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# THOR

The mighty

**THE FALL  
OF THE  
MUTANTS  
IS COMING!**

**WHEN  
WARRIORS  
CLASH!**

FRENZ & BREEDING

STAN LEE PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

**WUNED**  
**WARRIORS**  
**CLASH!**

THOR, LORD OF THUNDER

VS.

LEIR, LORD OF LIGHTNING!

YOU CAN AVOID ME NO LONGER, MIGHTY THOR!

THY TIME IS COME!

AT LAST!  
AT LONG LAST!  
YOU MUST FEEL  
THE RAZOR-SHARP  
CARESS OF TARGO  
THE TROLL!

SPECTACULAR SCRIPTING BY TWO-FISTED TOM DEFALCO!  
PRODIGIOUS PENCILING BY RAMBLING RON FRENZ!  
INCREDIBLE INKING BY BASHFUL BRETT BREEDING!  
LAVISH LETTERING BY JIVING JOHN WORKMAN, JR.!!  
CAPTIVATING COLORS BY PRINCELY PAUL BECTON!  
ELECTRIFYING EDITING BY RODENT RALPH MACCHIO!



HE'S RIGHT, MY FRIEND!

THE BEARD MUST GO!

AYE.

...EVEN THOUGH IT DOES ADD A CERTAIN NOBILITY TO THY OTHERWISE SOUR COUNTENANCE...

...YOU HAVE ALWAYS GROUDED OF ITS ITCHINESS.

BESIDES, YOU ONLY GREW IT TO COVER THE HIDEOUS SCARS YOU RECEIVED IN BATTLE!

YOU DON'T NEED IT--

--NOW THAT HELA, THE DEATH GODDESS, HAS RECENTLY HEALED ALL OF YOUR WOUNDS!\*

\*SEE ISSUE 382 --RALF-ETH



BUT, WHAT IF HER HEALING TOUCH DID NOT EXTEND TO MY FACE?

YOU HAVE FACED MANY HORRORS, MY FRIEND!

PERHAPS, 'TIS TIME YOU FACED YOURSELF!

RARELY DO YOU SPEAK, HOGUN ... BUT ALWAYS DO YOUR WORDS RING WITH TRUTH!



AND SO...

HOLD STILL, BLAST YOU!

IF MY RAZOR SHOULD SLIP--

--YOUR FRIENDS-- THE WARRIORS THREE-- WILL QUICKLY RELIEVE MY SHOULDERS OF THE BURDEN OF CARRYING MY HEAD!



AT LAST!

TARGO HAS COMPLETED HIS TASK! WHAT THINK YOU OF THE RESULT?

YOUR FACE-- IT IS EVEN MORE HORRIBLE THAN I REMEMBERED!

I FEAR THAT WOMEN WILL SOON BE SWOONING AT THE SIGHT OF IT!



THE HAPPINESS IN YOUR EYES DOETH BELIE THE GRIMNESS OF YOUR WORDS, MY FRIENDS!

MY FACE HAS HEALED!

I AM WHOLE, AGAIN!

MINUTES LATER, ON THE STREETS OF FABLED ASGARD, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY NORSE GODS...

METHINKS A CELEBRATION IS IN ORDER!

LET US RETIRE TO THE NEAREST TAVERN WHERE I WILL ENTHRALL YOU ALL...

...WITH TALES OF MY ADVENTUROUS YOUTH!

IT IS A TEMPTING OFFER, VOLSTAGG, BUT I CANNOT JOIN YOU!

I MUST PREPARE FOR MY LONG JOURNEY BACK TO MIDGARD!\*

\*EARTH. --RALF-ETH AGAIN.

BAH! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ALWAYS RETURN TO THAT INHOSPITABLE LAND OF MORTALS!

AS YOU WELL KNOW, I AM SWORN TO PROTECT ITS INHABITANTS... AND I HAVE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG!

WAIT, MY LORD! ASGARD ALSO HATH NEED OF THEE!

I HAVE RECENTLY HEARD RUMORS OF A MONSTROUS BEAST WHICH IS TERRORIZING THE NORTHERN COUNTIES!

WHO BETTER THAN WE FOUR SHOULD HUNT IT DOWN?

SO BE IT, FANDRAL!

WE SHALL EMBARK ON THIS ONE, FINAL QUEST--

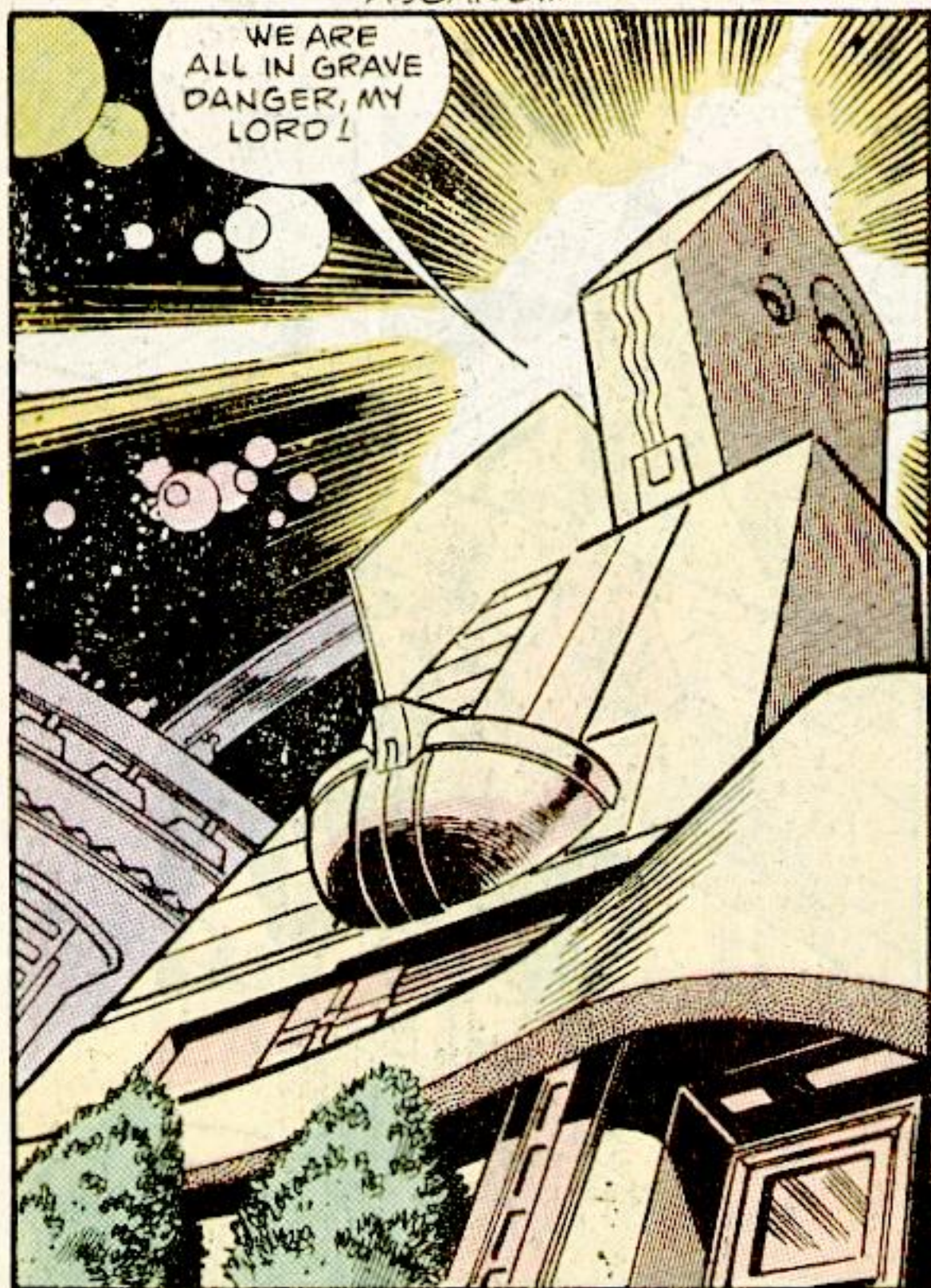
--BEFORE I MUST JOURNEY HENCE!

FOR THE HONOR AND GLORY OF ASGARD!

AYE, AND LET US NOT FORGET THE SIMPLE JOY OF IT ALL!

I, MYSELF, SHALL PACK THE ALE!

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN THE GREAT HALL OF **BALDER THE BRAVE**, RULER OF ALL ASGARD...



WE ARE ALL IN GRAVE DANGER, MY LORD!

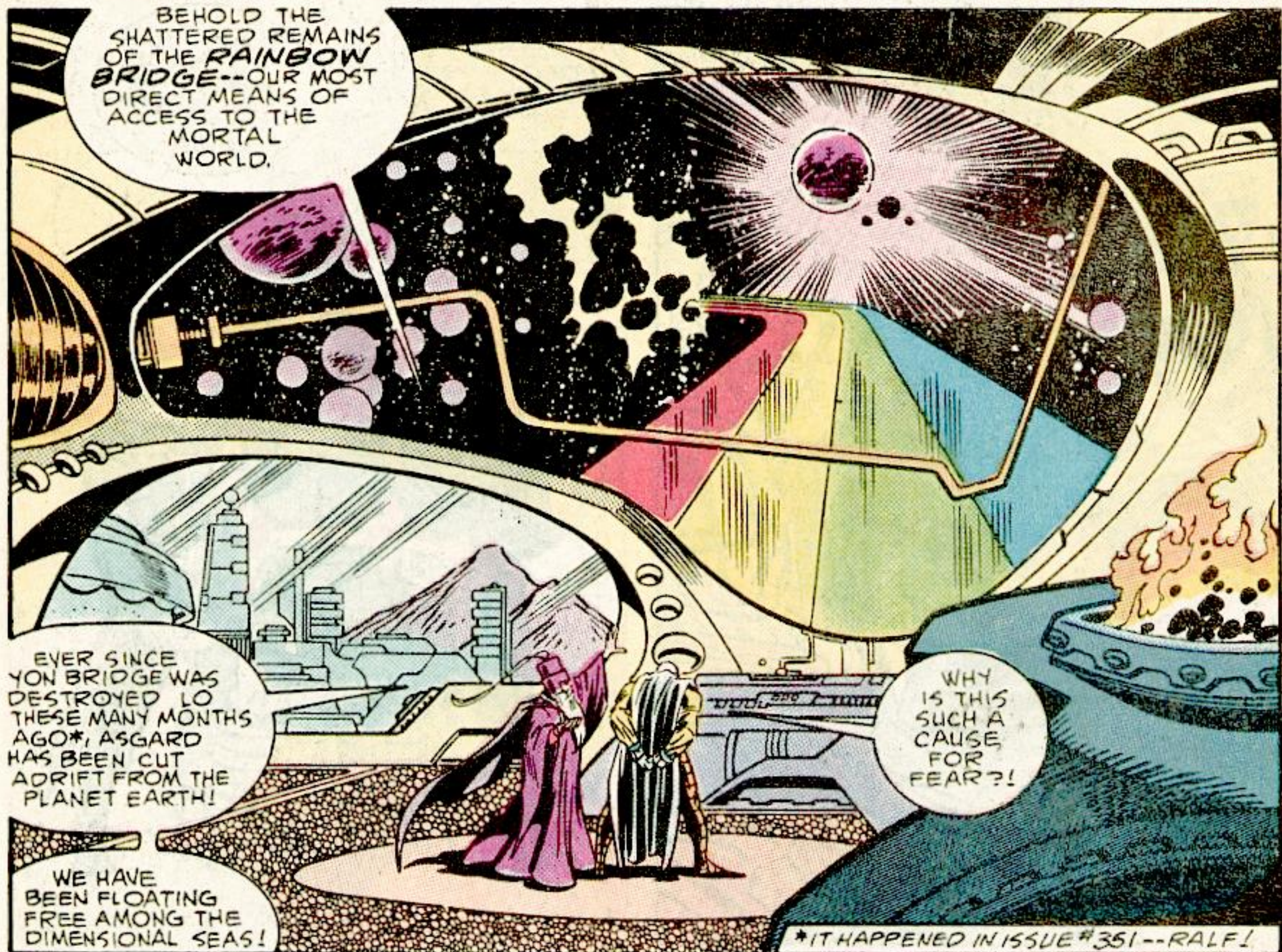
SPEAK TO ME, MY GRAND VIZIER!

TELL ME OF THIS PERIL MOST DIRE THAT DOETH THREATEN OUR ETERNAL REALM!

THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK LIE BEFORE YOU, GENTLE BALDER!



THEY ARE DEEP WITHIN THE EYE OF THE ALL-SEEING ENCHANTO-SCAN!



BEHOLD THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THE **RAINBOW BRIDGE**--OUR MOST DIRECT MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE MORTAL WORLD.

EVER SINCE YON BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED LO THESE MANY MONTHS AGO\*, ASGARD HAS BEEN CUT ADRIFT FROM THE PLANET EARTH!

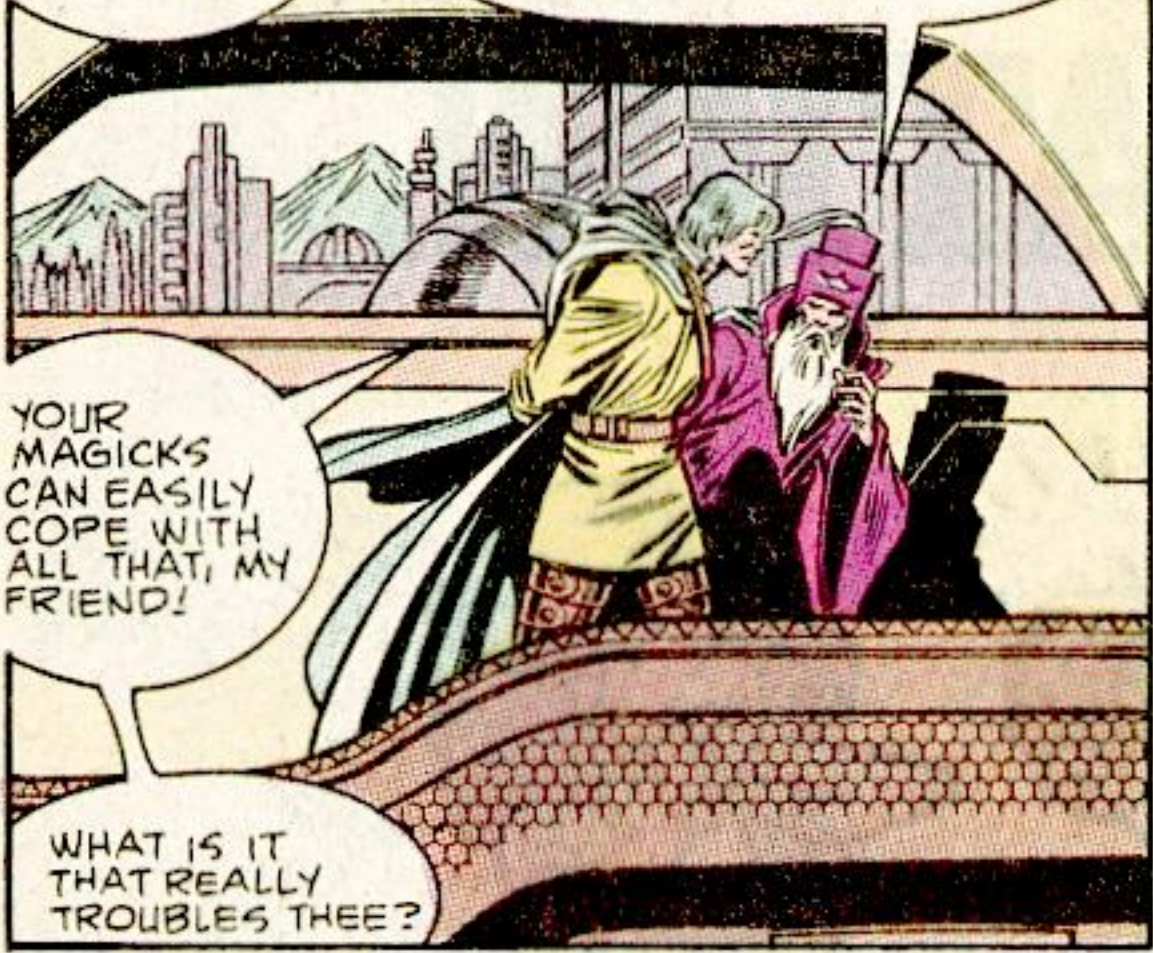
WE HAVE BEEN FLOATING FREE AMONG THE DIMENSIONAL SEAS!

WHY IS THIS SUCH A CAUSE FOR FEAR?!

\*IT HAPPENED IN ISSUE #351--RALF!

THE VERY STABILITY OF OUR LAND IS IN JEOPARDY!

EARTHQUAKES! VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS! AND ALL MANNER OF GEOLOGICAL UPHEAVALS COULD RESULT FROM THIS CONSTANT DRIFTING!



YOUR MAGICKS CAN EASILY COPE WITH ALL THAT, MY FRIEND!

WHAT IS IT THAT REALLY TROUBLES THEE?

I HAVE RECENTLY DETECTED CERTAIN DIMENSIONAL RIFTS--

--WHICH HAVE BEGUN APPEARING THROUGHOUT OUR BELOVED REALM!



OPENINGS INTO OTHER PLANES OF REALITY!



WHO KNOWS WHAT MANNER OF UNKNOWN CREATURE MIGHT--

"--EVENTUALLY STUMBLE THROUGH ONE OF THESE OPENINGS?"



AT LAST! YOU HAVE RETURNED!



I BRING YOU NEWS, MASTER!

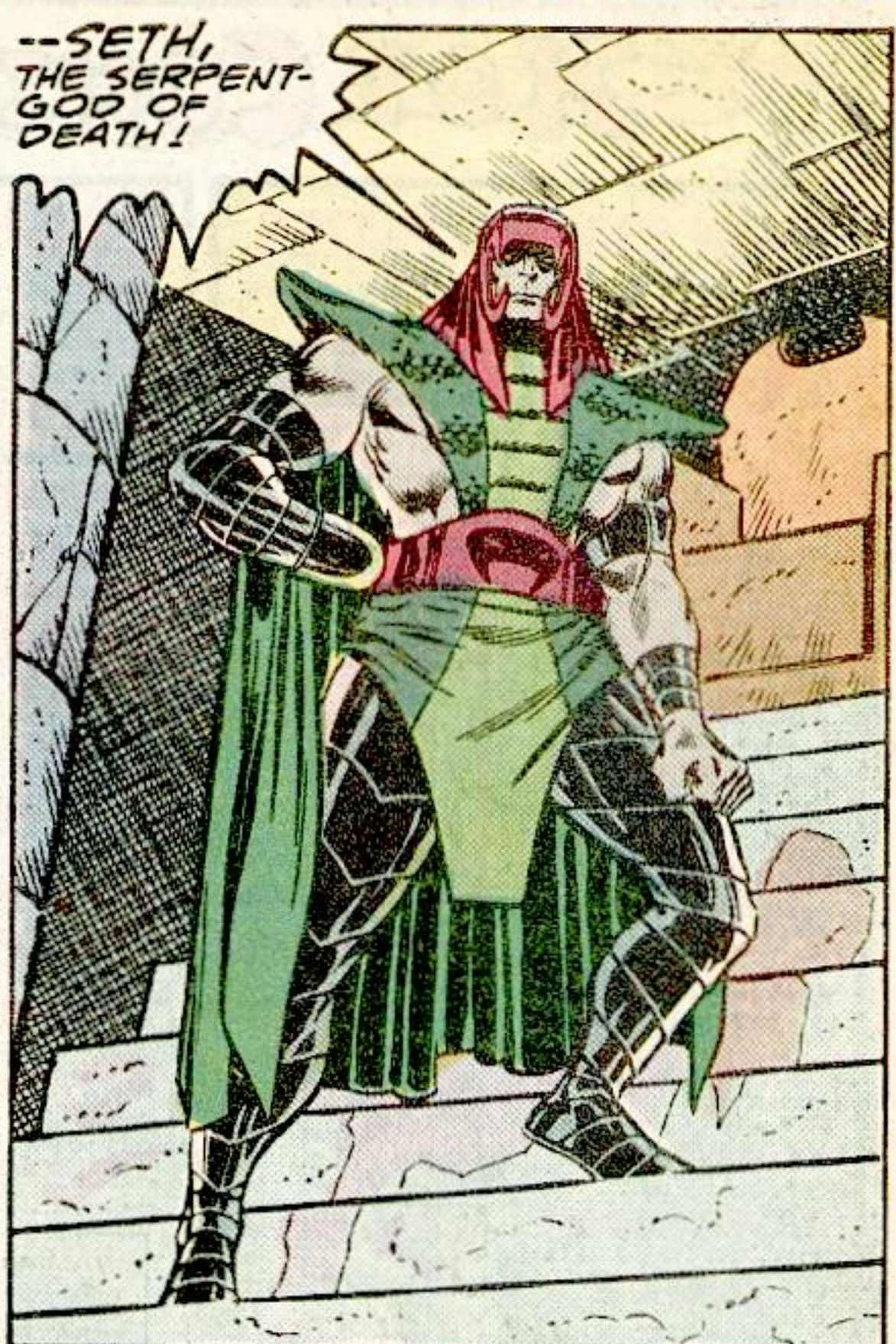
NEWS OF OUR ASGARDIAN ENEMIES!



THEY KNOW, MASTER! THE ASGARDIANS HAVE LEARNED OF THE DIMENSIONAL RIFTS!

THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL NOT SAVE THEM, MY SWEET.

NOTHING CAN SPARE THEM FROM THE WRATH OF--



--SETH, THE SERPENT-GOD OF DEATH!



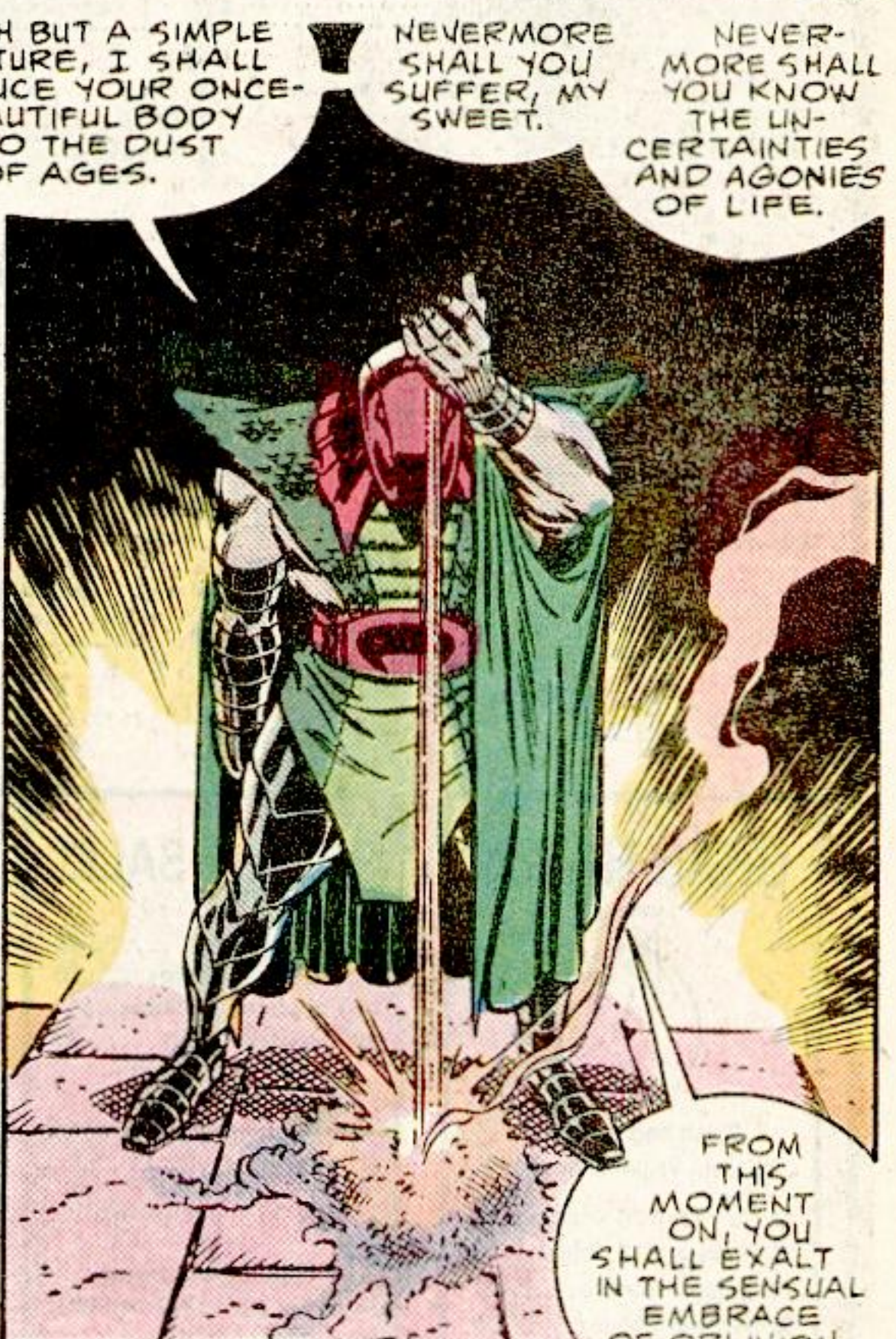
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY SWEET. YOU DESERVE A REWARD.

I WILL GRANT YOU THE GREATEST GIFT THAT IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO BESTOW.

WITH BUT A SIMPLE GESTURE, I SHALL REDUCE YOUR ONCE-BEAUTIFUL BODY INTO THE DUST OF AGES.

NEVERMORE SHALL YOU SUFFER, MY SWEET.

NEVERMORE SHALL YOU KNOW THE UNCERTAINTIES AND AGONIES OF LIFE.



FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU SHALL EXALT IN THE SENSUAL EMBRACE OF OBLIVION.

MEANWHILE, FAR TO THE NORTH,  
FOUR VALIANT WARRIORS  
RIDE IN SEARCH OF  
ADVENTURE...

THE MIND-STAGGERING  
POWER OF VOLSTAGG  
THE MAGNIFICENT  
YEARNS TO BE HURLED  
AGAINST IT!

WHERE IS THIS  
MONSTROUS BEAST  
THAT DARES RAVAGE  
OUR BELOVED  
COUNTRYSIDE?



THE MERE SIGHT OF MY  
IMPRESSIVE FRAME WILL  
SURELY CAUSE THIS COWARDLY  
CREATURE TO FLEE OUR  
LAND IN ABJECT TERROR!

AYE,  
ENORMOUS  
ONE, TERROR OF  
THY LEGENDARY  
APPETITE!

BE SILENT, MY  
FRIENDS! THE TIME  
FOR SENSELESS  
PRATTLE HATH  
PASSED!

BEHOLD  
THE GRIM  
SIGHT THAT  
DOETH GREET  
US!

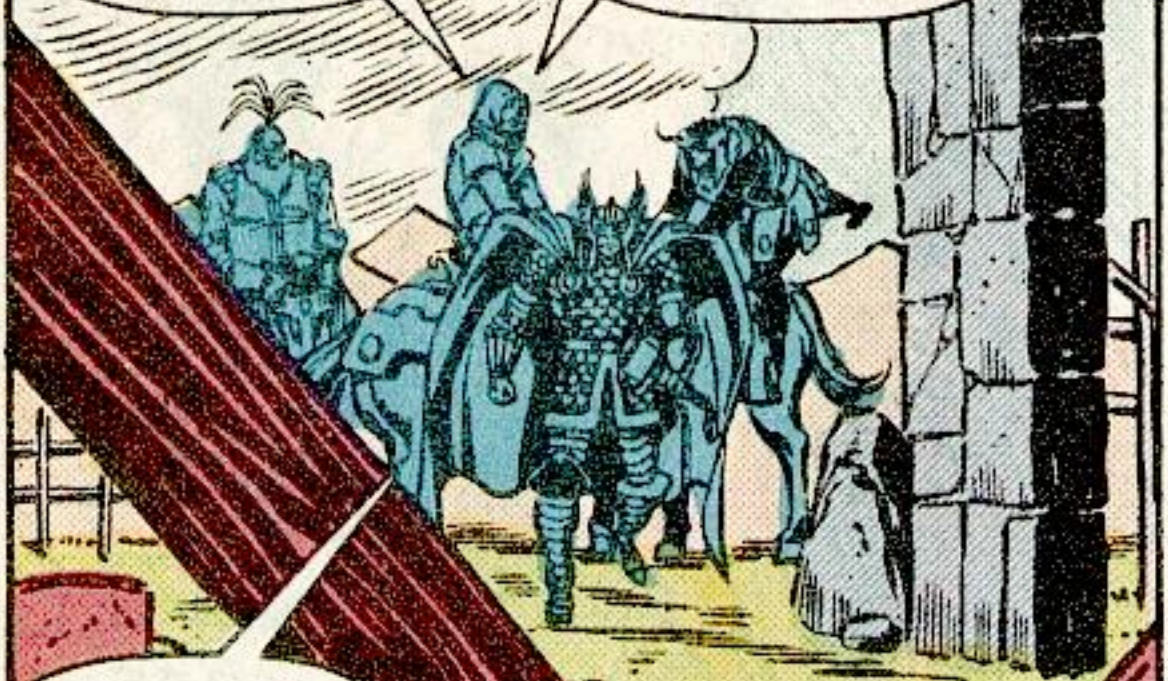


METHINKS THE  
BEAST HATH  
ALREADY  
PASSED THIS  
WAY!



WHAT MANNER OF  
CREATURE COULD  
HAVE CAUSED SUCH  
UTTER  
DESTRUCTION?

AND WHERE IS THE  
HUMBLE FAMILY THAT  
ONCE DWELLED IN  
THIS SIMPLE  
FARMHOUSE?



I FEAR THAT  
THE ANSWERS TO  
YOUR QUESTIONS  
WILL NOT BE  
TO OUR LIKING,  
NOBLE FANDRAL!



WYEEEE!

OD'S  
BLOOD!



ACTING INSTINCTIVELY, THE MIGHTY THOR QUICKLY HURLS HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER SKYWARD...

WAIT, MY LORD! WAIT FOR US!

BY THE SOUND OF IT, A LIFE'S IN JEOPARDY!

I DARE NOT TARRY!

THAT SCREAM CAME FROM JUST BEYOND THOSE HILLS!

I PRAY THAT I AM IN TIME TO HELP!

BUT THEN...

GRAAAA!

PWAK!

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN THE LIKE OF SUCH A CREATURE!

WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?!

UGNN!

BRAKATOOON!

UNHAND THAT WOMAN --OR SUFFER THE ETERNAL WRATH OF THOR THE MIGHTY!

BY THE GODS--! THE BEAST DOETH RESIST MY MIGHTIEST BLOWS!

IT'S SPRINGING FORWARD!

SO BE IT! IT SHALL NOT FIND THE GOD OF THUNDER LACKING IN COURAGE, STRENGTH, OR DETERMINATION!

BUT, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...

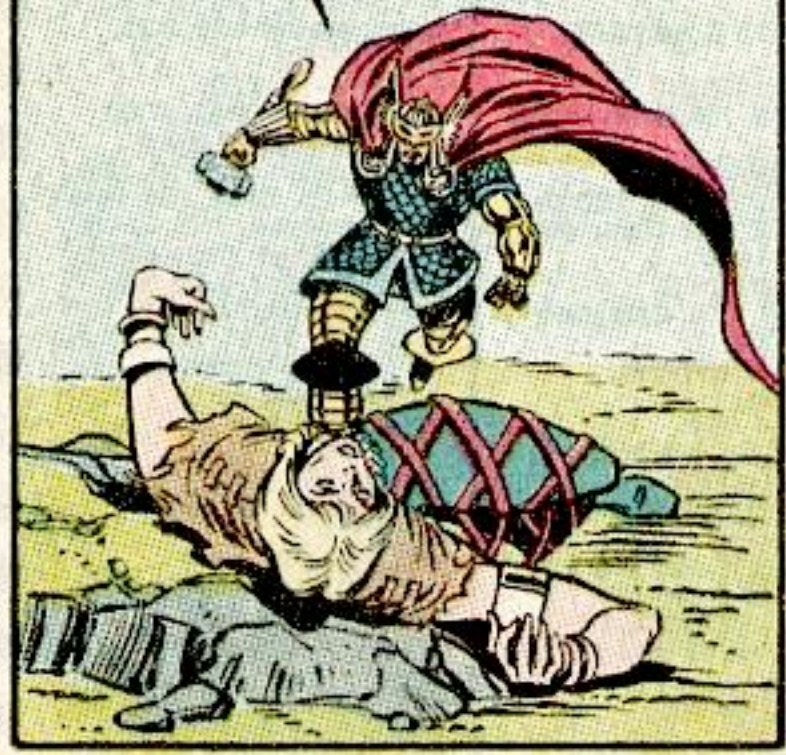
WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!



A MYSTIC PORTAL IS SUDDENLY APPEARING BEFORE THE BEAST! SWALLOWING HIM WHOLE!

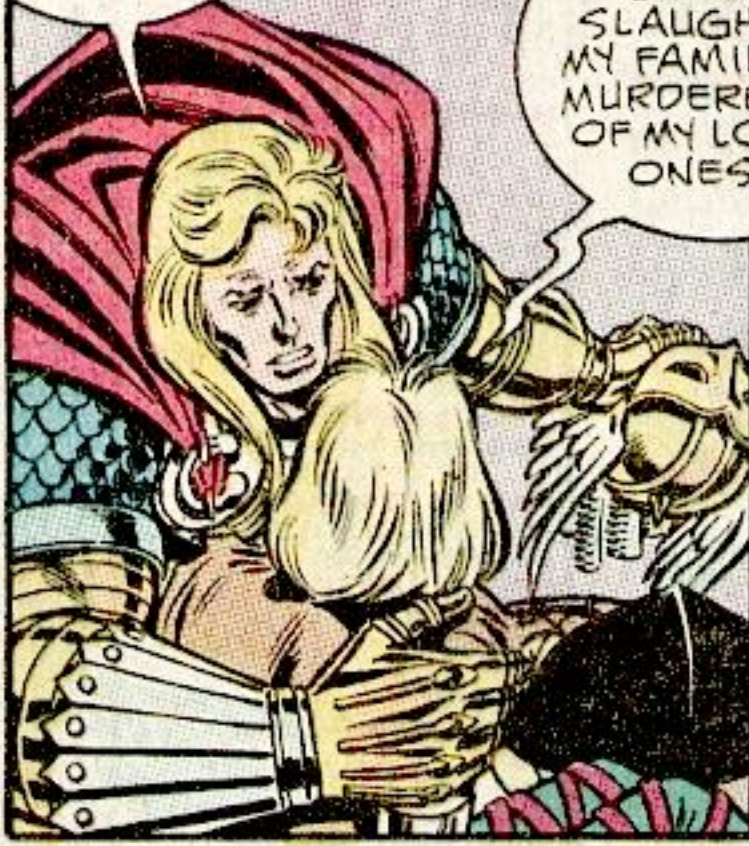
THE CREATURE HAS VANISHED BEFORE MY EYES!

'TIS NO MATTER! I WILL FIND IT AGAIN--AFTER I HAVE SEEN TO ITS INTENDED VICTIM!



REST EASY, MY LADY! THOR WILL GET THEE TO A HEALER, AND--

I--IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE FOR THAT, THUNDER GOD!



T-THE BEAST SLAUGHTERED MY FAMILY! M-MURDERED ALL OF MY LOVED ONES!

T-THEY CALL TO ME NOW, AND I MUST JOIN THEM!

D-DO NOT LET US DIE IN VAIN, MY LORD!



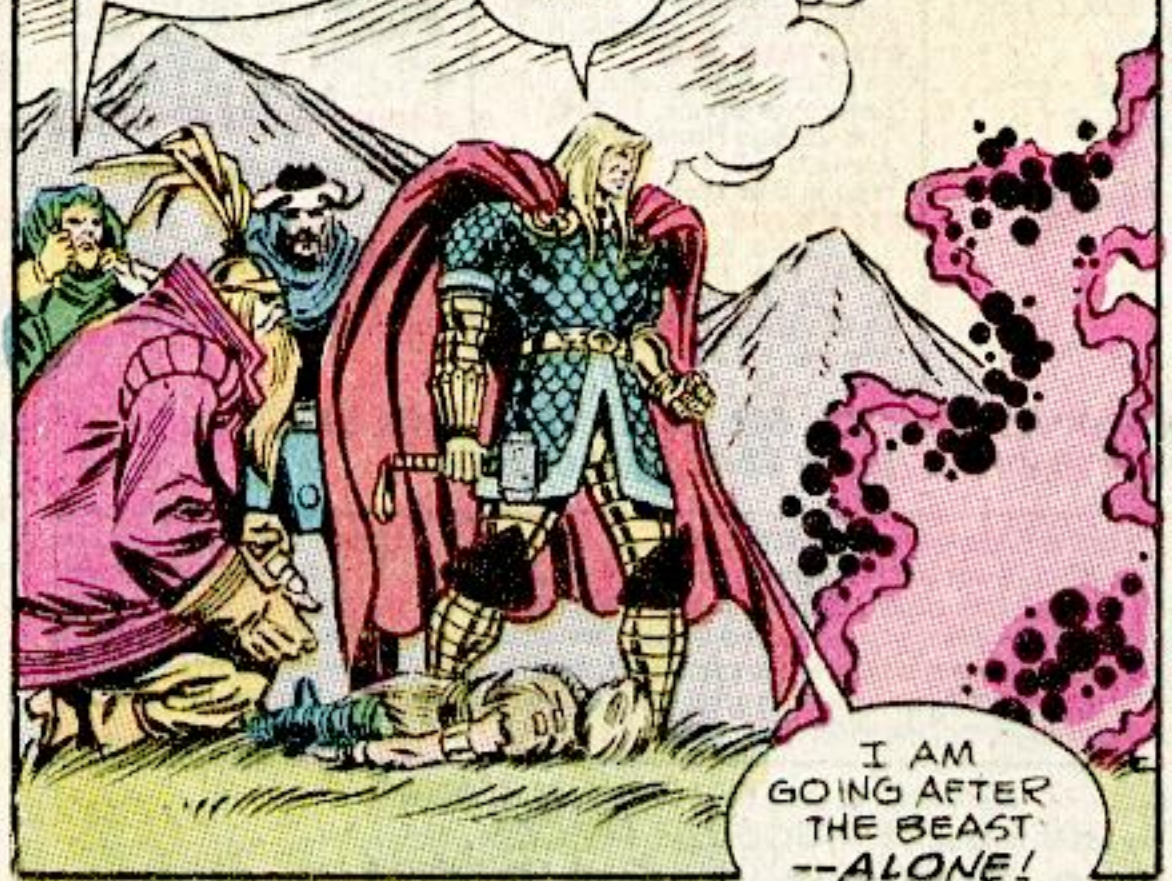
AVENGE US!

AVENGE USSSSSSSSS

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WE FOUND THE REST OF HER FAMILY. THEY DID NOT DIE GENTLY.

SO WAS I TOLD.



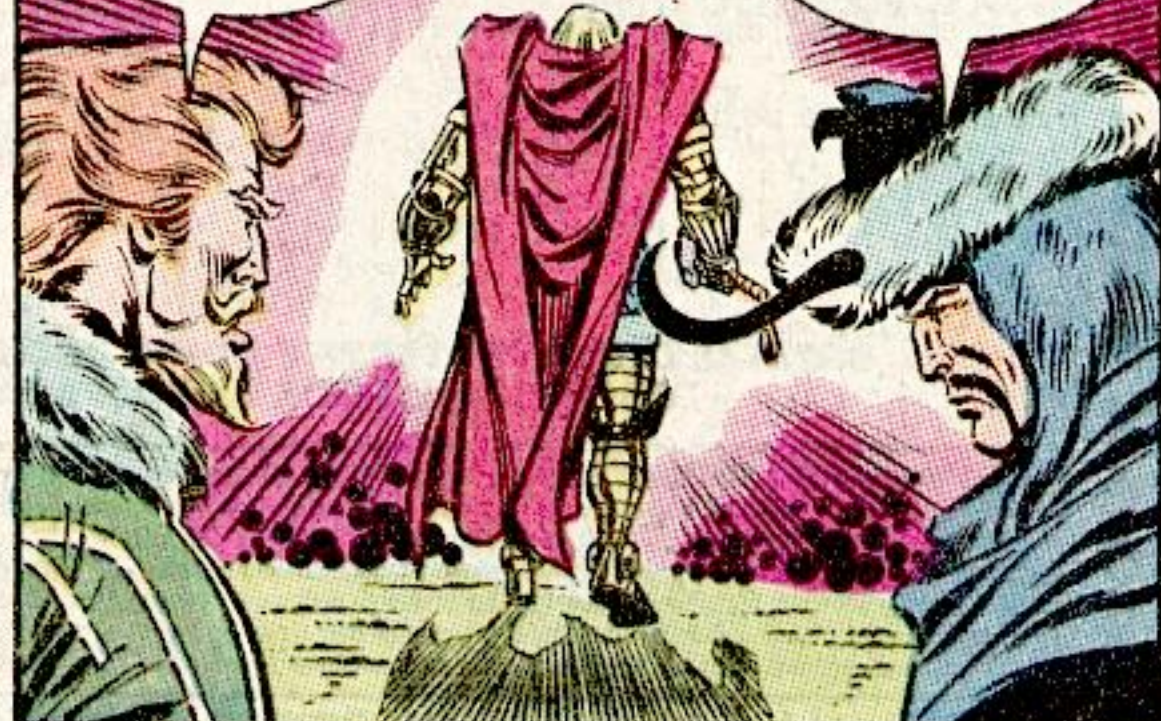
I AM GOING AFTER THE BEAST --ALONE!

ART THOU MAD?! WHO KNOWS WHAT AWAITS THEE BEYOND YOU MYSTIC GATEWAY?

NO! THE BEAST MAY ELUDE ME! YOU THREE MUST REMAIN BEHIND TO PROTECT ASGARD!

LET US ACCOMPANY THEE!

WE WILL DO AS YOU WISH, NOBLE ONE!



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE SON OF ODIN GRIMLY ENTERS THE DIMENSIONAL RIFT...

FOR A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL INSTANT, THE THUNDER GOD IS ASSAULTED BY INTENSE COLD AND LITTE DARKNESS, AND THEN...



I HAVE DONE IT! I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CROSSED THE BARRIER BETWEEN WORLDS!

BUT WHERE AM I? WHAT LAND IS THIS?



I MUST SOAR HIGH ABOVE THIS UNNAMED PLANET UNTIL I CAN SPOT THE BEAST I SEEK!

HOLD-- AM I DECEIVED--

--OR IS THERE SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS COUNTRYSIDE?

I SENSE THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE... IN AGES PAST!



OD'S BLOOD! I RECOGNIZE THIS LAND! 'TIS FABLED AVALON--WHERE OTHER IMMORTALS DWELL!

THE CELTIC GODS-- WHO ARE THE HEREDITARY ENEMIES OF ALL TRUE NORSEMEN!



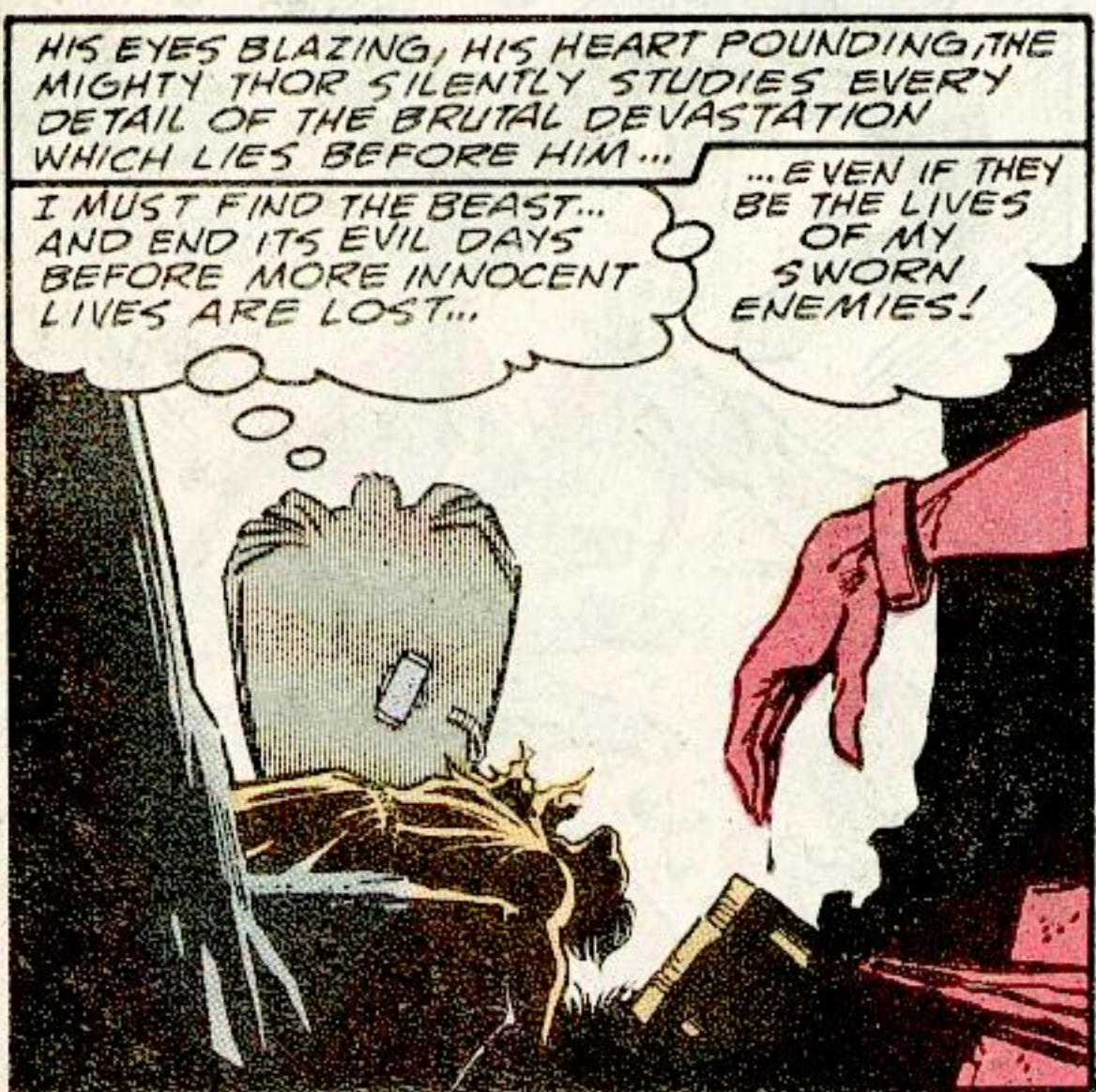
ARE MY ANCIENT FOEMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEAST?

DID THEY KNOWINGLY SEND IT TO RAVAGE BELOVED ASGARD?

HO! WHAT GRIM SCENE IS THIS?!



THE BEAST HAS STRUCK AGAIN --LEAVING MORE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE!



HIS EYES BLAZING, HIS HEART POUNDING, THE MIGHTY THOR SILENTLY STUDIES EVERY DETAIL OF THE BRUTAL DEVASTATION WHICH LIES BEFORE HIM...

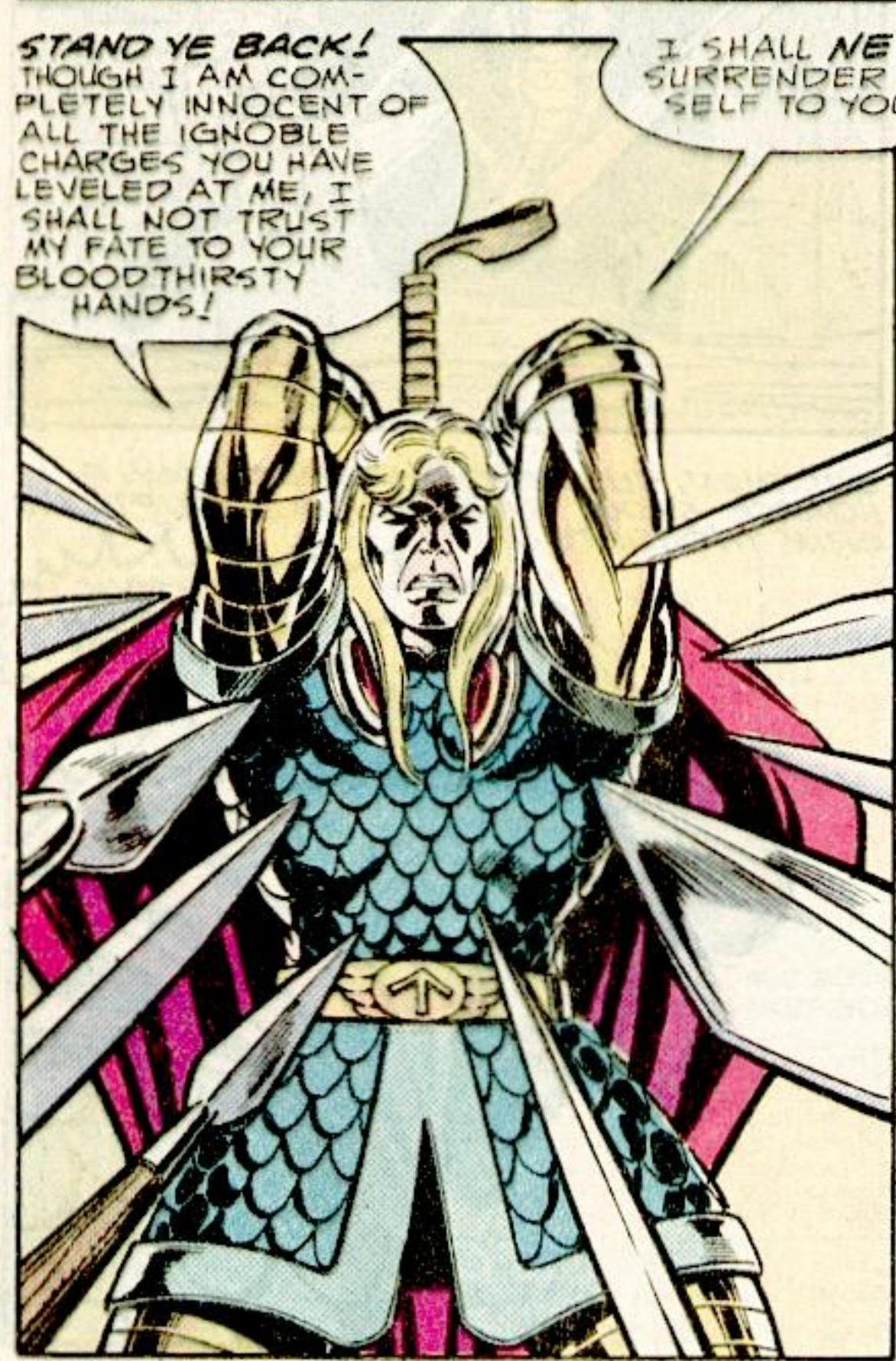
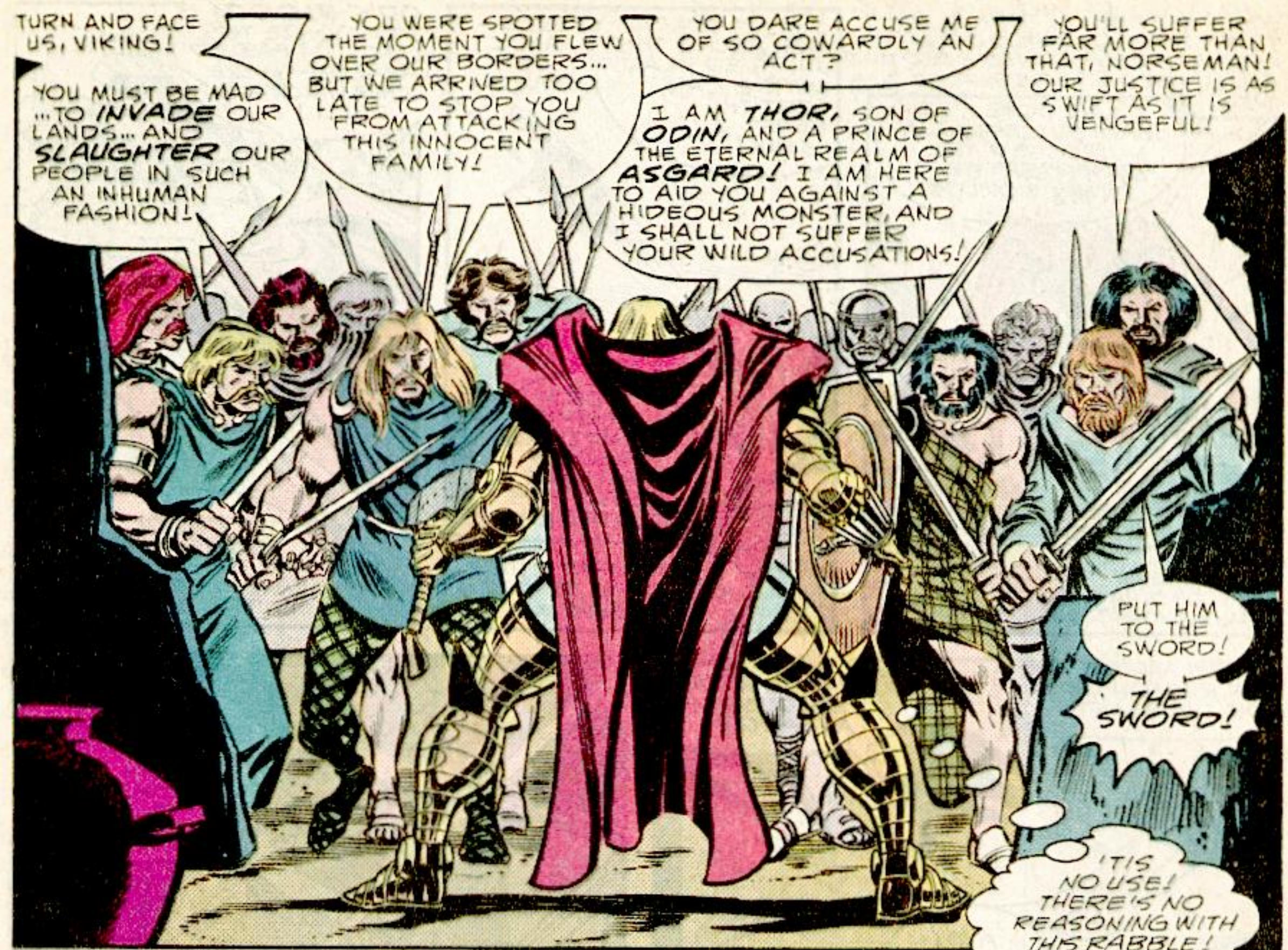
I MUST FIND THE BEAST... AND END ITS EVIL DAYS BEFORE MORE INNOCENT LIVES ARE LOST...

...EVEN IF THEY BE THE LIVES OF MY SWORN ENEMIES!



BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, A HOARSE SHOUT SAVAGELY INTERRUPTS HIS GRIM THOUGHTS...

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPON, MURDERER!



THEN YOU  
SHALL  
DIE,  
NORSE-  
MAN!

**FRANK BOOM!**

WHAT FOOL HAS  
THE AUDACITY  
TO HURL LIGHTNING  
BOLTS AT THOR--THE  
GOD OF THUNDER  
AND THE LORD OF  
THE RAGING TEMPEST?!

BE SILENT,  
YOU PUNY,  
COSTUMED  
CLOWN! MERE  
WORDS DO  
NOT IMPRESS--

--LEIR,  
THE LORD OF  
LIGHTNING AND  
THE GOD OF  
THE SPEAR!

I JUDGE A  
MAN BY HIS  
DEEDS, AND YOURS  
ARE MOST  
FOUL!

YOU HAVE  
INVADDED THE  
SACRED ISLE  
OF AVALON,  
AND BUTCHERED  
AN INNOCENT  
FARM FAMILY!

NAY!  
NAY! 'TIS  
NOT TRUE!

DO NOT INSULT ME WITH SUCH PITIFUL DENIALS, ASGARDIAN!

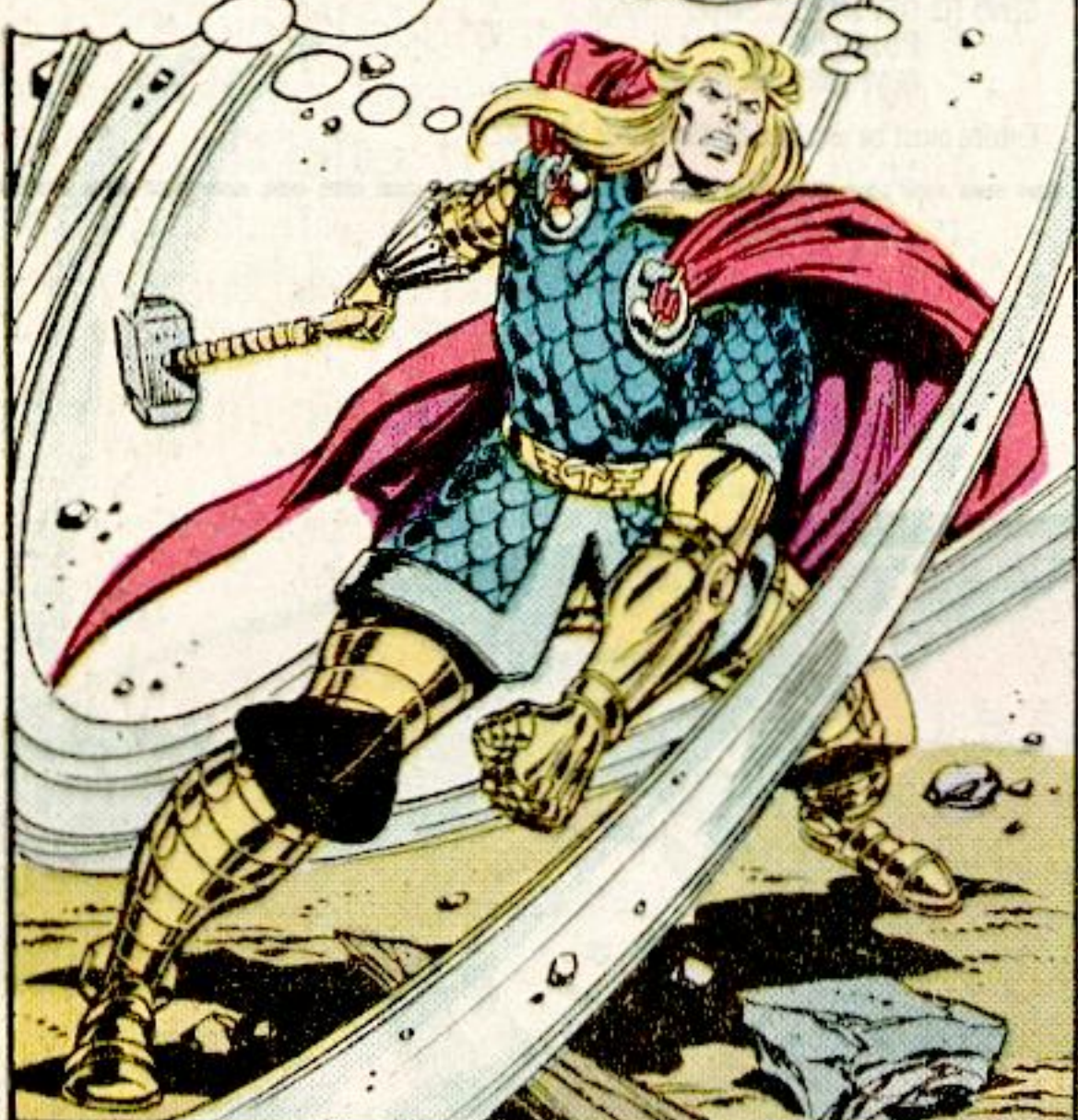
OUR TWO PEOPLES HAVE BEEN AT WAR SINCE THE DAWN OF MEMORY-- SINCE THE FIRST MURDEROUS VIKINGS RAIDED OUR VILLAGES AND PLUNDERED OUR HOMES!



YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF THE CELTIC RACE-- AND I NEED NO OTHER REASON TO STRIKE YOU DOWN!

LEIR IS ONLY ACTING IN THE DEFENSE OF HIS PEOPLE-- TRYING TO PROTECT THEM FROM WHAT HE BELIEVES IS A FOREIGN INVADER! I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM HIM... BUT I MUST DEFEND MYSELF!

AND YET, THE CELTS ARE WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR TREACHERY! THEY MAY HAVE SENT THAT BEAST TO ASGARD! THEY MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DEATHS IT HAS CAUSED!



WHIRLING HIS MYSTIC MALLET AT A DAZZLING SPEED, THE UNCERTAIN THUNDER GOD CREATES A SUDDEN WHIRLWIND...

WAKK!



BE WARNED, LEIR! NONE MAY STRIKE THOR WITH IMPUNITY-- AND NO MERE LIGHTNING BOLT IS THE EQUAL OF MY MIGHTY URU HAMMER!

SO GREAT... SO INTENSE IS ITS FORCE... THAT IT HURLS HIS TITANIC FOE FROM HIS FEET!



I SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED YOU, ASGARDIAN!

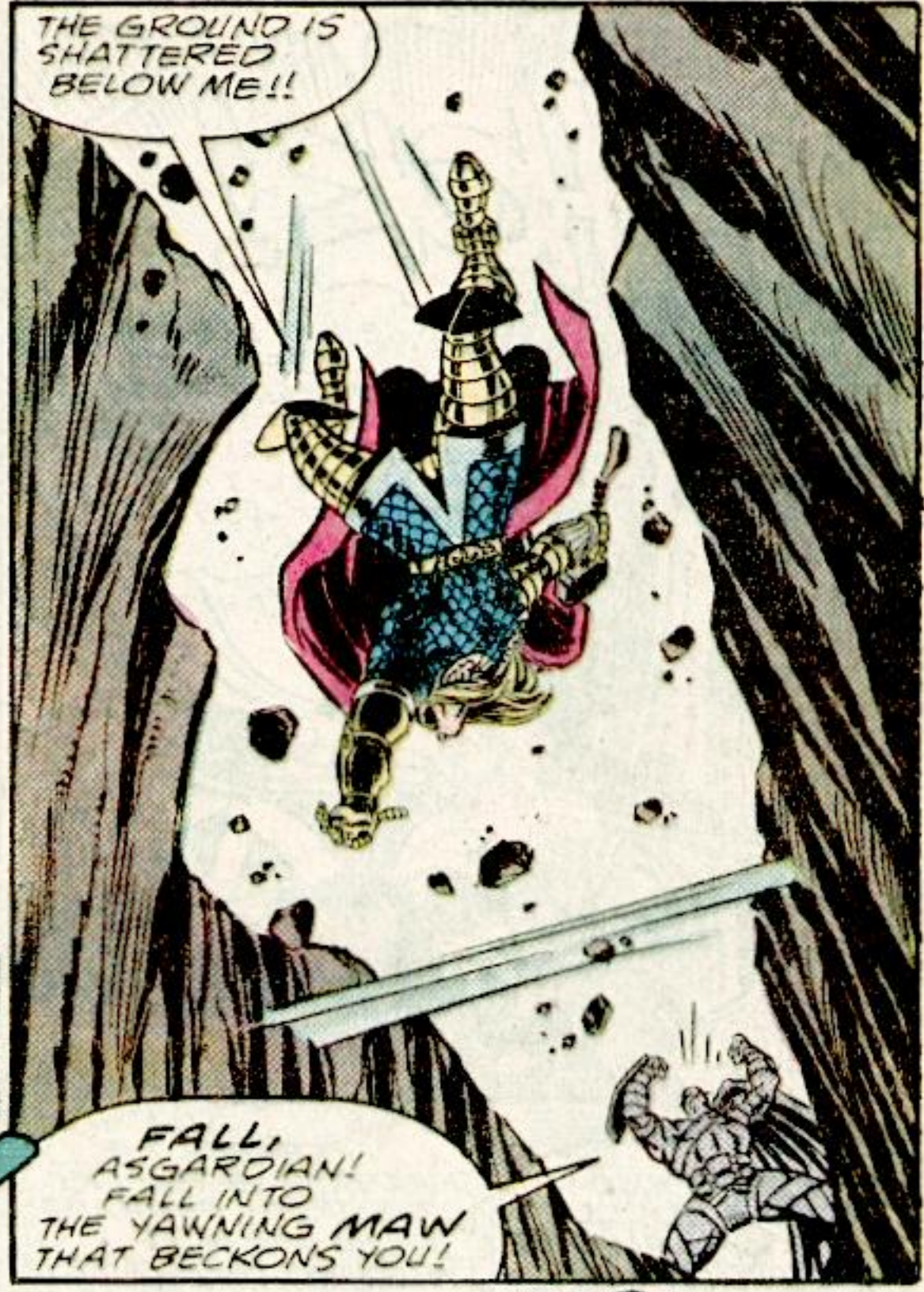
YOU COULD WELL BE THE MOST POWERFUL FOE I HAVE EVER FACED... BUT LEIR HAS NEVER BEEN DEFEATED IN BATTLE... AND I WILL NOT BE NOW!

MY STRENGTH KNOWS NO EQUAL! MY RAGE KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

YOU CALL YOURSELF THE GOD OF THUNDER... BUT NOT EVEN YOU CAN MATCH THE THUNDER OF MY POUNDING FISTS... OR THE FURY IN MY BURNING HEART!

THE UNIMAGINABLE POWER OF LEIR'S BLOW SPLITS THE EARTH ITSELF, RIPPING WIDE A CREVICE BENEATH THOR'S FEET...

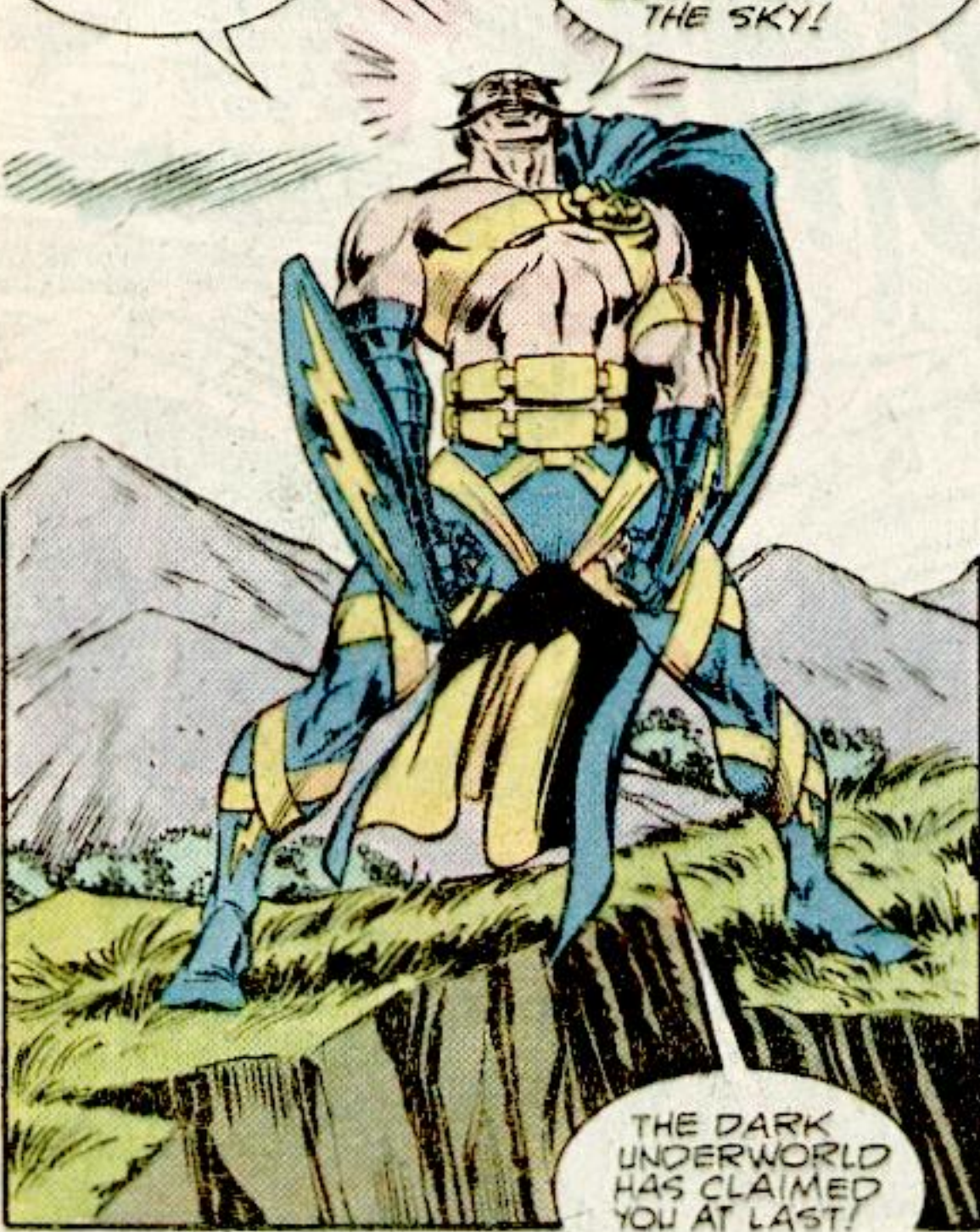
THE GROUND IS SHATTERED BELOW ME!!



HAHA HA HA HA HA

NEVER-MORE SHALL YOU TREAD THIS EARTH!

NEVERMORE SHALL YOU KNOW THE CARESS OF THE SUN, OR THE GLORY OF THE SKY!



CATH-WOOW!



NOT SO, VILLAIN! THOR STILL LIVES-- AND WHILE HE LIVES, HE FIGHTS!!



AND HE TRIUMPHS!

RTHOK!

HE HAS UNDONE ME AGAIN--YET HE DOESN'T RUSH FORWARD TO SEIZE THE ADVANTAGE WHILE I'M HELPLESS!

HOW COULD SUCH A NOBLE WARRIOR... ALSO BE A CRAVEN KILLER?

PERHAPS THE THUNDERER IS TELLING THE TRUTH! PERHAPS HE DID NOT SLAY THE FARM FAMILY!

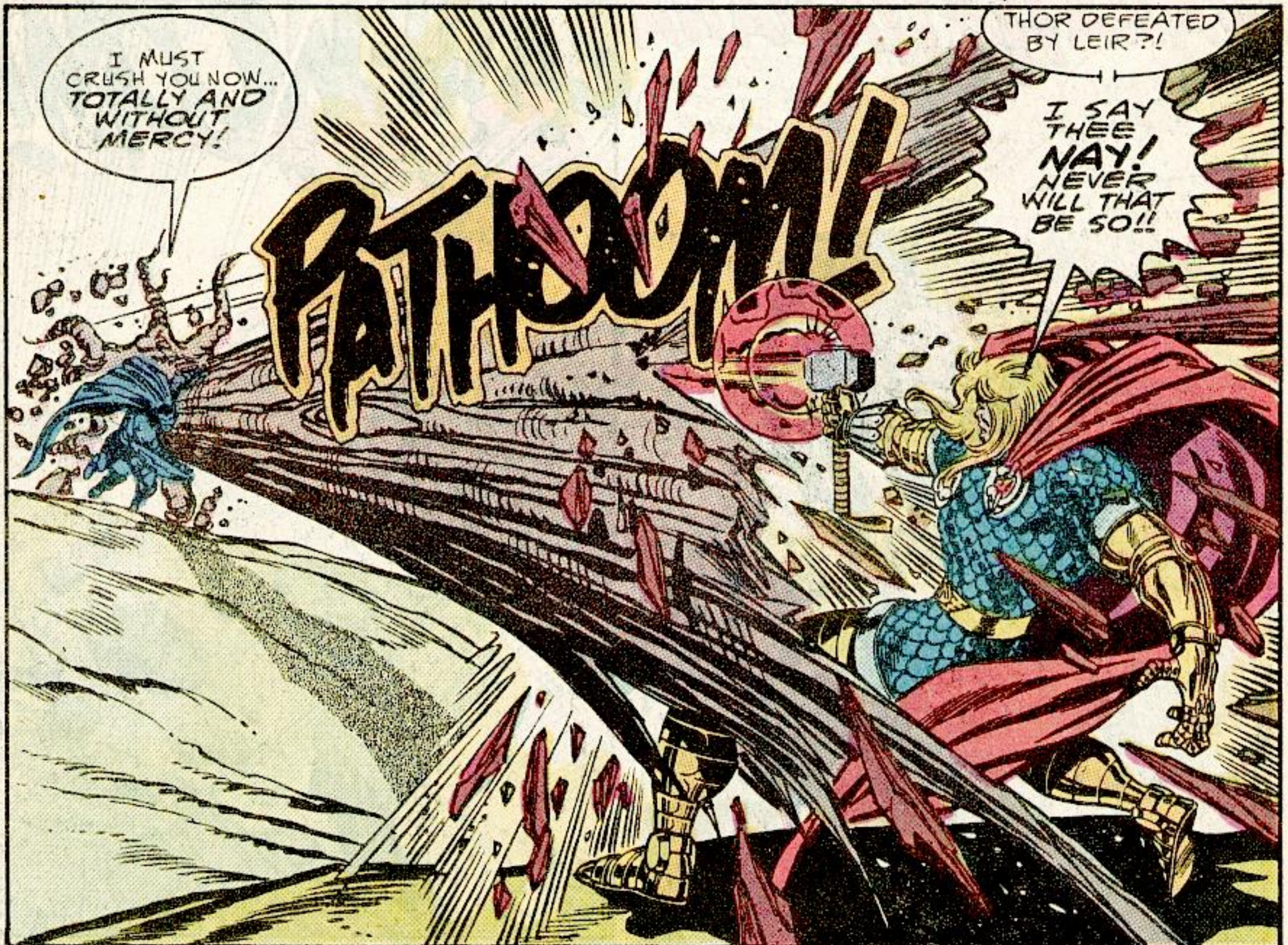


DO I DARE RISK TRUSTING AN ASGARDIAN?

ALAS... I CANNOT!

ENOUGH, ODINSON! THE TIME FOR PLAY IS PAST!

NOW THAT I HAVE SEEN THE FULL MEASURE OF YOUR POWER, I REALIZE THAT YOU ARE A FAR GREATER THREAT TO MY PEOPLE THAN I IMAGINED!



I MUST CRUSH YOU NOW... TOTALLY AND WITHOUT MERCY!

THOR DEFEATED BY LEIR?!

I SAY THEE NAY! NEVER WILL THAT BE SO!!

PATBOOM!



MEANWHILE,  
BACK IN  
ASGARD...

BEHOLD!  
YON MYSTIC  
PORTAL IS  
GROWING  
SMALLER!

IT'S  
CLOSING!

THOR MUST BE  
WARNED... LEST HE  
BE FOREVER TRAPPED  
ON THE OTHER SIDE!

BUT HE, HIMSELF,  
ORDERED US TO  
STAY HERE!

WOULDEST  
THOU RISK  
THE LIFE  
OF THY  
FRIEND?

WOULDEST THOU  
--THE SAFETY  
OF ASGARD?!

ENOUGH!  
HOGUN HAS  
HEARD ENOUGH!

I WILL WARN  
THE THUNDER  
GOD... WHILE  
THE TWO OF YOU  
CONTINUE YOUR  
POINTLESS  
DEBATE!

HOGUN,  
WAIT--!

TOO LATE!  
HE IS  
ALREADY  
GONE!

AND SO, A FEW  
MINUTES LATER...

THERE IS  
MY LORD...  
IN BATTLE WITH  
SOME CELTIC  
GIANT!

I BESEECH THEE,  
LEIR... LET US PUT AN  
END TO THIS NEED-  
LESS BATTLE!  
LET US  
SPEAK!

IF ANY BUT YOU  
UTTERED  
SUCH A PLEA, I WOULD  
MARK HIM FOR A  
COWARD!

BUT, THOUGH  
OUR TWO RACES  
HAVE EVER BEEN ENEMIES,  
SOME INNER VOICE COMMANDS  
ME TO HEED YOUR WORDS!

BUT, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, LEIR SPIES THE ARRIVING HOGUN...

CURSE ME FOR A SLOW-WITTED DULLARD! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST YOU, ASGARDIAN!

HERE COMES ANOTHER OF YOUR FOUL KIND -- TO STRIKE AT MY UNPROTECTED BACK, I'LL WAGER.

HOGUN, BEWARE HIS FLASHING SPEAR!



FEAR NOT, MY PRINCE!

THOUGH I WOULD JOIN THE TWO OF YOU IN MORTAL COMBAT, I FEAR WE ALL MUST FOREGO THAT FLEETING PLEASURE!

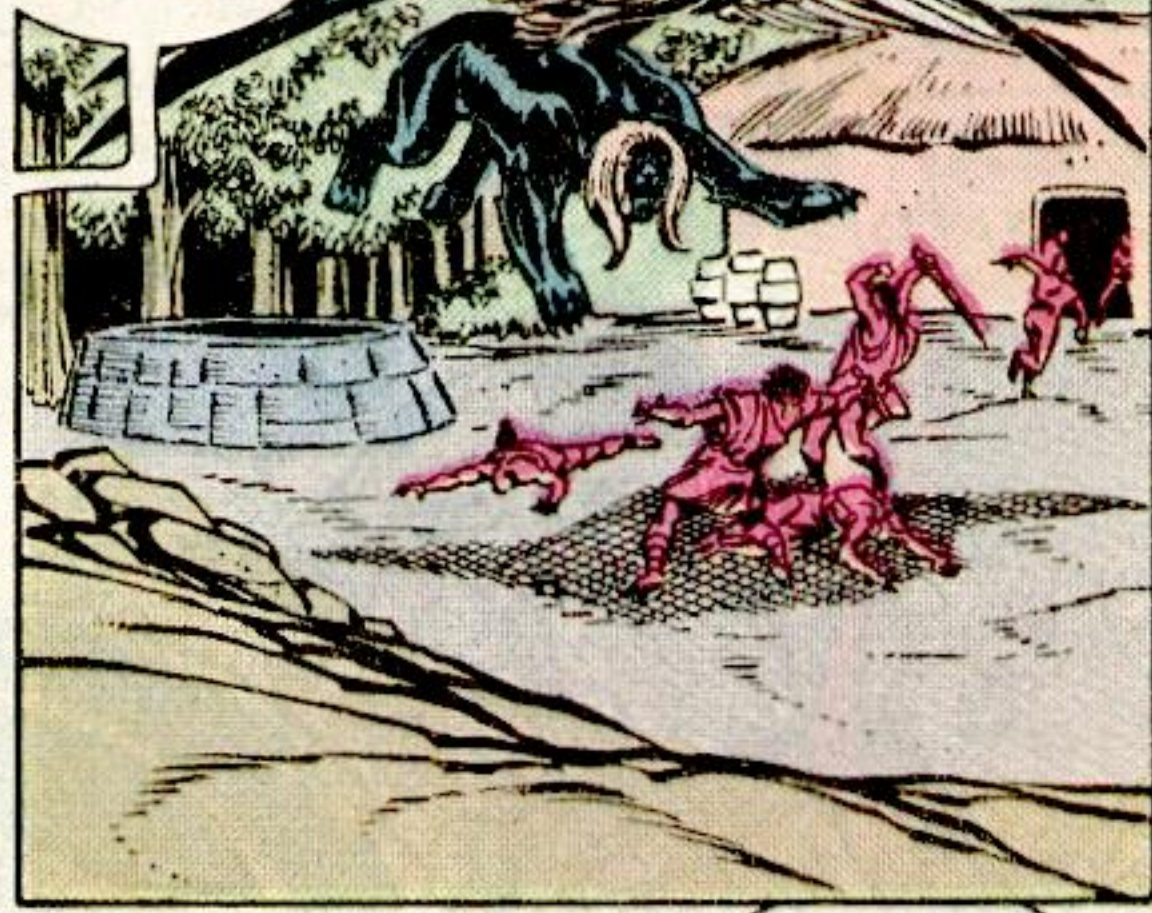
BEHOLD--! OTHER EVENTS NOW DEMAND OUR FULL ATTENTION!

WHAT MANNER OF BEAST--?!

'TIS THE ONE I SPOKE OF EARLIER! THE REASON I HAVE JOURNEYED HERE!



IT HATH RETURNED-- TO ATTACK YON VILLAGERS!



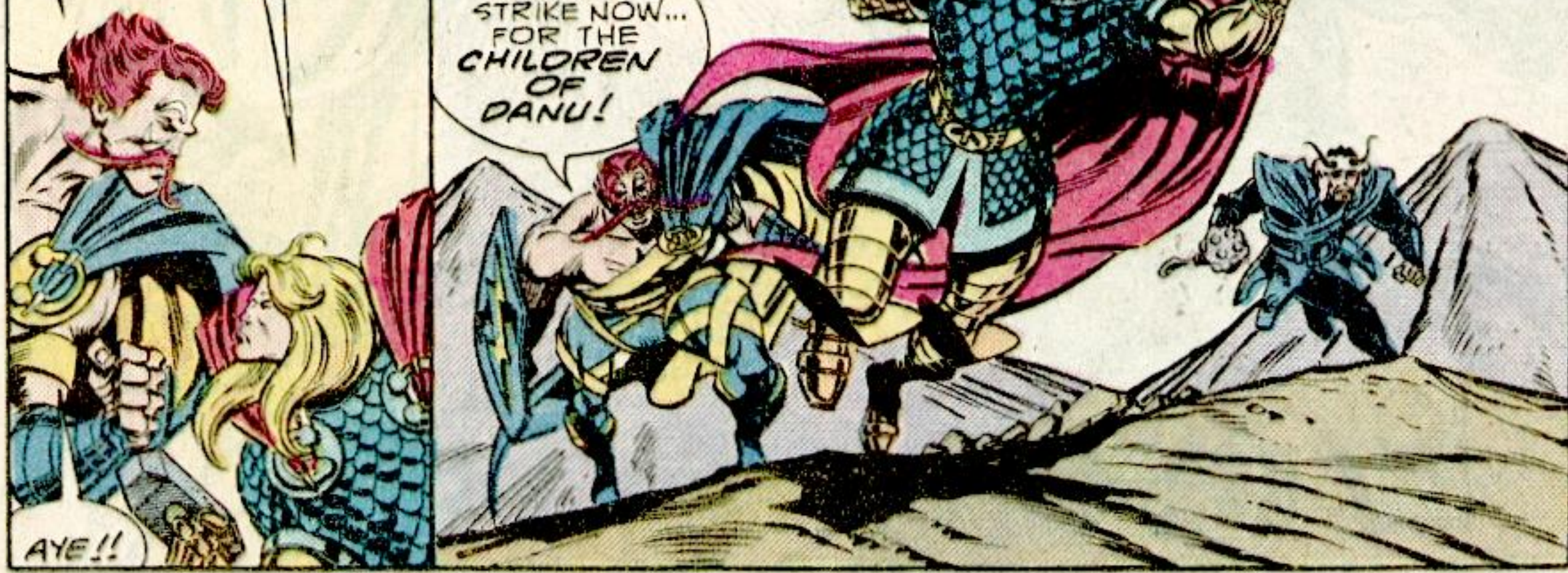
THOR, I... I...

THY PEOPLE HAVE NEED OF THEE, LEIR! NOW IS A TIME FOR ACTION-- NOT WORDS!

THAT BEAST WILL GET FAR MORE THAN IT BARGAINED FOR WITH YOU TWO AT MY SIDE!

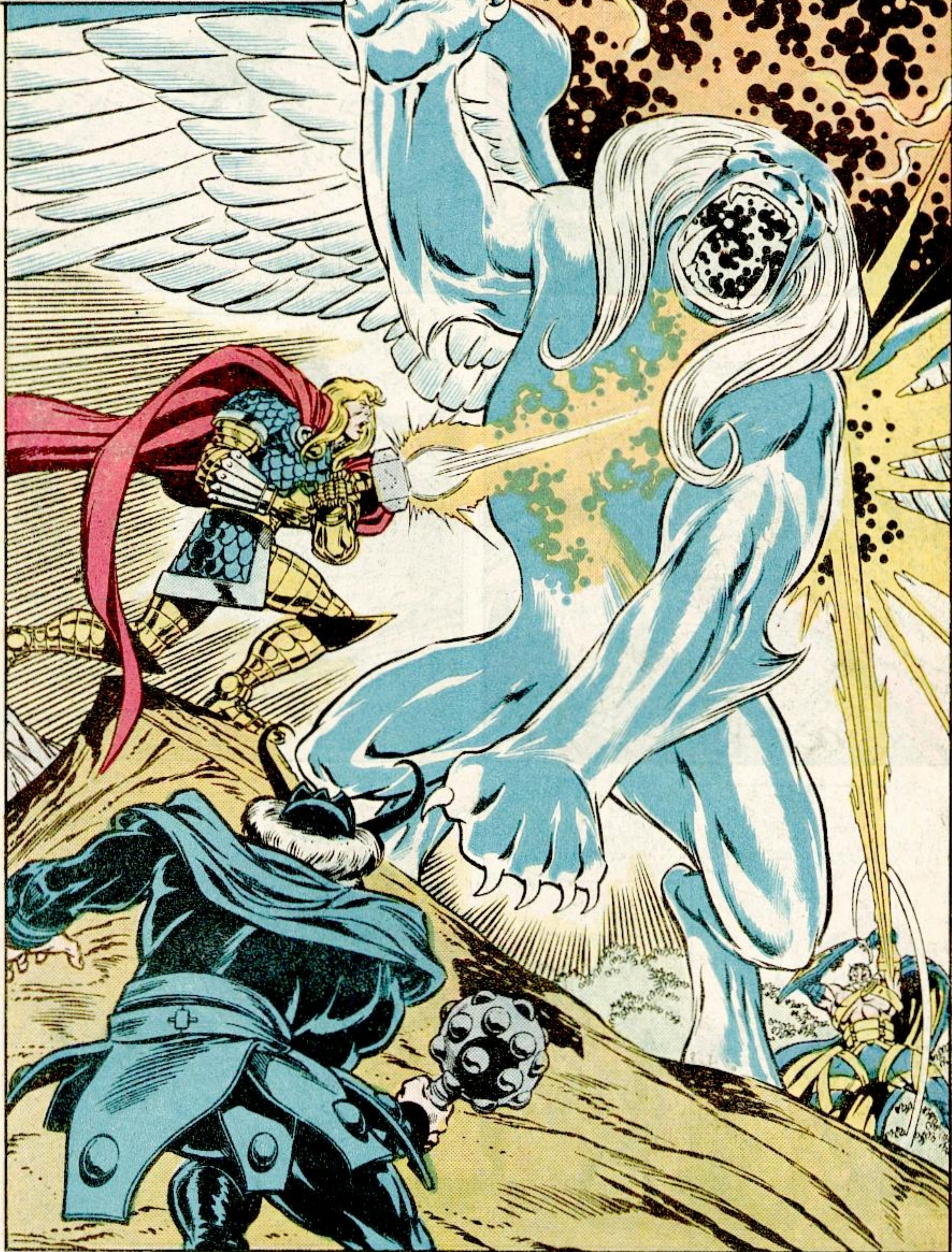
LET US STRIKE NOW... FOR THE CHILDREN OF DANU!

AYE, AND THE GLORY OF ASGARD!



AYE!!

WITH HAMMER, SPEAR, AND MACE, THE GALLANT TRIO SPRINGS FORWARD...  
**SLASHING! SMASHING!**  
**POUNDING!... STRIKING WITH UNMEASURABLE FORCE AND RIGHTEOUS RAGE... UNTIL THE VERY AIR BOILS WITH THEIR FURY ...DRIVING THE BEAST BACKWARD... EVER BACKWARD...**



AND THEN...

WE HAVE DONE IT!  
WE'VE STRUCK THE  
CREATURE A MORTAL  
BLOW, AND DRIVEN  
IT AWAY FROM THE  
VILLAGERS!

IT'S FLEEING  
BACK TOWARD  
THE MYSTIC  
PORTAL!

MY PRINCE, IF IT SHOULD REACH ASGARD  
IN ITS PRESENT, FRENZIED, MADDENED  
STATE--!

AYE, MY FRIEND!  
FAITHFUL FANDORAL  
AND VALIANT  
VOLSTAGG ARE ALL  
THAT STAND BETWEEN  
IT AND THE GOLDEN  
CITY!

HURRY,  
MY LORD!  
THE PORTAL  
IS CLOS-  
ING!

LEIR,  
I FEAR  
THAT I  
MUST...

IT IS YOUR PEOPLE  
WHO NOW NEED YOU,  
THUNDERER!

GO TO THEM!  
WE CAN FINISH  
OUR CONTEST  
IN ANOTHER  
TIME AND  
PLACE!

SUCH NOBILITY! SUCH  
PURITY! THOUGH WE  
BE RACIAL ENEMIES  
AND MET IN SAVAGE  
COMBAT, HERE BE  
A GOD THAT  
THOR WOULD  
PROUDLY  
CALL  
FRIEND!

AYE,  
THUNDER  
GOD!

FAREWELL,  
CELT! WE SHALL  
MEET ANON!

SO WE  
SHALL!

A CRACKLE OF ENERGY, A FLASH OF INTENSE COLD, AND THEN...



WE'RE BACK! WE HAVE CROSSED THROUGH WITH BARELY A SECOND TO SPARE!

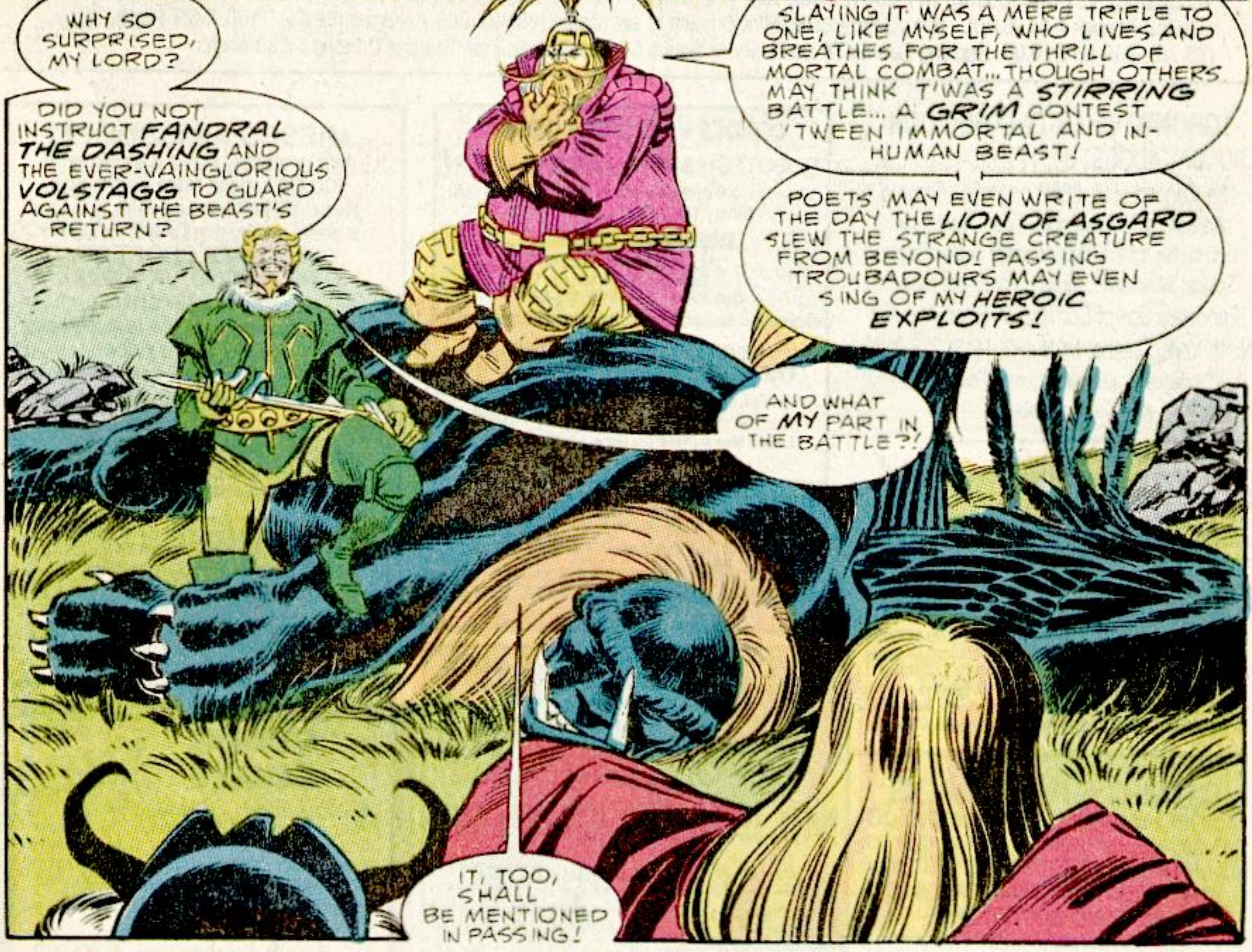
ALREADY THE RIFT IS SLAMMING SHUT BEHIND US!

THE BEAST! WHERE IS THE BEAST?



FRET NOT, MY FRIENDS! THAT MATTER IS WELL IN HAND!

GREAT ODIN!



WHY SO SURPRISED, MY LORD?

DID YOU NOT INSTRUCT FANDRAL THE DASHING AND THE EVER-VAINGLORIOUS VOLSTAGG TO GUARD AGAINST THE BEAST'S RETURN?

SLAYING IT WAS A MERE TRIFLE TO ONE, LIKE MYSELF, WHO LIVES AND BREATHEES FOR THE THRILL OF MORTAL COMBAT... THOUGH OTHERS MAY THINK T'WAS A STIRRING BATTLE... A GRIM CONTEST 'TWEEN IMMORTAL AND IN-HUMAN BEAST!

POETS MAY EVEN WRITE OF THE DAY THE LION OF ASGARD SLEW THE STRANGE CREATURE FROM BEYOND! PASSING TROUBADOURS MAY EVEN SING OF MY HEROIC EXPLOITS!

AND WHAT OF MY PART IN THE BATTLE?!

IT, TOO, SHALL BE MENTIONED IN PASSING!

A FEW HOURS LATER,  
AS MORTALS RECKON  
TIME'S PASSAGE...



ASGARD IS SAFE  
ONCE MORE! I AM  
HEAVY OF HEART  
BECAUSE I MUST  
LEAVE HER  
AGAIN--

--BUT I WILL  
GO KNOWING  
THAT THIS  
GLORIOUS REALM  
IS SECURE UNDER  
THE PROTECTION  
OF SUCH GALLANT  
HEROES AS THE  
WARRIORS THREE!

OFF ON  
ANOTHER  
QUEST,  
MY FRIEND?

AYE,  
MY LORD  
BALDER!



I HAVE  
BEEN AWAY  
FROM THE  
PLANET  
EARTH OVER-  
LONG, AND MUST  
RETURN TO THAT  
DISTANT MORTAL  
SPHERE!

I HAVE  
STOWED MY  
BATTLE ARMOR,  
AND I SHALL  
SOON BE  
AWAY!

SO!  
YOU WOULD  
LEAVE THE  
GOLDEN  
REALM WITHOUT  
A WORD--OR  
PROPER NOTICE--  
TO YOUR KING?!



FORGIVE ME,  
MY LIEGE! I  
MEANT NO DIS-  
RESPECT!

I HUMBLY  
ASK YOUR  
LEAVE!

ARISE, MY FRIEND!  
THOU, WHO ART LIKE  
A BROTHER UNTO ME,  
HAST NO NEED  
TO PLAY THE  
SUPPLICANT!

THOU HAST  
MISUNDERSTOOD  
THE INTENTION  
OF MY WORDS!



I MERELY FEARED  
THAT THOU WOULDST  
LEAVE WITHOUT GIVING  
ME A CHANCE TO  
BID THEE A FOND  
FAREWELL!

THOUGH ASGARD  
WILL BE ALL THE  
SADDER WITHOUT  
HER FAVORITE SON,  
I CANNOT DENY  
THEE ANYTHING  
THAT IS WITHIN  
MY POWER TO  
GRANT!

FAREWELL,  
GENTLE BALDER! I  
SHALL MISS YOU!

AND I,  
THEE!

SWINGING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER EVEN FASTER THAN MORTAL MIND CAN CONCEIVE, THE MIGHTY THOR CREATES A MYSTIC VORTEX WHICH IS MEANT TO TRANSPORT HIM BACK TO EARTH, BUT THEN...

WAIT!  
STOP HIM!!

WHAT IS WRONG,  
VIZIER? WHAT  
TROUBLES THEE?

MY LORD, I WARNED YOU THAT ASGARD HAS BEEN DRIFTING ACROSS THE DIMENSIONAL SEAS EVER SINCE THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WAS SHATTERED!

WE HAVE BEEN CUT FREE FROM THE PLANET EARTH!

OUR DIMENSIONAL AXES ARE NO LONGER IN LINE!

BUT THAT MEANS--THOR IS IN GRAVE DANGER!

"IF THAT VORTEX DOESN'T TAKE HIM TO THE MORTAL SPHERE, HE COULD MATERIALIZE ANYWHERE IN TIME AND SPACE!"

GREAT ODIN--!

WHERE IS THE EARTH?

WHERE AM I?

SUGNE THERE'S NO AIR!

I...

...C-CANNOT BREATHE!

next issue:

# JUDGMENT DAY!

miss it not!