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BEGINNING SEPT. 12th ON NBC

# SPIDER-MAN

## AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS!



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# 314 50¢

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AUTHORITY



# THE MIGHTY THOR

I BEG YOU,  
THUNDER GOD,  
**DESTROY**  
ME--BEFORE  
IT'S TOO LATE!!



# DEATH ROW OF DRAX THE DESTROYER!

(ALSO FEATURING THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CALLED MOON DRAGON!)

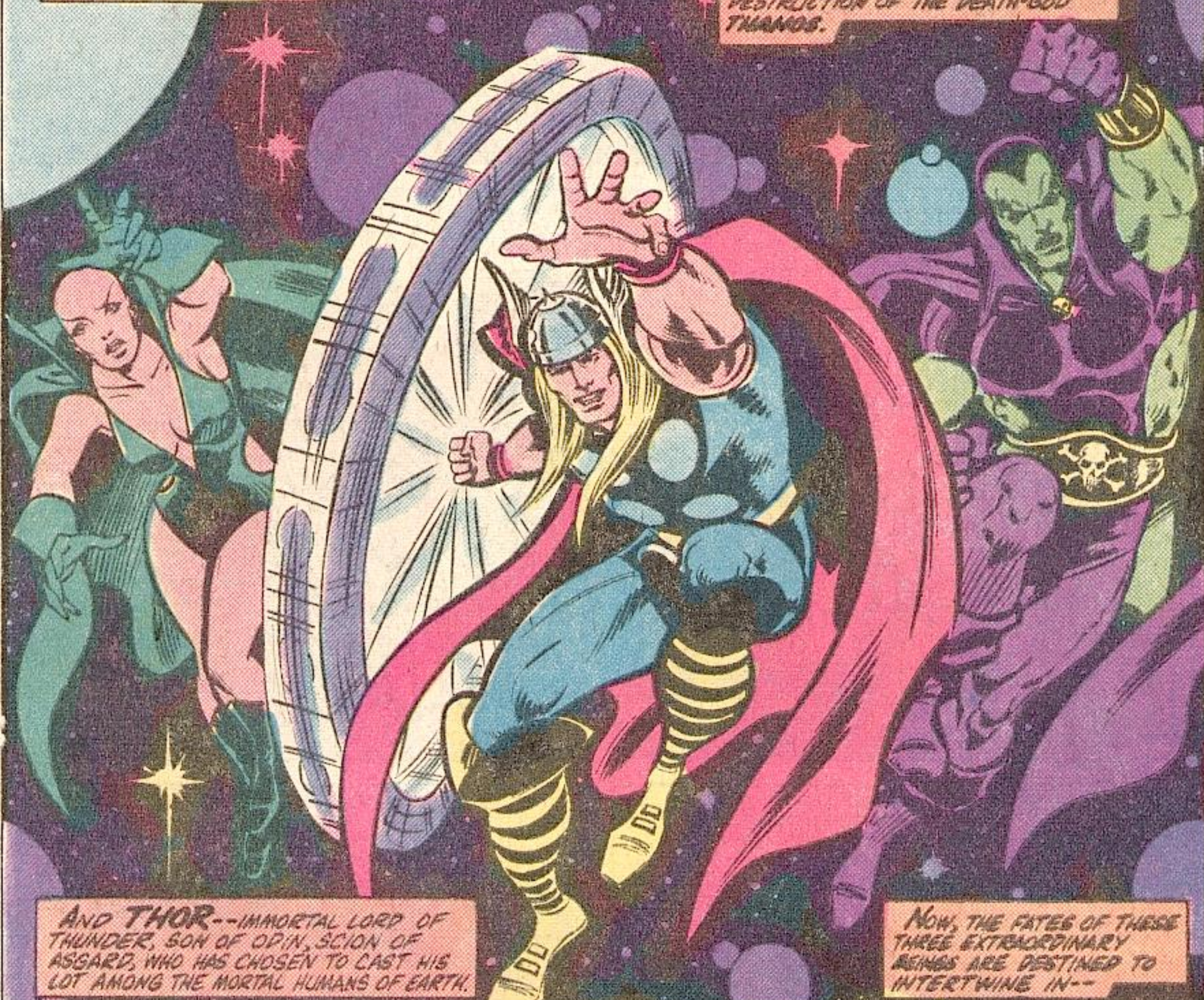


When DR. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking-stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic hammer MJOLNIR—and the lame physician is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm, Lord of the Living Lightning—and heir to the throne of eternal Asgard...

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**

**MOON DRAGON--MISTRESS OF MENTAL AND MARTIAL ARTS, TRAINED AND GROOMED BY MENTOR AND SENSA ON SATURN'S HOLLOW MOON TITAN TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF CELESTIAL MADONNA...UNTIL ANOTHER WAS CHOSEN IN HER PLACE.**

**DRAX THE DESTROYER--ONCE A NORMAL MAN WHO MET HIS DEATH IN A FIERY CAR CRASH AND WHOSE SOUL WAS SHAPED BY THE TITANS MENTOR AND KRONOS INTO A NEW KIND OF BEING WHOSE SOLE REASON FOR EXISTENCE WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEATH-GOD TARNOS.**



**AND THOR--IMMORTAL LORD OF THUNDER, SON OF OPIN, SCION OF ASSARD, WHO HAS CHOSEN TO CAST HIS LOT AMONG THE MORTAL HUMANS OF EARTH.**

**NOW, THE FATES OF THESE THREE EXTRAORDINARY BEINGS ARE DESTINED TO INTERTWINE IN--**

## **ACTS OF DESTRUCTION**

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THE DAY, FOR DR. DONALD BLAKE, LOOKS GRIM...

WELL, NOW THAT I'VE LOST MY POSITION DOWN AT THE CLINIC DUE TO LACK OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING--

--WHAT NEXT?

THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING FOR ME TO DO, NO PLACE FOR ME TO GO, NO FUTURE FOR ME HERE IN--

DON BLAKE?

SPEAKING.

GOOD-- THIS IS SHAWNA LYNDE IN CHICAGO, DON. DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

SHAWNA! OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU! WE GRADUATED MED SCHOOL TOGETHER!

WITH HONORS, NO LESS. LISTEN, DON, THE REASON I'M CALLING-- I'VE ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON NEW SURGICAL TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 23rd NEXT MONTH,

SORT OF A STATE OF THE ART REFRESHER COURSE. WE'D LIKE YOU TO ATTEND, PERHAPS EVEN GIVE A LECTURE.

NEXT MONTH? WHY YES, I THINK I COULD MAKE IT, SHAWNA.

GOOD, I'LL MAIL YOU THE PARTICULARS.

SO HOW IS YOUR PRACTICE, DON?

I...UH, CLOSED MY PRACTICE SOME TIME AGO, SHAWNA.

I'VE BEEN ON STAFF AT A LOCAL CLINIC, BUT FUNDING CUTBACKS JUST PUT AN END TO THAT TOO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'VE BEEN THINKING OF TAKING SOME TIME OFF TO PONDER THE FUTURE.

BUT LISTEN, AS LONG AS YOU'RE FREE, WHY NOT PLAN TO STAY A FEW EXTRA DAYS? I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND CHICAGO. OKAY? GOOD-- SEE YOU NEXT MONTH, DON.

MIGHT AS WELL-- NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO... BUT IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

LOST AND LONELY, WITH NO REAL GOAL OR PURPOSE--

WISH I COULD DO THE SAME.

--AND FAR TOO MUCH SELF-PITY.



MEANWHILE, IN THE COLDLY GLITTERING VASTNESS OF NEAR-SPACE, A STRANGE CRAFT WANDERS AIMLESSLY.

ITS PILOT AND SOLE PASSENGER IS THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN KNOWN AS MOON DRAGON...

ASIDE FROM MY OCCASIONAL DEALINGS WITH THE AVENGERS, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO REMAIN ON EARTH--NOTHING TO HOLD ME...

EVEN THOUGH I WAS BORN ON THE PLANET, IT IS NOW DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EMPATHIZE WITH NORMAL HUMANS AND THEIR SMALL AFFAIRS.

AND EVEN TITAN, WHERE I WAS RAISED, NO LONGER HOLDS GREAT ATTRACTION FOR ME, NOT SINCE THE CHOICE WAS MADE.

"-- AS HE AND SENSIA TRAINED ME IN THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ARTS, GROOMING ME TO OPPOSE THANOS AND THEN BECOME THE CELESTIAL MADONNA--

MENTOR, I ADMIT, WAS AN EXCELLENT SURROGATE FATHER --

"-- SHE WHO IS DESTINED TO BRING NEW COSMIC LIFE TO THE UNIVERSE.

"BUT THEN IMMORTUS CHOSE MANTIS TO BECOME THE MADONNA... AND THOUGH I FEEL NO RESENTMENT OR SPITE, THERE WAS DISAPPOINTMENT...

"... A CRUEL LACK OF FULFILLMENT..."

... AND NOW I HAVE BEGUN TO FEEL THE FULL VOID OF PURPOSE, DESTINY, COMMITMENT -- AND MY THOUGHTS INCREASINGLY DWELL ON THE PAST ... AND ON MY REAL FATHER.



"I WAS SO YOUNG, I BARELY REMEMBER THE NIGHT WHEN I DROVE THROUGH THE NEVADA DESERT WITH MY MOTHER AND FATHER, YVETTE AND ART DOUGLAS...



"WE NEVER EVEN SAW THE SPACESHIP..."

"... BUT ITS CAPTAIN -- HATED **THANOS** -- TOOK NO CHANCES..."

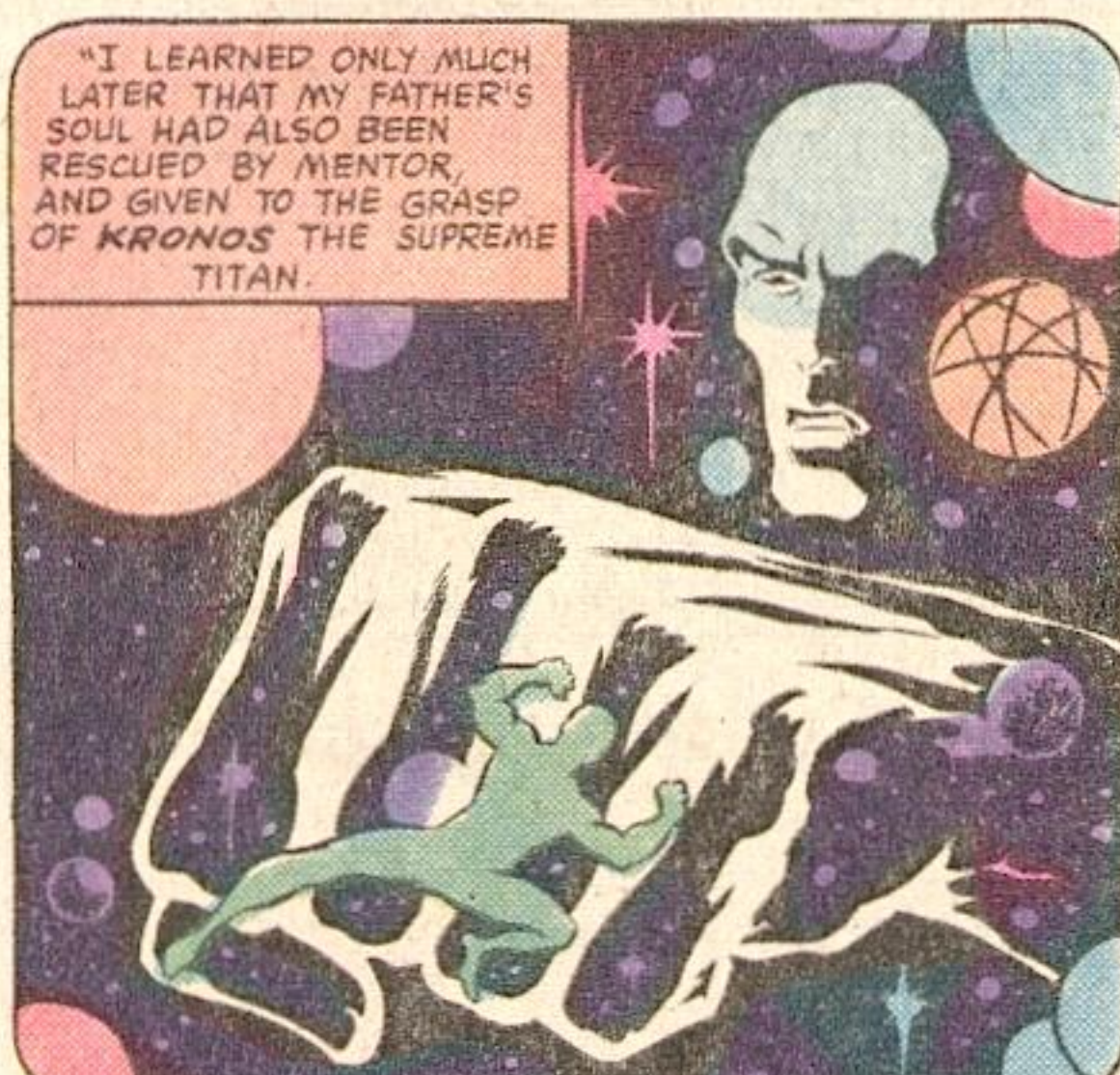


"... SEEKING TO PRESERVE HIS SECRECY BY ELIMINATING ALL POTENTIAL WITNESSES."

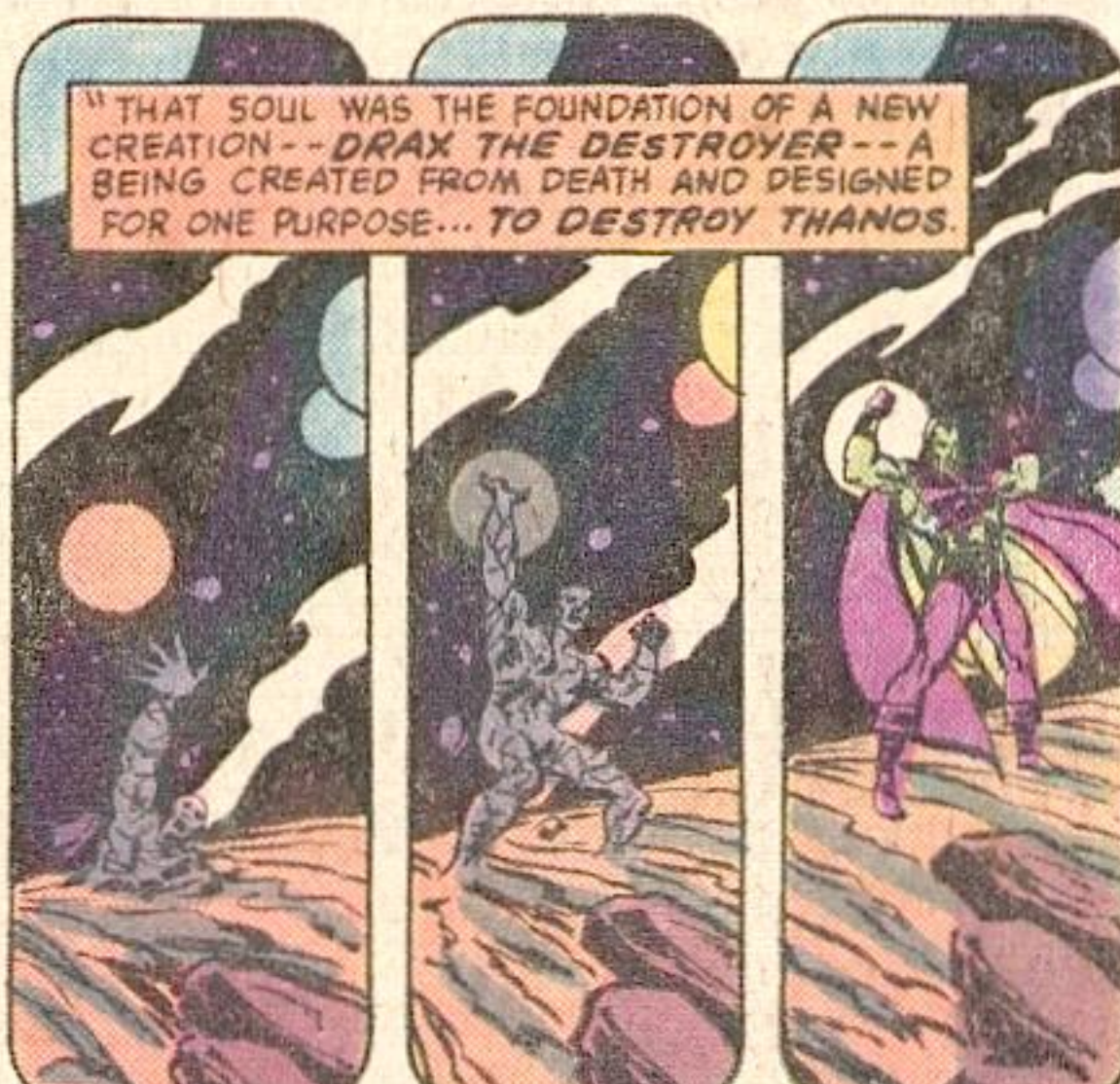
"MIRACULOUSLY, I SURVIVED AND WAS EVENTUALLY BROUGHT BY MENTOR TO TITAN -- TO BECOME MOON DRAGON -- BUT OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, I ONLY KNEW THAT THEY WERE DEAD."



"I LEARNED ONLY MUCH LATER THAT MY FATHER'S SOUL HAD ALSO BEEN RESCUED BY MENTOR, AND GIVEN TO THE GRASP OF **KRONOS** THE SUPREME TITAN."



"THAT SOUL WAS THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW CREATION -- **DRAX THE DESTROYER** -- A BEING CREATED FROM DEATH AND DESIGNED FOR ONE PURPOSE... TO DESTROY **THANOS**."



"BUT EVEN WHEN I LEARNED THAT MY FATHER WAS **NOT** COMPLETELY DEAD, THAT HIS SOUL LIVED ON IN THE FORM OF **DRAX** --



"-- I WAS NEVER ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM, TO **KNOW** HIM..."

"... AND WHILE IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FEEL ANY FILIAL AFFINITY WITH ONE WHO HAS BECOME A TOTAL DESTROYER... I NOW FEEL THAT I MUST AT LEAST **TRY**..."



... MUST TRY TO GET A MENTAL FIX ON HIS ESSENCE...



... LOCATE HIM WHEREVER HE -- YES!



I CAN "SEE" HIM--STREAKING THROUGH SPACE...



"... BEYOND THIS SOLAR SYSTEM... HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF SIRIUS..."



STILL I REMAIN A USELESS FORCE IN THE COSMOS--A SPARK OF LIFE WITHOUT GOAL OR PURPOSE!

I HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED BY THANOS OF A NORMAL LIFE--OF EVEN KNOWING MY DAUGHTER!

AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS PERMITTED TO LIVE ON, IT WAS ONLY AS A SINGLE-MINDED ENTITY OF OBSESSION, WITH NO ROOM FOR THE CHERISHED ASPECTS OF LIFE--



--NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING BUT THE SINGLE GOAL OF DESTROYING THANOS, HE WHO HAD DESTROYED ME.

"BUT THE FINAL IRONY WAS DARK--



--FOR IT WAS THE KREE WARRIOR CAPTAIN MAR-VELL WHO ULTIMATELY DESTROYED THANOS, THUS DEPRIVING ME OF MY SOLE REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

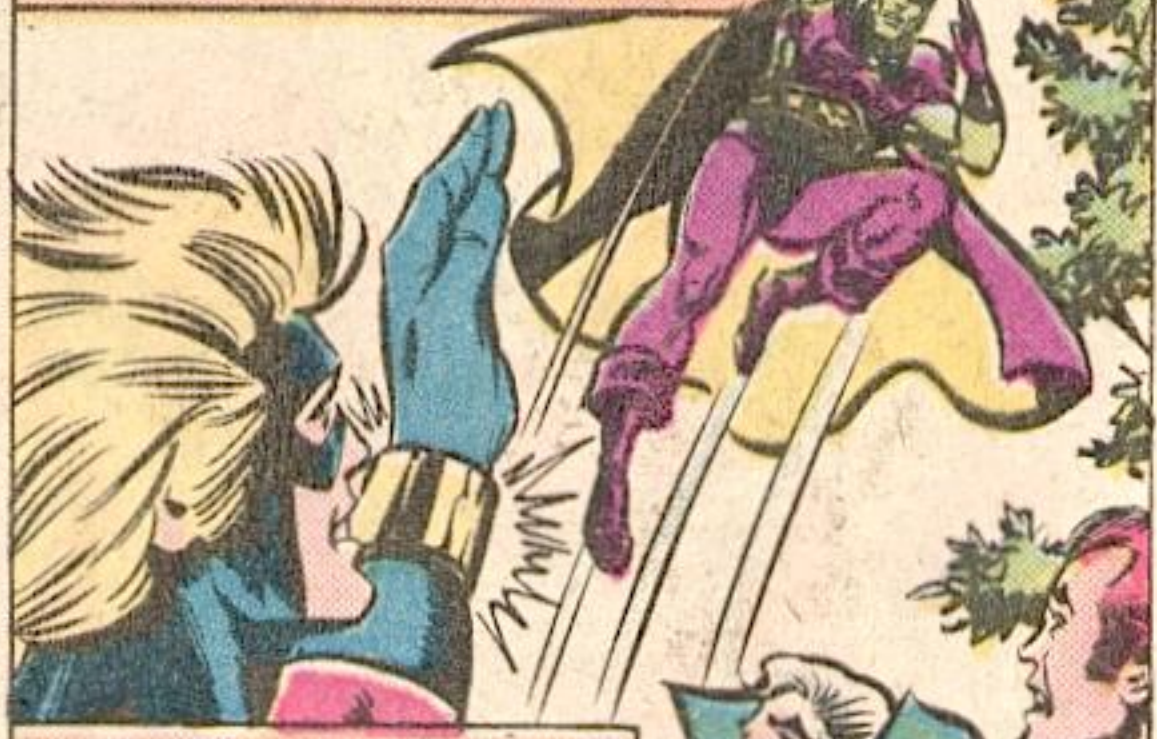
"IT MADDENED ME, DROVE ME BERSERK, UNTIL I ATTEMPTED MAR-VELL'S DESTRUCTION.



"EVEN I KNEW THIS WAS WRONG YET, I WAS THE DESTROYER..."

"WHAT ELSE COULD I DO BUT DESTROY?"

"IT WAS MAR-VELL'S COSMIC ESSENCE OF LIFE WHICH FINALLY DROVE HOME THE ERROR OF MY OBSESSION-- AND I FINALLY LEFT HIM, HOPING TO EITHER CHANGE FROM A DESTROYER TO SOME KIND OF CREATOR ...



"... OR, AT LEAST TO VOYAGE THE COSMOS UNTIL I COULD CONFRONT MY OWN DESTRUCTION."



BUT MY FIRST HOPE WAS IN VAIN. OUT HERE, ALL BEYOND MAR-VELL'S INFLUENCE, I REALIZE THAT THE CONCEPT OF BECOMING A CREATOR IS-- FOR ME-- A JEST OF HUGE AND DARK PROPORTIONS.

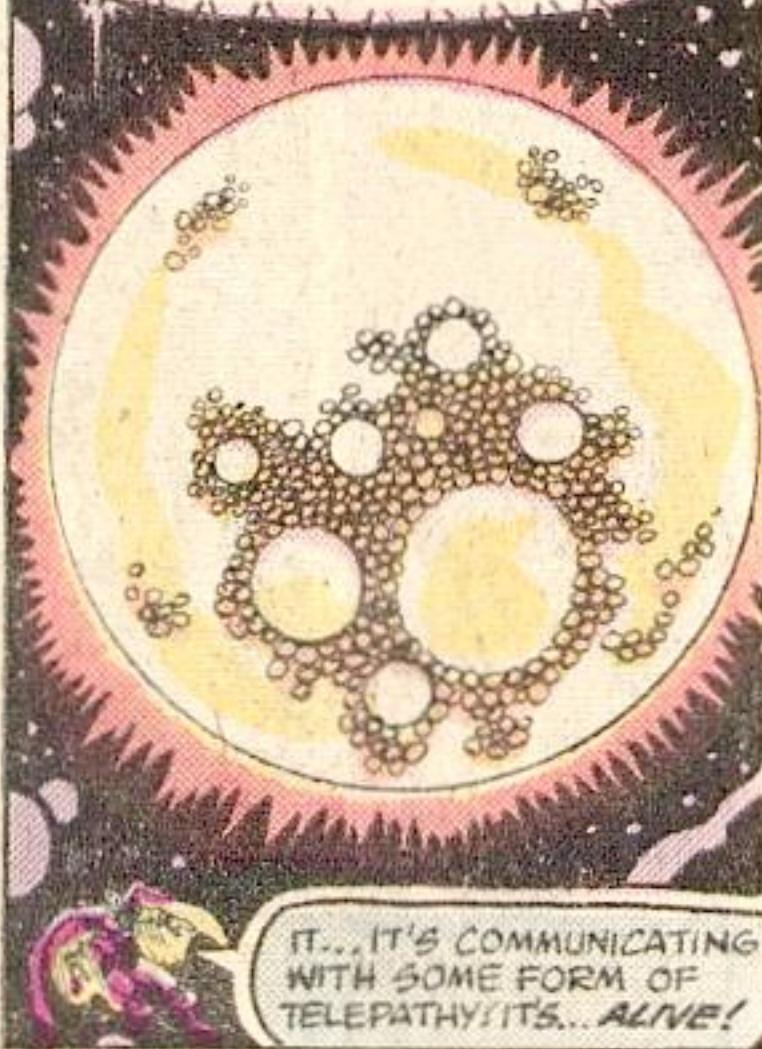


THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME, THEN, BUT TO SEEK MY OWN DESTRUCTION AND--

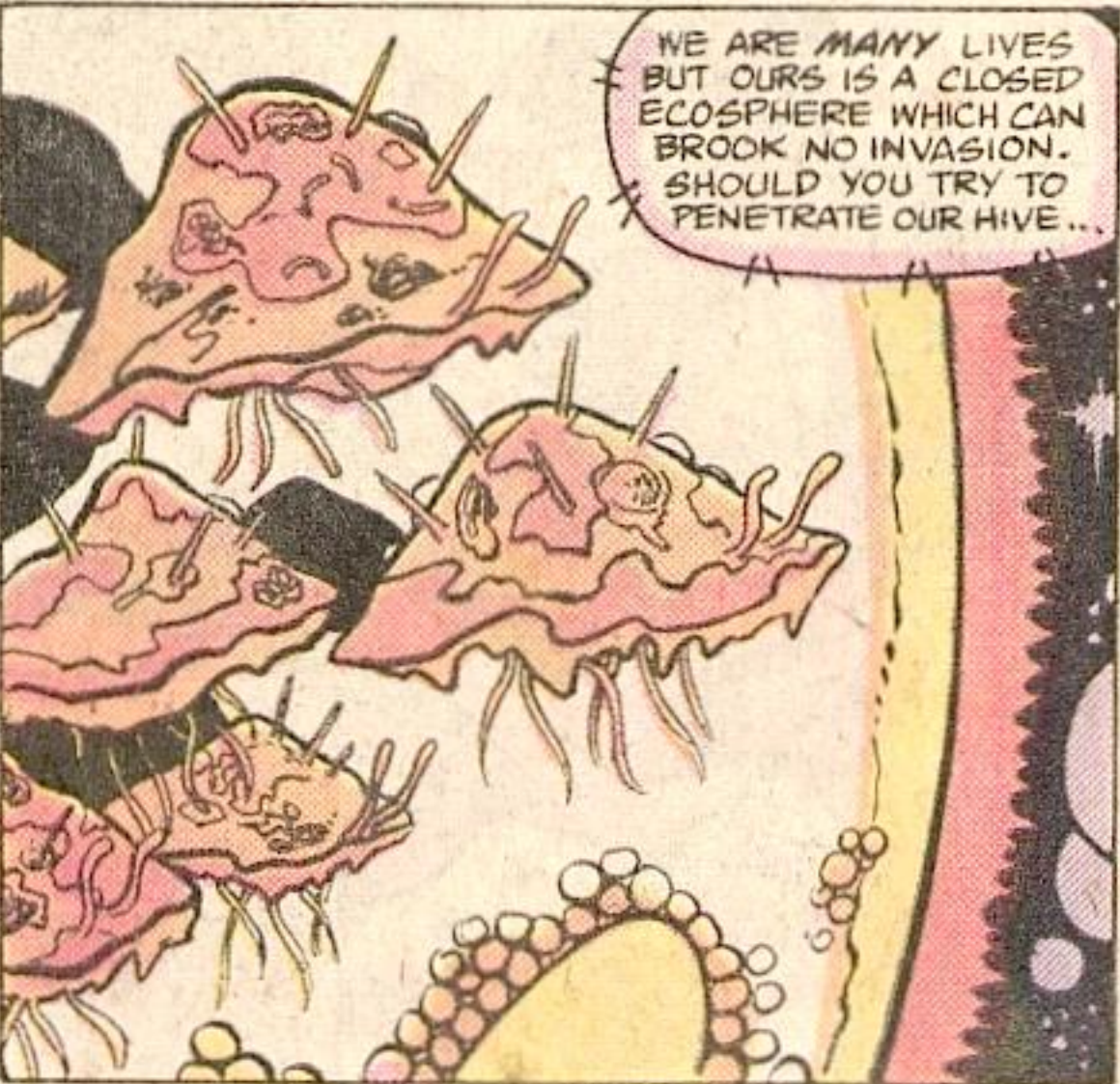


--EH? THAT SHIMMERING GLOBE! WHAT MANNER OF--

HALT! COME NO CLOSER --ON PERIL OF YOUR LIFE!



IT... IT'S COMMUNICATING WITH SOME FORM OF TELEPATHY! IT'S... ALIVE!



WE ARE MANY LIVES BUT OURS IS A CLOSED ECOSPHERE WHICH CAN BROOK NO INVASION. SHOULD YOU TRY TO PENETRATE OUR HIVE...

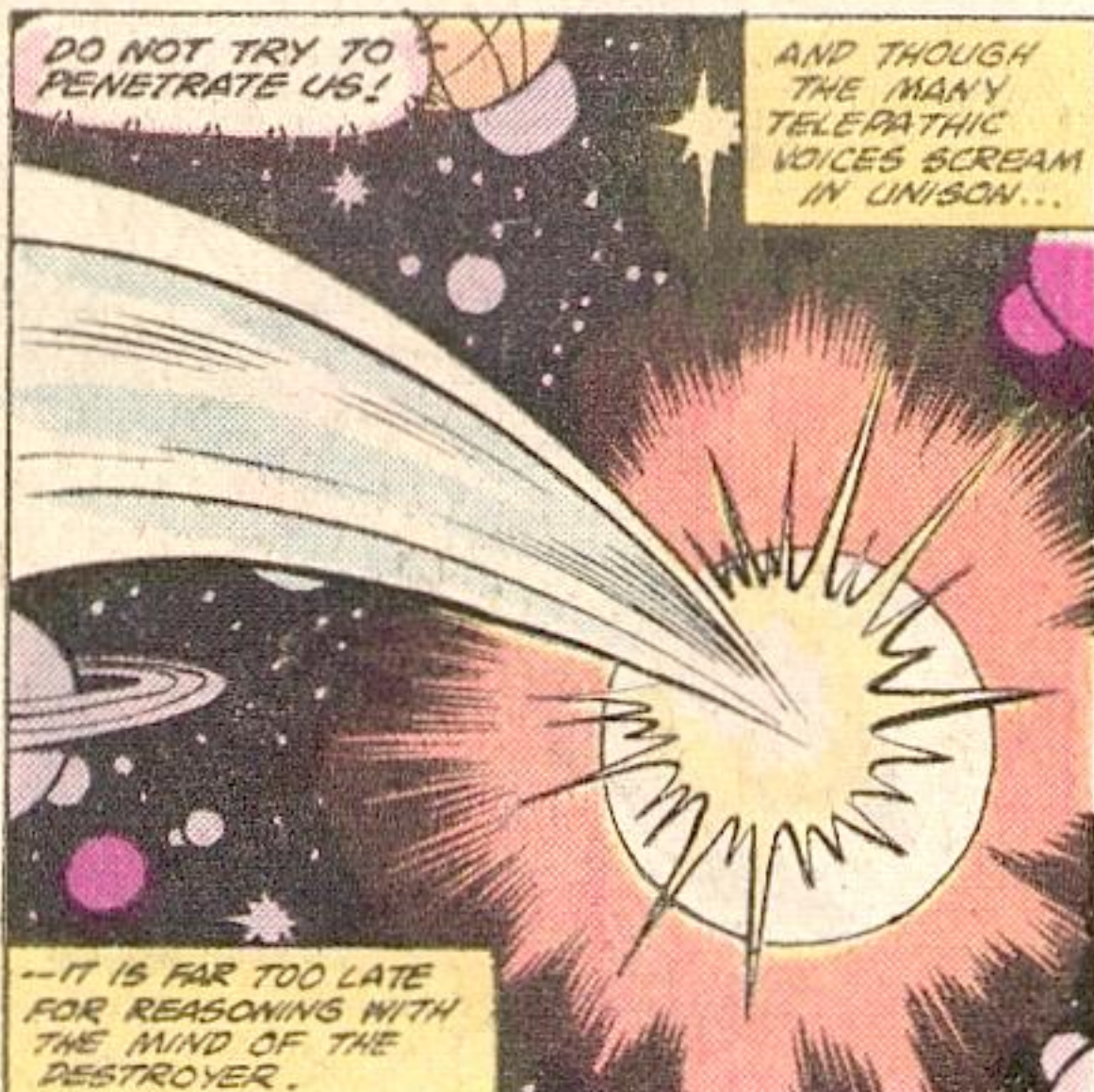


YOU WILL BE DESTROYED!



THE CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE.

NO! HALT!



DO NOT TRY TO PENETRATE US!

AND THOUGH THE MANY TELEPATHIC VOICES SCREAM IN UNISON...

--IT IS FAR TOO LATE FOR REASONING WITH THE MIND OF THE DESTROYER.



EVEN WITH ALL THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE AT MY COMMAND, I COULD NOT SHATTER THE THING--COULD BARELY PENETRATE IT!

AND YET THIS FAILURE IS WHAT I WANTED...



IT IS WHAT THE DARKNESS IN MY SOUL CRAVED -- FATAL, FINAL FAILURE.



NOW, CREATURES, DO WHAT YOU MUST...

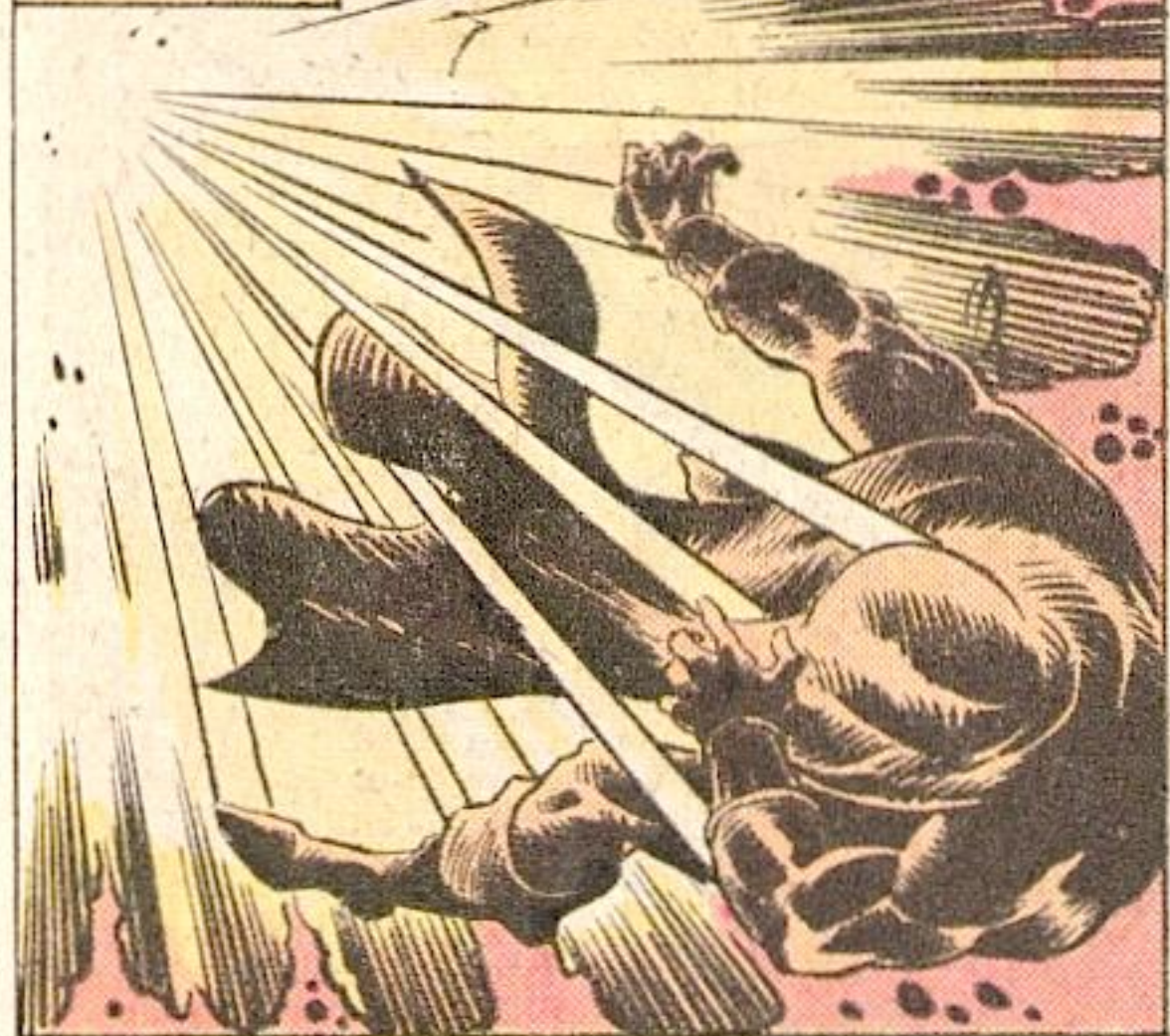


...DESTROY ME!



A STRIDENT SOUND MUCH LIKE A THOUSAND SHRIEKS OF AGONY PIERCES THE DESTROYER'S MIND...

AND THEN--



IT IS DONE... A SACRIFICE OF ONE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL. WE HAVE LOST ONE OF OUR COMPONENTS BUT THE WHOLE IS INTACT... THE HIVE PRESERVED.



LET US REJOICE... AND LAMENT.

A JOLT OF PAIN-- THE MENTAL LINK HAS BEEN DISTURBED!

SOMETHING HAS JUST HAPPENED TO DRAX-- MY FATHER!



I... I CAN SENSE THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE -- BUT HIS MENTAL AURA IS SO WEAK THAT HE MUST SURELY BE DYING!

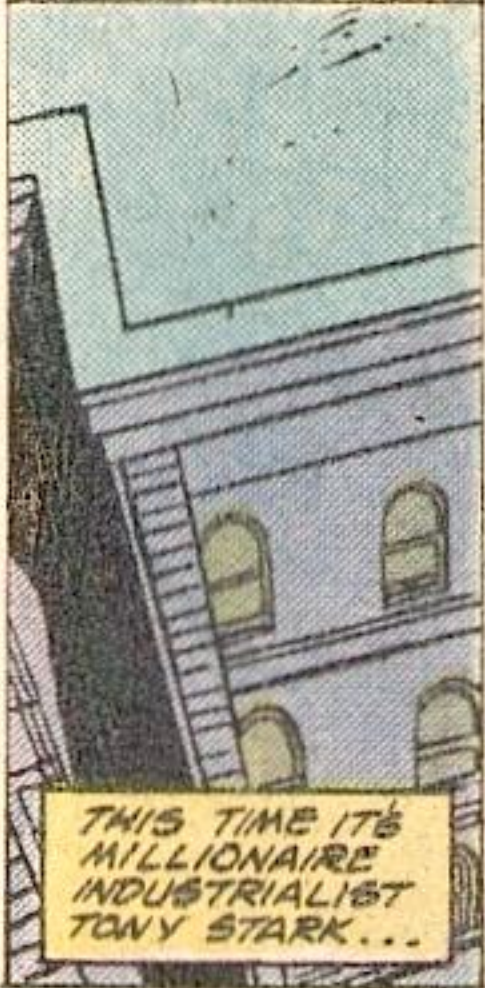
I'VE GOT TO REACH HIM QUICKLY!



AND THE BIZARRE CRAFT LEAPS AHEAD AT FULL POWER.



MEANWHILE, AT BLAKE'S NEW YORK APARTMENT, THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN.



HOW ABOUT DINNER NEXT THURSDAY AT EIGHT, DON'T I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.



SOUNDS GREAT, TONY-- SEE YOU THEN.

THE GLUMNESS RETURNS AS SOON AS HE RACKS THE PHONE...



I FEEL LIKE A MAN WHOSE FUTURE CONSISTS OF TWO EVENTS. I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--AND IF BLAKE IS PRETTY MUCH USELESS FOR THE TIME BEING...



... THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME TO CHANGE MATTERS, AND BECOME...



THIS TIME IT'S MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK...

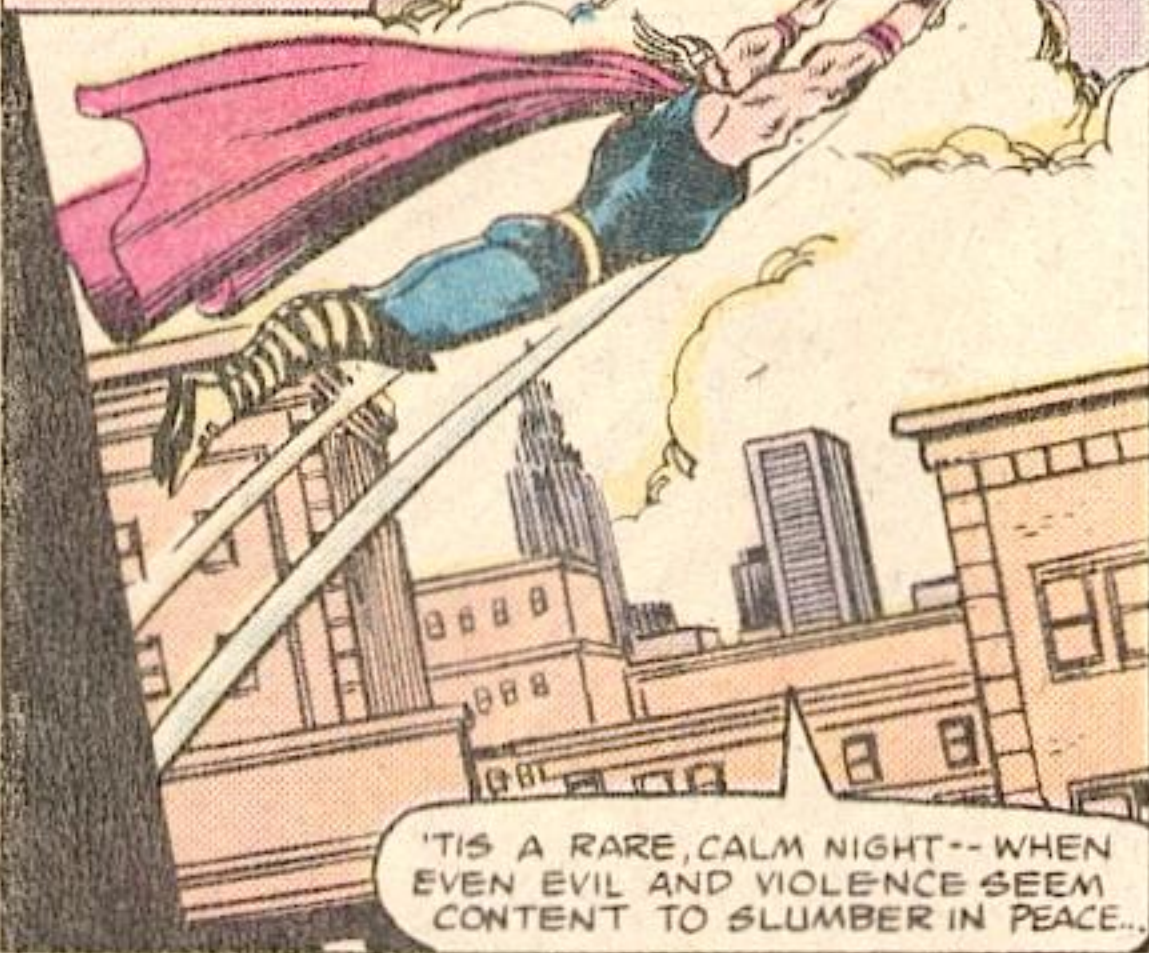
-- THOR THE MIGHTY!



GONE IS THE SIMPLE WALKING STICK, REPLACED BY THE ENCHANTED Mallet MJOLNIR--AND IN THE LAME PHYSICIAN'S PLACE THERE NOW STANDS A GRIM GOD OF THUNDER...

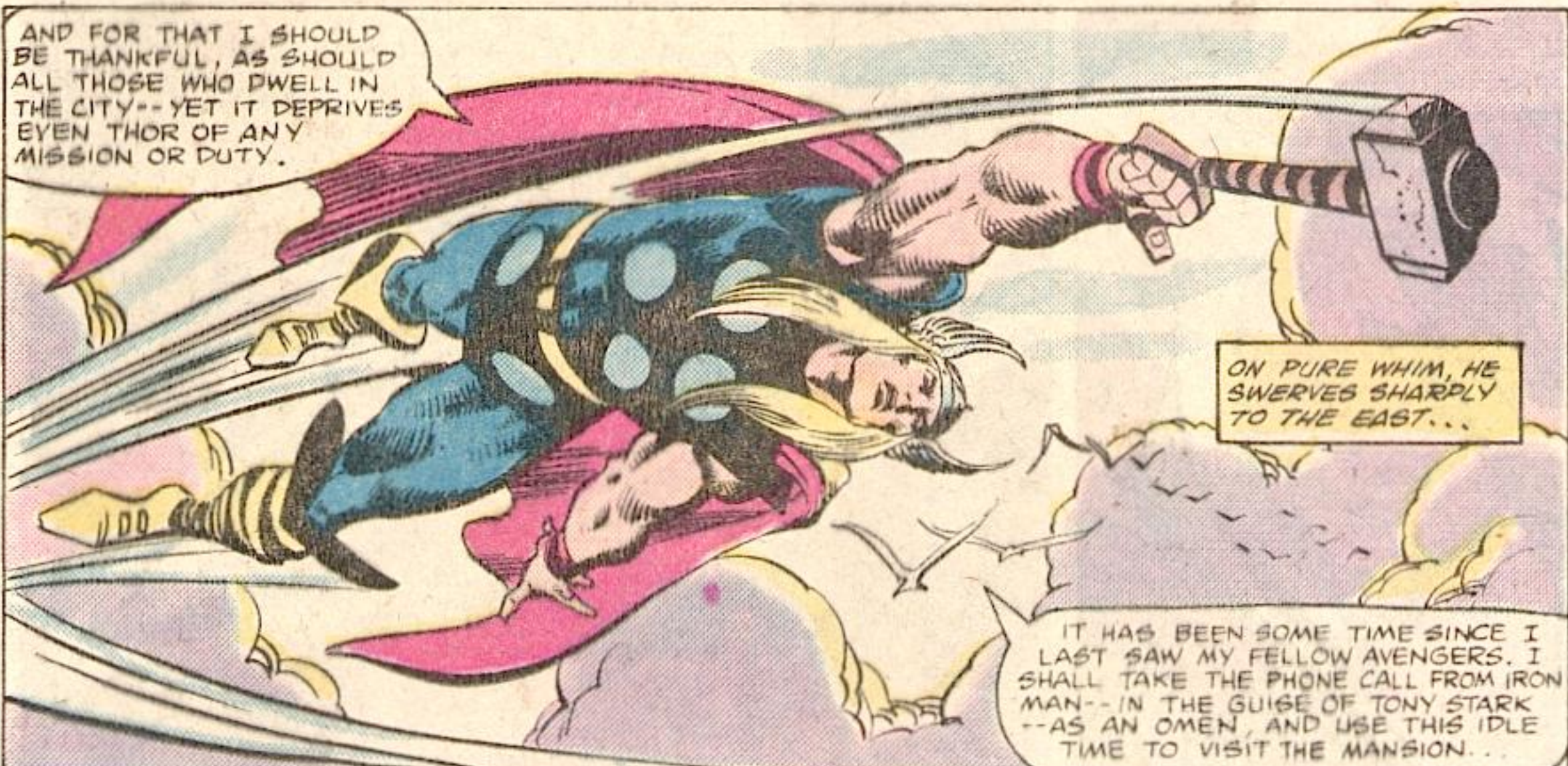
... SCION OF VAUNTED ASGARD, BUT ADOPTED SON OF LOWLY EARTH.

HE SCOURS THE MANHATTAN SKIES, CRAVING SOME SENSE OF PURPOSE, SOME CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE OF ACTION, BUT--



'TIS A RARE, CALM NIGHT-- WHEN EVEN EVIL AND VIOLENCE SEEM CONTENT TO SLUMBER IN PEACE...

AND FOR THAT I SHOULD BE THANKFUL, AS SHOULD ALL THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE CITY-- YET IT DEPRIVES EVEN THOR OF ANY MISSION OR DUTY.



ON PURE WHIM, HE SWERVES SHARPLY TO THE EAST...

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I LAST SAW MY FELLOW AVENGERS. I SHALL TAKE THE PHONE CALL FROM IRON MAN-- IN THE GUISE OF TONY STARK-- AS AN OMEN, AND USE THIS IDLE TIME TO VISIT THE MANSION...



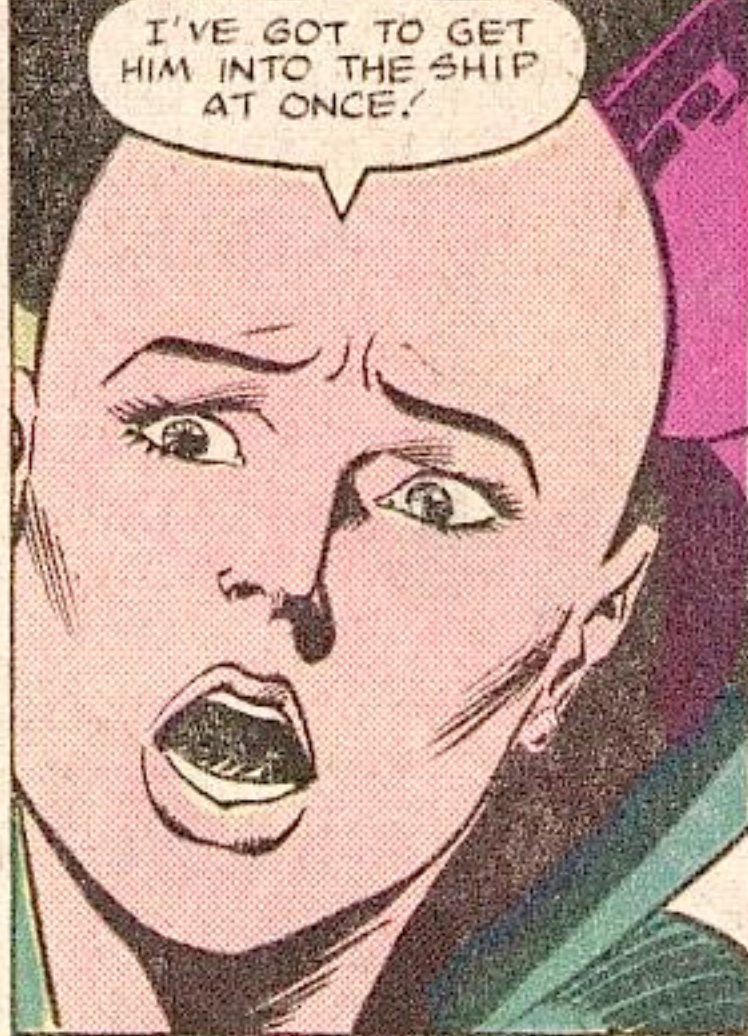
AND, IN SPACE...

THERE HE IS!

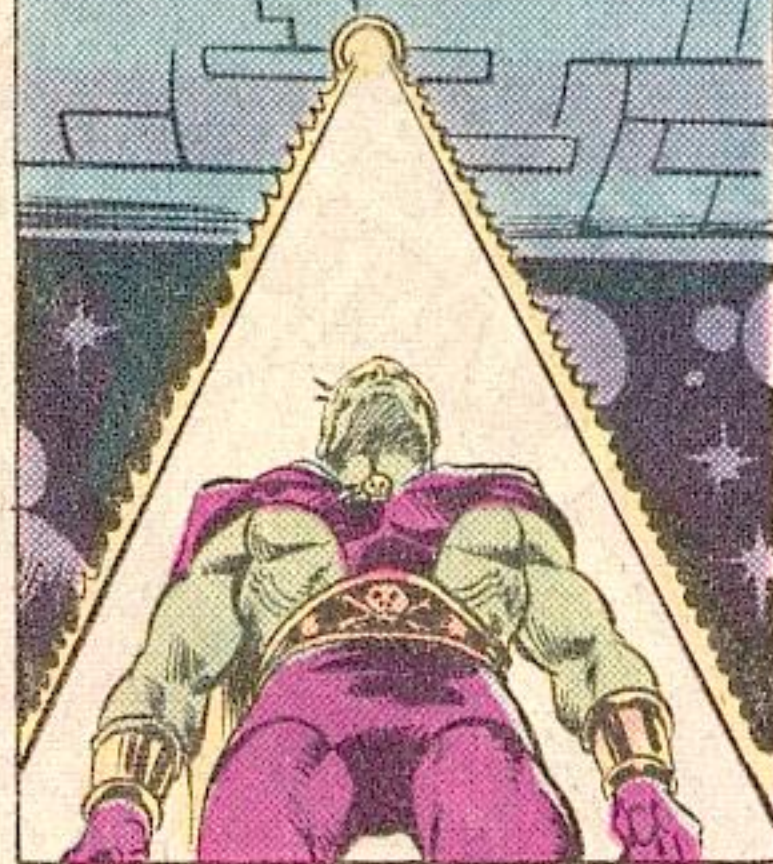


BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM! HE'S HURT--NEAR DEATH!

I'VE GOT TO GET HIM INTO THE SHIP AT ONCE!



A LANCE OF LIGHT ENFOLDS THE LIFELESS, FLOATING BODY--AND THE TRACTOR BEAM PULLS DRAX TOWARD THE WAITING AIRLOCK...



... AND HIS DISTRAUGHT DAUGHTER.

MY MENTAL POWERS CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM-- IT'S AS IF THIS GROTESQUE THING ATTACHED TO HIS HEAD IS OBSTRUCTING MY MENTAL PATH!

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FAST--GET HELP--BUT THERE'S NO ONE TO TURN TO...UNLESS--



THE AVENGERS! PERHAPS ONE OF THEM CAN HELP!

GONE NOW IS MOON DRAGON'S NORMALLY IMPERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUMAN RACE, GONE IS HER HAUGHTY DISDAIN...



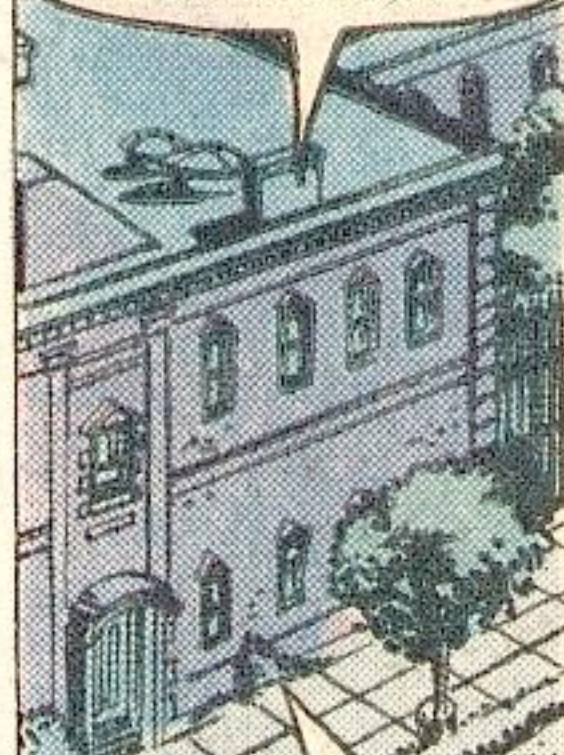
... AND AS HER CRAFT ARROWS FOR EARTH, SHE IS NOTHING BUT A DAUGHTER WITH A FATHER SHE HAS NEVER KNOWN ... A FATHER WHO IS DYING.

AVENGERS MANSION...

MASTER THOR--IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU, SIR! DO MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!

NO, SIR-- THEY'RE ALL ATTENDING TO PERSONAL MATTERS, WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA, PERHAPS?

NO, JARVIS--I WOULD BE ALONE FOR THE NONCE.



THE DAY THEN IS DESTINED FOR BOREDOM.



BUT WHAT DID I EXPECT --? TO ARRIVE JUST AS SOME DIRE MENACE THREATENED? NO, I AM SIMPLY RESTLESS HERE ON MIDGARD.



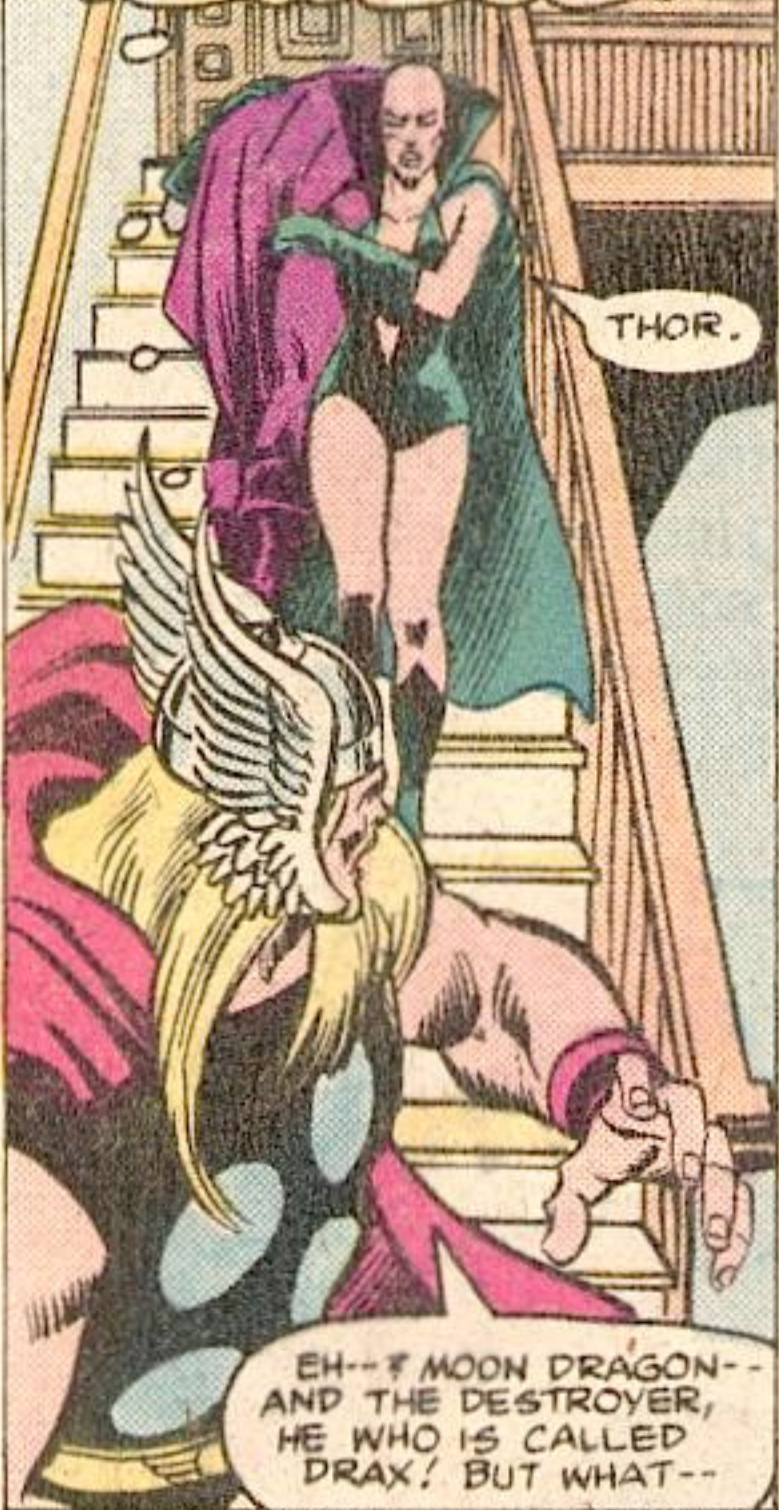
THOR THANKS THEE, JARVIS. ARE THE OTHERS PRESENT?

AS YOU WISH, SIR.

YET EVEN ON ASGARD, I FELT PURPOSELESS, MERELY ANOTHER GOD AMONG SO MANY...



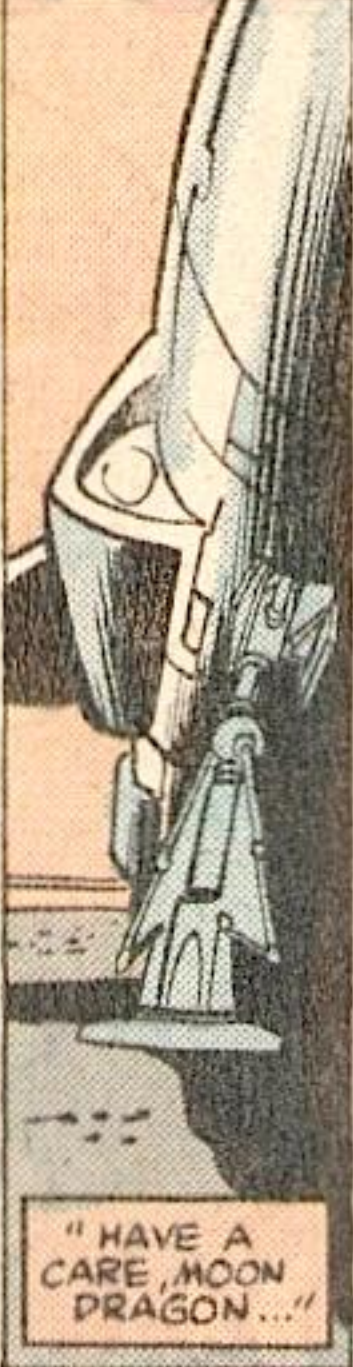
HAVE I BECOME A BEING, THEN WHOSE EXISTENCE-- BOTH MORTAL AND IMMORTAL-- IS DEVOID OF MEANING AND PURPOSE? AM I TRULY UNNEEDED ANYWH--



THOR.

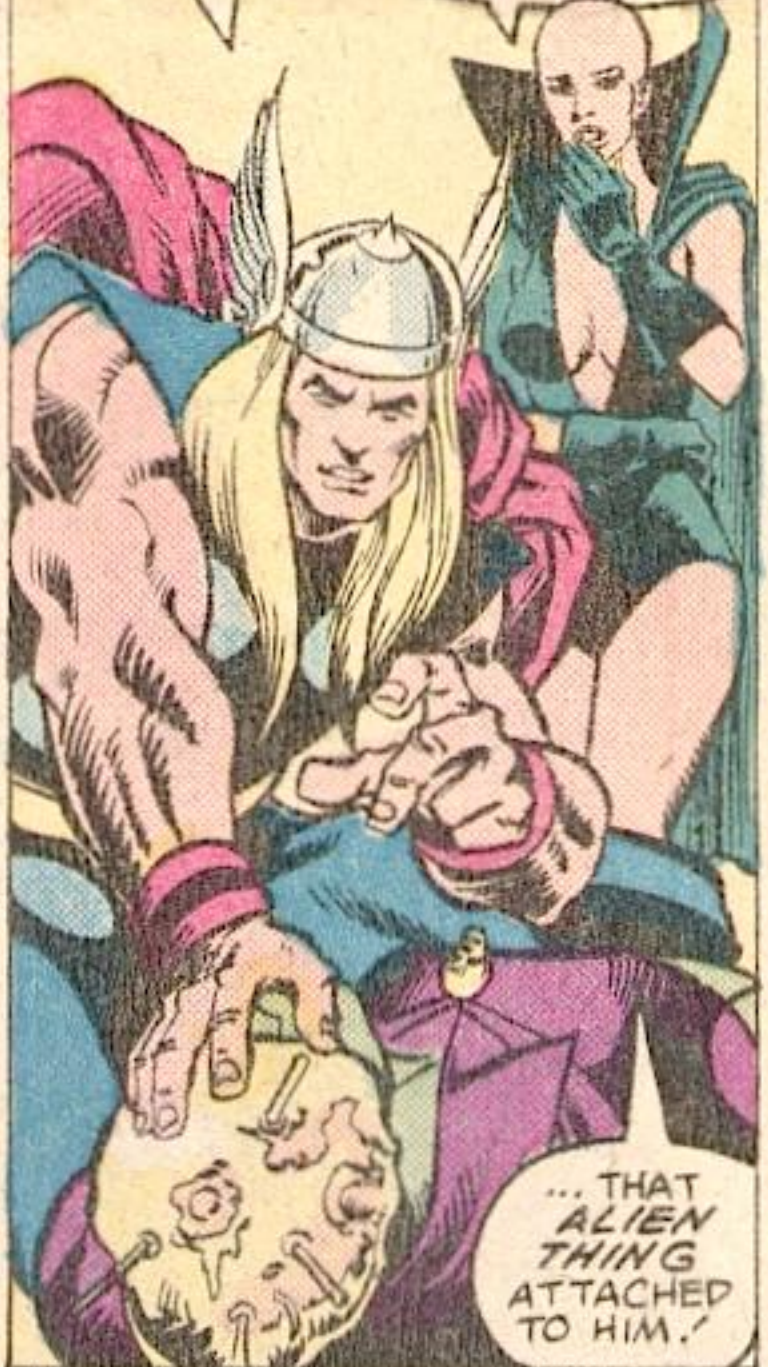
EH--? MOON DRAGON-- AND THE DESTROYER, HE WHO IS CALLED DRAX! BUT WHAT--

"I CAME HERE FOR HELP THOR, LANDED MY CRAFT ON THE ROOF--AND I'M GLAD TO FIND YOU ALONE. AFTER ALL, YOU ARE A GOD--"



"HAVE A CARE, MOON DRAGON..."

I HAVE CHOSEN TO DWELL ON EARTH PRECISELY BECAUSE I BELIEVE ALL MORTAL LIFE TO BE JUST AS PRECIOUS AS MINE OR THINE...



YES, YES, I KNOW YOUR FOOLISH BELIEFS-- BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I FOUND DRAX FLOATING THROUGH SPACE WITH THAT--

... THAT ALIEN THING ATTACHED TO HIM!

IT BEGAN TO GLOW AS SOON AS I ENTERED EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, AND I'VE BEEN RELUCTANT TO REMOVE IT FOR FEAR THAT...



GET THEE BACK, MOON DRAGON!

IT'S BLAZING BRIGHTER!

THE EXPLOSION, THOUGH SOUNDLESS, IS NO LESS TERRIFYING-- AND A BITTER, RANCID ODOR FILLS THE MANSION'S DRAWING ROOM.

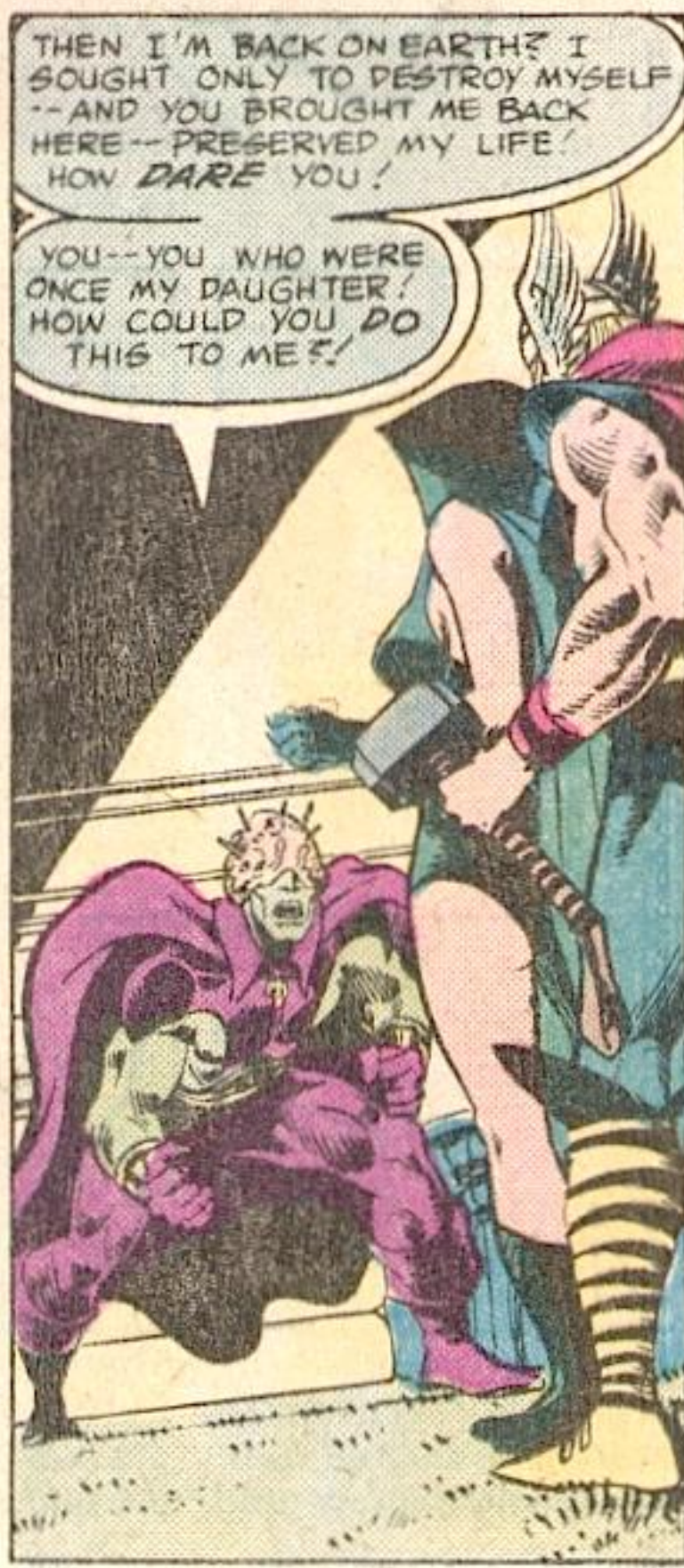


BUT INSTEAD OF SPELLING DRAX'S DOOM...



WH--WHAT...? WH--WHERE...?

THOR! MOON DRAGON!



THEN I'M BACK ON EARTH? I SOUGHT ONLY TO DESTROY MYSELF-- AND YOU BROUGHT ME BACK HERE-- PRESERVED MY LIFE! HOW DARE YOU!

YOU--YOU WHO WERE ONCE MY DAUGHTER! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?!





I'LL DESTROY YOU-- DESTROY EVERYTHING! KEEP DESTROYING UNTIL SOMEONE OR SOMETHING FINALLY SUCCEEDS IN DESTROYING ME!

HE'S GONE **BERSERK**, THOR! THAT THING ON HIS HEAD-- IT'S DRIVEN HIM **MAD!**

I CAN'T SOOTHE HIM! IT PREVENTS ME FROM REACHING HIS MIND AND-- **UHN!**



FOOLS! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I HAVE NO REAL LIFE--JUST A MOCKERY OF EXISTENCE--AND THAT IS WITHOUT MEANING OR PURPOSE.

S- STOP HIM, THOR... SAVE HIM...



WE UNDERSTAND NOTHING, DESTROYER, SAVE THE IMMEDIACY OF THY UNPROVOKED ATTACK!

IT MUST BE STOPPED!



I ONLY ASK THAT YE FORGIVE THE FORCE OF MY REPRISAL WHEN THY SANITY RETURNS!

**THROOM!**

BUT FOR NOW, THOU HAST DEPRIVED ME OF ANY CHOICE!





ART THOU CALMER NOW?

HAST THY SANITY BEEN RESTORED TO THEE?



MASTER THOR! I WAS IN THE BASEMENT WHEN I HEARD SOUNDS, AND-- GOOD LORD!

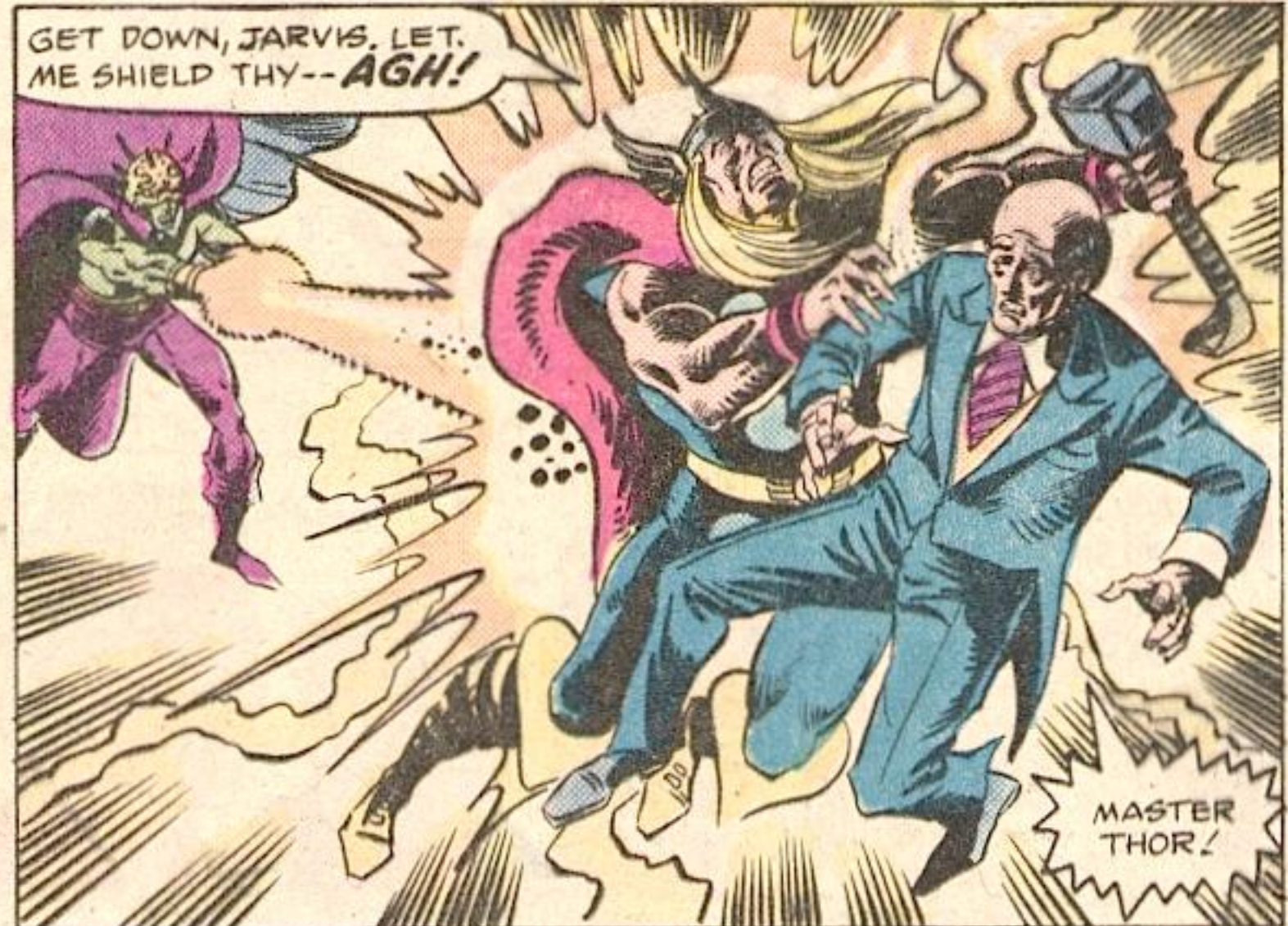
GET THEE AWAY, JARVIS!

JARVIS? YES, THE AVENGERS' BUTLER...



A HARMLESS MAN--AND YET, IF MY LIFE IS WITHOUT MEANING, THEN HIS IS MEANINGLESS TOO...

... AND DESERVING OF DESTRUCTION!



GET DOWN, JARVIS. LET ME SHIELD THY-- AGH!

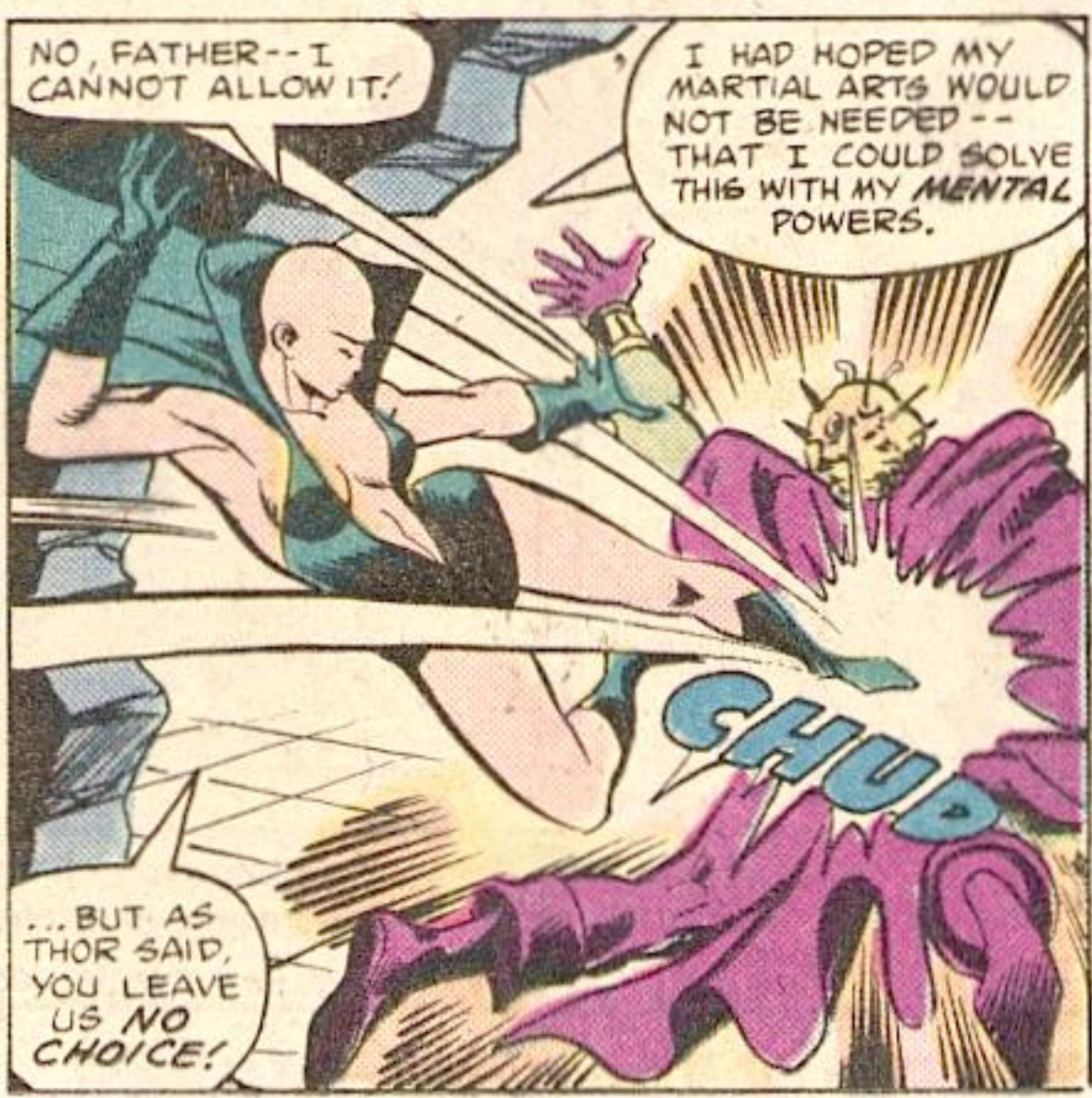
MASTER THOR!



LEAVE ME, SIR, AND DEFEND YOURSELF-- I'M NOT WORTH IT!

A PITY, THOR-- I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD BE THE VICTOR...

BUT IF YOU CANNOT DESTROY ME... THEN, I MUST DESTROY YOU!



NO, FATHER-- I CANNOT ALLOW IT!

I HAD HOPED MY MARTIAL ARTS WOULD NOT BE NEEDED -- THAT I COULD SOLVE THIS WITH MY MENTAL POWERS.

... BUT AS THOR SAID, YOU LEAVE US NO CHOICE!



THEN USE YOUR MARTIAL ARTS-- DO YOUR BEST AND YOUR WORST-- BUT DO NOT CALL ME YOUR FATHER!

ART DOUGLAS WAS YOUR FATHER AND HE IS DEAD -- I AM ONLY THE DESTROYER!  
SO DESTROY ME IF YOU CAN-- OR SUFFER DESTRUCTION YOURSELF!

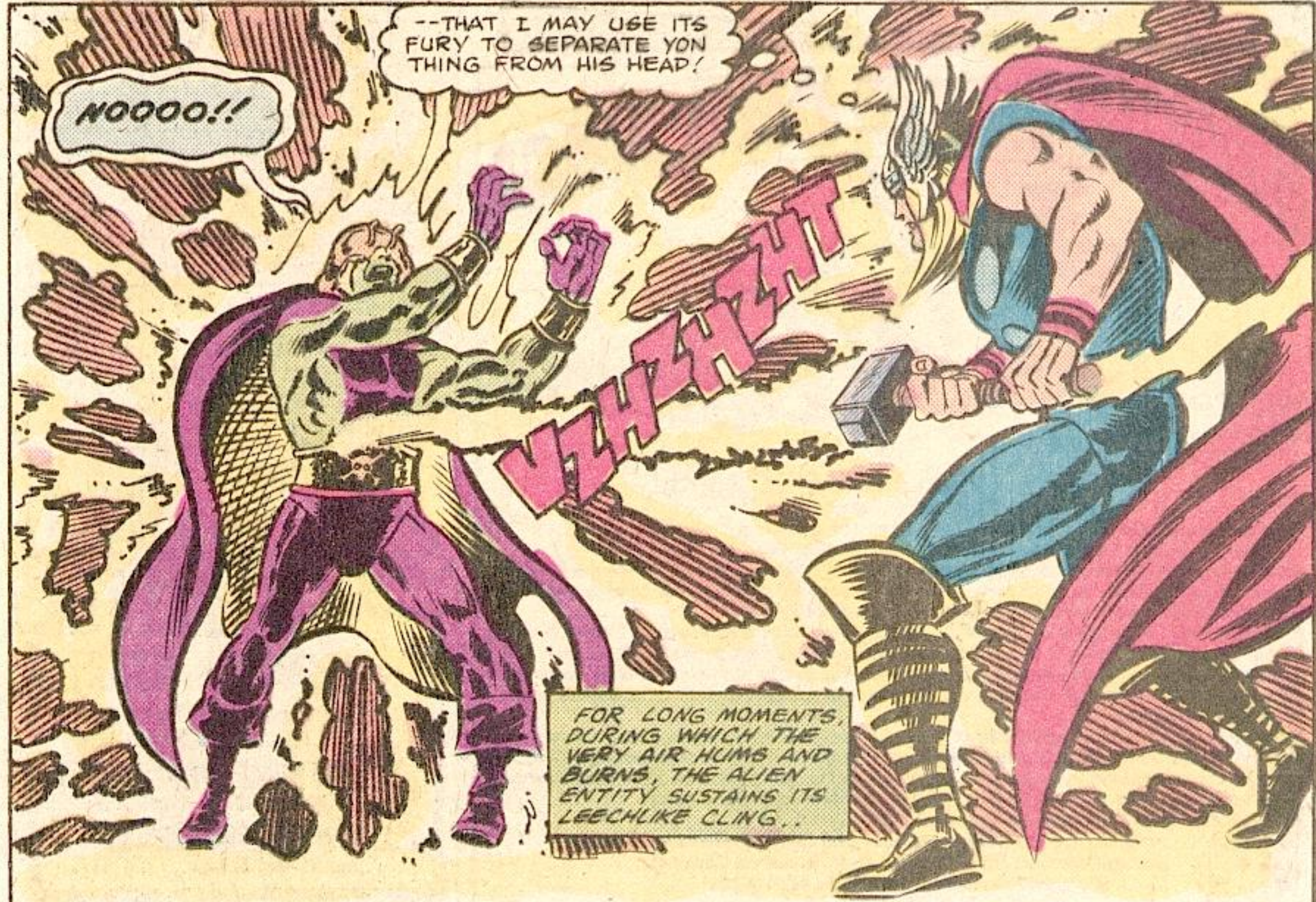
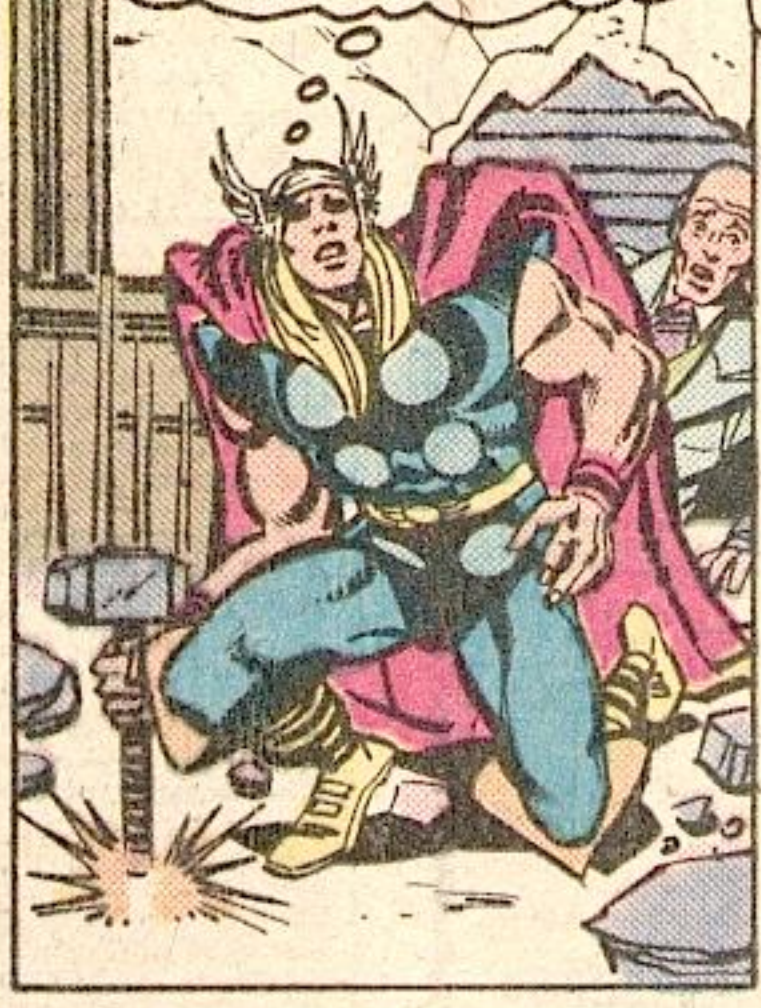
IS THERE NO WAY TO HALT DRAX'S FURY WITHOUT SEVERELY INJURING HIM -- ?

MAYHAP MOON DRAGON WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE THING ON HIS HEAD...

IF SO, THEN I MUST EXERCISE MY POWER AS THE LORD OF STORMS--

-- CALLING FORTH THE LIGHTNING!

THOR! WHAT ARE YOU--

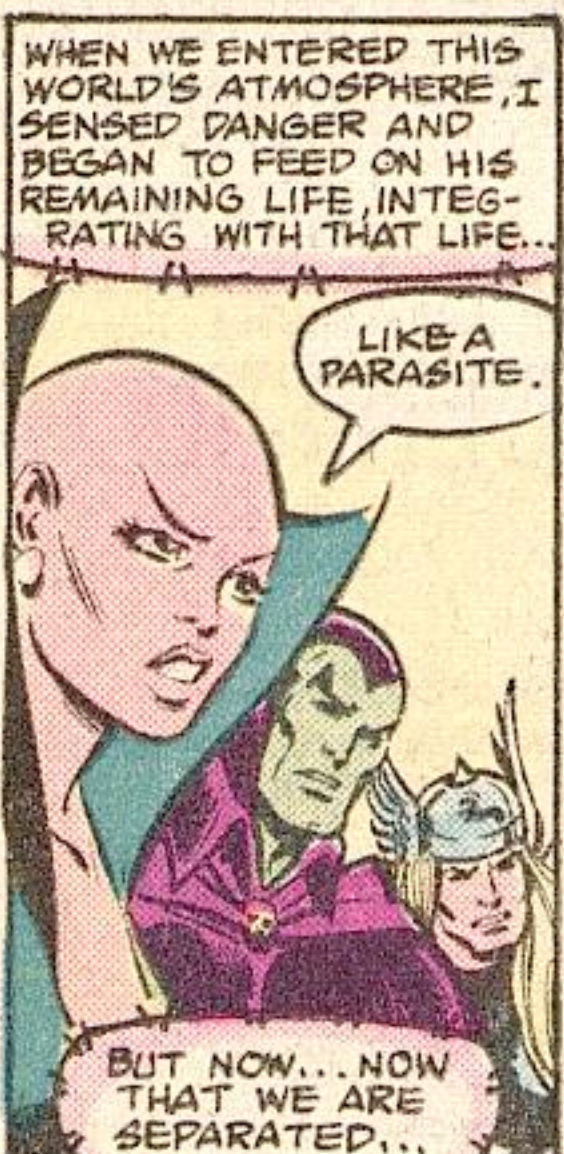
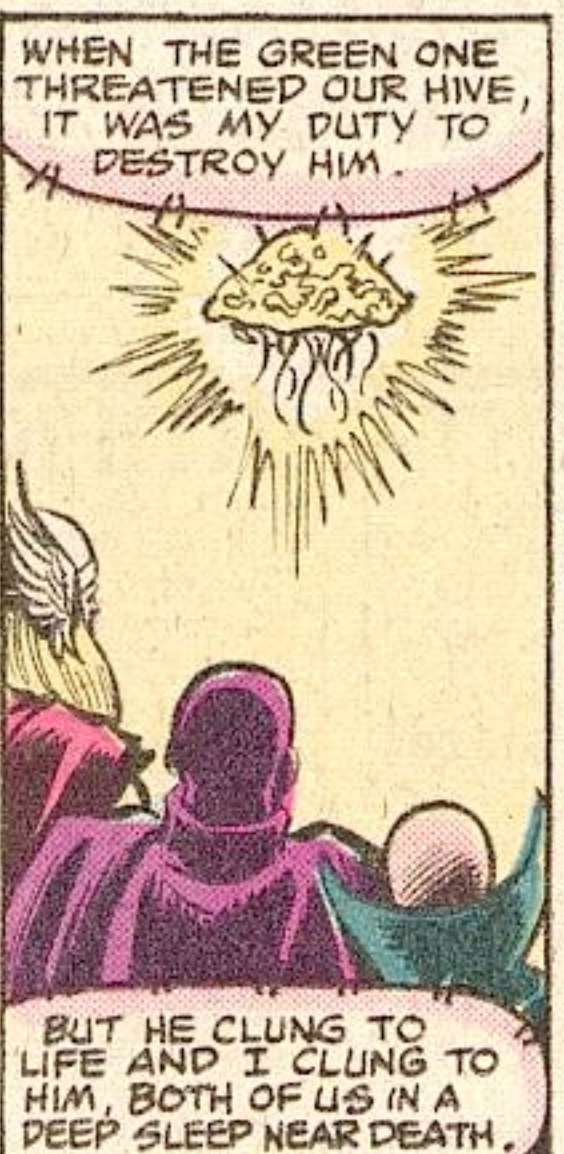
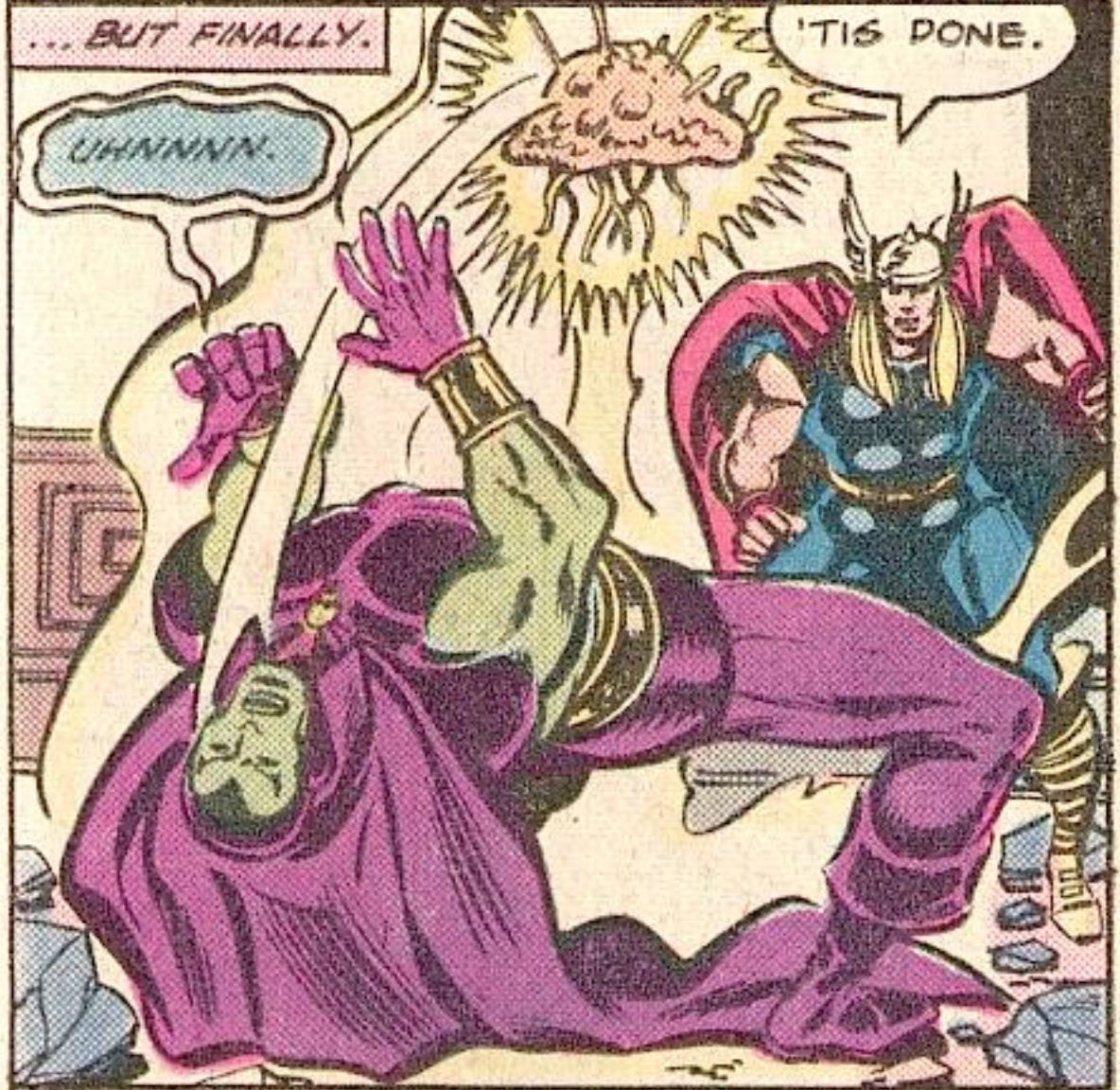


NOOOO!!

-- THAT I MAY USE ITS FURY TO SEPARATE YON THING FROM HIS HEAD!

FOR LONG MOMENTS, DURING WHICH THE VERY AIR HUMS AND BURNS, THE ALIEN ENTITY SUSTAINS ITS LEECHLIKE CLING...

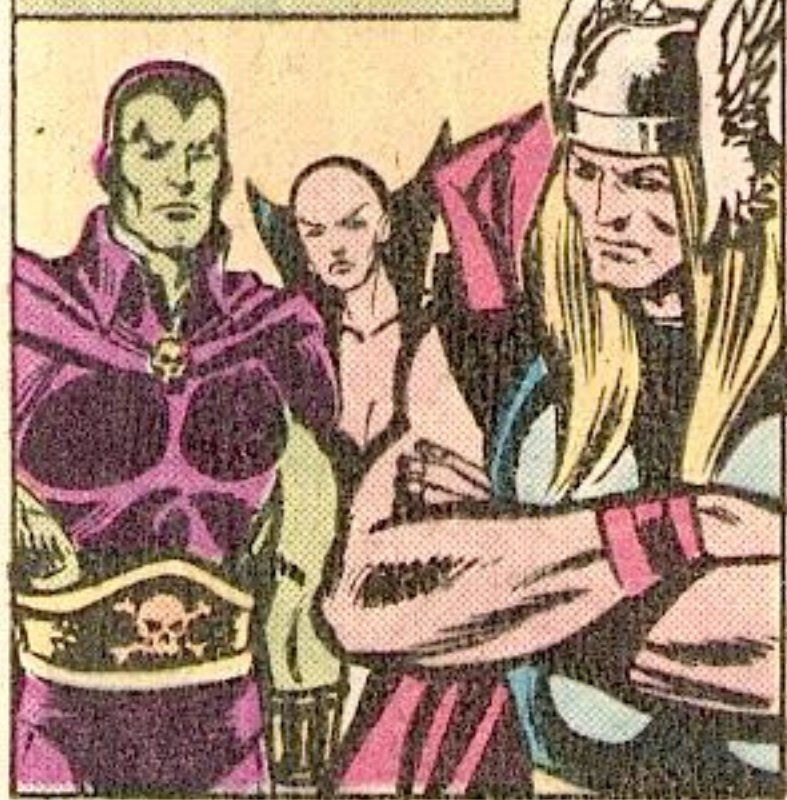






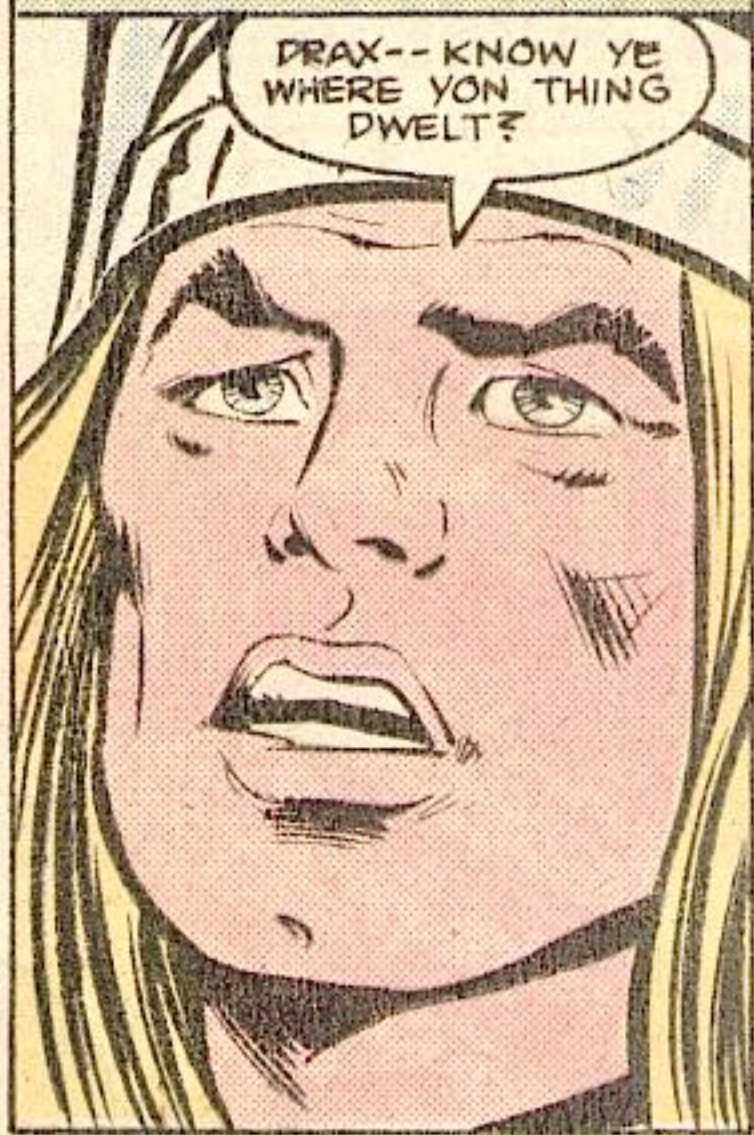
THE TELEPATHIC MESSAGE RINGS WITHIN THE MINDS OF ALL THREE, ONLY SUBTLY DIFFERENT IN ITS HAUNTING FAMILIARITY...

THEY DWELL, ON IT, LONG AND HARD, EACH IN HIS OR HER OWN WAY.



FINALLY, IT IS THOR WHO BREAKS THE SILENCE...

DRAX-- KNOW YE WHERE YON THING DWELT?



Y-YES... YES, I DO KNOW.

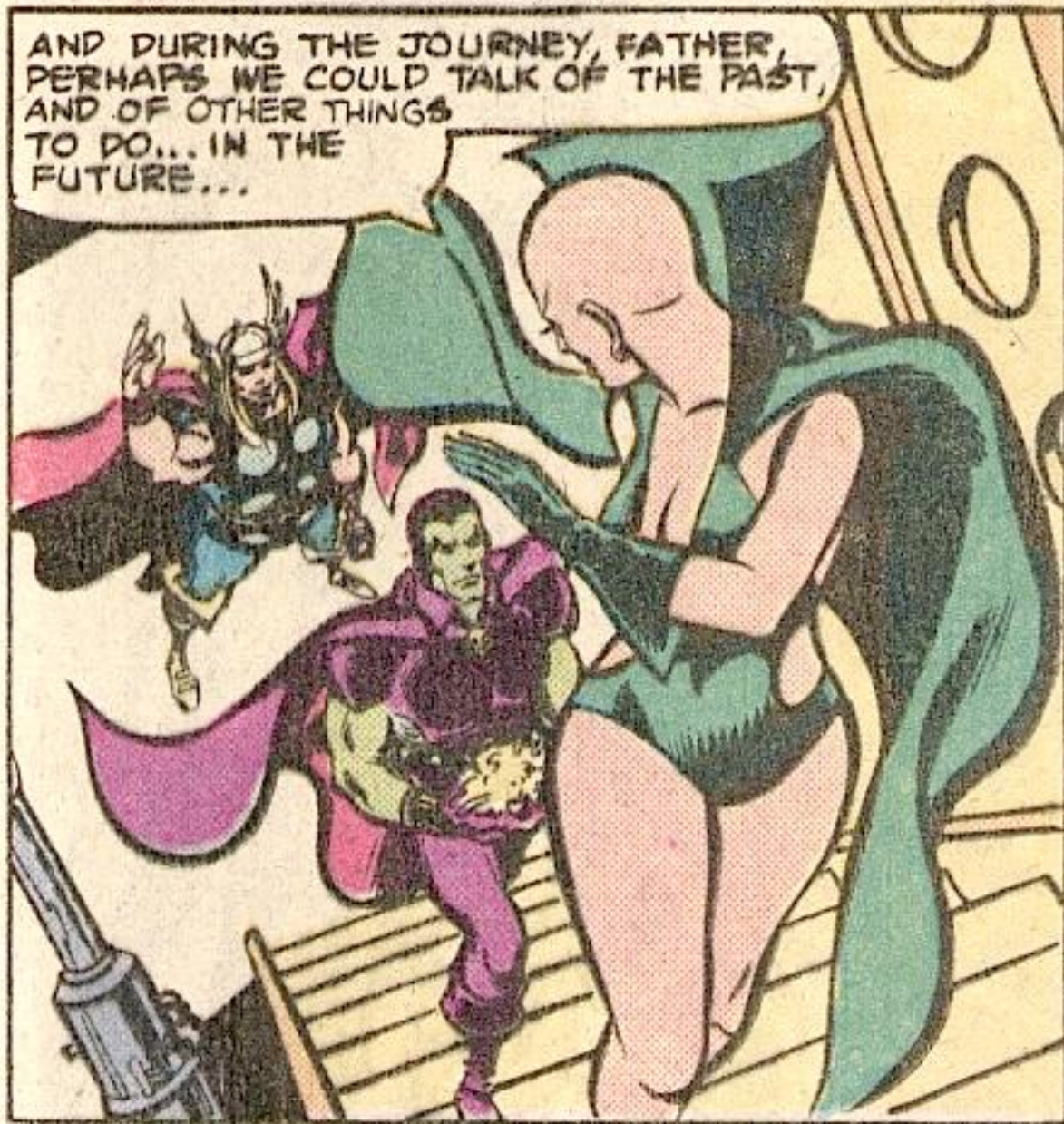
THEN... WE COULD...

... RETURN IT TO ITS HIVE-- TO ITS HOME. YES, MOON DRAGON... YES, MY DAUGHTER... WE COULD DO THAT.



AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO DO.

AND DURING THE JOURNEY, FATHER, PERHAPS WE COULD TALK OF THE PAST, AND OF OTHER THINGS TO DO... IN THE FUTURE...



"... A FUTURE WITH NO FURTHER ACTS OF DESTRUCTION."



THOR SMILES, BRIEFLY BUT FIRMLY, BEFORE TURNING BACK TO THE MANSION.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I HAD NOTHING TO DO FOR THE DAY. AH, WELL, THERE'S PLENTY TO DO NOW.

AYE, JARVIS, THERE IS INDEED MUCH A MAN MAY DO... AND MAYHAP EVEN MORE A GOD MAY DO. I THANK THEE.

FOR SIMPLY BEING WHAT THOU ART... AND FOR REMINDING ME OF THAT TREASURE.

BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE, SIR. WHY ARE YOU THANKING ME?

FROM AFAR, A FAINT VOICE OF CORRECTION SPEAKS TWO WORDS INTO THOR'S MIND: "THANK YOU."



NEXT ISSUE:

THE

THUNDER GOD

AND THE

BI-BEAST



# TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS™

MARK & RALPH  
GRUENWALD & MACCHIO  
SCRIPTERS

KEITH & GENE  
POLLARD & DAY  
ARTISTS

JOE  
ROSEN  
LETTERER

GEORGE  
ROUSSOS  
COLORIST

JIM  
SALICRUP  
EDITOR

JIM  
SHOOTER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## JUDGEMENT-- and LAMENT!

ONCE, GOLDEN RAYS OF SUNLIGHT WARMED VALHALLA--THE NORSE DOMAIN OF THE DEAD, WHERE THOSE BRAVE WARRIORS LOST IN COMBAT SPENT A JOYFUL ETERNITY AMID THE SOUND OF ENDLESS BATTLE.

BUT THEN CAME HELA, DREAD GODDESS OF DEATH, WHO USURPED THIS PLACE WITH HER ICY TOUCH--REMAKING IT IN THE IMAGE OF HER OWN KINGDOM, NIFFLEMEIN...COLD, CRUEL, FOREBODING.

NOW, ODIN, RULER OF THE GODS, HAS COME TO SET THINGS ARIGHT.

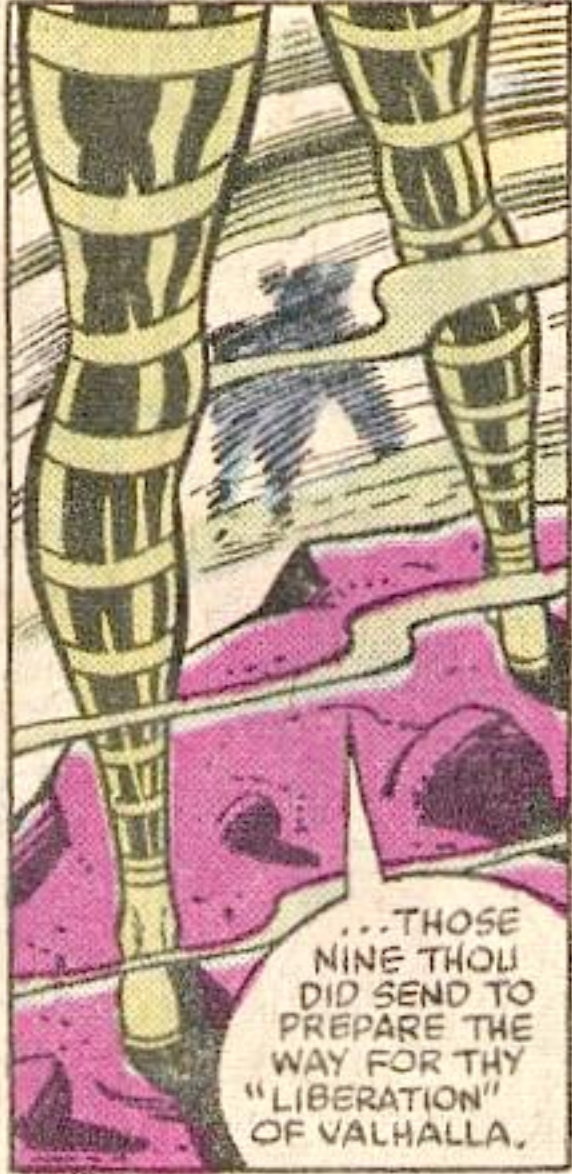
'T WAS NOT ENOW THAT THOU DID FORCIBLY TAKE VALHALLA, HELA. NOW, THOU HAST E'EN SLAIN MY NINE VALKYRIES, WHO I DID SEND BEFORE ME.

THOU HAST AT LAST GONE TOO FAR-- AND WILL PAY FOR THY MISDEEDS.

I THINK NOT, BRASH ONE. FOR I RULE HERE AND THERE IS NAUGHT THOU CANST DO 'GAINST ME.



"BUT IF THOU MUST-- COME FORTH AND THE SAME FATE AWAITS THEE AS DID THY VALKYRIES-- THY CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN..."



...THOSE NINE THOU DID SEND TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THY "LIBERATION" OF VALHALLA.

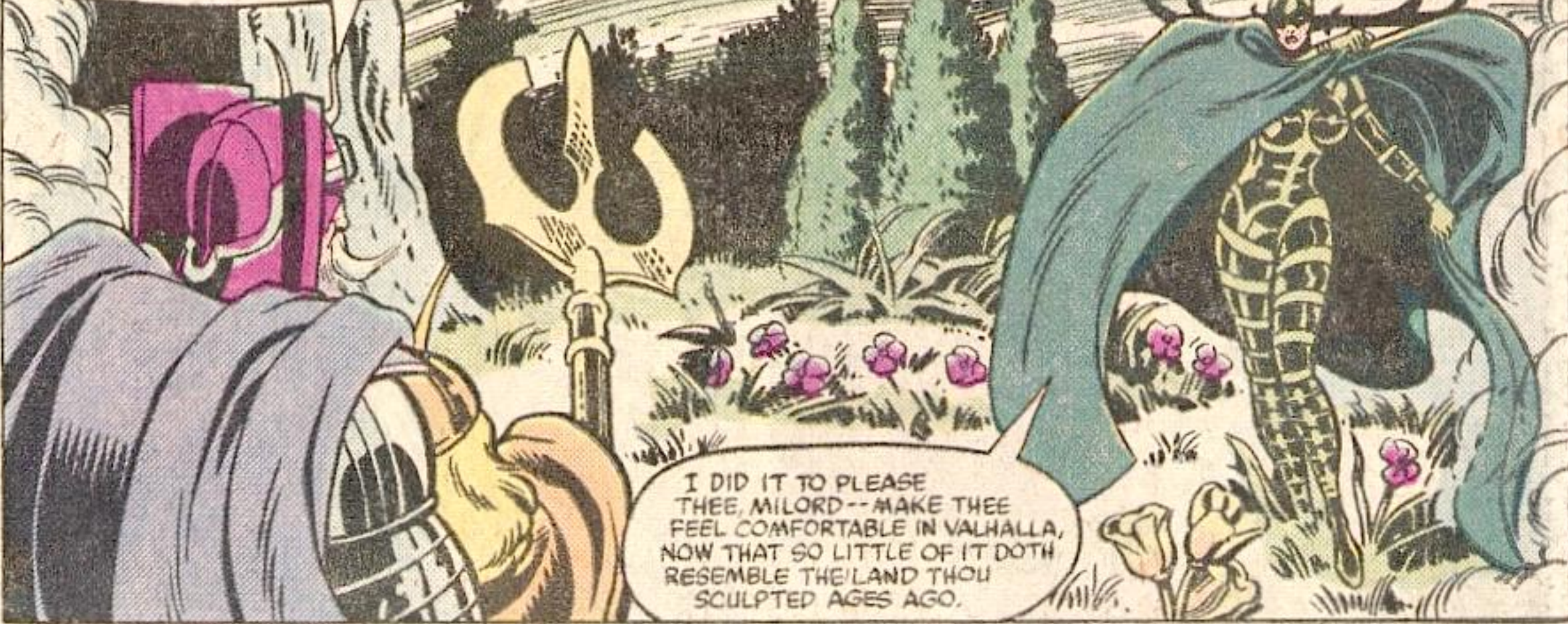


AS I DISPENSED WITH THEM, SO SHALL I SOON DISPENSE WITH THEE.

BUT FIRST--I HOPE THOU DOST APPRECIATE THE WELCOME I HAVE PREPARED FOR THEE AND THE LIFELESS VALKYRIE THOU DOST CARRY.

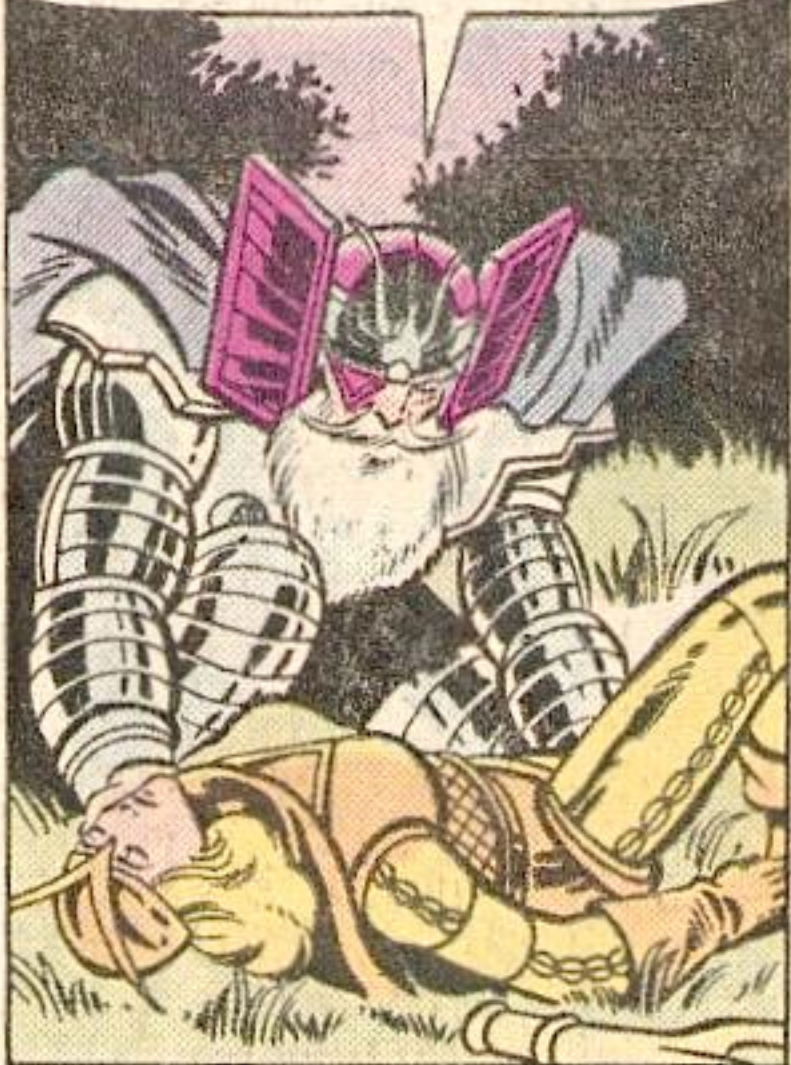


WHY HAST THOU LEFT THIS SMALL PATCH OF VALHALLA AS IT ONCE WAS? WHAT FIENDISH PURPOSE DOTH IT SERVE?



I DID IT TO PLEASE THEE, MILORD-- MAKE THEE FEEL COMFORTABLE IN VALHALLA, NOW THAT SO LITTLE OF IT DOTH RESEMBLE THE LAND THOU SCULPTED AGES AGO.

AN END TO THY TAUNTS, AND INSOLENCE, GODDESS. I SHALL HAVE NONE OF IT.



AS THOU WISH, WHITEBEARD... AN END TO IT.

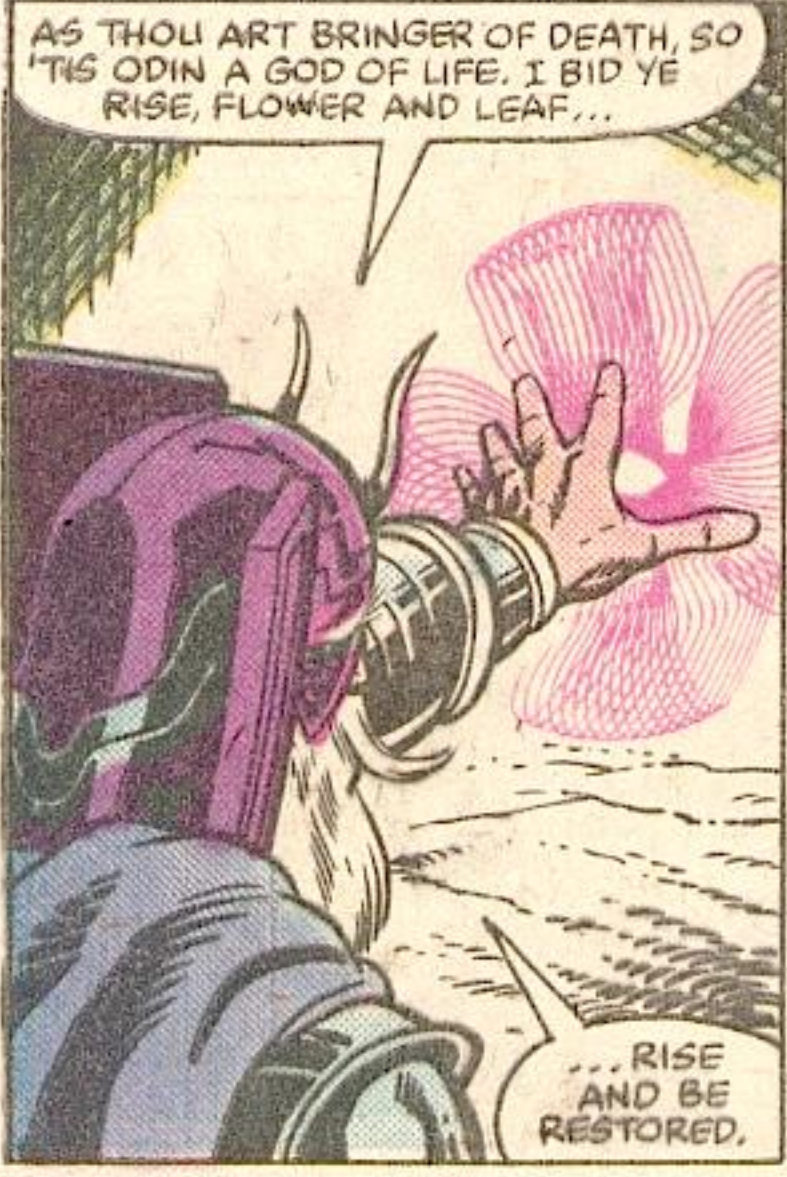


WITH BUT A GESTURE, I DO CAUSE ALL ABOUT THEE TO WITHER AND FADE, 'TIL THE GARDEN BE DUST.





AS THOU ART BRINGER OF DEATH, SO 'TIS ODIN A GOD OF LIFE. I BID YE RISE, FLOWER AND LEAF...



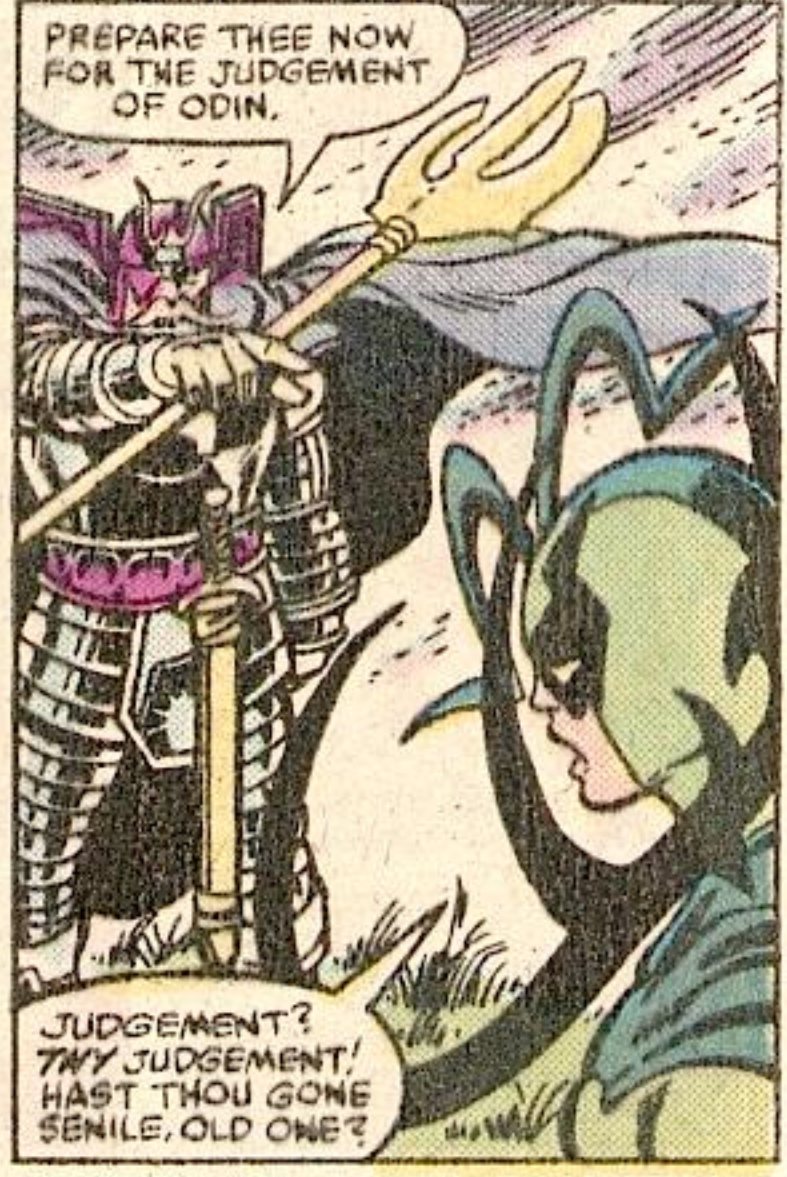
... RISE AND BE RESTORED.

LET THY PARLOR GAMES CEASE, HELA. THOU HAST STOLEN VALHALLA FROM ME-- TWISTING IT TO THY VILE INTENT.



BUT NO LONGER.

PREPARE THEE NOW FOR THE JUDGEMENT OF ODIN.



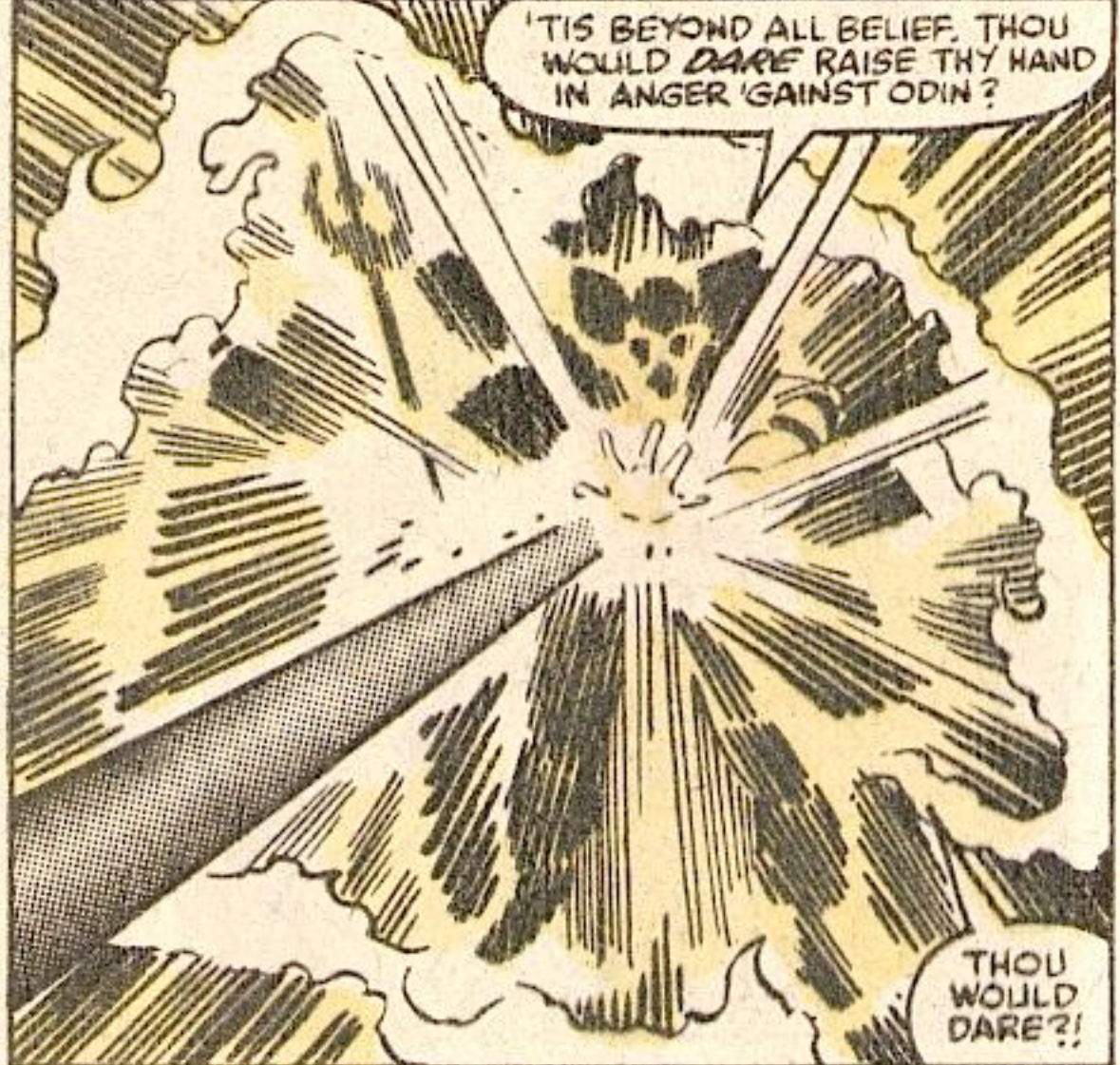
JUDGEMENT? THY JUDGEMENT! HAST THOU GONE SENILE, OLD ONE?

'TIS HELA WHO IS THE POWER HERE-- HELA WHOSE WORD IS LAW!



VALHALLA BE MINE! MINE!

'TIS BEYOND ALL BELIEF. THOU WOULD DARE RAISE THY HAND IN ANGER 'GAINST ODIN?



THOU WOULD DARE?!

I BE DEATH INCARNATE, WHITEBEARD, AND DEATH DARES ALL.



SOON, WHEN THOU ART SLAIN, NOT E'EN ETERNAL ASGARD ITSELF SHALL BE SPARED MY TOUCH. ALL-- ALL SHALL PAY HOMAGE TO HELA.



BUT, FIRST THOU MUST O'ERCOME MIGHTY ODIN. HE, WHO BE THE WILL AND THE WAY AND THE LIGHT.

AND NE'ER SHALL THAT COME TO PASS.







LET THE STRENGTH DRAIN FROM THY BODY 'TIL THOU ART HELPLESS, AND LET IT THUS BE KNOWN FORE'ER THAT ODIN BE SUPREME O'ER ALL HE DOTHS SURVEY.



BUT THAT DOTHS MEAN LITTLE TO ME NOW.

THOUGH I HAVE BEEN CALLED OMNISCIENT-- STILL DOTHS THY MOTIVES BAFLE ME.

WHY, HELA? WHY HAST THOU DONE THESE THINGS? SPEAK.



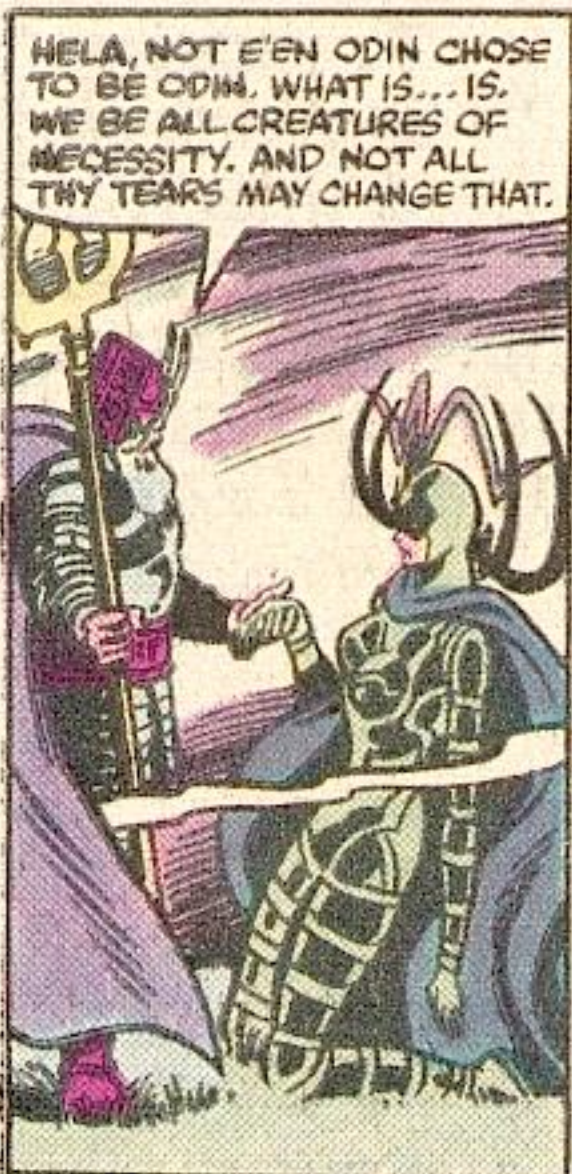
MONTHS AGO, WHEN THY SON THOR WERT NEAR DEATH, I DID COME TO CLAIM HIM. \* BUT THOU DID SEND HIS TRUE BELOVED--SIF, TO HIS SIDE, AND SHE DID PLEAD THAT I TAKE HER LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR THOR'S. SO GREAT WAS HER PASSION--I WAS MOVED AS NE'ER IN MY EXISTENCE.

FEELINGS WERT AWAKENED WITHIN ME... FEELINGS OF COMPASSION-- DESIRE... AND LOVE, AT LONG LAST, HELA KNEW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A WOMAN, BUT I BE GODDESS OF DEATH AS WELL, AND CAN NE'ER CONSUMMATE THESE LONGINGS... FOR ALL THAT I TOUCH TURNS TO DUST, A TRAGEDY NE'ER TO BE RESOLVED.

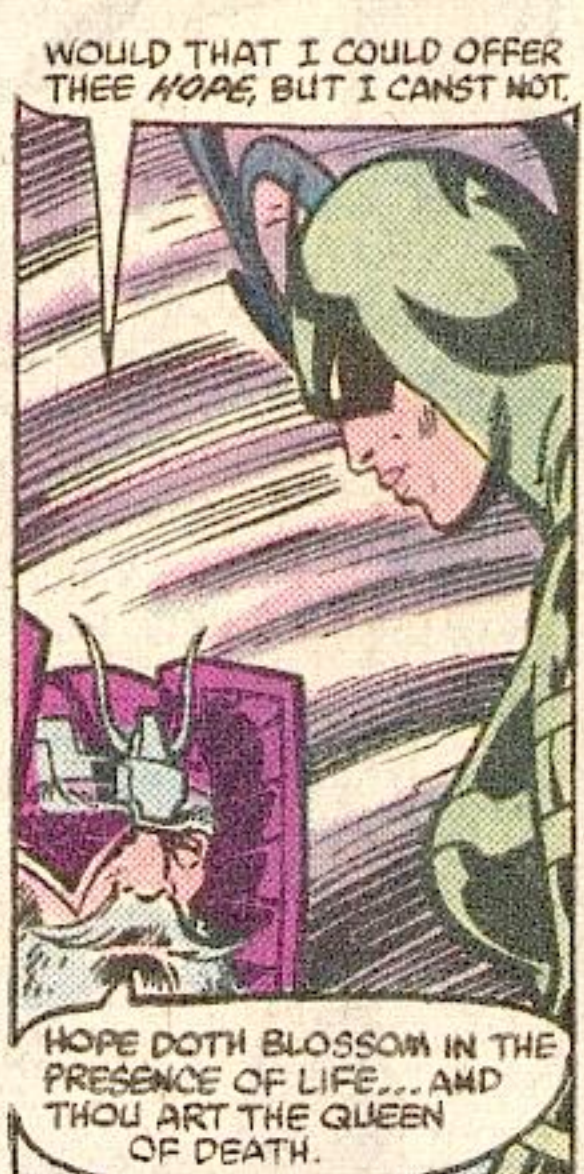
\*THOR 190 \*\*THOR 278-J.S.

THEN, OF LATE THOU DID SET IN MOTION THE FORCES OF RAGNAROK WHICH I BE FATED TO LEAD INTO ASGARD ON THE EVE OF ITS DESTRUCTION, CLAIMING THE SLAIN FOR MY OWN. MY SPIRITS LIFTED AT THE THOUGHT--BUT 'T'WAS NOT TO BE, THE RAGNAROK WAS A FALSE ONE, BROUGHT ABOUT BY THY TRICKERY. \*\* THUS, E'EN MINE ORDAINED MISSION WAS DENIED ME.

I WEPT... AND PLOTTED MY REVENGE. WHILE THOU WERT OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE, I SEIZED VALHALLA, THY PRIZED DOMAIN, REMAKING IT AS NIFFLEHEIM, THAT ITS SOULS SWORE ALLEGIANCE ONLY TO ME. I SLEW YOUR VALKYRIES THAT YOU WOULD KNOW ANGLISH AND LOSS SUCH AS I HAVE SUFFERED. 'T'WAS ALL FUTILE, NOTHING WAS GAINED. I SEE THAT NOW.

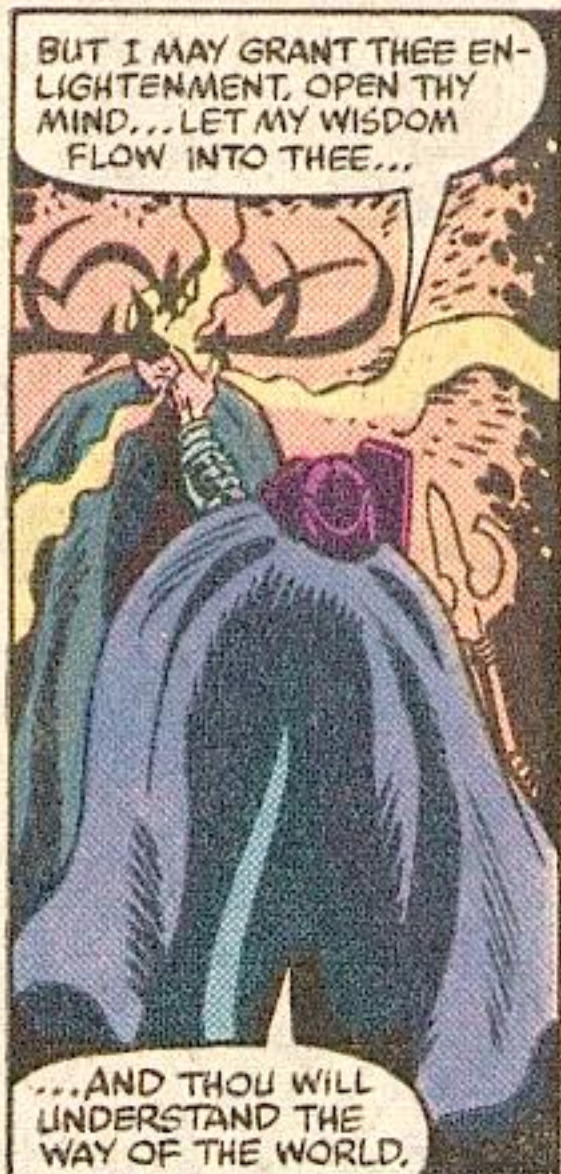


HELA, NOT E'EN ODIN CHOSE TO BE ODIN. WHAT IS... IS. WE BE ALL CREATURES OF NECESSITY. AND NOT ALL THY TEARS MAY CHANGE THAT.



WOULD THAT I COULD OFFER THEE HOPE, BUT I CANST NOT.

HOPE DOTHS BLOSSOM IN THE PRESENCE OF LIFE... AND THOU ART THE QUEEN OF DEATH.



BUT I MAY GRANT THEE ENLIGHTENMENT, OPEN THY MIND... LET MY WISDOM FLOW INTO THEE...

...AND THOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF THE WORLD.



THERE SHALL BE NO PUNISHMENT FOR THEE. THOU HAST ONLY THE PITY OF ODIN. I CARE FOR THEE...

...AS DO I ALL MY CHILDREN.

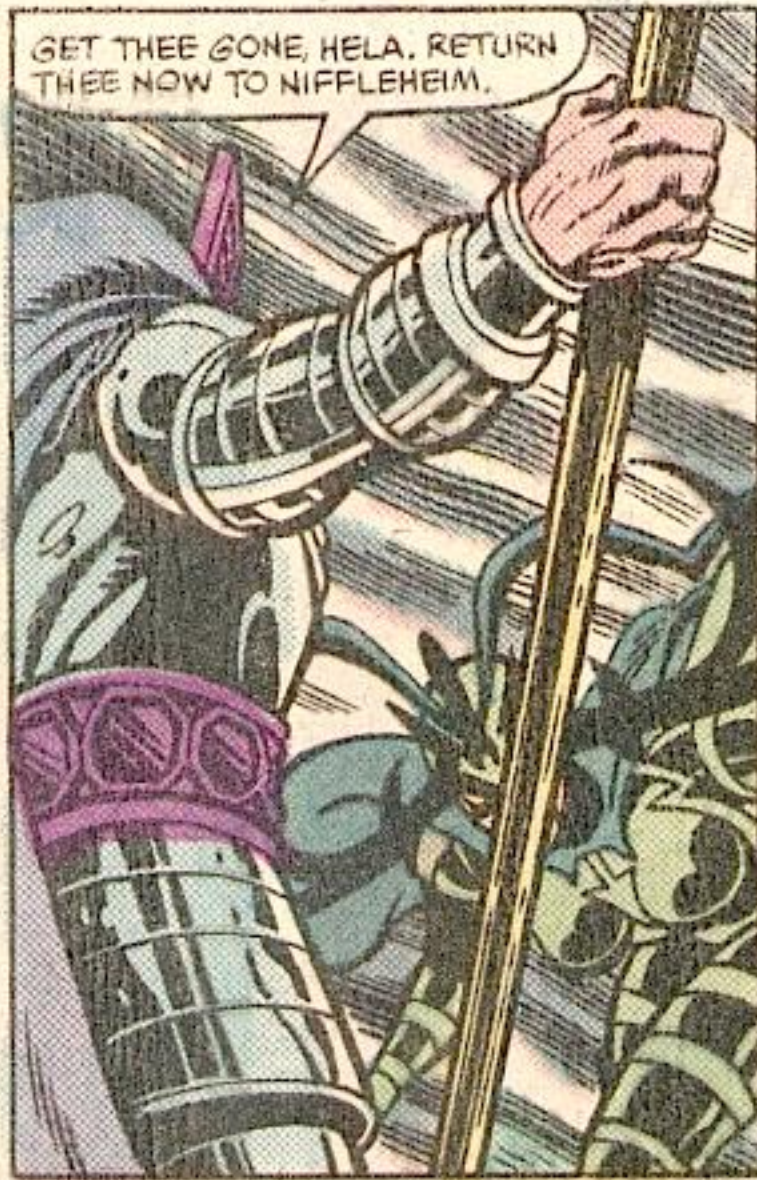


THY WORDS DO SOOTHE ME, ALL-FATHER...  
QUELL MY ANGER AND HURT... FOR NOW,  
THOUGH I CANST NOT SET TO SLUMBER  
THE MANY FEELINGS I HAVE AWAKENED...

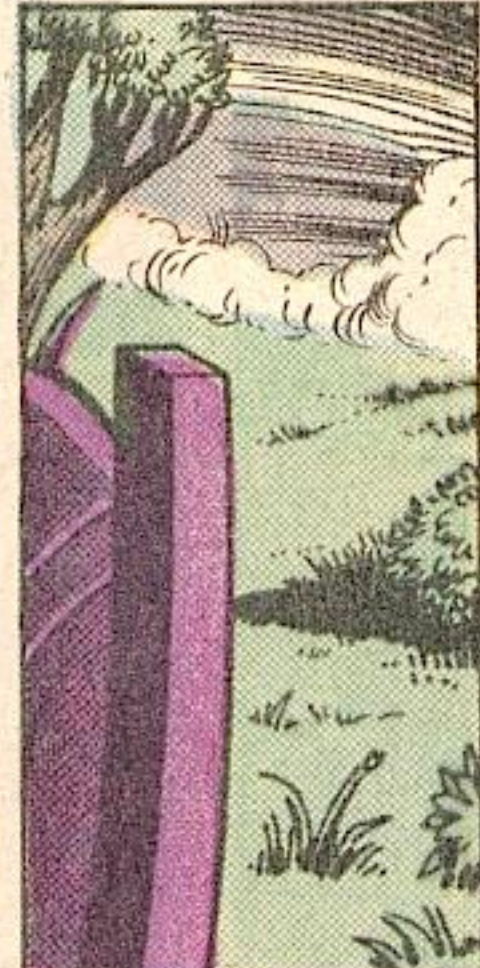
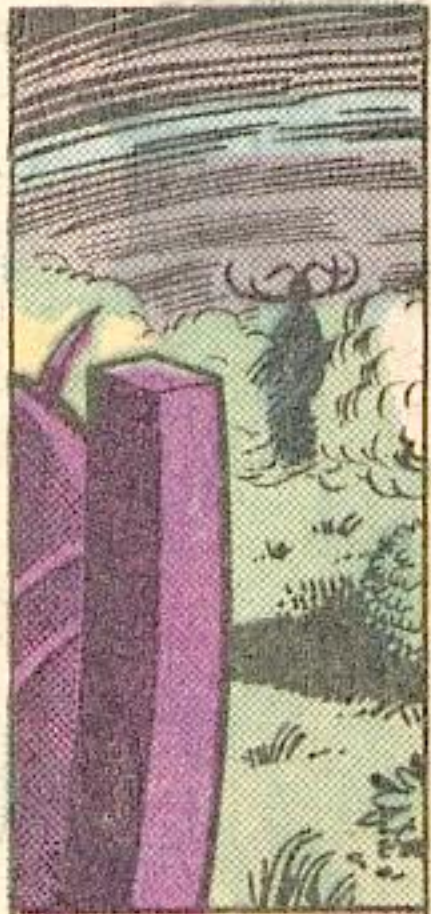


...MAYHAP  
I CANST  
NOW LEARN  
TO DEAL WITH  
THEM AS  
BEFITS A  
GODDESS...  
AND A WOMAN.

GET THEE GONE, HELA RETURN  
THEE NOW TO NIFFLEHEIM.



RETURN THEE TO  
WHERE THOU DOST  
BELONG.



SO BE IT. THE HALLS OF VALHALLA DO ONCE  
AGAIN SHINE, AND THE RAPTUROUS CLANG OF  
ARMOR IS HEARD AGAIN 'ROSS THIS THRICE-  
BLESSED LAND.

SHE DEPARTS, TRAILED  
BY THE CHILL AND  
BILLING MIST WHICH  
HAS BLANKETED THIS  
DOMAIN.

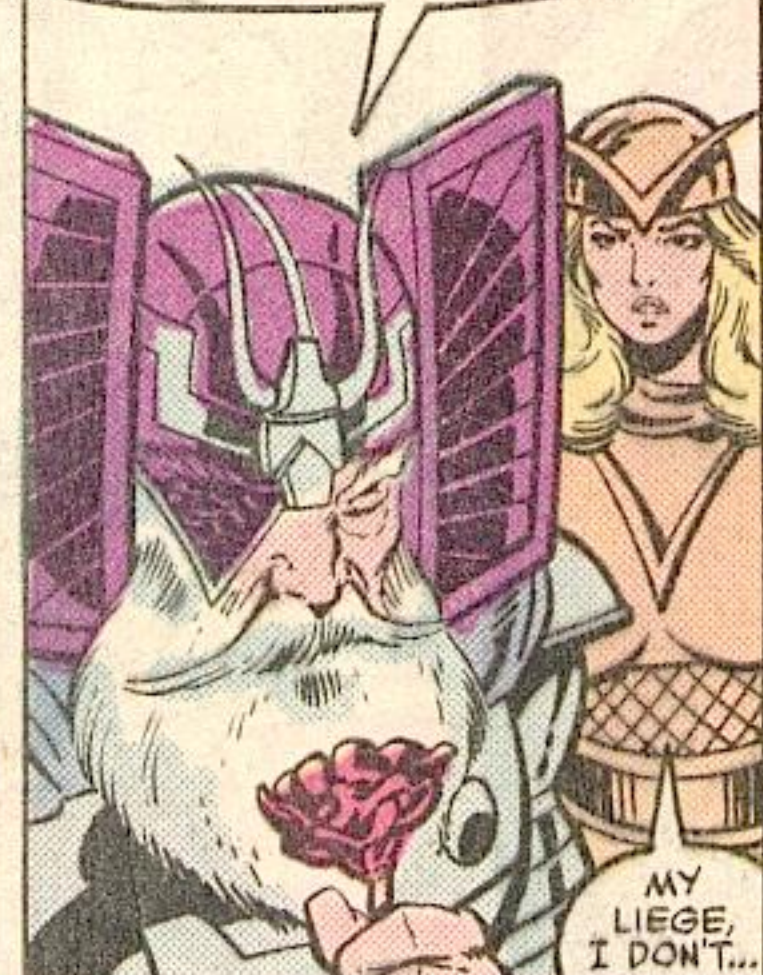
AND WITH EACH RE-  
CEDING STEP SHE  
TAKES, THE TERRAIN  
ASSUMES ITS FORMER  
ASPECT...

... 'TIL ONLY WISPS OF  
FOG BETRAY HER PAST  
PRESENCE.

MY LIEGE! WHAT HATH OCCURRED? I, AND  
MY SISTER VALKYRIES WERT ~~SLAIN~~ BY  
HELA'S MINIONS. YET, WE HAVE AWAKENED--  
AND WITH NO TRACE OF INJURY.



AHH... THAT ALL WOUNDS COULD BE  
SO EASILY MENDED, BUT THOSE OF  
THE HEART... AYE, THOSE OF THE  
HEART, BE BEYOND MY HEALING.



MY  
LIEGE,  
I DON'T...

COME, VALTRAUTA. LET US JOIN  
THY SISTERS, FOR ODIN DOTH  
WISH TO REJOICE...



...AND TO  
FORGET.

THE END