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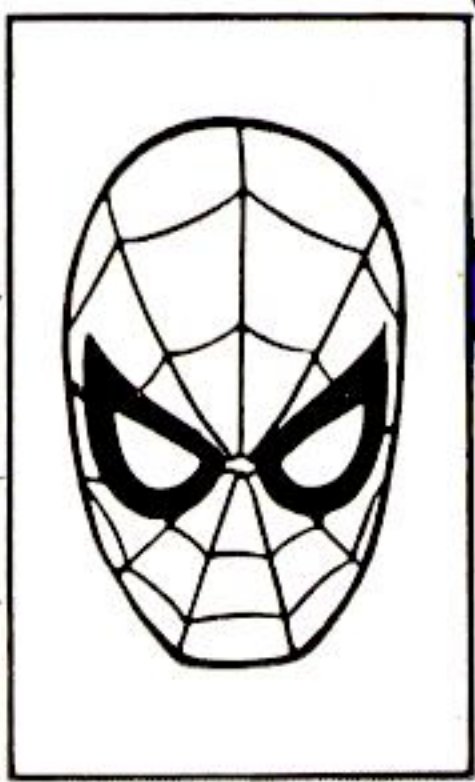
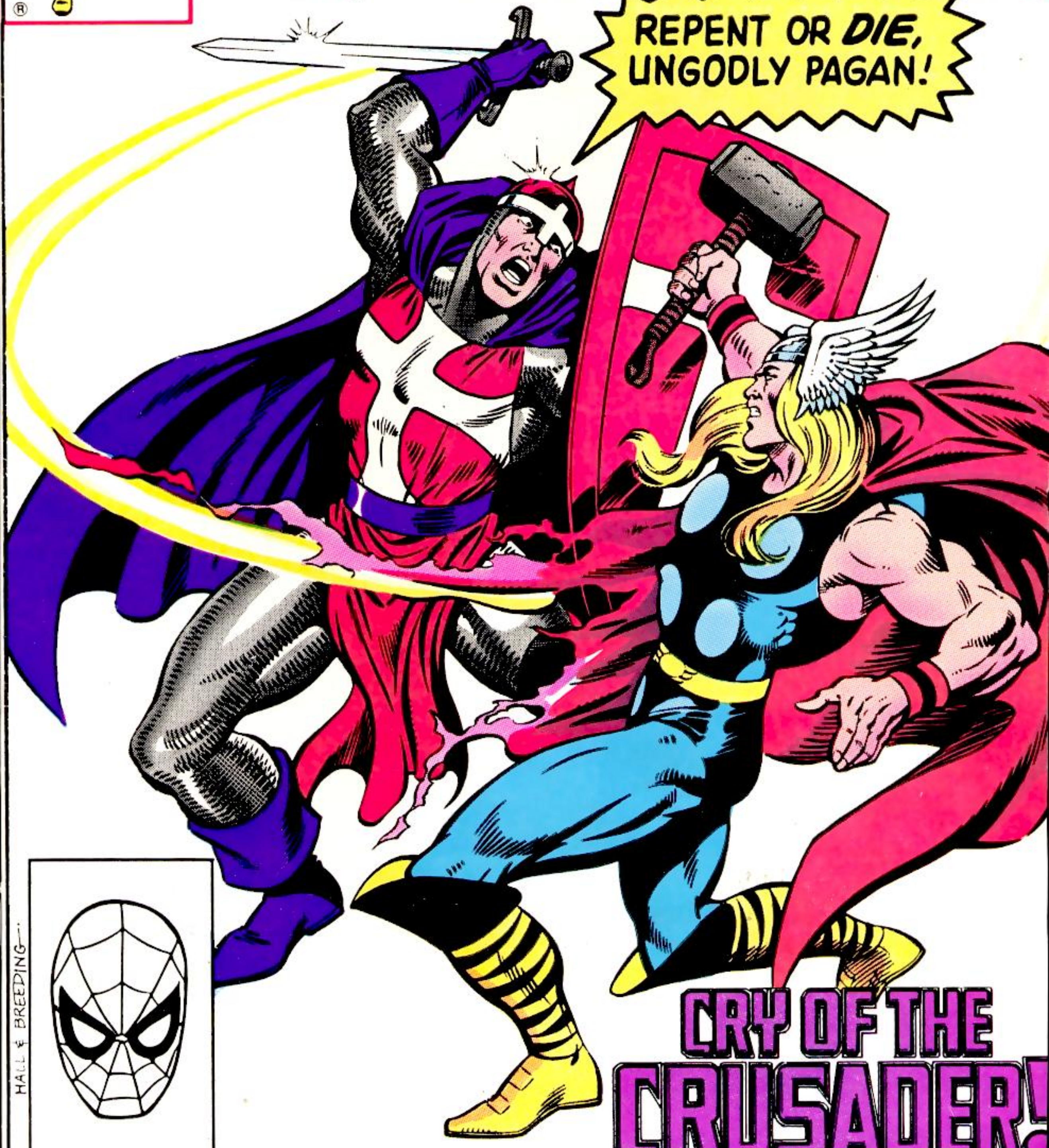


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# THE MIGHTY THOR

REPENT OR *DIE*,  
UNGODLY PAGAN!



CRY OF THE  
CRUSADER!

HALL & BREEDING



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

THOR! GOD OF THUNDER!  
PRINCE OF CELESTIAL ASGARD!  
HE CHOOSES NONETHELESS TO  
SEEK HIS DESTINY ON EARTH  
AS CHAMPION OF TOILING  
HUMANKIND.

SOARING NOW ON THE BRACING  
LAKESHORE WINDS ABOVE CHICAGO,  
THOR IS THE VERY IMAGE OF  
ETERNAL YOUTH--VIGOROUS IN  
BODY, COMMANDING IN PRESENCE...

...TROUBLED  
IN SPIRIT--

IN FAITH, I DO TRULY  
LOVE THE GODDESS SIF.  
YET, IF SHE CANNOT FIND  
FULFILLMENT HERE ON  
MIDGARD, I FEAR THAT  
OUR BETROTHAL, PLEDGED  
IN THE HEAVENS, MAY  
BE... BROKEN.

## THE COMING OF THE **CRUSADER!**

ALAN ZELENETZ    BOB HALL    VINCE COLLETTA  
SCRIPTER    PLOTTER/PENCILER    INKER

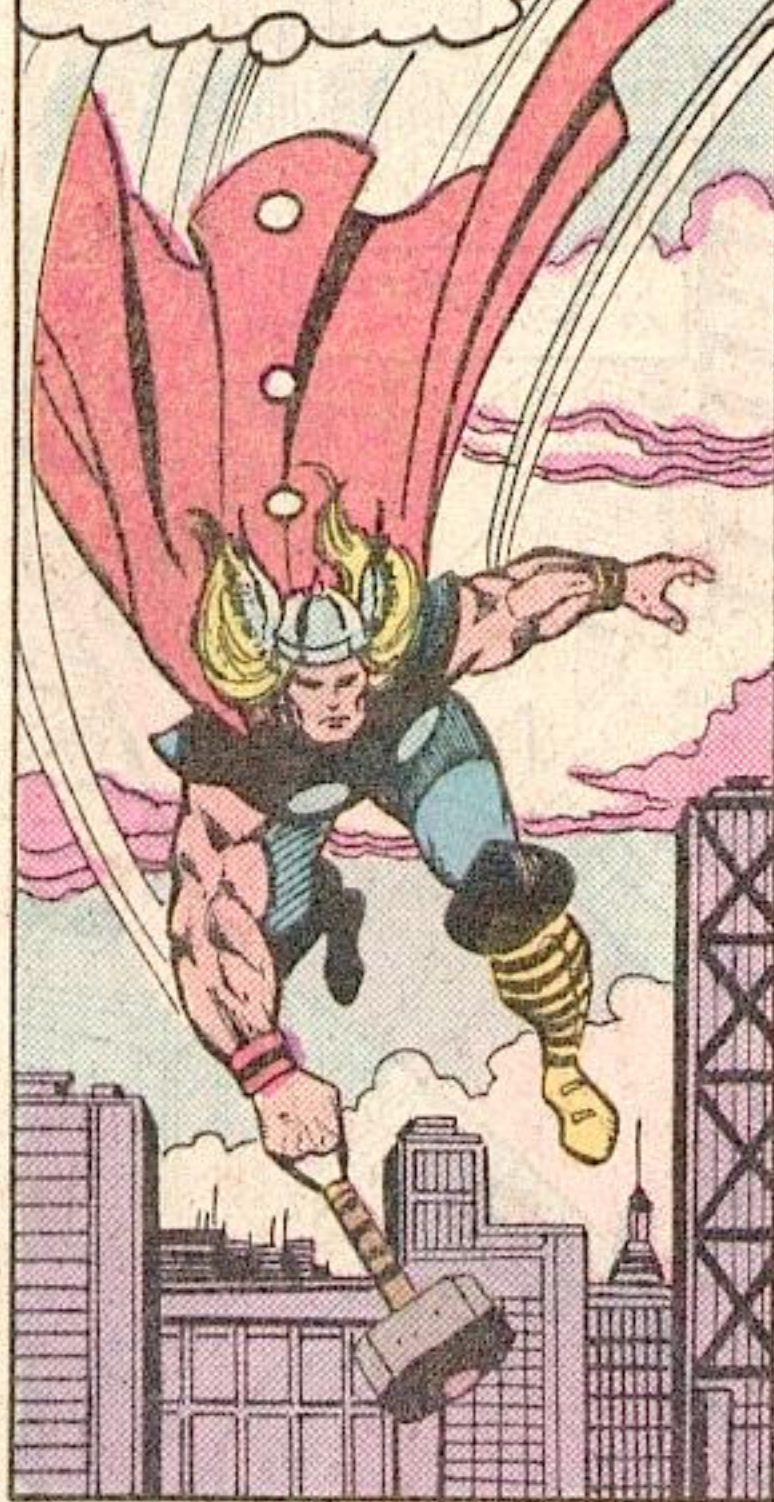
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LETTERER    COLORIST

MARK GRUENWALD    JIM SHOOTER  
EDITOR    EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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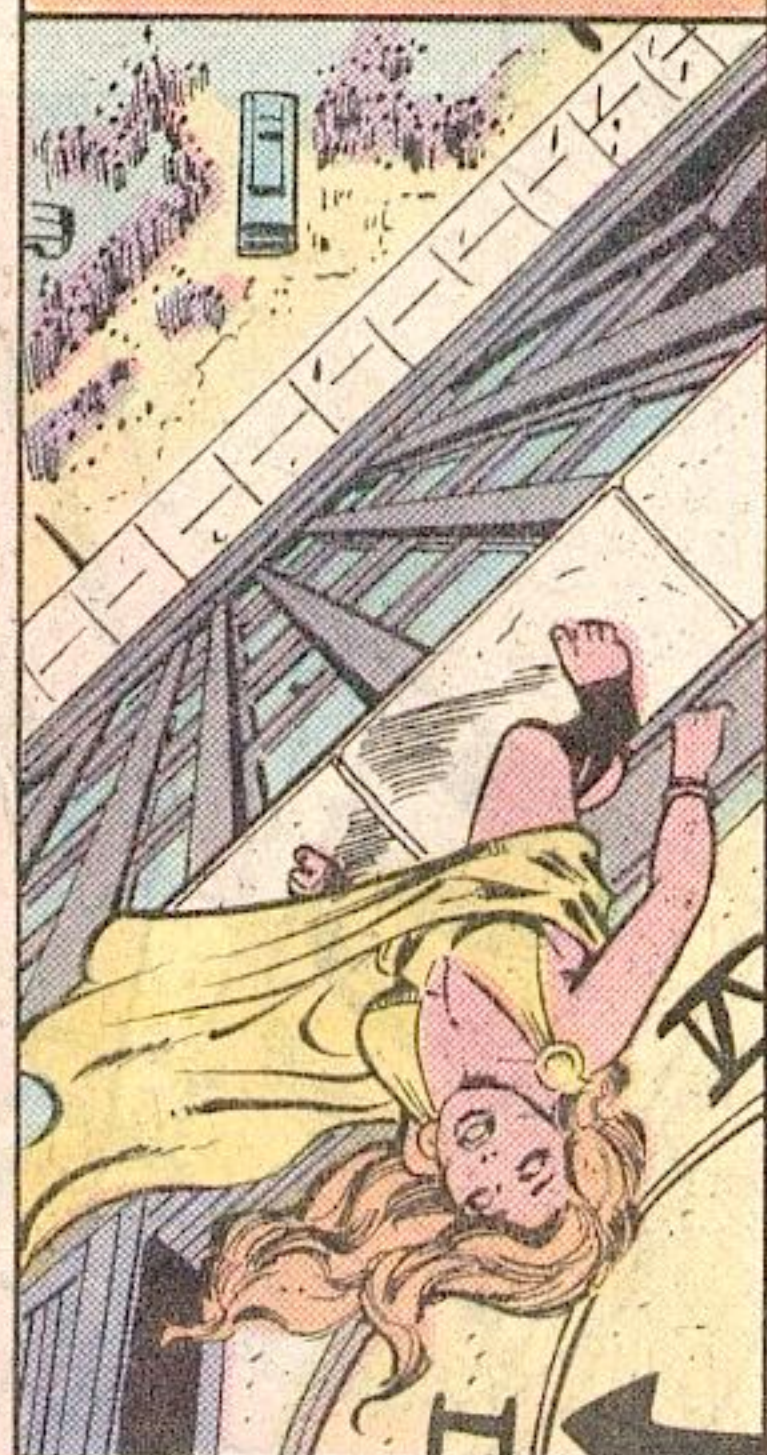
BUT WHILE I THINK ON MATTERS OF MY OWN, A GROWING CROWD OF MORTALS GATHERS THERE BELOW. IT MAY SIGNIFY SOME PERIL!



AGAIN--IT'S BEEN MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES NOW, AND WHAT WE STILL HAVE IS A **VERY TENSE SITUATION**. THE YOUNG WOMAN, WHO HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED, IS APPARENTLY THREATENING TO LEAP FROM ON TOP OF THE WRIGLEY BUILDING...



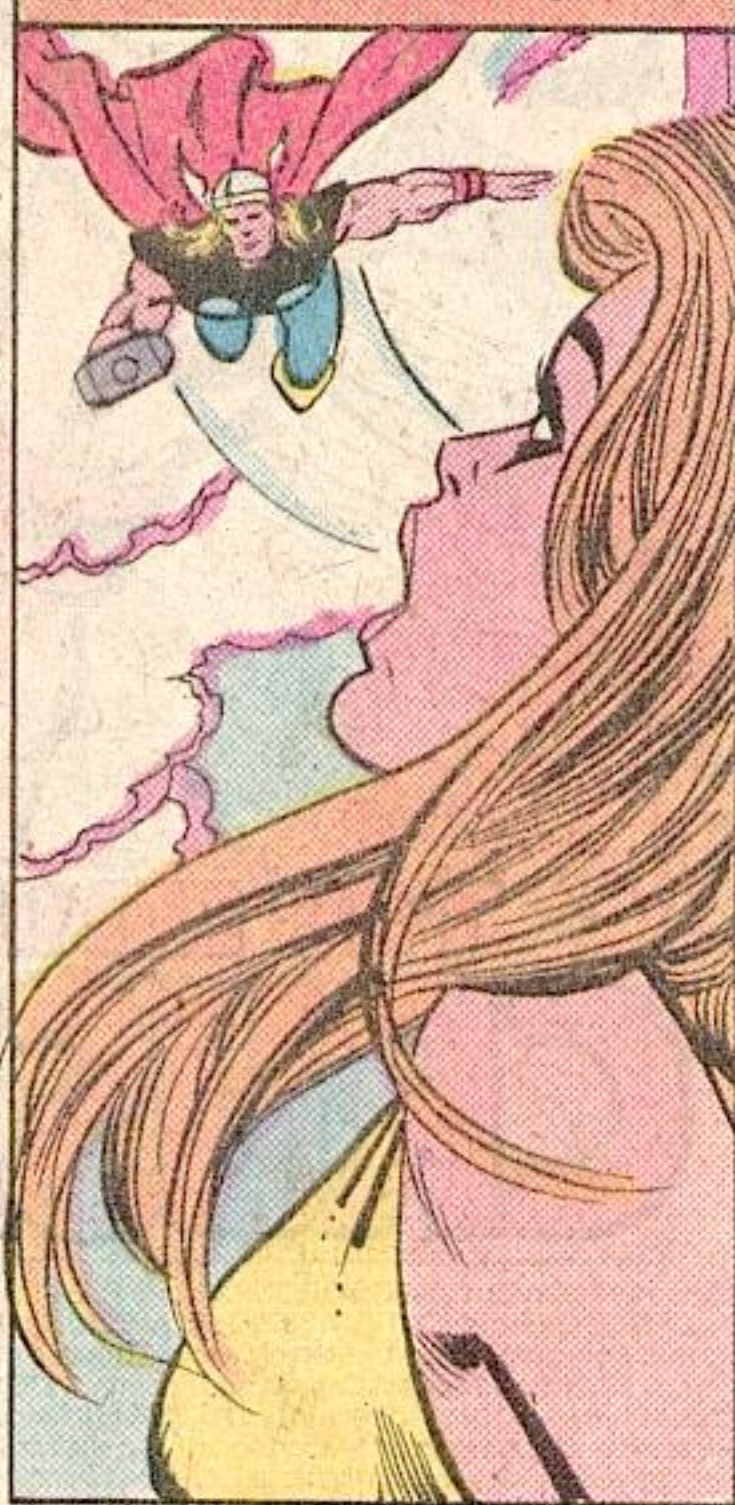
"... POLICE SPOKESMEN HAVE TOLD US THEIR EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING, THOUGH THE GIRL REFUSES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM. FROM DOWN HERE IT ALMOST APPEARS AS THOUGH SHE WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING..."



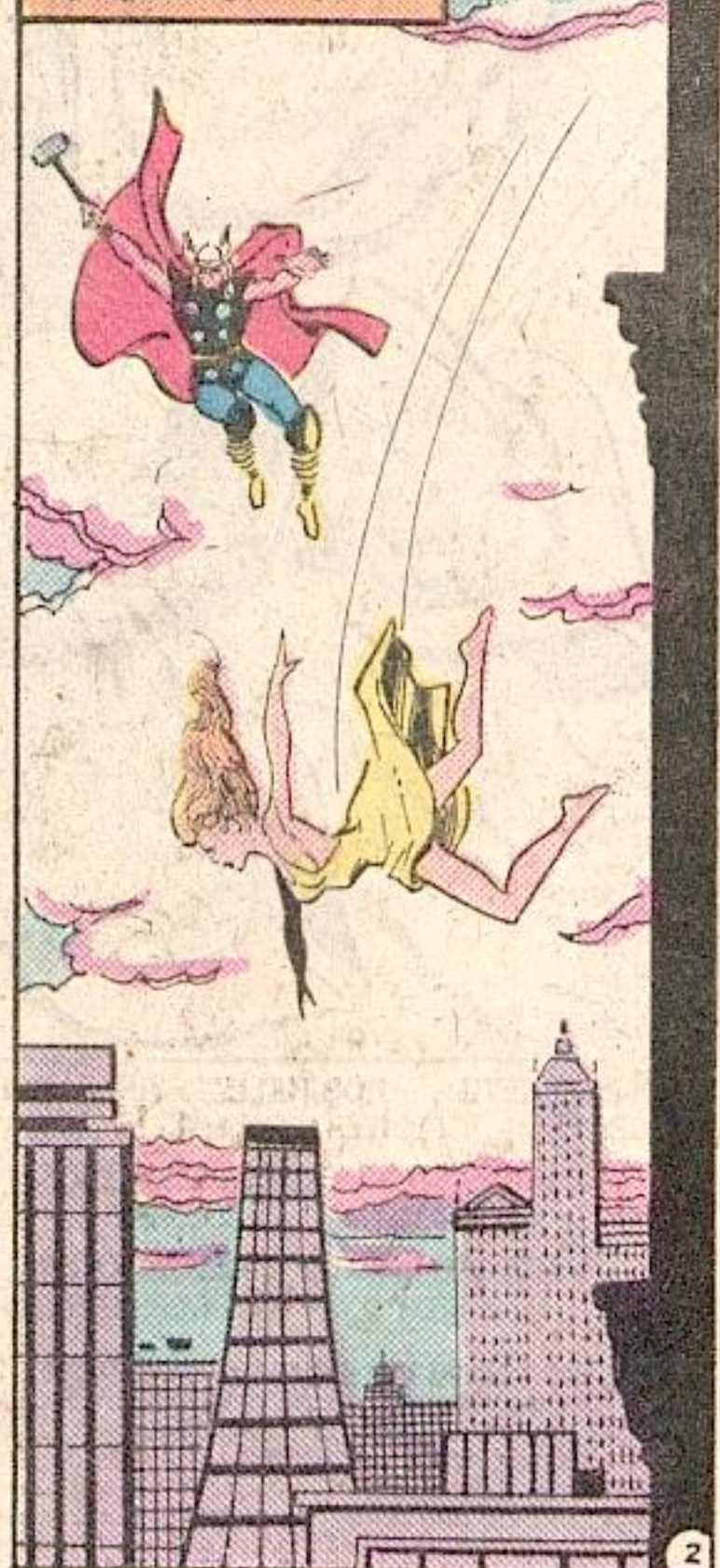
...MOST OF THIS CROWD YOU CAN SEE AROUND ME, TED, IS EERILY SILENT. THEY HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE GIRL ABOVE WITH A... UM... AN... I MIGHT EVEN SAY **RELIGIOUS RAPTURE**, AND-- WAIT, WAIT--



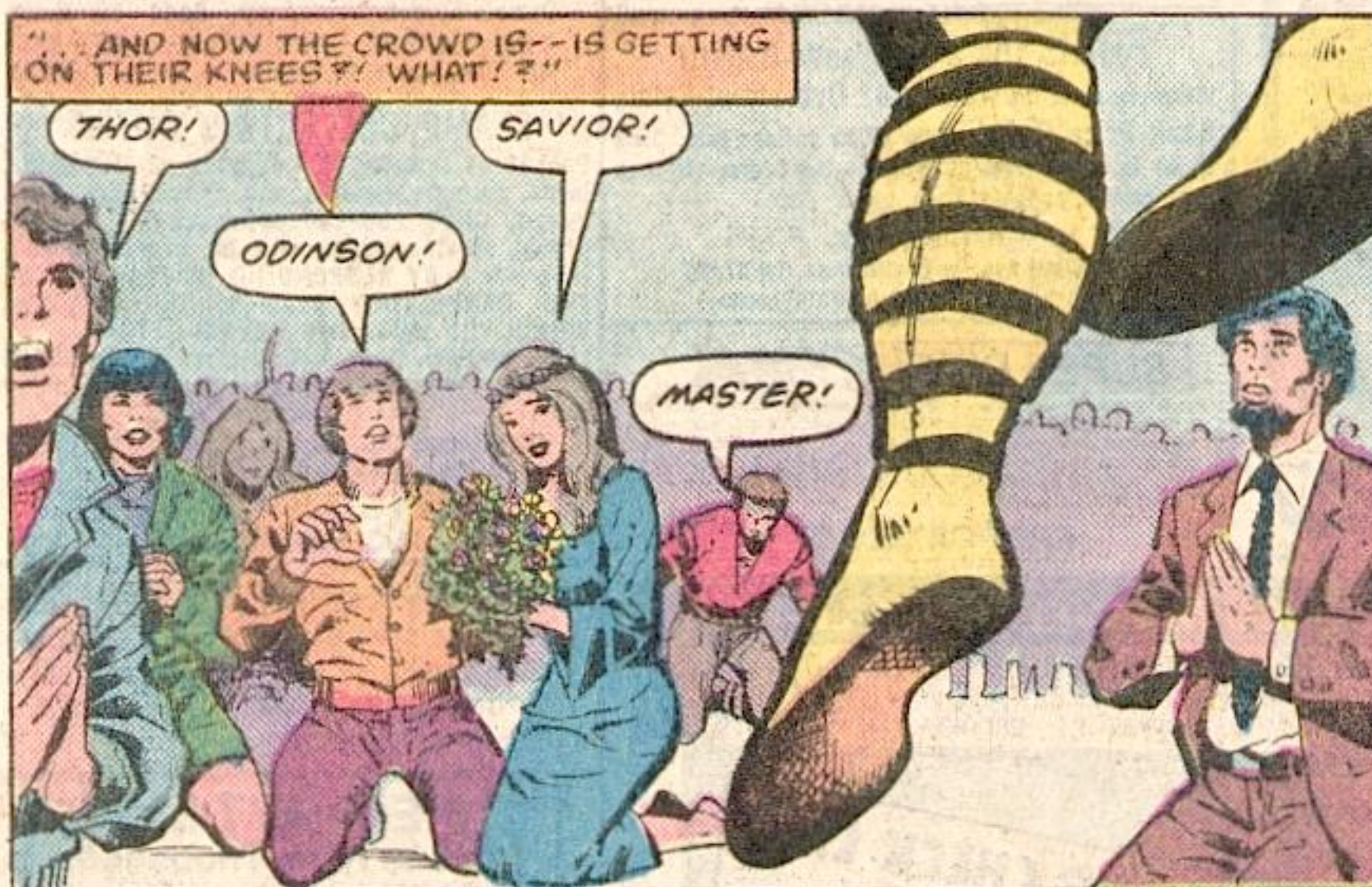
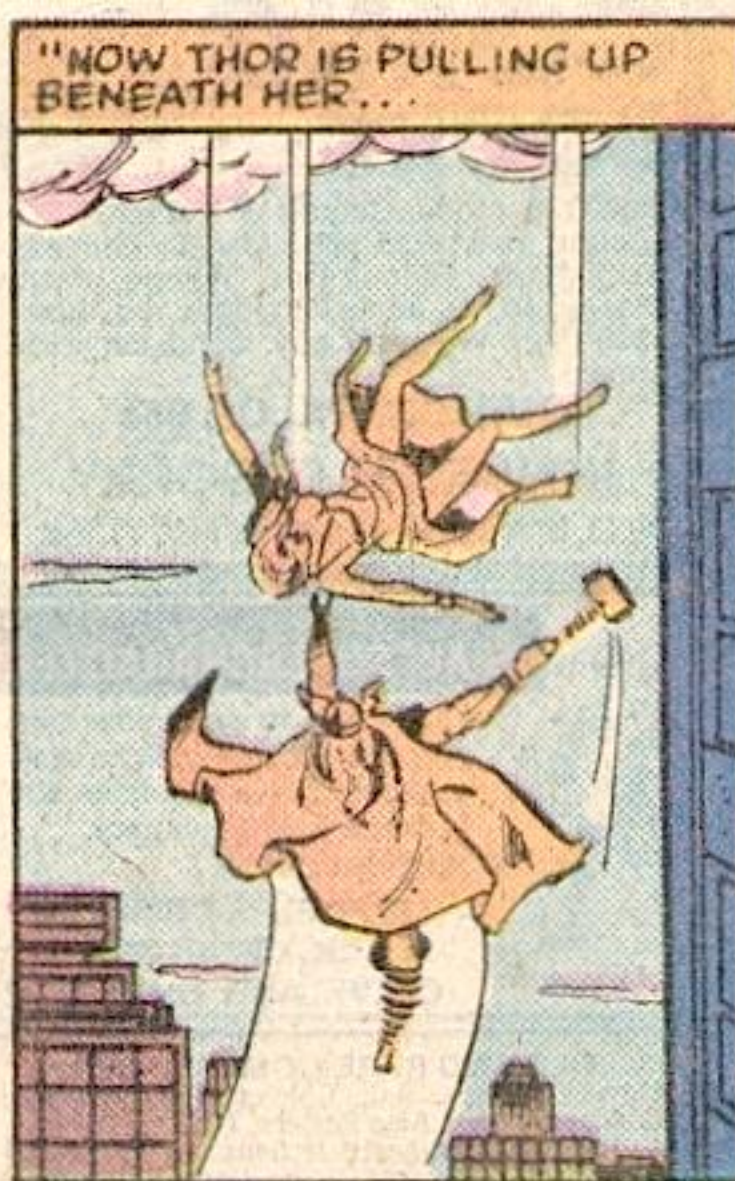
"-- YES, IT IS-- IT'S THOR THE FAMOUS SUPER HERO WHO HAS RECENTLY BECOME ACTIVE IN THE CHICAGO AREA. HE'S OBVIOUSLY SIGHTED THE GIRL, AND HE'S FLYING TOWARDS HER--OH!



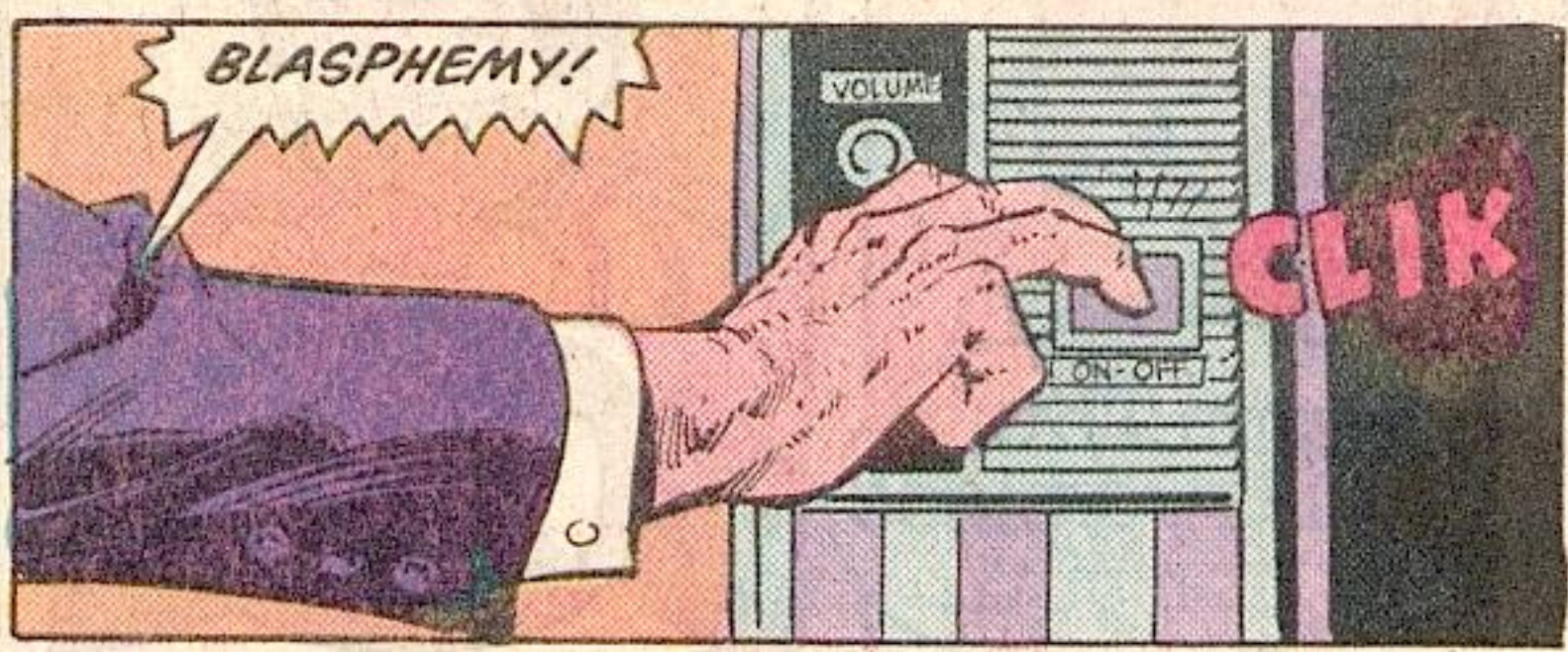
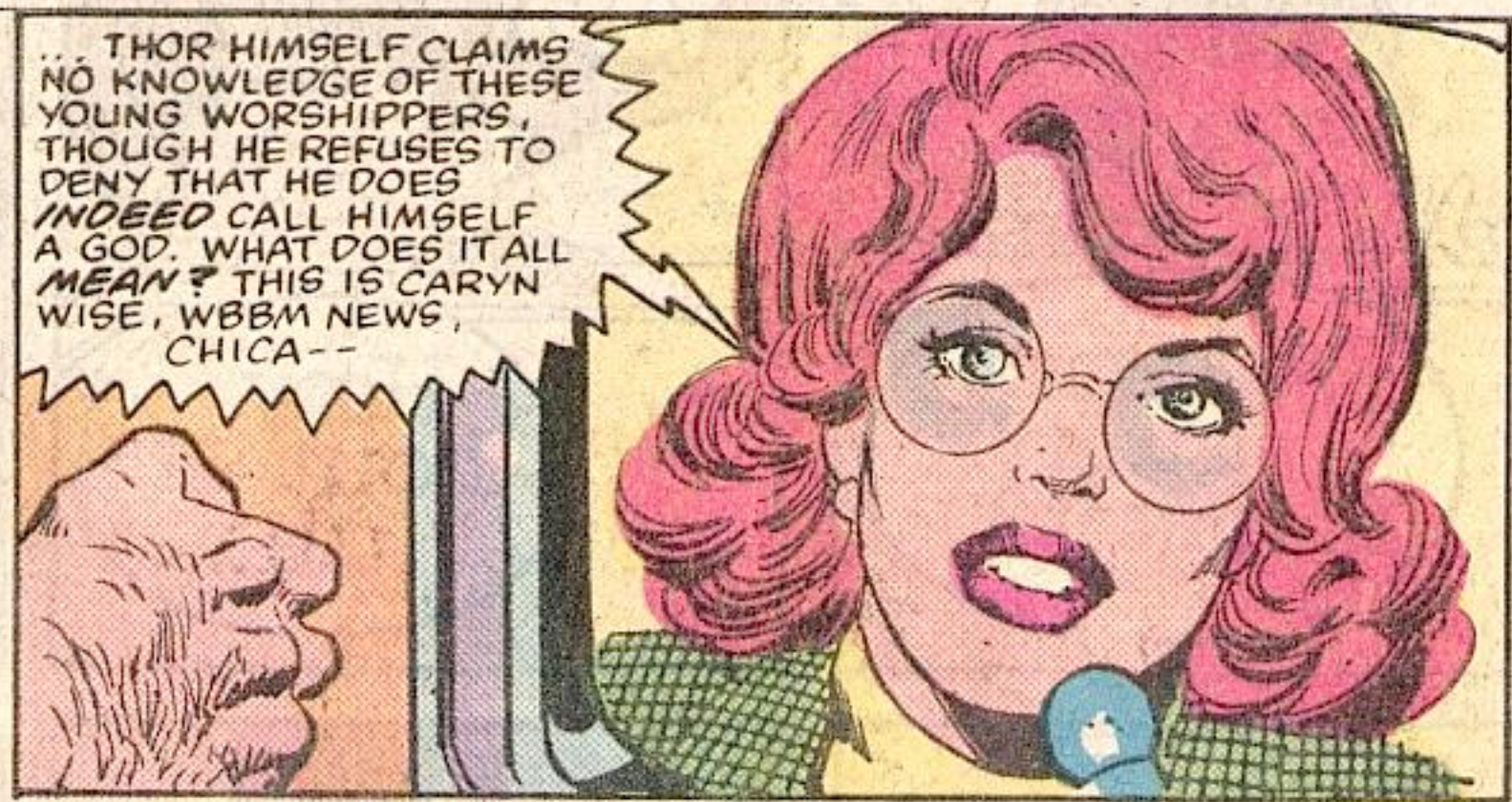
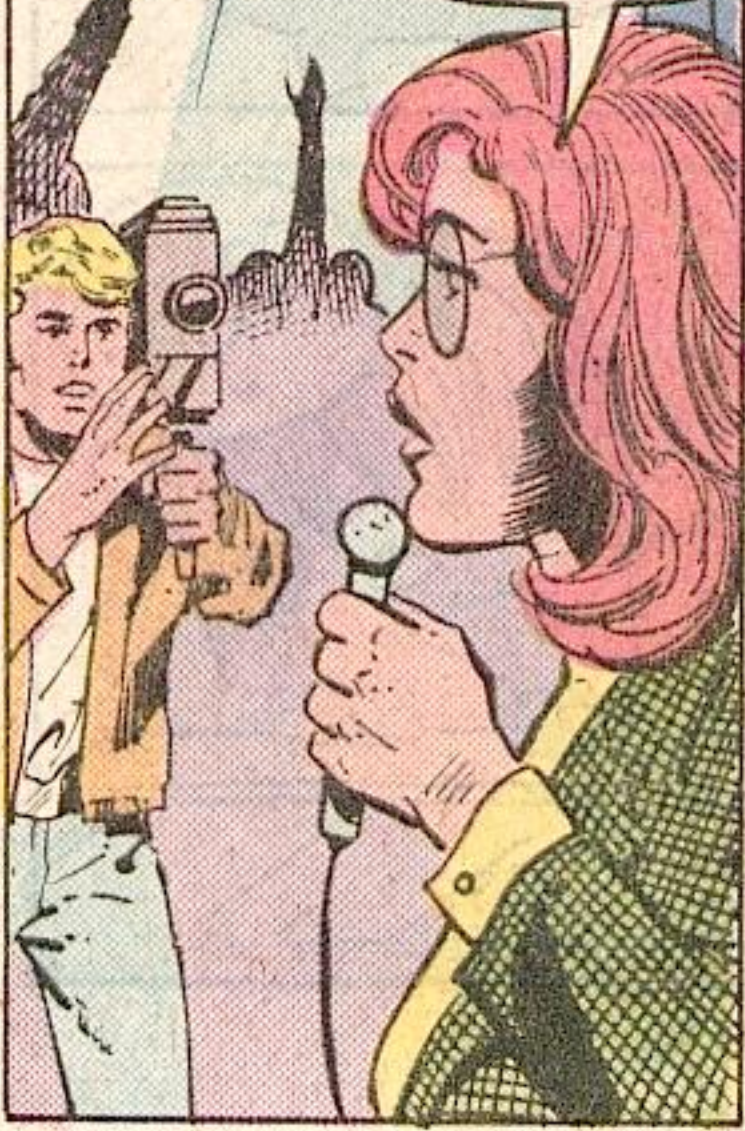
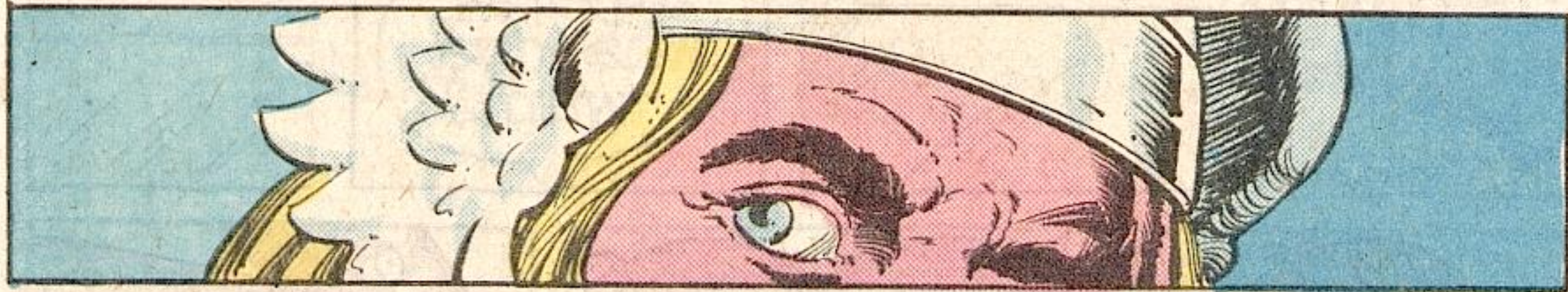
"SHE'S JUMPED!"









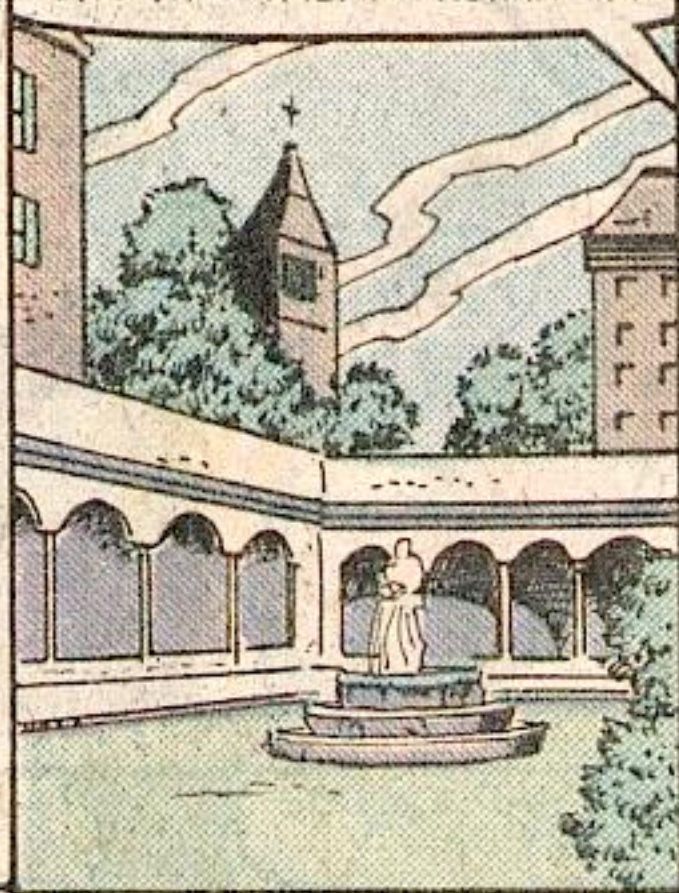




WATCHING WHAT?! FILTH  
AND SACRILEGE!?



MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER DID  
NOT FOUND BLACKWOOD  
SEMINARY FOR ITS HALLS TO  
ECHO WITH PAGAN PROFANITY.



"IF THY BROTHER ENTICE THEE,  
SAYING, LET US SERVE OTHER  
GODS, THOU SHALT NOT HEARKEN  
UNTO HIM!" OR HAVE YOU FOR-  
GOTTEN THE GOOD BOOK?



THERE YOU GO RAILING  
AT US AGAIN, ARTHUR!  
BUT IF WE EVER HOPE TO  
COUNTER ANY OF THESE  
SORT OF CULTS, WE  
OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND  
THEIR POINT OF VIEW--

HEY!

AND GIVE THEM THE *SLIGHTEST* SHRED OF  
CREDENCE AND RESPECT, NEVER! IN GOD'S  
NAME, MANLEY, I'LL--



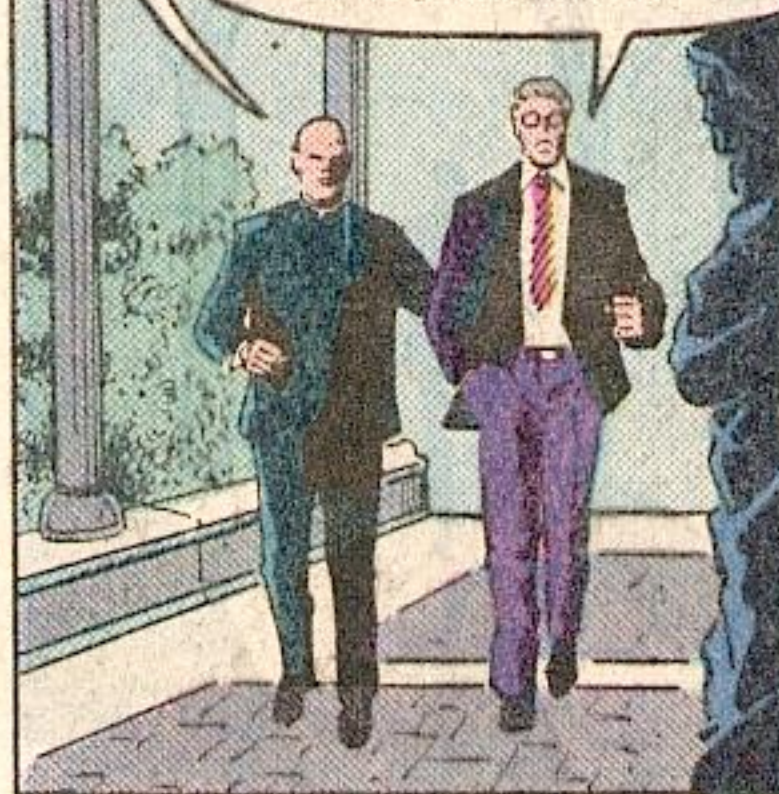
FATHER WILLIAM!



ARTHUR! ARTHUR BLACKWOOD!  
LET GO OF MR. MANLEY'S TIE  
THIS INSTANT, AND COME  
WITH ME, YOUNG MAN!

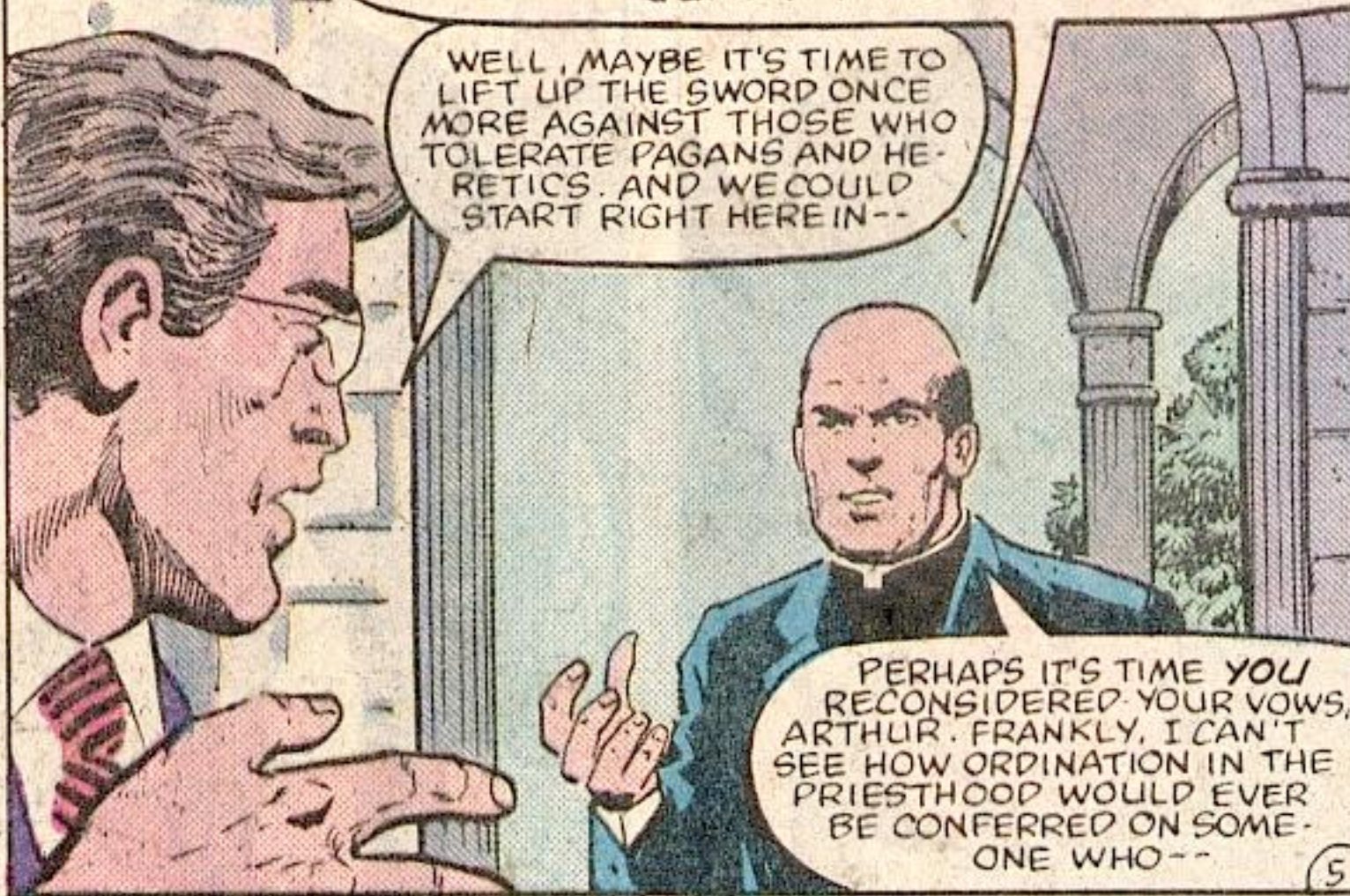
TOLERANCE, MY BOY, TOLERANCE.  
OF COURSE, WE TRUST THAT OUR  
WAY IS THE STRAIGHTEST PATH TO  
TRUTH, BUT THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS PEACEABLE, AND SO,  
OUGHT OUR BEHAVIOR TO REFLECT--

BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO  
THE AVENGING SPIRIT OF  
THE CHURCH?



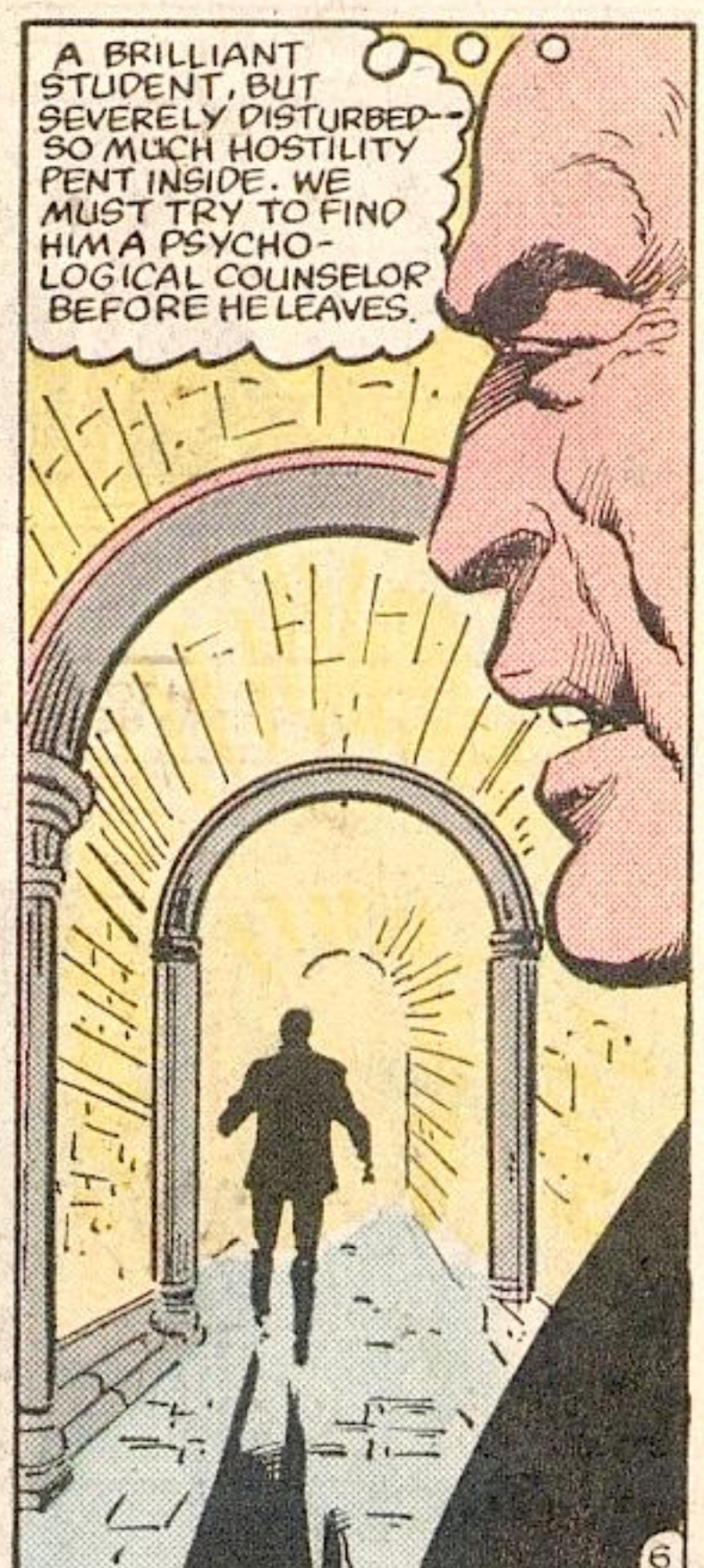
WE DON'T GO ON CRUSADES ANYMORE, IF THAT'S  
WHAT YOU MEAN. THAT WAS IN THE PAST, ARTHUR,  
THIS IS TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHICAGO, THERE'S  
QUITE A DIFFERENCE--

WELL, MAYBE IT'S TIME TO  
LIFT UP THE SWORD ONCE  
MORE AGAINST THOSE WHO  
TOLERATE PAGANS AND HE-  
RETICS. AND WE COULD  
START RIGHT HERE IN--



PERHAPS IT'S TIME YOU  
RECONSIDERED YOUR VOWS,  
ARTHUR. FRANKLY, I CAN'T  
SEE HOW ORDINATION IN THE  
PRIESTHOOD WOULD EVER  
BE CONFERRED ON SOME-  
ONE WHO--



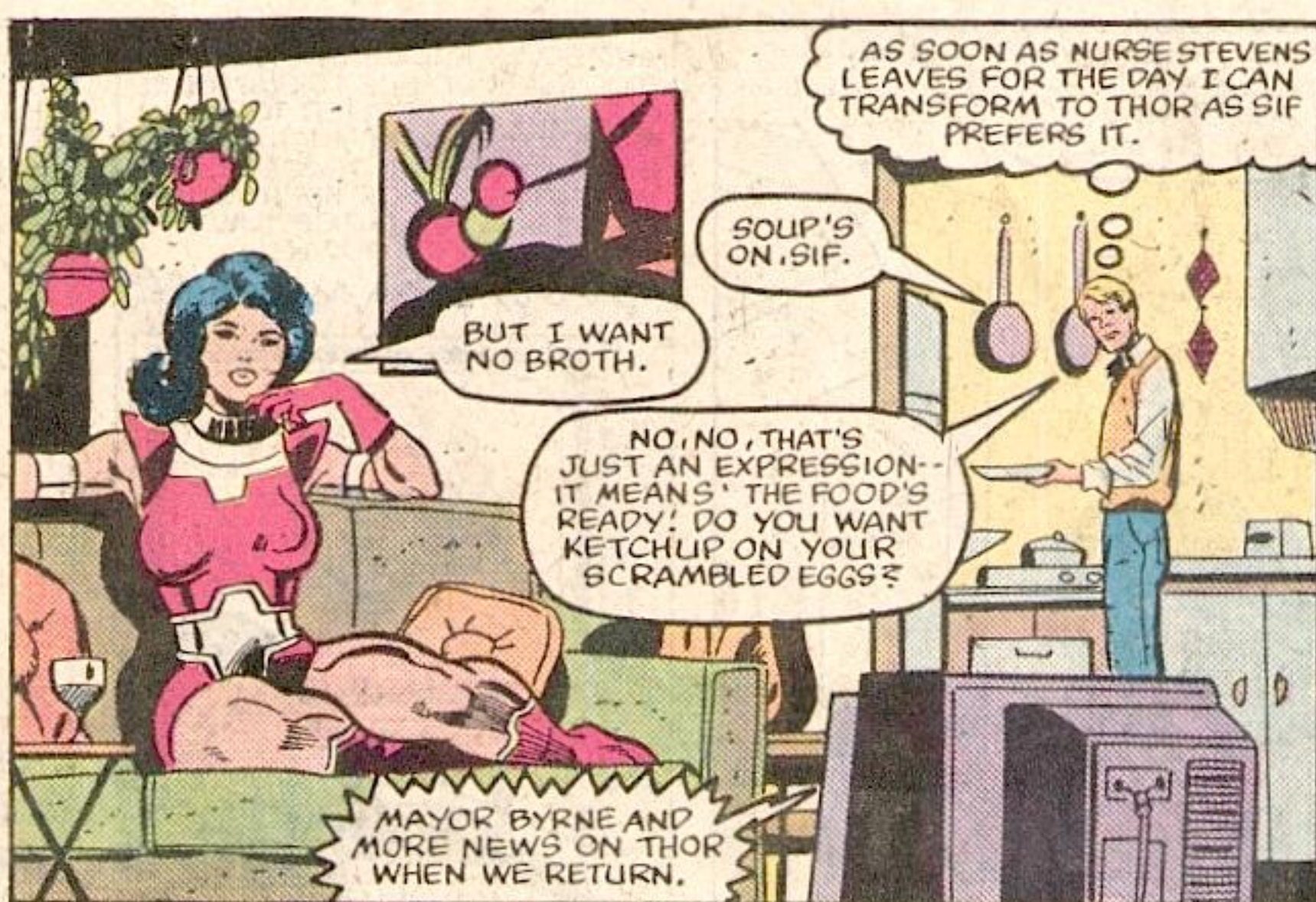




LATE THAT AFTERNOON, SOME MILES EAST, ON CHICAGO'S MAGNIFICENT MILE ALONG MICHIGAN AVENUE...



... WHERE THOR, IN HIS MORTAL GUISE OF DOCTOR DONALD BLAKE RENTS PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE AND AN APARTMENT...



SOUP'S ON, SIF.

BUT I WANT NO BROTH.

NO, NO, THAT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION - IT MEANS 'THE FOOD'S READY! DO YOU WANT KETCHUP ON YOUR SCRAMBLED EGGS?

MAYOR BYRNE AND MORE NEWS ON THOR WHEN WE RETURN.

AS SOON AS NURSE STEVENS LEAVES FOR THE DAY I CAN TRANSFORM TO THOR AS SIF PREFERS IT.

HA! THAT IS A COMIC NAME, 'SCRAMBLED EGGS', DOST THOU NOT THINK SO?

SIF, YOU PROMISED YOU'D REMEMBER TO SAY 'YOU' AND NOT 'THOU'!



DOST YOU NOT THINK SO?

"DO YOU NOT THINK SO..."

BY FRIGGA'S HEARTH, THOU ART TOO DEMANDING OF ME, DONALD BLAKE. BUT WHAT DOST THOU THINK OF THOSE WHO WORSHIPPED THEE AS THOR THIS DAY?

THAT WAS *REALLY* UNCOMFORTABLE. IT'S BEEN *CENTURIES* SINCE I HAD SUCH AN EXPERIENCE. IT WAS JUST... ALL OUT OF PLACE.



WOULDEST THOU DENY THAT MY BELOVED PRINCE AND GLORIOUS THOR DESERVES SUCH REVERENCE FROM MORTALS?

SIF, I'VE COME TO EARTH TO *HELP* MEN AND WOMEN, NOT TO BE *REVERED*. LIFE IS A STRUGGLE FOR SO MANY OF THEM, A WEARISOME TOILING, DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT.



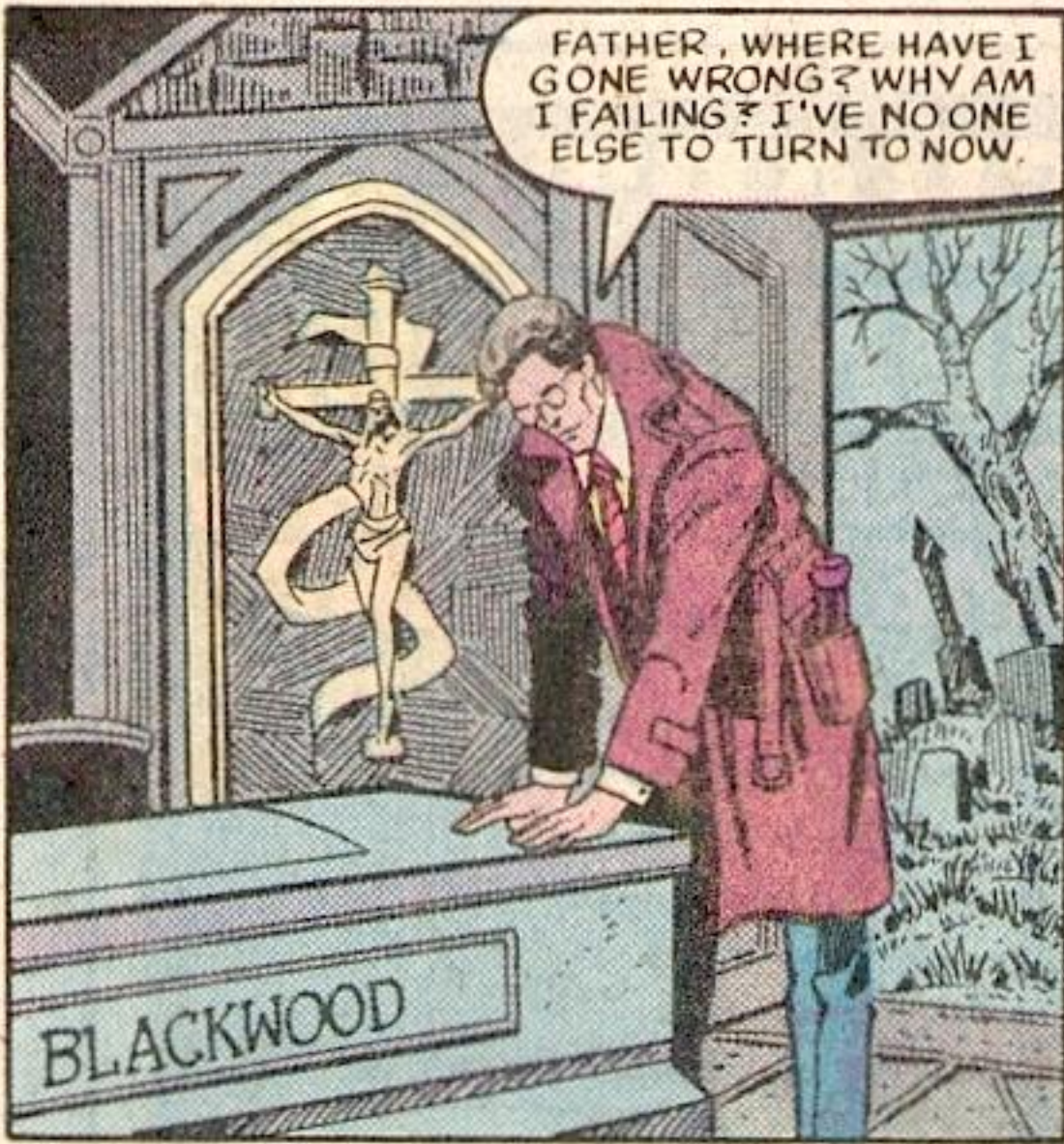
THOR OFFERS THEM... ASSISTANCE EVERY SO OFTEN, LENDS THEM SUPPORT... I GUESS A LITTLE EXTRA PROTECTION AGAINST THE CHAOS OF MODERN LIFE... BUT...











OPENING HIS EYES, ARTHUR BLACKWOOD IS ASTOUNDED TO SEE HIS OWN FEVERED FAITH AND DESPERATE CONVICTIONS TAKE CONCRETE FORM AS THE ACTUAL IMAGE OF HIS FATHER APPEARS HOVERING IN THE AIR ABOVE HIM --







ANSWER ME!  
WILL YOU UPHOLD  
YOUR SACRED DUTY  
AS A HOLY WARRIOR  
OF THE FAITH?!

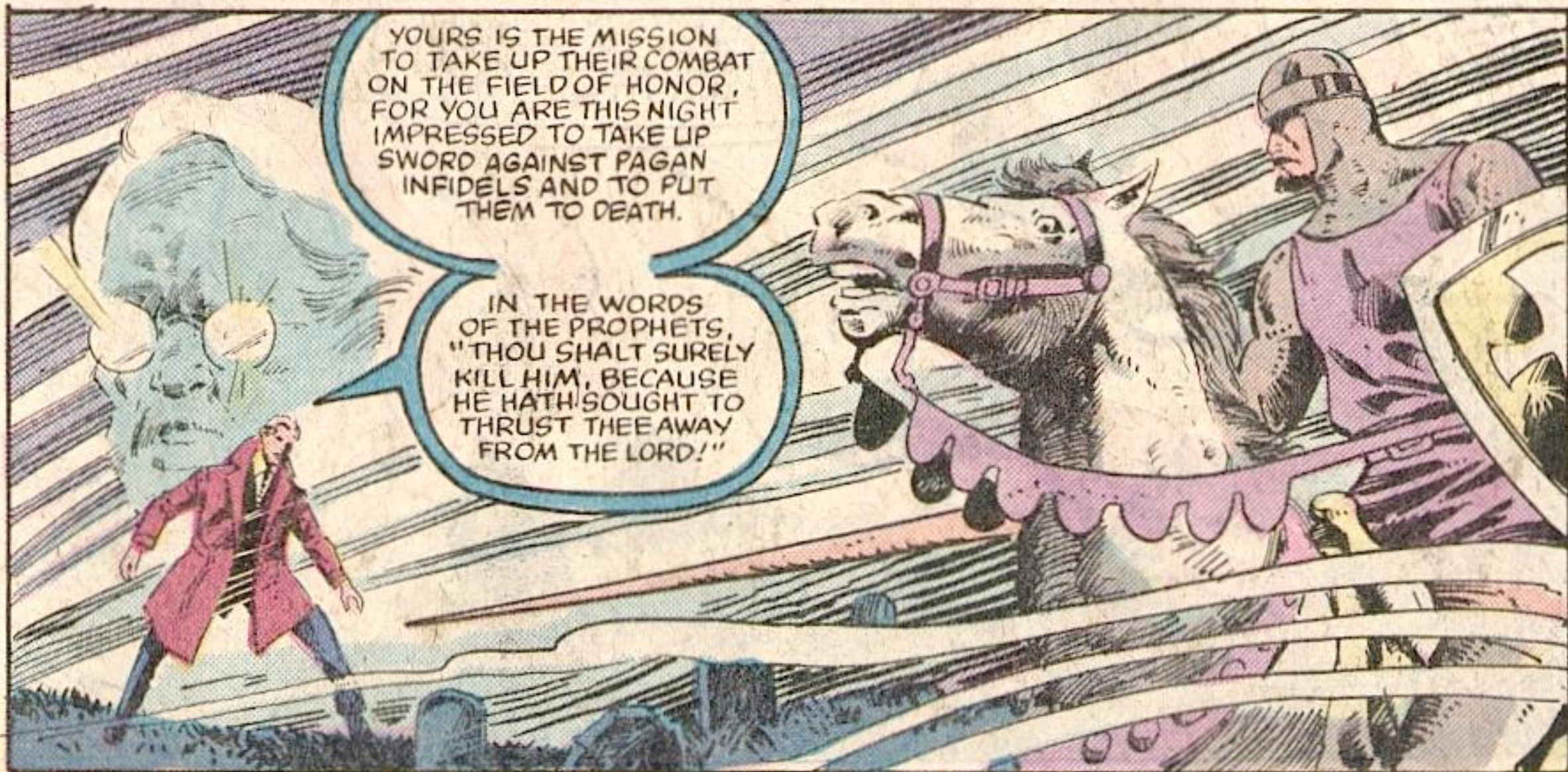
YES, YES,  
FATHER. I  
WILL.

THEN WITNESS BEFORE YOUR EYES  
THE AWESOME POWER OF THAT  
FAITH! FOR THESE ARE THE ZEALOUS  
KNIGHTS THAT CENTURIES AGO WERE  
LED ON CRUSADE BY YOUR FORE-  
FATHERS UNDER THE BANNER OF  
KING RICHARD THE LIONHEARTED!



MY GOD!





YOURS IS THE MISSION  
TO TAKE UP THEIR COMBAT  
ON THE FIELD OF HONOR,  
FOR YOU ARE THIS NIGHT  
IMPRESSED TO TAKE UP  
SWORD AGAINST PAGAN  
INFIDELS AND TO PUT  
THEM TO DEATH.

IN THE WORDS  
OF THE PROPHETS,  
"THOU SHALT SURELY  
KILL HIM, BECAUSE  
HE HATH SOUGHT TO  
THRUST THEE AWAY  
FROM THE LORD!"

NOW IT IS TIME TO ENTER UPON  
THE ROAD. YOUR *FAITH* IS YOUR  
*MIGHT*, THROUGH WHICH YOU  
POSSESS THE STRENGTH AND  
POWER AND SKILL OF ALL THESE  
ASSEMBLED KNIGHTS AND  
COUNTLESS OTHERS WHO FOUGHT  
IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUE WAY!



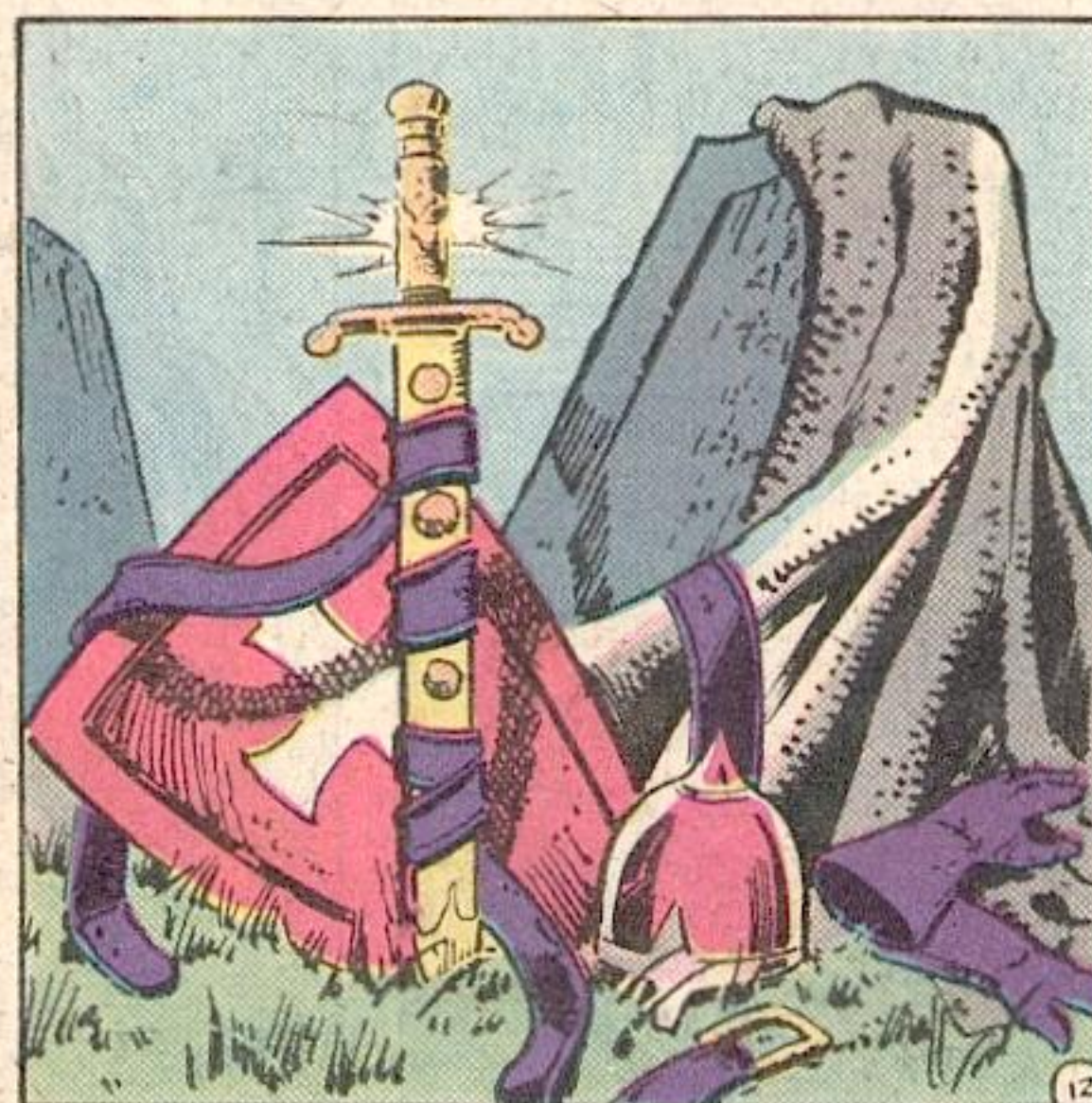
IN RETURN FOR  
YOUR SOLEMN  
PLEDGE...



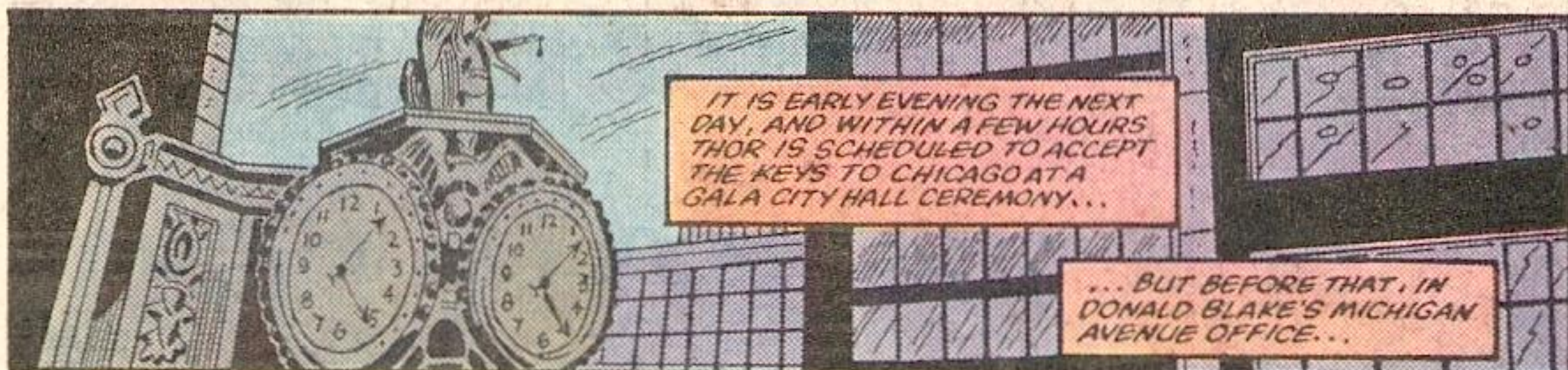
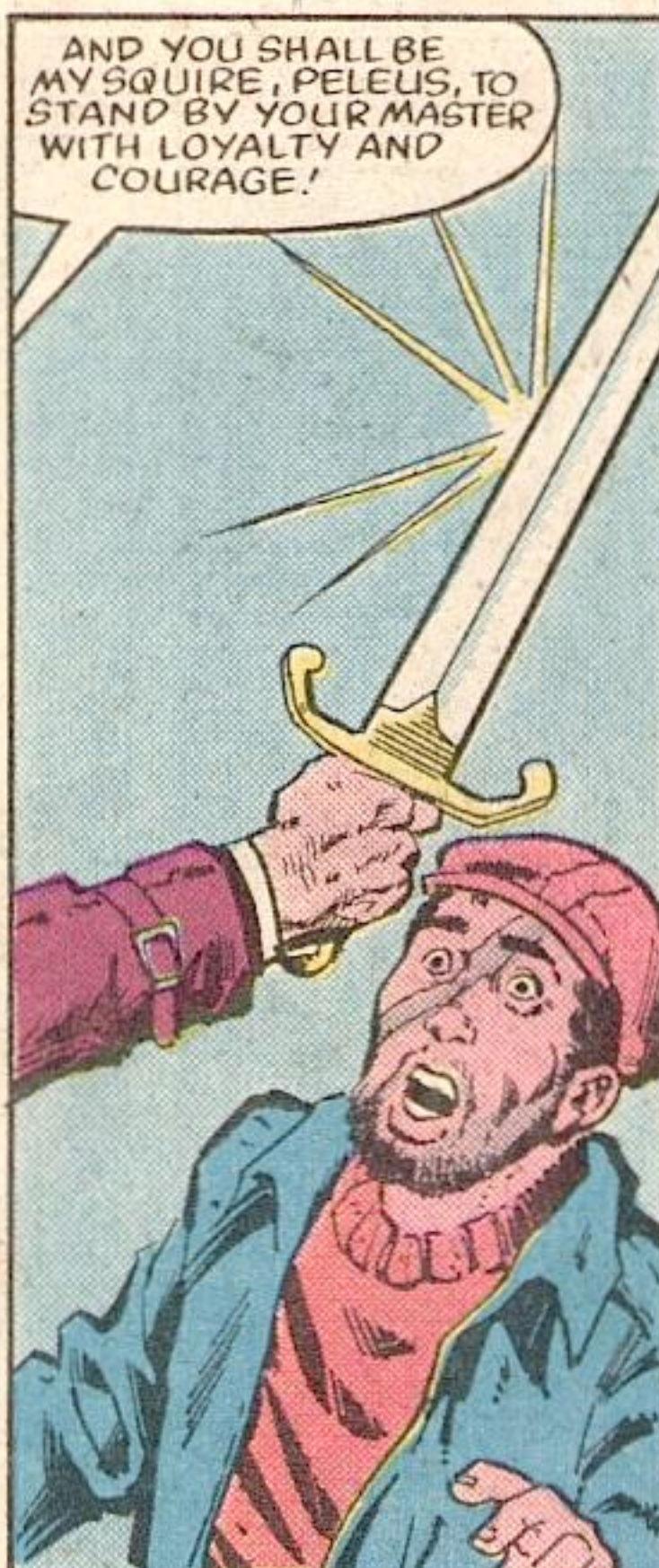
...AND IN THE NAME OF GOD,  
ST. MICHAEL, AND ST. GEORGE,  
I DUB THEE *KNIGHT*.













SEVERAL HOURS LATER, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FILL THE PLAZA OF THE RICHARD J. DALEY CIVIC CENTER NEAR CHICAGO CITY HALL...



LIGHTS BLARE AND TV CAMERAS WHIR WHILE THOR'S ARRIVAL IS AWAITED MOMENTARILY...



WITH HOPEFUL EYES AND BATED BREATH BY SOME...



WITH OATHS AND ANGRY GESTURES BY OTHERS...

**HEAVEN, YES! HEATHENS, NO! HEAVEN, YES!**



...AND THE CROWD IS STILL GROWING. BUT WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THIS EVENING'S GUEST OF HONOR TO ARRIVE, WE'VE BEEN ASKING SOME OF THE PEOPLE GATHERED HERE WHAT *THEY* THINK ABOUT THOR'S CLAIMS TO DIVINITY.

CAN WE BEGIN WITH YOU, FATHER? FATHER WILLIAM BOYLAN OF BLACKWOOD SEMINARY--





SPEAKING FOR MYSELF ALONE, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THOR HAS SAID ANYTHING THAT PUTS HIM IN CONFLICT WITH THE CHURCH. AS FOR ACCOUNTING FOR HIS UNIQUE POWERS, I'M WILLING TO HEAR HIM OUT IN AN APPROPRIATE FORUM BEFORE I MAKE UP MY MIND.



WELL, AH BELIEVE, AFTER PREACHIN' THE GOSPEL FER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, THAT THERE IS ONLY **ONE** GOD, AND, MAKE NO MISTAKES ABOUT IT, THIS FELLOW THOR IS **NOT** THE LORD!



HE **IS** A VERY HAND-SOME MAN, AND HE DOES SEEM TO BE FOR THE PEOPLE... A GOD? MAYBE A MATINEE IDOL OF SORTS...



JUST ANOTHER OF YOUR MACHO SUPER HEROES PARADING AROUND WITH AN EGO THE SIZE OF A ZEPPELIN!



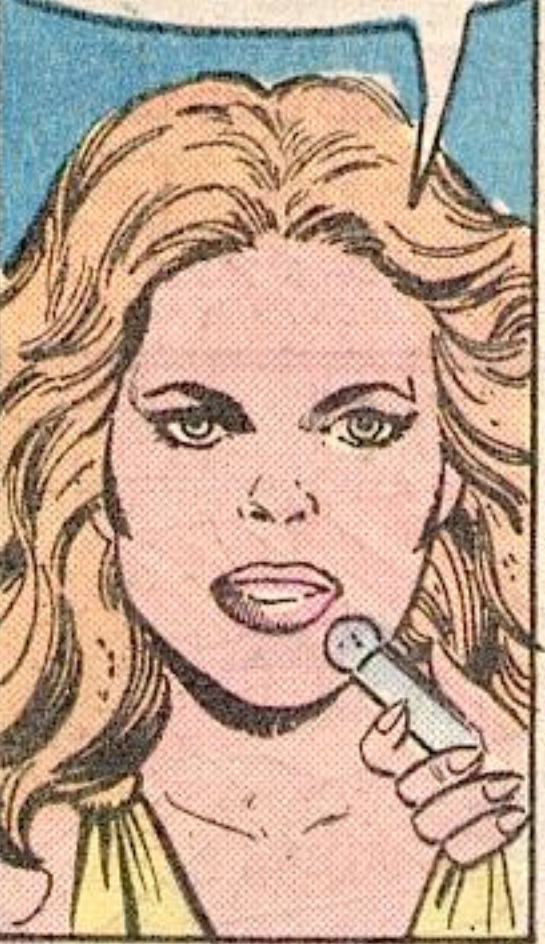
HEY, HE'S NO SLOUCH! I ONCE SEEN HIM LIFT A BUS--YA BELIEVE THAT'S A BUS! CAN I SAY HI TO MY MOM? HEY, HI MOM, IT'S ME, LENNY!



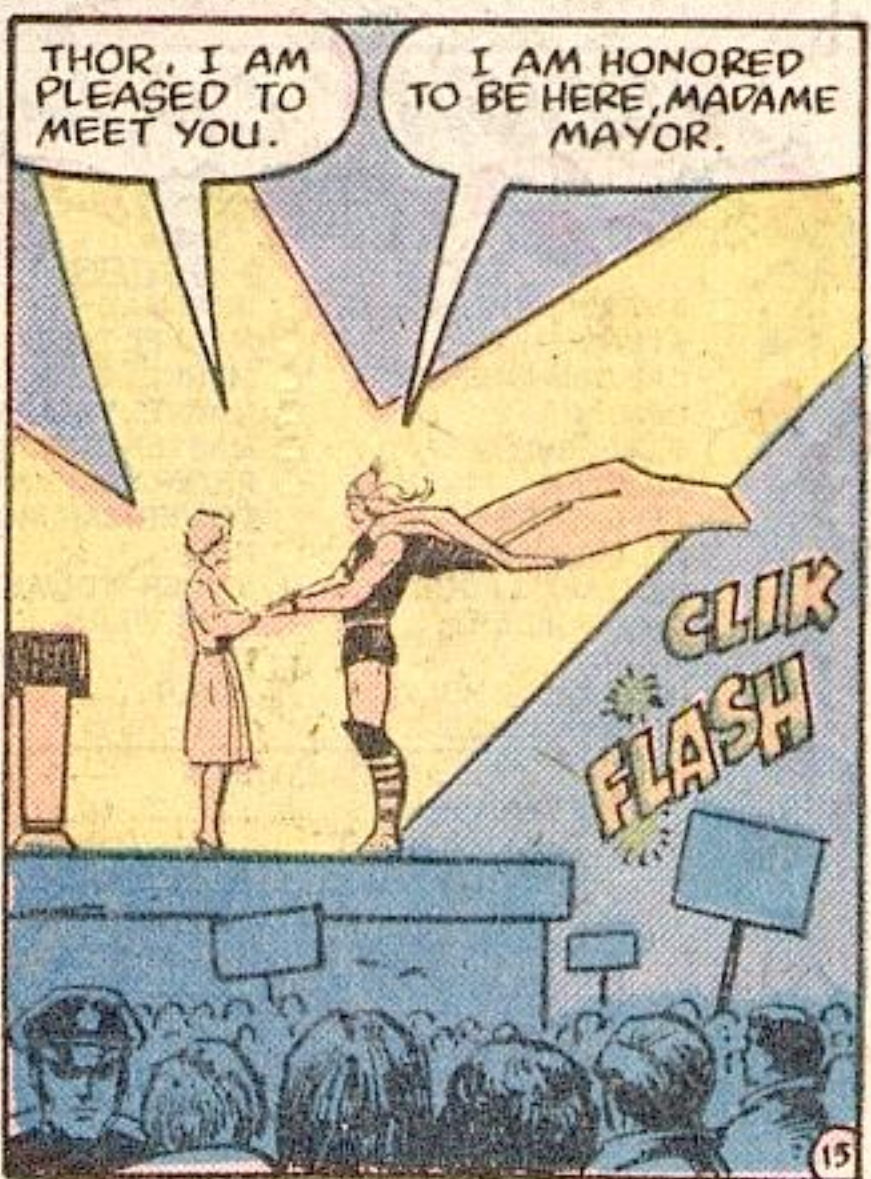
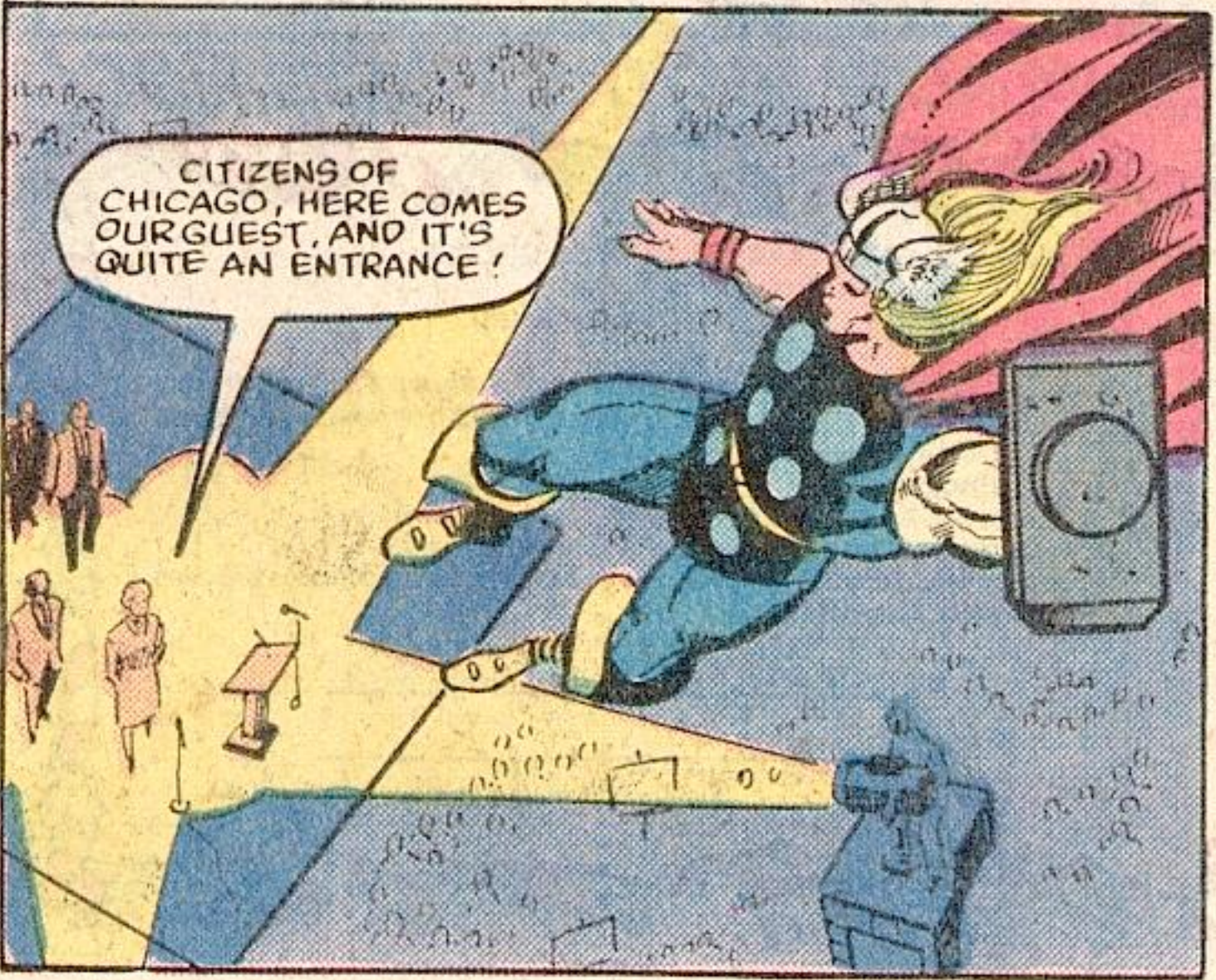
I FIND IT INCREDIBLE THAT SOME CIRCUS STRONGMAN IN TIGHTS CAN COME TO CHICAGO AND ALIENATE OUR CHILDREN JUST LIKE THAT. I WOULDN'T BE ONE BIT SURPRISED IF HE WERE IN CAHOOTS WITH THAT WHOLE OMMIE CROWD.



THOR IS THE POWER OF UNSELFISH LOVE. HE SAVED MY LIFE, AND I WORSHIP HIM.



I LIKE THOR, I LIKE THE WAY HE SWINGS THAT HAMMER AND--





LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRONT-RUNNER--INNOVATIVE, ENERGETIC, AND INDIVIDUALISTIC; A HARD-WORKING, NO-NONSENSE TOWN THAT CAN BOAST THE WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDINGS AND BUSIEST AIRPORT.



IN FACT, OUR GUEST OF HONOR--USED AS HE IS TO THE LOWER SKYLINE OF MANHATTAN--WILL HAVE TO FLY HIGHER HERE IN THE WINDY CITY.

BUT IN ALL SERIOUSNESS... IT IS WITH THE GREATEST PRIDE THAT CHICAGO NOW CALLS HERSELF THE HOME OF THOR. AND I CONSIDER IT A SINGULAR DISTINCTION AND PRIVILEGE, AS YOUR MAYOR, TO PRESENT YOU, THOR, WITH THE KEY TO OUR AND YOUR CITY.



CLAP CLAPPLAUSE!

I THANK YOU, MAYOR BYRNE... AND I SHALL BE CAUTIOUS TO FLY ABOVE THE SPIRES OF GLASS AND STEEL, ESPECIALLY THE TOWER OF SEARS. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SEVERAL WORDS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO--



BUT... BEFORE HE CAN EVEN CLEAR HIS THROAT...

BLASPHEMER AND INFIDEL!



THOR, IN WHOSE VILE NAME OUR LORD HAS BEEN THRUST ASIDE, KNOW THAT I AM SENT TO REDEEM HIS TRUE WAY!

I RAISE MY SWORD OF FAITH AGAINST YOUR PAGAN HAMMER OF IMMORALITY.



THOR? GULP! I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE I SHOULD'A STAYED WITH MY FEET IN THE GRAVES.

SO SPEAKS... THE CRUSADER!





NOW, DEVIL--  
IN THE NAME OF  
GOD, "I TESTIFY  
AGAINST YOU  
THIS DAY THAT  
YE SHALL SURELY  
PERISH!"



GUARDS, HASTEN  
THE MAYOR TO  
SAFETY AT  
ONCE!

HOW DARE HE  
DISRUPT A CIVIC  
CEREMONY?/  
OFFICER, I WANT  
THOSE TWO MEN  
ARRESTED--

LET'S WORRY  
ABOUT YOU  
FIRST, MS.  
MAYOR.



NOW, GOD-FEARING PEOPLE,  
LISTEN TO ME! THERE ARE  
THOSE AMONG YOU BELOW  
WHO HAVE COME THIS EVENING  
TO WORSHIP THE ANTICHRIST!

SUFFER THEM  
NOT TO LIVE--



ART THOU  
MAD, MAN?!



-- JUST AS  
I SHALL SLAY  
THE GODLESS  
THOR! LET THE  
CRUSADE  
BEGIN!



HE'S GOT A POINT!  
MAYBE WE OUTTA JUST  
STOP THESE BLASTED  
CULT HIPPIES BEFORE  
THEY SPREAD--

AND STEAL  
OUR KIDS FROM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL--



NO! LEAVE US ALONE!  
THOR IS GOODNESS,  
LIFE, AND LOVE!

LISTEN, YOU LOUSY  
ATHEIST WITCH, I  
DON'T WANT THE LIKES  
OF YOU INFLUENCIN'  
MY TWO GIRLS--

NO MORE  
THOR



WOTSA MATTER, YOUR  
GOD FORGET HOW TO  
PROTECT YOU?!

THESE SICK APES ARE  
TAKING THAT CRUSADER  
WEIRDO SERIOUSLY.

CHUD

ARE YOU CRAZY MAN?  
THIS IS AMERICA. YOU WANT  
A CRUSADE, GO HITCH A  
RIDE IN A TIME MACHINE.

SLAM!

SEE, SQUIRE, WHAT  
WE HAVE INSPIRED!  
THE SPARK OF  
FAITH IGNITES THE  
FLAMES OF HOLY  
PASSION! NOW  
PREPARE MY  
DESCENT.

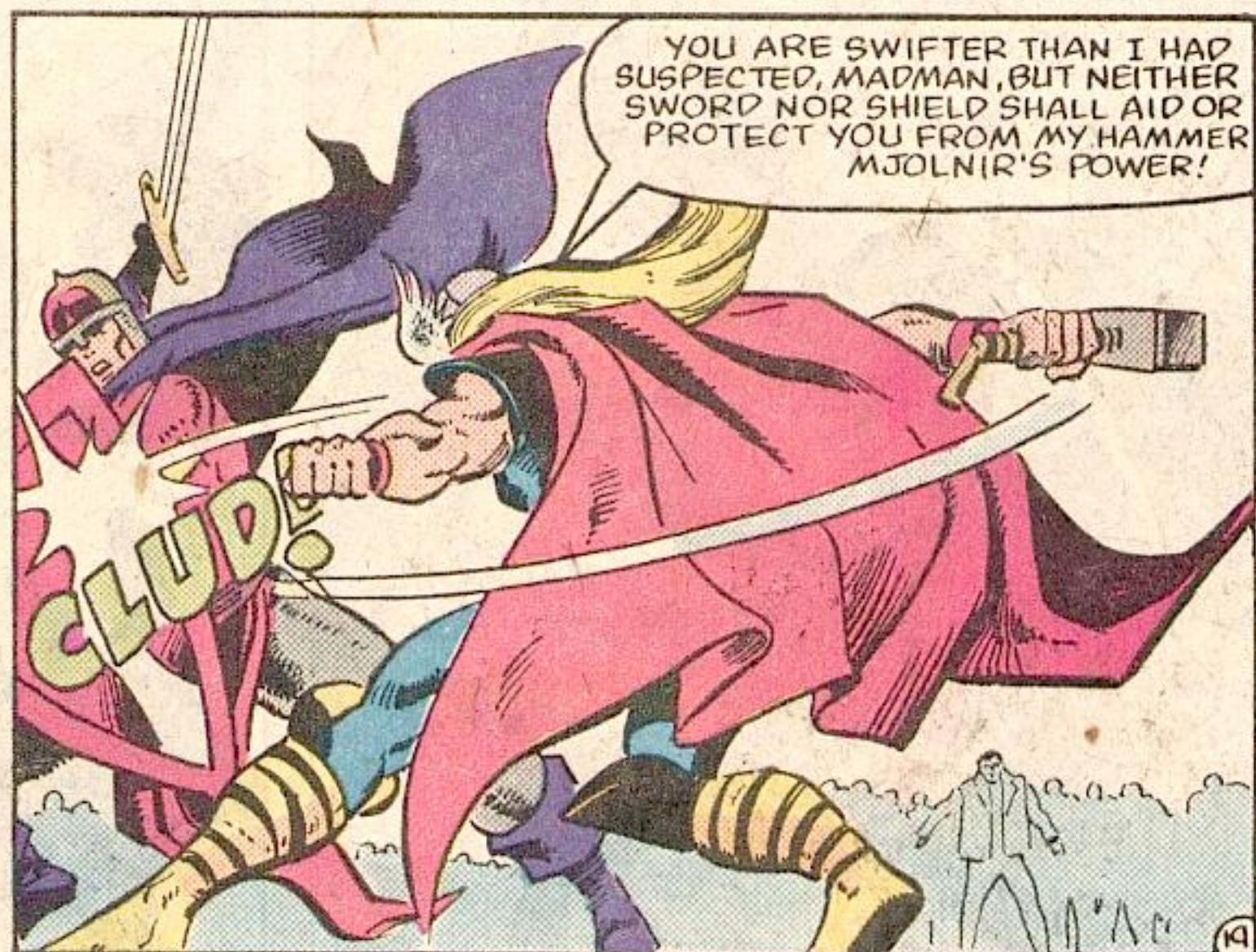
KRAK!

WHA...!?

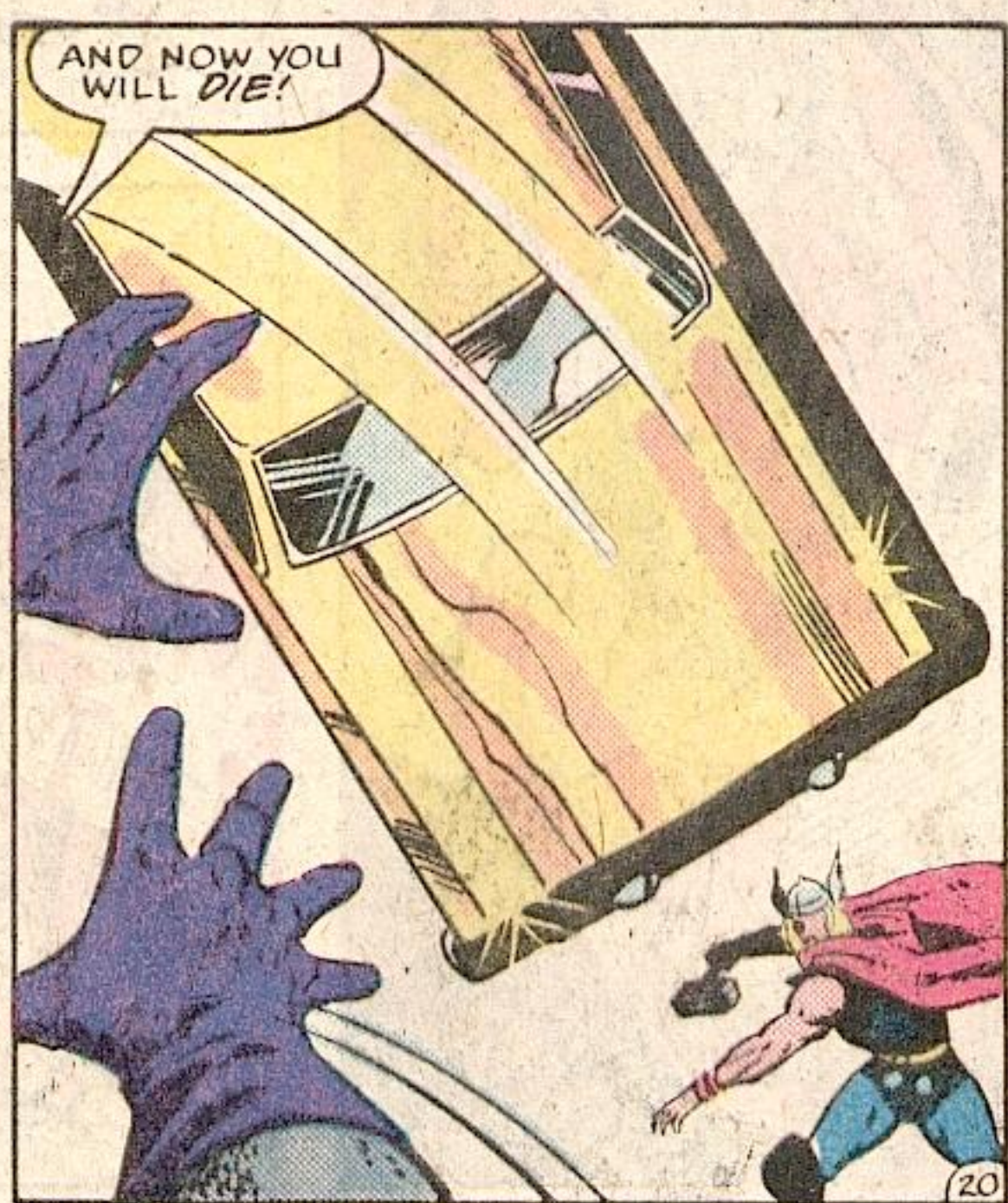
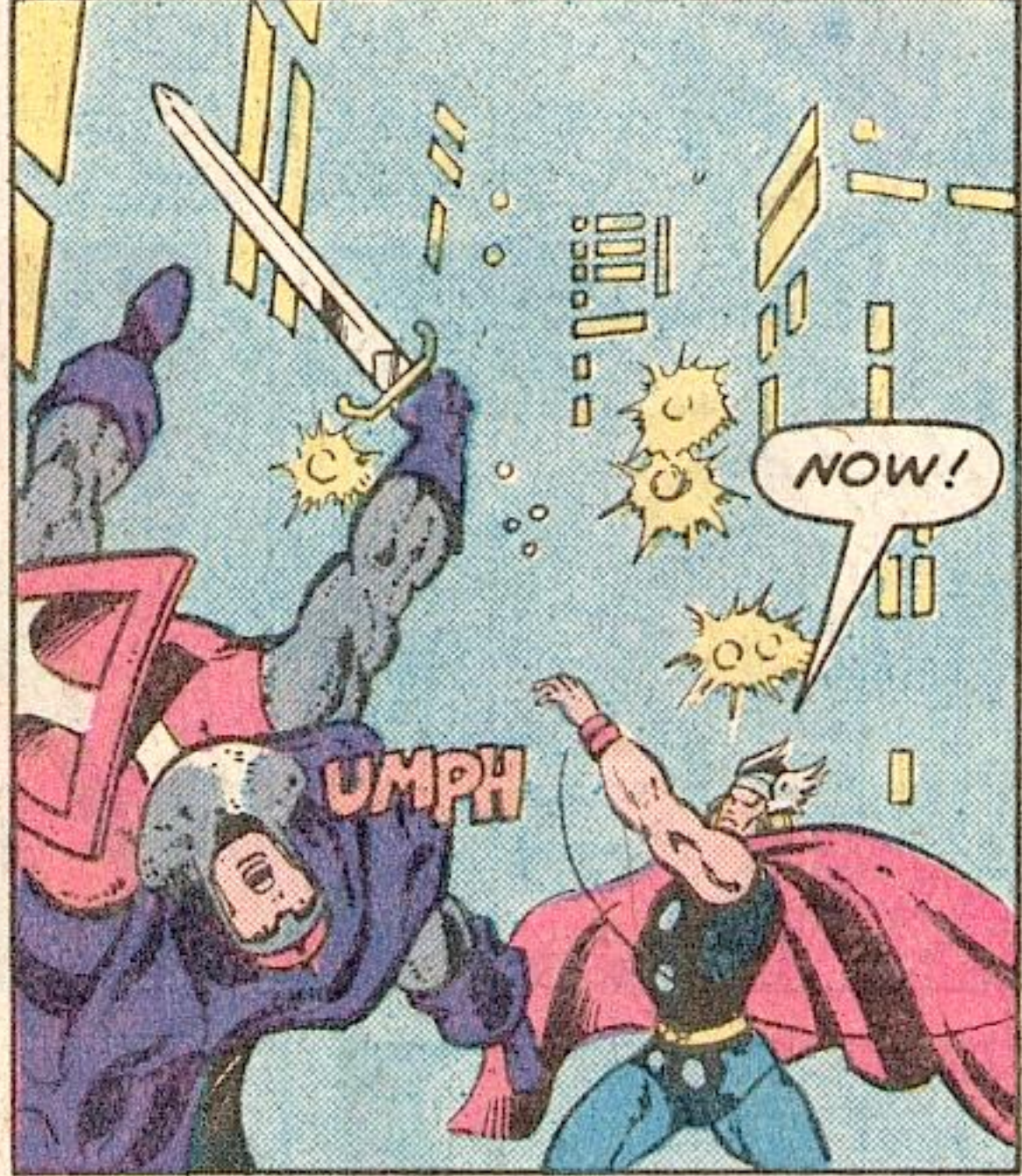
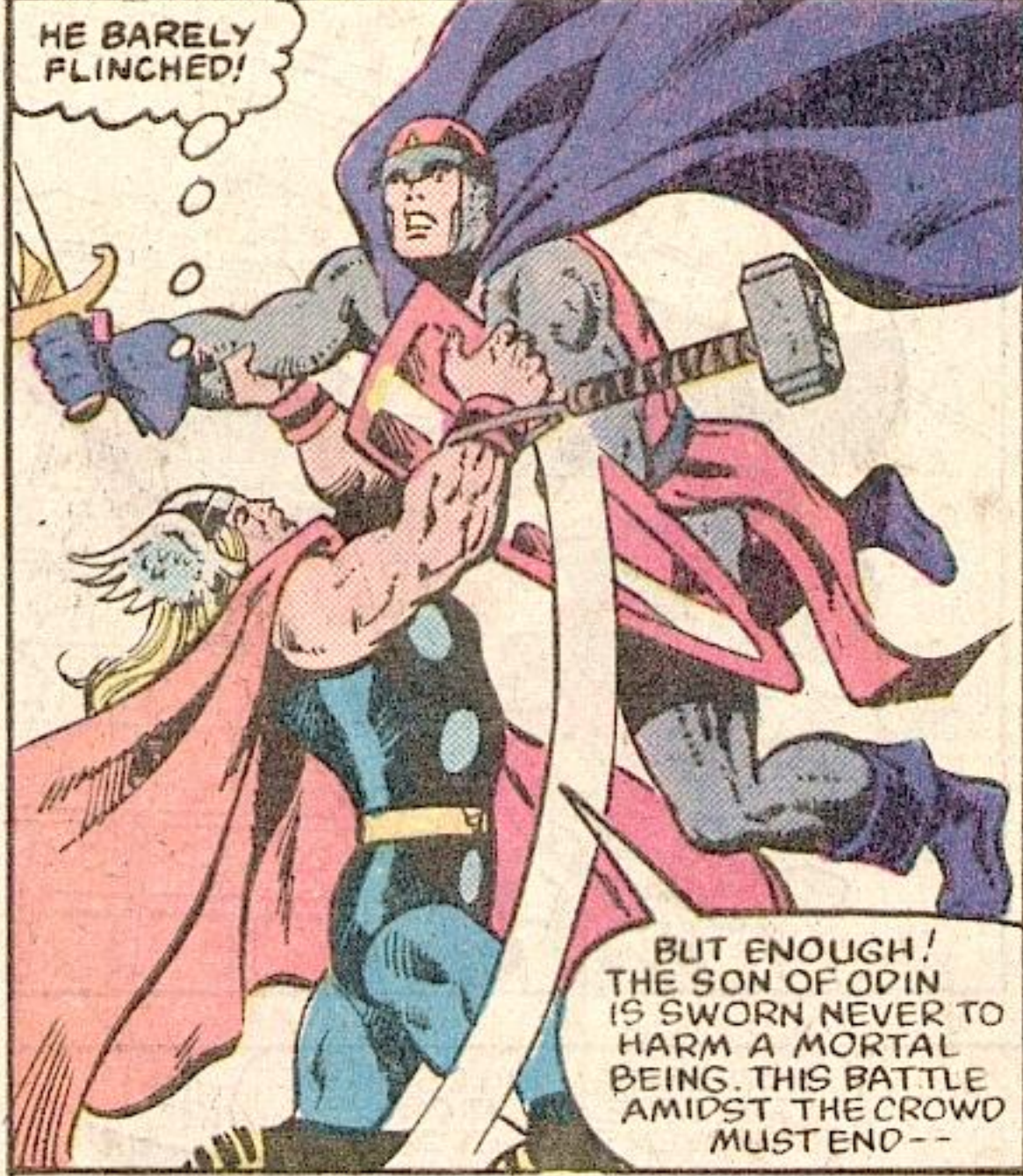
LIGHTNING!

BY MY HAMMER'S MIGHT THAT  
SUMMONS THE VERY ELEMENTS,  
I COMMAND YOU CEASE YOUR  
FIGHTING NOW! SUCH VIOLENCE  
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER IS  
ABHORRENT IN A CIVILIZED  
WORLD!





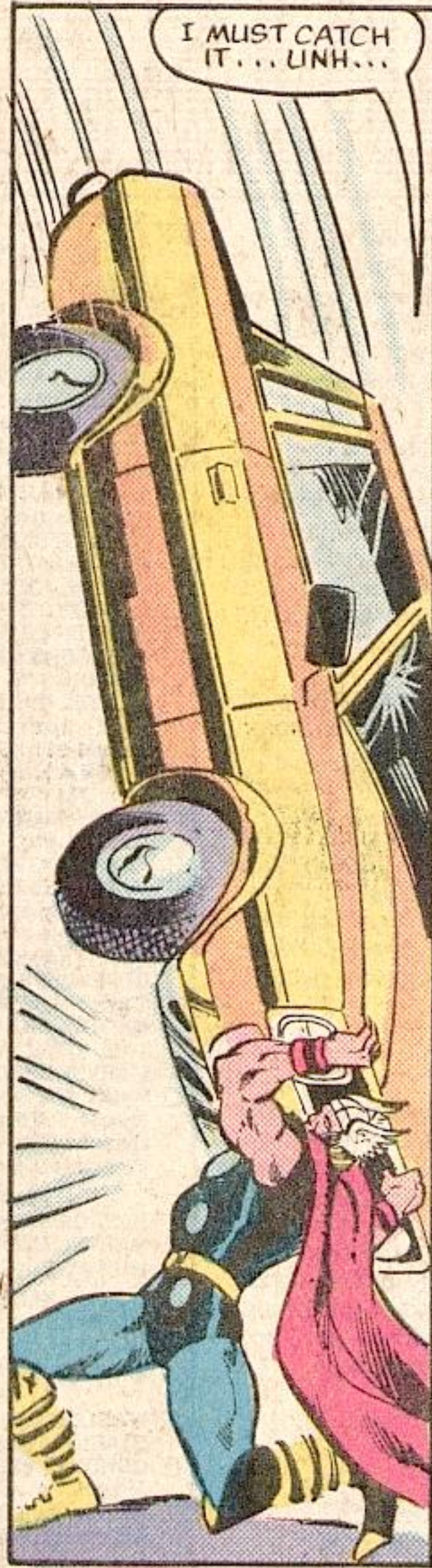




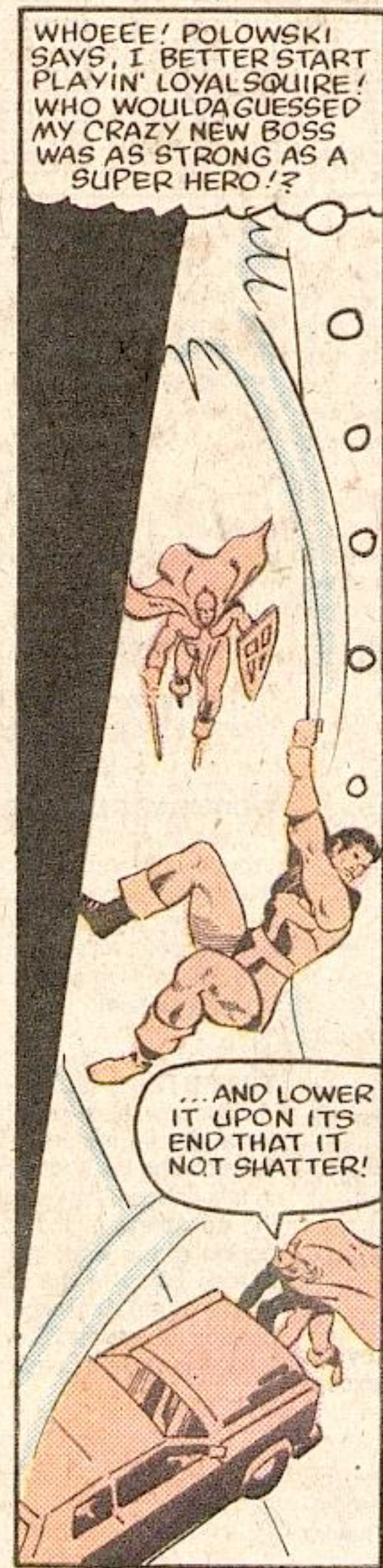




THOSE MORTALS  
WILL BE CRUSHED!



I MUST CATCH  
IT... UNH...

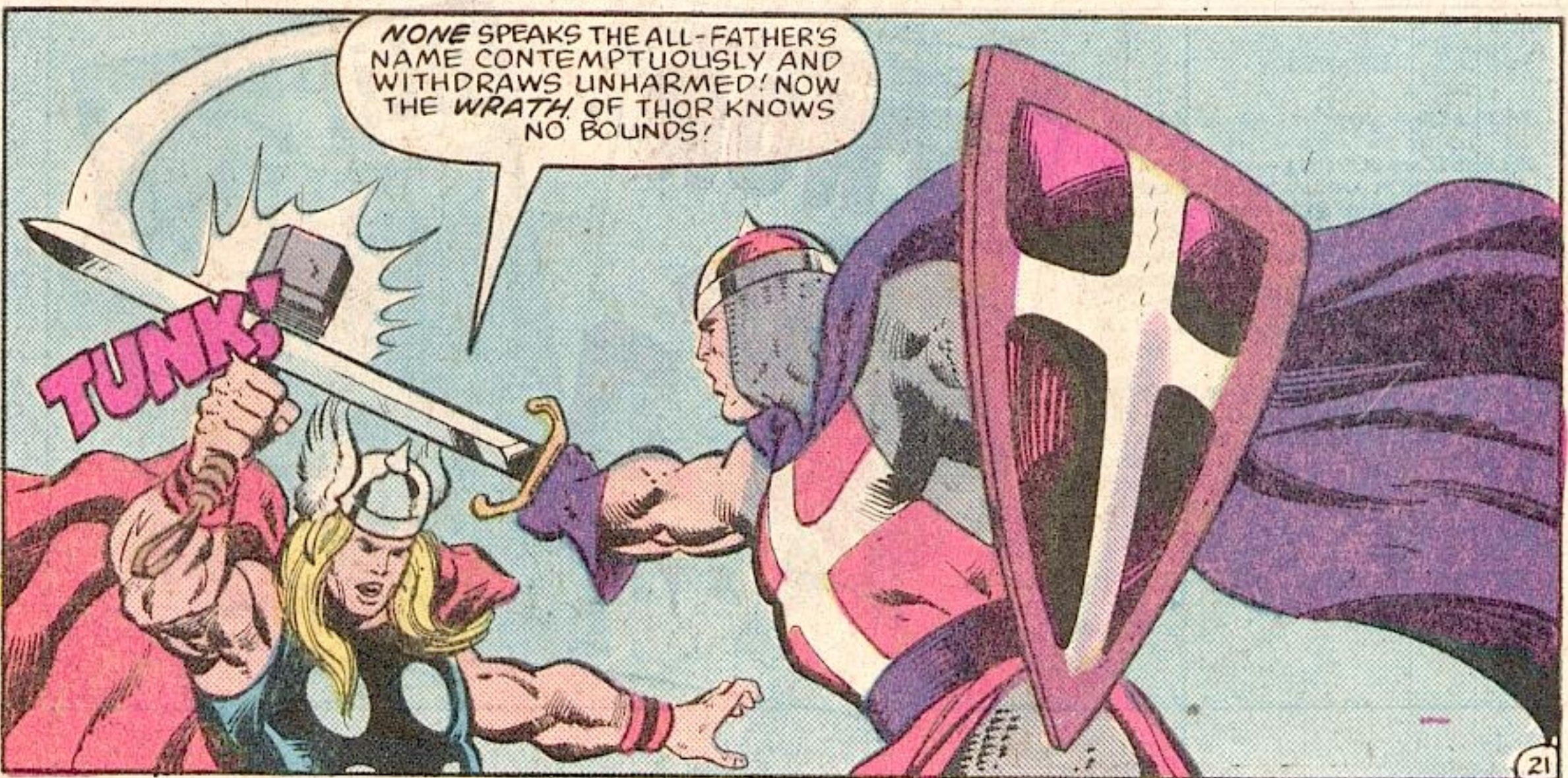


WHOOEE! POLOWSKI  
SAYS, I BETTER START  
PLAYIN' LOYALSQUIRE!  
WHO WOULDAGUESSED  
MY CRAZY NEW BOSS  
WAS AS STRONG AS A  
SUPER HERO!?

...AND LOWER  
IT UPON ITS  
END THAT IT  
NOT SHATTER!



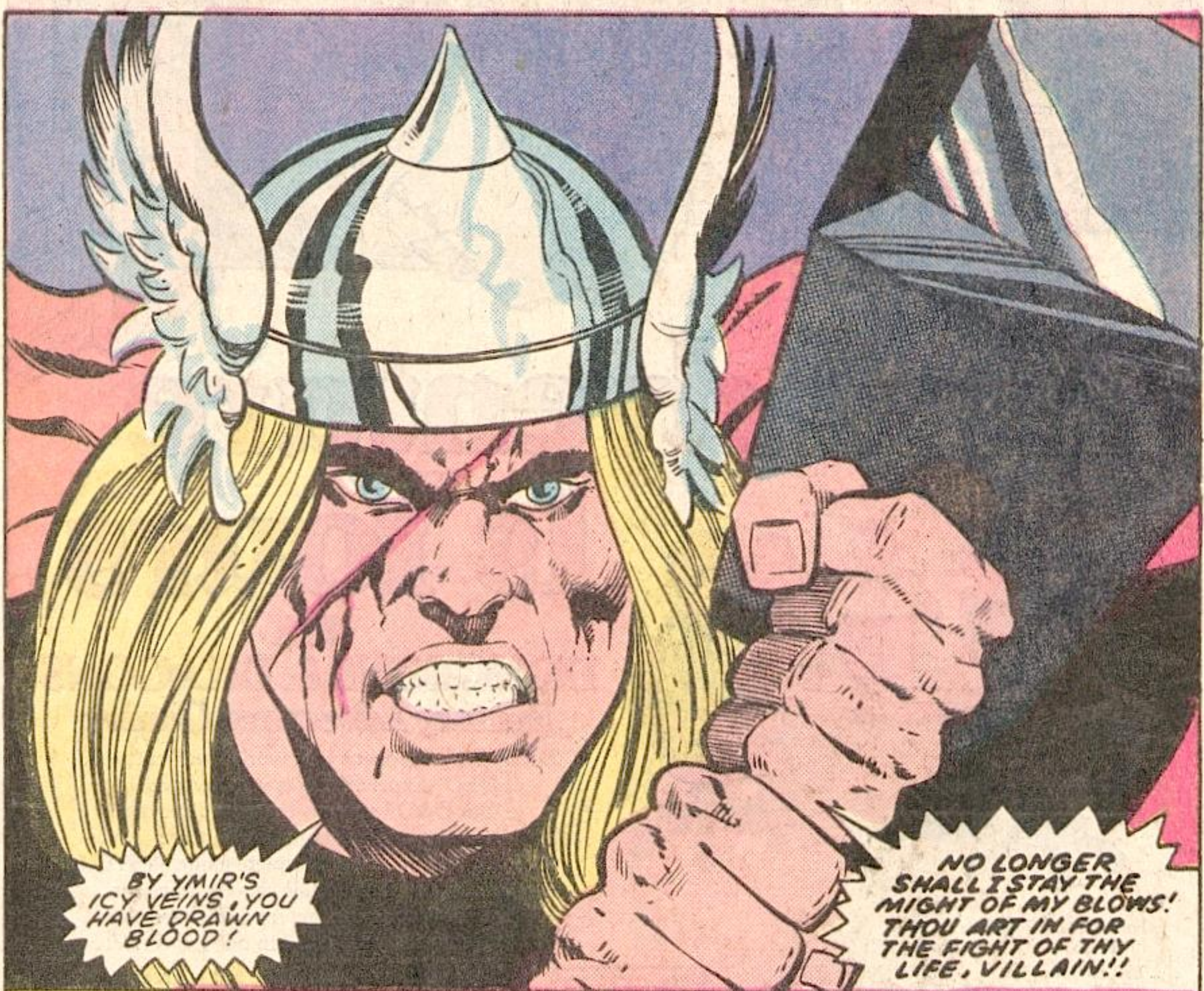
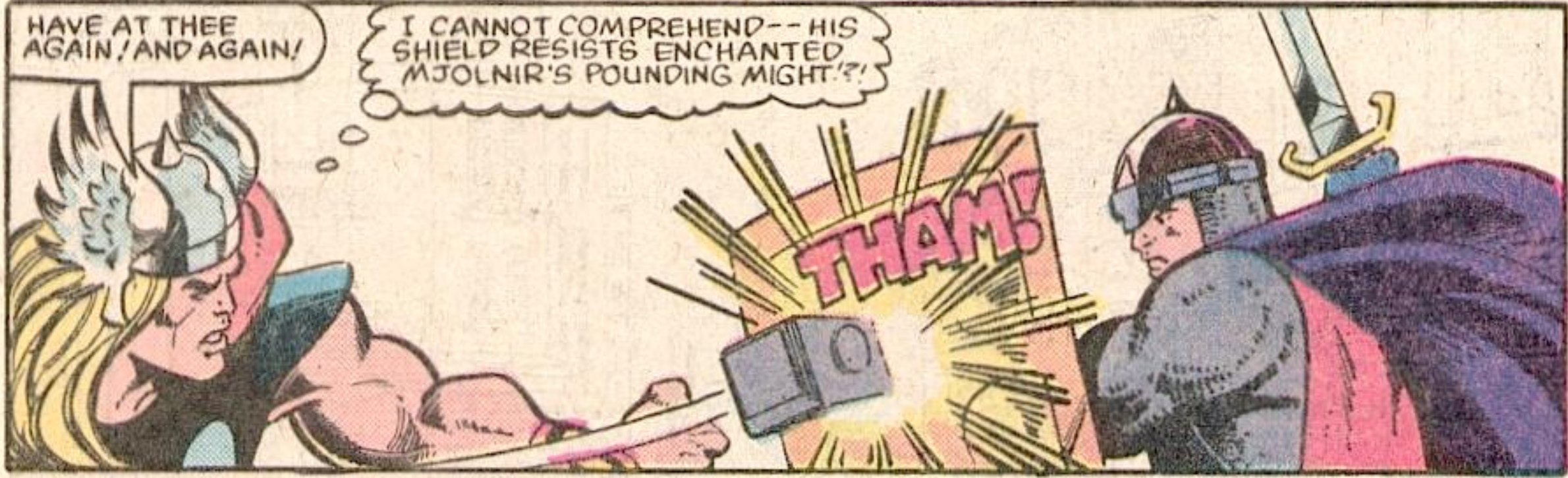
YOUR END DRAWS  
NEAR, DOG SON OF  
DARK ODIN, BLOATED  
ON THE BLOOD OF  
INNOCENTS!



NONE SPEAKS THE ALL-FATHER'S  
NAME CONTEMPTUOUSLY AND  
WITHDRAWS UNHARMED! NOW  
THE WRATH OF THOR KNOWS  
NO BOUNDS!

TUNK!





**NEXT: HOLY WAR!**