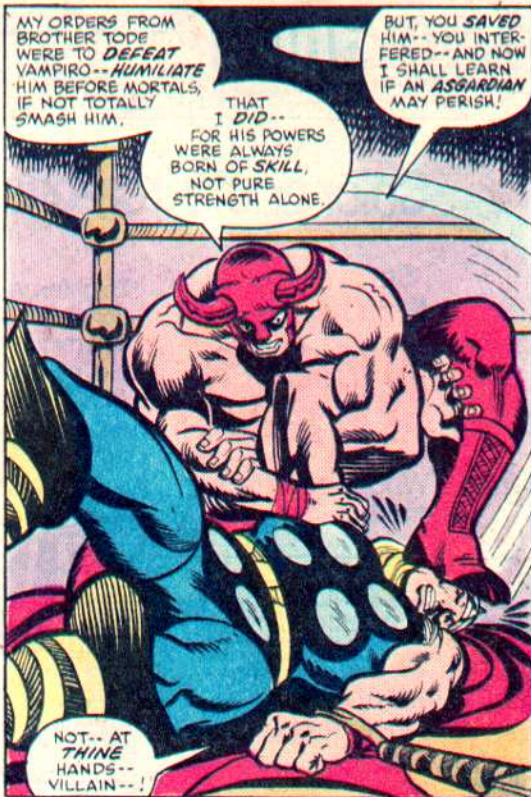


...AND ONE MUST HAVE AN AFICION,* NO?*

UMNN!!

THRANK!

*KOBBY. --R.



MY ORDERS FROM BROTHER TODE WERE TO DEFEAT VAMPIRO-- HUMILIATE HIM BEFORE MORTALS, IF NOT TOTALLY SMASH HIM.

THAT I DID-- FOR HIS POWERS WERE ALWAYS BORN OF SKILL, NOT PURE STRENGTH ALONE.

BUT, YOU SAVED HIM-- YOU INTERFERED-- AND NOW I SHALL LEARN IF AN ASSGARDIAN MAY PERISH!

NOT-- AT THINE HANDS-- VILLAIN--!



NAY,
NOT AT
THINE
HANDS!

I MADRE
DE
MERCED!



THPONG!



(WHAT KIND OF FIGHT IS
THIS-- WITHOUT A REFEREE?)

(I DECLARE THIS
MATCH OVER.
DO YOU HEAR?
OVER!!?)



INSIDE THE RING, HOWEVER, THE COMBATANTS ARE FAR FROM WILLING TO DESIST...

YOU HAVE *DEFAMED* ME-- WIPED
OUT THE HUMAN MOB'S MEMORY
OF MY DEFEAT OF *VAMPIRO*--
EVEN OF *EL HALCON D'ORO*.

BUT THE MORTAL
CROWD SHALL LONG
REMEMBER THE DAY--
OF MY DEFEAT OF *VAMPIRO*--
EVEN OF *EL HALCON D'ORO*.

-- WHEN *THOR* HIMSELF
WAS SLAIN IN THE RING--
BY *EL TORO ROJO*!

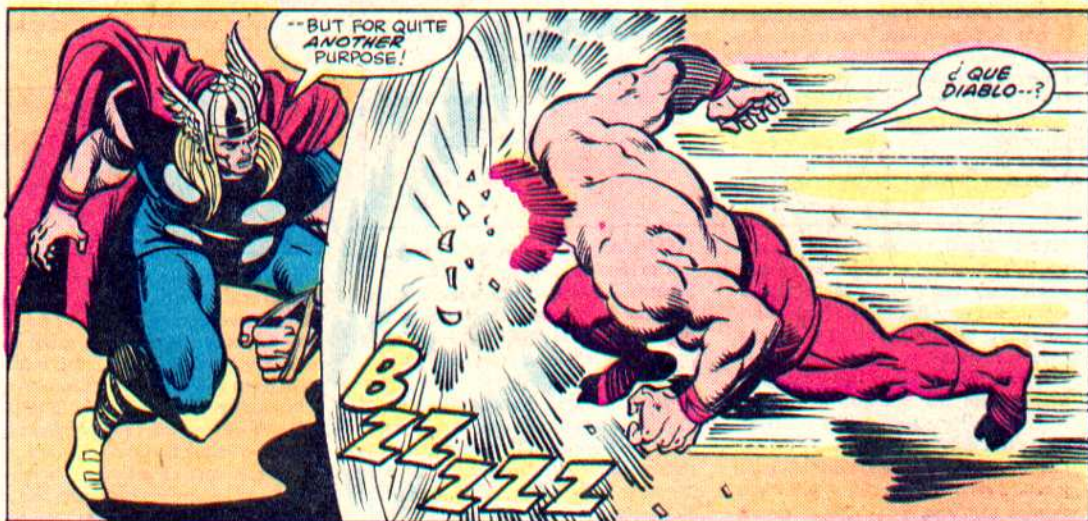
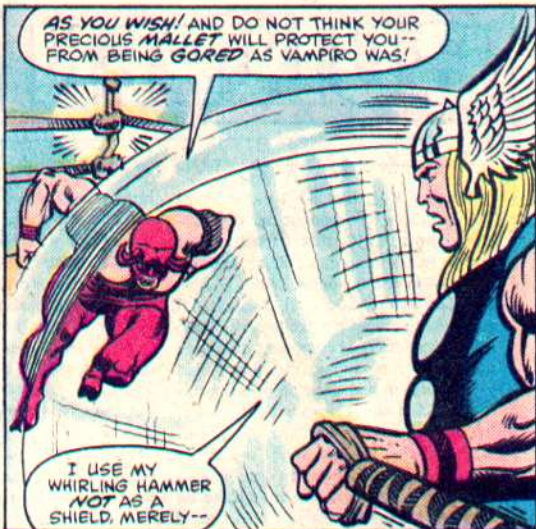
NO MAN MAY
REMEMBER,
TORO...

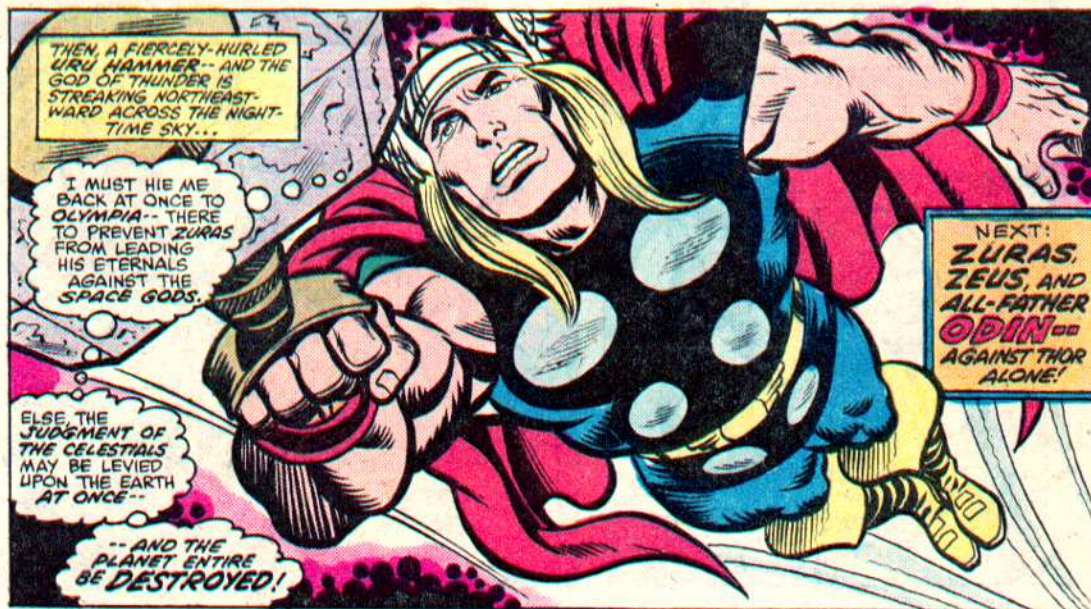


...WHAT NE'ER HATH HAPPENED!

I AAGK!

RAKK!





---BUT WHAT IS THAT AGAINST THE POWER OF THOR?

SHRIK K K

THEN, WHILE THE STILL-INCOMPREHENDING THROG ROARS BELOW--

---AND THE WINNER IS--- UHHH---

AS I HAVE SAID: MY NAME BE THOR. AMIGO.

HARD AS I DID STRIKE EL TORO ROJO, HE'LL BE NO THREAT TILL VAMPIRO BE LONG DEPARTED... AND I, AS WELL.

STILL, I SHALL LOOK IN AGAIN ON BOTH OF THEM, AS SOON AS--

---AND WE SHALL MAKE MILLIONS TOGETHER!

MAGNIFICO, MAGNIFICO! SIGN THIS CONTRACT, MY FRIEND--

I DO PREFER TO SAVE MILLIONS, NOT TO EARN THEM.

STAND THESE ASIDE!

THEN, A FIERCELY-HURLED URU HAMMER-- AND THE GOD OF THUNDER IS STREAKING NORTHEASTWARD ACROSS THE NIGHT-TIME SKY...

I MUST HIE ME BACK AT ONCE TO OLYMPIA--- THERE TO PREVENT ZURAS FROM LEADING HIS ETERNALS AGAINST THE SPACE GODS.

ELSE, THE JUDGMENT OF THE CELESTIALS MAY BE LEVIED UPON THE EARTH AT ONCE--

--- AND THE PLANET ENTIRE BE DESTROYED!

NEXT: ZURAS, ZEUS, AND ALL-FATHER OPIN AGAINST THOR ALONE!