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THE MIGHTY THOR

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ODIN AND ZEUS
--SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST
THE *ETERNALS* AND THOR!

CAN EVEN A THUNDER GOD PREVAIL?



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KEITH AND

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!**

ROY THOMAS
WRITER/EDITOR

KEITH POLLARD & CHIC STONE
ILLUSTRATORS

GLYNIS WEIN
COLORIST
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

JIM SHOOTER
CONSULTING
EDITOR

WHEN **GODS** HAVE
JOINED TOGETHER!

OLYMPIA... ASGARD...
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:
IN THE PAST 24 HOURS,
EACH OF THESE THREE WONDER-
LANDS HAS WITNESSED THE
COLOR-SPLASHED FORM OF
THE MIGHTY THOR, PROPELLED
BY HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER,
HURLING THROUGH THE SKIES
ABOVE IT.

AND NOW THE GOD
OF THUNDER HAS
COME FULL CIRCLE.
BACK TO--

OLYMPIA!

ALREADY CAN I BEHOLD
THE SHROUDING MISTS
WHICH HIDE ITS GLEAMING
MOUNTAIN-TOP SPIRES
FROM THE EYES OF
MORTAL MEN.

IF ONLY ZURAS,
CHIEF OF THE OLYMPIANS,
HATH KEPT HIS WORD--
AND HELD BACK HIS FELLOW
ETERNALS FROM ATTACKING
THE MOTHERSHIP OF
THE CELESTIALS!

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BUT MAY! HOW COULD I THINK, E'EN FOR A MOMENT, THAT ZURAS WOULD DISHONOR HIS SACRED OATH TO WAIT ONE FULL DAY BEFORE BEGINNING HIS ASSAULT ON THE SPACE GODS? *

STILL, THAT DAY HATH COME AND GONE...

*AS SEEN IN ISSUE #289. --ROY.

...NOR DID I LEARN AUGHT IN DISTANT ASGARD, SAVE THAT ODIN STILL HATH ME UNDER THE BAN OF EXILE...

WELL, IF THE GODS WILL NOT STAND BESIDE ME IN MINE HOUR OF NEED--

--MAYHAP YON ETERNALS BE MY FORE-ORDAINED ALLIES, AFTER ALL!

...AND THAT E'EN MY BELOVED SIF HATH TURNED AGAINST ME!

SO, ASGARDIAN, YOU HAVE RETURNED.

AYE, ZURAS... AND SADLY, WITHOUT WORD OF ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THINE OWN PLAN.

I COULD WISH HAD BEEN OTHERWISE.

NOW, HOWEVER, WE MUST BEGIN AT ONCE THE RITUAL OF THE UNI-MIND... FOR ONLY THUS MAY WE, WHO ARE THE CREATIONS OF THE CELESTIALS IN EONS PAST, HOPE TO GARNER POWER ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE GODS FROM SPACE.

YOU ARE MIGHTIEST OF THE ASGARDIANS AFTER ODIN, THOR; WILL YOU JOIN YOUR IMMORTAL STRENGTH TO OURS?

NAY, ETERNAL... I FEAR NOT...

FOR, THOUGH I WANT FULL MUCH AS YOURSELF TO STAVE OFF THE FIFTY-YEAR JUDGMENT WHICH THE CELESTIALS PLAN TO RENDER UPON THE EARTH FROM THEIR DOMED CITY IN THE FAR-OFF ANDES...

STILL, I STAND CONVINCED 'TIS NOT BY DIRECT CONFRONTATION THAT THEY WILL BE CONQUERED, IF AT ALL.

LIKewise, ERE I STRIKE OUT AT THEM, I WOULD FIRST LEARN THE SECRET OF THE DREAD VISION THE PRIME CELESTIAL DID SHOW UNTO ME:

THE SIGHT OF ALL-FATHER ODIN HIMSELF BENDING THE ROYAL KNEE TO THE CELESTIALS ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGONE!

YET, I DID VOW TO **STAND ASIDE**, IF I FAILED TO FIND ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION-- THUS, IF I CANNOT **DISSUADE** YOU FROM YOUR PATH--

YOU CANNOT.

THEN DO AS THOU **WILT**-- AND I'LL BUT PRAY 'TIS THE **RIGHT PATH**.

MOMENTS LATER, WITH **UNACCUSTOMED PASSIVITY**, THE **ANGUISHED SON OF ODIN** CAN **MERELY STAND AND WATCH**...

... AS THE **LAST OF THE OLYMPIAN ETERNALS** ARRIVES, **SUMMONED FROM EXISTENCES ALL OVER THE GLOBE**...

... TO SWIRL, LEVITATING LIKE **WEIGHTLESS ANGELS**, AROUND **ZURAS**, ELDEST OF THEIR KIND, AS HE INTONES THE **RITUAL OF THE UNI-MIND** FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A VERY FEW YEARS. *

ALL IS IN **READINESS** ONCE MORE, MY BROTHER **ETERNALS**.

THE **MIND AND ESSENCE OF ZURAS** REACHES OUT TO YOU.

COME TO **ZURAS!**

JOIN WHAT IS **ZURAS!**

* SEE **ETERNALS** #12. --R.T.

COME! COME--

-- AND JOIN!

THEN, AS THE **GLOWING BLUE-WHITE FLAME** GROWS EVER STRONGER, **ETERNAL AFTER ETERNAL** SWOOPS TO **VANISH INTO ITS RAVENING CORE**...

LET ALL THAT IS **ZURAS** BE **OURS!**

LET ALL THAT IS **OURS** BECOME THE **UNI-MIND!**

THEN, AS THE FINAL OLYMPIAN IS GONE FROM SIGHT, A NEW AND ENORMOUS ENTITY IS BIRTHED FROM FIRE AND FURY:



THE
UNI-
MIND!

AND, THOUGH MANY ON EARTH BEHOLD ITS GLOW FROM AFAR, ONLY ONE THERE IS WHO BEHOLDS THE THING ITSELF...



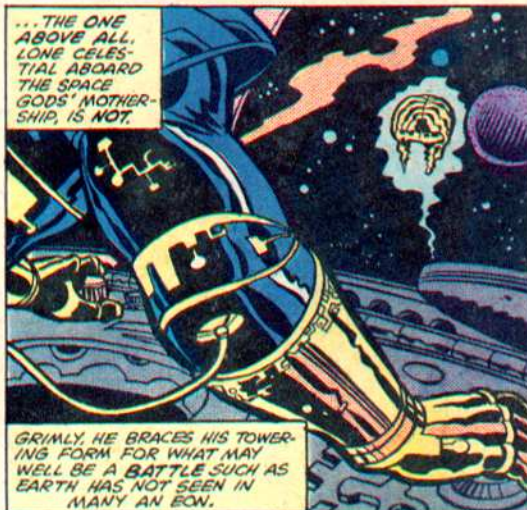
BY THE
FLAMES
OF
MUSPEL-
HEIM!

ALL THE
ETERNALS BE
MERGED TO-
GETHER INTO A
SINGLE VAST
ORGANISM--
LIKE SOME GIANT,
SENTIENT BRAIN
THAT DOTH LEAP
SKYWARD!



NEXT MOMENT, EVEN AS THOR GASPS, THE UNI-MIND CASTS FREE THE FEEBLE BONDS OF GRAVITY TO STREAK INSTANTLY INTO ORBIT AROUND THE WORLD WHICH SPRINGS, UNSUSPECTING, BELOW.

BUT, THOUGH THE WORLD WHICH THOR CALLS MIDGARD MAY BE UNAWARE OF THE UNI-MIND...



...THE ONE
ABOVE ALL,
LONE CELESTIAL
ABOARD
THE SPACE
GODS' MOTHER-
SHIP, IS NOT.

GRIMLY, HE BRACES HIS TOWERING FORM FOR WHAT MAY WELL BE A BATTLE SUCH AS EARTH HAS NOT SEEN IN MANY AN EON.

FAR BELOW, HOWEVER, A GOLD-TRESSED ASGARDIAN SUDDENLY FINDS HIS ATTENTION TORN FROM THE HEAVEN-SPANNING GLOW...



FAITH
OF THE
VIKINGS!
WHAT BE
THIS??



A NEW
GLOW-- FROM
YONDER STRANGE
CLOUD WHICH
DOTH DRIFT
EARTHWARD,
AS IF FROM
NOWHERE!

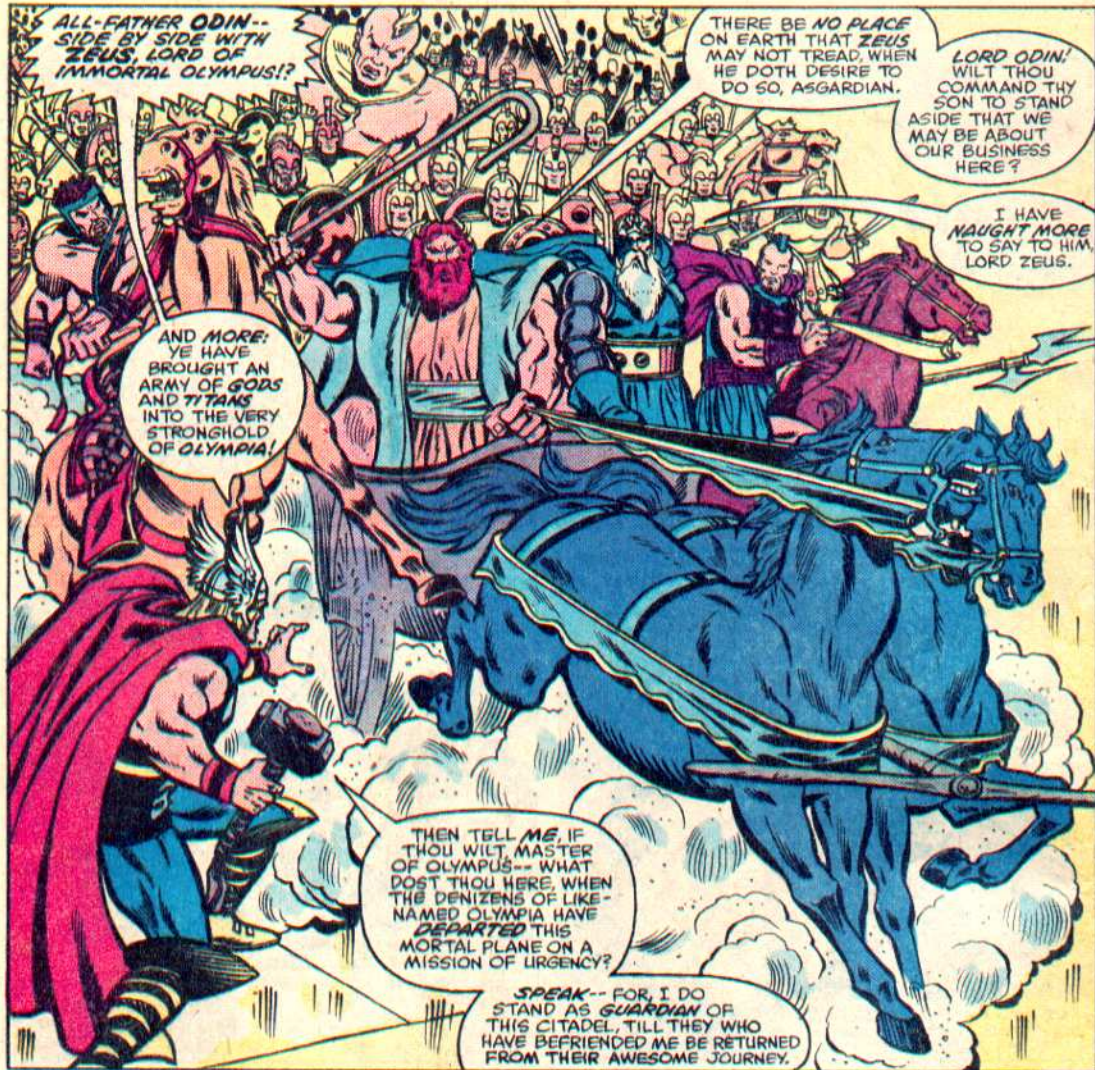
BE THIS
SOME FURTHER
MANIFESTATION
OF THE UNI-
MIND, OR--?



NAY
ARROGANT PUP!
'TIS NO MERE
MERGING OF
ETERNALS THOU
NOW DOST FACE!

THAT
VOICE!
CAN IT
BE?

HERE!?
OF ALL PLACES IN
THE VAST MULTI-
VERSE-- HERE??



ALL-FATHER ODIN--
SIDE BY SIDE WITH
ZEUS, LORD OF
IMMORTAL OLYMPIA?!

THERE BE NO PLACE
ON EARTH THAT ZEUS
MAY NOT TREAD, WHEN
HE DOTHS DESIRE TO
DO SO, ASGARDIAN.

LORD ODIN!
WILT THOU
COMMAND THY
SON TO STAND
ASIDE THAT WE
MAY BE ABOUT
OUR BUSINESS
HERE?

I HAVE
NAUGHT MORE
TO SAY TO HIM,
LORD ZEUS.

AND MORE:
YE HAVE
BROUGHT AN
ARMY OF GODS
AND TITANS
INTO THE VERY
STRONGHOLD
OF OLYMPIA!

THEN TELL ME, IF
THOU WILT MASTER
OF OLYMPIA-- WHAT
DOST THOU HERE, WHEN
THE DENIZENS OF LIKE-
NAMED OLYMPIA HAVE
DEPARTED THIS
MORTAL PLANE ON A
MISSION OF URGENCY?

SPEAK-- FOR, I DO
STAND AS GUARDIAN
OF THIS CITADEL,
TILL THEY WHO
HAVE BEFRIENDED ME BE RETURNED
FROM THEIR AWESOME JOURNEY.

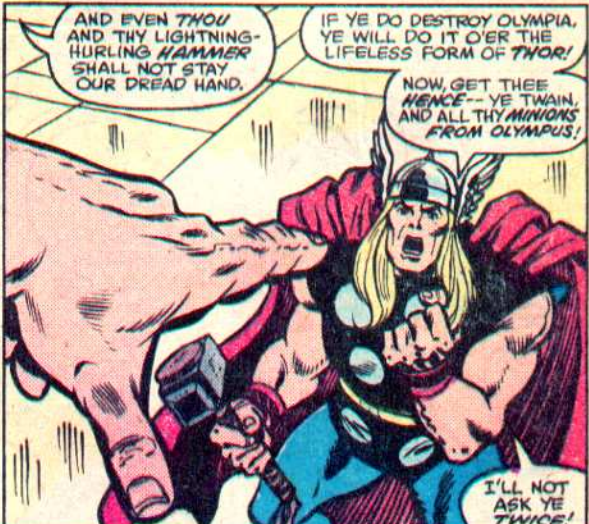


THOU ART E'EN
MORE AUDACIOUS
THAN WHEN LAST
WE MET, ODINSON.*

WE HAVE COME AT
THY SIRE'S BEHEST,
FOR A MOST WORTHY
PURPOSE:

TO LAY
WASTE
THE CITY
OF THE
ETERNALS!

*SEE ANNUAL, STILL ON SALE.--R.T.

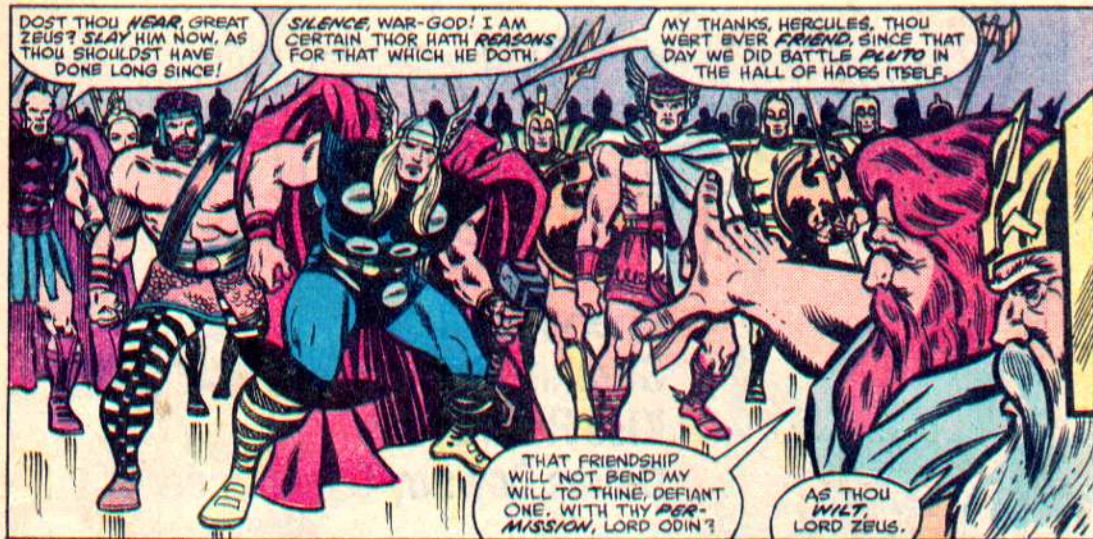


AND EVEN THOU
AND THY LIGHTNING-
HURLING HAMMER
SHALL NOT STAY
OUR DREAD HAND.

IF YE DO DESTROY OLYMPIA,
YE WILL DO IT O'ER THE
LIFELESS FORM OF THOR!

NOW, GET THEE
HENCE-- YE TWAIN,
AND ALL THY MINIONS
FROM OLYMPIA!

I'LL NOT
ASK YE
TWICE!



DOST THOU HEAR, GREAT ZEUS? SLAY HIM NOW, AS THOU SHOULDST HAVE DONE LONG SINCE!

SILENCE, WAR-GOD! I AM CERTAIN, THOR HATH REASONS FOR THAT WHICH HE DOTETH.

MY THANKS, HERCULES, THOU WERT EVER FRIEND, SINCE THAT DAY WE DID BATTLE *PELOTO* IN THE HALL OF HADES ITSELF.

THAT FRIENDSHIP WILL NOT BEND MY WILL TO THINE, DEFIANT ONE. WITH THY *PERMISSUW*, LORD ODIN?

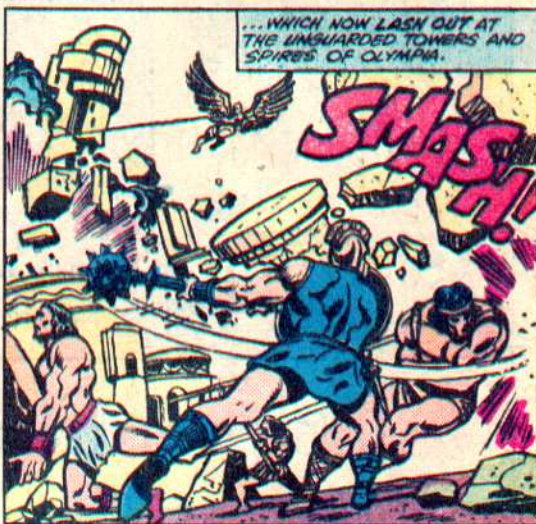
AS THOU WILT, LORD ZEUS.



THEN -- GODS AND HEROES OF OLYMPIA! THOU KNOWEST WHAT MUST BE DONE!

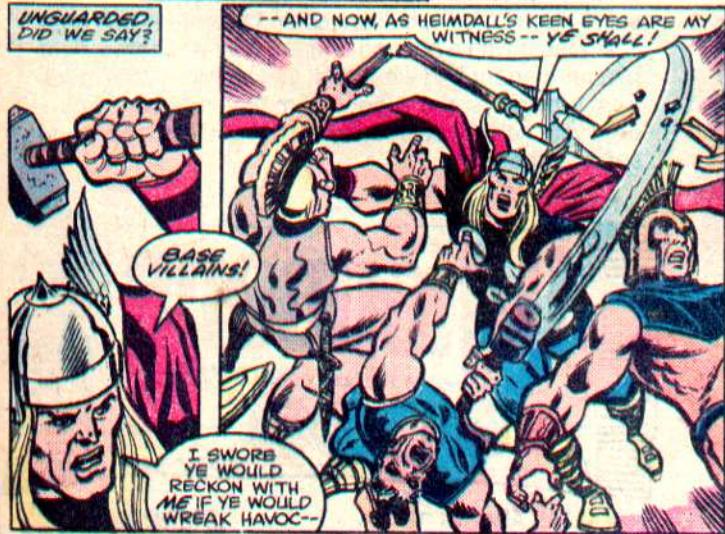
AYE, LORD OF LORDS.

GODS AND HEROES: THOR RECOGNIZES BOTH AMONG THOSE HELMET, CORSELETTED FORMS...



...WHICH NOW LASH OUT AT THE UNGUARDED TOWERS AND SPIRES OF OLYMPIA.

SMASH!



UNGUARDED, DID WE SAY?

-- AND NOW, AS HEIMDALL'S KEEN EYES ARE MY WITNESS -- YE SHALL!

BASE VILLAINS!

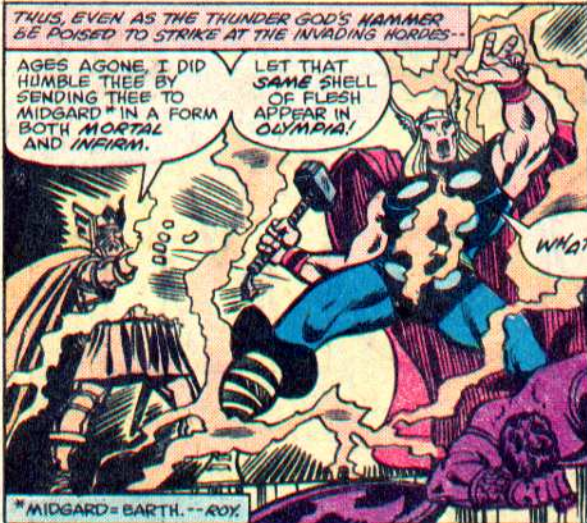
I SWORE YE WOULD RECKON WITH ME IF YE WOULD WREAK HAVOC--



BY KRONOS' BOTTOMLESS MAW! VERILY, ASGARDIAN, I BE FORCED TO TEACH A LESSON INDEED TO THINE INSOLENT OFFSPRING, IF THOU WILT NOT--

MAY, LORD ZEUS.

THAT TASK BE MINE TO DO, AND MINE ALONE!



THIS, EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER BE POISED TO STRIKE AT THE INVADING Hordes--

AGES AGONE, I DID HUMBLE THEE BY SENDING THEE TO MIDGARD* IN A FORM BOTH MORTAL AND INFIRM.

LET THAT SAME SHELL OF FLESH APPEAR IN OLYMPIA!

WHAT--?

*MIDGARD = EARTH. --ROY.



GOOD LORD! I'VE BEEN CHANGED BACK-- INTO DR. DON BLAKE!

WELL, IT WON'T WORK, FATHER! AS SOON AS I STRIKE MY CANE ON THE PAVEMENT--

-- I'LL ALREADY BE TOO LATE, MY SON-- THAT WAS. LOOK TO THE SKY!



HUH? WHAT DO YOU--?

THE TOWER FROM WHICH ZURAS FORMED THE UNI-MIND-- IT'S SHAKING!

BUT-- THAT'LL PROBABLY WEAKEN THE UNI-MIND, JUST WHEN--



YES, DONALD BLAKE-- JUST WHEN THE GESTALT-LIKE ENTITY DRAWS NEAR THE CELESTIALS' HUGE STARSHIP!

THIS, AFTER A MOMENT'S FIERCE YET VAIN STRUGGLE--



-- THE UNI-MIND BEGINS TO SINK SLOWLY BACK TOWARD THE EARTH, SPINNING SO FAR, SO NEAR--



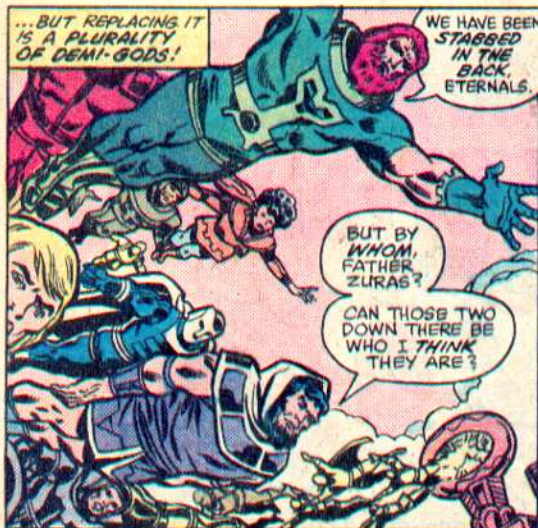
--TILL ITS MIND'S EYE LOOKS WITH LOATHING UPON THOSE WHO HAVE TRESPASSED UPON OLYMPIA'S SOIL.

BRACE YE YOURSELVES FOR A BATTLE BEYOND COMPARE, YE GODS AND HEROES!



NEXT MOMENT, THE STRANGE BEING DISSOLVES ONCE AGAIN INTO THE SIMPLER PARTS OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED...

AND THERE IS NO MORE UNI-MIND IN FAIR, BESIEGED OLYMPIA...



...BUT REPLACING IT IS A PLURALITY OF DEMI-GODS!

WE HAVE BEEN STABBED IN THE BACK, ETERNALS.

BUT BY WHOM, FATHER ZURAS?

CAN THOSE TWO DOWN THERE BE WHO I THINK THEY ARE?

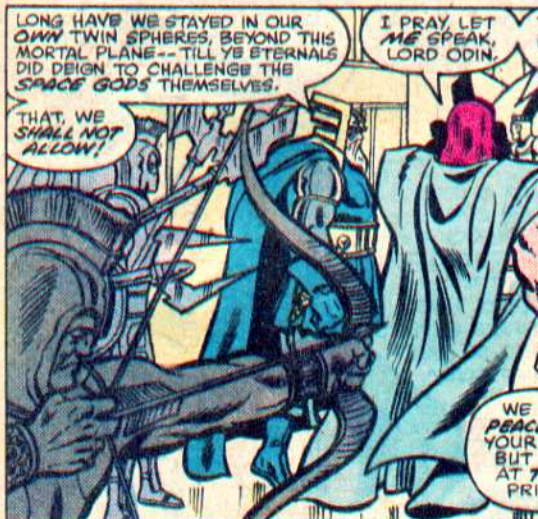


AYE, ETERNAL. NAMES TO CONJURE WITH-- OR NAMES TO CURSE:

ZEUS AND ODIN-- OVERLORDS OF OLYMPUS AND ASGARD, RESPECTIVELY.

AMAZING! WE ALWAYS KNEW THEY EXISTED, OF COURSE.

YET TO ACTUALLY SEE THEM IN OLYMPIA--!



LONG HAVE WE STAYED IN OUR OWN TWIN SPHERES, BEYOND THIS MORTAL PLANE-- TILL YE ETERNALS DID DEIGN TO CHALLENGE THE SPACE GODS THEMSELVES.

I PRAY, LET ME SPEAK, LORD ODIN.

THIS DOETH INTEREST ME, SINCE N'E'R BEFORE HAVE I BEEN CHALLENGED BY HIM WHO IS MY NAMESAKE.

WE'LL STAND IN YOUR SHADOW NO LONGER, ZEUS.

THAT, WE SHALL NOT ALLOW!

WE WANT PEACE WITH YOUR KIND, BUT NOT AT THIS PRICE.

WE'LL SAID, GREAT ONE; WE OF OLYMPIA ARE DOORMATS FOR NO MAN OR GODLING.



NOW, LEAVE THIS CITY, OR-- ?UNNNH!

HE'S FALLEN! THE STRAIN OF HOLDING THE UNI-MIND TOGETHER-- COUPLED WITH THIS TREACHERY--!

"FATHER ZURAS" SHOULD PERHAPS BE CALLED GRANDSIRE, EH, LORD ODIN?



BY THE COSMOS, WE'LL BROOK NO INSECTS FROM THE INVADERS OF OLYMPIA!

FORWARD, ETERNALS! WE'LL THROW THE BLACK-GUARDS OUT!

WE'RE WITH YOU, IKARIS!

THUS IT BEGINS: ETERNAL VS. IMMORTAL--
TITAN VS. MUTATE-- ONE BRAND OF
OLYMPIAN AGAINST ANOTHER.

AND, FOR THE
MOST PART, ONLY
A VERY WATCHFUL
OBSERVER COULD
TELL THE DIFFER-
ENCE BETWEEN THE
TWO RACE OF COM-
BATANTS.

BUT, HAS NOT
OUR KIND EVER
DONE THE SAME,
O READER?

THOSE THINGS
WHICH WARS ARE
FOUGHT OVER
EXIST, MOST TIMES,
ONLY IN THE HEARTS
AND MINDS OF THE
ANTAGONISTS... NOT
ON SOME VAST
SLATE, SOMEWHERE
IN THE COUNTING-
HOUSE OF THE
UNIVERSE.

STILL, A FEW
FIGURES HANG
BACK FROM THE
FRAY: ZEUS,
AND ODIN,
AND FALLEN ZURAS...

... AYE, AND VALIANT THOR,
WHOSE ASGARDIAN MIND IS
BOGGLED, FOR ONCE, BY THE
SHEER MADNESS OF THIS
STRUGGLE AMONG THOSE WHO, HE
FEELS, SHOULD RATHER UNITE AGAINST
THE COMMON CELESTIAL FOE!

YET, WHILE BATTLE RAGES IN EARTHBOUND OLYMPIA, WHAT OF ASSGARD, WHICH FLOATS SERENELY IN SOME DISTANT NETHER SPHERE?



NO! BY THE BEARD OF THE ALL-FATHER-- THIS CANNOT BE!

AND THOU SAYEST, LADY SIF, THAT YON SCENE IN THE ALL-SEEING EYE HATH STAYED NIGH UN-CHANGED SINCE THOU DIDST FIRST BEHOLD IT?



AYE... IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH IT MAY SEEM!

I WANDERED HERE, TO FORGET THE HORRIBLE WRONG THAT I DID UNTO MY BELOVED THOR-- HURLING HIM FROM THE REALM WHILE IN THE METALLIC FORM OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE DESTROYER--



-- TO DISCOVER NEITHER NOBLE FRIGGA NOR THE HORN-QUEEN HERE --

-- BUT ONLY THIS DREAD VISION:



GRIM HOGUN-- BRAVE FANDRAL-- AND VOLSTAGG OF THE VOLUMINOUS GIRTH-- ALL HELD IN FIRE-BONDAGE AND DEADLY PERIL BY THE ONE CALLED FAFNIR!

LONG HAVE THEY FOUGHT BACK 'GAINST HIS POWER-- BUT NOW THEY WEAKEN IN THAT FAR-OFF, UNKNOWN PLACE, AND SOON THEY MUST--



BUT HOLD! WHAT'S THIS?? YON KING-TURNED-DRAGON HATH BEEN SMITTEN MIGHTILY FROM SOME UNSEEN SOURCE--

THE HEADS OF THE WARRIORS THREE TURN IN AMAZEMENT--



-- AND THEY BEHOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT WHICH WE TOO DO SEE!

I KNOW THOSE TOWERING FORMS! I SAW THEM FIRST ON MIDGARD SOME TIME AGONE!*

THEY BE THOSE WHOM ODIN HIMSELF DID CAUSE TO BE CREATED-- THOSE WHOM HE DID CALL-- THE YOUNG GODS!

*SEE ISSUE #203. --R.T.

AS BACK IN THE REALM OF THE ETERNALS--

--THE INVADERS FROM OLYMPUS ARE FINDING THAT THESE OLYMPIANS, OF WHOM ZEUS HAS TOLD THEM SO LITTLE, CAN HOLD THEIR OWN EVEN AGAINST THOSE CALLED GODS.



AND, IN THE FORE-FRONT OF BATTLE--

THIS WAY, FORGOTTEN ONE! THY COUNTERPART AMONG THE BASE INTRUDERS STANDS DIRECTLY IN THY RAMPAGING PATH.



MY THANKS, SPRITE, FOR BEING MINE EYES!

WHAT? DID I HEAR SOMEONE DECLARE HIM-- MINE EQUAL?

YOU DID-- IF YOU ARE HERCULES, DEMI-GOD SON OF ZEUS.

I AM NONE OTHER.

THEN LONG HAVE I WISHED TO MEET YOU-- EVER SINCE I CLEANED OUT THE AUGEAN STABLES IN ANCIENT GREECE AND WAS THOUGHT TO BE YOU.

'T WAS THOU WHO DID THAT?

VERILY, THOU DIDST STEAL MY THUNDER THAT DAY-- AYE, AND ON MANY ANOTHER, I'LL WARRANT.



CALL THY-SELF THEN NOT "FORGOTTEN"-- FOR HERCULES HATH REMEMBERED THEE, FULL MANY A CENTURY--

AND IT HATH BEEN E'ER IN MY MIND THAT, ON THE DAY WE MET, THE WORLD SHOULD KNOW. FOR ONCE, FOR ALL TIME, WHICH OF US TWO BE THE STRONGER!

NOT REALIZING HIS MUSCULAR FOE IS BLIND-- THOUGH POSSESSED OF OTHER SENSORY POWERS HIGHLY DEVELOPED-- IT IS HERCULES WHO LANDS THE FIRST BLOW.

BUT, IT IS FAR FROM THE LAST WHICH SHALL BE EXCHANGED-- FOR THIS IS THE ETERNAL WHO NOW CALLS HIM-SELF "HERO"--



UUNNNH!

--AND THE NAME FITS, EVEN IN ADVERSITY!

AND, AS THE BATTLE RAGES...



I STAND WITH THE ETERNALS NOW, FATHER-- SINCE MY SELF-BANISHMENT FROM ASGARD.

AND I'LL FIGHT BESIDE THEM, TOO, AS SOON AS I BECOME THOR AGAIN!



THOU NEEDST NOT STRIKE THY WALKING-STICK TO REGAIN THINE IMMORTAL STATURE, MY WAYWARD SON--



-- I SHALL RESTORE IT UNTO THEE!

THOU DOST TOY WITH ME, SIRE-- AS THOU LONG HAST WITH MIDGARD ITSELF.



YET, THOUGH IT DOTH REAVE MINE HEART TO STRIKE OUT AT MINE OWN FATHER--

-- STILL, I MUST NEEDS SHATTER THY GREAT SPEAR GUNGNIR, ERE I CAN JOIN BATTLE AGAINST THE INVADERS FROM OLYMPUS!

THWAG!

WHAT? THOU ART, INDEED, THE INSOLENT WHELP I DID NAME THEE-- TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST THY SIRE--



BUT, BY THE FROSTY BEARD OF YMIR, I SHALL TEACH THEE TO ACCEPT MY JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THAT ACCURSED MUDBALL EARTH SHALL LIVE OR DIE.

I ACCEPT-- NEITHER THY JUDGMENT-- NOR THAT OF THE CELESTIALS TO WHOM THOU ONCE DIDST KNEEL!

HAAH! SO AT LAST 'TIS OUT IN THE OPEN!



I BUT DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE-- AND I'LL NOT ANSWER FOR IT TO THEE, NOR TO ANY OTHER!

THEN SO LONG AS THOU DOST MAKE OF THYSELF MIDGARD'S FOE--

-- AN ALLY-- NAY, MORE, A SERVILE TOOL-- OF THOSE WHO MAY WELL DESTROY THE PLANET EARTH--

-- I MUST AND SHALL OPPOSE THEE-- AYE, EVEN UNTO DEATH ITSELF!

MEANWHILE, NOT ALL OF THE ETERNALS OF OLYMPIA HAVE THEIR PRECISE COUNTERPARTS AMONG THE GRAECO-ROMAN INTERLOPERS--

BUT, THOSE WHO DO NOT, STILL MANAGE TO KEEP BUSY.

DEPART FROM THIS PLACE, VILE ONES! YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE.

LORD ZEUS HATH ORDAINED THAT THIS STRONGHOLD BE DESTROYED BY GOLD-HAIRED ONE...



AND IF HE CARES NOT IF A FEW ETERNALS BE STRUCK DOWN IN THE LEVELING, EXPECT NOT MERCY FROM ARES, GOD OF WAR!

SWAAS!

NEITHER MERCY-- NOR INTELLIGENCE, BATTLER.



BUT, WE CANNOT TRULY PERISH, ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN--

NOR WILL YOU FIND US EAGER TO PLAY DEAD FOR YOUR KIND.

HOOVES OF CHIRON!

THOU HAST MELTED MY WAR-AXE... SYMBOL OF MY POWER!



NOT SYMBOL, ONLY-- BUT SOURCE, IT SEEMS.

THOR TOLD ME YOU WERE A WHINER-- AND I'D SAY HE DIDN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!

NO-- STAY B-- AARRRGNH!

YET, IF THE STRENGTH OF IKARIS IS EQUALED BY FEW AMONG OLYMPIANS OF EITHER STRIPE-- AND CERTAINLY NOT BY THE WHIMPERING GOD OF WAR--

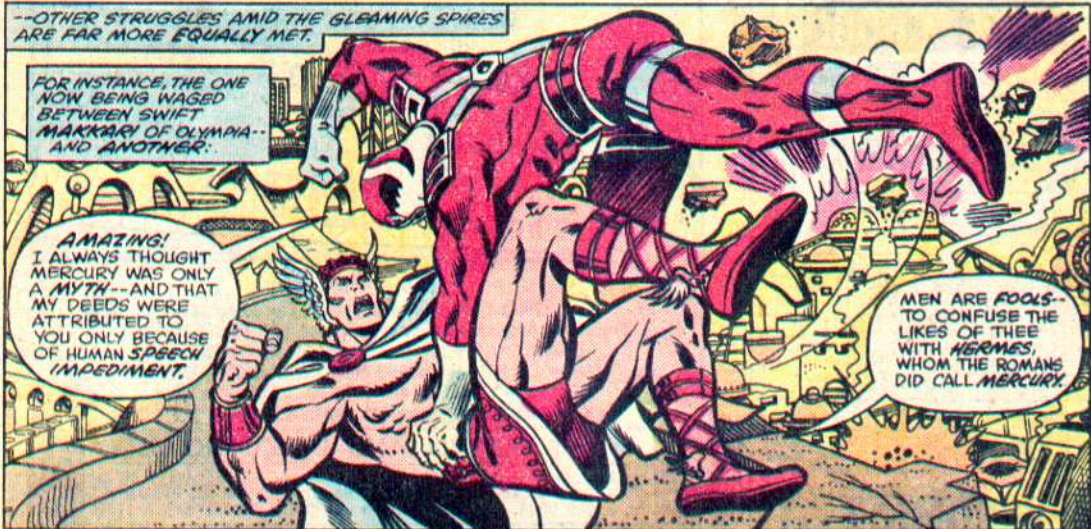


--OTHER STRUGGLES AMID THE GLEAMING SPIRES ARE FAR MORE EQUALLY MET.

FOR INSTANCE, THE ONE NOW BEING WAGED BETWEEN SWIFT MARRKARI OF OLYMPIA-- AND ANOTHER.

AMAZING! I ALWAYS THOUGHT MERCURY WAS ONLY A MYTH--AND THAT MY DEEDS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO YOU ONLY BECAUSE OF HUMAN SPEECH IMPEDIMENT.

MEN ARE FOOLS-- TO CONFUSE THE LIKES OF THESE WITH HERMES, WHOM THE ROMANS DID CALL MERCURY.



WHEN I HAVE FINISHED WITH THY FACE, THEY'LL NE'ER CONFUSE US TWO AGAIN!



OH, BY THE WAY, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING: THIS ENTIRE SCENE TAKES PLACE, WORDS AND ALL, IN LESS THAN ONE SECOND.

BOTH MARRKARI AND HERMES ARE DEITIES OF SPEED, AFTER ALL.

WHILE, NOT FAR OFF--

LONG HAVE I WISHED TO MEET THEE IN COMBAT, THOU BASEST IMPOSTOR!

THERE IS NO IMPOSTOR-- EVEN THOUGH OUR NAMES ARE SO SIMILAR.



IF YOU WERE THE GODDESS OF WISDOM YOU'RE REPUTED TO BE, YOU'D KNOW THAT--

AND IF YOU'RE ONLY A BATTLE-GODDESS, WELL, I FIGURE I CAN HOLD MY OWN ON THAT SCORE.

NOT FOR LONG, WITCH.



SOON, ATHENA'S SWORD SHALL CARVE THEE LIKE A HARPIE!

HOW'RE YOU DOING, REJECT, LITTLE BUDDY?

GLAD THE GODS BROUGHT ALONG A FEW YELLOW-CRESTED TITANS AS ANTAGONISTS FOR US POOR MUTATES?



GODS OR TITANS, KARKAS, IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME...



I WAS CREATED BY THE DEVIANTS TO SLAY-- AND SLAY AGAIN.

AND THOSE WHOM I CANNOT SLAY-- SHALL AT LEAST REMEMBER I HAVE PASSED THIS WAY.



THEY'LL NOT FORGET SERGI, EITHER--

--OR THE DAY THEIR GODLY ARMS TURNED TO TREE-STUMPS FOR A TIME!

BY THE BEARD OF TYPHON!

*OR SERGI TO, RATHER-- SINCE SERGI IS A MISTRESS OF ILLUSIONS. -- ROY.



SLENDER AND DELICATE ARE THE CHAINS WHICH CONNECT EVENTS, ONE TO THE OTHER.

FOR, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE NEW YORK APARTMENT BELONGING TO SERGI'S HUMAN PERSONA...

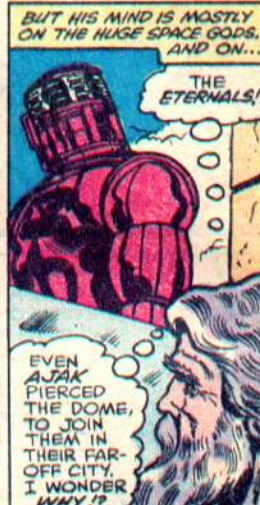


...MARGO DAMIAN LOOKS OUT UPON HER WORLD, AND PONDERES THE FATE OF HER ARCHEOLOGIST FATHER...



...WHO DWELLS THESE PAST LONG MONTHS BENEATH THE MAMMOTH DOME CITY ERECTED IN THE TOWERING ANDES BY THE AWESOME, MYSTERIOUS CELESTIALS.

HE MISSES HIS BELOVED DAUGHTER, OF COURSE...



BUT HIS MIND IS MOSTLY ON THE HUGE SPACE GODS, AND ON...

THE ETERNALS!

EVEN AJAK PIERCED THE DOME, TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR FAR-OFF CITY. I WONDER WHY!?



AND THUS, AS WE COME FULL CIRCLE...

DESTROY GODS OF OLYMPUS!

LET NOT STONE REMAIN UPON STONE OF THIS HATED PLACE!



LOOK YOU! FATHER ZURAS HAS REGAINED HIS STRENGTH!

ZEUS! FOR LONG EONS, WE HAVE EXISTED APART IN MUTUAL RESPECT, THOUGH KNOWING LITTLE OF EACH OTHER.

I COMMAND YOU: TELL ME WHY YOU HAVE BREACHED OUR TRUCE.



DOES THE EAGLE ANSWER THE SPARROW? I OWE THEE NEITHER ANSWER NOR RESPECT.

YOU'LL NOT SPEAK TO FATHER ZURAS THAT WAY! WE'LL--

VALKIN-- NO!

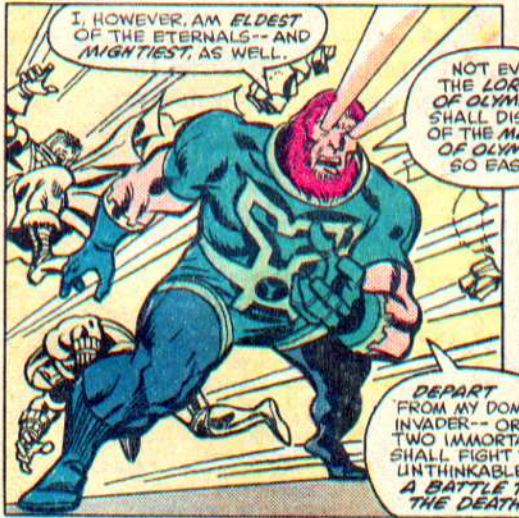


THOU DIDST WELL TO TRY TO **SPARE** THY FELLOW ETERNALS PAIN, ZURAS.

BUT, ALAS, EACH GENERATION-- WHETHER OF GODS OR MEN, OR RACES IN BETWEEN-- MUST SUFFER FOR **ITSELF**.

BY THE **POLAR WINDS!** THE LIGHTNING-BOLTS OF ZEUS SCATTER US-- AS IF WE WERE MERE STRAW IN THE STORM-WINDS!

THAT'S ALL YOU ARE-- BEFORE SUCH AS HE.



I, HOWEVER, AM **ELDEST** OF THE ETERNALS-- AND **MIGHTIEST**, AS WELL.

NOT EVEN THE **LORD OF OLYMPUS** SHALL DISPOSE OF THE **MASTER OF OLYMPIA** SO EASILY.

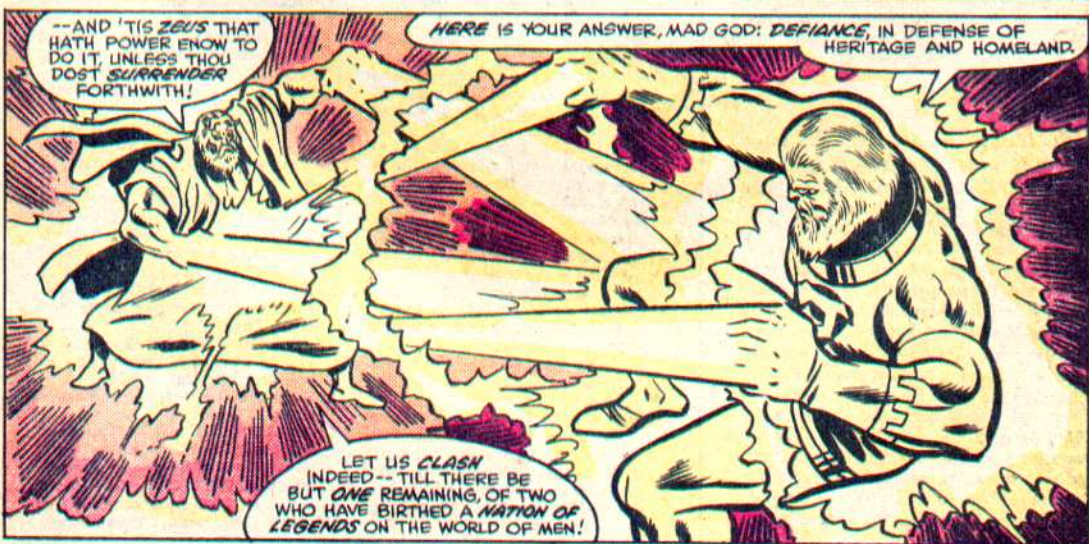
DEPART FROM MY DOMAIN, INVADER-- OR WE TWO IMMORTALS SHALL FIGHT THE **UNTHINKABLE!** A **BATTLE TO THE DEATH!**



UNTHINKABLE TO **THEE**, PERHAPS, ZURAS-- NOT TO **ZEUS**.

THOU MAYEST NOT **PERISH** AYE, IN THE WAY MERE **MORTALS** DO--

YET, THINE **ATOMS** MAY BE CAST TO THE **FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH--**



--AND 'TIS **ZEUS** THAT HATH POWER ENOW TO DO IT, UNLESS THOU DOST **SURRENDER** FORTHWITH!

HERE IS YOUR ANSWER, MAD GOD: **DEFIANCE**, IN DEFENSE OF HERITAGE AND HOMELAND.

LET US **CLASH** INDEED-- TILL THERE BE BUT **ONE** REMAINING, OF TWO WHO HAVE BIRTHED A **NATION OF LEGENDS** ON THE WORLD OF MEN!

YET, THOUGH TWO NAMESAKES SMITE EACH OTHER, THE MOST DRAMATIC OF THE CONFRONTATIONS THIS DAY IS STILL THAT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON...



FOOLISH CUB! DOST THOU THINK TO DEMOLISH GUNGNIR, EEN WITH MJOLNIR ITSELF?

DIDST THOU NOT LEARN THY LESSON, A MILLENNIUM AGONE?



I KNOW NOT WHAT THOU DOST MEAN, SIRE--THAT-- WAS.

NE'ER BEFORE HAVE I RAISED MINE HAND 'GAINST THY SPEAR IN ANGER-- NOR DO I SO NOW SAVE WITH A HEART THAT CRACKS--



YET, THERE BE QUESTIONS THAT CRY FOR ANSWERS:

QUESTIONS OF MY LINEAGE-- MY MYSTIC CONNECTION WITH MIDGARD--

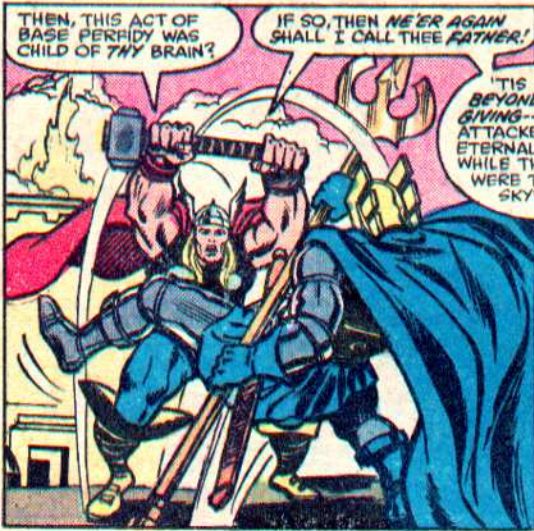
-- AND, MOST STRONGLY, MOST URGENTLY-- QUESTIONS OF WHY THOU DIDST BEND THE KNEE TO THE CELESTIALS--



-- AND WHY WHATE'ER LYNHOLY VOW THOU THEN DIDST MAKE-- NOW LEADS THEE TO ATTACK OLYMPIA-- IN ALLIANCE WITH THE HORDES OF ZEUS.

"IN ALLIANCE WITH THEM?"

'TIS THEY WHO DID COME HERE AT MY BEHEST!



THEN, THIS ACT OF BASE PERVERITY WAS CHILD OF THY BRAIN?

IF SO, THEN NE'ER AGAIN SHALL I CALL THEE FATHER!

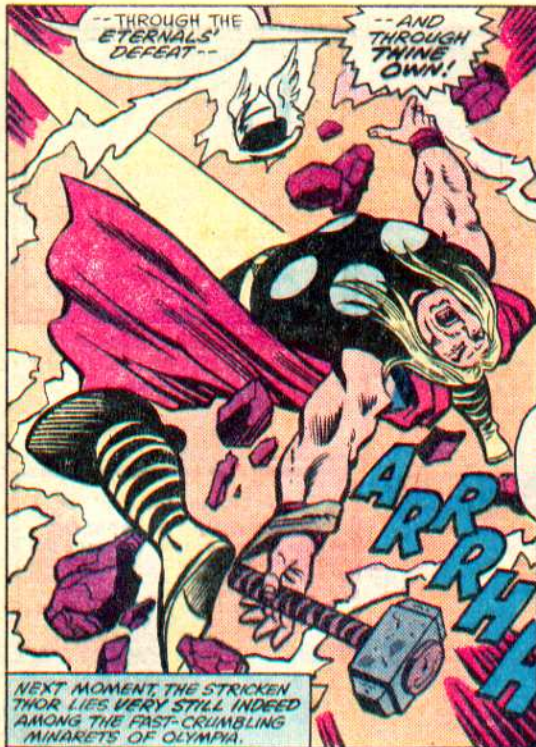
'TIS A SIN BEYOND GIVING-- TO HAVE ATTACKED THE ETERNALS' CITY WHILE THEIR FACES WERE TURNED SKYWARD.



SIN!? WHAT KNOWEST THOU OF SIN-- OR OF THE DREAD CONSEQUENCES THEREOF?

BUT ALREADY I HAVE SAID TOO MUCH-- LITTERED MORE THAN I WOULD'EER HAVE DREAMED.

I MUST ACT NOW TO ASSURE THE THE FULFILLMENT OF A FATE LONG DECREED--



-- THROUGH THE ETERNALS' DEFEAT --

-- AND THROUGH THING OWN!

ARRRR

NEXT MOMENT, THE STRICKEN THOR LIES VERY STILL INDEED AMONG THE FAST-CRUMBLING MINARETS OF OLYMPIA.



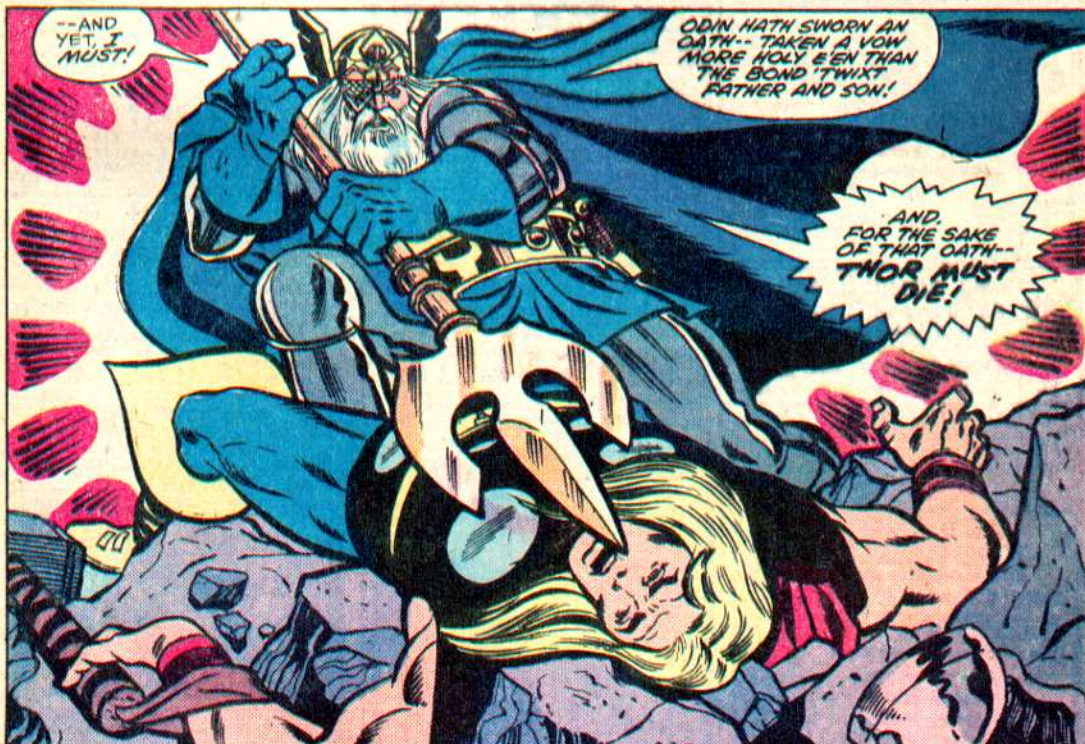
MAY THE NORN-FATES FORGIVE ME! HATH IT COME, THEN, TO THIS?

MUST I SLAY MINE OWN, MINE ONLY SON-- TO DECIDE THE DESTINY OF ACCURSED MIDGARD?



'TWOULD BE SLAYING A PART OF MYSELF, TO DRIVE HOME THIS MAGIC SPEAR-- AND END A LIFE OTHERWISE BEYOND ENDING.

AND YET--



-- AND YET, I MUST!

ODIN HATH SWORN AN OATH-- TAKEN A VOW MORE HOLY E'EN THAN THE BOND 'TWI'X T FATHER AND SON!

AND, FOR THE SAKE OF THAT OATH-- THOR MUST DIE!

NEXT ISSUE • IF AN **EYE** OFFEND THEE!

Beginning! THE AWESOMELY AWKWARD SECRET OF ODIN!

Dear Roy,

I could comment upon the continuing magnificence of the Thor-meets-the Eternals epic... but I won't.

I could eulogize you for making THOR a top Marvel mag again, but I figure others will beat me to it... so I won't.

What I *will* do is congratulate you for getting Keith Pollard to be the regular artist on the THOR series—and ask, plead, even beg that you keep him around till the *real* Ragnarok finally comes to pass! Though John Buscema is undeniably one of Marvel's all-time greats, Keith's pencils have a greater inspiration, such as John himself seems to save for CONAN.

Where do you go to subscribe?

S. Fischer
2002 San Sebastian Ct.
Houston, TX 77058

No further than the full-page sub ads which are featured in most of our illustrious issues these days, friend. (So watch the awesome advertising department make a liar out of us by leaving out that page this month—something we can't tell when these perishable words are written!)

And congrats are in order to *you*, too—for being the one, out of all the miasmatic multitudes which hailed the coming of Kinetic Keith Pollard as penciler of THOR, to get your letter printed. No, no, don't thank us—just hunt up that subscription page, okay? All copies mailed flat, y'know!

Oh yes— one final note: Though Keith'll probably be around for most issues, his ol' buddy Arty Arvell Jones—another dynamic young artist from Detroit—will be pitching in with a fill-in issue now and then, as he did last issue.

Dear Folks,

What can I say, but that I just don't like the Eternals!

I totally agree with you on the de-emphasis of Thor's false identity of Don Blake. Especially with the utter lack of supporting characters on earth! Don has no place in Thor's current life, really.

I think that a Thor-Thundra encounter is about due, or better yet, one between Thor and the Valkyrie. They are siblings (Thor and Valkyrie), after all. I think THOR should have a few female guest stars, other than the Eternals (ugh).

Sam Hays
1121 Arlington Blvd.
#T626
Arlington, VA 22209

And he probably will have, Sam, though not for an issue or three. As the co-conceptualizer (along with Big John Buscema) of both Thundra and the Valkyrie, Roy'd love to guest-star one of those ladies—especially because he still has a few comments of his own to make on the recent Valkyrie episodes in THE DEFENDERS. However, they'll have to wait a few more issues; suffice it to say that, in a way, they are part of the current Thor/Eternals epic, so we hope you'll stick around so you won't miss anything.

Only thing is, we never said we intended to de-emphasize Don Blake. We're *doing* that very thing right now, because the storyline demands it—but that doesn't mean it'll always be that way. As you doubtless know, life around mixed-up Marvel is rarely that discouragingly predictable!

Dear Marvel,

I must congratulate you guys on the resurgence of THOR as a top-quality Marvel book again! It hadn't been, for a long time! But with this influx of Eternals and Deviants, Thor is once again at home battling beings like himself—monsters that threaten earth, and gods with the power to move mountains. Issue #286 was the best yet in this Asgardian/Eternal confrontation, and I've a feeling that the best is yet to come. That

leadoff panel on page 27 was most gratifying. Thank you!

Fred Scoleto
(No Address Given)

Thank you, Fred. Roy's sole criterion for plotting the recent issues of THOR has been, "What would I like to read, if I were a new or longtime Marvel/THOR reader?" The answers came to him, whether correctly or not: A near-Ragnarok which will bring Thor's Asgardians more in line with the Aesir of Norse myth without invalidating what Lee, Kirby, and others have done over the years—a mortal "becoming" a more mythologically accurate Thor (if that's not a contradiction in terms)—another meeting with super-powered Hyperion (with startling overtones, hopefully)—encounters with races as powerful as the Celestials, Deviants, and Eternals—an internal debate (that is, within Thor's mind) over whether or not he should ever become Don Blake at all, along with wondering about other facets of his relationship to his adopted planet earth—that sort of thing.

Then, with the help first of John Buscema, now of Keith Pollard, he set out to *write* those stories—while John and Keith have brought them magnificently to life.

And for this he even gets paid!

Dear Roy and Crew,

Originally, I was ready to turn thumbs-down on the voluminous inclusion of the Eternals in THOR, but Roy swept me up so quickly in the pageantry of peril of the Space Gods, and showed such a feeling for Kirby's other wondrous creations from the late series, that I really don't want to see the thunder god resolve this crisis for at least three or four more issues.

After that—as my personal challenge to Roy's writing ability on THOR—I want to see my two favorite Marvel villains, the Cobra and Mr. Hyde, in at least a two-part story guaranteed to blow the doors off Stan Lee's classic THOR #105-106 and #110-111. They've suffered too long in other titles!

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 18509

That *will* be a challenge, since somehow the Cobra and Mr. Hyde seem a pair of super-villains who just don't belong in Thor's league. Still, Roy promises to keep the idea under advisement and see what he comes up with. Meanwhile, though it is indeed a vital part of the Thor/Eternals saga now under way, last issue's tale veered just a wee bit in the direction of more humanlike foes. Roy's got to admit, though, that after Ragnarok, Hyperion, the Eternals, the Celestials, and the like, it's gonna be hard to go back to taking seriously a guy who's main powers seemed to be to wind himself around lampposts (the Cobra) or another creep who at most is a few times more powerful than a normal man (Mr. Hyde). But, where there's a will, there's a way. Roy just has to decide if he has the *will* or not!

