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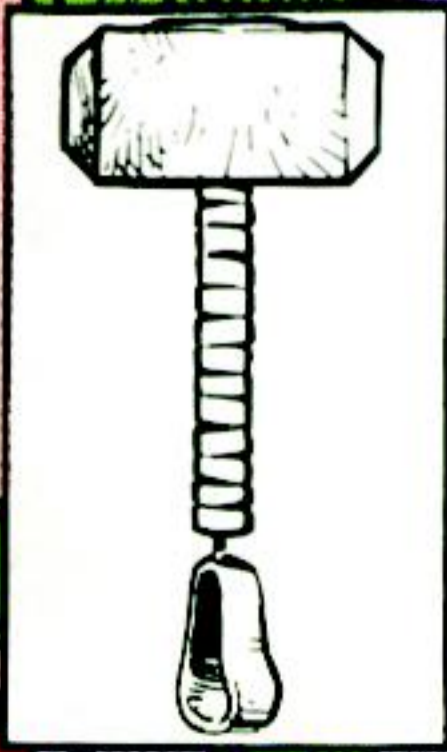
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the mighty

THOR



1-21-87

CHILDREN OF MIDGARD*, HARKEN TO THE TALE OF THOR ODINSON, WHO STRODE BRAVELY TO BATTLE. NO FATHER HEARD HIS CRY, NO FRIEND GAVE HIM AID. ALONE AGAINST HIS BANE, THE THUNDERER STROVE WITH LOKI'S TERRIBLE SON, JORMUNGAND. HE SLEW THAT ANCIENT EVIL, SERPENT OF THE WORLD. SO THE SON OF GODS EMBRACED HIS DOOM. WOULD YOU KNOW MORE?

NOW AT LAST IS COME THE HOUR OF GREATEST TRIAL!

IN ALL THE LONG CENTURIES, I HAVE FOUGHT NO FOE MORE DANGEROUS, MORE DEADLY, SAVE ONLY THE FATHER HIM-SELF!

BUT EVEN LOKI IS LESS PERILOUS TO ME THAN THE SERPENT WHO ENCIRCLES THE WORLD!

FOR THIS IS THE FOE OF LEGEND, DESTINED TO SLAY THE SON OF ODIN!

I MUST SOAR SKYWARDS WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING IF I AM TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

MJOLNIR'S SONG

*EARTH.

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GIVE IT UP, THOR! YOU CANNOT FLY HIGH ENOUGH TO ESCAPE ME OR HELA'S ENMITY!

I KNOW THAT THE DEATH GODDESS HAS CURSED YOU WITH BRITTLE BONES AND ROBBED YOU OF THE ABILITY TO DIE...

...THEREBY UNMAKING THE OLD PROPHECIES!

FOR IF THOR CANNOT DIE, HOW SHALL HIS ANCIENT NEMESIS, JORMUNGAND, PERISH?

I MUST ADMIT THAT I WAS TAKEN UNAWARES BY YOUR NEWLY ACQUIRED PLUMAGE*...

...BUT GLEAMING FEATHERS DO NOT GIVE VICTORY. AND BIRDS ARE ONLY MISMANAGED REPTILES!

YOU WILL NEVER SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS A TRUE SERPENT!

*LAST ISSUE TOLD THE STORY -- Ralfeth!

BRIGHT WAS THE DAY BENEATH THE SUN, AS THEY ROSE GOLDEN INTO THE GLAD SKY. A SONG SANG IN THE BREASTS OF THE FOEMEN, A CHORUS HERALDING THE END OF HATRED. THE BATTLEFIELD WOULD DECIDE THEIR FATE, ERE THE SUN WOULD SET, NEITHER WOULD WALK HOME.

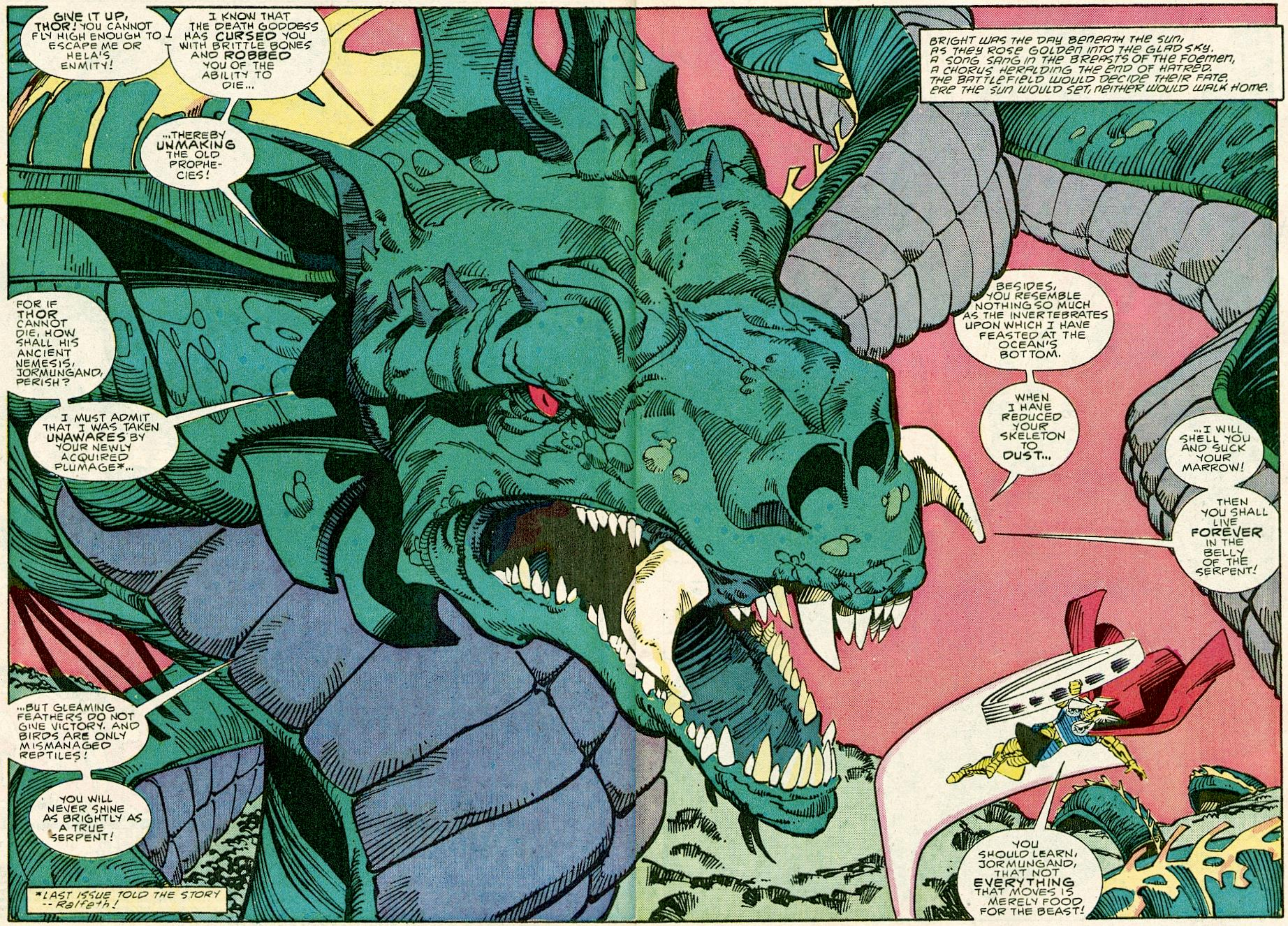
BESIDES, YOU RESEMBLE NOTHING SO MUCH AS THE INVERTEBRATES UPON WHICH I HAVE FEASTED AT THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM.

WHEN I HAVE REDUCED YOUR SKELETON TO DUST...

...I WILL SHELL YOU AND SUCK YOUR MARROW!

THEN YOU SHALL LIVE FOREVER IN THE BELLY OF THE SERPENT!

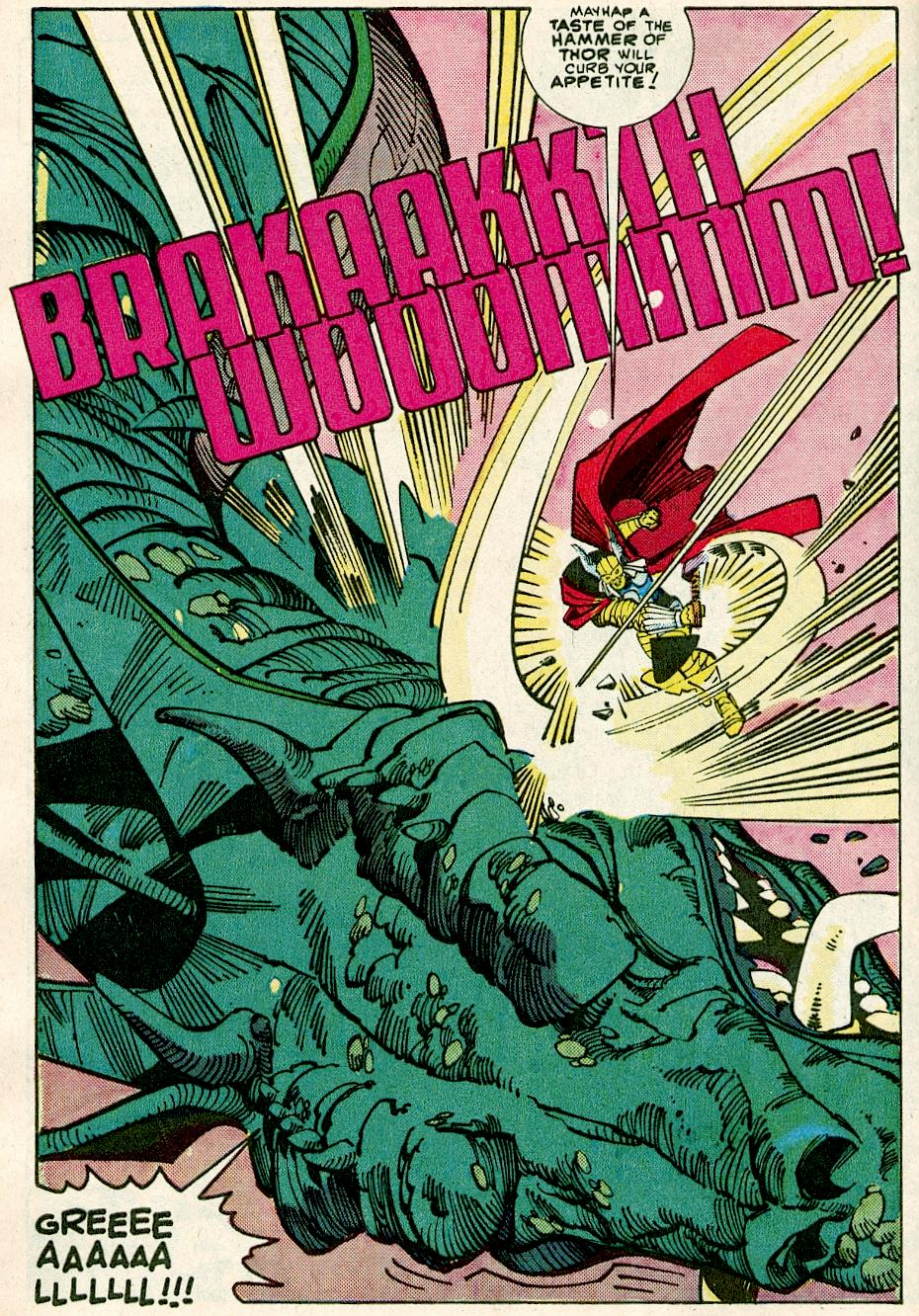
YOU SHOULD LEARN, JORMUNGAND, THAT NOT EVERYTHING THAT MOVES IS MERELY FOOD FOR THE BEAST!



MAYHAP A
TASTE OF THE
HAMMER OF
THOR WILL
CURB YOUR
APPETITE!

**BR
WOOOONNNNN!**

GREEEE
AAAAAA
LLLLLL!!!



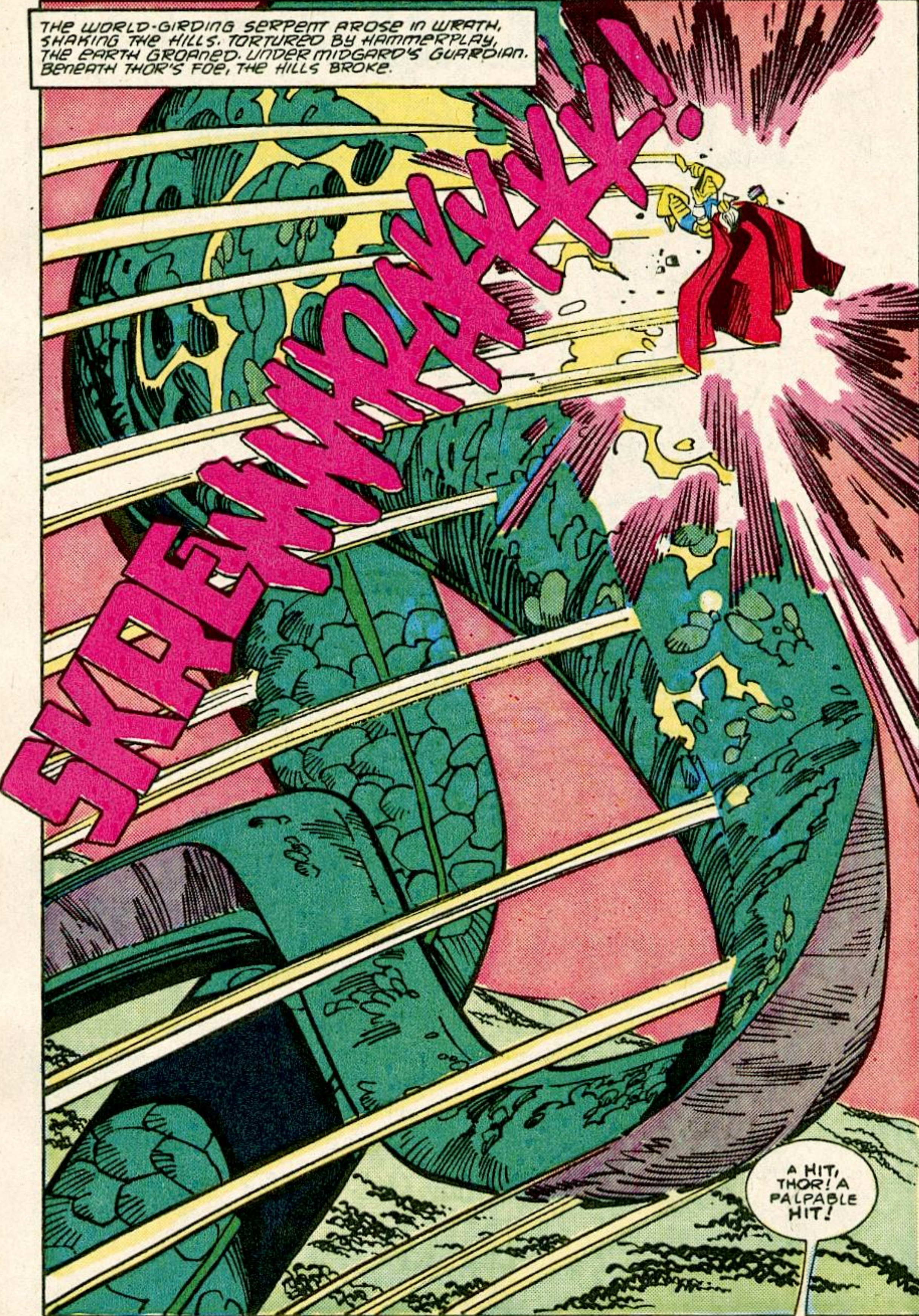


JOR-MUNGAND IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE INJURED EASILY!

YET THE MIGHT OF MJOLNIR IN THE HAND OF THOR IS THE MIGHT OF ASGARD UNFETTERED!

AND THE FIGHTING HEART OF THOR SHALL KNOW NO SURRENDER!

THE WORLD-GIRDING SERPENT AROSE IN WRATH,
SHAKING THE HILLS. TORTURED BY HAMMERPLAY,
THE EARTH GROANED. UNDER MIDGARD'S GUARDIAN,
BENEATH THOR'S FOE, THE HILLS BROKE.



A HIT,
THOR! A
PALPABLE
HIT!



**KKRAKKA
BOOM!**

NEITHER ASKED QUARTER, NEITHER CRIED ENOUGH,
THEIR WYRDS* HELD THEM BOUND AS CHAINS TO THE WHEEL.
IN THEIR FURY THEY TORE MIDGARD ASUNDER,
HATRED ALIVE FOREVER IN THESE TERRIBLE FOES,
THE EARTH TREMBLED AT THOR'S TOUCH,
DRENCHED WITH BLOOD AND FIRE, THE FEARFUL SUN
HID ITS FACE. LOCKED IN FATE'S EMBRACE,
THEY HAD NO HOPE OF VICTORY, ONLY GLORY AND DOOM.

*DESTINIES
--Raif

YOU ARE A FOOL, THOR! YOU MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED THIS FIGHT FOR CENTURIES, IF YOU'D BEEN SENSIBLE.

BUT NOOOOOO! HELA CURSES YOU AND SUDDENLY, YOU THINK IT'S HERO TIME.

BEFORE WE FINISH HERE, I SHALL MAKE YOU A BELIEVER IN THAT DELIGHTFUL MORTAL NOTION THAT DEATH IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF ETERNAL LIFE!

YOU SHALL LONG FOR DEATH AND LIVE FOREVER!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH GODHOOD; IT ROBS YOU OF YOUR FINER JUDGMENT! A DEITY SO RARELY HAS TO PAY FOR HIS MISTAKES!

I HAVE READ THE PITIFUL FRAGMENTS OF MORTAL LEGENDS THAT SURVIVE TELLING OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN US AT THE END OF TIME!

WE ARE FATED TO SLAY EACH OTHER, GODLING! IN FACT, I SHALL DIE FIRST AND YOU SHALL TAKE NINE STEPS BACK BEFORE DYING YOURSELF!

TRULY, MORTALS ARE THE MOST INCORRIGIBLE FABULISTS!

YET HERE I AM IN THE FULL FLOWER OF MY GLORY WHILE YOU WEAR AN IRON SKIN TO PROTECT YOURSELF...

... AND CHALLENGE ME TO BATTLE!

LITTLE GODLING, I SHALL INSCRIBE YOUR NAME UPON THE FINEST TOMBSTONE IMAGINABLE!

IN NEW YORK CITY, I SHALL ERECT A CAIRN COMPRISED OF SHATTERED BUILDINGS!

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IS NOT TOO SMALL A MONUMENT FOR THOR OF ASGARD! I CANNOT WAIT!

NOOOO!!

IS IT NOT SAID,
JORMUNGAND,
THAT HASTE
MAKES
WASTE?

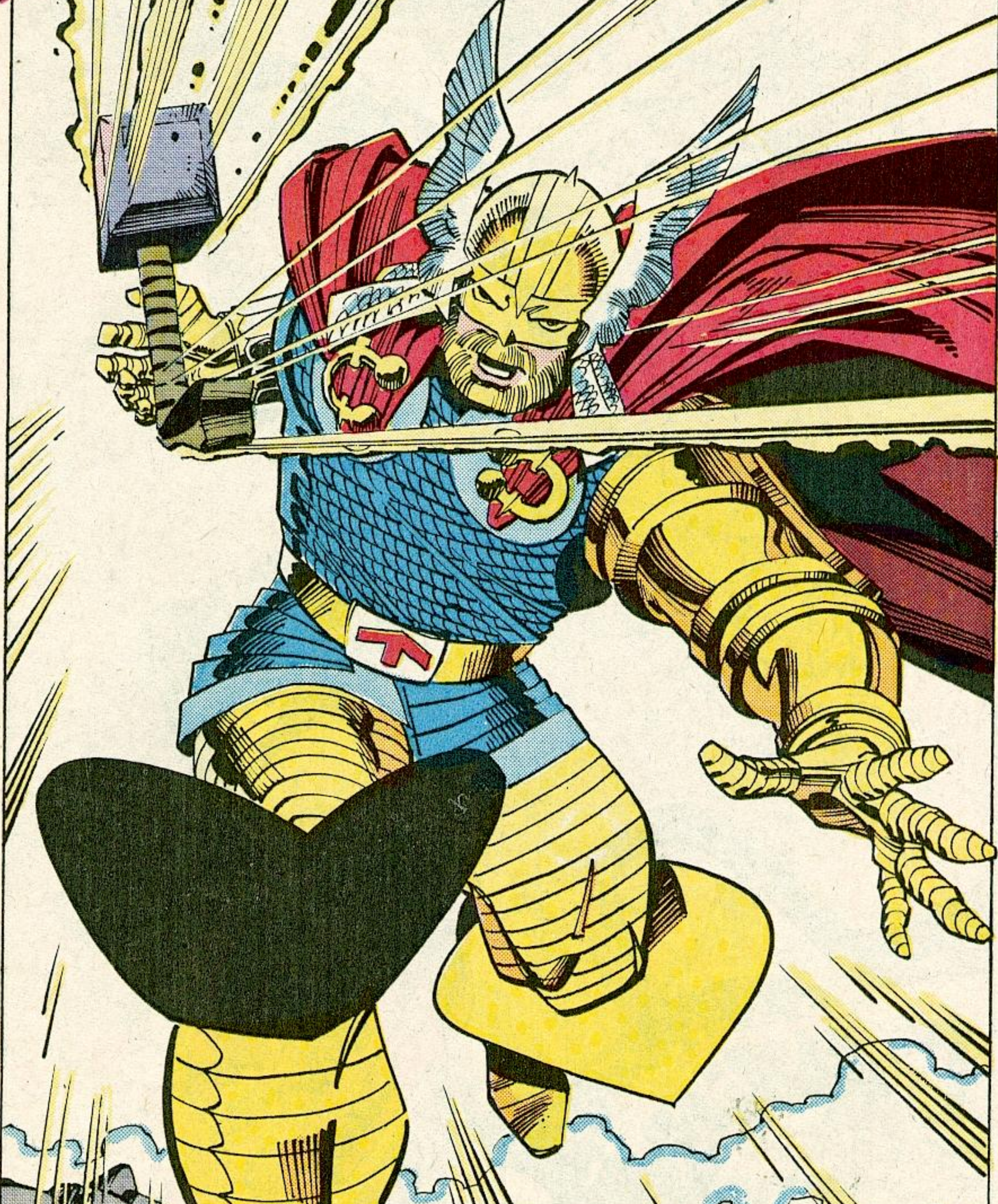
OR ARE
SUCH TRITE
EPIGRAMS
BEYOND THE
PROVERBIAL
WISDOM
OF THE
SERPENT?

SCCKT EEE
EEEEEEEEE!



КУДАККУКККККК
РАММММММММММММ!

SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!



WHO WITNESSED THE WORLD'S BEGINNING?
WHO WILL WATCH THE WORLD'S END?
THE TOWERING WORLD TREE, YGGDRASIL, TOTTERS
AS NINE WORLDS WITHIN ITS COMPASS SHIVER,
MJOLNIR RETURNED, ITS MASTER CALLED
AND NO POWER ON EARTH MAY RESTRAIN IT.

THE TITANS STROVE O'ER THE SHAKING EARTH.
DID THEY HEAR FADING ECHOES IN THE FAR DISTANCE,
HEIMDALL'S GREAT BURDEN, THE GJALLERHORN
TRUMPETING THE REQUIEM OF MIDGARD?
WHO WILL WITNESS THE WORLD'S END?

EEEEEE!!!
IIIAAAA
AHHHHHH
HHHHHHH!!

AT
LAST! THE
SERPENT
IS HURT!

I MUST
PRESS THE
ADVANTAGE!



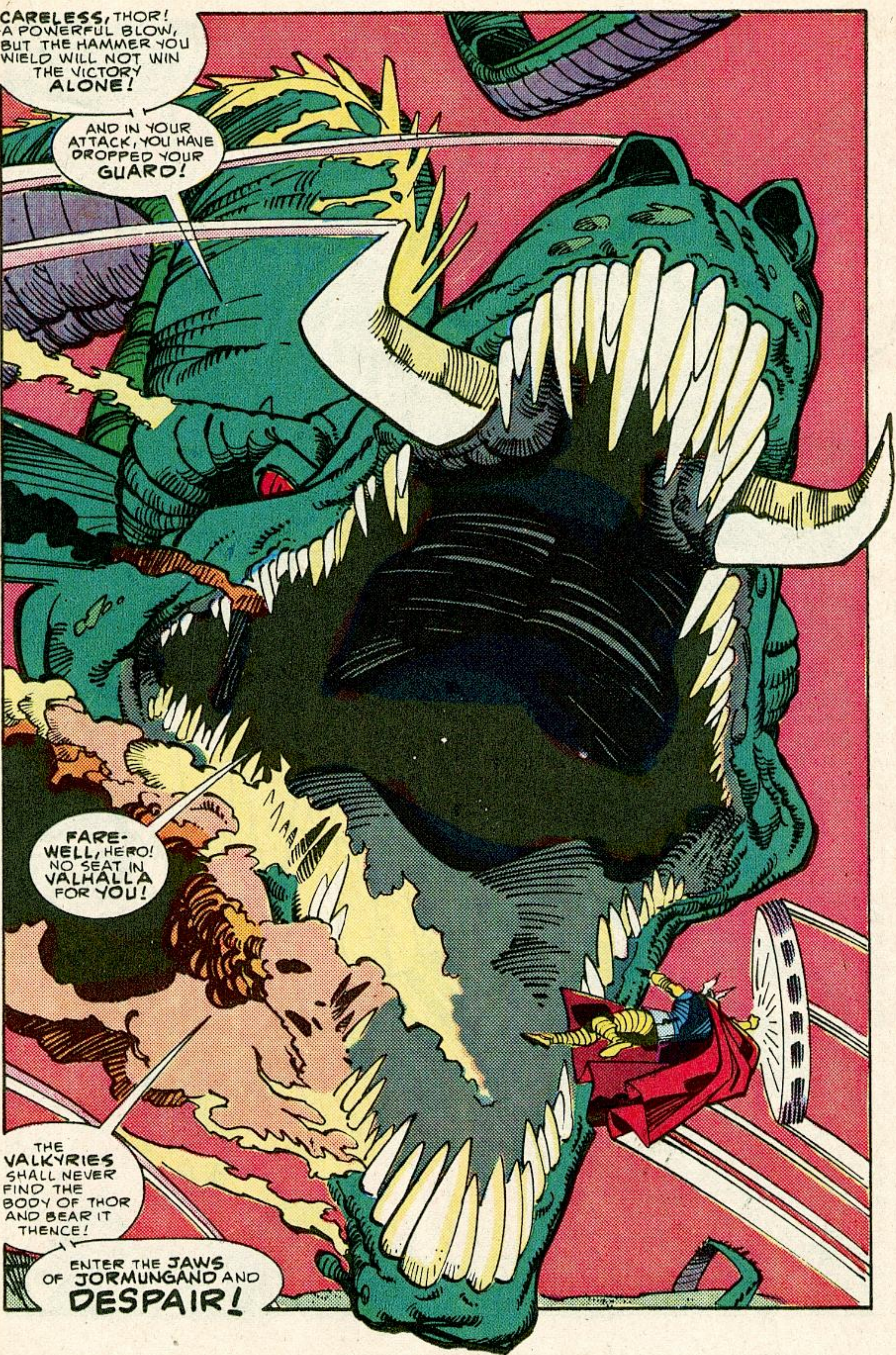
CARELESS, THOR!
A POWERFUL BLOW,
BUT THE HAMMER YOU
WIELD WILL NOT WIN
THE VICTORY
ALONE!

AND IN YOUR
ATTACK, YOU HAVE
DROPPED YOUR
GUARD!

FARE-
WELL, HERO!
NO SEAT IN
VALHALLA
FOR YOU!

THE
VALKYRIES
SHALL NEVER
FIND THE
BODY OF THOR
AND BEAR IT
THENCE!

ENTER THE JAWS
OF JORMUNGAND AND
DESPAIR!





SKKEERASSSSH!

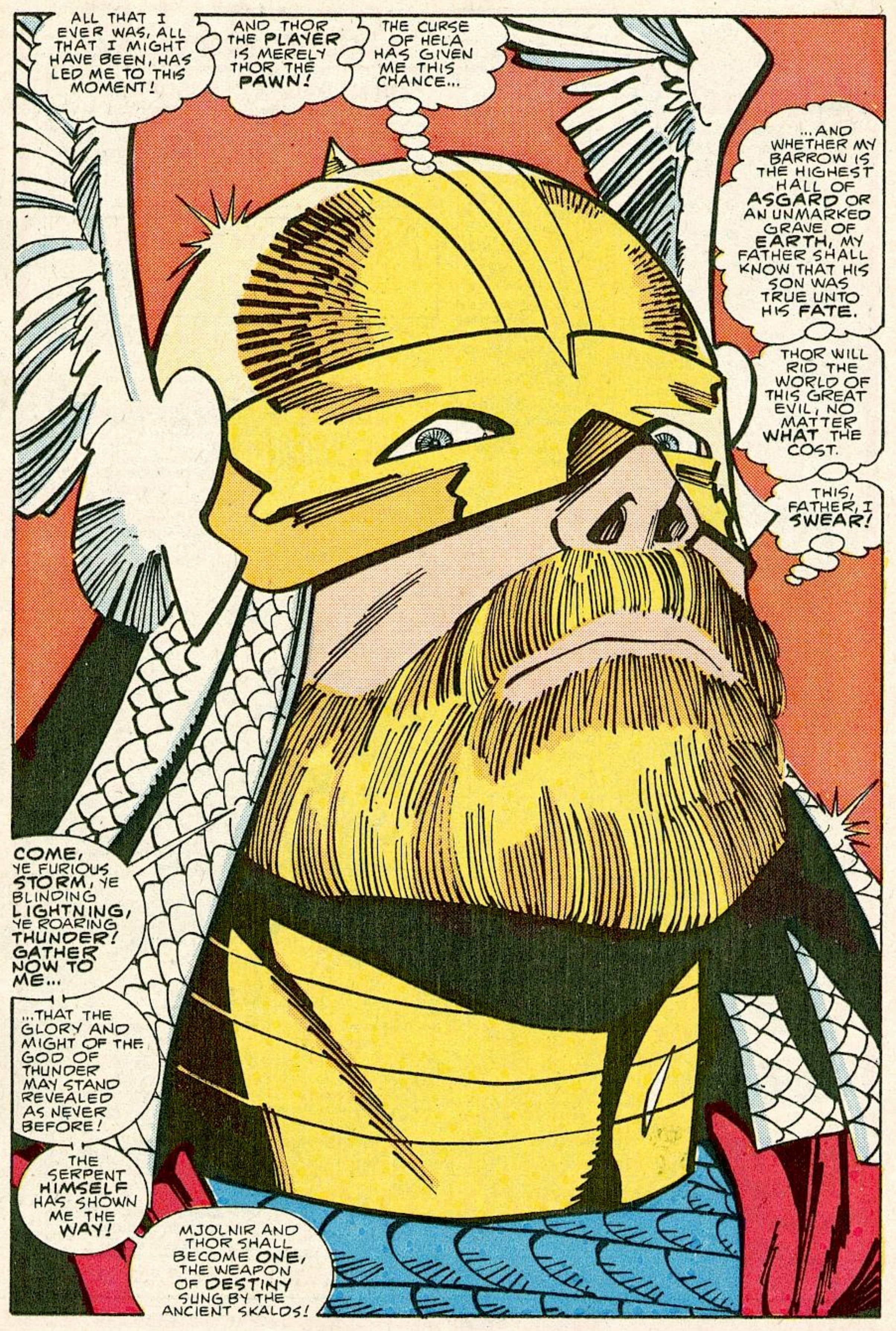


**GGGAAA
AAAAAAGGG
GGGGHHH!**

HEIMDALL'S HORN BLARED, LOUDER THE TRUMPET'S BLAST.
IN HIS CAVE COVERED THE HEL-HOUND, GARM,
ODIN'S WARRIOR OFFSPRING, LOKI'S GREAT WORM,
EACH MEASURED HIS FOE, HIS HEART FOREBODING,
AS THE FATES MEASURED THEIR LIVE'S LENGTH.

SSSSSS
SSSSSS!

THE BATTLESONGS IN HOPE AND HATRED BEGUN
SANG NO LONGER. SILENCE GRIPPED THE EARTH.
THE WORLDS WERE FROZEN, EVEN HEAVEN WATCHED.
THEIR EYES LOCKED. WOULD YOU KNOW MORE?



ALL THAT I
EVER WAS, ALL
THAT I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN, HAS
LED ME TO THIS
MOMENT!

AND THOR
THE PLAYER
IS MERELY
THOR THE
PAWN!

THE CURSE
OF HELA
HAS GIVEN
ME THIS
CHANCE...

...AND
WHETHER MY
BARROW IS
THE HIGHEST
HALL OF
ASGARD OR
AN UNMARKED
GRAVE OF
EARTH, MY
FATHER SHALL
KNOW THAT HIS
SON WAS
TRUE UNTO
HIS FATE.

THOR WILL
RID THE
WORLD OF
THIS GREAT
EVIL, NO
MATTER
WHAT THE
COST.


THIS,
FATHER, I
SWEAR!

COME,
YE FURIOUS
STORM, YE
BLINDING
LIGHTNING,
YE ROARING
THUNDER!
GATHER
NOW TO
ME...

...THAT THE
GLORY AND
MIGHT OF THE
GOD OF
THUNDER
MAY STAND
REVEALED
AS NEVER
BEFORE!

THE
SERPENT
HIMSELF
HAS SHOWN
ME THE
WAY!

MJOLNIR AND
THOR SHALL
BECOME ONE,
THE WEAPON
OF DESTINY
SUNG BY THE
ANCIENT SKALDS!



THOR BEGINS TO GLOW SO BLINDINGLY IT HURTS MY EYES!

I WILL WAIT NO LONGER!

MAKE YOUR FINAL PEACE WITH YOUR FELLOW GODS, THOR!

YOU WERE A GREAT FOE. WE ARE MADE OF THE SAME COIN, YOU AND I, BOLD FIGHTERS WITH GREAT HEARTS!

ONCE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY EQUAL, IN STRENGTH IF NOT IN WIT!

BUT MY POWER IS UNDIMINISHED, WHILE YOURS HAS FLED JUST LIKE YOUR REASON!

EVEN YOUR ARMOR IS NOT SUFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST THE DEATH THRUST OF JORMUNGAND!

AND SHOULD YOU UNLEASH YOUR FULL POWER AGAINST ME...

...YOU WILL DESTROY YOURSELF! YOU FACE ETERNITY AS AN IMMORTAL PUD-DING. NOT EVEN A FOOL WOULD COURT SUCH A FATE!

SO YOU WILL HESITATE AND BE LOST...

**SCCKK REEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!**

...AS I
UNLEASH
MY DEATH
STRIKE!



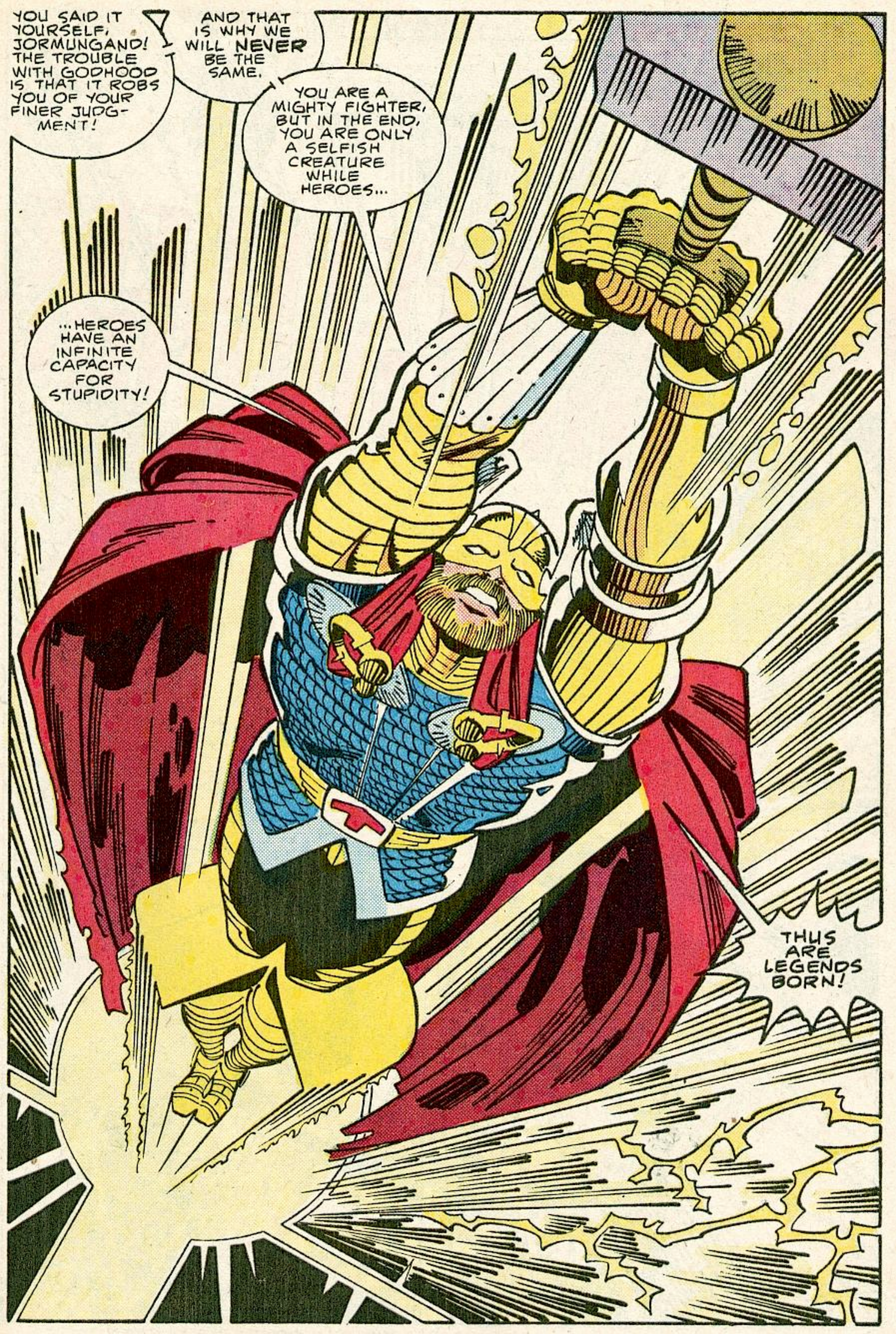
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, JORMUNGAND! THE TROUBLE WITH GODHOOD IS THAT IT ROBBS YOU OF YOUR FINER JUDGMENT!

AND THAT IS WHY WE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

YOU ARE A MIGHTY FIGHTER, BUT IN THE END, YOU ARE ONLY A SELFISH CREATURE WHILE HEROES...

...HEROES HAVE AN INFINITE CAPACITY FOR STUPIDITY!

THIS ARE LEGENDS BORN!



SO MJOLNIR'S MIGHTY WIELDER
SURRENDERED GLADLY HIS GUARDIANSHIP OF MORTALS.
ODIN'S SON EMBRACED HIS DOOM WITHOUT DESPAIR,
SLEW THE SERPENT, BROKE THE WORLD'S SILENCE.

**RRREEEEEEEEEEEE
MMMMMMMMMMMM!**



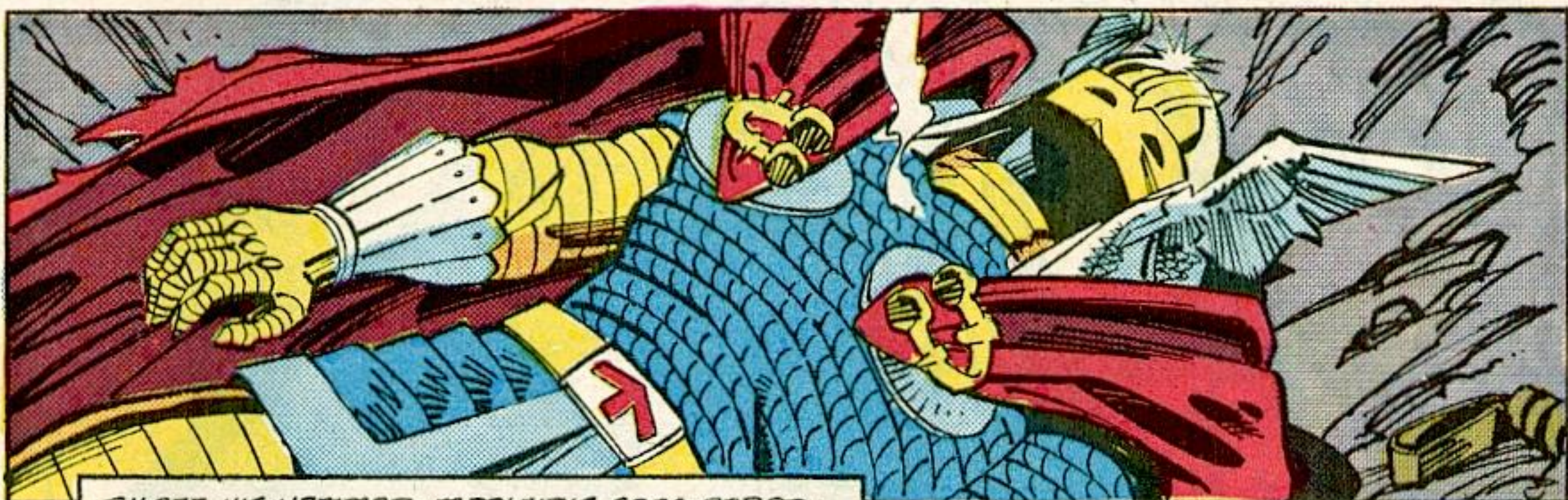


NINE STEPS THE HERO TOOK, STRIDING AS A GIANT.

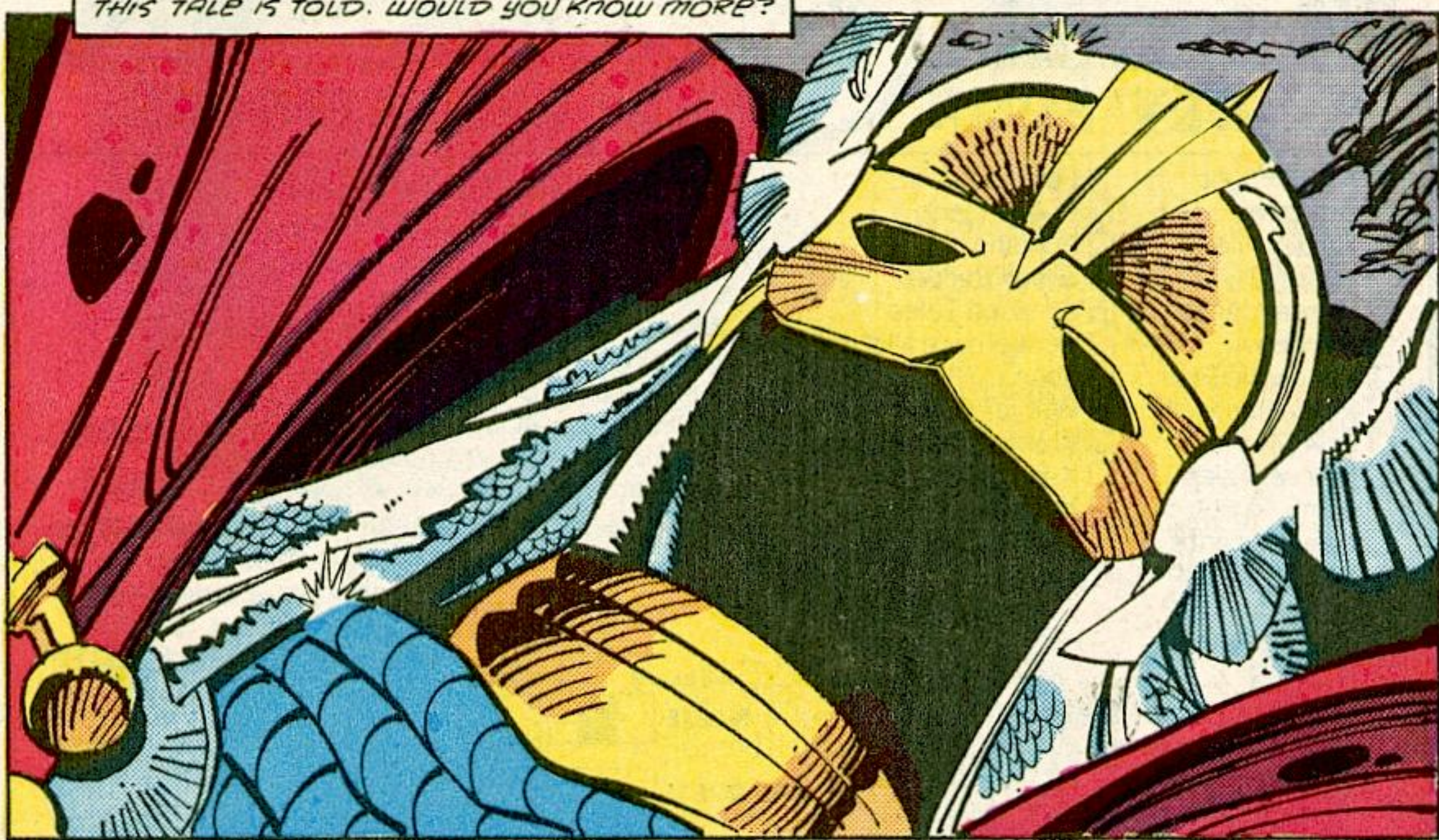


THRRROOOOAAAAM!

TO EARTH HE FELL, RECKING NOT HIS RESTING PLACE.



SILENT HIS HAMMER; MJOLNIR'S SONG ENDED,
THIS TALE IS TOLD. WOULD YOU KNOW MORE?



next issue: **THE OLD SHELL GAME!** FEATURING THE PULSE-POUNING RETURN OF THE UNSTOPPABLE ENEMY! THE ONE FOE THOR'S NEVER BEATEN! AND RIGHT NOW, THE THUNDER GOD CAN'T EVEN THUMB-WRESTLE! GO AHEAD AND SA THIS ONE! WE DARE YOU!