

MARVEL

the mighty THOR

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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AUTHORITY



STAN LEE
PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

MOMENTS AGO, BETA RAY BILL, A BIONIC ALIEN,
BESTED THE MIGHTY THOR IN SINGLE COMBAT
AND SO WON THE RIGHT TO POSSESS THOR'S
ENCHANTED HAMMER, MJOLNIR.

BUT EVEN AS HE ANNOUNCES
HIS VICTORY BEFORE THE
STUNNED ASGARDIANS...

**SOMETHING OLD,
SOMETHING NEW...**



...AND FOR A LONG MOMENT, THERE IS SILENCE!



AROUSE YOURSELVES! LET THE IMPERIAL GUARD CARRY BOTH COMBATANTS TO THE HOUSE OF HEALING WITHOUT DELAY! AND BID THE ROYAL PHYSICIANS APPLY ALL THEIR ARTS!



THESE BRAVE WARRIORS MUST NOT PERISH!

BUT THOUGH THE ARMS OF HELA, THE DEATH GODDESS, BECKON TO EACH, NEITHER THOR NOR BETA RAY BILL IS DESTINED TO SURRENDER TO HER EMBRACE THIS DAY.



FOR THE SKILLS OF ODIN'S PHYSICIANS ARE UNMATCHED IN ALL THE NINE WORLDS.

STILL, THE HEROES' HURTS ARE GRIEVOUS AND EACH RESTS QUIETLY UNDER THE WATCHFUL (AND CURIOUS) EYES OF THEIR ATTENDANTS.



THE ALIEN SLEEPS PEACEFULLY.

THEY SAY BILL RE-GAINS HIS STRENGTH AS QUICKLY AS THE MIGHTY THOR. DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WILL REMAIN LONG IN ASGARD?

I FOR ONE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN JUST HOW MECHANICAL HE REALLY IS.

WELL, I FOR ONE COULD CARE LESS. I'VE SEEN HIM...

BUT HE IS A STRANGE MIXTURE OF STRENGTH AND SORROW. THOUGH HE HAS WON THE HAMMER, HE TAKES NO JOY IN HIS VICTORY.

...AND HE'S REPULSIVE!

I'D SOONER KISS A DOG THAN BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM!



RECALLING SOME PAST TRIUMPH, LORELEIF

THOR IS NO DOG, BUT THE HANDSOMEST GOD IN ALL ASGARD, LADY SIF. AND AFTER THIS DEFEAT, HE MAY WELCOME SUCH COMFORT AS ONLY I CAN GIVE.



HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES, BILL HAS LIFTED THE HAMMER AND FOUGHT AGAINST THOR AS NO ONE EVER HAS BEFORE, TO SEE LESS THAN THAT IS TO MISTAKE HIM.

THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD EMBRACE THE ALIEN, HE MIGHT WELCOME SUCH COMFORT AS YOU COULD GIVE.

SOME, HOWEVER, ARE MORE PARTICULAR!

AND WITH THAT, LORELEI LEAVES, UNAWARE OF THE WATCHING EYE THAT SEES ALL THINGS...

"SOME ARE MORE PARTICULAR!" FASH!

PAY NO HEED TO HER, SIF, EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY.

EVEN LORELEI.

BUT YOU MUST EXCUSE ME, I HAVE COME TO SEE OUR PATIENTS.

HOW FARES THE SON OF MY HEART?

DISGRACED BEFORE YOUR EYES, MY LORD.

I HAVE DECIDED, I WILL RENOUNCE MY GODHOOD AND LEAVE ASGARD FOREVER! NO LONGER AM I WORTHY TO BE THE GOD OF THUNDER!

YES, WELL... WE SHALL SEE. I THINK I OUGHT TO SPEAK WITH BILL.

HE IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE EITHER, I UNDERSTAND.

AS YOU WISH, FATHER, BUT TALKING WILL NOT CHANGE THE PAST.

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, MY SON.


MY MIND IS MADE UP, WHEN I AM WELL I SHALL DEPART AND JOURNEY AMONG THE STARS.

PERHAPS DISCUSSION MAY BE ABLE TO HELP US WHERE BRUTE STRENGTH SEEMS TO HAVE FAILED.




LORD ODIN IS HONORED AND GRATEFUL YOUR PHYSICIANS AND YOUR SMITHS HAVE WORKED WONDERS. I AM NEARLY HEALED. HOW IS YOUR SON?

WELL ENOUGH, THANK YOU. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.




AND YOUR THE GOSSIP OF THE HOUSE TELLS OF YOUR SINGULAR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM CONCERNING YOUR VICTORY.

I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED, MY LORD. FOR MYSELF AND MY PEOPLE. THEY NEED THE POWER OF THE HAMMER DESPERATELY. BUT MY HEART MISGIVES ME.




THOUGH I HAVE WON THIS BATTLE, IS MY CLAIM TO THE HAMMER'S POWER ESTABLISHED FOREVER, OR ONLY UNTIL I, MYSELF, MEET SOME STRONGER CHALLENGER?

THE HAMMER WAS FORGED IN THE BEGINNING OF TIME TO BE CARRIED BY THOR ALONE. MY VICTORY DOES NOT ALTER THAT, NOR PERMIT ME TO FORGET IT.



AND, IN TRUTH, I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO SLAY THOR, ALTHOUGH SUCH WAS THE ESTABLISHED CONDITION OF THE CONTEST.



YOU ARE A HIGH AND PUSSANT LORD. IS THERE NO WAY OUT OF THIS DILEMMA OF HONOR AND NEED?

YOU HAVE BUT TO ASK.

CAN YOU... HELP ME?



IN THE PAST, IN RETURN FOR HELP, THE GODS DEMANDED A SACRIFICE. YOU HAVE ALREADY GIVEN ME SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING—THE LIFE OF MY SON.

YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF ABLE TO WIELD GREAT POWER AND WIELD IT WISELY, AND, YOU HAVE ASKED FOR HELP.

THEREFORE, I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT AID I CAN. I SHALL BESTOW UPON YOU A GIFT THAT CARRIES AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY.

THE GIFT MAY YET SAVE YOUR PEOPLE... THE RESPONSIBILITY MIGHT DESTROY YOU!

THOR
ROOM

IT IS DUSK WHEN A SOLITARY RIDER CRESTS THE DIVIDE THAT OVERLOOKS NIDAVELLIR, THE REALM OF THE DWARFS...

EITRI, LOOK! SOMEONE HAS CROSSED THE FORBIDDEN PATH THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OF ULLTHANG!



GREETINGS, NOBLE DWARFS.

EVENING COMES ON AND THIS WANDERER HAS JOURNEYED FAR MIGHT I SHARE YOUR FIRE AND FELLOWSHIP THIS NIGHT? YOU'LL FIND ME A GENIAL COMPANION.



WELCOME, MOST HIGH. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR HOSPITALITY.

HAD I BUT ONE EYE, LORD ODIN, I SHOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR MANTLED POWER EVEN IN THE DARK.

YOU KNOW ME, EITRI?



AND I WOULD KNOW THAT YOU HAD SOUGHT ME OUT FOR A PURPOSE, NOT MERELY TO SHARE A FIRE.

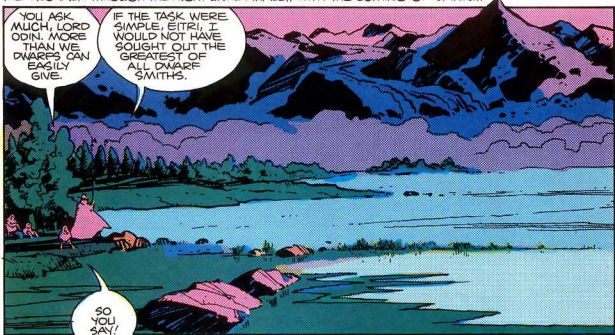
WHAT DOES THE LORD OF ASGARD SEEK IN NIDAVELLIR?



YOUR SKILL, EITRI, FOR A TASK THAT ONLY YOU CAN PERFORM.

COME THEN. SIT BESIDE ME AND TELL ME WHAT THE DWARFS CAN DO FOR THE GODS.





YOU ASK MUCH, LORD ODIN. MORE THAN WE DWARFS CAN EASILY GIVE.

IF THE TASK WERE SIMPLE, EITRI, I WOULD NOT HAVE SOUGHT OUT THE GREATEST OF ALL DWARF SMITHS.

SO YOU SAY!

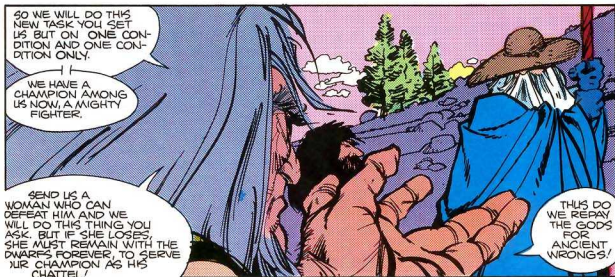


LONG AGO, WE DWARFS WERE HUM-BLED AND DRIVEN FROM THE LIGHT BY THE GODS!



WE LIVE NOW BENEATH THE GROUND AND SEEK OUT THE EARTH'S TREASURES, BUT WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OLD HURTS AND OUR HEARTS ARE BITTER.

YET THE GODS ALSO GAVE US OUR FORM AND OUR THOUGHTS.



SO WE WILL DO THIS NEW TASK YOU SET US BUT ON ONE CONDITION ONLY.

WE HAVE A CHAMPION AMONG US NOW, A MIGHTY FIGHTER.

SEND US A WOMAN WHO CAN DEFEAT HIM AND WE WILL DO THIS THING YOU ASK. BUT IF SHE LOSES, SHE MUST REMAIN WITH THE DWARFS FOREVER, TO SERVE OUR CHAMPION AS HIS CHATTEL!

THUS DO WE REPAY THE GODS FOR ANCIENT WRONGS!

TWO DAYS LATER, IN THE HOUSE OF HEALING IN ASGARD...

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU NEARLY RECOVERED, BILL. YOU WILL NEED ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO CARRY THE HAMMER PROUDLY, AS I KNOW YOU WILL.

MY THANKS, THOR. BUT BE NOT TOO HASTY TO GIVE MJOLNIR AWAY.

I LOST, BILL. I COULD NOT WISH FOR A MORE HONORABLE FOE. I AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO CARRY THE ENCHANTED MALLET.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVOR THE PLEASURE OF GLIDING THROUGH THE COSMIC OCEAN AS THE GOD OF THUNDER.

NO? THINK BACK, MY FRIEND, TO MY STORY.* I WAS BORN IN A GALACTIC INFERNO, AND FIERY SKARTHHEIM WHERE WE FOUGHT WAS NOT SO DIFFERENT A PLACE.

A PLACE CHOSEN FOR OUR BATTLE BY YOUR FATHER, I MIGHT ADD.

IN NO OTHER REALM COULD I HAVE WON SO CLOSE A CONTEST, AND EVEN SO, I HAD THE LUCK.

*TOLD LAST ISSUE.

YOU THINK SO, BILL? MY FATHER IS SUBTLE AND HIS PURPOSES OFTEN HIDDEN. PERHAPS I SHOULD SPEAK TO HIM WHEN HE RETURNS, FOR HE IS AWAY-- BUT HOLD.

WHAT'S THIS I SEE?



IT IS SIF! IN FULL ARMOR AND RIDING AS THOUGH THE WOLF HIMSELF PURSUED HER.



NURSE! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THIS? WHERE DOES THE LADY SIF TRAVEL IN SUCH HASTE?

HAD YOU NOT HEARD? SHE'S GONE TO FIGHT A CHAMPION WARRIOR ON BEHALF OF YOU BOTH.

WHAT?

THEY SAY HER THOUGHTS NOW ARE ONLY FOR BATTLE, AND THAT SHE MAY NEVER RETURN!

BUT AS SIF PASSES THROUGH ASGARD'S GOLDEN GATES, THE COMING BATTLE IS ONLY ONE OF MANY THOUGHTS THAT SPIN THROUGH HER MIND...

...AS SHE SEES AGAIN HER MEETING WITH THE ALL-FATHER THAT VERY MORNING.

SUCH WAS MY BARGAIN, SIF THE DWARFS WANT A GODDESS TO FIGHT THEIR CHAMPION AND I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SOUGHT DISTRACTION TO EASE YOUR HEART'S ACHE.



BUT I DO NOT COMMAND THIS THING.

THE DECISION RESTS WITH YOU.



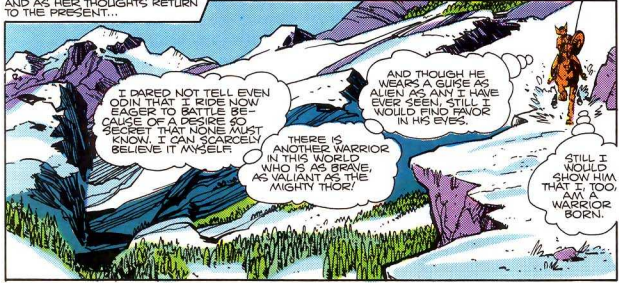
MY LORD, 'TIS TRUE I AM EMPTY AND THOUGHT THAT BATTLE WOULD FILL MY NEED.

NOW, FOR REASONS OF MY OWN, I WOULD GLADLY TRAVEL TO HELA'S PALLID DOMAIN ITSELF TO DEMONSTRATE MY PROWESS.



VERY WELL, CHILD. ARM THYSELF STRONGLY AND KNOW THAT I SHALL BE WATCHING OVER YOU FROM AFAR.

AND AS HER THOUGHTS RETURN TO THE PRESENT...



I DARED NOT TELL EVEN ODIN THAT I RIDE NOW EAGER TO BATTLE BECAUSE OF A DESIRE SO SECRET THAT NONE MUST KNOW. I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT MYSELF.

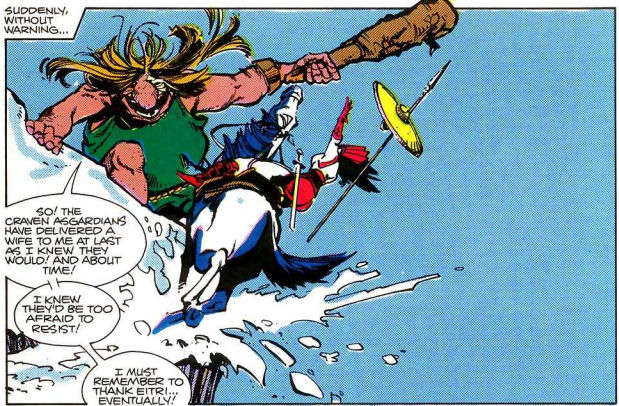
THERE IS ANOTHER WARRIOR IN THIS WORLD WHO IS AS BRAVE, AS VALIANT AS THE MIGHTY THOR!

AND THOUGH HE WEARS A GUISE AS ALIEN AS ANY I HAVE EVER SEEN, STILL I WOULD FIND FAVOR IN HIS EYES.

STILL I WOULD SHOW HIM THAT I, TOO, AM A WARRIOR BORN.

Walt Pereg

SUDDENLY,
WITHOUT
WARNING...



SO! THE
CRAVEN ASGARDIANS
HAVE DELIVERED A
WIFE TO ME AT LAST
AS I KNEW THEY
WOULD! AND ABOUT
TIME!

I KNEW
THEY'D BE TOO
AFRAID TO
RESIST!

I MUST
REMEMBER TO
THANK EITRI!...
EVENTUALLY!



NOW, MY
PRETTY, BID
FAREWELL TO THE
SUN AND PREPARE TO
LIVE WITH ME FOREVER
IN THE DARK BENEATH
THE AGELESS
MOUNTAINS OF
NIDAVELLIR.

THINK
AGAIN,
BRAGGART!



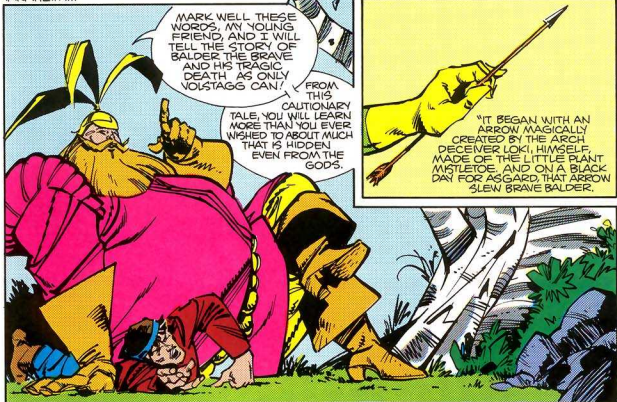
OWWW!



THE
GODDESS
HAS A
STING, EH? NO
MATTER!

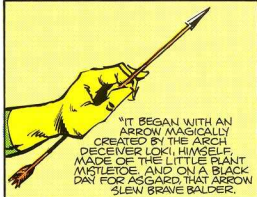
NONE
CAN
OVER-
COME
THROUGH
THE
DWARF!

BUT EVEN AS THROG LEAPS HIGH INTO THE AIR ABOVE SIF, WE TURN ELSEWHERE TO FIND, IN THE GARDENS OF ASSGARD, VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS CHATTING WITH AGNAR OF VANAHEIM...



MARK WELL THESE WORDS, MY YOUNG FRIEND, AND I WILL TELL THE STORY OF BALDER THE BRAVE AND HIS TRAGIC DEATH AS ONLY VOLSTAGG CAN!

FROM THIS CAUTIONARY TALE, YOU WILL LEARN MORE THAN YOU EVER WISHED TO ABOUT MUCH THAT IS HIDDEN, EVEN FROM THE GODS.

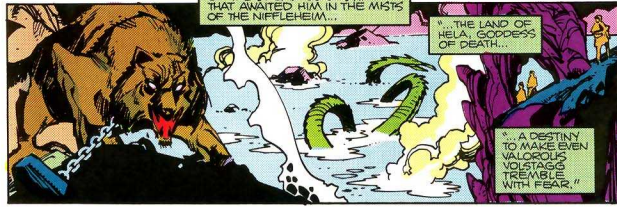


"IT BEGAN WITH AN ARROW MAGICALLY CREATED BY THE ARCH DECEIVER LOKI, HIMSELF, MADE OF THE LITTLE PLANT MISTLETOE, AND ON A BLACK DAY FOR ASSGARD, THAT ARROW SLEW BRAVE BALDER."



"THOUGH ANOTHER HELD THE BOW, LOKI WAS THE PERPETRATOR OF THE CRIME, AND HE WAS PUNISHED."

"BUT BALDER'S FATE WAS UNKNOWN TO US, AND ONLY AFTER HE RETURNED TO THESE GOLDEN HALLS DID WE LEARN OF THE DREADFUL DESTINY THAT AWAITED HIM IN THE MISTS OF THE NIFFLEHEIM..."



"...THE LAND OF HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH..."

"...A DESTINY TO MAKE EVEN VALOROUS VOLSTAGG TREMBLE WITH FEAR."

ALAS, THE REST OF THE TALE MUST WAIT FOR WE JOURNEY NOW TO A PLACE BEYOND THE FIELDS WE KNOW, PERHAPS BEYOND THE NINE WORLDS THEMSELVES...



...TO WATCH AS A FIGURE WHO DWARFS THE STARS LOOMS OVER A MIGHTY ANVIL AND RAISES HIS SINEWED ARM HIGH ABOVE HIS HEAD.



AND EVEN OVER THE THUNDER OF HIS HAMMER, IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU CAN HEAR THE MURMUR OF THE HOST, AND THE MURMUR SAYS, "THE SWORD! THE SWORD!"

THE STORM IS RISING...

... AND THE ECHOES OF EARTH ANVIL
RING ALL THE WAY TO BARTH.
HERE, WE TURN TO LOOK UPON
A LONELY LIGHTHOUSE IN THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN
CANADA...



INSIDE, WE FIND ITS
SOLE OCCUPANT,
A CROCHETY OLD
GENTLEMAN NAMED
RENE BAROQUE.

BLINKITY-BLANK
TRAVELING SALES-
WOMAN! *



WHAT IN
BLAZES AM I
GONNA DO
WITH THIS FOOD
PROCESSOR SHE
SOLD ME, EH? WHIP
THESE BEANS TO
DEATH?

JUST YOU WAIT! SHE
SHOWS UP AGAIN! WHY, I'LL
BET THEM EYELASHES WASN'T
EVEN REAL, SHE'LL REGRET
SHE EVER...

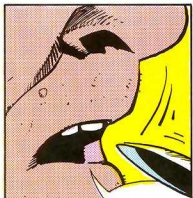
THUNK
THUNK

*TRANSLATED INTO THE VERNACULAR
FROM THE FRENCH.



WHAT'S THAT? SHE'S
BACK ALREADY, EH?
COULDN'T STAY AWAY!
HA, NOW IT'S--

THUNK
KACHUNK!



WAITAMINIT!
THAT'S NO
KNOCK! THE
WHOLE
BLASTED
LIGHTHOUSE
IS SHAKIN'!
LEMMIE OUT'A
HERE!
LEMMIE--!

BUT RENÉ IS DESTINED NEVER TO REACH THE DOOR FOR AT THAT MOMENT THE VERY EARTH SPLITS ASUNDER...



FREE! FREE!
AFTER ALL THE
MILLENNIA! NOW
AT LAST I WILL
DESTROY THOSE
WHO THOUGHT
THEY HAD IM-
PRISONED ME
FOREVER!

VENGEANCE
WILL BE
MINE!

HOLD STILL, WOMAN! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME AND I DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE YOU!



BTHKASSH!

VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU BUT SURELY YOU'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF CATCHING ME IF YOU USED BOTH HANDS!

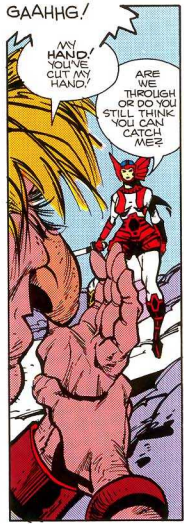


WHY NOT DROP THE CLUB??

GAAHHG!

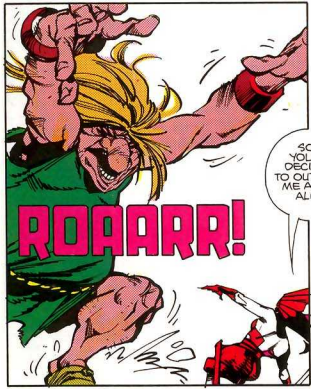
MY HAND! YOU'VE CUT MY HAND!

ARE WE THROUGH OR DO YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN CATCH ME??

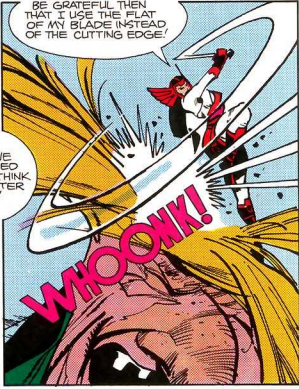


BE GRATEFUL THEN THAT I USE THE FLAT OF MY BLADE INSTEAD OF THE CUTTING EDGE!

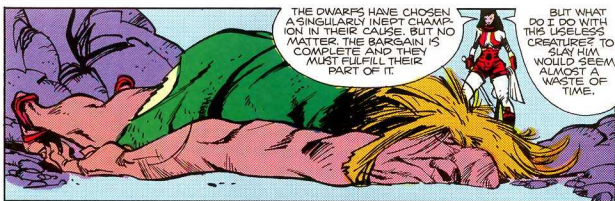
SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO OUTTHINK ME AFTER ALL!



ROAARR!



WHOOONK!



THE DWARFS HAVE CHOSEN A SINGULARLY INEPT CHAMPION IN THEIR CAUSE. BUT NO MATTER, THE BARGAIN IS COMPLETE AND THEY MUST FULFILL THEIR PART OF IT.

BUT WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS USELESS CREATURE? TO SLAY HIM WOULD SEEM ALMOST A WASTE OF TIME.



AND CERTAINLY NO LONGER NECESSARY, LADY SIF. IT IS THE LADY SIF, IS IT NOT? FOREMOST WARRIOR WOMAN AMONG THE ASGARDIANS, I HAD HOPED ODIN WOULD CHOOSE YOU TO FIGHT THROGG!

EITRI!



WHAT'S THIS? I HAVE DEFEATED YOUR CHAMPION, THE BARGAIN STANDS.

MOST CERTAINLY, VALIANT LADY, AND A GOOD BARGAIN IT WAS.

TOO LONG HAS THROGG LOREDD OVER THE DWARFS, AIDED BY HIS FREAKISH SIZE, MAKING LIFE MISERABLE FOR MYSELF AND MY BROTHERS.



NOW, DEFEATED BY A WOMAN, HE'LL NOT SHOW HIS FACE AGAIN FOR AGES, AND WE'LL BE RID OF HIS BULLYING WAYS.

WE DWARFS SHALL BE HAPPY TO AID LORD ODIN FOR THIS DELIVERANCE AND OUR CHILDREN WILL RELISH THE TALE OF MY BARGAIN WITH THE WANDERER.

RETURN TO YOUR LIEGE AND TELL HIM TO COME QUICKLY, WE SHALL BE READY ERE HE ARRIVES.

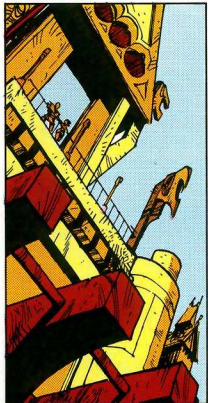


MAKE HASTE, LADS!

LEAP TO THE FIRES! STOKE THE FURNACES!

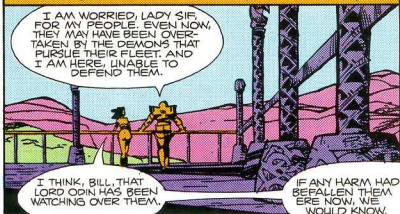
WE GO TO WORK!

SO SIF RETURNS TO ASGARD AND THE WORD GOES OUT FROM ODIN THAT HE AND THREE OTHERS WILL JOURNEY TO THE FORGES OF NIDAVELLIR...



...THERE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CREATION SUCH AS HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

BUT AS ALL IS MADE READY FOR THE TRIP WE FIND HIGH UP THE TOWERS OF ASGARD, TWO FIGURES DEEP IN CONVERSATION.



I AM WORRIED, LADY SIF, FOR MY PEOPLE. EVEN NOW, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE DEMONS THAT PURSUE THEIR FLEET. AND I AM HERE, UNABLE TO DEFEND THEM.

I THINK, BILL, THAT LORD ODIN HAS BEEN WATCHING OVER THEM.

IF ANY HARM HAD BEFALLEN THEM HERE NOW, WE WOULD KNOW.

THAT MAY BE, BUT MY PLACE IS WITH THEM AND AS I AM NOW FULLY RECOVERED, I LONG TO BE GONE FROM HERE.



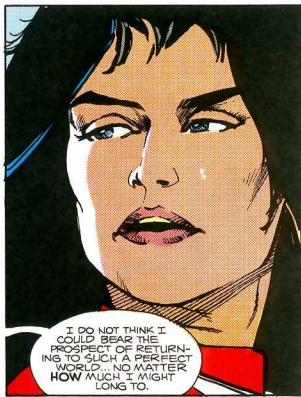
IN THE GLORY OF ITS MANY BEAUTIES, ASGARD ONLY SERVES TO REMIND ME JUST HOW MUCH I HAVE GIVEN UP FOREVER.

IF...IF YOUR PEOPLE FIND SAFE HAVEN EVENTUALLY, WILL YOU EVER THINK OF RETURNING TO...US, SOMEDAY?

LOOK AT ME, LADY SIF. MY BROTHERS ARE THE BEASTS OF THE FORESTS; MY SISTERS THE MACHINES THAT DRIVE THE GREAT STARSHIPS.

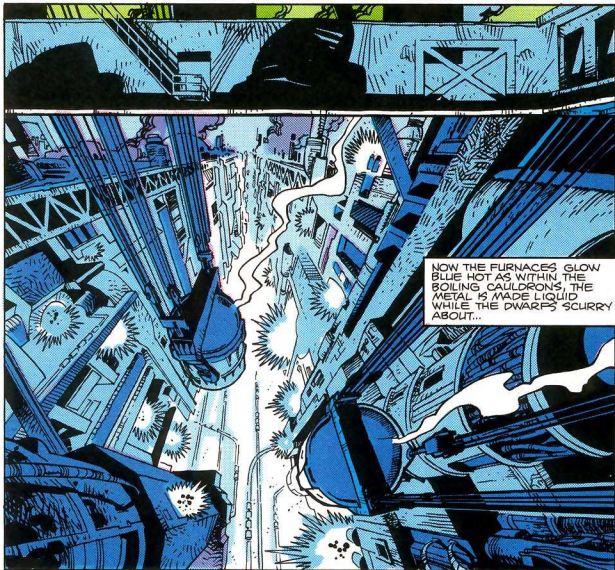


WHEN I WAS RE-MADE AS A WARRIOR TO SAVE MY PEOPLE, I SURRENDERED ALL MY HUMANITY. I HAVE NONE LEFT... FOR ANYONE.



I DO NOT THINK I COULD BEAR THE PROSPECT OF RETURNING TO SUCH A PERFECT WORLD... NO MATTER HOW MUCH I MIGHT LONG TO.

THESE ARE THE FURNACES OF NIDAVELLIR, THE GREAT FORGES OF THE DWARFS, WHERE FOR AGES, THEY HAVE CREATED THE MOST WONDERFUL DELIGHTS OF THEIR IMAGINATIONS.



NOW THE FURNACES GLOW BLUE HOT AS WITHIN THE BOILING CAULDRONS, THE METAL IS MADE LIQUID WHILE THE DWARFS SCURRY ABOUT...



...AND THE FINAL REPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED...

THE RAKING OF THE SLAG IS FINISHED. PREPARE TO TAP THE CHARGE!

... ALL UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF ODIN, AND HIS GUESTS.

THE URU IS NEARLY READY TO BE CAST. SEE HOW THEY LIFT THE GREAT LADLE ABOVE THE MASTER MOLD. EITRI IS INDEED THE GENIUS OF HIS CRAFT.

ALOFT THERE, YOU SLUGGARDS! THE COLOR IS RIGHT! BEGIN POURING THE CHARGE NOW! AND MIND YOU DO IT WITH CARE! WE'VE NOT ENOUGH METAL FOR A SECOND TRY!

BUT THE OPERATOR'S AIM IS PERFECT AND THE MOLTEN METAL URU THUNDERS INTO THE MOLO WITH A DEAFENING ROAR!

BARRI OOM!

NOW, LORD ODIN, BEFORE THE MOLD IS COOLED, RELEASE THE ENCHANTMENT NOW!



STAND BACK! THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN WE SUCCEED OR FAIL! I MUST STRIKE WITH THE FULL FORCE OF THE ODIN POWER TO ACHIEVE OUR PURPOSE!

ONLY THIS CAN THE MAGIKS WE DESIRE BE LOCKED WITHIN THE LIRU METAL FOREVER!



SO BE IT!

KA THOOM!

QUICKLY NOW, BILL. DON THIS GAUNTLET AND STEP FORWARD. FOR YOU THIS MAGIC IS PERFORMED AND TO YOU THIS MAGIC SHALL BE BOUND!



EITRI WILL INSTRUCT YOU!

WHAT MUST I DO, EITRI?



AS I RAISE THE DOOR, YOU MUST REACH INTO THE MOLTEN POOL WITHIN AND REMOVE THAT WHICH YOU FIND THERE. THE GAUNTLET WILL PROTECT YOU! MAKE HASTE OR THE MOMENT IS LOST!




NOW!

I... I FEEL NOTHING--- HOLD! I HAVE IT! THE WEIGHT IS ENORMOUS! BUT IT GROWS LIGHTER EVEN AS I PULL IT FROM THE FIRE!



THE POWER! IT FLOWS INTO ME! I... I'M CHANGING!



**BADAI
BOOM!**

THE
ENCHANTMENT
IS MINE ONCE
MORE!

AND SO SHALL I EVER BE FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. THE FORGING IS COMPLETE.

BUT I MUST ASK YOU ONCE AGAIN, NOW THAT YOU FEEL THE POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT YOU MUST SHOULDER, DO YOU TAKE THIS BURDEN OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL? FOR, ONCE UNDERTAKEN, IT WILL BE YOURS TO CARRY FOREVER!

I DO ACCEPT IT, WITH ALL MY HEART.

VERY WELL. THIS HAMMER SHALL BE CALLED **STORM BREAKER!** MAY YOU BEAR THE BURDEN AS WELL AS MY SON, WHO HAS CARRIED SUCH RESPONSIBILITY NEARLY ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE.

AND NOW, THERE IS YET ONE FURTHER TASK TO DISCHARGE.

STEP FORWARD, THOR AND RECEIVE FROM MY HANDS THE HAMMER, MJOLNIR...

...WHICH IS NOW AND FOREVER YOURS ALONE!

CARRY IT AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE, WITH HONOR!

THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME. I MUST RETURN TO ASGARD FOR I AM WEARY AND SPENT FROM THE EFFORT OF THIS DAY.

BUT BEFORE WE LEFT THE GOLDEN REALM, I SAT IN THE HIGH SEAT AND SOUGHT OUT A VISION OF YOUR PEOPLE, BILL.

ARE THEY...?

YOU MUST MAKE HASTE. THE DEMONS ARE NEARLY UPON THEM AND EVEN NOW I FEAR IT MAY BE TOO LATE. BUT WITHOUT SUCH POWER AS YOU NOW POSSESS, YOU COULD NOT HAVE WITHSTOOD THEIR FURY.

FATHER, LET ME GO WITH HIM.

IF, AS YOU HAVE SAID, THE DEMONS' POWER RIVALS YOUR OWN, EVEN BILL MAY NOT SUCCEED AGAINST THEM.

YET TOGETHER WE MAY PREVAIL!

THIS WAS MY HOPE. BUT REMEMBER MY SON, THE POWER OF THE DEMONS COMES FROM THEIR SOURCE. YOU MUST DESTROY IT OR THERE WILL BE NO VICTORY!

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU FURTHER. YOUR FIGHTING HEART'S YOUR GREAT COURAGE, THESE MUST SEE YOU THROUGH.

NOTHING!

NOW MAKE HASTE. TIME IS SHORT.

MY LORD AND FATHER...

...NOTHING SHALL STAND AGAINST US!

KLAASSH!

YET HOW SHALL WE FIND YOUR PEOPLE?

FEAR NOT. MY INTERNAL SENSORS WILL GUIDE US, BUT CAN WE REACH THEM IN TIME? FOR THE JOURNEY WILL BE LONG AND WE MAY NEED PROVISION.

NOW I MAY SAY, "FEAR NOT."

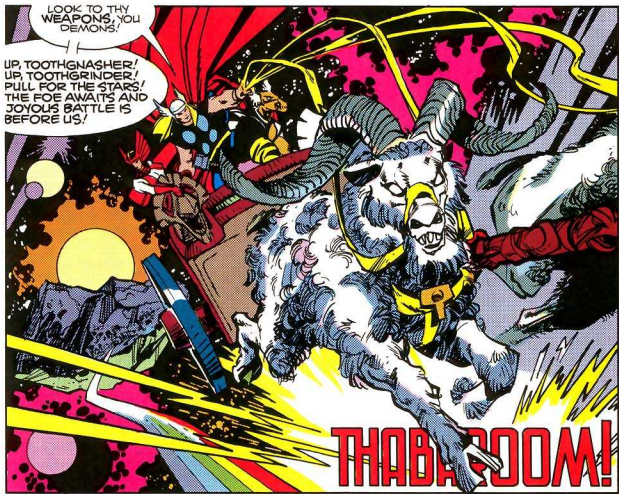
HO, TOOTHGRINDER, HO, TOOTHGRINDER, LEAVE YOUR GREEN PASTURES AND ANSWER YOUR MASTER'S CALL. FOR WE MUST TRAVEL FAST AND FAR AND ONLY YOU CAN TAKE US TO OUR DESTINY.

AND FROM OUT OF THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING, THOR'S CALL IS ANSWERED.

KABAKATHOOM!

FAREWELL, FATHER! LOOK FOR US FROM YOUR HIGH SEAT AND GUIDE OUR STEPS!

FAREWELL, LORD ODIN! LOOK FOR US AGAIN WHERE WE HAVE HAD THE VICTORY!



NEXT: THOUGH HEL SHOULD BAR THE WAY!