



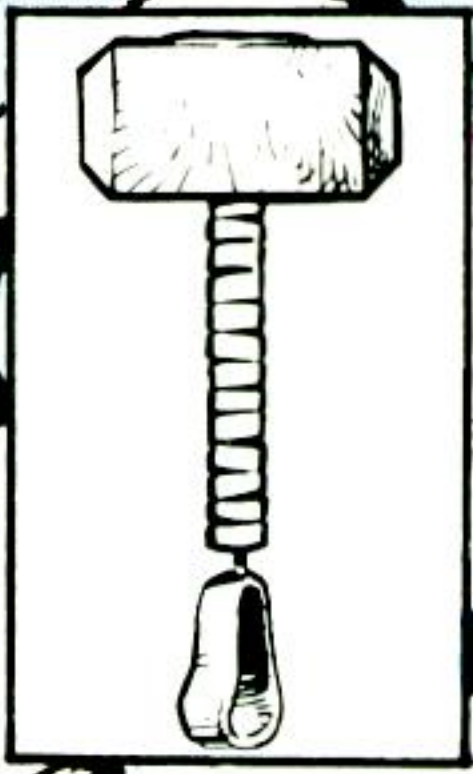
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362
DEC

the mighty THOR

**FIRST BLOOD!
LAST MAN!**



6-25-85

STAN LEE PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL!

ONE OF THE NINE WORLDS IS THE DESOLATE REALM OF HEL INHABITED BY THE SHADES OF THE DEAD.

BUT TODAY, THE HEROES OF VALHALLA, THE EINHERJAR, RIDE THEIR SHINING HORSES THROUGH THAT ANCIENT KINGDOM...

...AND THE NOISE OF THE PASSING ARMY ECHOES LOUDLY IN THE SILENT HALLS OF DEATH.

LOOK, THOR, WHAT GREAT SHIP SITS YONDER BY THE COLD SEA?

NAGLFAR SHE IS CALLED, HAROKIN, AND SHE HAS BEEN A-BUILDING SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME.

'TIS SAID TO BE MADE OF THE FINGERNAILS OF DEAD MEN...

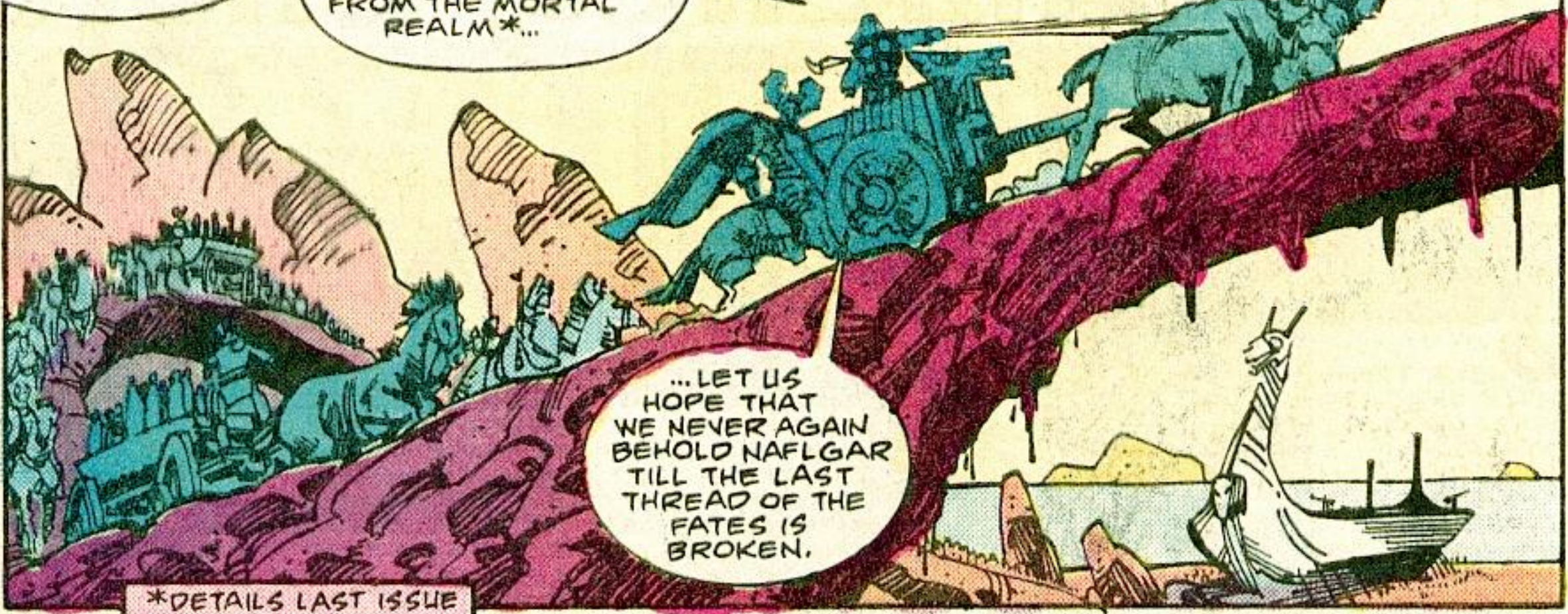
...AND WHEN SHE IS FINISHED, THE DEAD WILL SAIL HER TO ASGARD TO DESTROY THE GODS.

WALTER SIMONSON -- STORY & ART. JOHN WORKMAN, JR. -- LETTERING. MAX SCHEELE -- COLORS. RALPH MACCHIO -- EDITING. JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR IN CHIEF.

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BUT LONG MAY IT BE TILL THAT DAY IS COME.

AND NOW THAT WE HAVE RECOVERED THE SOULS HELA STOLE FROM THE MORTAL REALM*...



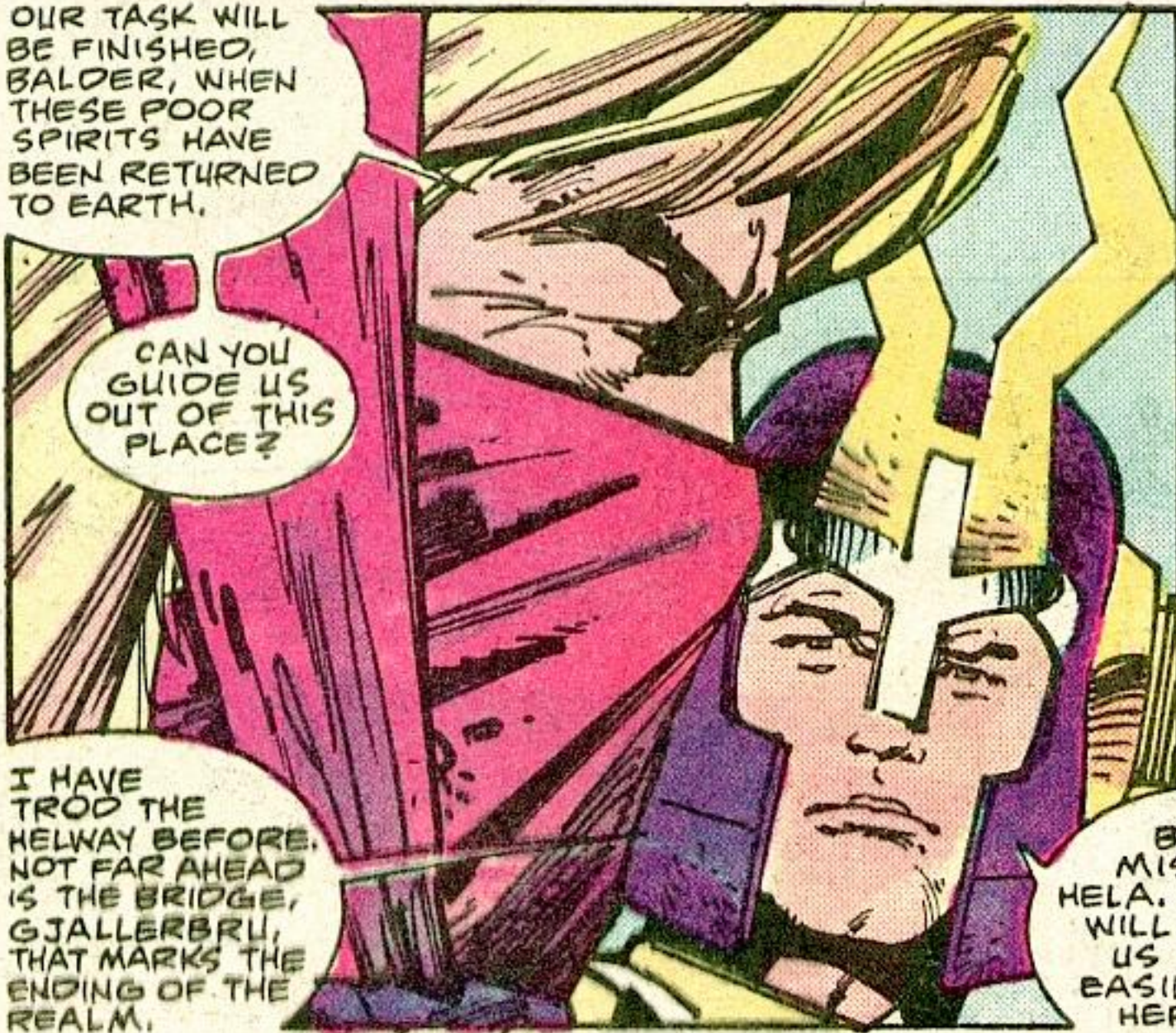
...LET US HOPE THAT WE NEVER AGAIN BEHOLD NAFLGAR TILL THE LAST THREAD OF THE FATES IS BROKEN.

*DETAILS LAST ISSUE

OUR TASK WILL BE FINISHED, BALDER, WHEN THESE POOR SPIRITS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO EARTH.

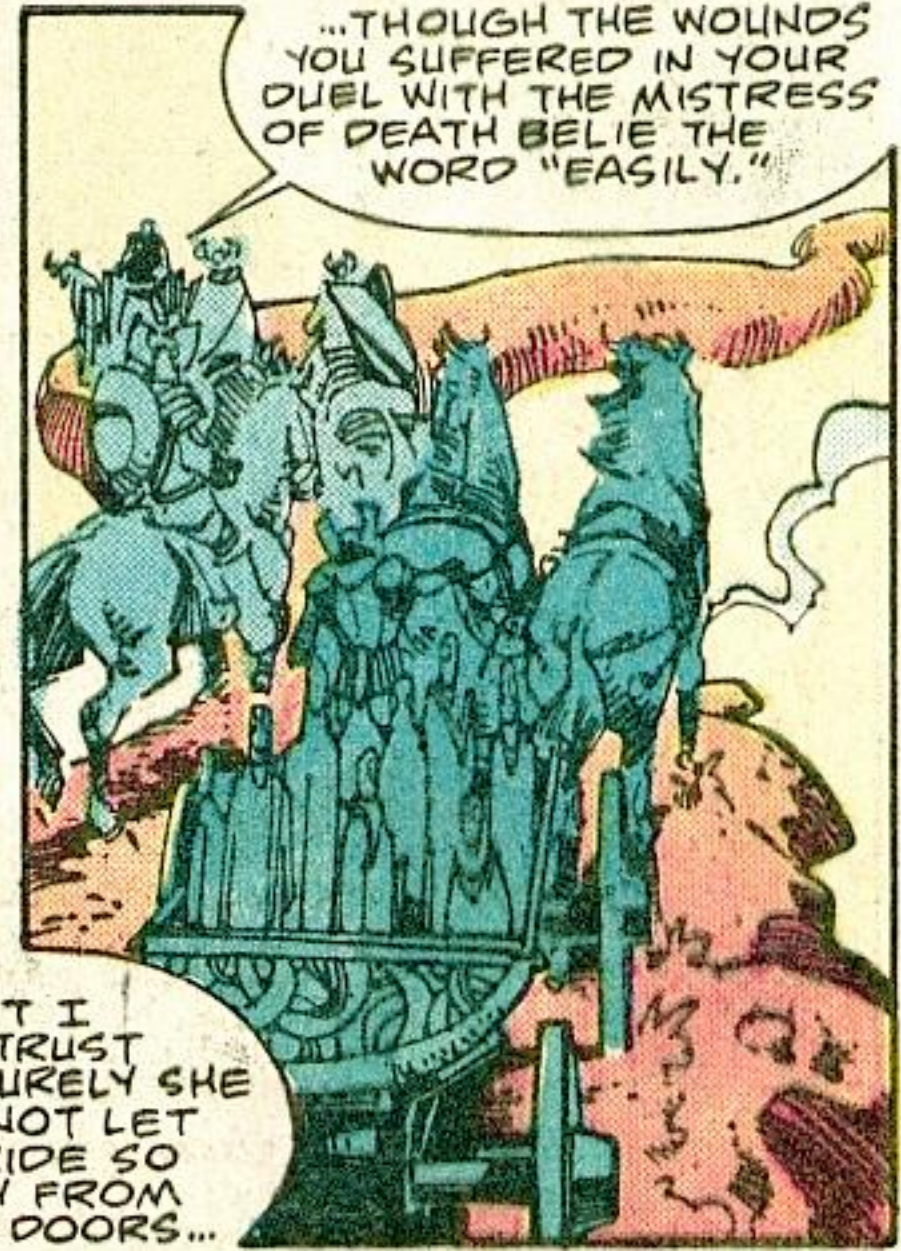
CAN YOU GUIDE US OUT OF THIS PLACE?

I HAVE TROD THE HELWAY BEFORE. NOT FAR AHEAD IS THE BRIDGE, GJALLERBRU, THAT MARKS THE ENDING OF THE REALM.



BUT I MISTRUST HELA. SURELY SHE WILL NOT LET US RIDE SO EASILY FROM HER DOORS...

...THOUGH THE WOUNDS YOU SUFFERED IN YOUR DUEL WITH THE MISTRESS OF DEATH BELIE THE WORD "EASILY."



HOW IS YOUR FACE?

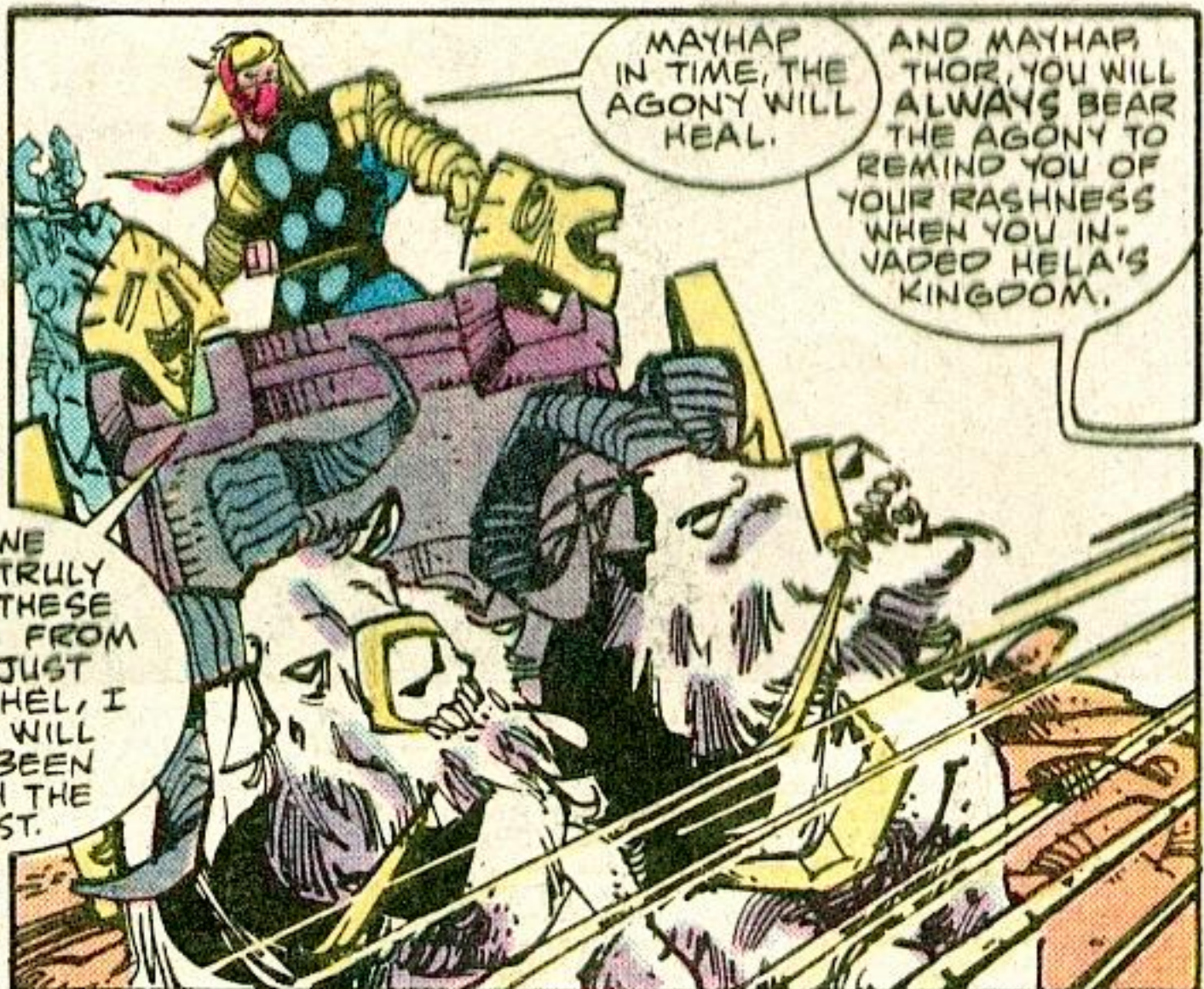
THE HURT SEEMS AS FRESH AS WHEN HELA STRUCK ME WITH HER HAND OF GLORY.

BUT THE SON OF ODIN DOES NOT TAKE HIS GUARDIANSHIP OF MIDGARD* LIGHTLY, BALDER.

IF WE HAVE TRULY SAVED THESE MORTALS FROM THEIR UNJUST DOOM IN HEL, I THINK IT WILL HAVE BEEN WORTH THE COST.

MAYHAP IN TIME, THE AGONY WILL HEAL.

AND MAYHAP THOR, YOU WILL ALWAYS BEAR THE AGONY TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR RASHNESS WHEN YOU INVADDED HELA'S KINGDOM.



*EARTH

RATHER, IT WILL REMIND ME THAT EVEN YOU MAY NOT UPSET THE BALANCE OF LIFE AND DEATH, HELA.

...THOUGH YOU RULE THIS REALM FOREVER,

HAVE YOU COME TO DISPUTE OUR DEPARTURE?

ON THE CONTRARY, I MERELY THOUGHT YOU SHOULD TAKE ALL YOUR FELLOWS WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE.

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE ONE WHO ABANDONED YOU UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN HEL...

...THE EXECUTIONER!

WHAT?!

SO, SKURGE, I SEE NOW WHY YOU LEFT US BEHIND.

THE ENCHANTRESS HAS EVER COMMANDED YOUR HEART BEFORE ALL OTHER LOYALTIES.

AND DOES STILL, THOR.

I WILL STAND BESIDE HER HERE AGAINST ANY THAT TRY TO STOP ME.

BUT WHO STANDS BESIDE YOU, SKURGE?

IN THIS PLACE, ALL THINGS ARE HELA'S, AND NOTHING IS WHAT IT SEEMS.

DO NOT LISTEN TO THEM, BELOVED. THEY WOULD TEAR US APART AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS DONE.

YET BALDER SPOKE AND THE BRIGHT ONE NEVER LIES!

FORGIVE ME, MY LOVE, BUT I MUST SEE FOR MYSELF.

THE EXECUTIONER'S AXE CAN CUT THROUGH ANY DISGUISE TO REVEAL THE TRUE BEING BENEATH!

SKURGE!
NO!

OH, DARLING, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

DID I NOT WARN YOU TO BE CAREFUL?

NOW THEY SHALL SEE ME AS I REALLY AM AND KNOW THAT YOU BETRAYED THEM.

NEVER MIND. MORDONNA WILL SEE TO IT THAT HER SKURGE DOES NOT SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS.



WHAT?!!

AN ETERNITY OF PLEASURE HERE IN HEL SHALL BE YOUR REWARD FOR YOUR SERVICES.



NO! I HAVE NOT BETRAYED THE ASGARD- IANS!



I'LL SPLIT YOU WHERE YOU STAND.

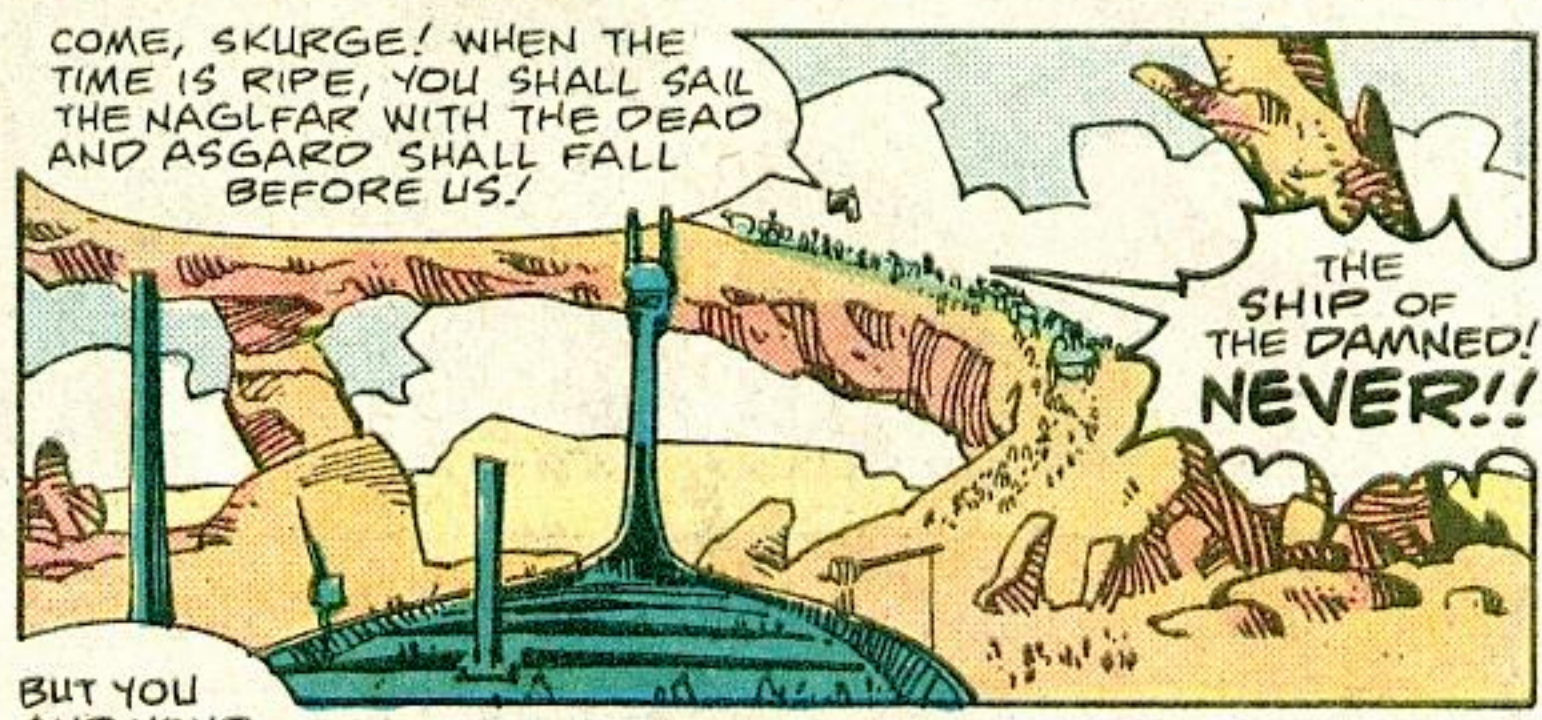


'TIS NO GOOD, SKURGE. THOR HAS CAUGHT ON NOW! LET ME WHISK MORDONNA AWAY BEFORE HARM COMES TO HER.

YOU SHALL BE NEXT.

THOR! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! I KNEW NOTHING OF THIS!

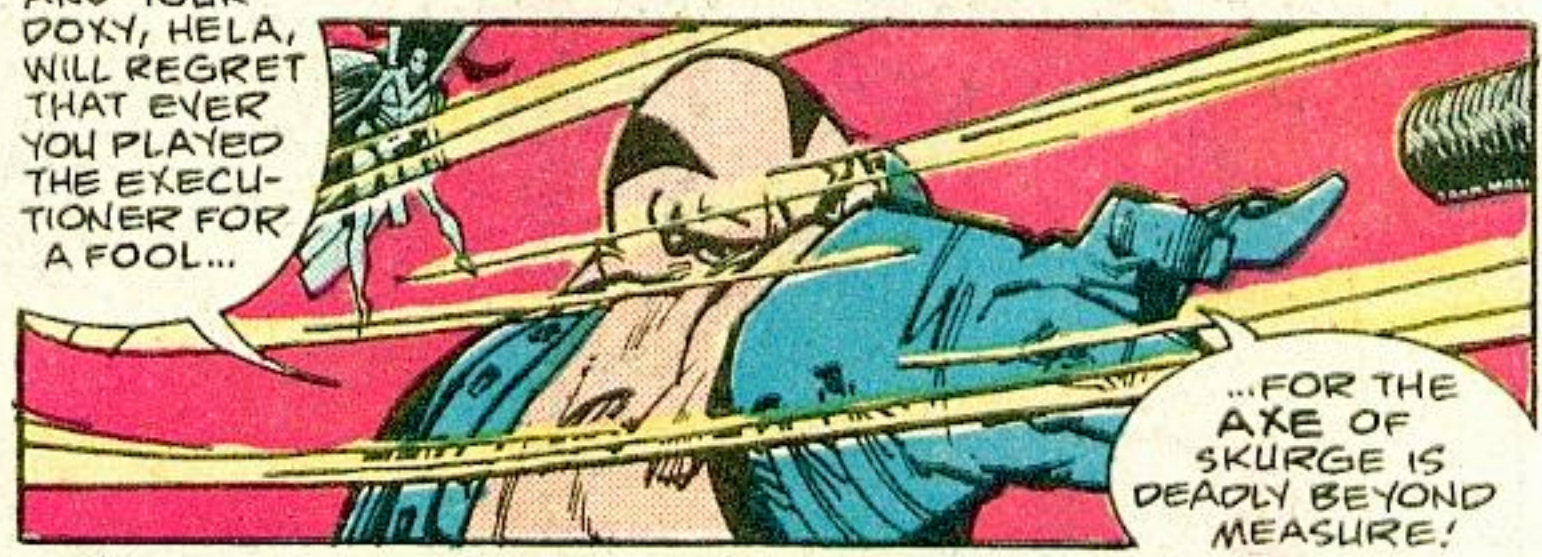
I TRULY THOUGHT I WALKED WITH THE ENCHANTRESS!



COME, SKURGE! WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE, YOU SHALL SAIL THE NAGLFAR WITH THE DEAD AND ASGARD SHALL FALL BEFORE US!

THE SHIP OF THE DAMNED! NEVER!!

BUT YOU AND YOUR DOXY, HELA, WILL REGRET THAT EVER YOU PLAYED THE EXECUTIONER FOR A FOOL...

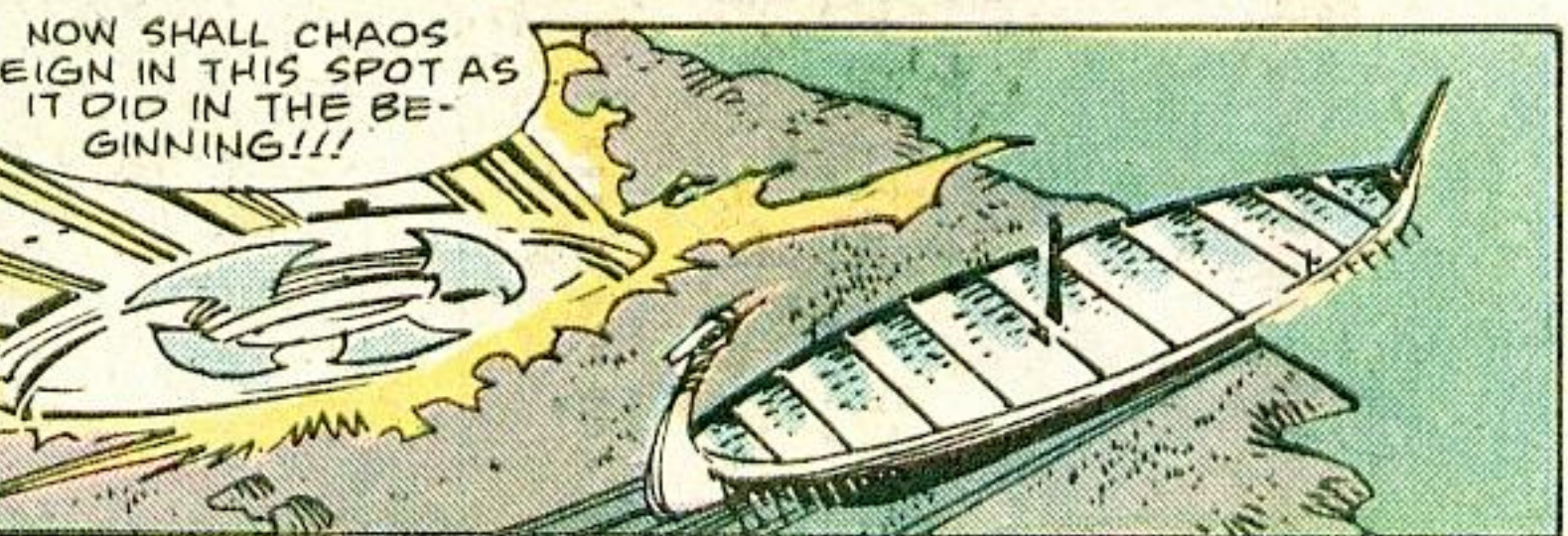


...FOR THE AXE OF SKURGE IS DEADLY BEYOND MEASURE!



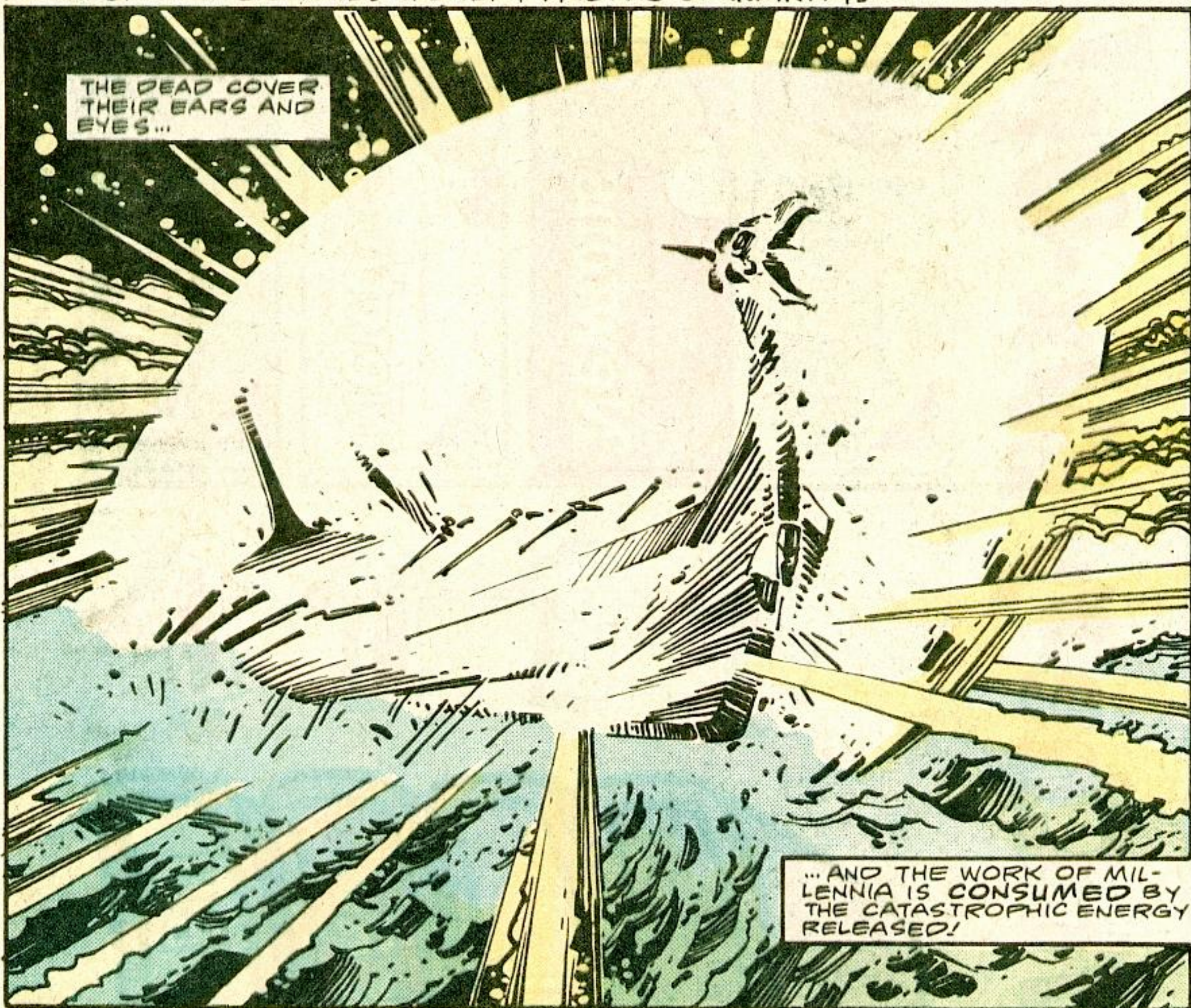
IT CAN CUT THROUGH THE DIMENSIONS THEMSELVES TO RELEASE THE ENERGY THAT BINDS THE NINE WORLDS TOGETHER IN THIS PLACE!!

NOW SHALL CHAOS REIGN IN THIS SPOT AS IT DID IN THE BEGGINING!!!



AND FOR A MOMENT, THE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE DIMENSIONS ARE TORN ASUNDER AS THE GREAT AXE CLEAVES THE VERY FABRIC OF INFINITY!

THE DEAD COVER THEIR EARS AND EYES...



... AND THE WORK OF MILLENNIA IS CONSUMED BY THE CATASTROPHIC ENERGY RELEASED!

THEN THE RIFT IS GONE, SEALED BY THE VERY ENERGY UNLOOSED IN ITS CREATION!

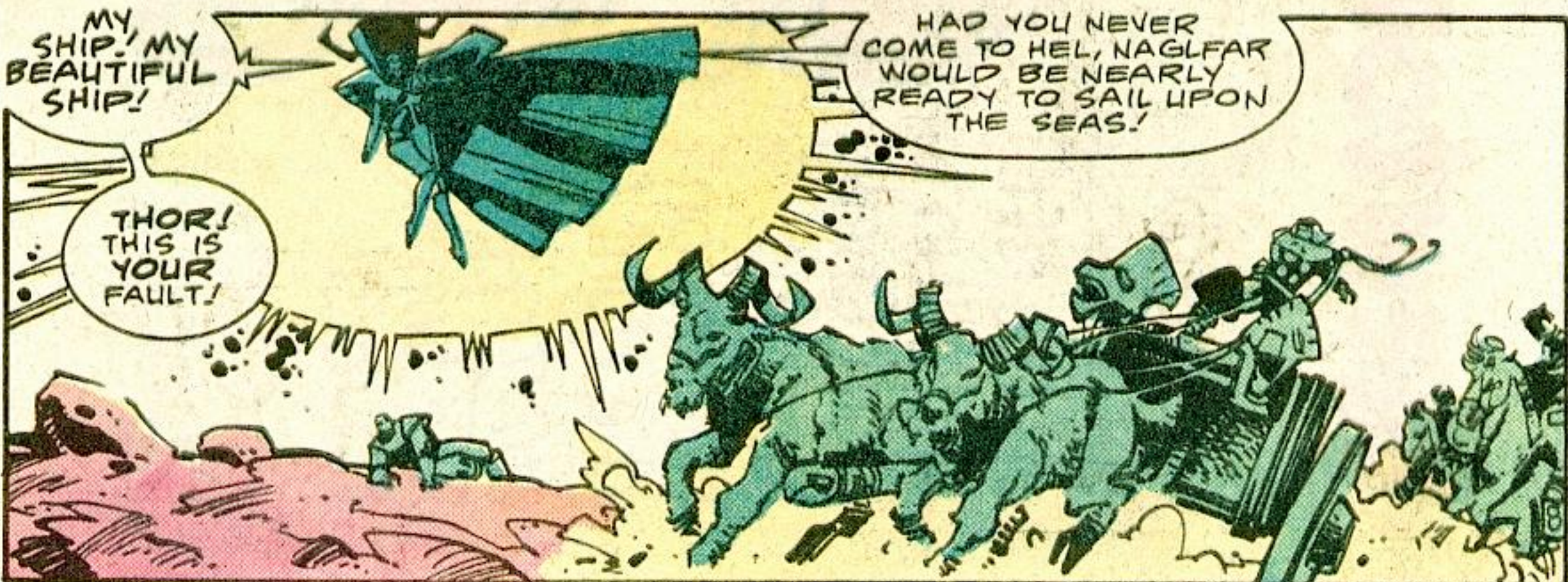


HEL STILL STANDS... BUT NAGLFAR IS NO MORE!

MY SHIP! MY BEAUTIFUL SHIP!

THOR! THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

HAD YOU NEVER COME TO HEL, NAGLFAR WOULD BE NEARLY READY TO SAIL UPON THE SEAS!



I SWORE I WOULD LET YOU LEAVE HEL WITH THE SOULS OF THE MORTALS!

AND LEAVE YOU SHALL... AS A CORPSE!

NEVER, HELA! MY BLADE WILL PARRY YOUR FATAL BLOW AND THOR SHALL YET LIVE!

THOUGH MY SWORD TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST, MY ARM GROWS NUMB! I CANNOT MOVE IT!

BALDER!

BALDER!

WELL PARRIED, BRAVE ONE.

...BUT IT OCCURS TO ME THAT ONLY YOU KNOW THE ROAD THAT LEADS OUT OF HEL!

THOR CAN WAIT! THE GUIDE SHALL BE DESTROYED FIRST!

THEN NONE SHALL ESCAPE FROM HERE WITHOUT HELA'S CONSENT!

BALDER!

FLEE, AGNAR! SAVE YOURSELF!

NEVER! I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU!

THEN I'LL GRANT YOU THE HONOR OF DYING WITH YOUR HERO, AGNAR.

NOT WHEN THE HAMMER OF THOR CAN STILL PROTECT THE INNOCENT, DEATH GODDESS!

BAWHAAM!

QUICKLY, AGNAR. SEE THAT BALDER IS MOUNTED!

WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF HER SHIP, HELA'S ANGER WILL SURPASS UNDERSTANDING!

WE HAVE ONLY SECONDS LEFT!

COME, HEROES!
TURN YOUR HORSES'
HEADS AND FOL-
LOW ME!

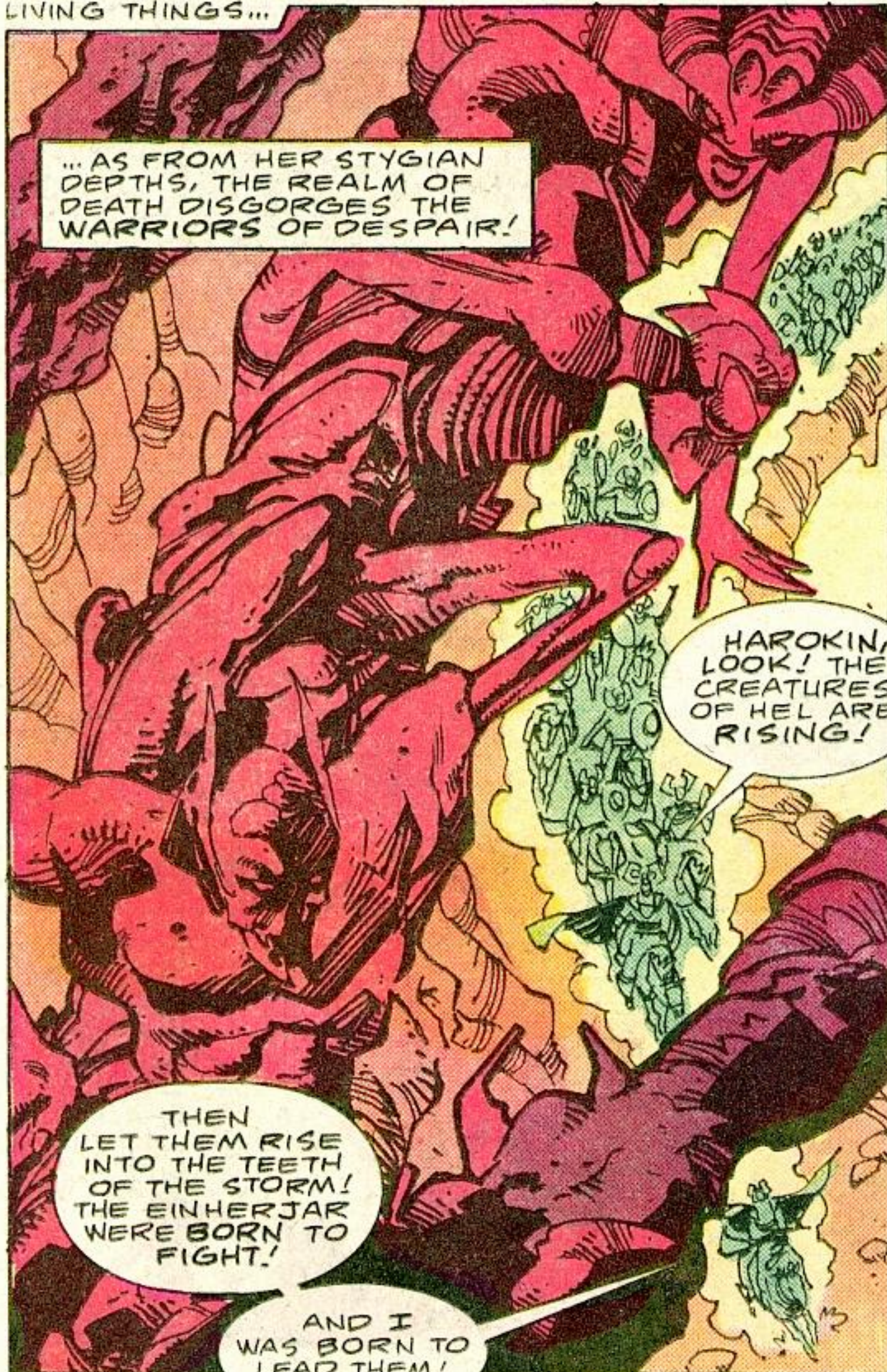
THE HELWAY LIES
BEFORE US AND
WE MUST RIDE IT
TO FREEDOM...

...THOUGH ALL THE
POWERS OF HEL
SHOULD SEEK
TO BAR OUR
WAY!



GET
THOSE
WAGONS
MOV-
ING!

AND EVEN AS THE ASGARDIANS DRAW NEAR, THE
ROCKS OF HEL BEGIN TO TWIST AND WRITHE LIKE
LIVING THINGS...



... AS FROM HER STYGIAN
DEPTHS, THE REALM OF
DEATH DISGORGES THE
WARRIORS OF DESPAIR!

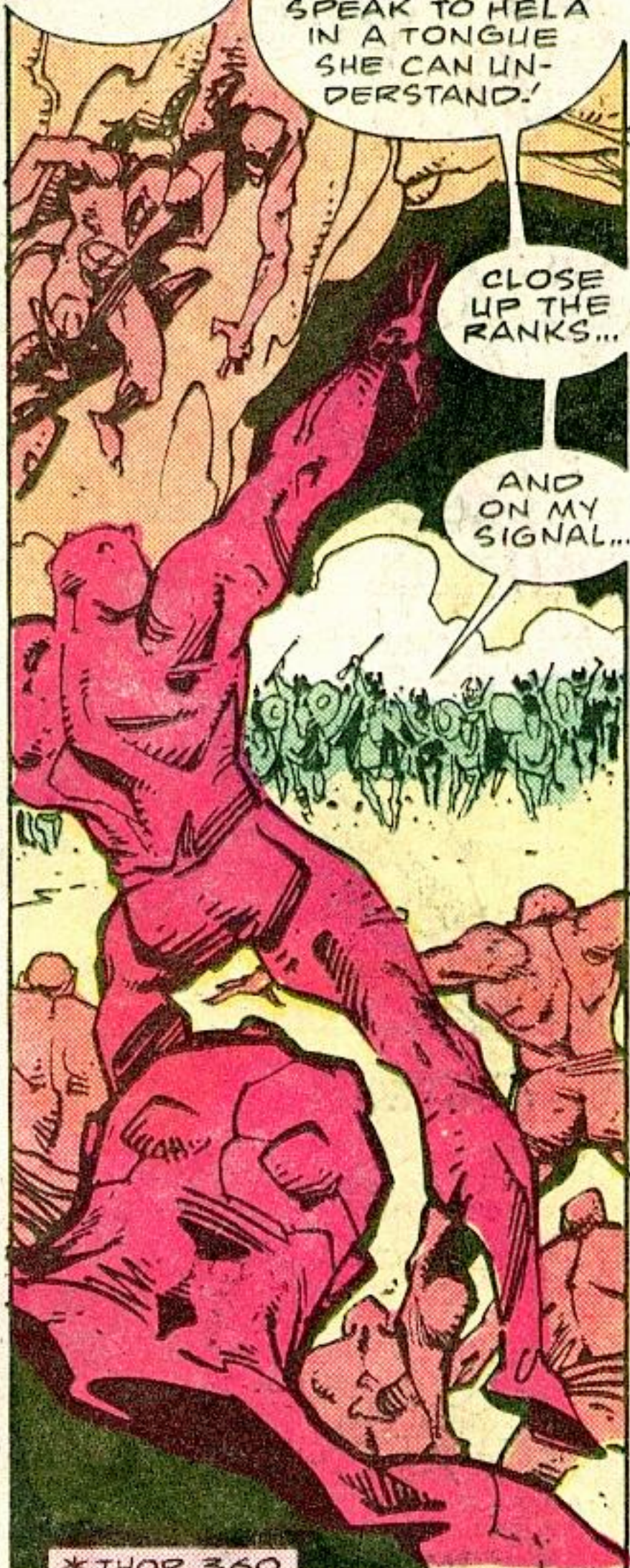
HAROKIN,
LOOK! THE
CREATURES
OF HEL ARE
RISING!

THEN
LET THEM RISE
INTO THE TEETH
OF THE STORM!
THE EINHERJAR
WERE BORN TO
FIGHT!

AND I
WAS BORN TO
LEAD THEM!

THIS
IS OUR
MOMENT!

THE WEAPONS
WE TOOK FROM
MIDGARD* SHALL
SPEAK TO HELA
IN A TONGUE
SHE CAN UN-
DERSTAND!



CLOSE
UP THE
RANKS...

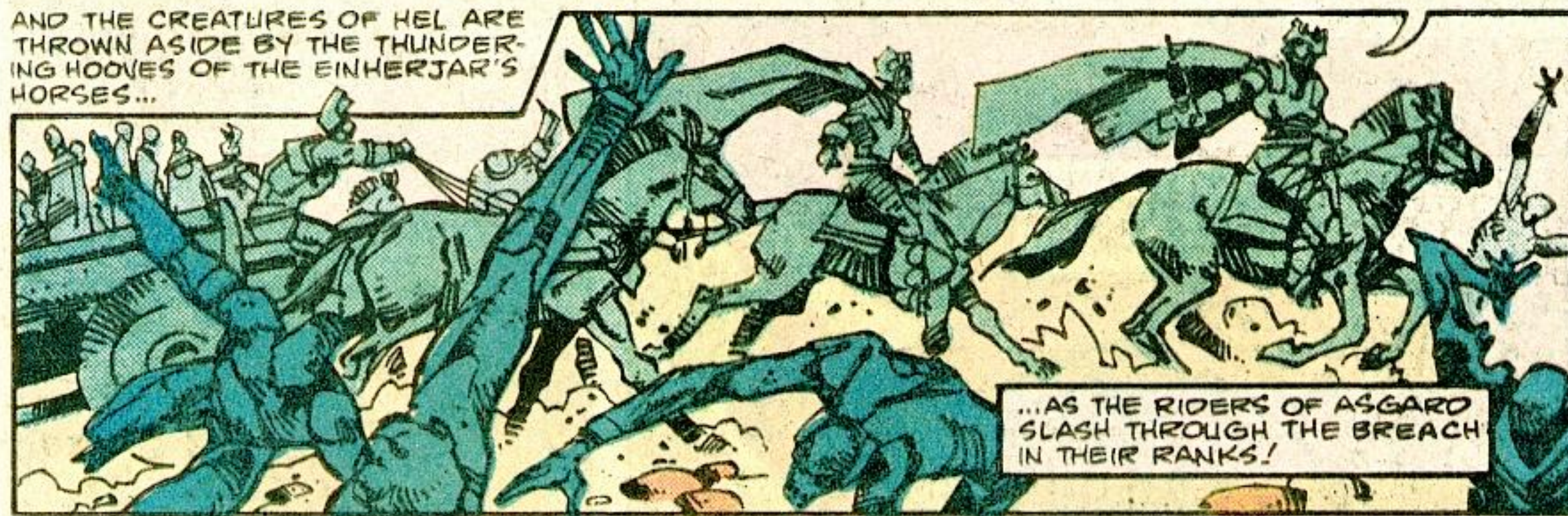
AND
ON MY
SIGNAL...

OPEN FIRE!

BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA



AND THE CREATURES OF HEL ARE THROWN ASIDE BY THE THUNDERING HOOVES OF THE EINHERJAR'S HORSES...



RIDE, ASGARDIANS! RIDE!



THOUGH YOU RIDE FOR A THOUSAND LEAGUES, YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE HELA AND HER RED REAVERS!

I MEANT TO GOAD SKURGE INTO SOME RASH ACTION THAT WOULD HAVE RELEASED ME FROM MY OATH.

BUT NEVER DID I THINK HE WOULD DESTROY MY SHIP!

COME, YOU DEAD! YOUR MISTRESS SPEAKS!

ALL THOSE WHO WERE SLAIN AT THE HANDS OF THE HEROES OF VALHALLA, RISE UP!

THOSE WHOM THE SWORD OF HAROKIN CLAIMED; THOSE WHO FELL BENEATH SIGMUND'S BRIGHT BLADE, RISE UP!

THE TIME OF VENGEANCE IS AT HAND!



AND HEL GROANS WITH THE STIRRINGS OF EARTH AS WARRIORS LONG ASLEEP BEGIN TO AWAKEN...

...TO BECOME THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES.

AND FAR AHEAD, AS THE ASSGARDIANS CONTINUE THEIR CLIMB UP THE HELWAY TOWARD THE SUN...

WHAT IS IT, BALDER? WHY DO YOU PAUSE?

BEFORE US GATHERS A LOWERING CLOUD I HAVE SEEN BEFORE.

LOOK AHEAD, THOR, AND SEE THE FACE OF DEATH.

A SHIELD-WALL, MADE BY THE WARRIORS WE SLEW IN EVERY BATTLE SINCE THE BEGINNING!

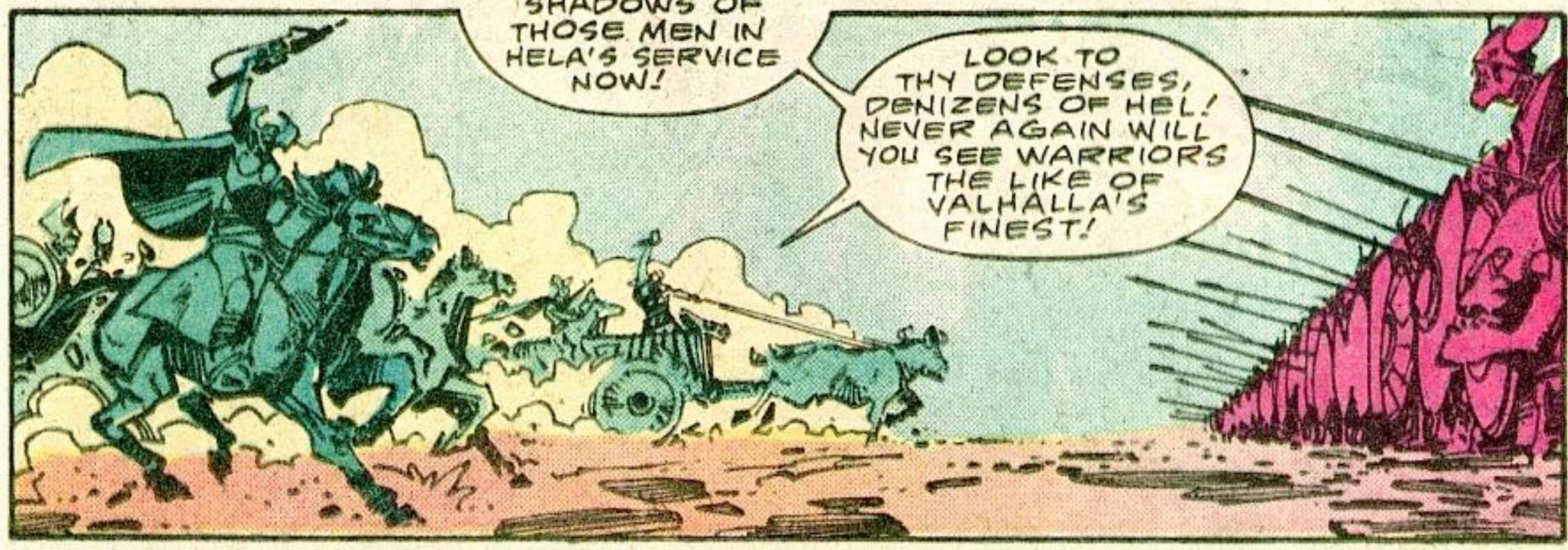
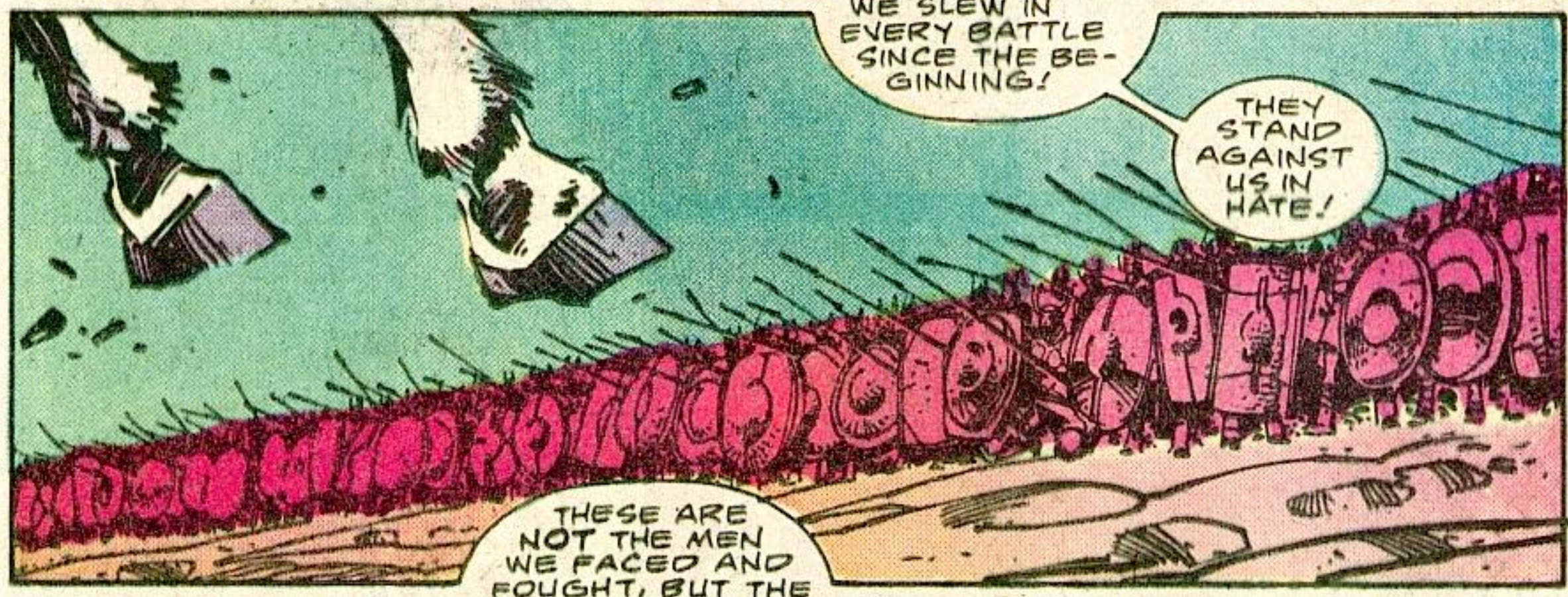
THEY STAND AGAINST US IN HATE!

THESE ARE NOT THE MEN WE FACED AND FOUGHT, BUT THE SHADOWS OF THOSE MEN IN HELA'S SERVICE NOW!

LOOK TO THY DEFENSES, DENIZENS OF HEL! NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU SEE WARRIORS THE LIKE OF VALHALLA'S FINEST!

EINHER JAR! FOLLOW ME!

WE WILL BREAK THEM HERE OR DIE THE REAL DEATH!



UP, TOOTH-
GNASHER! UP, TOOTH-
GRINDER! TAKE TO THE
AIR AND CARRY THE
LIGHTNING OF YOUR
HOOVES AMID OUR
ENEMIES.

WE
SHALL MATCH
THE HAMMER OF
THOR AGAINST THE
SHIELDWALL OF
HEL!

FOR
ASGARD!

AND
THOR!

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE UNDER-
WORLD SHUDDER AS THOR AND
EINHERJAR COLLIDE WITH THE
NUMBERLESS HORDES OF HELA...

... AND THE IMPACT SENDS
TREMORS TO THE FURTHEST
CORNER OF THE REALM...



...EVEN AS FAR AWAY AS GJALLERBRU...

GJALLERBRU-- THE GOLDEN BRIDGE THAT CROSSES THE RIVER GJOLL...

...THE BOUNDARY THAT MARKS THE END OF HELA'S KINGDOM.

SINCE THE BEGINNING, MODGLUD THE SILENT HAS STOOD BY THE BRIDGE AND WEL-COMED THE PASSING SHADES INTO HEL.

...FOR HER ANCIENT CHARGE IS TO GREET THE NEW ARRIVALS...

HOSTESS AND GUARDIAN IS SHE...

...AND TO PREVENT THOSE WHO WOULD ESCAPE HEL FROM CROSSING BACK TO THE LANDS OF THE LIVING.

NEVER HAS SHE ABANDONED HER POST FOR ANY REASON...

UNTIL NOW!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA!
KAPOW! KAPOW! KAPOW!
MODGLUD FLEES! THE BRIDGE IS WON!

BALDER, TO YOU I GIVE THE CHARGE TO SEE THESE MORTAL SOULS SAFELY BACK TO MID-GARD.

WE HAVE ONLY BROKEN THROUGH THE RANKS OF HELA'S WARRIORS.



WE CANNOT TRAVEL QUICKLY THROUGH THE TUNNELS BEYOND THE BRIDGE THAT LEAD TO SAFETY...

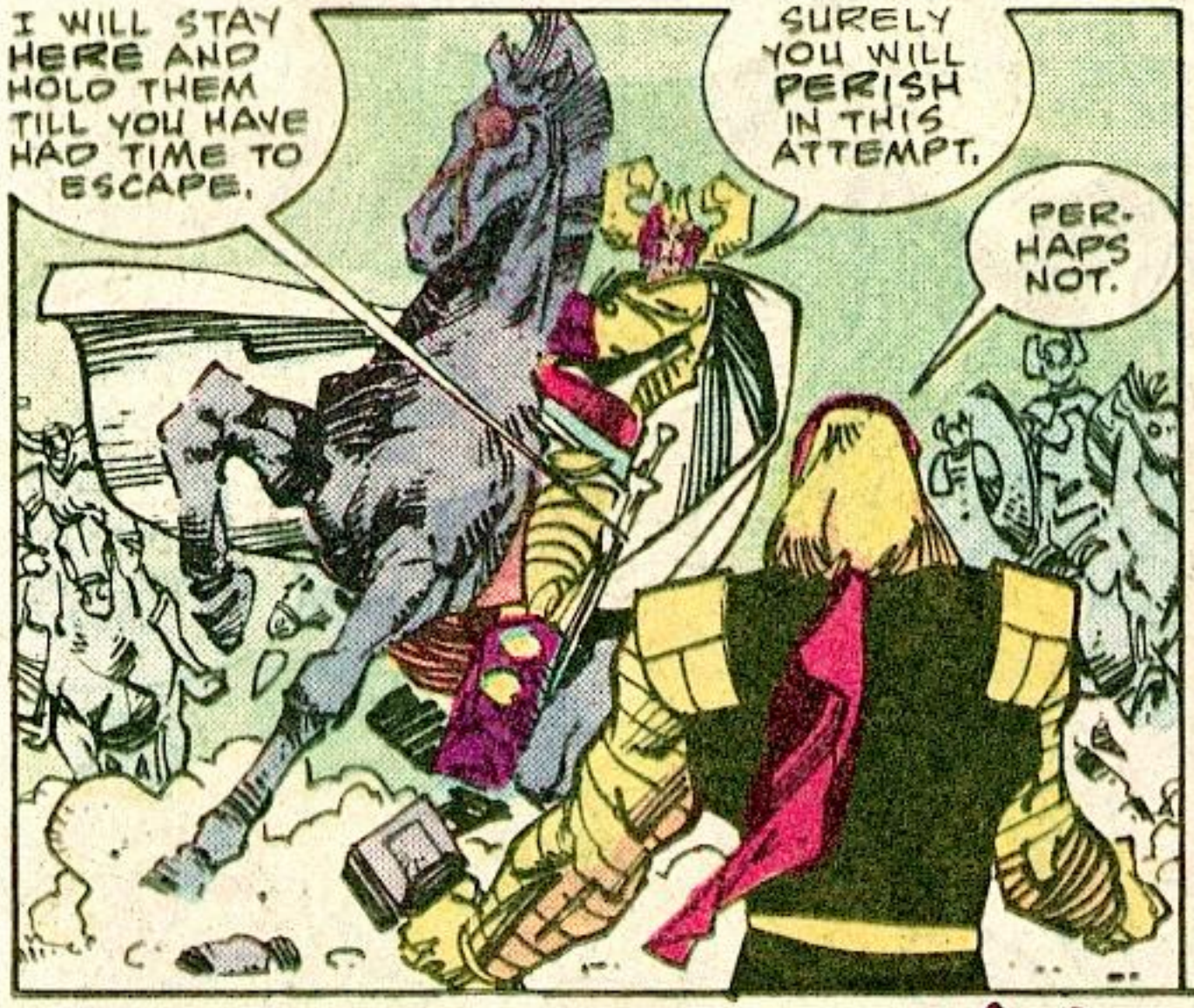
...AND SOON ENOUGH ALL OF HEL WILL BE AT OUR HEELS.

WHAT OF YOU?

I WILL STAY HERE AND HOLD THEM TILL YOU HAVE HAD TIME TO ESCAPE.

SURELY YOU WILL PERISH IN THIS ATTEMPT.

PERHAPS NOT.



MY HAMMER MAY YET WIN ME PASSAGE THROUGH TO THE UPPER WORLDS.



BUT NO ONE ELSE CAN HOLD THE HORDES OF HEL HERE AT THE BRIDGE TILL YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS ARE SAFE.

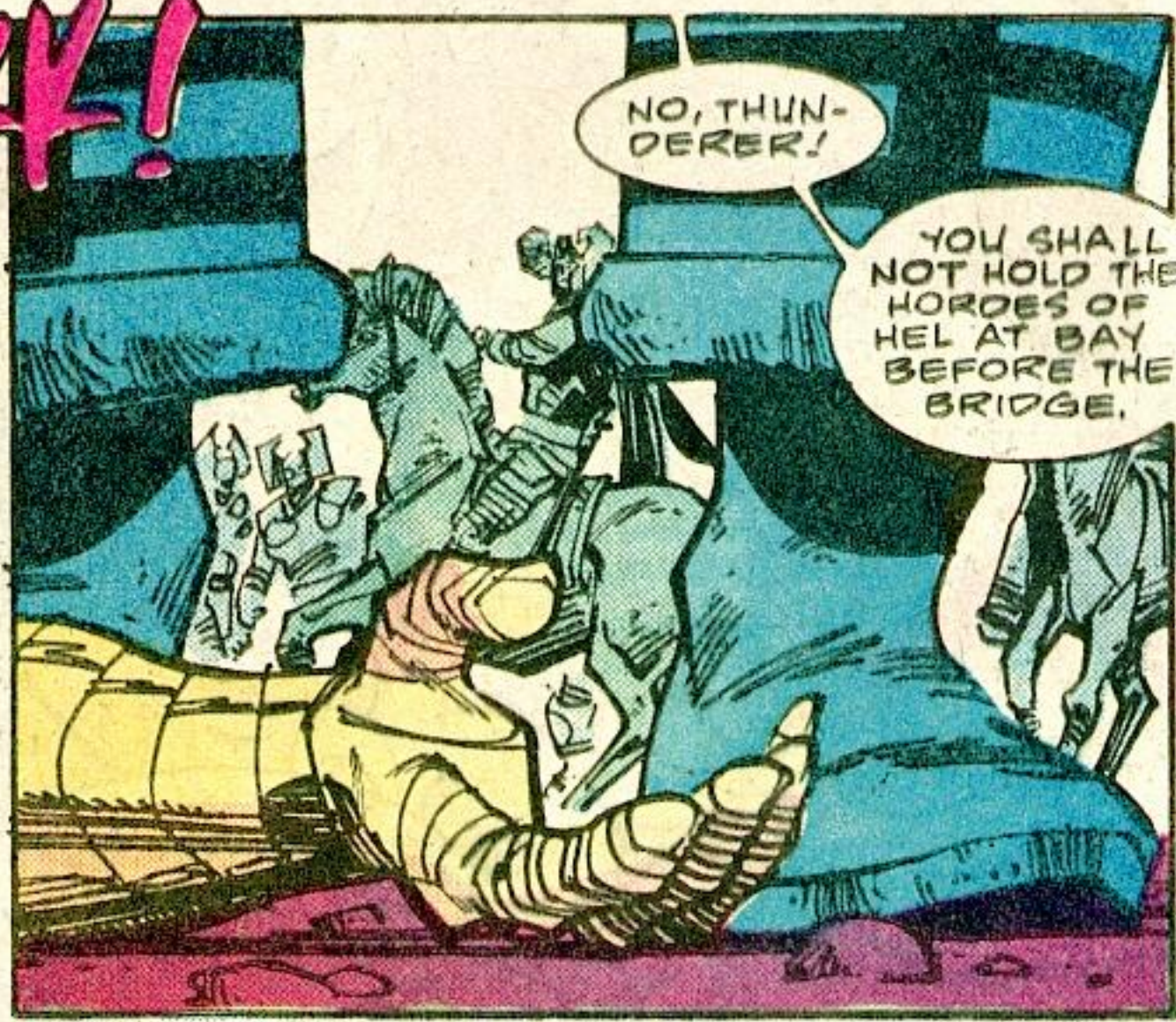
SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS BEHIND THOR...

CRACKK!



NO, THUNDERER!

YOU SHALL NOT HOLD THE HORDES OF HEL AT BAY BEFORE THE BRIDGE.





THE EXECUTIONER!

HE HAS FELLED THOR!

THIS IS SOME TRICK OF THE TRAITOR.

SLAY HIM!



GIVE ME YOUR WEAPON, HAROKIN.

BALDER, HEAR ME OUT.



SPEAK.

THEY MADE A FOOL OF ME, BALDER. THEY LAUGHED AT ME.

EVERYBODY LAUGHS AT SKURGE. HELA, MORDONNA, EVEN THE ENCHANTRESS I LOVE, THEY ALL LAUGH AT ME.

EXCEPT YOU. BALDER IS TOO KIND TO LAUGH AT SKURGE.

BUT WHENEVER THEY LAUGH, I HURT INSIDE, MAYBE I DIE A LITTLE.

NOW I THINK I AM DEAD ALREADY.

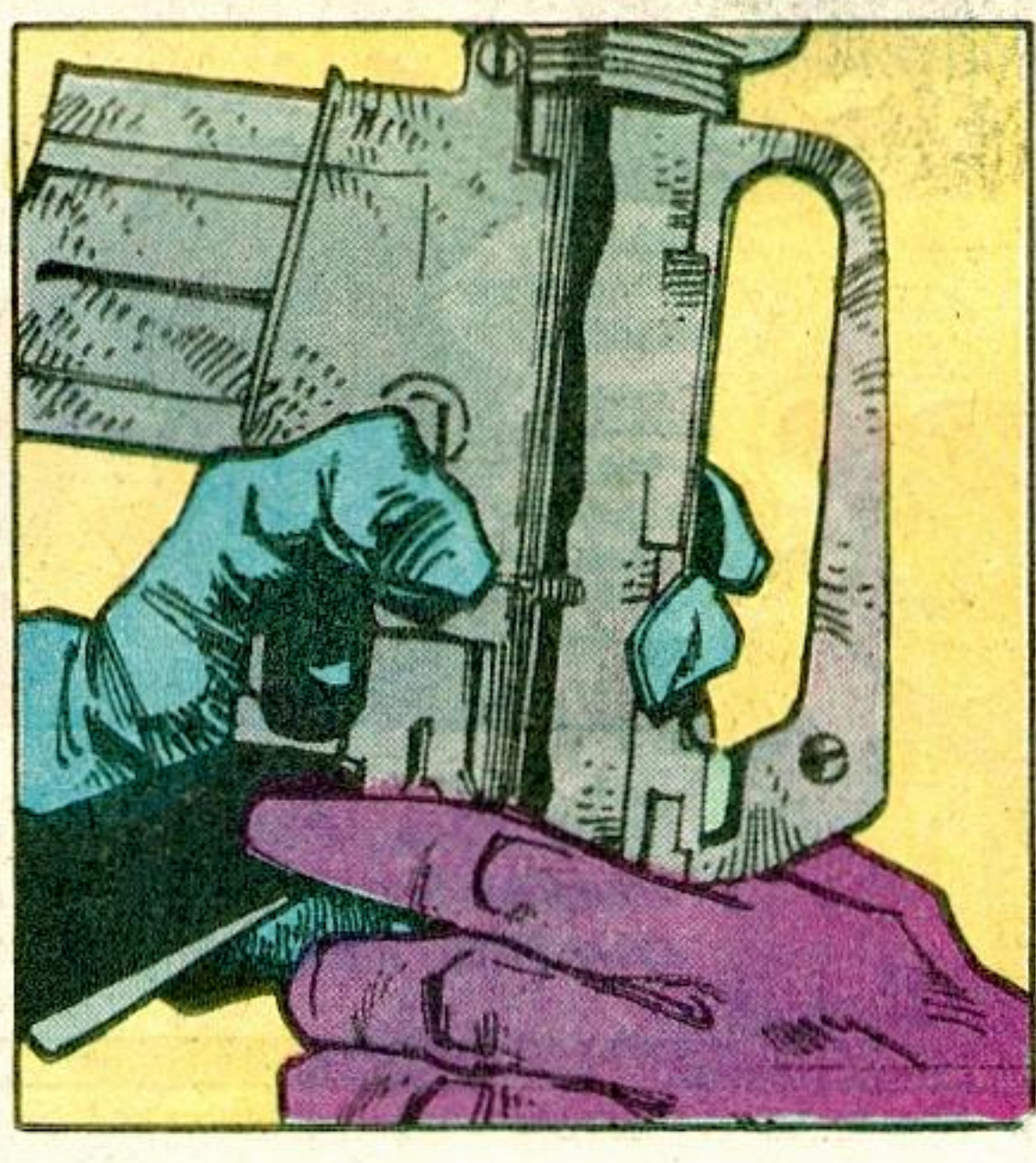
AND MY AYE WAS DESTROYED WITH NAGLFAR.



SO I WILL STAY BEHIND AND THE LAST LAUGH WILL BE MINE.

YOU AND THOR HAVE A DRINK WHEN YOU ARE NEXT IN ASGARD AND LAUGH SKURGE'S LAST LAUGH TOGETHER.

I WILL HOLD THE BRIDGE.



IN THE DISTANCE, THERE IS THUNDER IN THE AIR.

LEAVE ME AS MUCH AMMUNITION AS YOU CAN SPARE AND AN EXTRA WEAPON OR TWO.

AND BID THOR FAREWELL FOR ME.

TELL HIM I AM SORRY I STRUCK HIM UNFAIRLY.

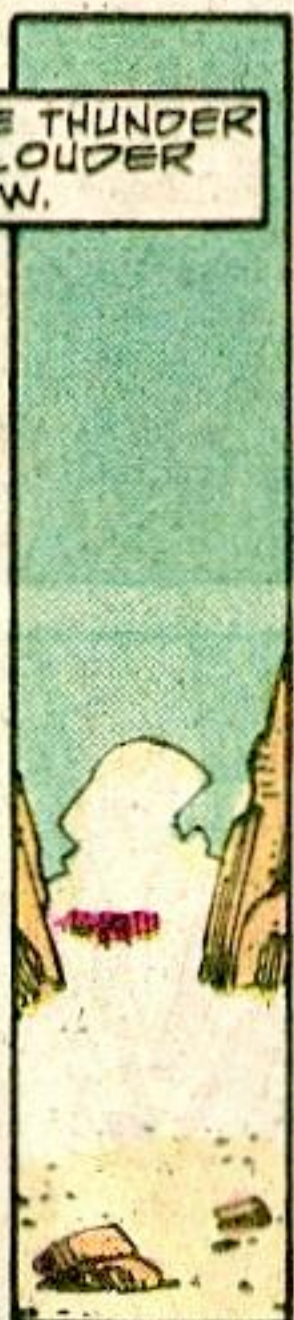
WE SHALL HAVE THAT DRINK, HE AND I.

MOUNT UP, YOU WARRIORS, AND RIDE!



GOODBYE, BALDER.

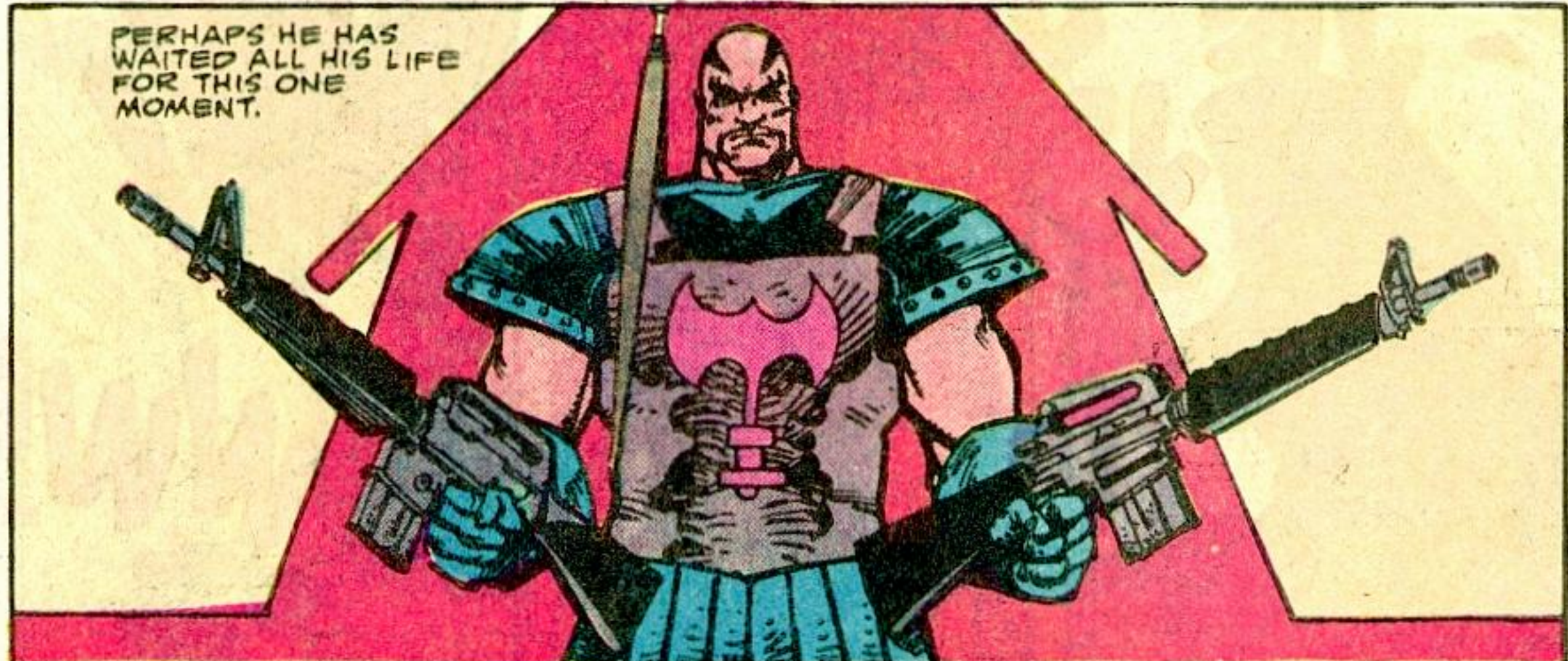
THE THUNDER IS LOUDER NOW.



... AND SKURGE IS WAITING.



PERHAPS HE HAS WAITED ALL HIS LIFE FOR THIS ONE MOMENT.

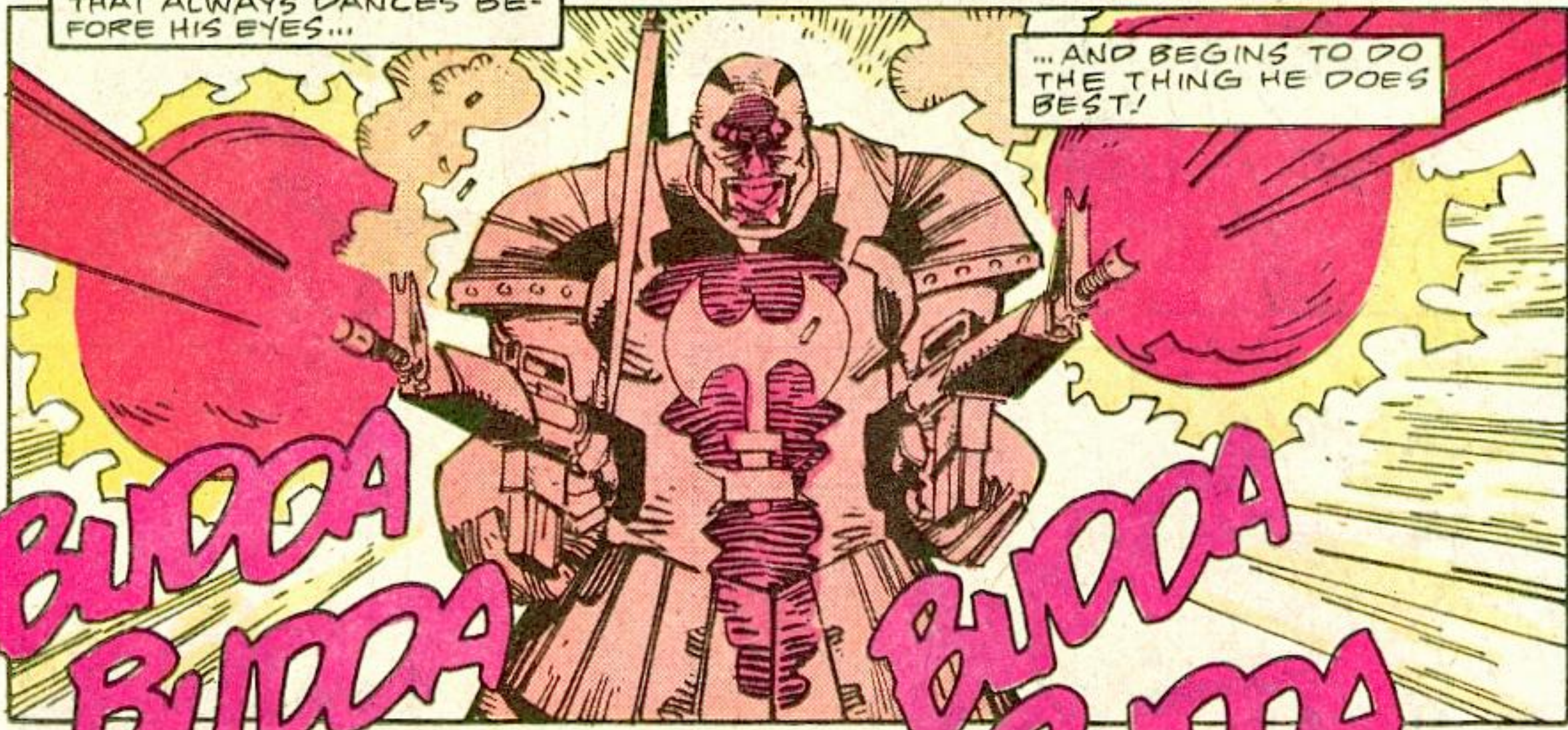


AS THE WARRIORS OF DEATH RIDE HARD DOWN UPON HIM...



...THE EXECUTIONER TURNS HIS THOUGHTS FROM THE FLOWING BLONDE HAIR THAT ALWAYS DANCES BEFORE HIS EYES...

...AND BEGINS TO DO THE THING HE DOES BEST!



**BUDDA
BUDDA**

**BUDDA
BUDDA**



**KA POW!
KA POW!**



**BIAM!
BIAM!**



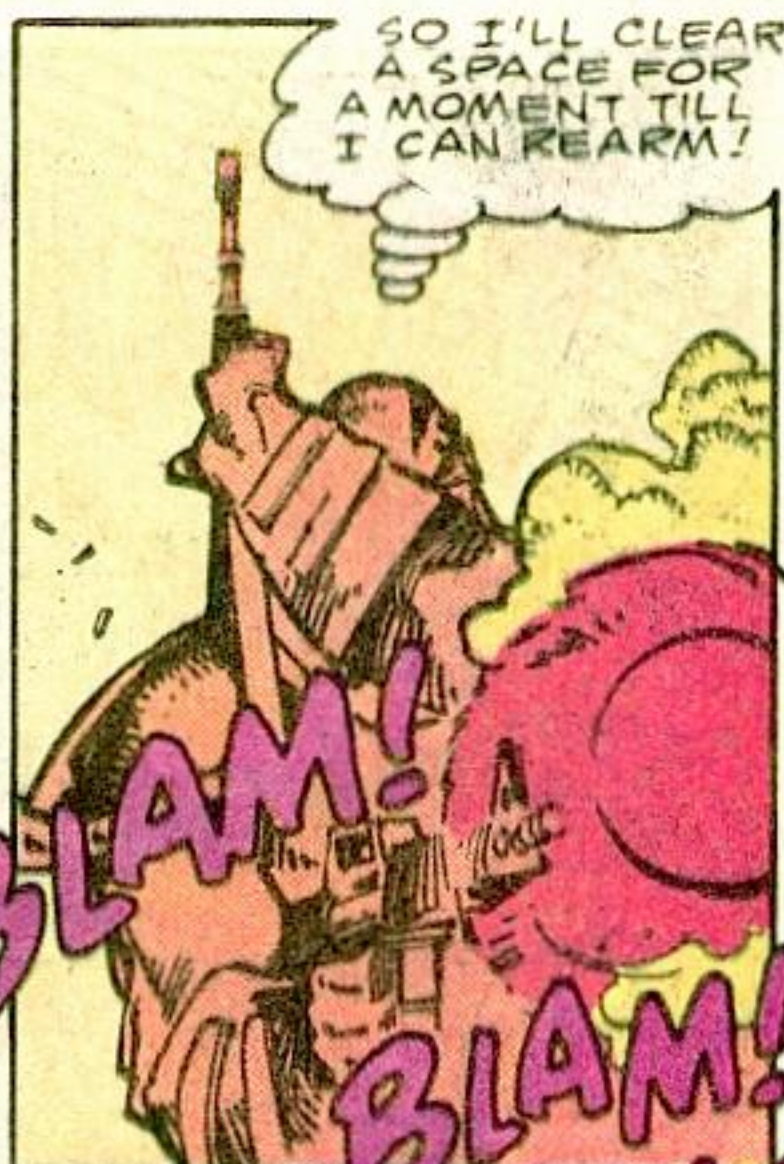
BE YONNNN!



HERE COMES THE NEXT WAVE!



AND THERE IS NO TIME TO RELOAD!



SO I'LL CLEAR A SPACE FOR A MOMENT TILL I CAN REARM!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!



COME AND GET IT, DEMONS!

POW!
POW!



'TIS SKURGE'S LAST LAUGH!

AND THOUGH THE EXECUTIONER STANDS ALONE...



...AND THE WARRIORS OF HEL SEEM NUMBERLESS...

BUDDABUDDA!
BUDDABUDDA!
BUDDABUDDA!



...NOT ONE SETS FOOT UPON THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER GJOLL.

THEY SING NO SONGS
IN HEL, NOR DO THEY
CELEBRATE HEROES...



...FOR SILENT IS
THAT DISMAL
REALM AND
CHEERLESS...

... BUT THE STORY OF
THE GJALLERBRU AND
THE GOD WHO DEFENDED
IT IS WHISPERED ACROSS
THE NINE WORLDS...

... AND WHEN A NEW
ARRIVAL ASKS ABOUT
THE ONE TO WHOM
EVEN HELA BOWS
HER HEAD...

... THE ANSWER IS
ALWAYS THE SAME...

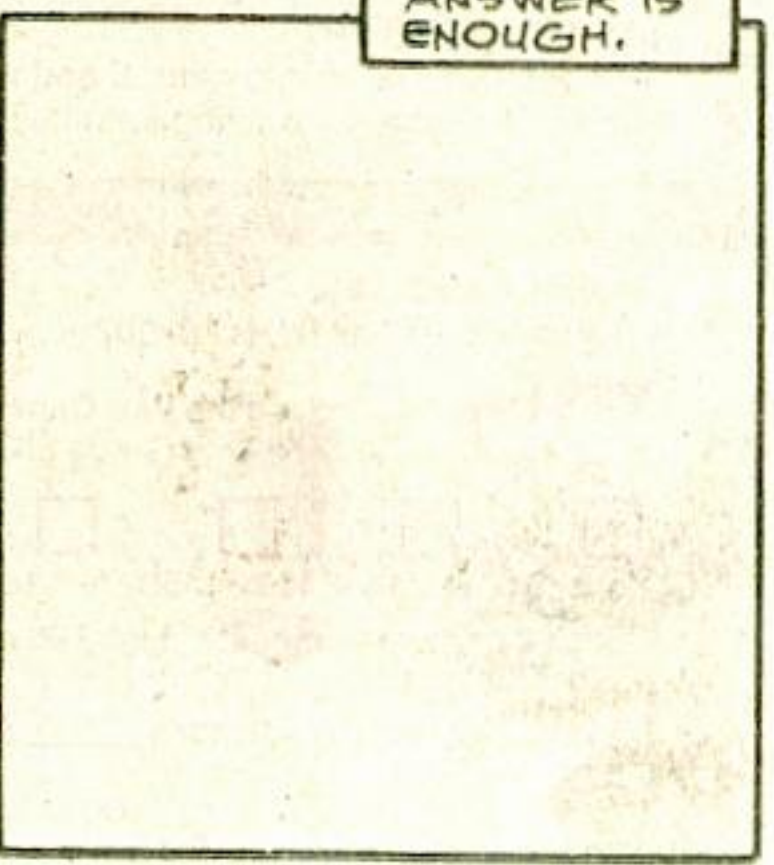
IM
ONSON
CARY



HE STOOD
ALONE AT
GJALLERBRU...



... AND THAT
ANSWER IS
ENOUGH.



BALDER, WHAT HAPPENED?

SKURGE! HE TOOK YOUR PLACE, THOR. HE HAS GIVEN UP HIS LIFE THAT WE MAY WIN FREE.

BUT HE HELD THE BRIDGE; THERE IS NO LONGER ANY PURSUIT.

THEN HE HAS DONE WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE!

I THOUGHT IN BATTLE I MIGHT EASE THE TORMENT OF MY WOUNDS!

BUT I SEE THAT SKURGE'S NEED WAS GREATER!

I AM NOT FATED TO FIND RE-SPIRE SO EASILY, SO BE IT.

SOMEHOW, THE WAY OUT IS NOT SO LONG AND DARK AS IT WAS ON OUR JOURNEY DOWN.

WHERE ARE WE?

BEFORE US LIES THE CAVE EXIT.

PERHAPS HELA HAS SPED US ON OUR WAY TO MEET THE HEL HOUND, GARM, WHO STANDS IN THE VALLEY BEYOND...

...HOPING HE WILL DO WHAT HER WARRIORS COULD NOT!

LEAP YOU TO THE SADDLE AGAIN, BALDER!

THE EXECUTIONER HAS FOUGHT ONE FIGHT FOR ME ALREADY!

THOR IS CRACKLING WITH ENERGY!

I THINK PERHAPS THAT GARM HAD BEST BEWARE!

SO ODINSON! YOU HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR AND NOT UNSCATHED I SEE.

BUT I WILL FEAST UPON YOUR BONES! THEN TRULY SHALL I BE KNOWN AS THE DOOM OF THOR!

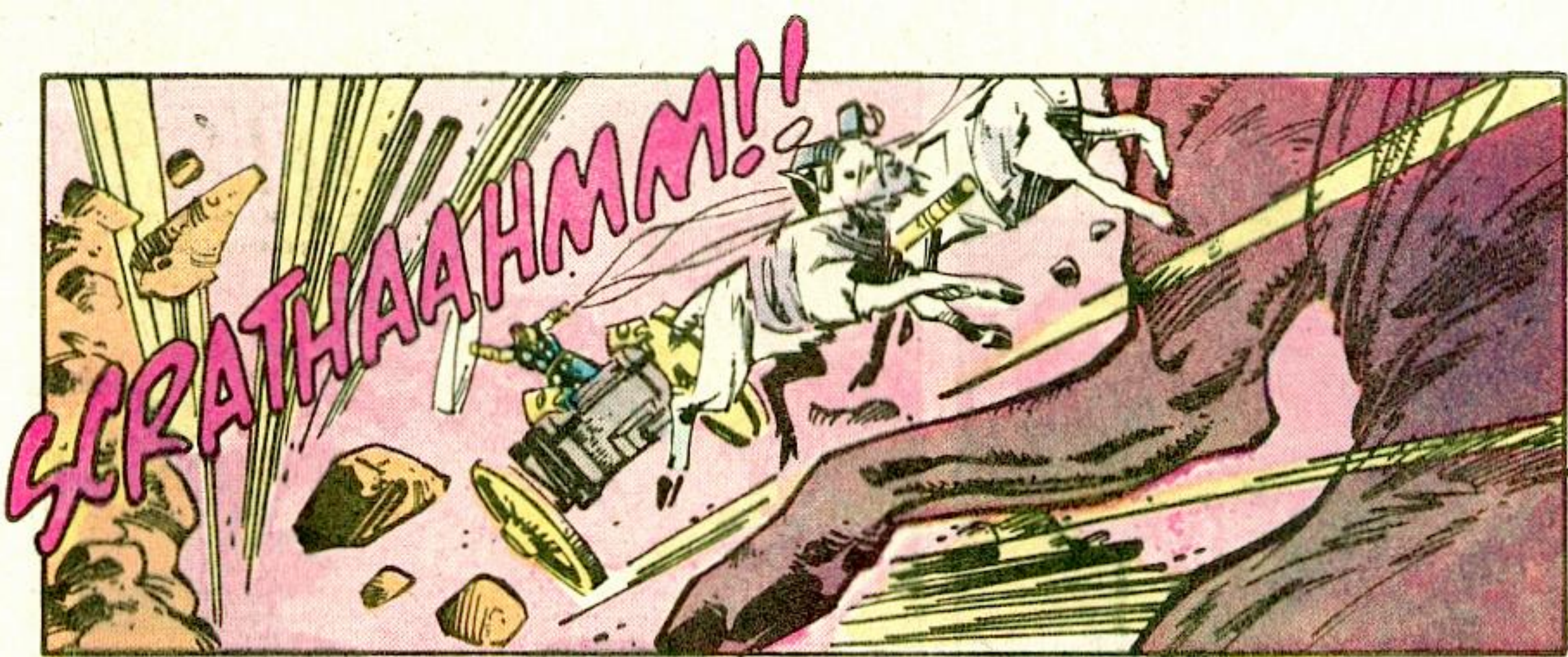
THIS BATTLE IS MINE!

THOR IS CRACKLING WITH ENERGY!

I THINK PERHAPS THAT GARM HAD BEST BEWARE!

SO ODINSON! YOU HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR AND NOT UNSCATHED I SEE.

BUT I WILL FEAST UPON YOUR BONES! THEN TRULY SHALL I BE KNOWN AS THE DOOM OF THOR!



FOOL-
ISH
HOUND!

SKURGE IS DEAD!
I AM WOUNDED!
AND MANY OF THE
EINHERJAR WHO
RODE WITH US
TO HEL WILL
NOT RIDE OUT
AGAIN!

BUT HELD
BY YOUR
CHAIN, YOU
ARE A STA-
TIONARY
TARGET!

AND
TODAY,
YOU ARE
NO MATCH
FOR
THOR!

GNASSHH!



TURN, GARM,
AND FACE THE
UNLEASHED
FURY OF THE
GOD OF
THUNDER!

KARAKATHOOOM!

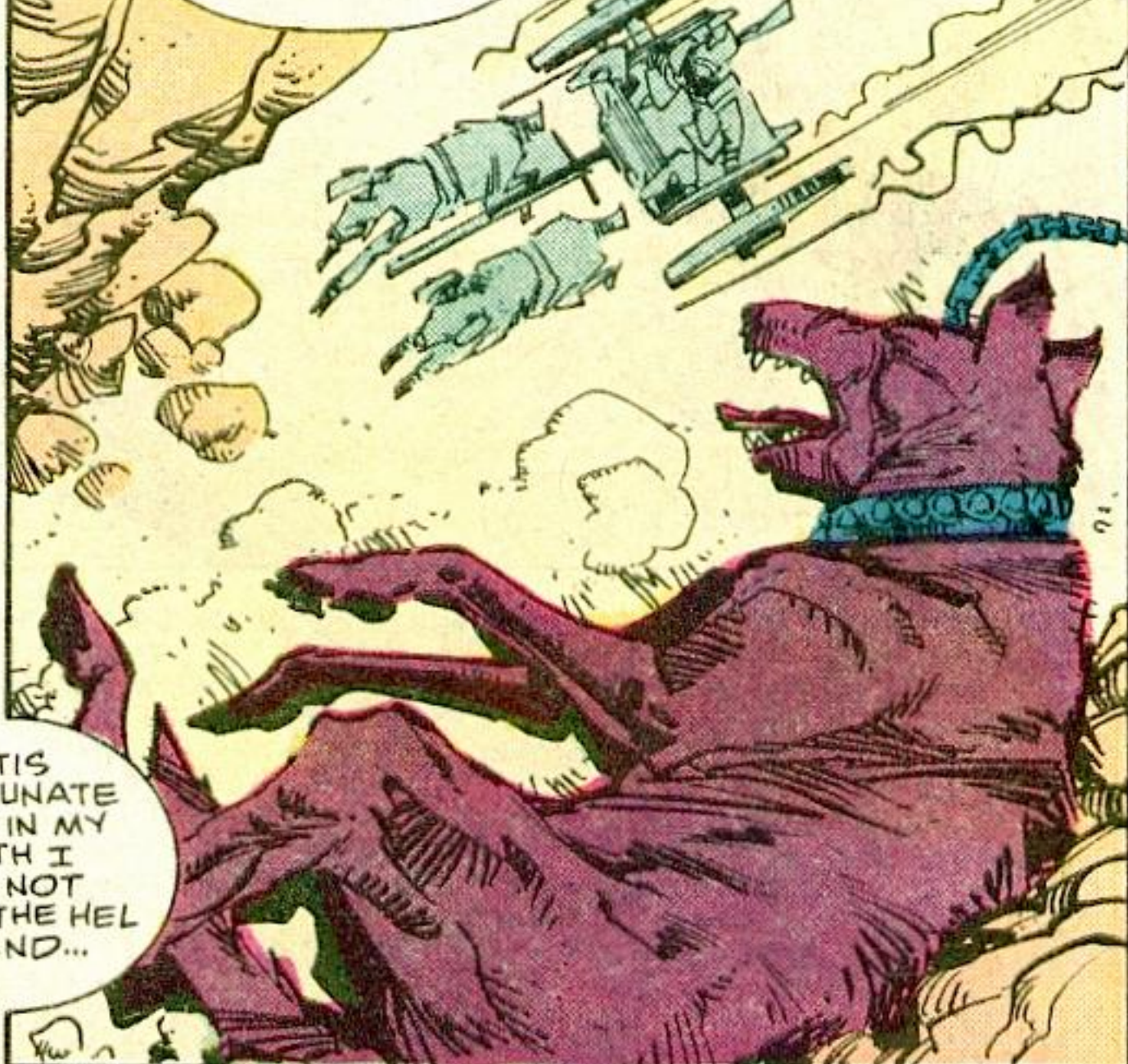
AS EVER, MJOLNIR RETURNS TO MY HAND AFTER THE BLOW IS STRUCK!

BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO STRIKE AGAIN. GORM LIES STUNNED.



IT IS FORTUNATE THAT IN MY WRATH I DID NOT SLAY THE HEL HOUND...

FOR IN THE SPINNING OF THE WORLD'S TALE, HE HAS SOME PART YET TO PLAY.

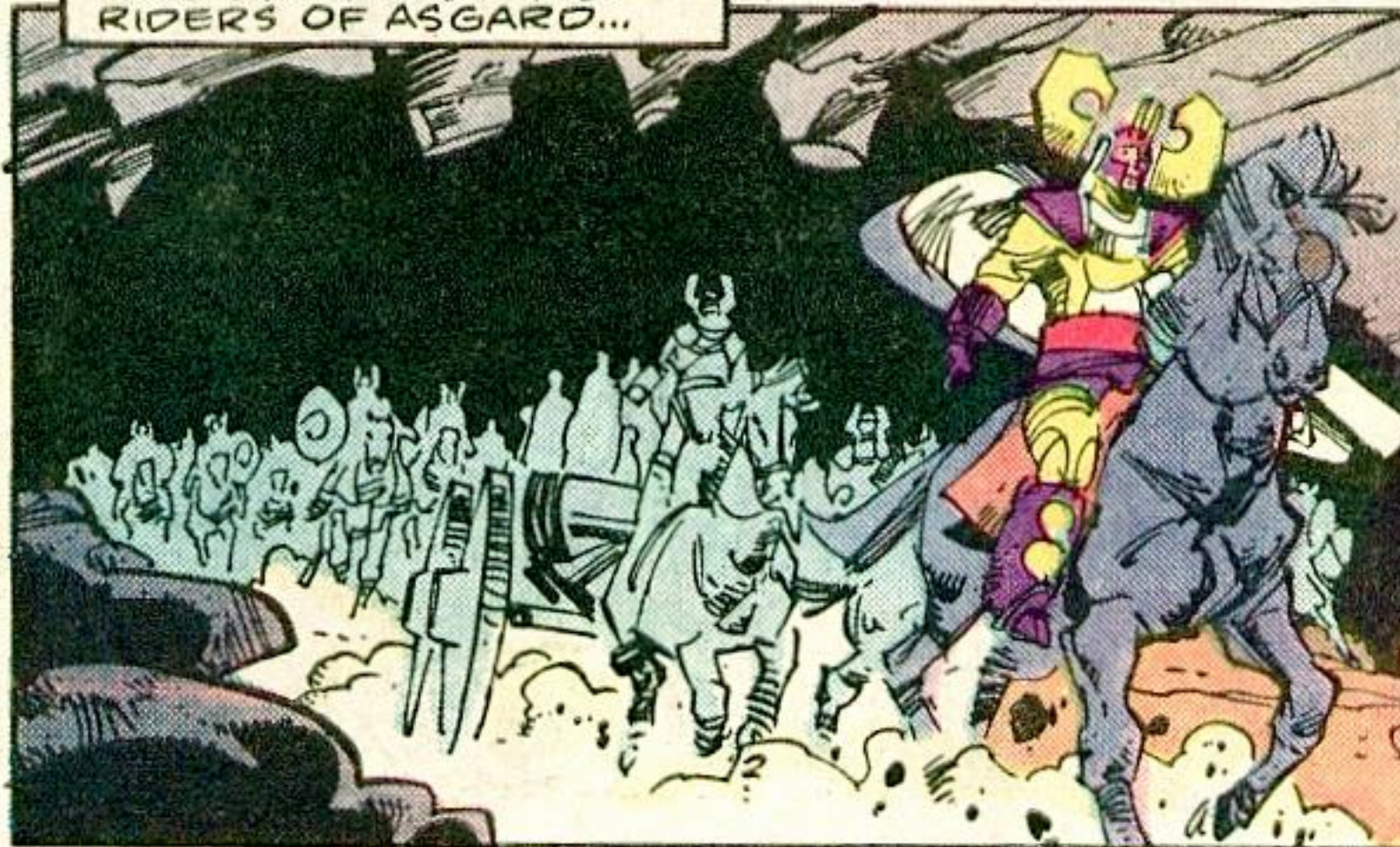


COME, BALDER. COME, HAROKIN. COME, ALL YE WHO WOULD VENTURE FORTH FROM HEL.

THE WAY IS OPEN.



AND INTO THE BRILLIANT SUNLIGHT BURST THE RIDERS OF ASGARD...



...FILLING THEIR LUNGS WITH THE FRESH CLEAN AIR...

...AND SAVORING THE TASTE OF FREEDOM ONCE AGAIN.

SHORTLY, AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST WHERE THE BIRDS SING SWEETLY, THE EXPEDITION'S FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE...



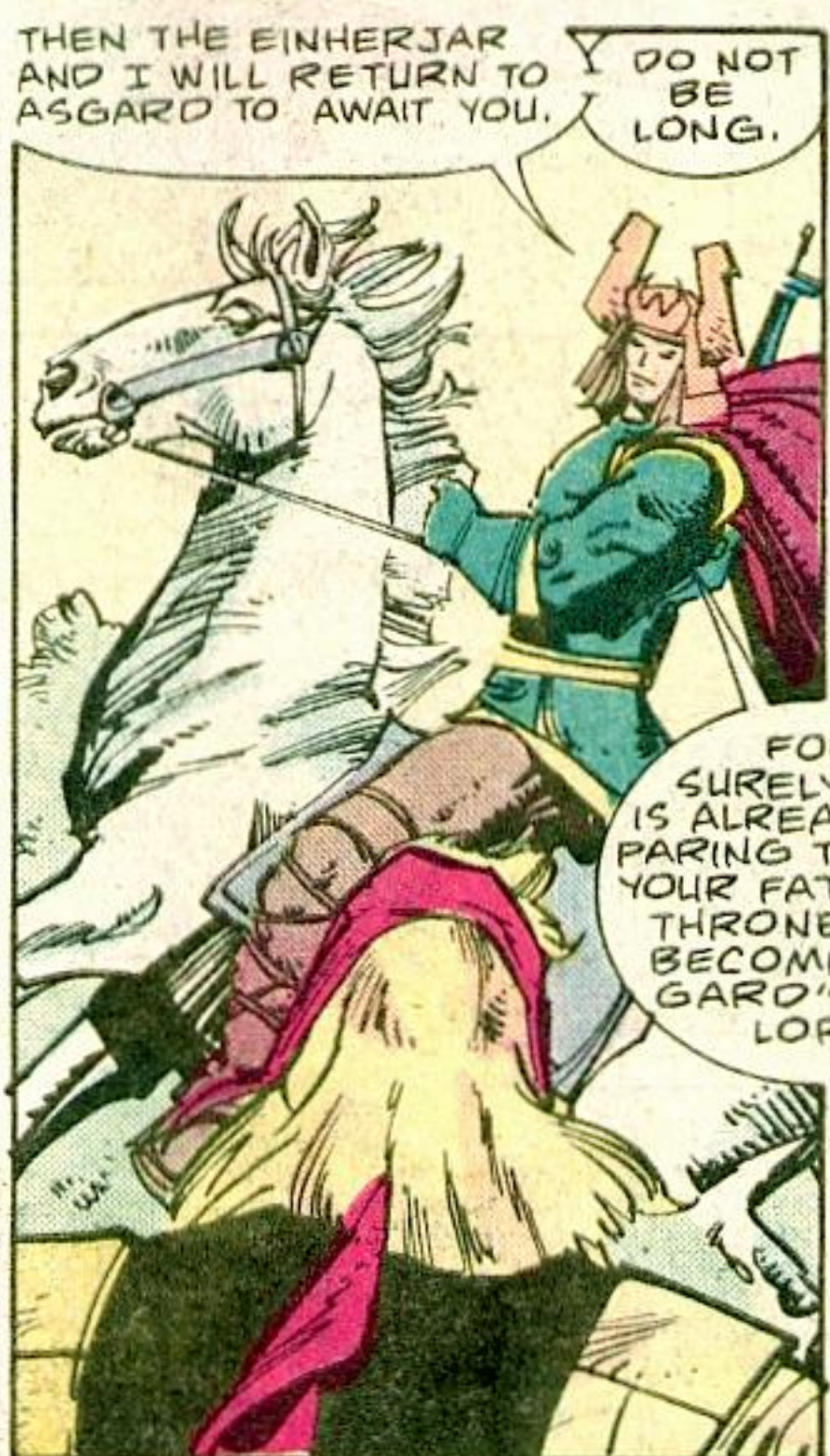
THE WAGONS ARE HITCHED BEHIND YOUR CHARIOT, MY LORD THOR.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DO NOT WISH US TO RIDE WITH YOU TO MIDGARD?

THERE IS NO NEED, HAROKIN.

AND BESIDES, NOW THAT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE IS GONE, YOU WOULD NOT FIND THE ROAD TO EARTH SO EASY AS IT WAS.

BUT MY HAMMER AND MY CHARIOT WILL SEE THE WAGONS THROUGH.



THEN THE EINHERJAR AND I WILL RETURN TO ASGARD TO AWAIT YOU.

DO NOT BE LONG.

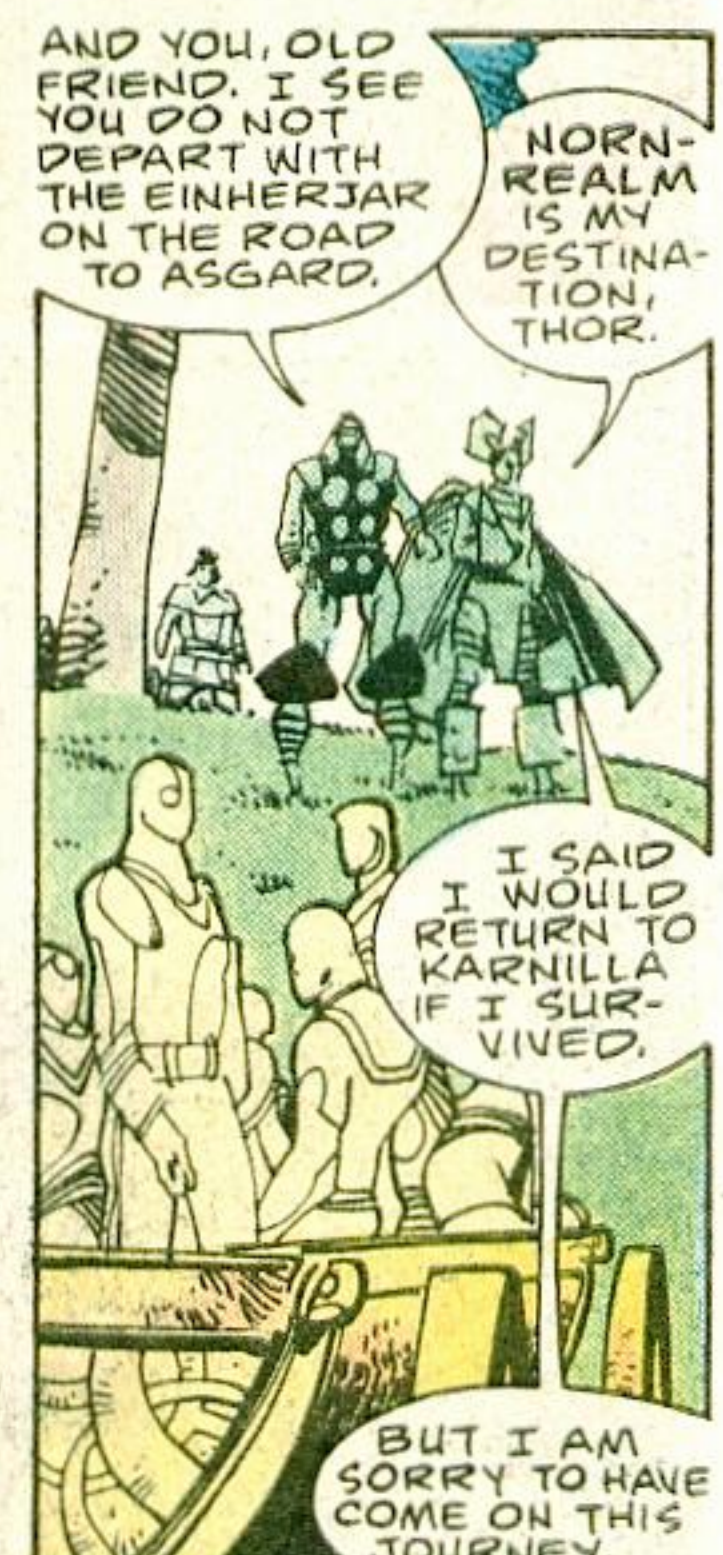
FOR SURELY LOKI IS ALREADY PREPARING TO FILL YOUR FATHER'S THRONE AND BECOME ASGARD'S NEW LORD.



I WOULD HATE TO HAVE ESCAPED HEL IN ORDER TO BOW TO LOKI'S SUZERAINTY.

I'LL BE HOME DIRECTLY.

FARE YOU WELL. AND THANKS.



AND YOU, OLD FRIEND. I SEE YOU DO NOT DEPART WITH THE EINHERJAR ON THE ROAD TO ASGARD.

NORN-REALM IS MY DESTINATION, THOR.

I SAID I WOULD RETURN TO KARNILLA IF I SURVIVED.

BUT I AM SORRY TO HAVE COME ON THIS JOURNEY.



I LOVE ALL THAT LIVE, THOR...

...YET IN HELA'S HALLS, THERE ARE WARRIORS WHO ONCE BREATHED THE AIR AS I DO NOW.

I HAVE SEEN NANNA WHOM I ONCE DID LOVE CORRUPTED BY THE KISS OF DEATH*...

... AND I BEGIN TO WONDER IF MY TOUCH IS DOOMED TO BLIGHT THE LIVES OF ALL I CARE FOR.

THE SWORD IS AN EVIL GIFT TO THE LIVING.

*LAST ISSUE.

STAY WITH HIM, AGNAR. I FEAR IN HIS PRESENT MOOD, HE NEEDS LOOKING AFTER.



I WILL. A SAFE JOURNEY TO MIDGARD, MY LORD.



AND FEAR NOT. KARNILLA WILL REMEDY HIS BLACKNESS.

IN TRUTH, I HOPE SO.

IT SEEMS WE HAVE ALL RETURNED FROM HEL BEARING SCARS.



BEFORE WE LEFT ASGARD, SKURGE SAID TO ME, "YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT" WHEN HE ASKED TO COME ALONG.

HE WAS WRONG.

AND YET WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES, PERHAPS OUR VERY SOULS.



YOUR SACRIFICE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN ASGARD, WARRIOR.

BUT THESE MORTALS WILL NOT REMEMBER YOU.

AND BALDER AND I WILL DRINK YOUR TOAST.

SHORN OF WILL AND THOUGHT AS THEY ARE NOW...



...ALL THIS SHALL SEEM MERELY A DREAM WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR PROPER BODIES.

AND THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE WILL BE FOREVER UNKNOWN TO THEM.

FOR SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE GODS.

AND NOW, MJOLNIR, SPIN A DIMENSION SPANNING VORTEX TO MIDGARD!



... AND LET US TAKE THESE WANDERING SOULS HOME!



AND IF IN THE FORESTS ON THE EDGE OF HEL, THE BIRDS STILL SING...

...THERE IS NO ONE LEFT TO HEAR THEIR SONG.

NEXT: **THIS KURSED EARTH!!!** IN WHICH SECRET WARS II CONTINUES AND THOR CLASHES WITH AN UNBEATABLE FOE (AND GETS TO MEET POWER PACK, TOO!).

AND FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF BALDER UPON HIS RETURN TO NORNREALM IN BALDER THE BRAVE No. 2 WHERE THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE! BALDER THE BETRAYED!!

(IF WE HAD ANY MORE STUFF GOING ON, WE'D HAVE TO START A WHOLE NEW LINE OF COMICS!)