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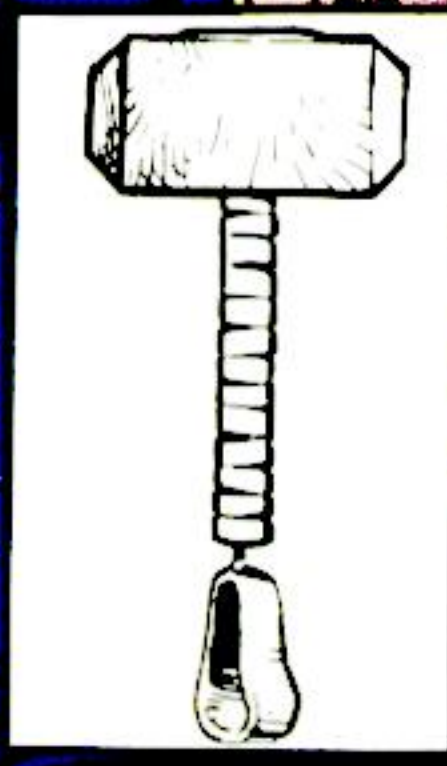
APPROVED BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the mighty

THOR

INTRODUCING...
**THE ONCE
AND FUTURE
THOR!**

THE FIRST
ISSUE OF A
**BRAND
NEW
ERA!**



FRANK BREEDING

"WHO SHALL BE WORTHY?"

A STUNNING
SAGA STARRING
THE MIGHTY
THOR!

SEPTEMBER 4,
2537, QUEENS,
NEW YORK...

GET BACK,
SALLA! STAY
SHADOWED!!

CAN'T LET
THAT CORP
TRACKER
SCOPE US!

THAT'S THE
FIFTH ONE
TONIGHT!

WHAT'S THE
SCAN, DARGO?

WHY IS THE CORP
OUT IN SUCH FORCE?!

STAN LEE
PROUDLY PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO
WRITER
RON FRENZ
PENCILER
BRETT BREEDING
INKER
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERER
"MAX" SCHEELE
COLORIST
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF



HAVEN'T YOU FLASHED, YET? THE CORP HAS DECLARED WAR ON CURFEW CUTTERS LIKE US!

CAN'T WORRY THAT NOW!

SPEED IT! THE CEREMONY'S ABOUT TO START!



MOVING QUICKLY, THE TWO FURTIVE FIGURES RACE INTO THE SEEMINGLY ABANDONED SUBWAY ENTRANCE, AND THEN...

WHO DARES ENTER MY DANK DOMAIN?



ER...TWO WHO WOULD BE WORTHY!

PASS, AND MAY THE GODS GRANT YOU WORTHINESS!

KEEP DREAMING!



LOOK! WE'RE LATER THAN I THOUGHT!

THE OTHERS HAVE ALREADY GEARED UP!

THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE MAIN PLATFORM!



HURRY! I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANYTHING!

WE MAY HAVE ACTUALLY FOUND SOMEONE WHO IS WORTHY--AND HE'S GOING TO TRY TO PROVE IT TONIGHT!

HE'LL FAIL... LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!



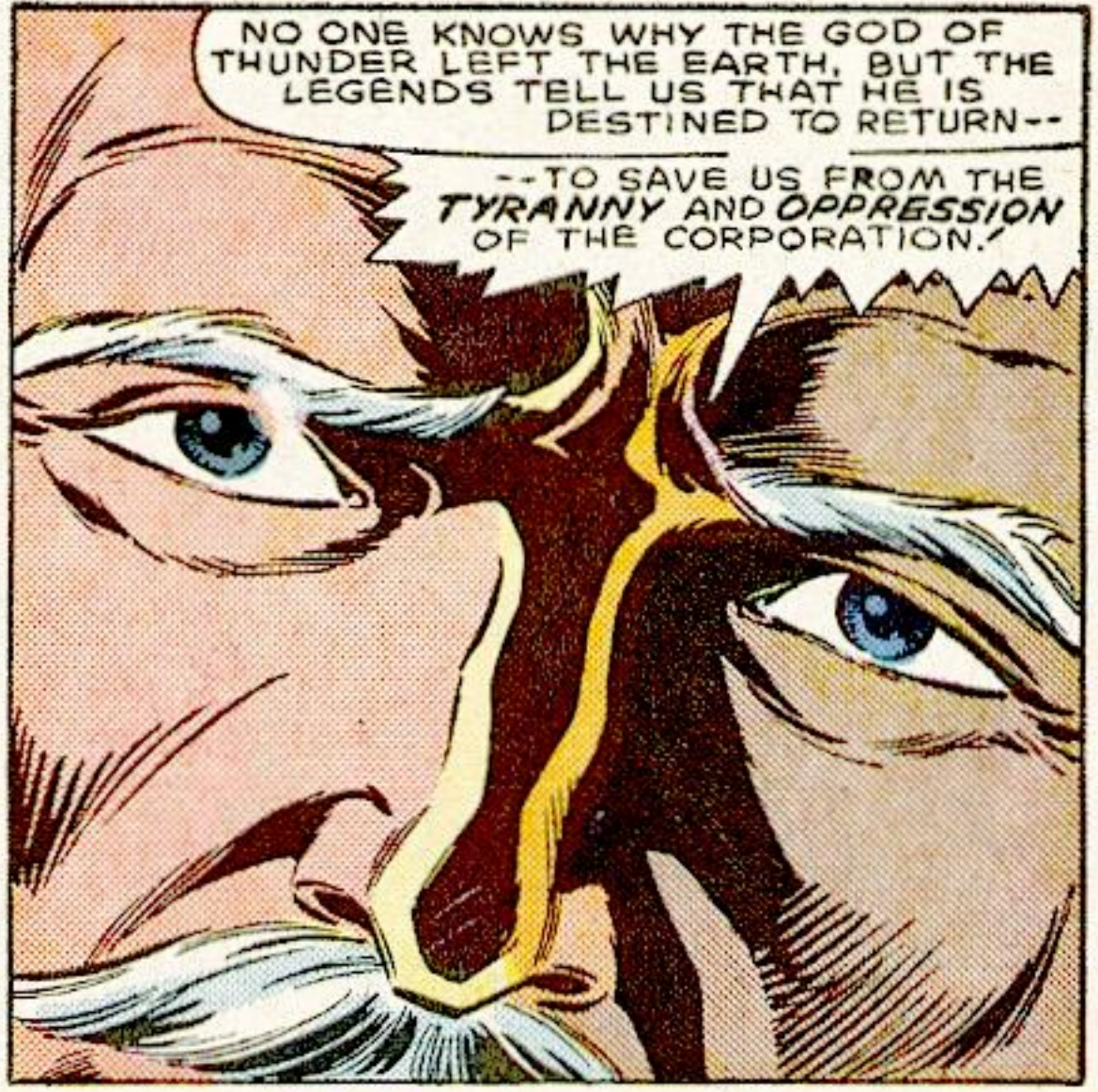
HEAR ME, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

LONG AGO, EVEN BEFORE THE CORPORATION RULED THIS LAND, HEROES WALKED THE EARTH!



GREAT AND POWERFUL WERE THESE NOBLE HEROES WHO DEFENDED THE COMMON MAN, BUT THE GREATEST AND MOST POWERFUL OF ALL WAS...

THE MIGHTY THOR!!



NO ONE KNOWS WHY THE GOD OF THUNDER LEFT THE EARTH, BUT THE LEGENDS TELL US THAT HE IS DESTINED TO RETURN--

--TO SAVE US FROM THE TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION OF THE CORPORATION!



WE ALREADY POSSESS THE WEAPON WHICH CAN WIN OUR FREEDOM!

ALL WE NEED IS SOMEONE WORTHY TO WIELD IT BECAUSE--



--WHOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR!



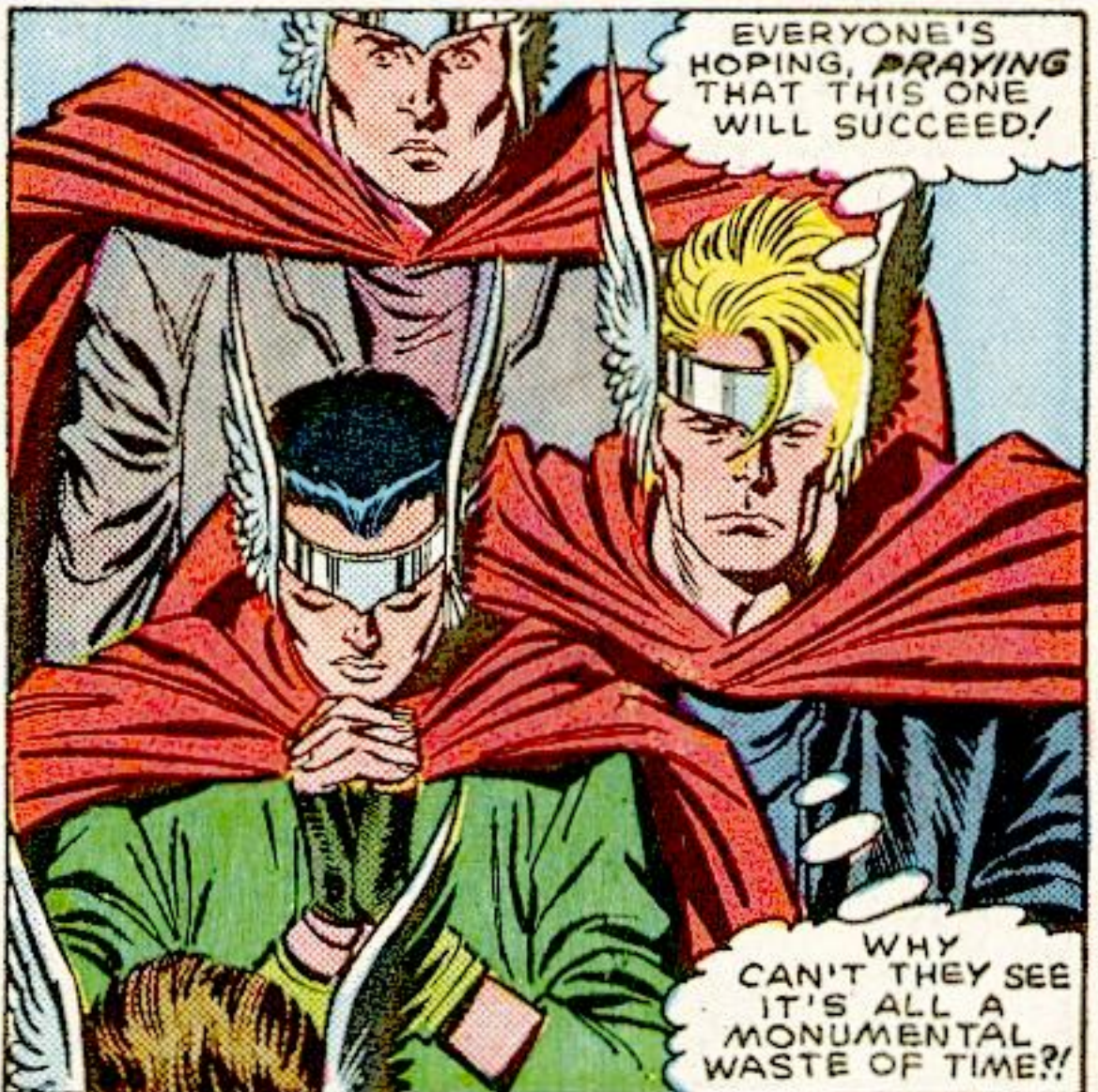
IS THERE ANY AMONG YOU WHO CLAIMS TO BE WORTHY?!



I DO!

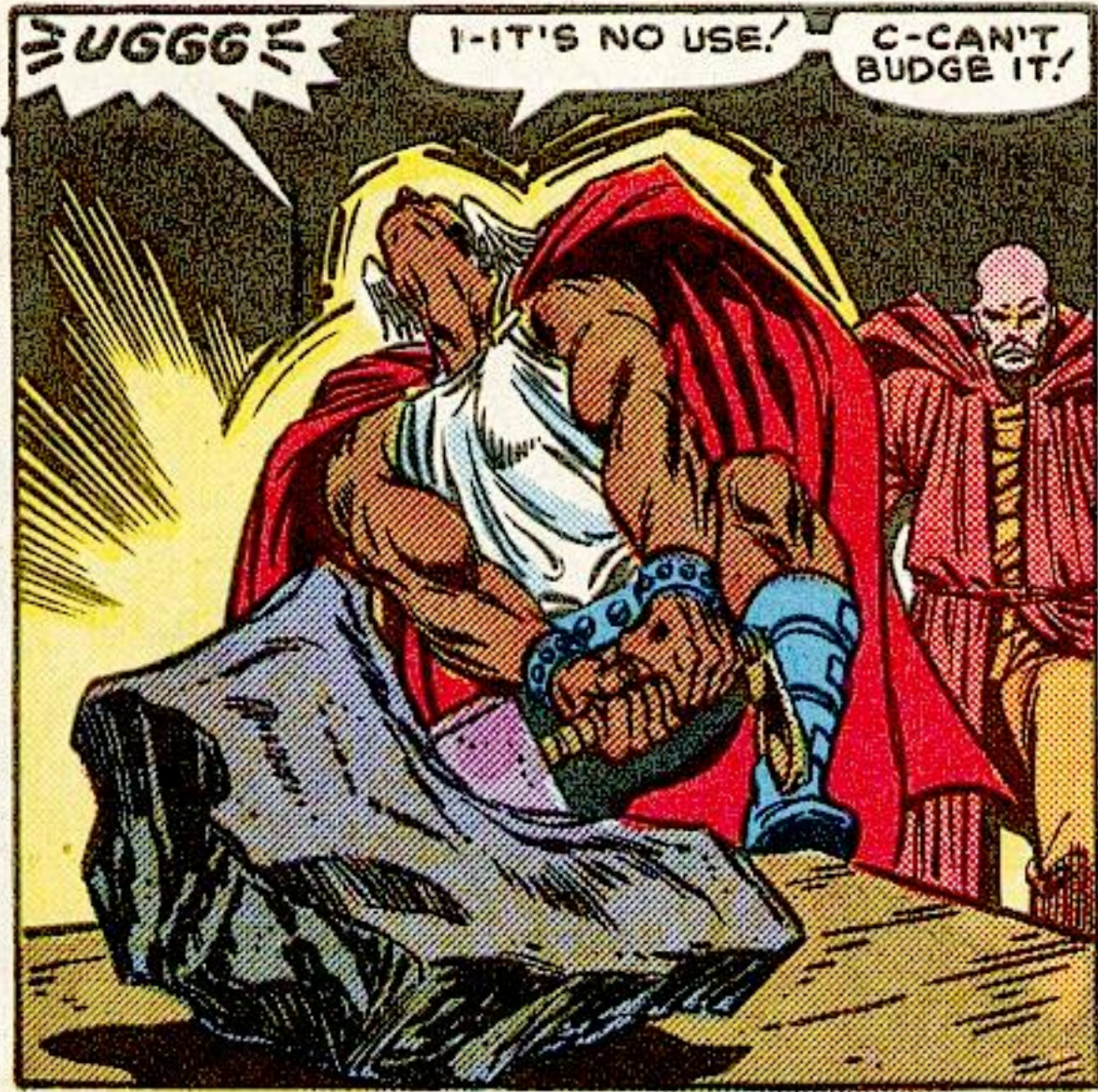
I'M THE STRONGEST MAN IN MY DORM-BLOCK!

TAKE THE HAMMER, BROTHER, AND MAY THE GODS GRANT YOU WORTHINESS!



EVERYONE'S HOPING, PRAYING THAT THIS ONE WILL SUCCEED!

WHY CAN'T THEY SEE IT'S ALL A MONUMENTAL WASTE OF TIME?!



UGGGG

I-IT'S NO USE!

C-CAN'T BUDGE IT!



A FAILURE! ANOTHER FAILURE!

HOW MUCH LONGER MUST WE WAIT?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE?

HOW CAN THEY PUT SO MUCH FAITH INTO SOME STUPID OLD HAMMER?!

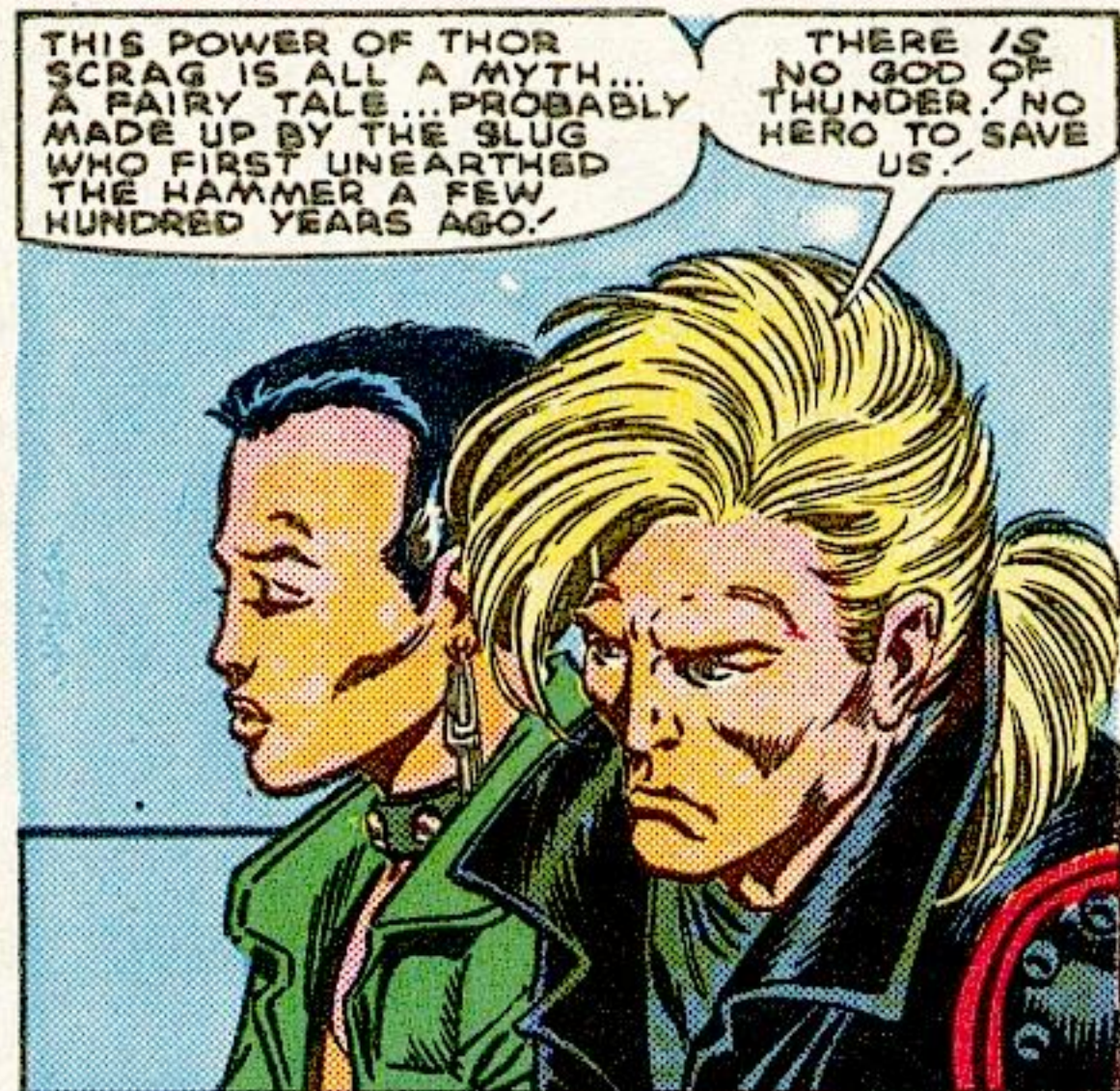


SOME TIME LATER...

I WAS SO CERTAIN, SO SURE THAT THIS TIME--

GET A FLASH, SALLA!

EVEN IF SOME SLACKER DOES MANAGE TO SHAKE THAT HAMMER LOOSE, NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE!



THIS POWER OF THOR SCRAG IS ALL A MYTH... A FAIRY TALE... PROBABLY MADE UP BY THE SLUG WHO FIRST UNEARTHED THE HAMMER A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

THERE IS NO GOD OF THUNDER, NO HERO TO SAVE US!



IF THE PEOPLE WANT THEIR FREEDOM FROM THE CORP, THEY'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT THEMSELVES!

OH, DARGO, I WISH YOU HAD MORE FAITH.

THEY SAY IT CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS...



...ALL WE'RE ASKING FOR IS A SIMPLE HAMMER!

SEE YOU AT FIRST SHIFT.

YEAH, RIGHT...

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

THESE CULTISTS ARE REBELS!

THEY UNDERMINE THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE ENTIRE CORPORATE STRUCTURE!

THEY VIOLATE CURFEW, DON'T GET THEIR REQUIRED FIVE HOURS REST, AND CONSEQUENTLY CAN'T WORK AT PEAK EFFICIENCY!

THEY'RE COSTING THE CORPORATION MONEY!

FIND THESE SLACKERS, AND EXTERMINATE THEM BEFORE THEY TOTALLY ERODE OUR BOTTOM LINE!

ZHMPHE INEFFICIENT BAND OF BUMBLERS!

MS. COHEN, PLEASE SEND IN MY NINE-FIFTEEN APPOINTMENT.

YES, MR. CHAIRMAN!



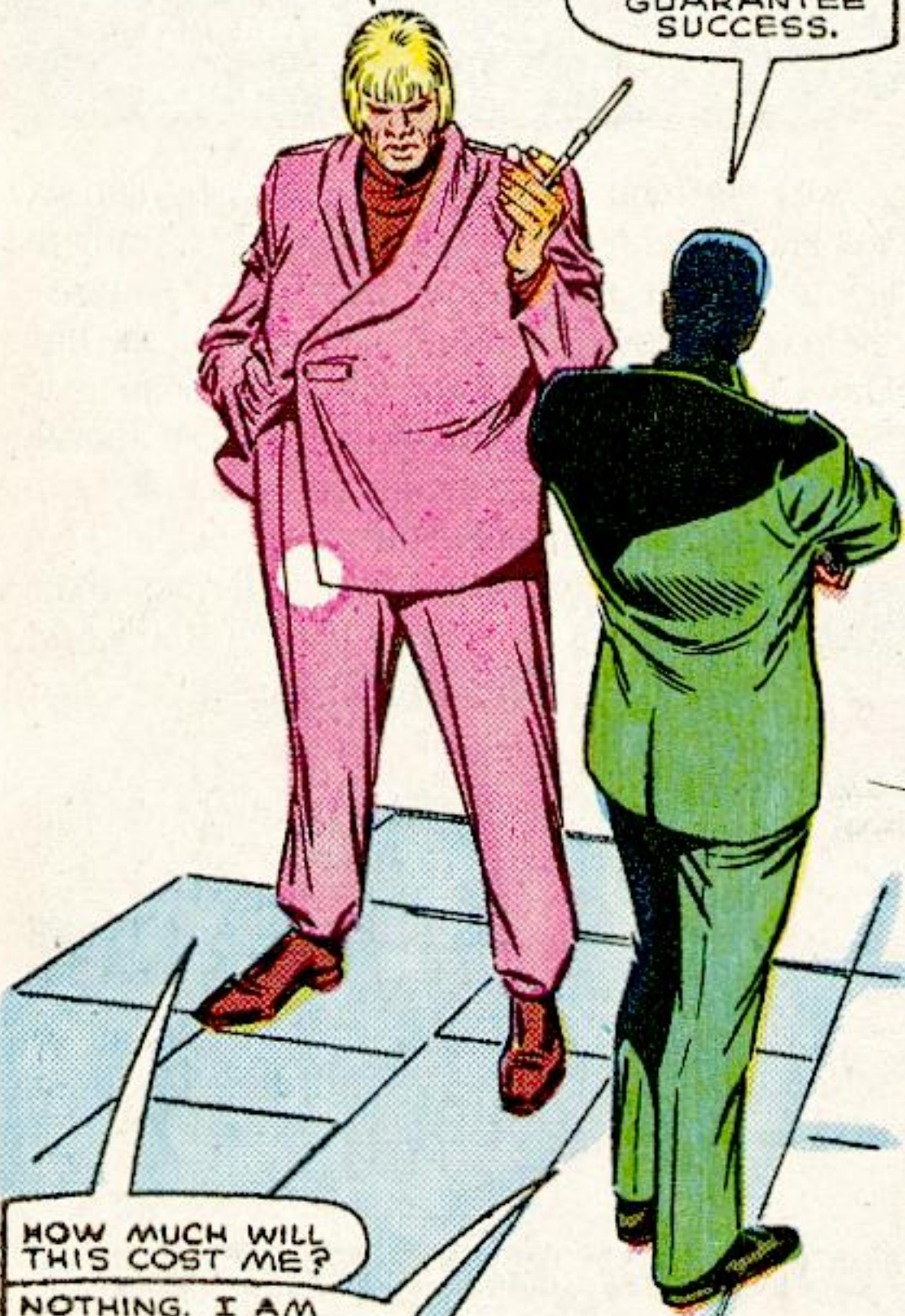
LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE? I HAVE A CULT PROBLEM, AND I HEAR THAT YOU ARE A SPECIALIST IN THE ART OF THEIR REMOVAL.

I CAN ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE SUCCESS.

WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?

DEADLY SERIOUS!

LET'S JUST SAY THAT I AM WILLING TO TOTALLY ELIMINATE THIS PARTICULAR CULT FOR MY OWN PERSONAL REASONS!



HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST ME?

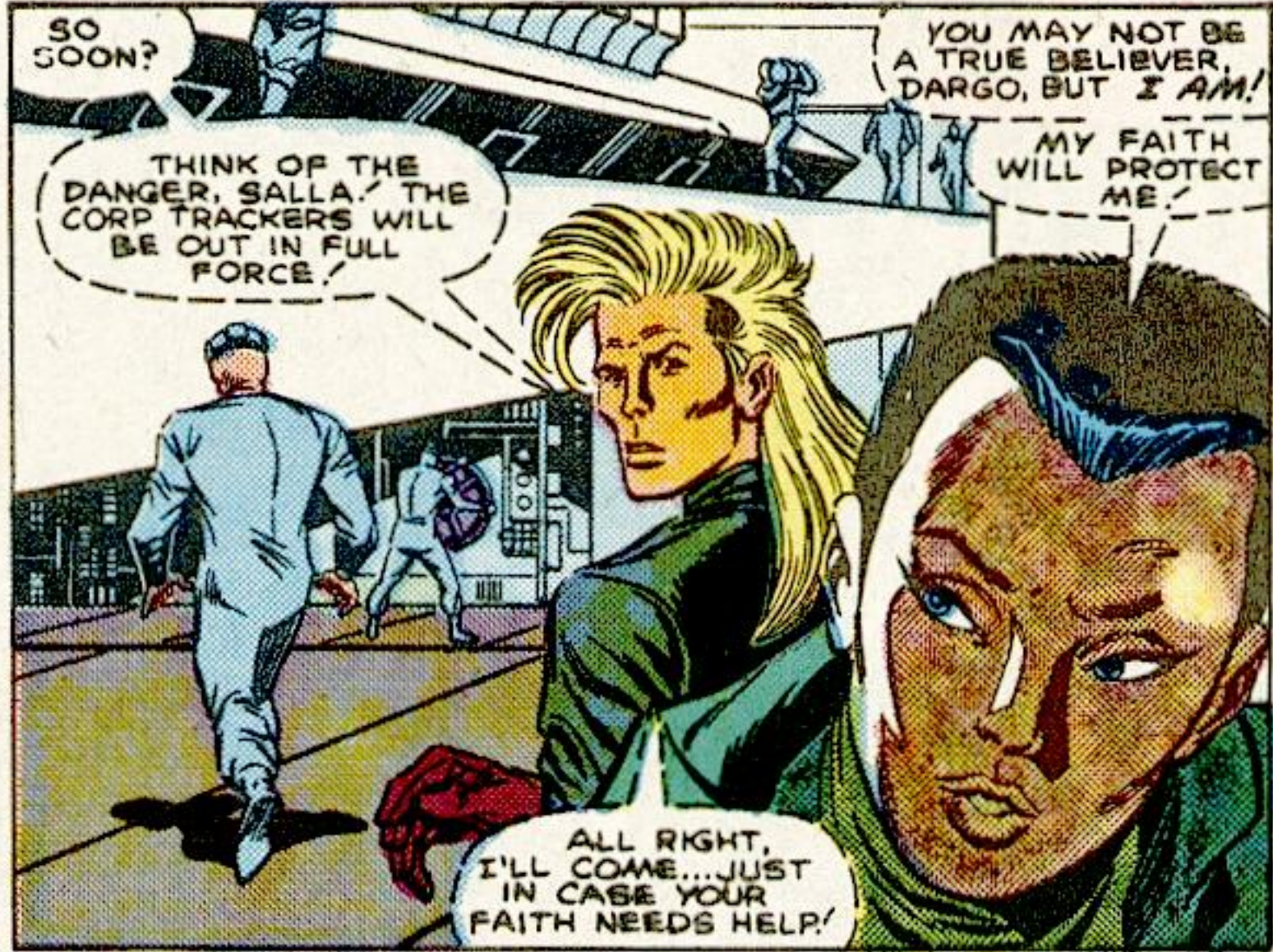
NOTHING. I AM WILLING TO FOREGO MY USUAL FEE!





MEANWHILE, AT A NEARBY FACTORY COMPLEX...

TONIGHT, WE GATHER!



SO SOON?

THINK OF THE DANGER, SALLA! THE CORP TRACKERS WILL BE OUT IN FULL FORCE!

YOU MAY NOT BE A TRUE BELIEVER, DARGO, BUT I AM!

MY FAITH WILL PROTECT ME!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME...JUST IN CASE YOUR FAITH NEEDS HELP!

HOURS LATER, AS NIGHT CARESSES THE CITY, STRANGE, SAVAGE CREATURES STALK THE SHADOWS, SEARCHING, EVER-SEARCHING...

THAT MORTAL FOOL DIDN'T REALIZE THE HORROR HE WAS UNLEASHING WHEN HE HIRED ME!

I WOULD CHEERFULLY EXTERMINATE HIS TROUBLESOME CULT--AND THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE, IF NEED BE--TO FIND THAT WHICH I SEEK!

THE HAMMER IS NEAR, FAITHFUL TYRUS! I CAN ALMOST SENSE IT!

AT LAST, LOKI! OUR CENTURIES-LONG QUEST IS OVER!



AYE, 'TIS TIME TO LOOSE OUR DEMON HORDE--!



MERE MOMENTS LATER, AT THE SECRET CEREMONY HONORING THE LONG-VANISHED THUNDER GOD

RUN!!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

WE'VE BEEN DISCOVERED--!!



ARRRGHH!!



CRUSH ALL OPPOSITION! DESTROY ANY WHO DEFY YOU!

WE MUST WIN THE HAMMER--

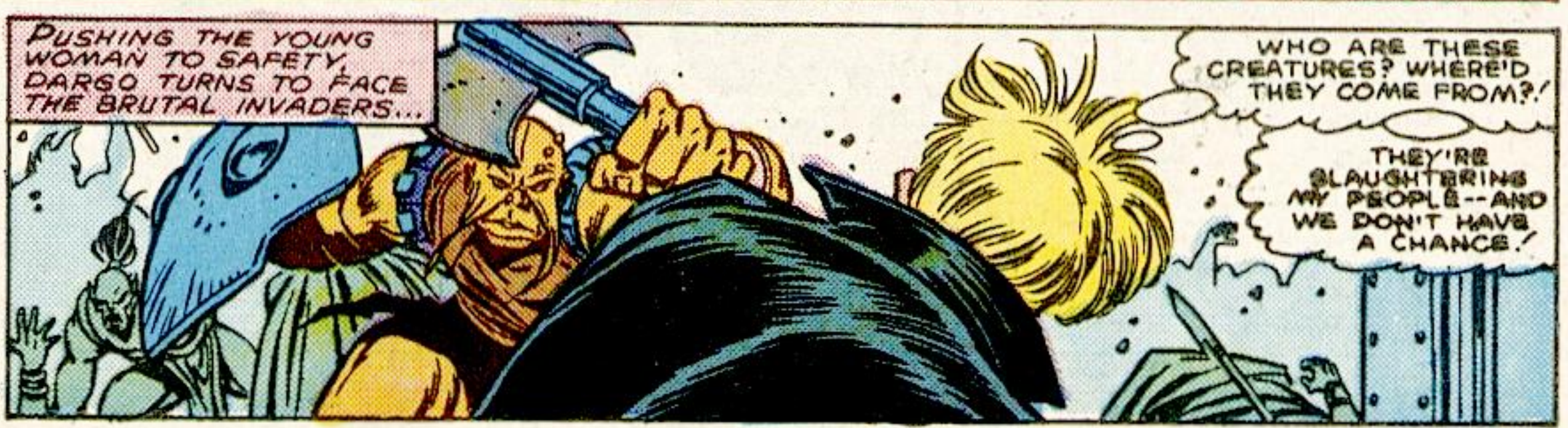


--OR FACE THE ETERNAL WRATH OF LOKI!

MOVE, SALLA!

NO! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

YES, YOU WILL! NOW!!



PUSHING THE YOUNG WOMAN TO SAFETY, DARGO TURNS TO FACE THE BRUTAL INVADERS...

WHO ARE THESE CREATURES? WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?!

THEY'RE SLAUGHTERING MY PEOPLE--AND WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

CAN'T FIGHT THEM WITH MY BARE HANDS! I NEED A WEAPON!

INSTINCTIVELY, THE VALIANT TEENAGER REACHES OUT...

AND, NO SOONER DO HIS HANDS GRASP THE NEAREST OBJECT, THAN--

--THE ENTIRE AREA IS SUDDENLY BATHED IN A BURST OF LIGHT!

LIGHT AS BLINDING AS A FIERY BOLT OF LIGHTNING!

AND, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

THE HAMMER--!!

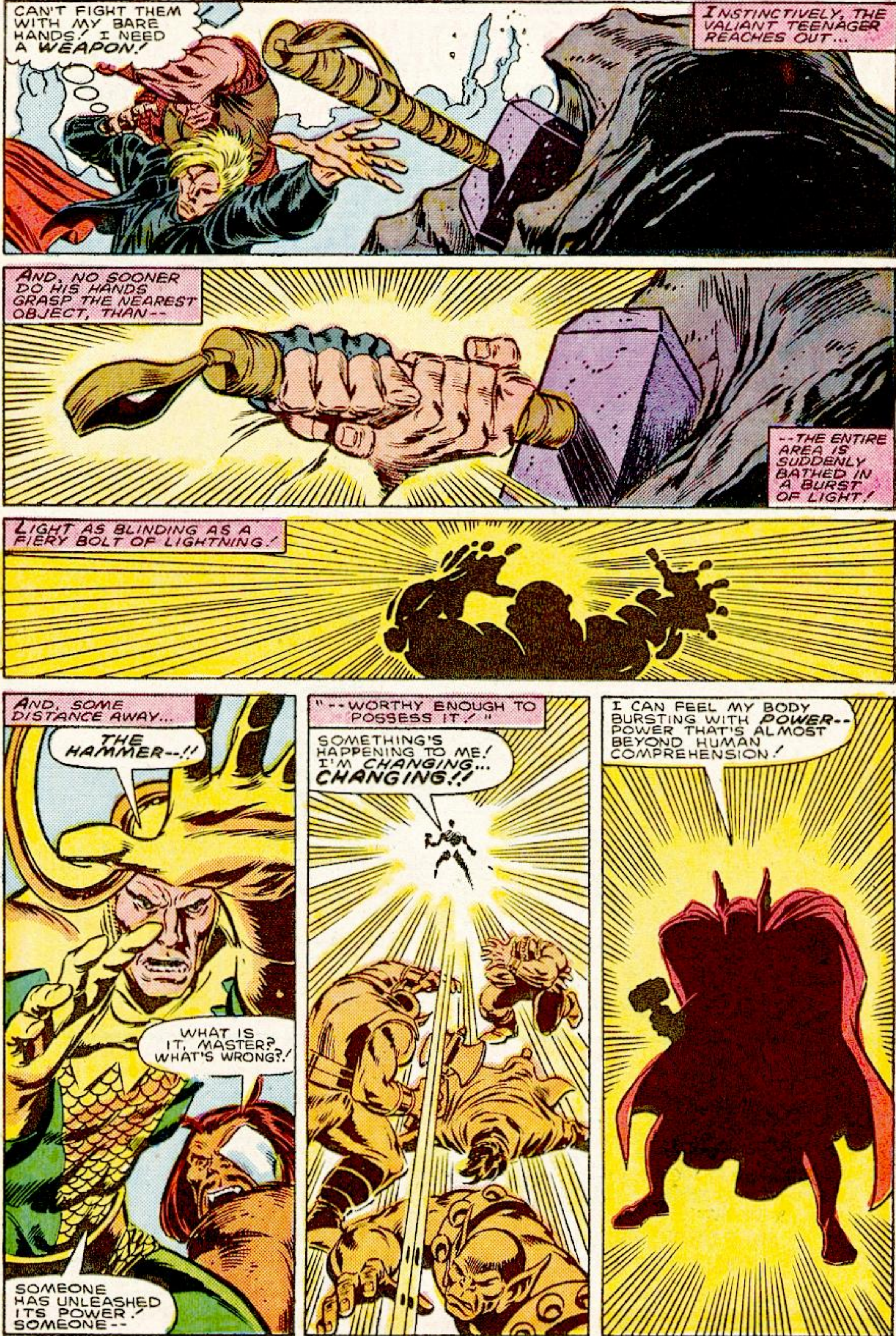
WHAT IS IT, MASTER? WHAT'S WRONG?!

SOMEONE HAS UNLEASHED ITS POWER! SOMEONE--

"--WORTHY ENOUGH TO POSSESS IT!"

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME! I'M CHANGING... CHANGING!!

I CAN FEEL MY BODY BURSTING WITH POWER-- POWER THAT'S ALMOST BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION!



THE ANCIENT LEGENDS ARE TRUE! THEY MUST BE!!

I HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL TIME! THE LEGENDARY THUNDER GOD!

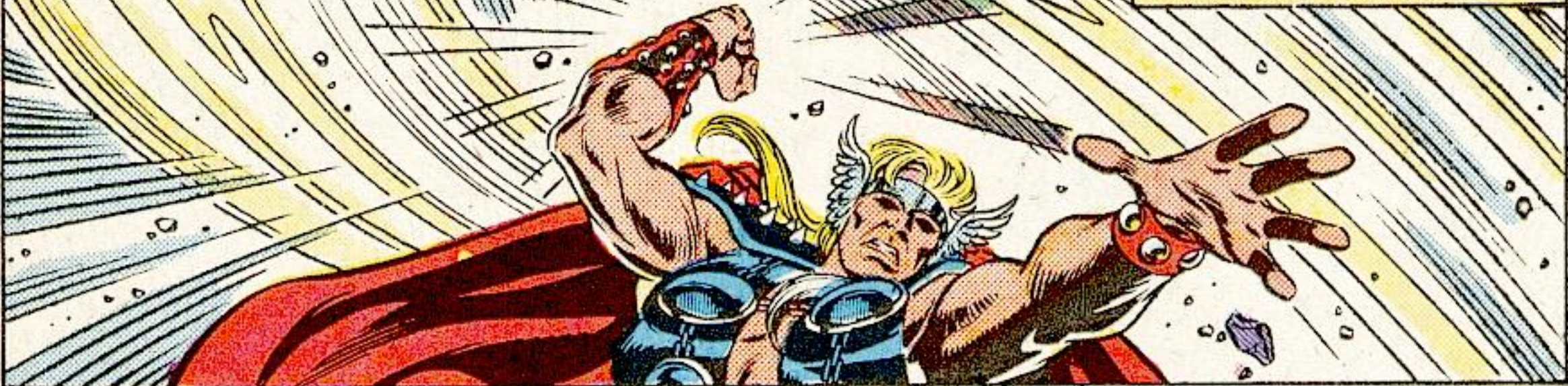


THIS REALLY IS HIS HAMMER, AND I--

I AM THOR!!

HIS BLOOD BOILING WITH EXCITEMENT, THE YOUNG WARRIOR TURNS TO BATTLE...

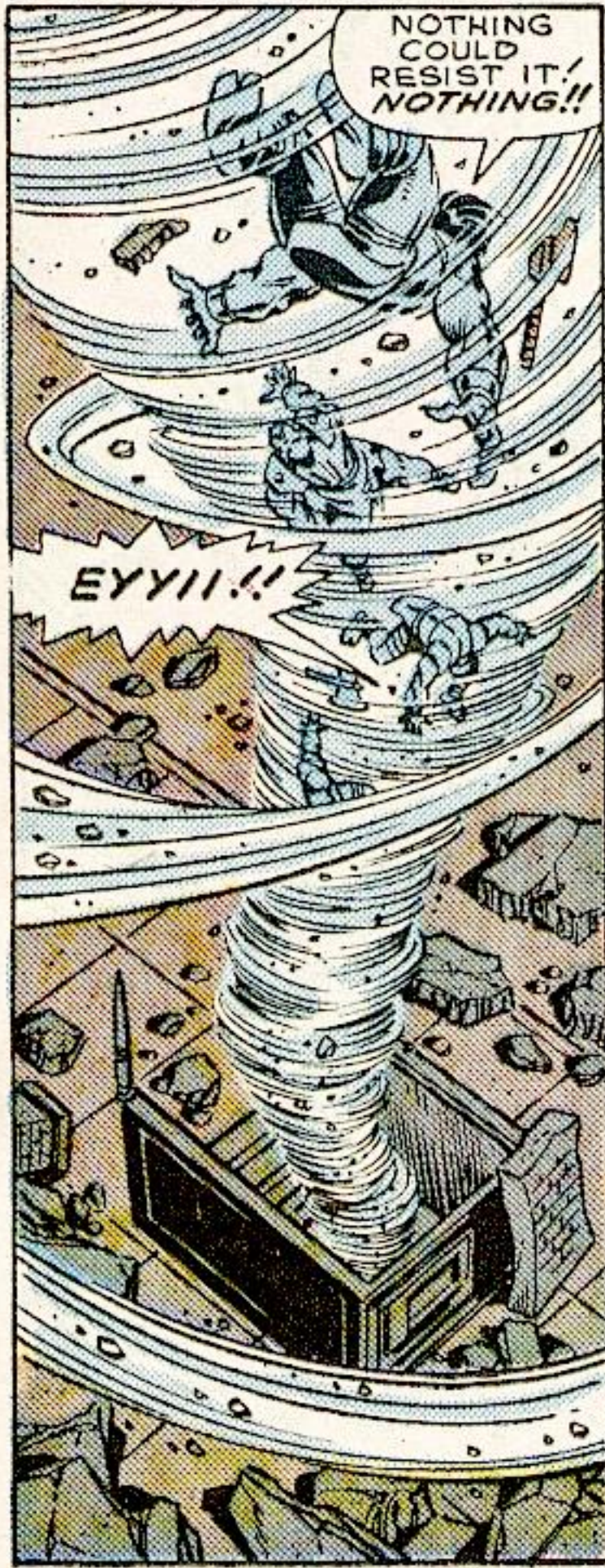
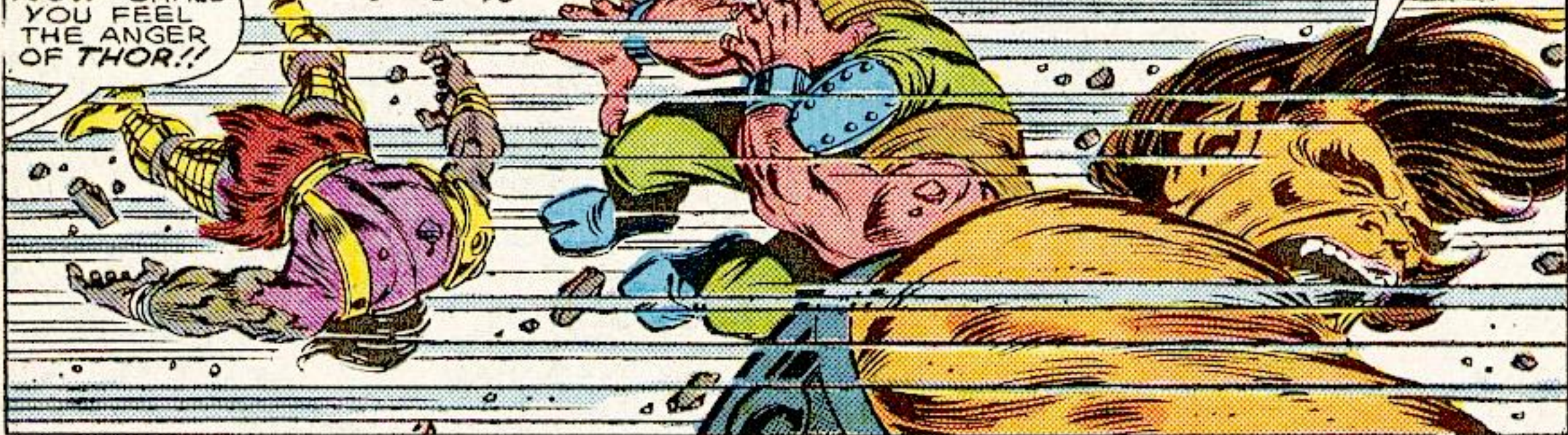
WHIRLING HIS HAMMER FASTER AND FASTER... FASTER THAN EVEN THE MORTAL EYE CAN FOLLOW... HE CREATES A RAGING TORNADO...



AND THEN...

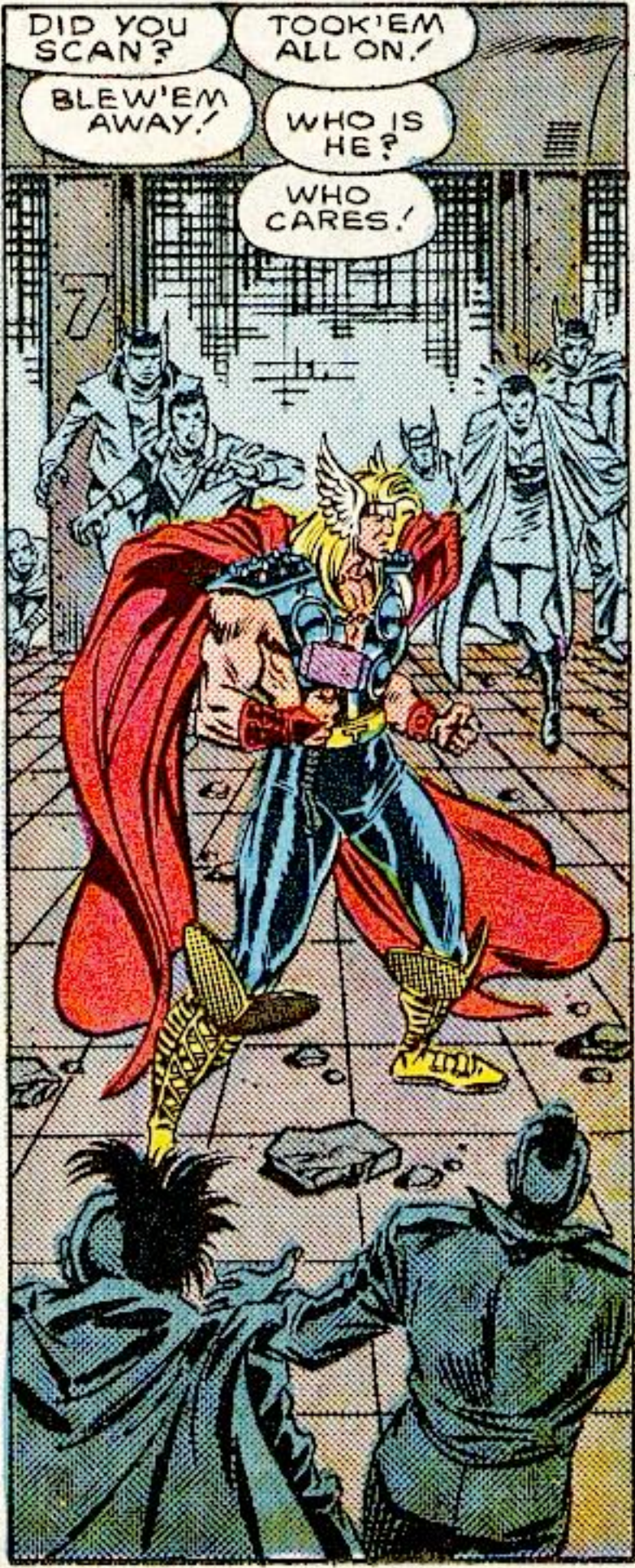
NOW SHALL YOU FEEL THE ANGER OF THOR!!

W-WE'RE HELPLESS BEFORE SUCH UNRELENTING FURY!



NOTHING COULD RESIST IT! NOTHING!!

EYYII!!



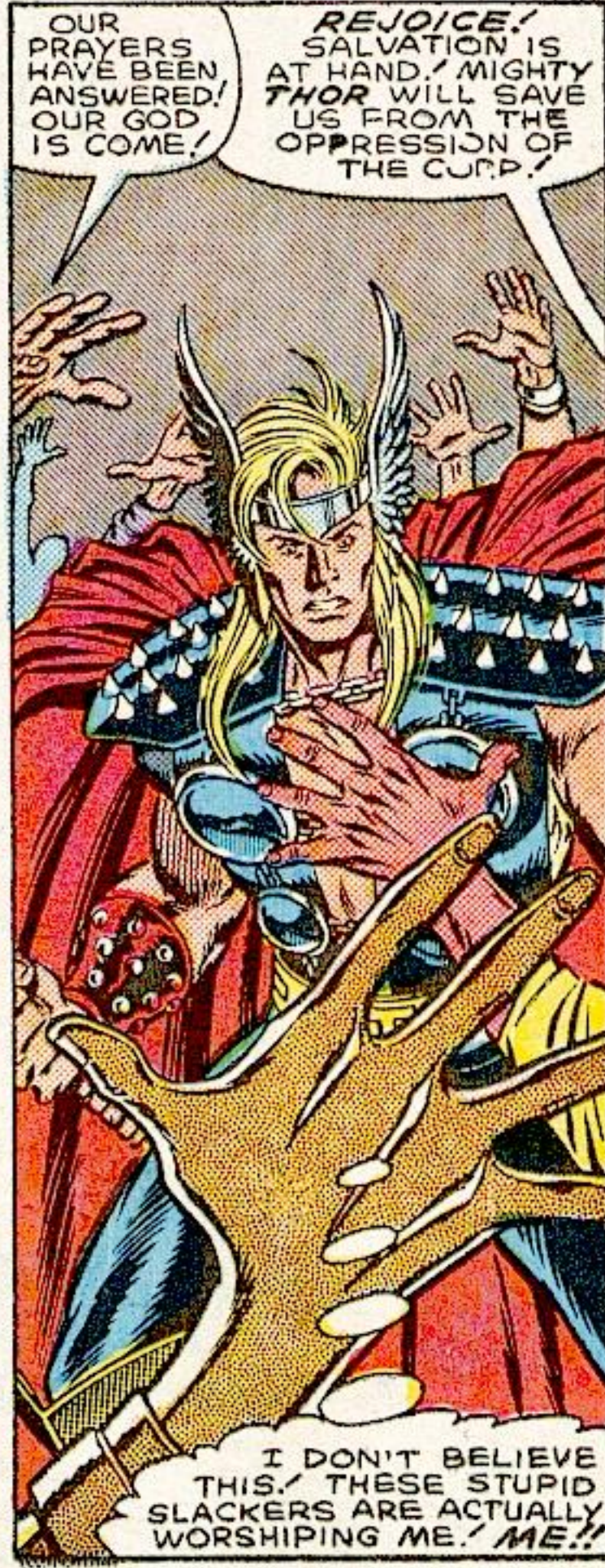
DID YOU SCAN?

TOOK'EM ALL ON!

BLEW'EM AWAY!

WHO IS HE?

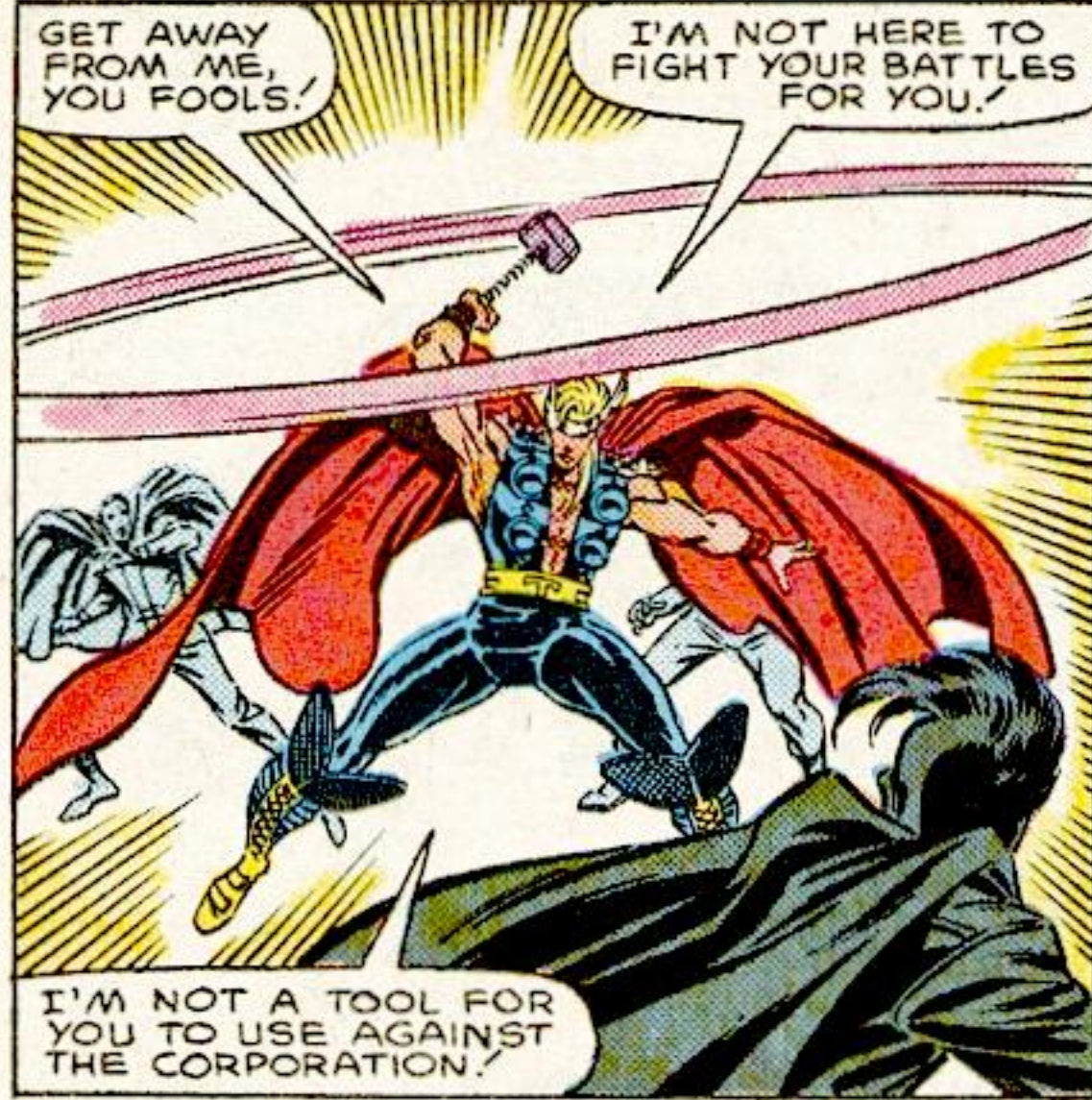
WHO CARES!



OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED! OUR GOD IS COME!

REJOICE! SALVATION IS AT HAND! MIGHTY THOR WILL SAVE US FROM THE OPPRESSION OF THE CUPP!

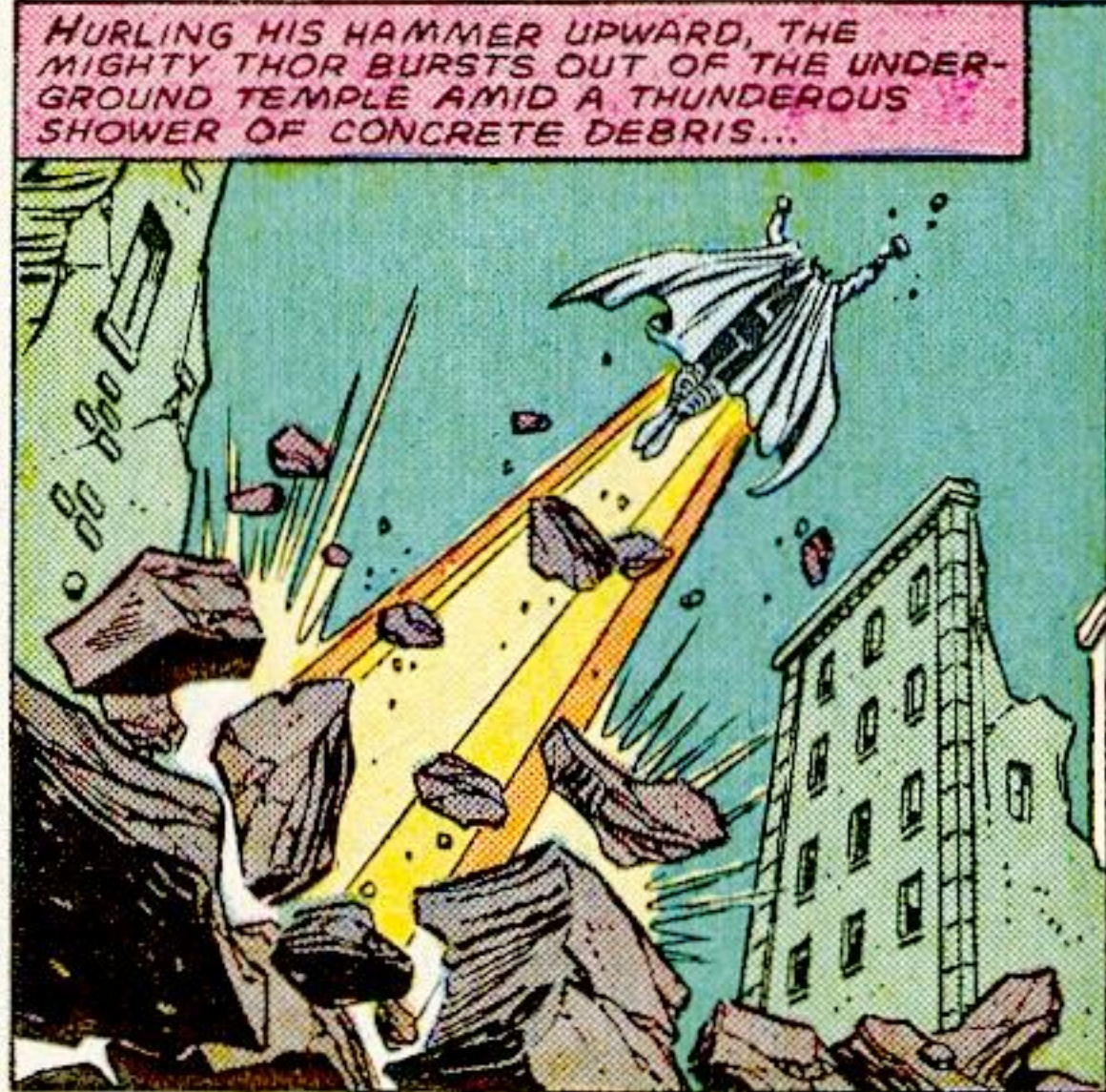
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THESE STUPID SLACKERS ARE ACTUALLY WORSHIPPING ME! ME!!



GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU FOOLS!

I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU!

I'M NOT A TOOL FOR YOU TO USE AGAINST THE CORPORATION!



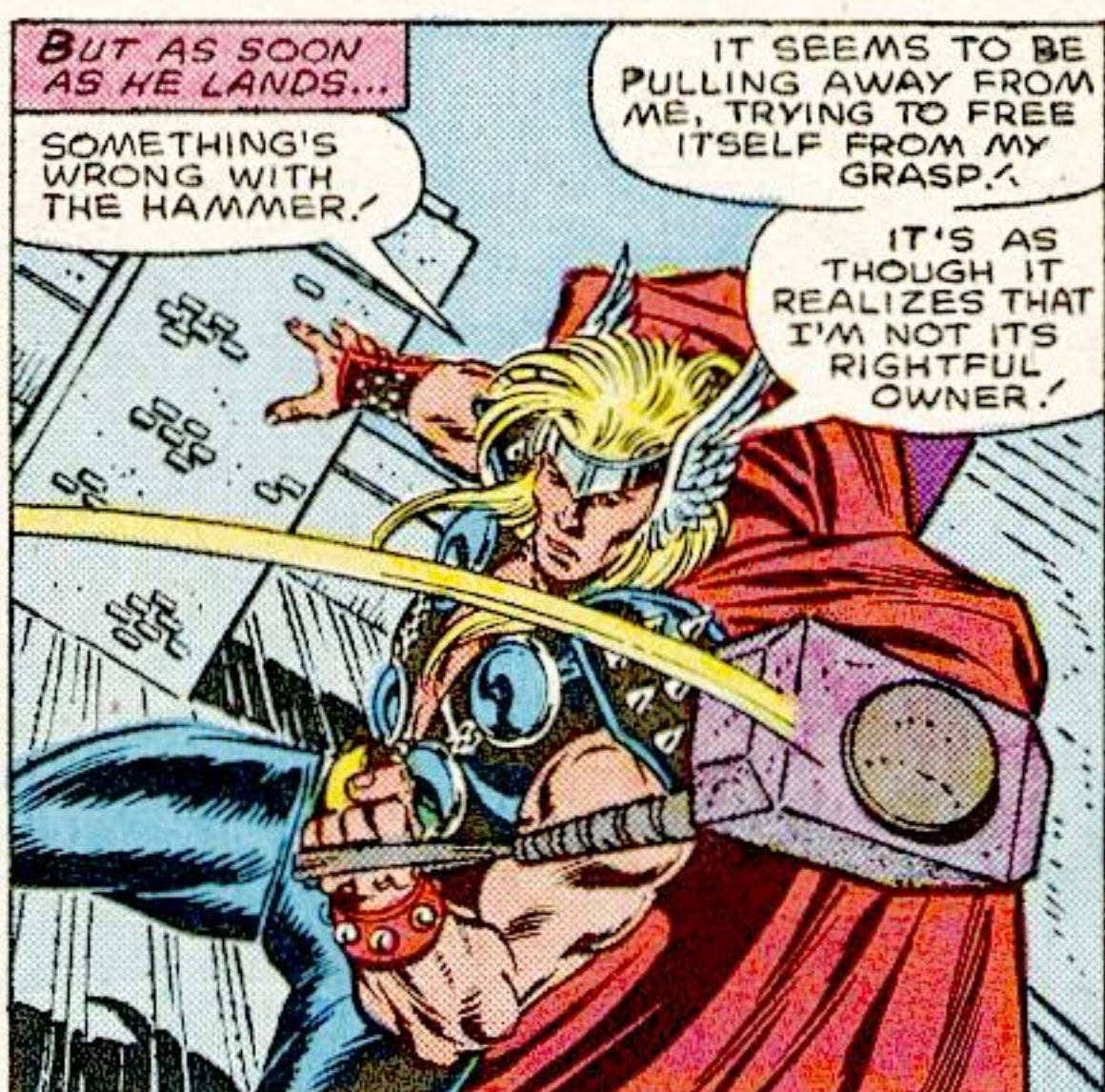
HURLING HIS HAMMER UPWARD, THE MIGHTY THOR BURSTS OUT OF THE UNDERGROUND TEMPLE AMID A THUNDEROUS SHOWER OF CONCRETE DEBRIS...



AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

I NEED A PLACE TO THINK!

HAVE TO SORT THIS ALL OUT!

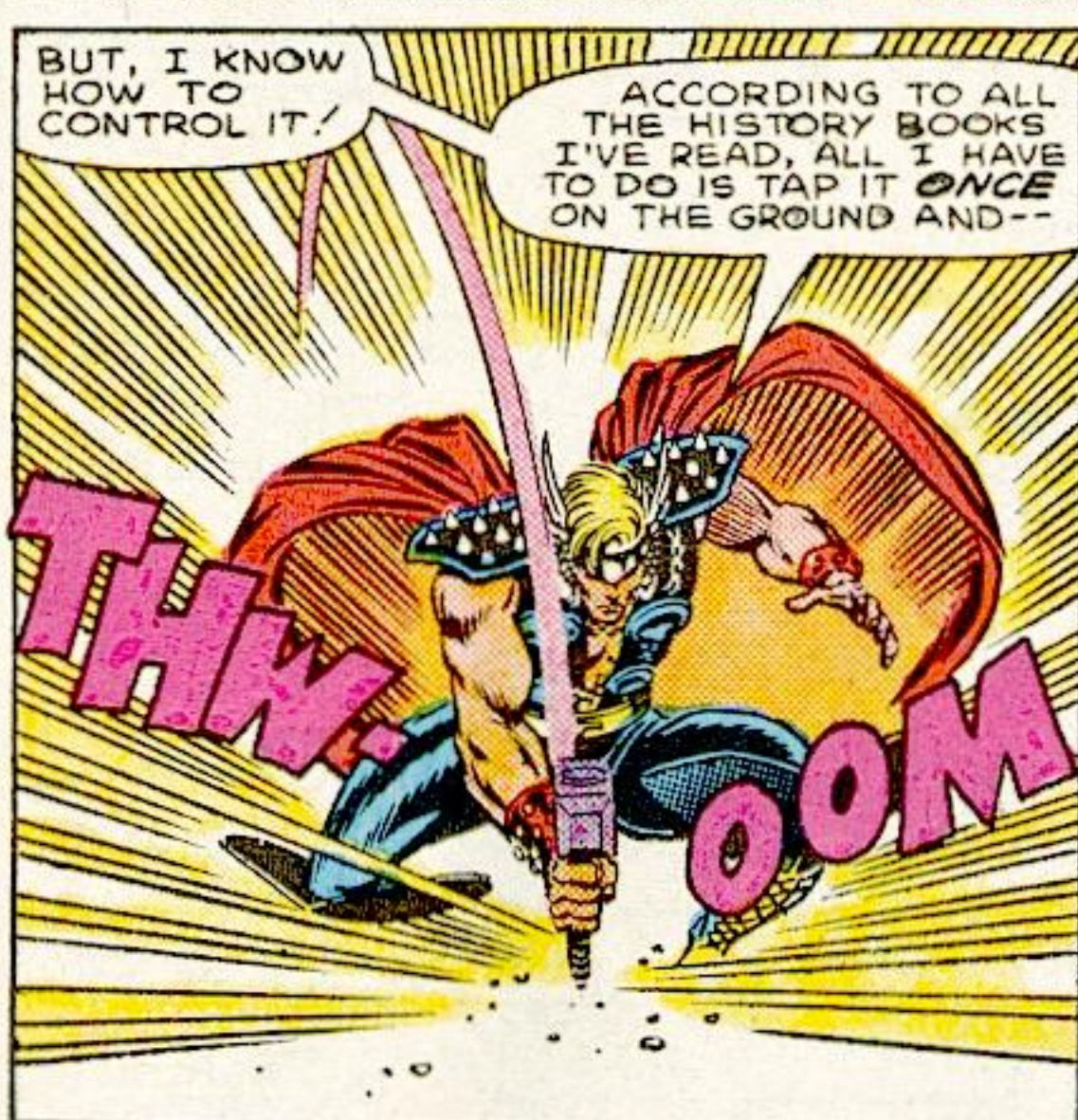


BUT AS SOON AS HE LANDS...

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE HAMMER!

IT SEEMS TO BE PULLING AWAY FROM ME, TRYING TO FREE ITSELF FROM MY GRASP!

IT'S AS THOUGH IT REALIZES THAT I'M NOT ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!



BUT, I KNOW HOW TO CONTROL IT!

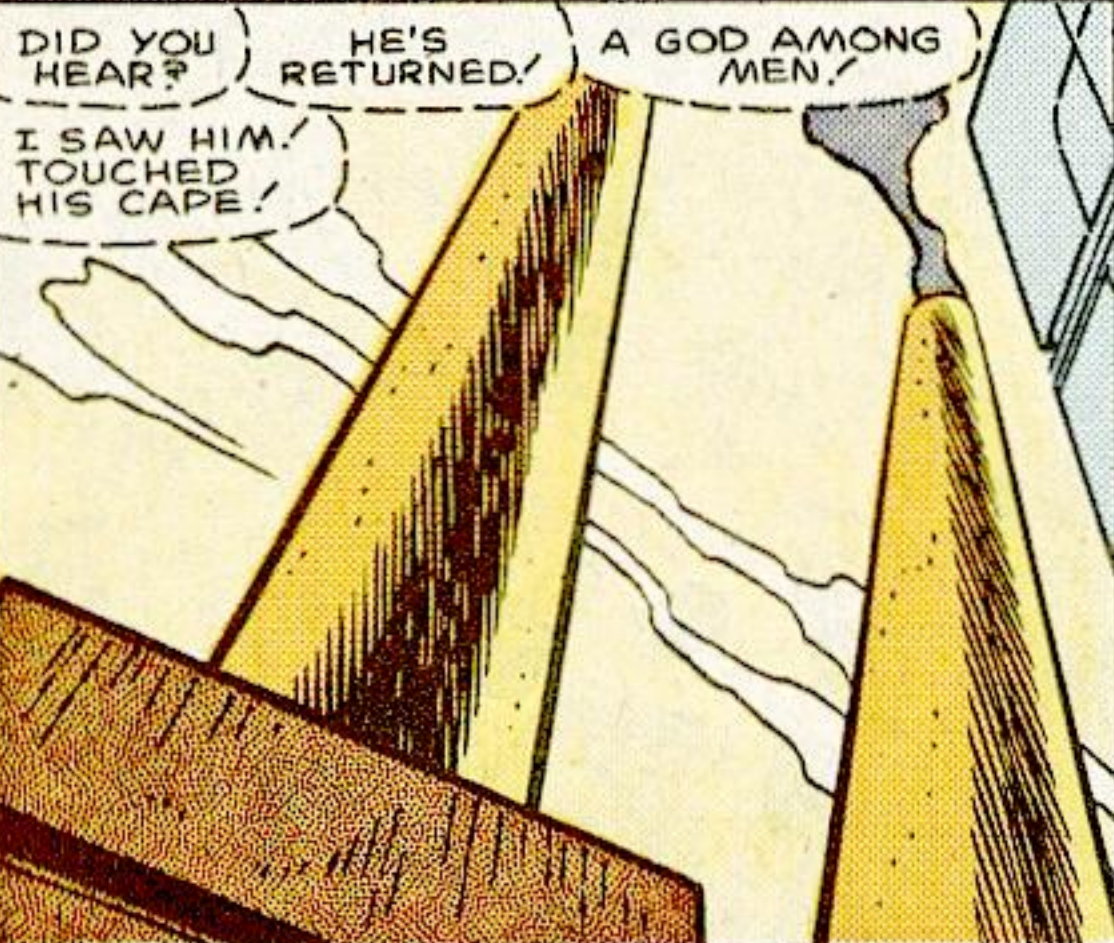
ACCORDING TO ALL THE HISTORY BOOKS I'VE READ, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TAP IT ONCE ON THE GROUND AND--

THW. OOOM

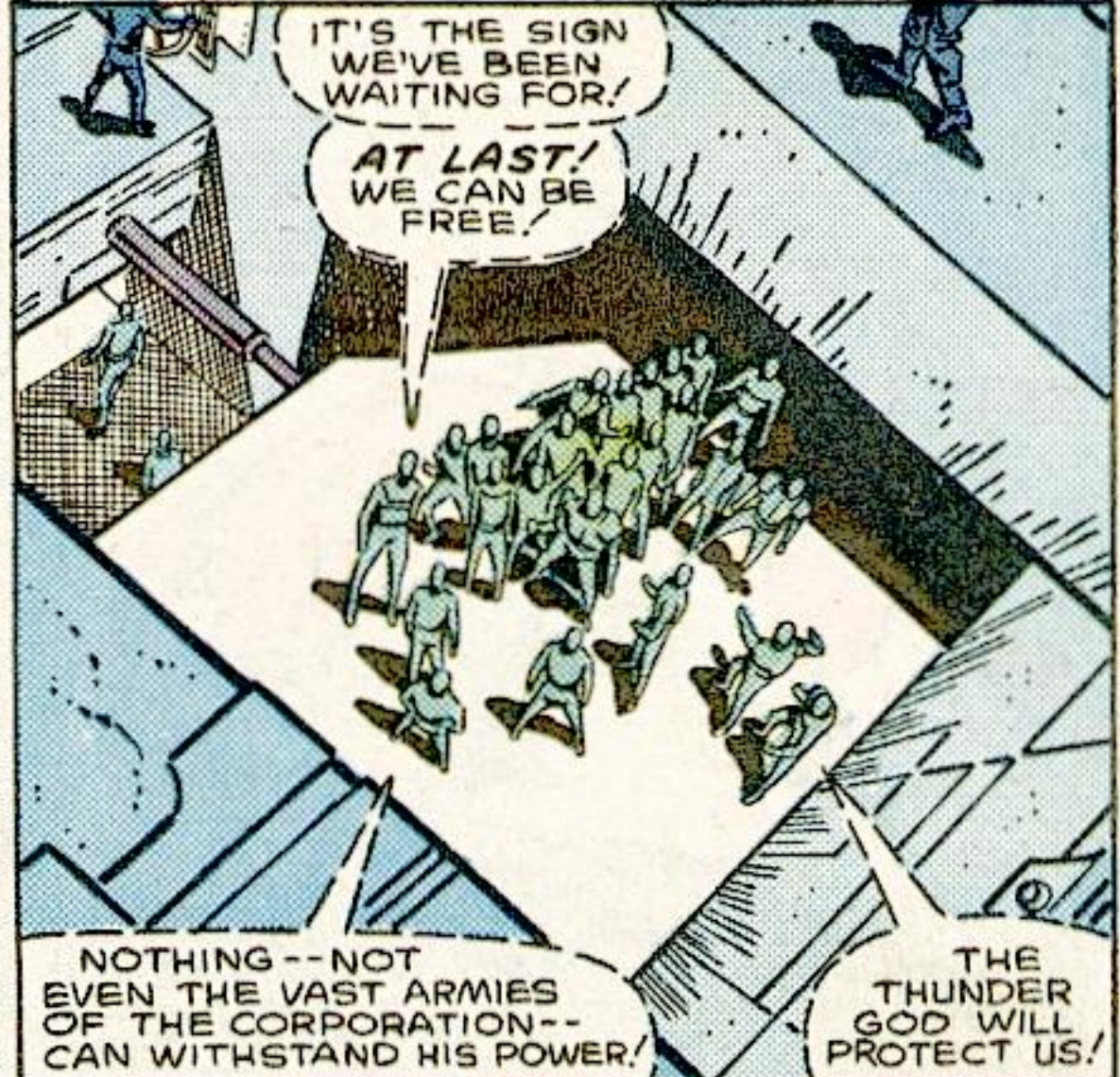


wow!

CONFUSED, SHAKEN BY THE EVENING'S STUNNING EVENTS, DARGO RETURNS TO HIS DORM-BLOCK TO THINK... TO PONDER... TO SEARCH HIS VERY SOUL FOR ANSWERS... AND, EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...



DID YOU HEAR? HE'S RETURNED! A GOD AMONG MEN!
I SAW HIM! TOUCHED HIS CAPE!



IT'S THE SIGN WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
AT LAST! WE CAN BE FREE!
NOTHING -- NOT EVEN THE VAST ARMIES OF THE CORPORATION -- CAN WITHSTAND HIS POWER!
THE THUNDER GOD WILL PROTECT US!



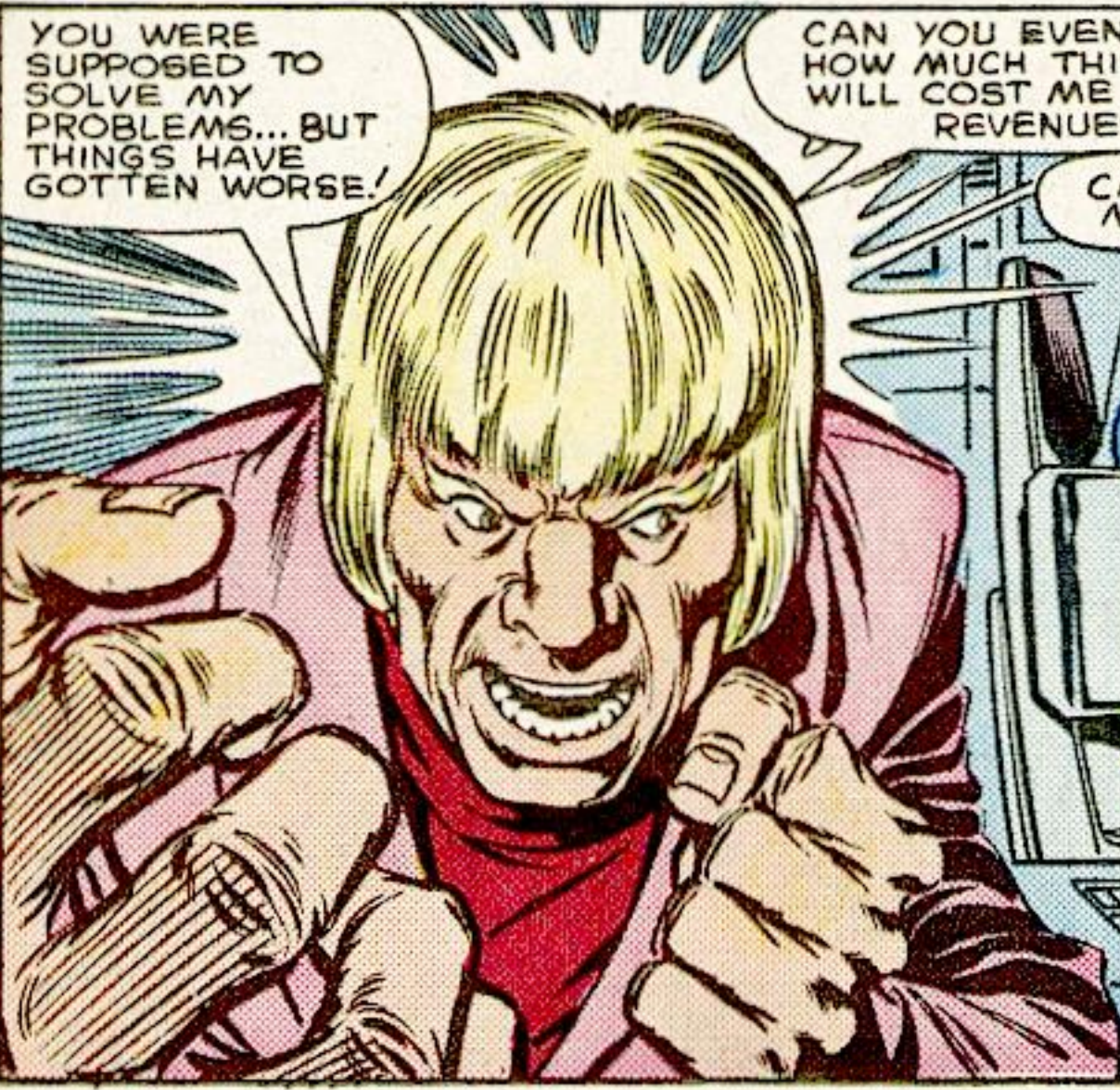
OH, DARGO, THE REVOLUTION IS COME!
HAS IT? HOW CAN WE TRUST THIS THOR SLUG? HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S THE REAL THING?!



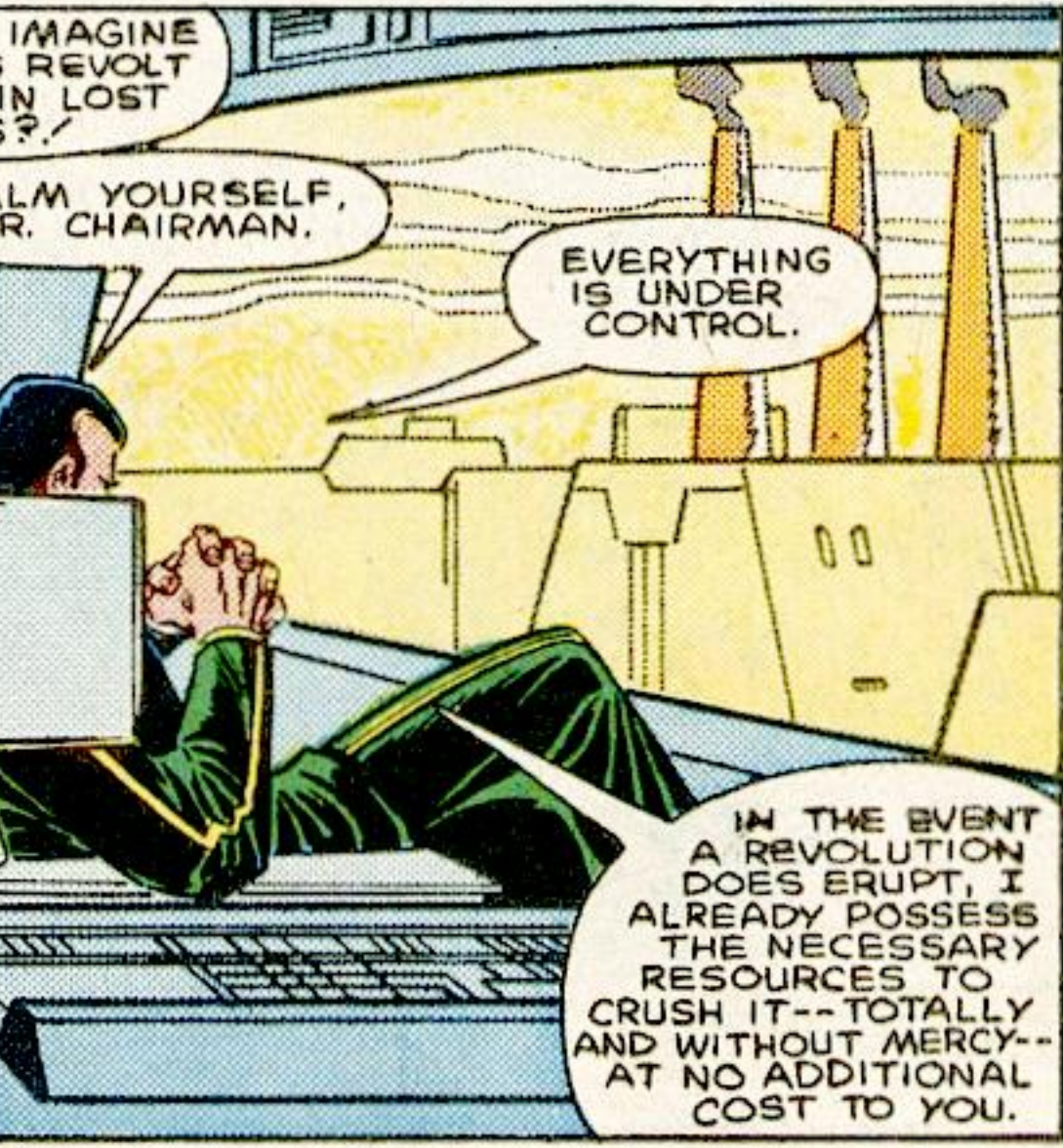
IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER! HE'S ONLY A SYMBOL TO OUR PEOPLE!
A SYMBOL THAT COULD GET US ALL KILLED!
EVEN DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO SLAVERY!
IS IT?!



MEANWHILE AT CORP HEADQUARTERS...
PRODUCTION IS DOWN!
REVOLUTION IS IN THE AIR!



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SOLVE MY PROBLEMS... BUT THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE!



CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE HOW MUCH THIS REVOLT WILL COST ME IN LOST REVENUES?!

CALM YOURSELF, MR. CHAIRMAN.

EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL.

IN THE EVENT A REVOLUTION DOES ERUPT, I ALREADY POSSESS THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO CRUSH IT -- TOTALLY AND WITHOUT MERCY -- AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU.

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE TALK OF THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES TO GROW. TENSION MOUNTS, TEMPER FLARE, AND THEN...

ARE YOU PEOPLE CRAZY? HOW CAN YOU EVEN CONSIDER STAGING A PROTEST MARCH AGAINST THE CORP?

IT'S TIME WE TOOK A STAND!

IT'S SUICIDE!

WE HAVE FAITH IN THE THUNDER GOD. HE'LL PROTECT US!

WHAT IF HE DOESN'T?!

THEN, WE'LL DIE... LIKE MEN!

YOU COMING?

NO, I...

...CAN'T!

DOWN WITH THE CORP!

FREED THE

FOR PLE!

WHERE'S DARGO?

COWERING BENEATH HIS BED, I'LL WAGER!

LOOK! ABOVE US--!

YOU SLACKERS BELONG HOME IN BED!

WE'RE... SURROUNDED!!

CLEAR THE STREETS, OR PAY THE PENALTY!

DEATH TO THOSE WHO DEFY THE CORPORATION!

DEATH TO ALL REBELS!!

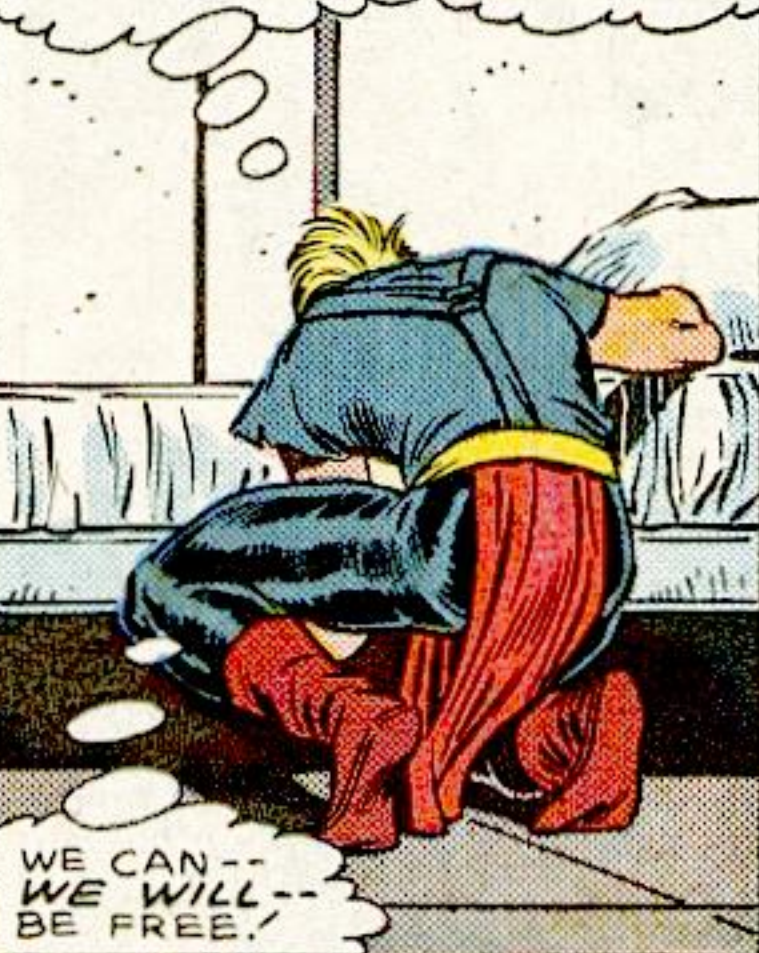
HOWLS OF PAIN AND DEATH SOON SEAR THE EVENING AIR, EACH NEW SCREAM STRIKING DARGO WITH THE FORCE OF A MORTAL BLOW...



WHY DIDN'T THEY LISTEN TO ME? WHY?

THE CORP RULES THIS LAND! IT OWNS US!

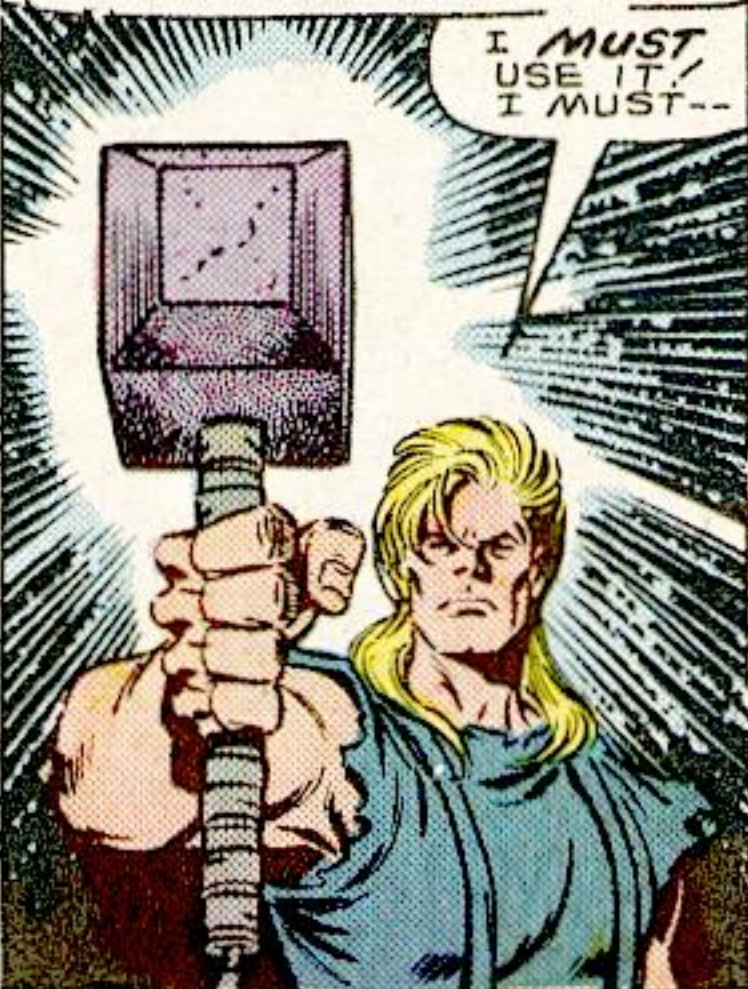
ONE MAN CAN'T CHANGE THAT! NOT EVEN ONE WITH THE POWER OF A GOD!



WE CAN-- WE WILL-- BE FREE!

BUT, THERE ARE OTHER LANDS, OTHER CORPS...

I MUST HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS INCREDIBLE POWER FOR A REASON! A PURPOSE BEYOND MORTAL UNDERSTANDING!



I MUST USE IT! I MUST--

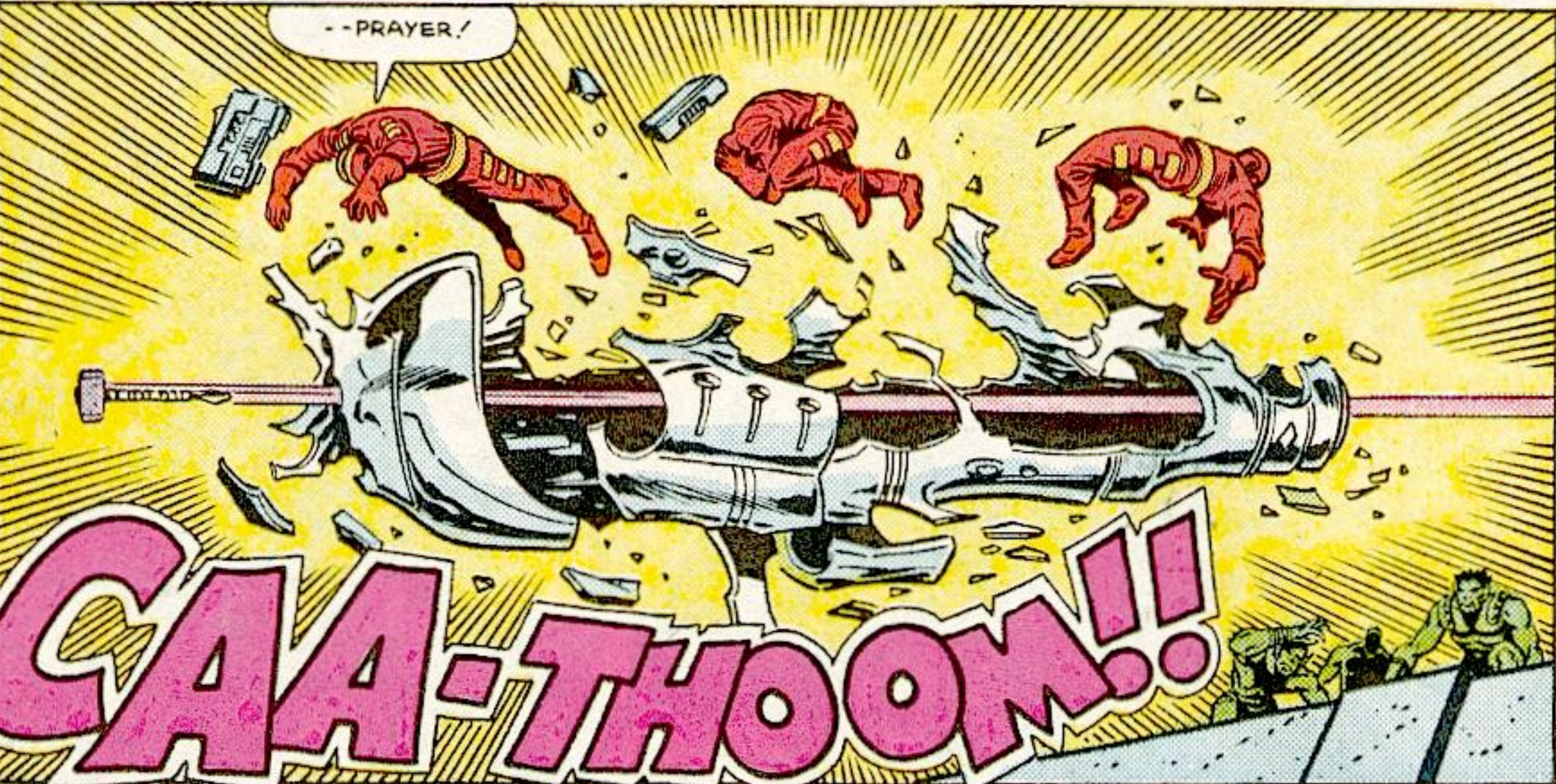
--PROVE MYSELF WORTHY!!

LOOK AT THEM FALL!

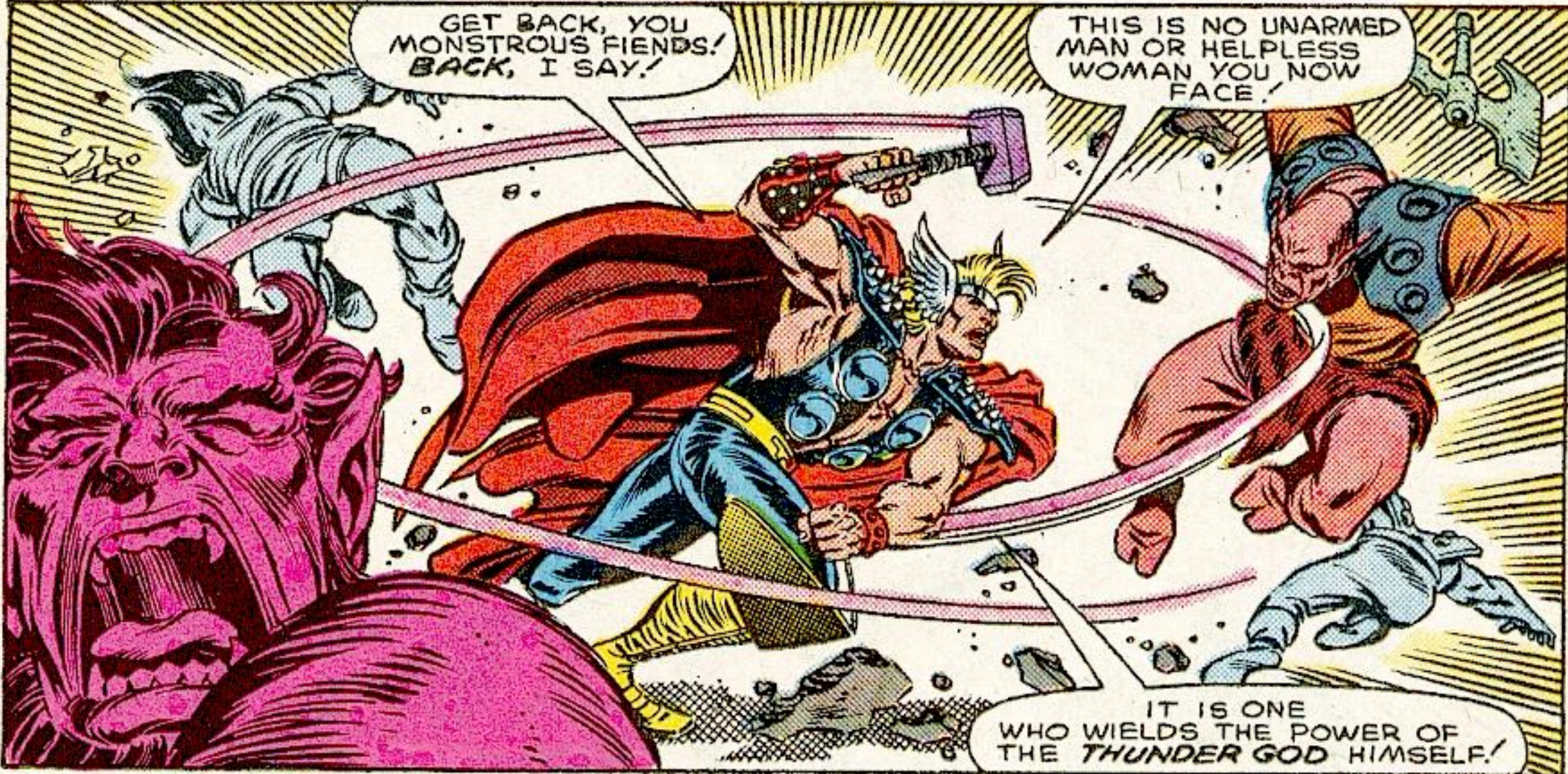


AGAINST OUR SUPERIOR FIREPOWER, AND THE BRUTAL SAVAGERY OF OUR NEW ALLIES, THESE POOR SLACKERS HAVEN'T GOT A--

--PRAYER!



CAA-THOON!!!



GET BACK, YOU MONSTROUS FIENDS!
BACK, I SAY!

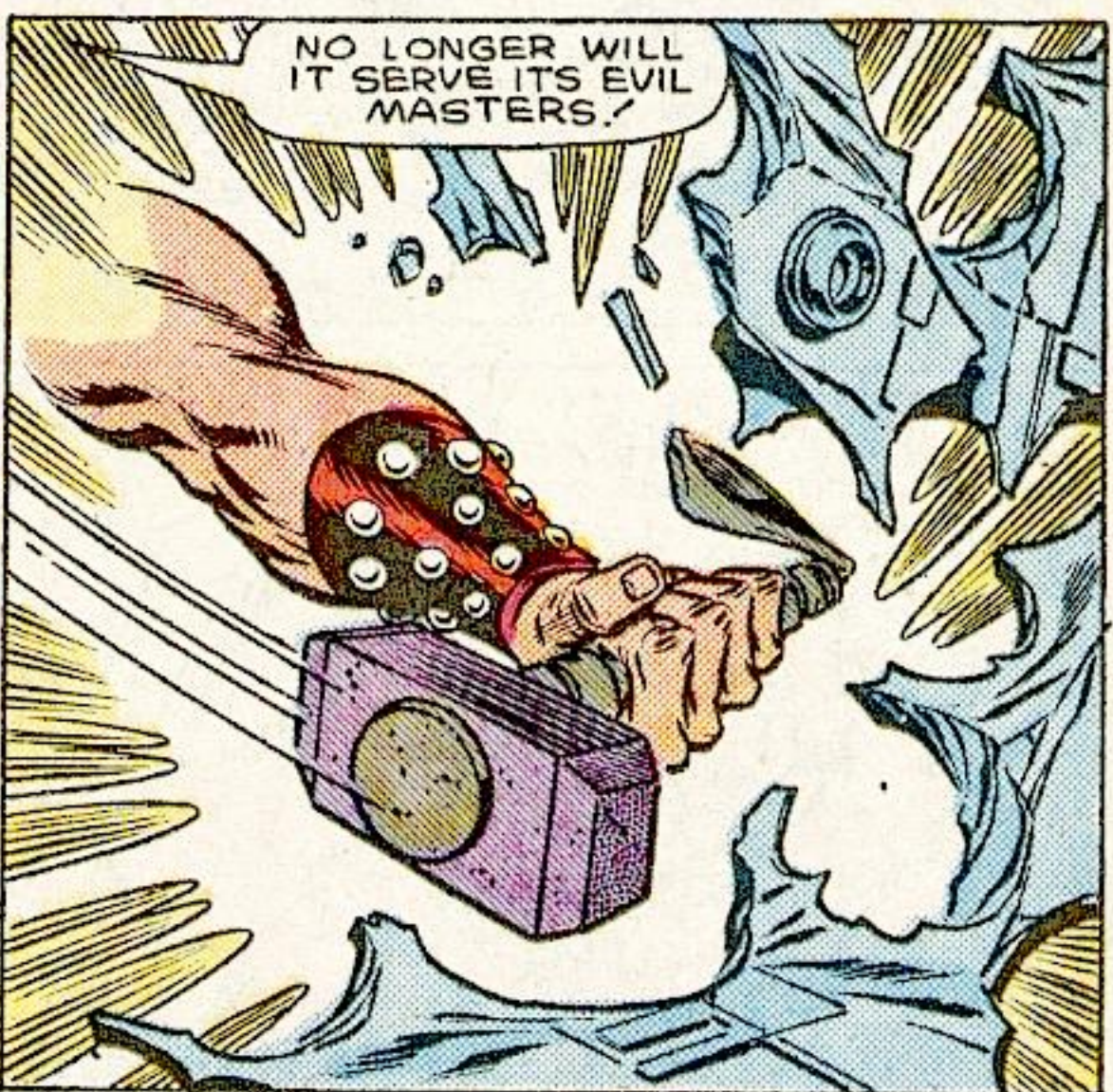
THIS IS NO UNARMED
MAN OR HELPLESS
WOMAN YOU NOW
FACE!

IT IS ONE
WHO WIELDS THE POWER OF
THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF!



NOTHING
CAN
WITHSTAND
MY
RIGHTEOUS
FURY!

SEE
HOW EASILY
I PLUCK
THIS CORP
TRACKER FROM
THE SKY!



NO LONGER WILL
IT SERVE ITS EVIL
MASTERS!



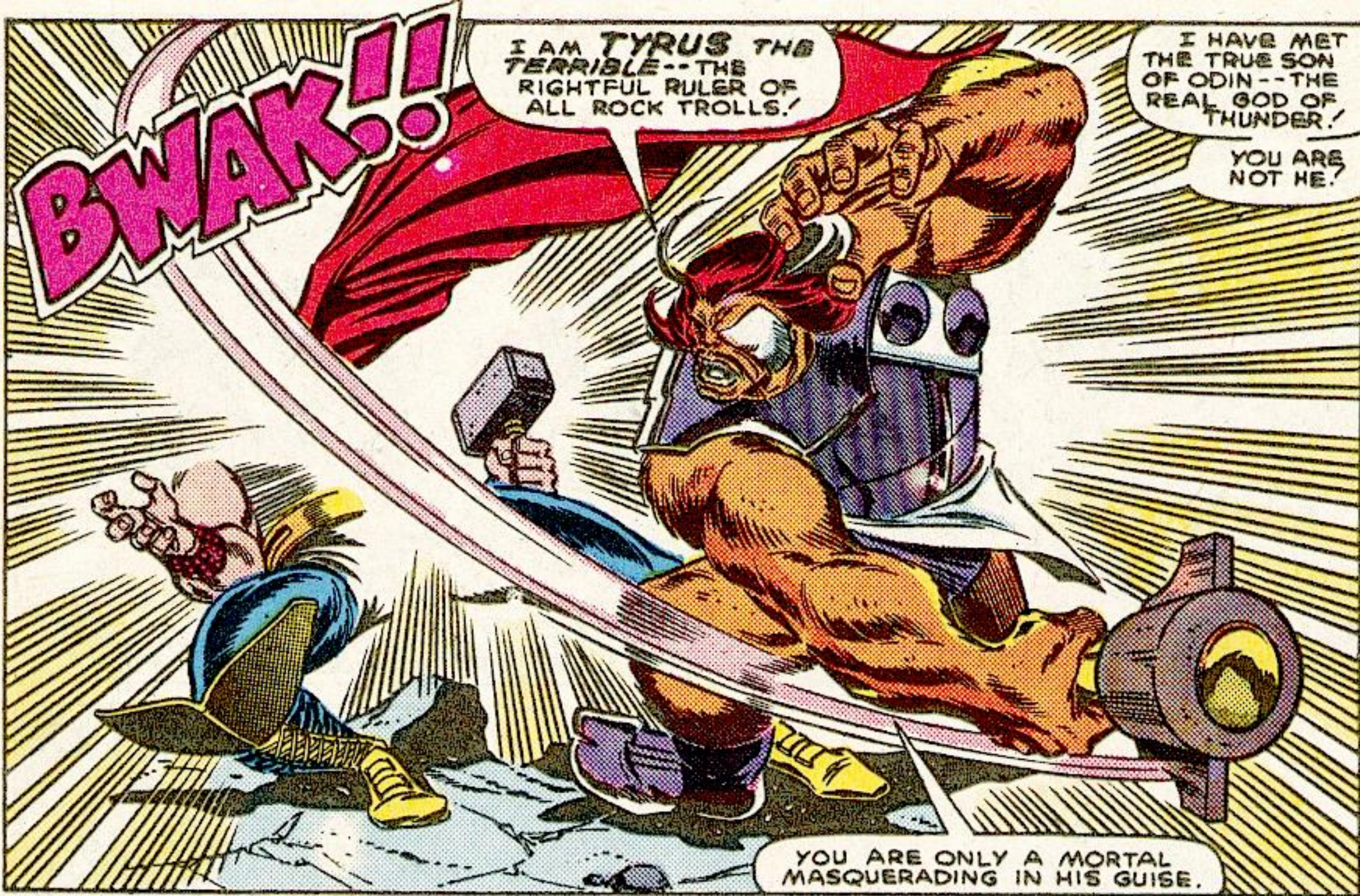
JUST AS YOU WILL
NO LONGER THREATEN
MY PEOPLE!

PWOOM!!



YOU ARE QUITE AN
IMPRESSIVE LITTLE MAN
...FOR AN IMPOSTOR!

WHAT?
WHO
DARES-?!

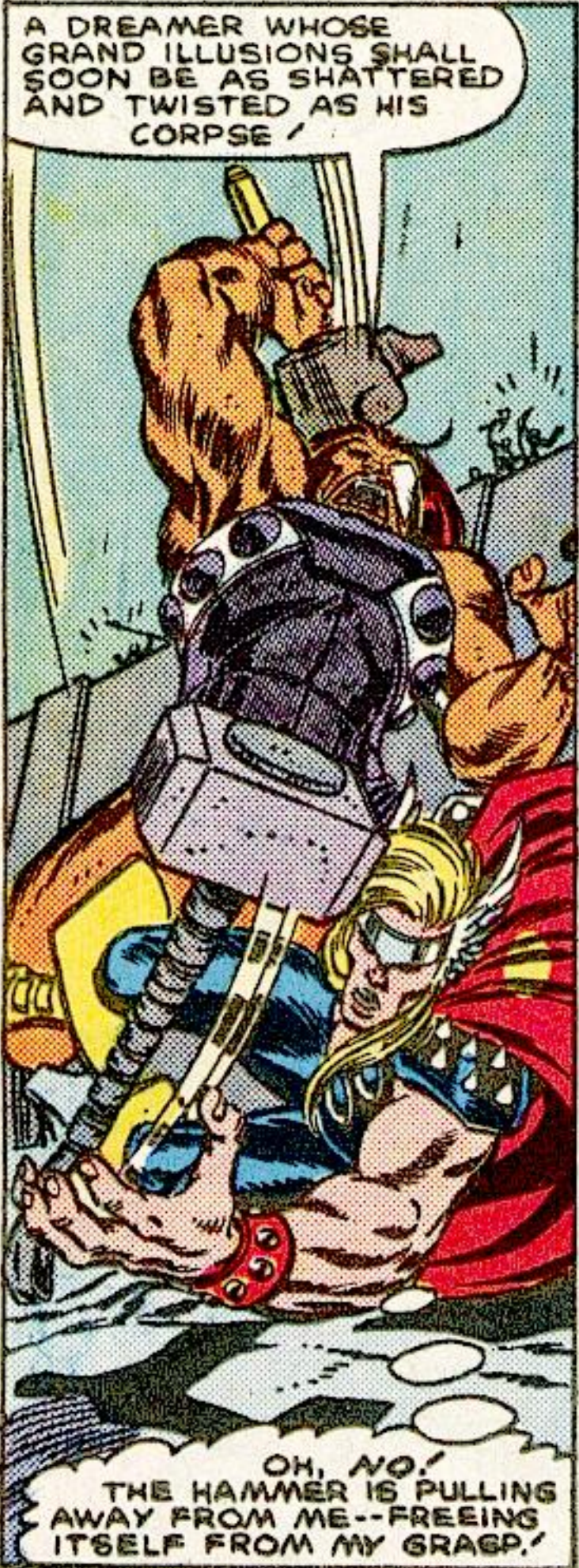


I AM TYRUS THE TERRIBLE--THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF ALL ROCK TROLLS!

I HAVE MET THE TRUE SON OF ODIN--THE REAL GOD OF THUNDER!

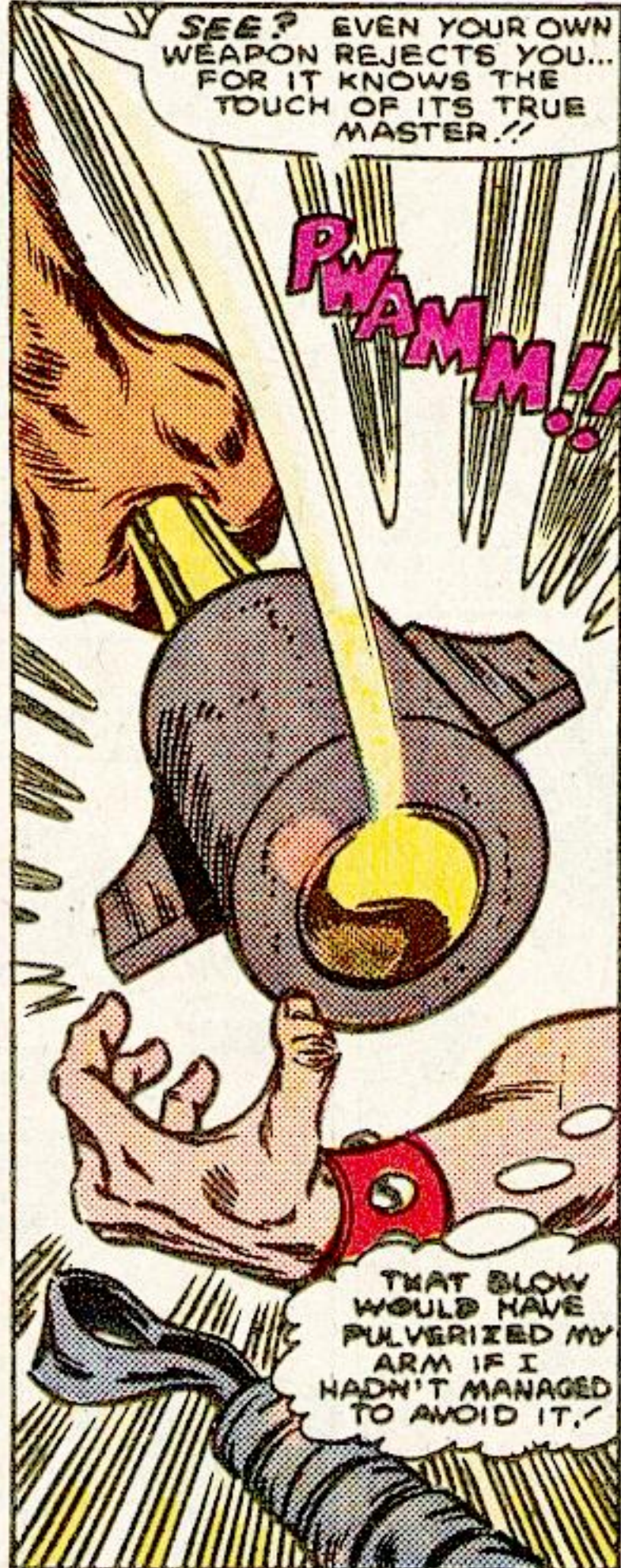
YOU ARE NOT HE!

YOU ARE ONLY A MORTAL MASQUERADING IN HIS GUISE.



A DREAMER WHOSE GRAND ILLUSIONS SHALL SOON BE AS SHATTERED AND TWISTED AS HIS CORPSE!

OH, NO! THE HAMMER IS PULLING AWAY FROM ME--FREEING ITSELF FROM MY GRASP!



SEE? EVEN YOUR OWN WEAPON REJECTS YOU... FOR IT KNOWS THE TOUCH OF ITS TRUE MASTER!!

PWAMM!!!

THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE PULVERIZED MY ARM IF I HADN'T MANAGED TO AVOID IT!



YOU'RE RIGHT, TYRUS! I'M NOT THE REAL THOR... BUT I DO POSSESS HIS POWER... AND I'M CERTAIN THAT'S ALL I'LL NEED TO FLATTEN A WINDBAG LIKE YOU!

WHOMP!

EUGENE

WHERE IS THE TRUE THUNDER GOD? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!

HE IS IN A PLACE WHERE NONE CAN REACH HIM!

AND, WITHOUT THE AID OF HIS MIGHTY URU HAMMER, HE CANNOT FREE HIMSELF!

THAT IS WHY CRAFTY LOKI AND I HAVE SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT THE HAMMER THROUGH THE CENTURIES! TO PREVENT IT FROM EVER RETURNING TO HIM!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, COWARD! RUNNING AWAY WON'T SAVE YOU FROM MY VENGEANCE!

YOUR MISERABLE LIFE IS ALREADY FORFEIT! MORTALS MUST PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE WHENEVER THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO INTERFERE IN AN AFFAIR OF GODS!

THE HAMMER--! IF ONLY I CAN REACH IT BEFORE HE RENEWS HIS ATTACK!

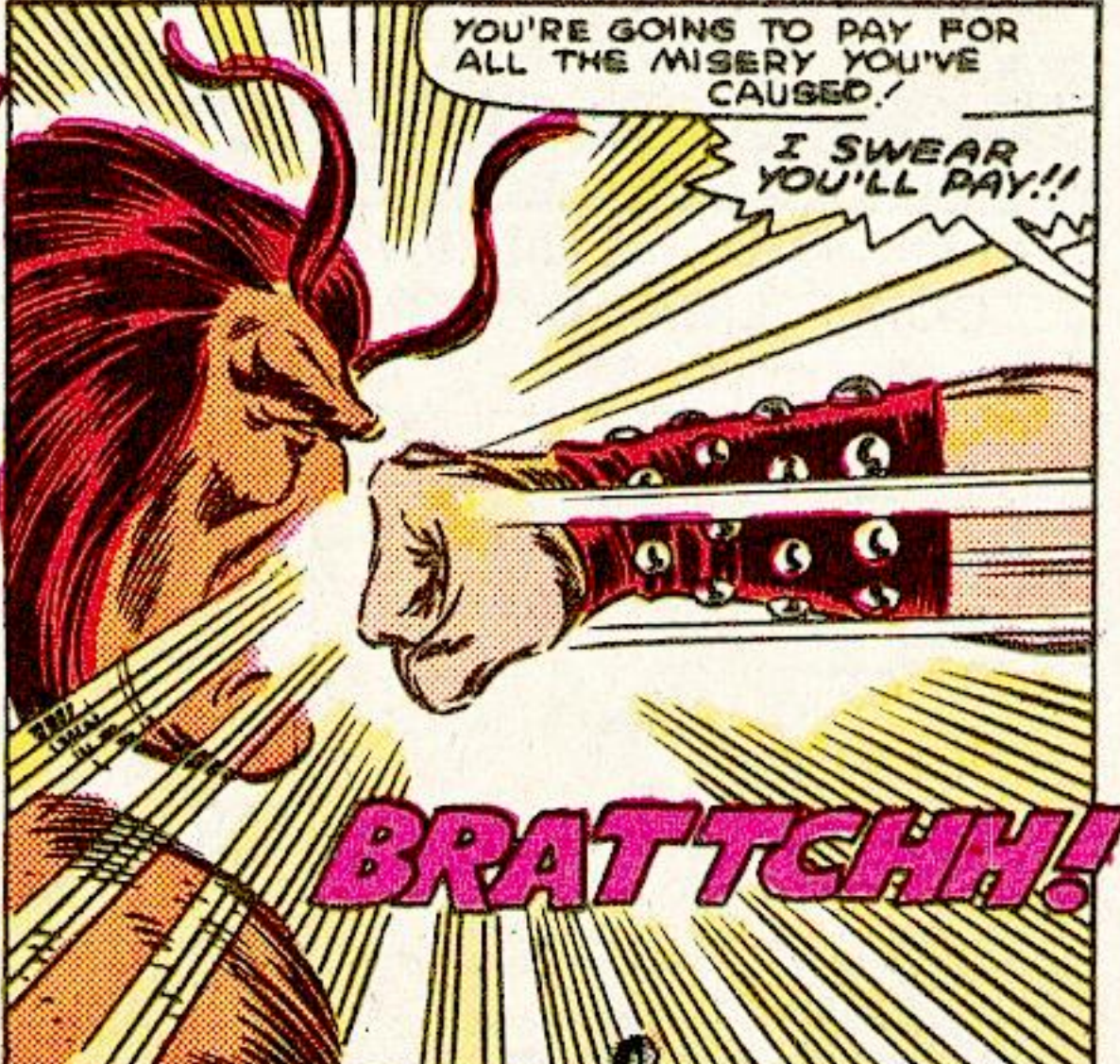
GOT IT! BUT, WILL IT OBEY ME--OR TRY TO ESCAPE AGAIN?

I'VE GOT A FLASH FOR YOU, TYRUS--GODS HAVE NO BUSINESS BUTTING INTO THE AFFAIRS OF MORTALS, EITHER!

BRAKA!!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SIDED WITH THE CORP! SHOULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED MY PEOPLE!

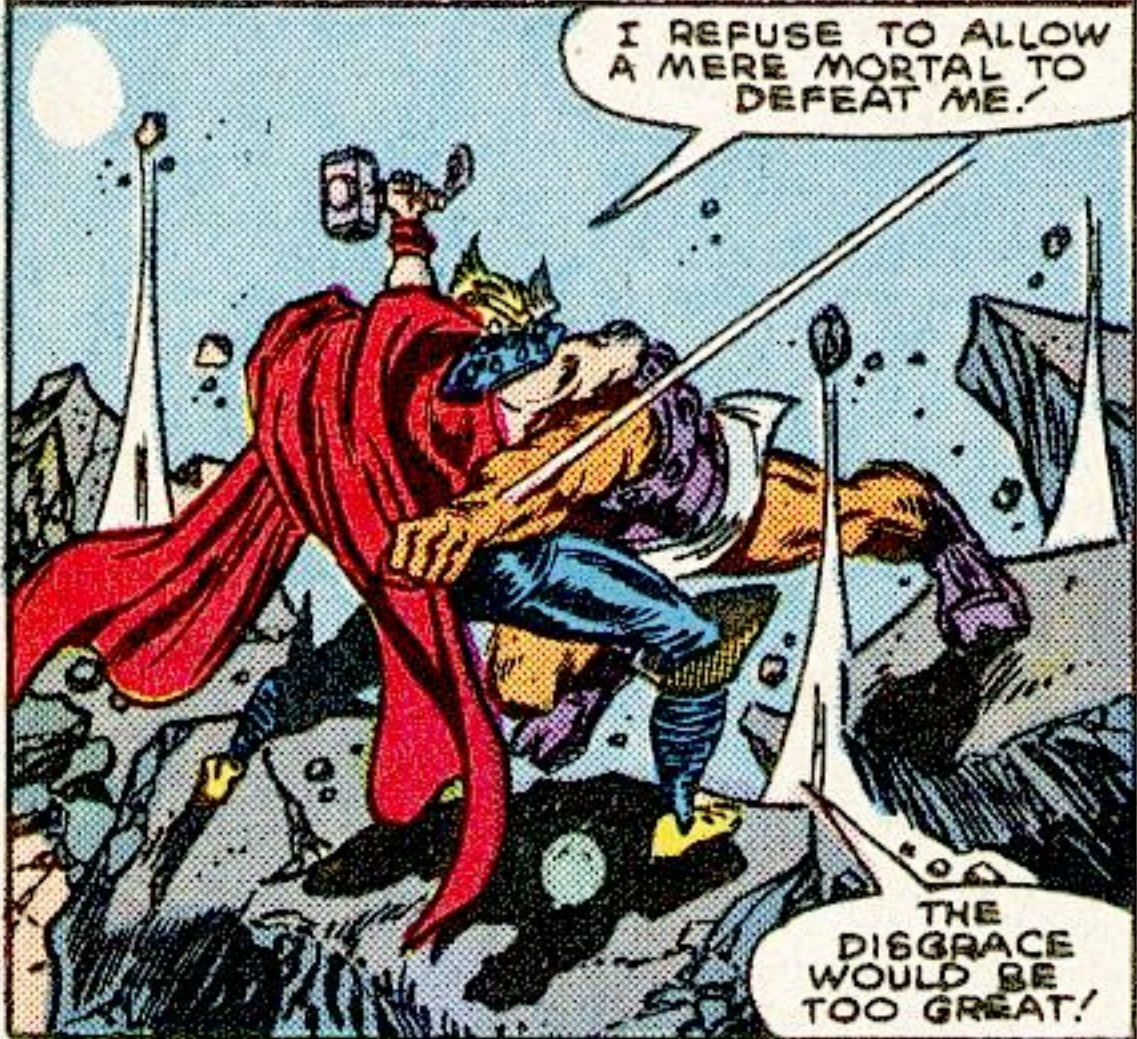


YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR ALL THE MISERY YOU'VE CAUSED!

I SWEAR YOU'LL PAY!!

BRATTCHH!

DESPERATE, DRIVEN BY PAIN AND FURY, TYRUS SUDDENLY SPRINGS FORWARD...



I REFUSE TO ALLOW A MERE MORTAL TO DEFEAT ME!

THE DISGRACE WOULD BE TOO GREAT!



SO POWERFUL IS THE FORCE OF TYRUS'S ON-SLAUGHT THAT IT CAUSES THE VERY PAVEMENT TO COLLAPSE BENEATH THE TWO WARRIORS!

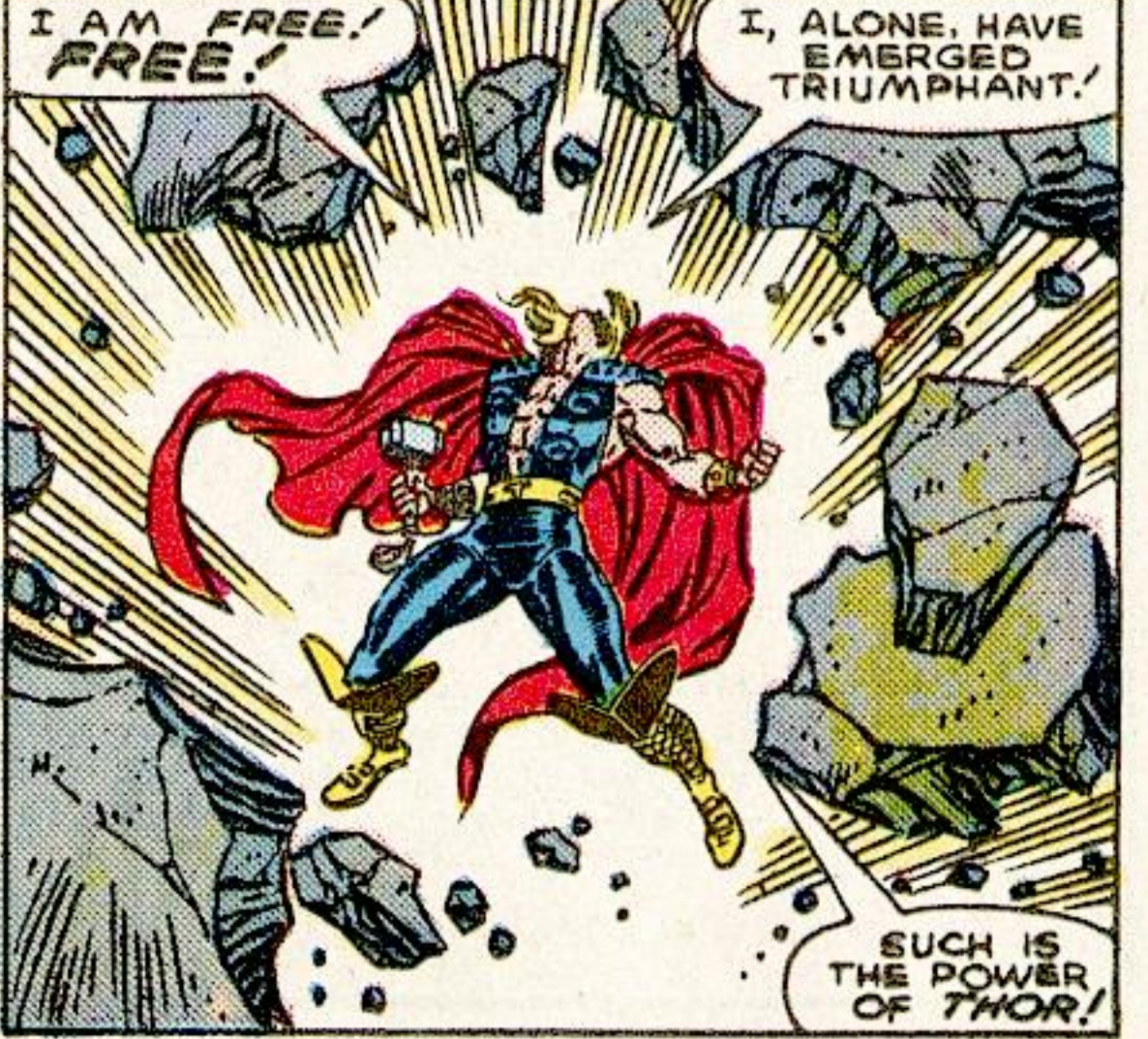
DOWN, DOWN, THEY PLUMMET--

--UNTIL THEY ARE BOTH LOST BENEATH TONS OF CONCRETE DEBRIS!



FOR AN INCREDIBLY LONG MOMENT, ALL IS SILENT...

THEN, THE RUBBLE SUDDENLY EXPLODES UPWARD WITH A CRASH OF THUNDER...



I AM FREE!
FREE!

I, ALONE, HAVE EMERGED TRIUMPHANT!

SUCH IS THE POWER OF THOR!

MEANWHILE, AT CORP HEADQUARTERS...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?!

THOSE STUPID SLACKERS ARE SETTING FIRE TO MY FACTORIES-- DESTROYING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT!

MY COMPUTERS HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED ENOUGH DAMAGE TO DRIVE ME INTO TOTAL BANKRUPTCY!

I'M RUINED! I CAN NEVER HOPE TO RECOVER FROM SUCH MONUMENTAL LOSSES!

WHERE IS TYRUS? WHY DOESN'T HE CONTACT ME?

WHAT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY GONE WRONG?

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT--AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT!

WE'RE TALKING MAJOR LAWSUIT, MY FRIEND!

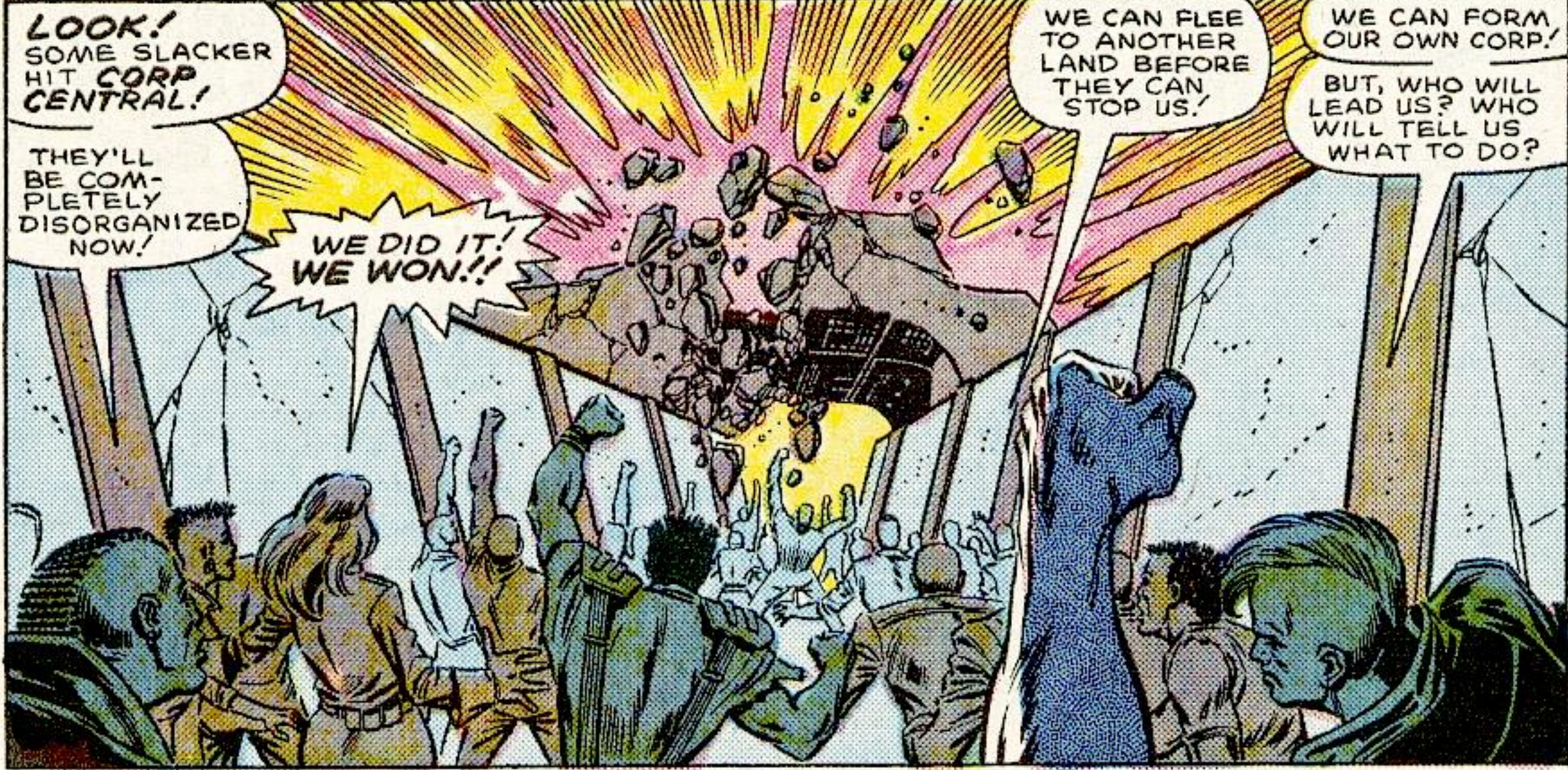
AFTER ALL WE DID HAVE A CONTRACT!

THAT CONTRACT IS NOW VOID, MORTAL--

--AS IS YOUR VERY LIFE!

KAR-

BAM!!



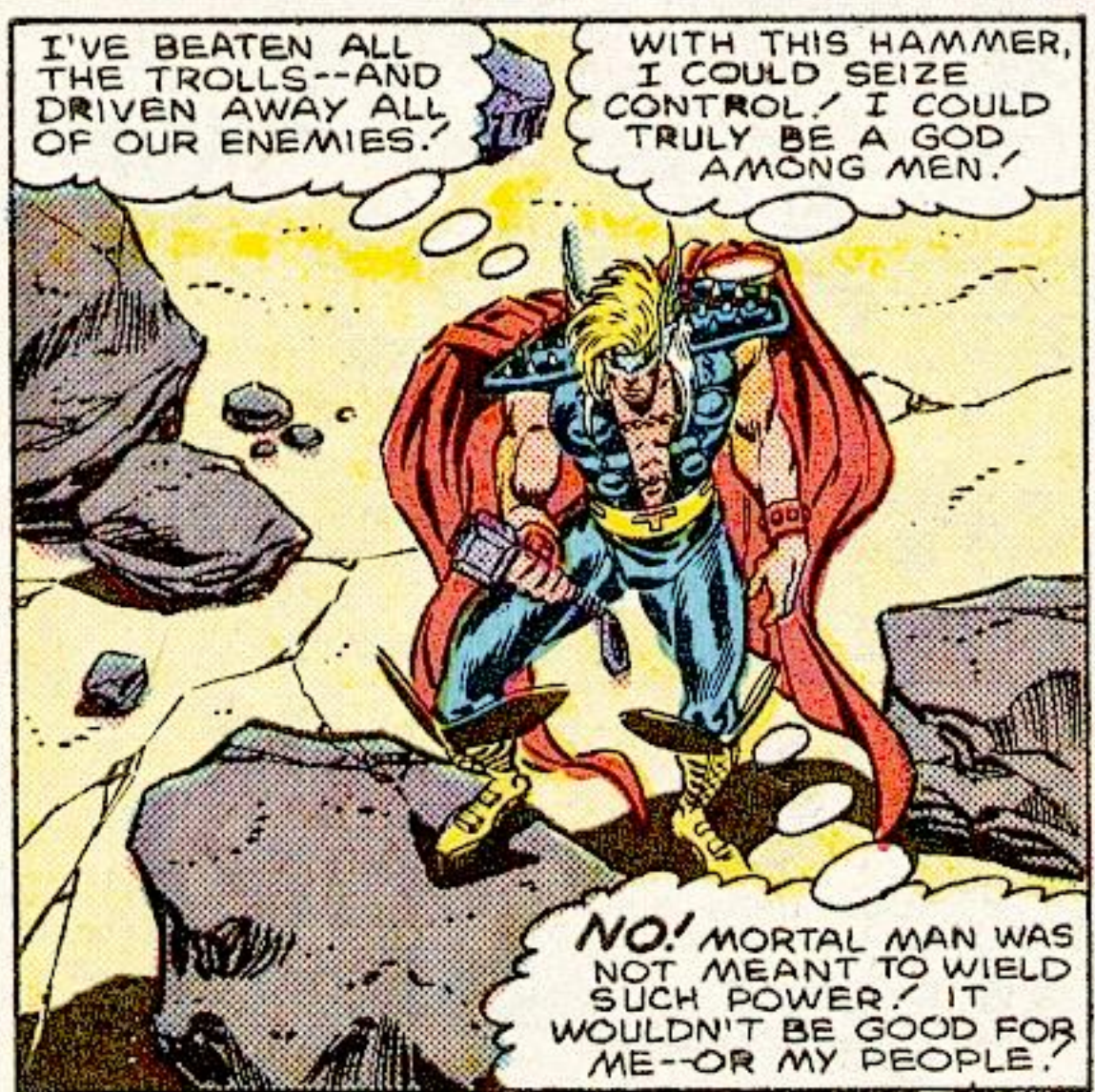
LOOK!
SOME SLACKER
HIT CORP
CENTRAL!

THEY'LL
BE COM-
PLETELY
DISORGANIZED
NOW!

WE DID IT!
WE WON!!

WE CAN FLEE
TO ANOTHER
LAND BEFORE
THEY CAN
STOP US!

WE CAN FORM
OUR OWN CORP!
BUT, WHO WILL
LEAD US? WHO
WILL TELL US
WHAT TO DO?



I'VE BEATEN ALL
THE TROLLS--AND
DRIVEN AWAY ALL
OF OUR ENEMIES!

WITH THIS HAMMER,
I COULD SEIZE
CONTROL! I COULD
TRULY BE A GOD
AMONG MEN!

NO! MORTAL MAN WAS
NOT MEANT TO WIELD
SUCH POWER! IT
WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR
ME--OR MY PEOPLE!



THIS HAMMER BELONGS TO
ANOTHER--ONE WHO DESPERATELY
NEEDS IT--ACCORDING
TO TYRUS!

I MUST RETURN
IT! NOW! BEFORE
I AM TEMPTED
TO KEEP IT
FOREVER!

WHIRLING THE HAMMER
AT A SPEED WHICH
DEFIES DESCRIPTION,
THE YOUNG WARRIOR
SHATTERS THE BARRIERS
WHICH SEPARATE THE
DIMENSIONAL PLANES --



--AND OPENS A MYSTIC GATEWAY INTO A
DISTANT, MIND-STAGGERING REALM!

GO! RETURN
TO YOUR TRUE
MASTER!

SOMEHOW I
SENSE THAT THIS
PATHWAY WILL
LEAD YOU TO HIM!



WILL IT EVER REACH
THE REAL GOD OF
THUNDER? WILL THE
TRUE THOR BE ABLE
TO SAVE HIMSELF NOW?

I'LL NEVER KNOW!

BUT, I CAN
HOPE...AND
PRAY!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

NO!!



THE HAMMER IS NO LONGER ON THIS PLANE OF REALITY! AFTER ALL THIS TIME, IT HAS FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO RETURN... TO HIM!!

COME, MY DEMON HORDE, I FEAR THAT MY ETERNAL STRUGGLE WITH MY HATED BROTHER IS ABOUT TO RESUME!



WITH A CRACKLE OF ENERGY AND A FLASH OF LIGHT, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF VANISHES! NONE MAY KNOW WHEN HE WILL RETURN!

MEANWHILE...

SALLA! SALLA, I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!

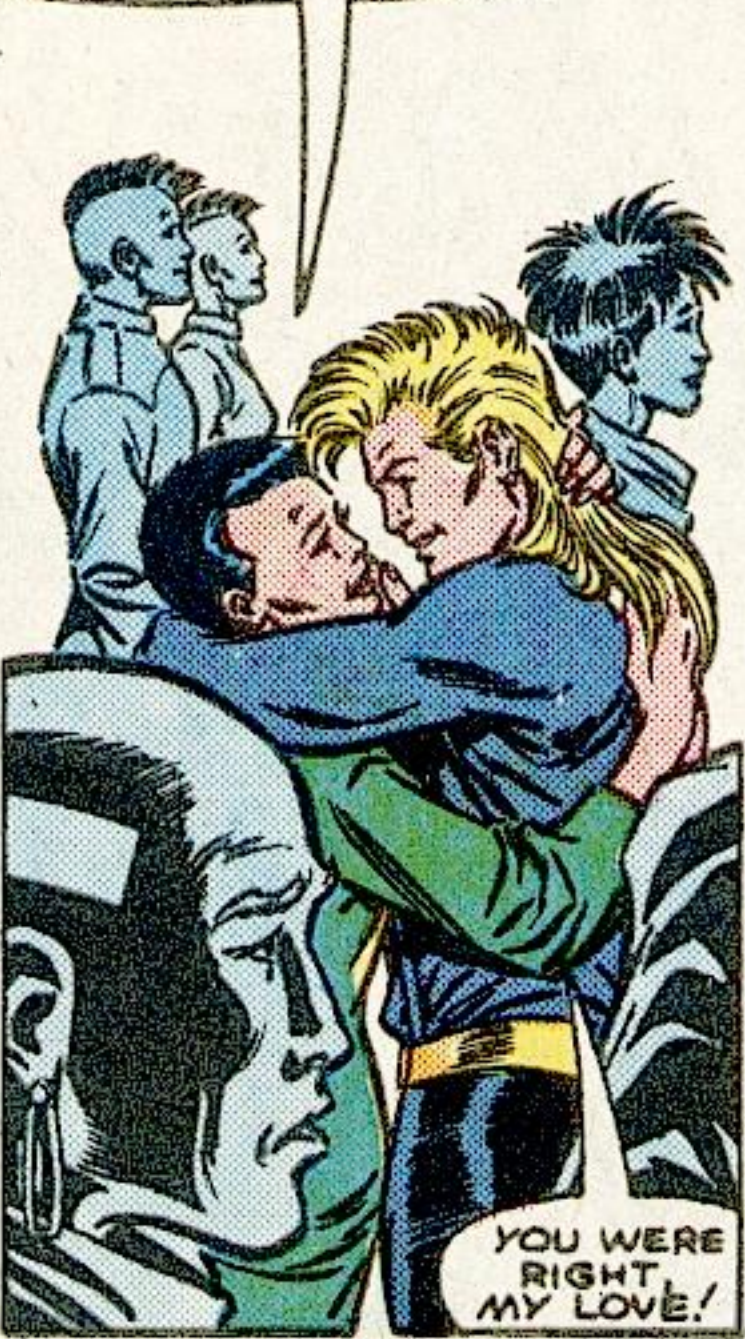
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ALIVE!

DARGO--!



WE DID IT, DARGO! OUR PEOPLE ARE FREE AT LAST!

I TOLD YOU THAT ALL WE NEEDED WAS A LITTLE FAITH!



YOU WERE RIGHT, MY LOVE!

THE CORPORATION IS FINALLY DEAD--BUT, WHAT WILL RISE FROM ITS ASHES?

WHAT WILL BECOME OF OUR PEOPLE NOW?!



THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE!

FREEDOM IS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL -- BUT IT MUST BE CONTINUALLY EARNED AND NURTURED -- AS WELL AS CHERISHED -- OR IT WILL DIE!

WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE TODAY -- A **SECOND CHANCE!** PERHAPS, WE CAN LEARN FROM OUR PAST MISTAKES.

PERHAPS, FINALLY, WE CAN PROVE OURSELVES WORTHY...

THE END