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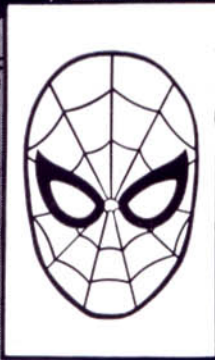
the mighty **THOR**

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INTO
THE LIVING
BIO-VERSE!



STRENN & SANNON

STAN LEE PRESENTS *the* MIGHTY THOR

WITH HIS FRIEND ERIC MASTERSON AND A TEAM OF GENETICALLY-ACCELERATED KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE, THE NOBLE SON OF ODIN HAS JOURNEYED INTO THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY IN SEARCH OF HERCULES AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, WHO BOTH RECENTLY EVOLVED TO THE POINT OF DISCORPORATION*, AND NOW HE MUST FACE...

THE
MENACE
OF THE

LIVING UNIVERSE!

BEHOLD...! WE HAVE FOUND THOSE WE SEEK, BUT THEY ARE TRULY BEYOND SALVATION!

HE'S RIGHT, THOR! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HELP THEM NOW!

WARNING:
THE PAGES WHICH FOLLOW
CONTAIN THRILLS AND
CHILLS BEYOND MEASURE,
AND ARE NOT FOR THE
FAINT OF HEART!

HAVE FAITH, ERIC MASTERSON! THOUGH MY MIND REELS AT THE HORROR WHICH DOTH CONFRONT US, I SHALL FIND A WAY TO TRIUMPH O'er IT!

* IT HAPPENED IN
AVENGERS ANNUAL #17
--RECORDING RALF!

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BUT, HOW--?!

WHAT CAN
WE DO?

YOUR FRIEND
AND OUR MASTER
ARE ONE WITH
THIS GALAXY!

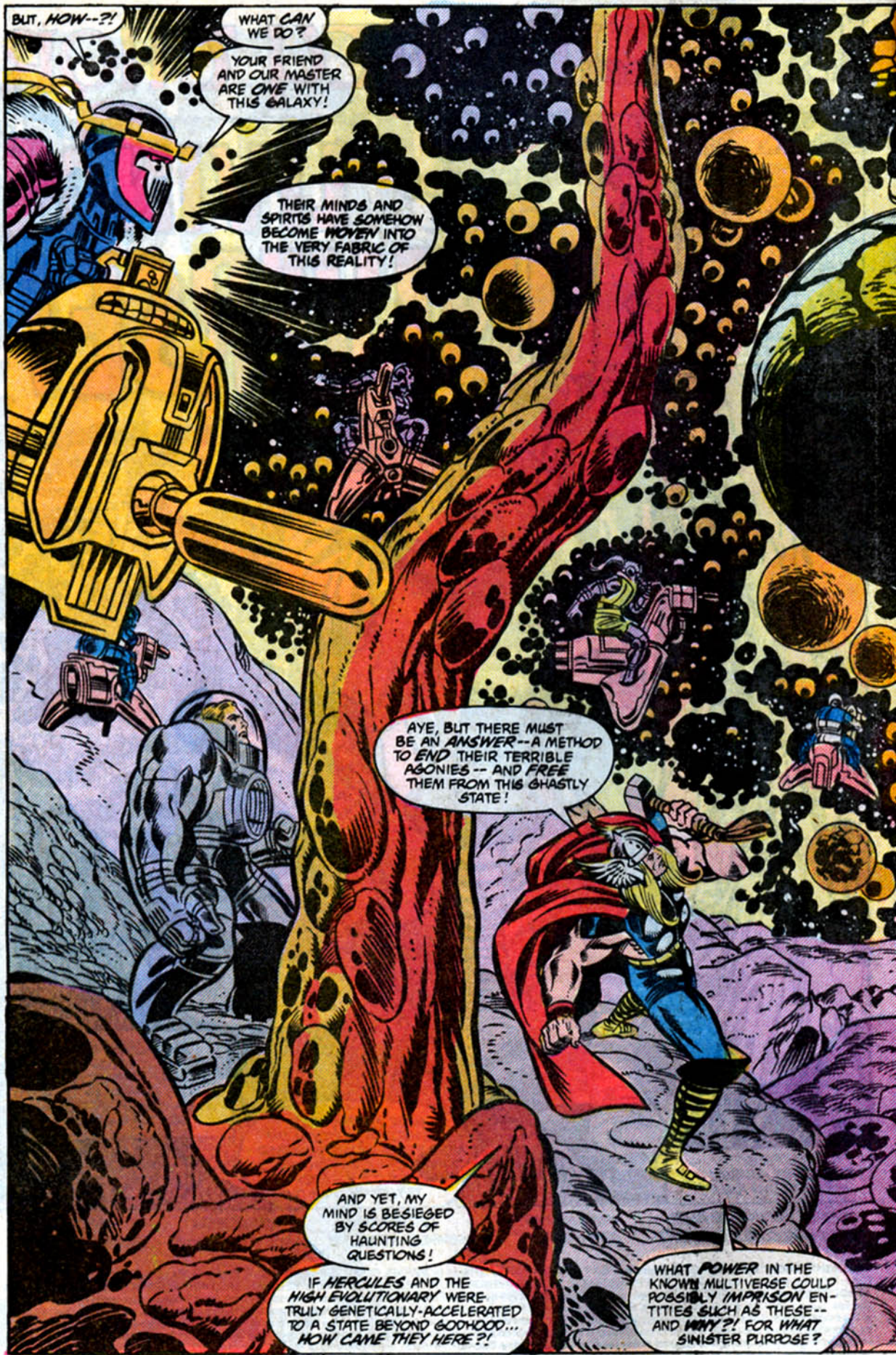
THEIR MINDS AND
SPIRITS HAVE SOMEHOW
BECOME MOWN INTO
THE VERY FABRIC OF
THIS REALITY!

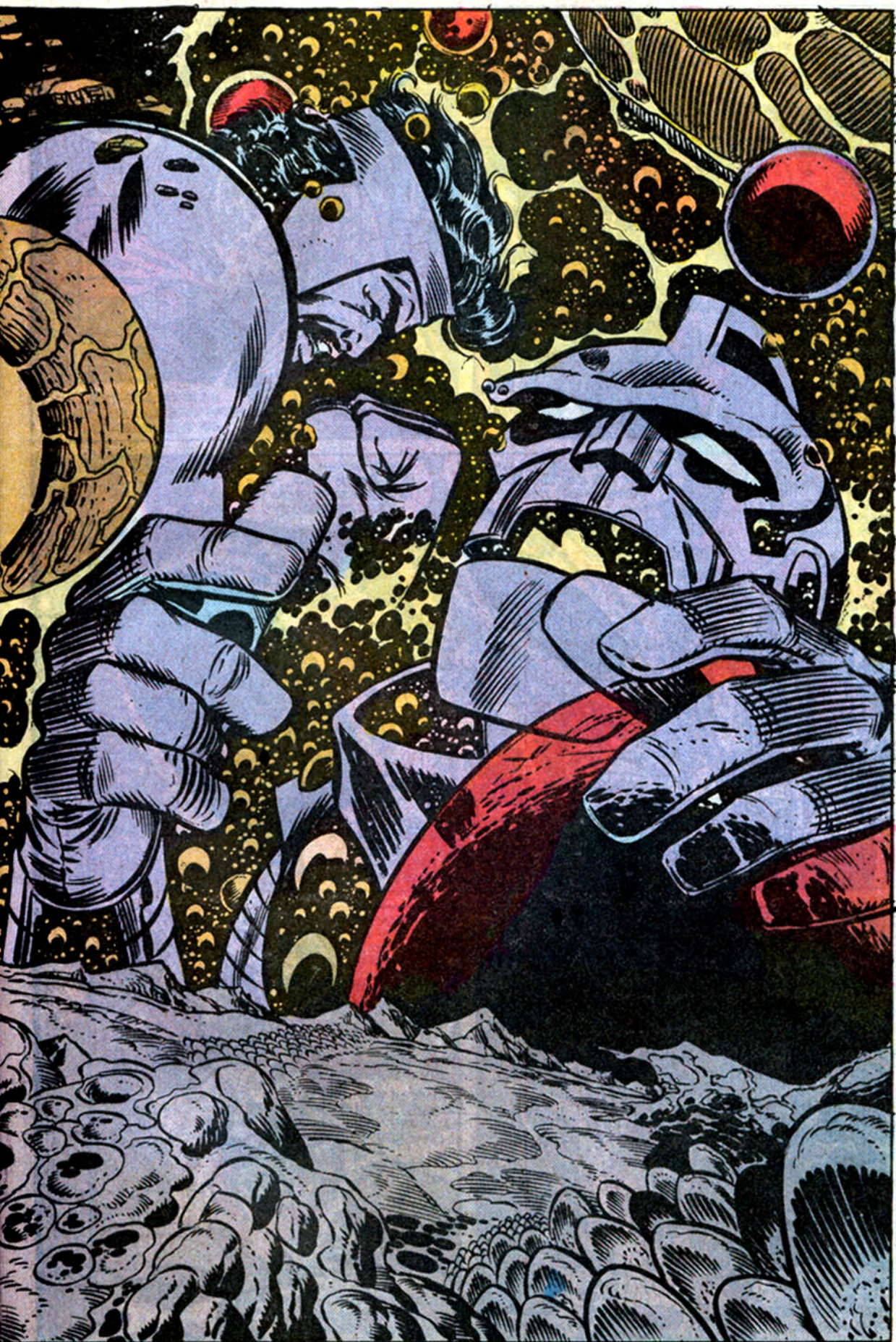
AYE, BUT THERE MUST
BE AN ANSWER--A METHOD
TO END THEIR TERRIBLE
AGONIES -- AND FREE
THEM FROM THIS GHASTLY
STATE!

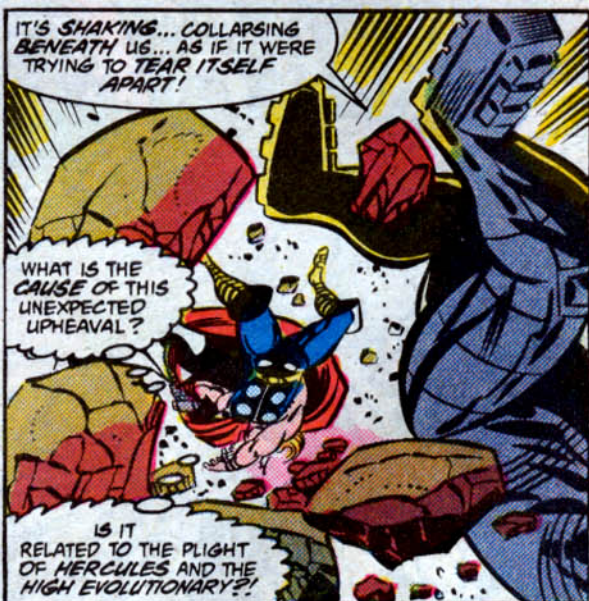
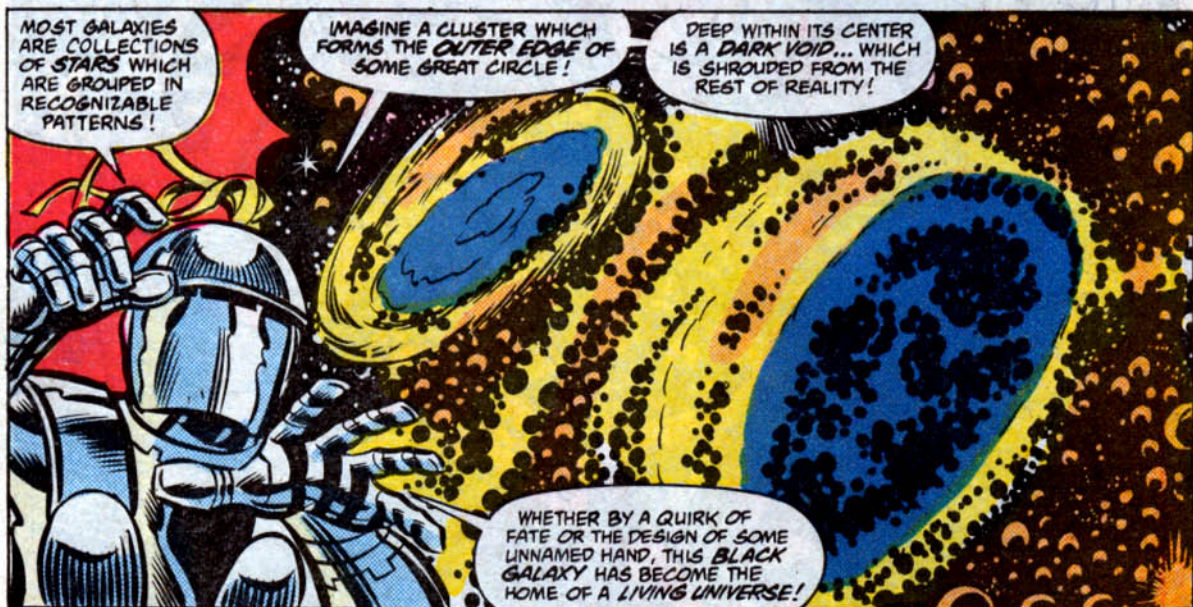
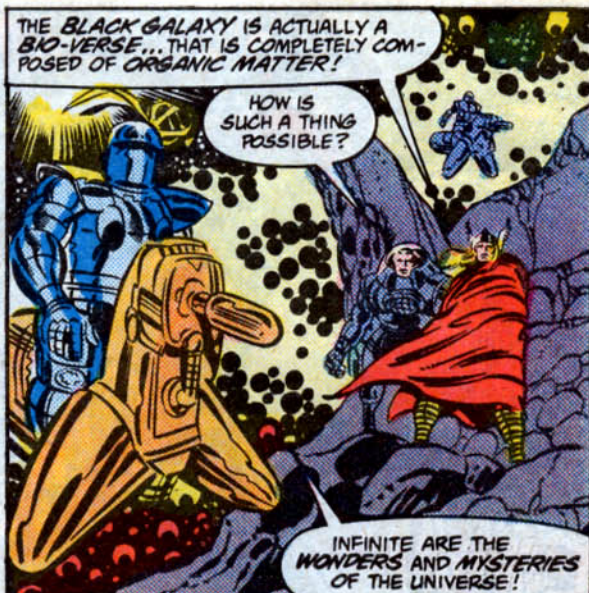
AND YET, MY
MIND IS BESIEGED
BY SCORES OF
HAUNTING
QUESTIONS!

IF HERCULES AND THE
HIGH EVOLUTIONARY WERE
TRULY GENETICALLY-ACCELERATED
TO A STATE BEYOND GOODHOOD...
HOW CAME THEY HERE?!

WHAT POWER IN THE
KNOWN MULTIVERSE COULD
POSSIBLY IMPRISON EN-
TITIES SUCH AS THESE--
AND WHY?! FOR WHAT
SINISTER PURPOSE?







AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, IN THE NEARBY CONSTELLATION OF RIGEL, HOME OF THE STAR-SPANNING RACE OF COLONIZERS...

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE THREATENS OUR COMMAND PLANET!

AS OUR SCIENTIST SUPREME, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT AN END TO THESE MASSIVE TREMORS!

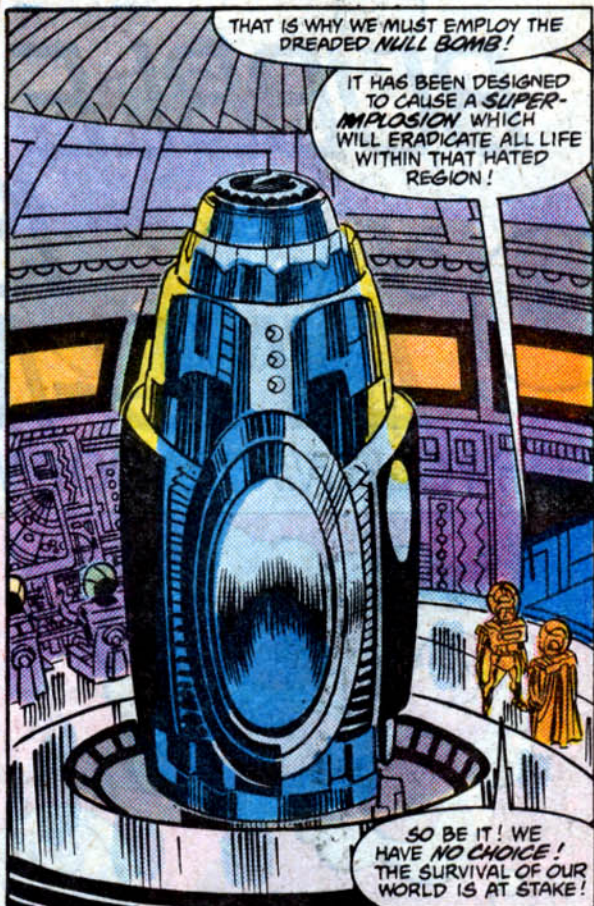
I UNDERSTAND, GRAND COMMISSIONER... AND I HAVE ALREADY ASCERTAINED THAT THEY ARE CAUSED BY MYSTERIOUS DISTURBANCES FROM DEEP WITHIN THE BLACK GALAXY!

DISTURBANCES POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ENDANGER THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE SURROUNDING STAR SYSTEMS!



THAT IS WHY WE MUST EMPLOY THE DREADED NULL BOMB!

IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO CAUSE A SUPER-IMPLOSION WHICH WILL ERADICATE ALL LIFE WITHIN THAT HATED REGION!



SO BE IT! WE HAVE NO CHOICE! THE SURVIVAL OF OUR WORLD IS AT STAKE!



ACTIVATE THE MATTER TRANSMITTER... NOW!

IT IS DONE! THE BOMB HAS BEEN TRANSPORTED TO ITS DESTINATION!

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ITS TASK?

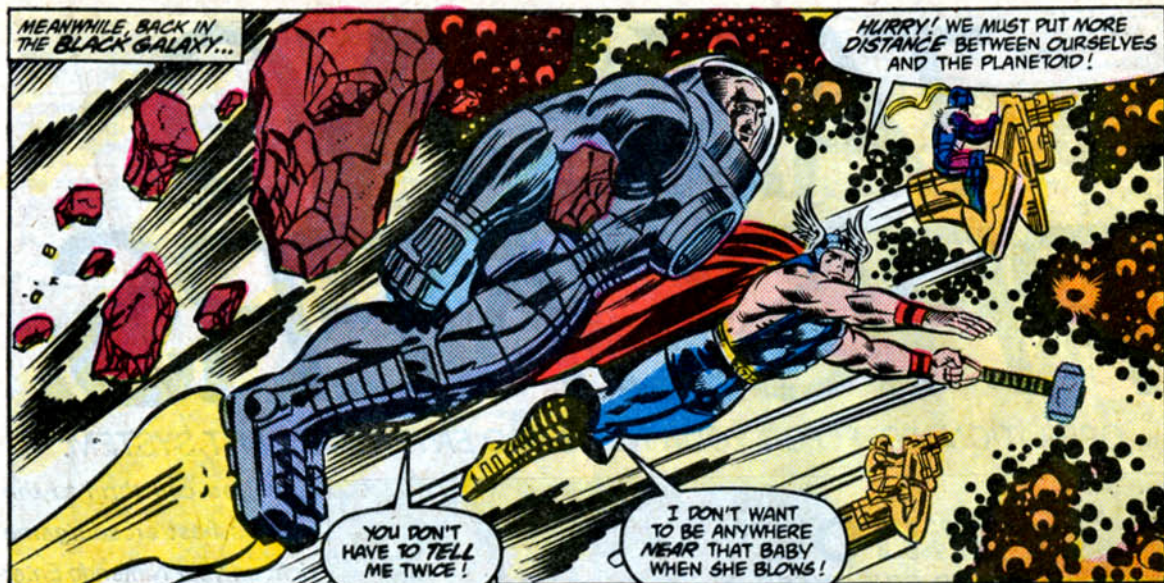
I HAVE ALREADY DISPATCHED AN OBSERVER TO THE BLACK GALAXY!

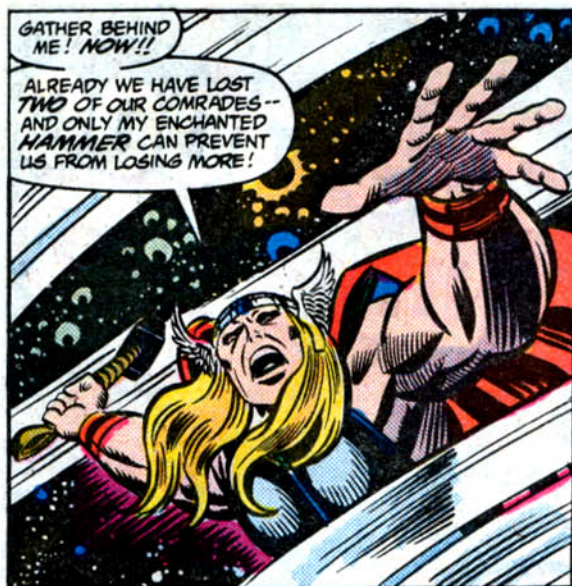
ONE WHO WILL OBJECTIVELY RECORD THE EVENT!



BUT, IF THE NULL BOMB DESTROYS ALL LIFE...

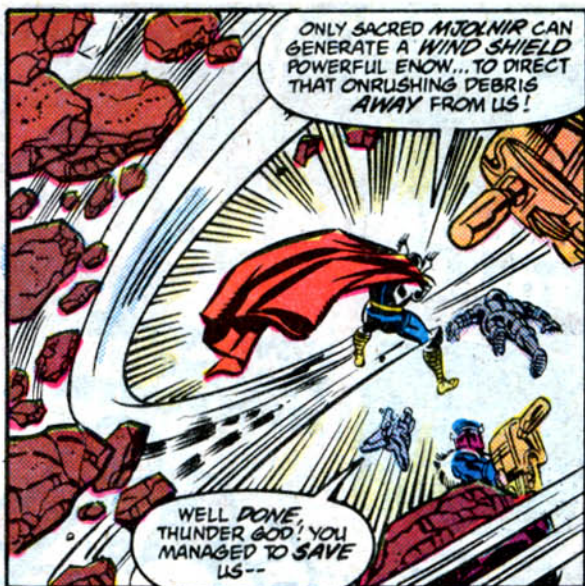
FEAR NOT, EXCELLENCY! HE IS ALSO QUITE EXPENDABLE!





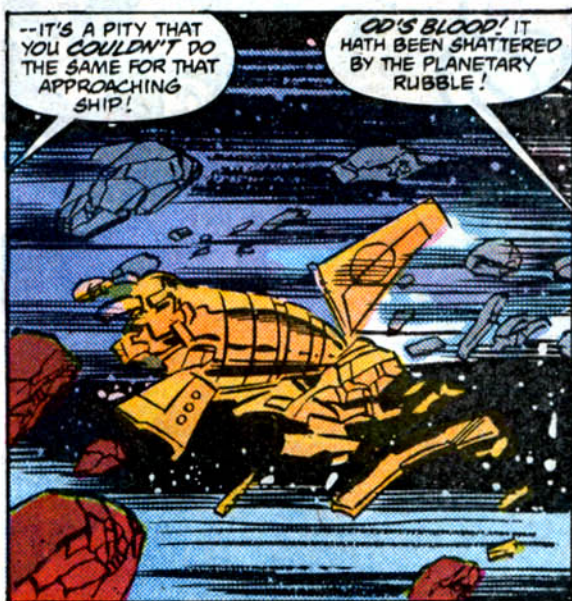
GATHER BEHIND ME! NOW!!

ALREADY WE HAVE LOST TWO OF OUR COMRADES-- AND ONLY MY ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN PREVENT US FROM LOSING MORE!



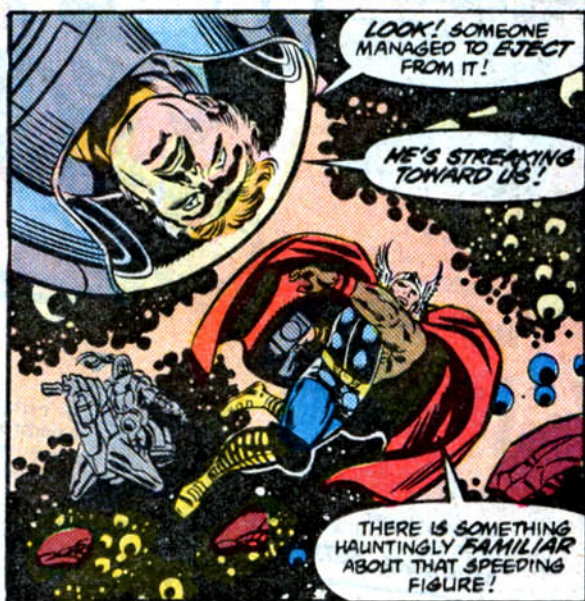
ONLY SACRED MJDOLNIR CAN GENERATE A WIND SHIELD POWERFUL ENOUGH... TO DIRECT THAT ONRUSHING DEBRIS AWAY FROM US!

WELL DONE, THUNDER GOD! YOU MANAGED TO SAVE US--



--IT'S A PITY THAT YOU COULDN'T DO THE SAME FOR THAT APPROACHING SHIP!

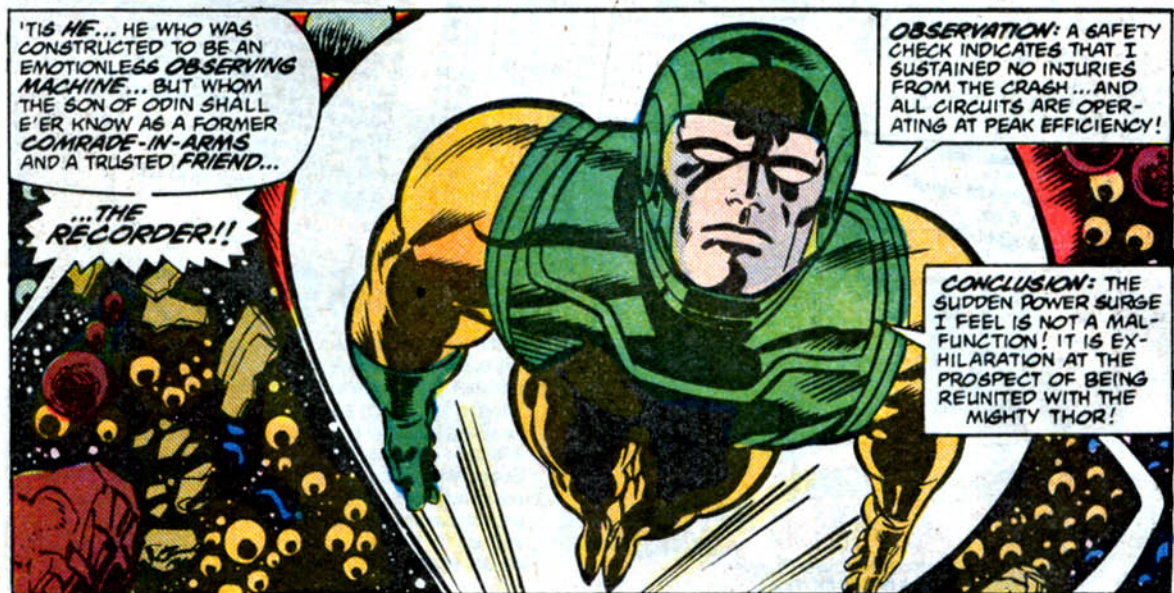
OD'S BLOOD! IT HATH BEEN SHATTERED BY THE PLANETARY RUBBLE!



LOOK! SOMEONE MANAGED TO EJECT FROM IT!

HE'S STREAMING TOWARD US!

THERE IS SOMETHING HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT SPEEDING FIGURE!

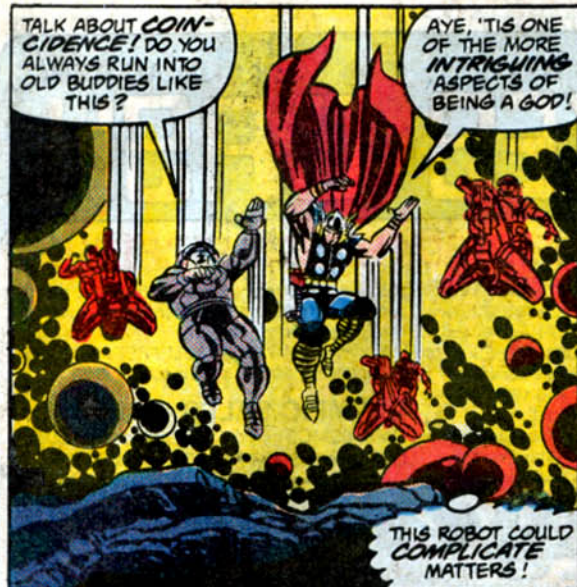


'TIS HE... HE WHO WAS CONSTRUCTED TO BE AN EMOTIONLESS OBSERVING MACHINE... BUT WHOM THE SON OF ODIN SHALL E'ER KNOW AS A FORMER COMRADE-IN-ARMS AND A TRUSTED FRIEND...

...THE RECORDER!!

OBSERVATION: A SAFETY CHECK INDICATES THAT I SUSTAINED NO INJURIES FROM THE CRASH... AND ALL CIRCUITS ARE OPERATING AT PEAK EFFICIENCY!

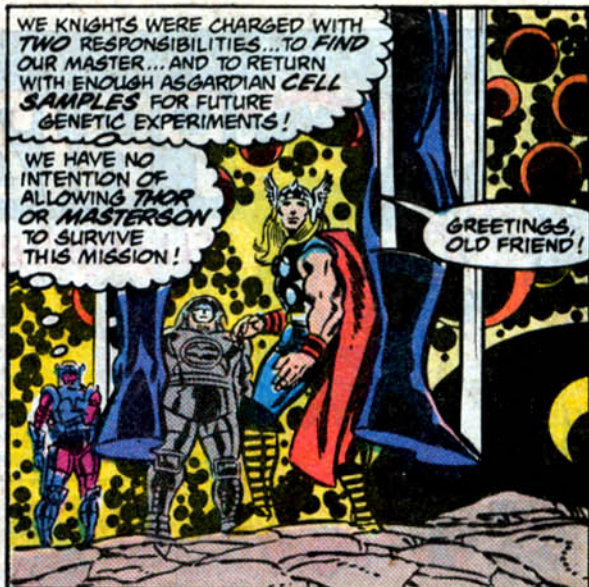
CONCLUSION: THE SUDDEN POWER SURGE I FEEL IS NOT A MALFUNCTION! IT IS EXHILARATION AT THE PROSPECT OF BEING REUNITED WITH THE MIGHTY THOR!



TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCE! DO YOU ALWAYS RUN INTO OLD BUDDIES LIKE THIS?

AYE, 'TIS ONE OF THE MORE **INTRIGUING** ASPECTS OF BEING A GOD!

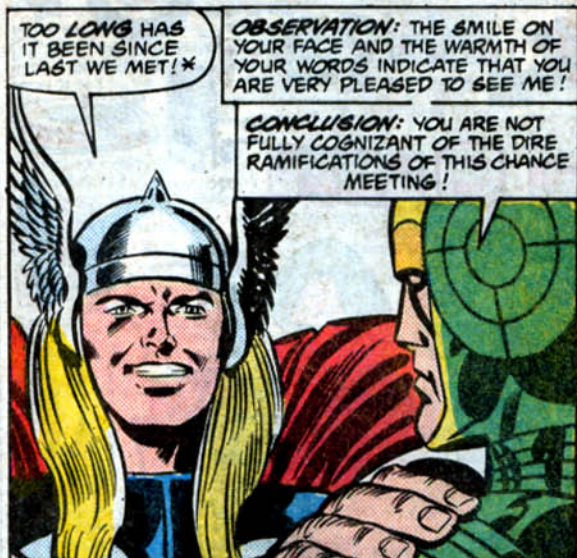
THIS ROBOT COULD COMPLICATE MATTERS!



WE KNIGHTS WERE CHARGED WITH **TWO** RESPONSIBILITIES...TO FIND OUR MASTER...AND TO RETURN WITH ENOUGH ASGARDIAN **CELL SAMPLES** FOR FUTURE GENETIC EXPERIMENTS!

WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING **THOR** OR **MASTERSON** TO SURVIVE THIS MISSION!

GREETINGS, OLD FRIEND!

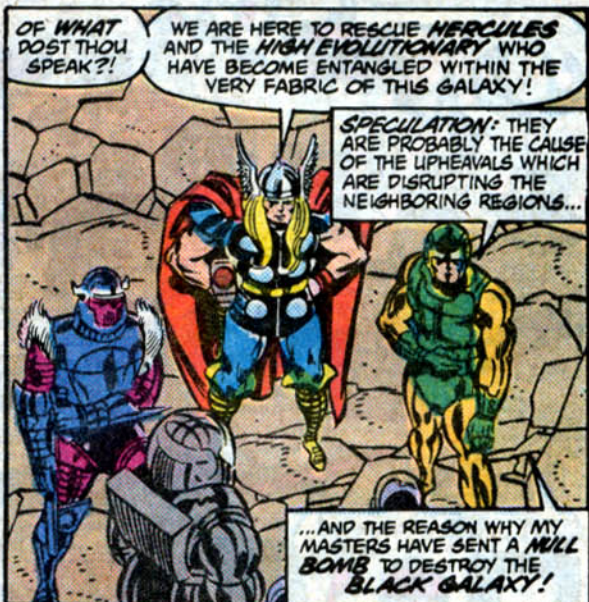


TOO LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE LAST WE MET!*

OBSERVATION: THE SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND THE WARMTH OF YOUR WORDS INDICATE THAT YOU ARE VERY PLEASED TO SEE ME!

CONCLUSION: YOU ARE NOT FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE DIRE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS CHANCE MEETING!

*A NO-PRIZE TO THE FIRST READER WHO IDENTIFIES THE ISSUE WHERE THIS OCCURRED.--RALF



OF WHAT DOST THOU SPEAK?!

WE ARE HERE TO RESCUE **MERCULES** AND THE **HIGH EVOLUTIONARY** WHO HAVE BECOME ENTANGLED WITHIN THE VERY FABRIC OF THIS GALAXY!

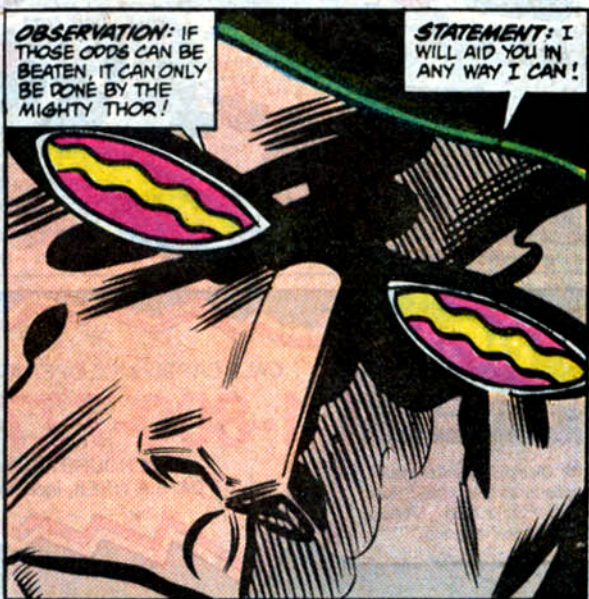
SPECULATION: THEY ARE PROBABLY THE CAUSE OF THE UPEHAVALS WHICH ARE DISRUPTING THE NEIGHBORING REGIONS...

...AND THE REASON WHY MY MASTERS HAVE SENT A **MULL BOMB** TO DESTROY THE **BLACK GALAXY!**



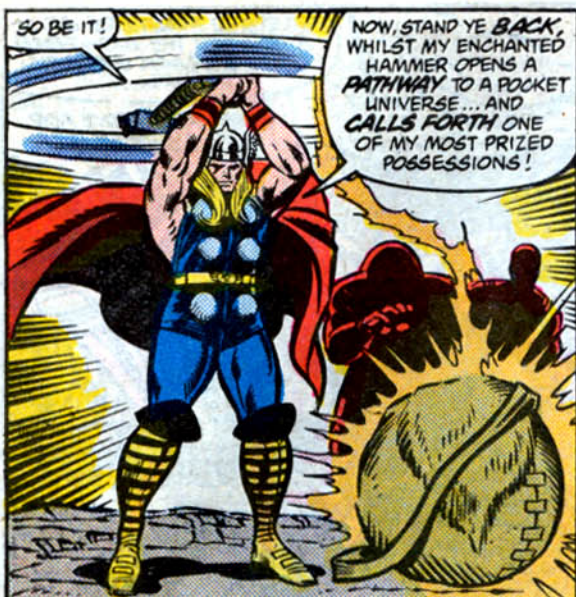
WHAT?! THIS LIVING UNIVERSE IS **UNIQUE** IN ALL OF CREATION! IT MUST BE **PRESERVED!**

COMPUTATION: THE ODDS OF YOU STOPPING THE BOMB AND SAVING YOUR FRIENDS ARE ONE AGAINST 4,572,368³!



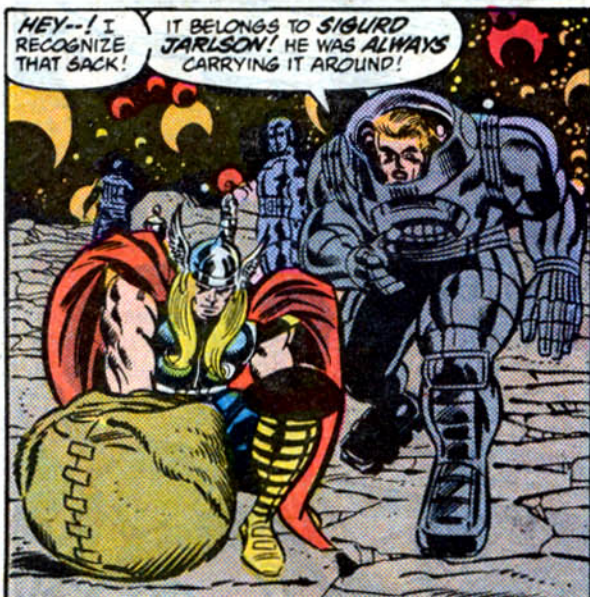
OBSERVATION: IF THOSE ODDS CAN BE BEATEN, IT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE MIGHTY **THOR!**

STATEMENT: I WILL AID YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN!



SO BE IT!

NOW, STAND YE **BACK**,
WHILST MY ENCHANTED
HAMMER OPENS A
PATHWAY TO A POCKET
UNIVERSE... AND
CALLS FORTH ONE
OF MY MOST PRIZED
POSSESSIONS!



HEY--! I
RECOGNIZE
THAT SACK!

IT BELONGS TO **SIGURD
JARLSON**! HE WAS ALWAYS
CARRYING IT AROUND!



AYE... AND IT CONTAINS
THE **BATTLE ARMOR**
OF **THOR**!



THAT
CAN **ONLY**
MEAN...

THOU HAST
GUESSED MY
SECRET,
ERIC!



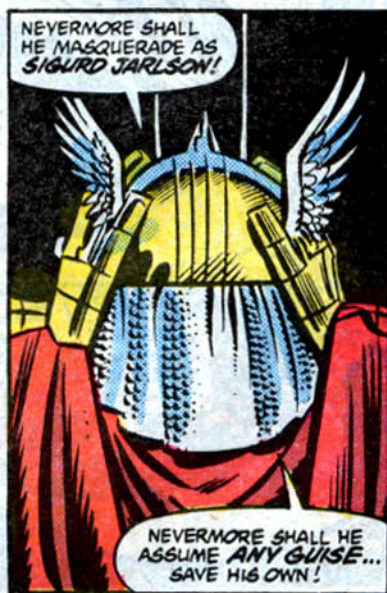
BUT, IT MATTERS **NO
MORE**--! A DEADLY, LIVING
UNIVERSE-- FILLED WITH
UNIMAGINABLE **HORRORS**--
STANDS BETWEEN US AND
OUR GOAL!



I MUST GIRD
MYSELF FOR
COMBAT
MOST GRIM!



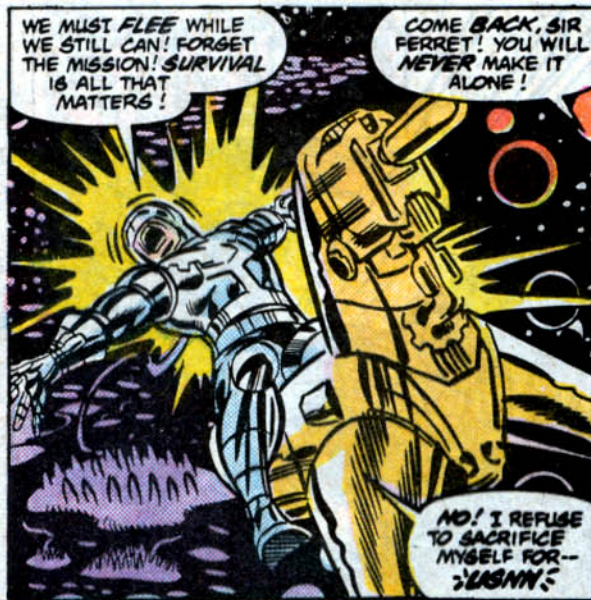
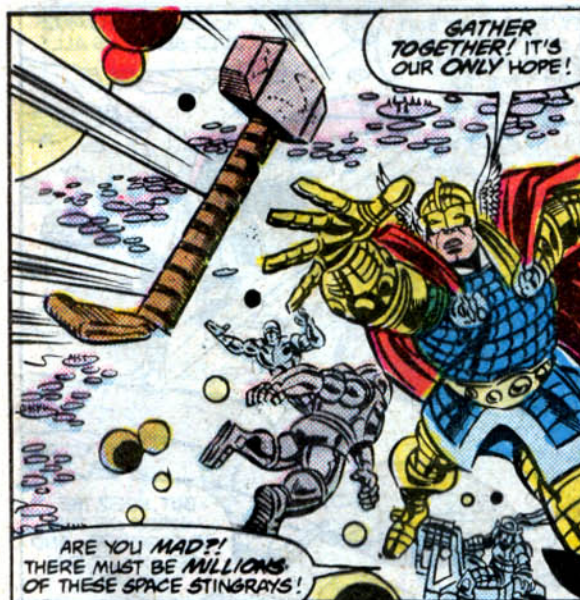
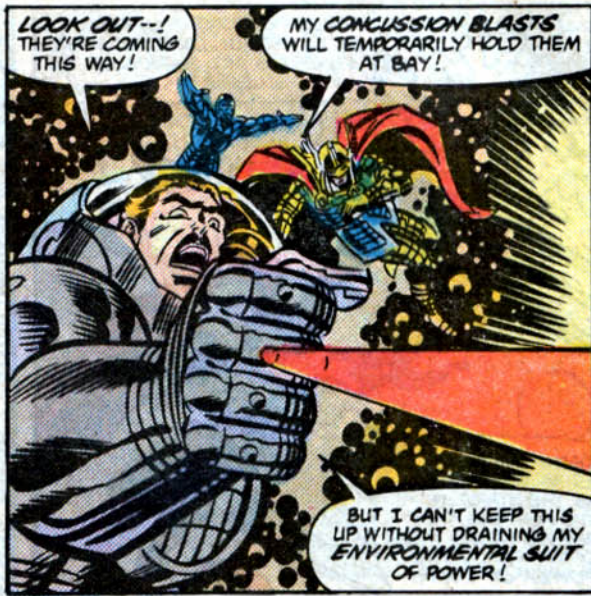
THE TIME WHEN
THE **SON OF ODIN**
NEEDED TO BE
CONCERNED WITH A
MORTAL IDENTITY
IS LONG PASSED!

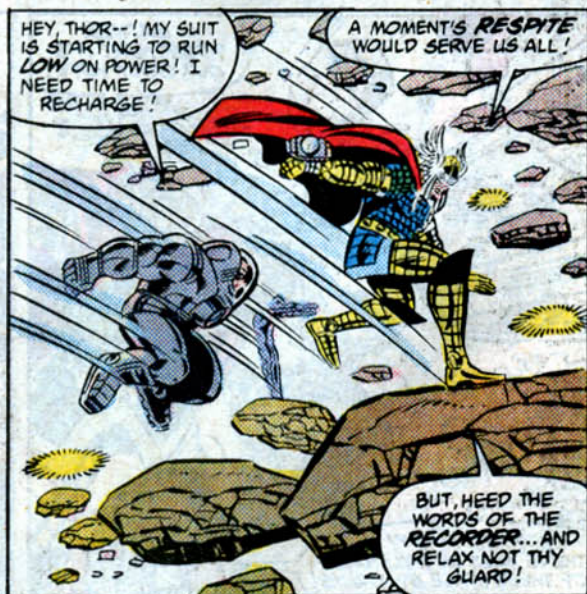
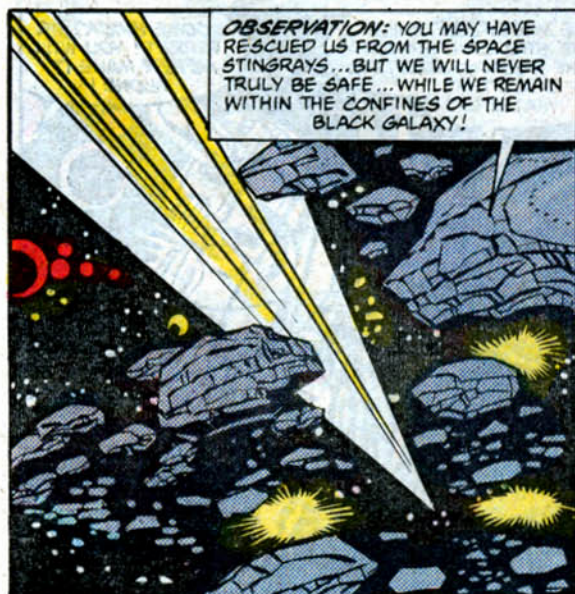
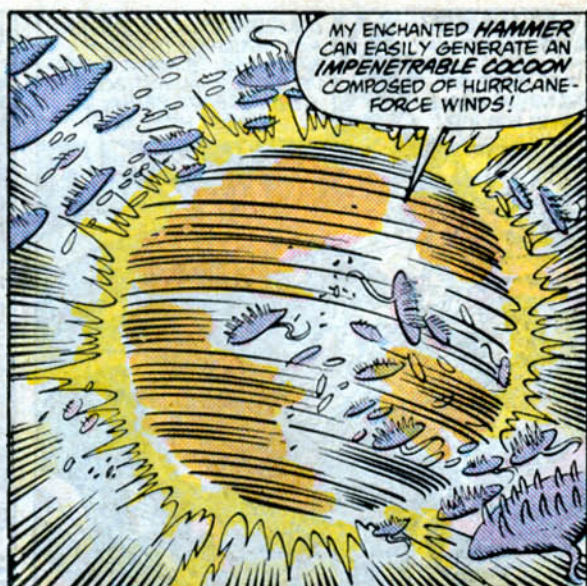
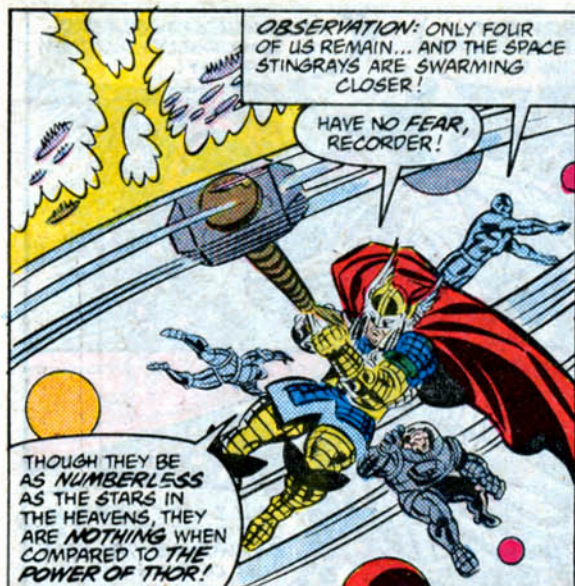


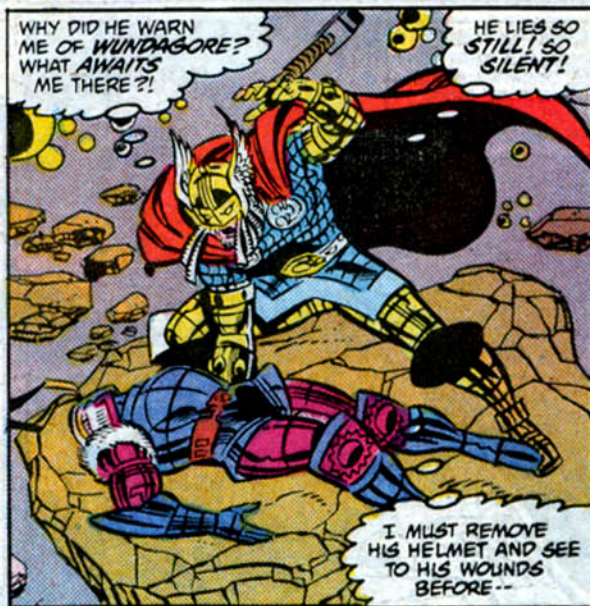
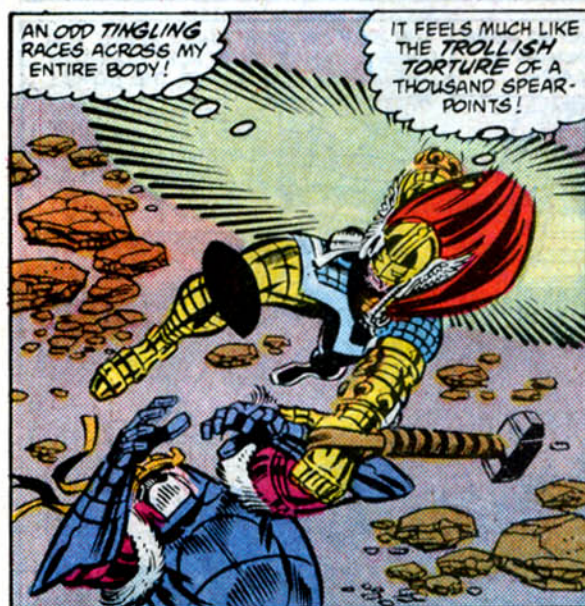
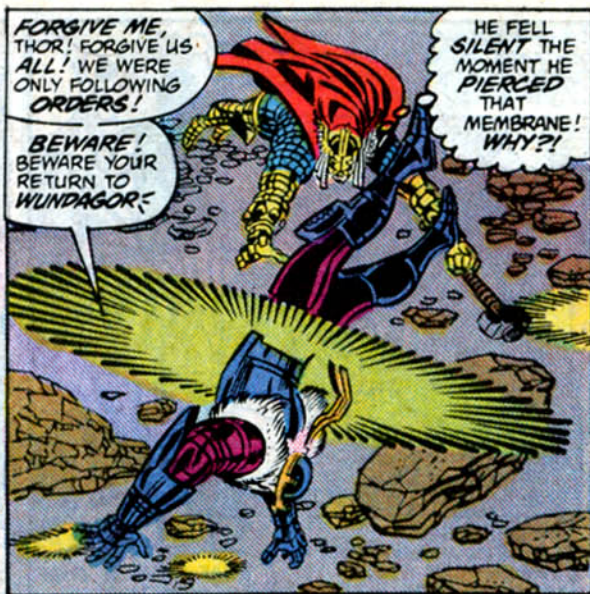
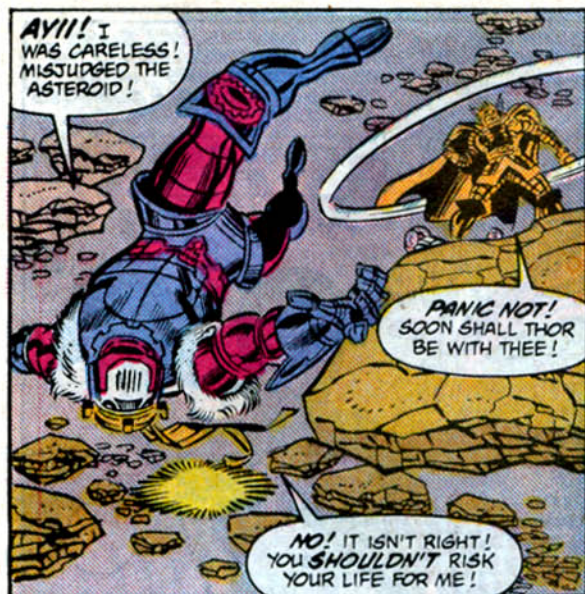
NEVERMORE SHALL
HE MASQUERADE AS
SIGURD JARLSON!

NEVERMORE SHALL HE
ASSUME **ANY GUISE**...
SAVE HIS OWN!









OBSERVATION: THAT MEMBRANE CONTAINED A FACTOR WHICH INSTANTLY AGED YOU SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS...

...BUT THE NATURAL LIFE SPAN OF AN ASGARDIAN IS FAR GREATER THAN IT ANTICIPATED!

WHAT A GRUESOME WAY TO GO!

MY SENSITIZERS INDICATE THAT IT IS LOCATED SOMEWHERE ON THAT MIST-COVERED PLANETOID!

WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

WE CAN TARRY HERE NO LONGER!

WE MUST STOP THE NULL BOMB... AND RESCUE HERCULES AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY... IF THE DEATHS OF OUR NOBLE COMRADES ARE TO HAVE ANY MEANING!

STATEMENT: THE BOMB IS NEARBY!

AND SO, HERE MOMENTS LATER...

THE SON OF ODIN SHALL SCOUT FOR DANGER... WHILE THOU DOST COMPUTE THE EXACT POSITION OF THE BOMB!

OBSERVATION: THE LAND MASS OF THIS PLANETOID APPEARS TO BE COVERED WITH A LAYER OF STRANGELY-HUED ROCKS!

WHAT IS THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE BLACK GALAXY?!

CORRECTION: THE ROCKS ARE ALIVE...AND HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE!

YEOW! THEY'RE SECRETING SOME KIND OF ACID WHICH IS DISSOLVING MY ENVIRONMENTAL SUIT!

THOSE CREATURES...! I FOUGHT THEIR LIKE BEFORE... WHEN I ENTERED THE BRAIN OF A CELESTIAL!*

THE CELESTIALS ARE SAID TO BE A RACE OF OMNIPOTENT SPACE GODS WHO ARE KNOWN TO CONDUCT GENETIC EXPERIMENTS THROUGHOUT THE MULTIVERSE!

*IT HAPPENED IN THOR #388--RECORDER RALF!



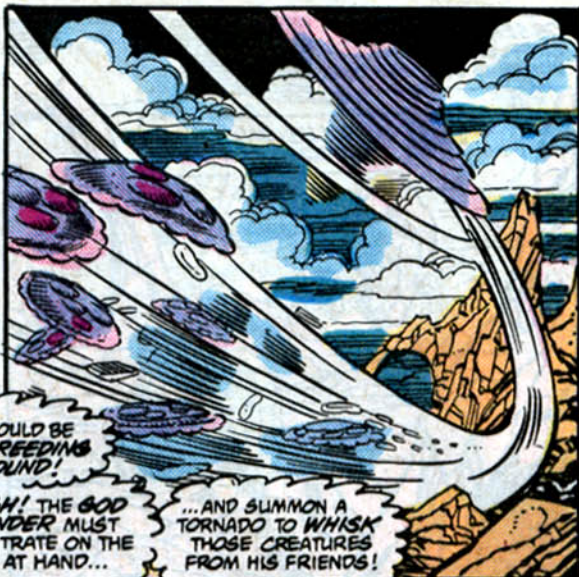
MY MIND REELS AT THE POSSIBILITIES!

THIS BIO-VERSE COULD BE ONE OF THEIR EXPERIMENTS! A VAST STOREHOUSE FULL OF GENETIC MATERIALS!

OR, IT COULD BE THEIR BREEDING GROUND!

ENOUGH! THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND...

...AND SUMMON A TORNADO TO WHISK THOSE CREATURES FROM HIS FRIENDS!



RECORDER! RECORDER! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO THEE?!

OBSERVATION: THE LOWER PORTION OF MY STRUCTURE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ELIMINATED!

I AM STILL FUNCTIONAL... BUT CAN ONLY OPERATE AT 37% EFFICIENCY!

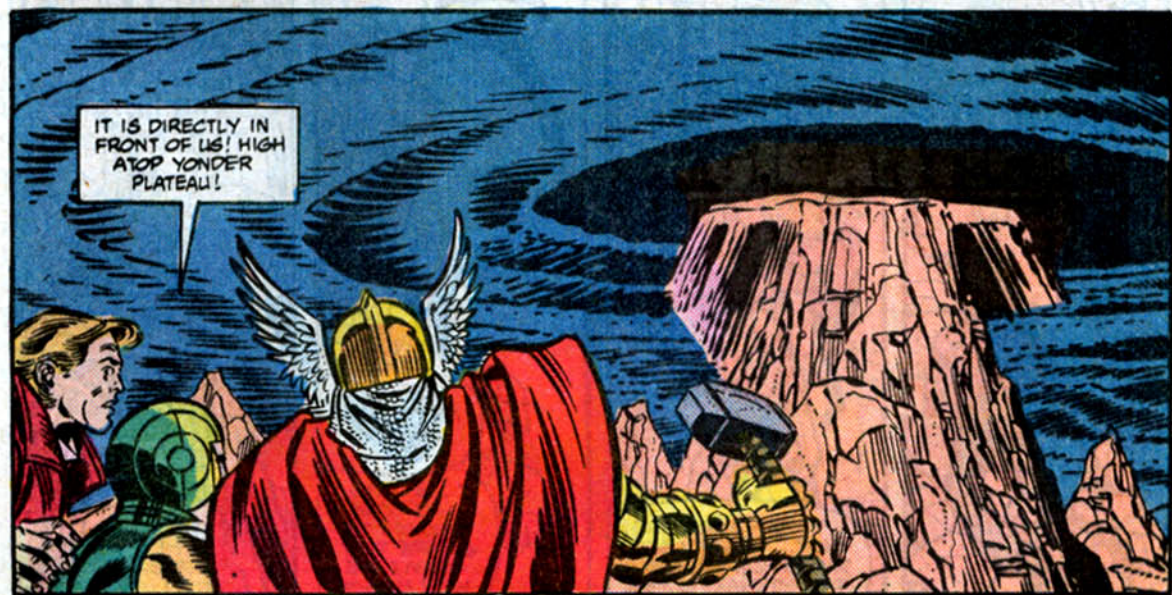


ERIC, HOW DO YOU FEEL?!

I'M ALL RIGHT... BUT MY SUIT TOOK THE HEAVIES!

HIGH TECHNOLOGY ISN'T ALL THAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

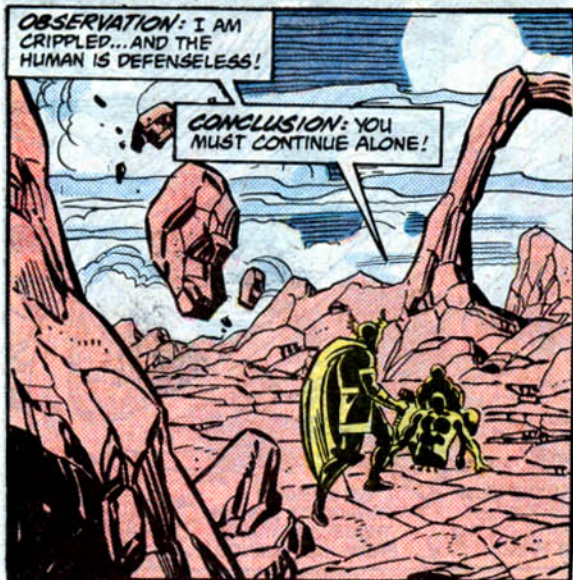
STATEMENT: I HAVE FOUND THE BOMB!



IT IS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US! HIGH ATOP YONDER PLATEAU!

OBSERVATION: I AM CRIPPLED...AND THE HUMAN IS DEFENSELESS!

CONCLUSION: YOU MUST CONTINUE ALONE!



NO! A TRUE WARRIOR-BORN DOES NOT ABANDON HIS COMRADES-IN-ARMS!

B-BUT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! WE WILL ONLY HINDER YOU!

MY DAMAGED BODY WILL NOT SURVIVE THE RIGORS OF FLIGHT!



THEN, WE SHALL CLIMB!

I CAME TO THIS GALAXY IN THE NAME OF FRIENDSHIP...



...I WILL NOT DISHONOR MY CAUSE-- AND MYSELF-- BY LEAVING YOU BEHIND!



Y'KNOW SOMETHING, THOR... "AFRO" USED TO BE ANOTHER WORD IN THE DICTIONARY TO ME!

A WAY TO REFER TO A TALENTED SPORTS FIGURE!



YOU TAUGHT ME ITS TRUE MEANING TODAY!

I JUST HOPE I LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH MY SON!

BY THE WAY, I LIKE THE BEARD!

YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT KEEPING IT!



OBSERVATION: WE HAVE REACHED THE SUMMIT... BUT THE SIGHT WHICH GREET'S US... IS FAR BEYOND OUR MOST SEVERE EXTRAPOLATIONS!

T-THAT THING MUST BE CLOSE TO FIVE HUNDRED FEET TALL!

WHAT IS IT?!

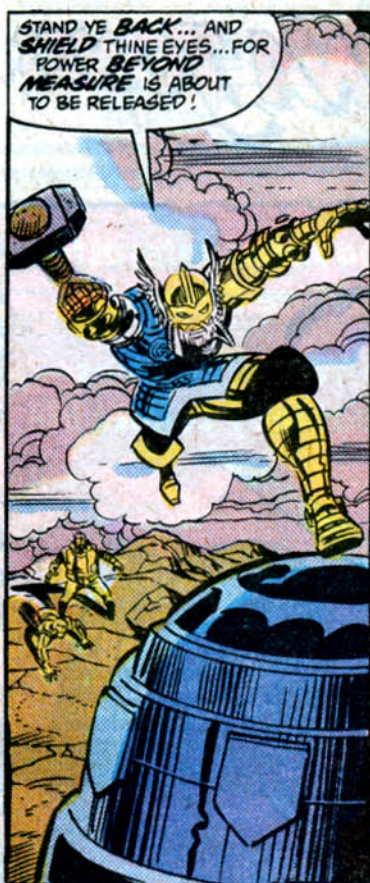


'TIS A CELESTIAL!

SWELL! WHAT ABOUT THESE STRUCTURES? WE HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE THEM IN THIS GALAXY... AND THEY REMIND ME OF THE GIANT HEADS OF EASTER ISLAND!

STATEMENT: MY DERMACIRCUITS ARE STRAINING TO ACCURATELY RECORD THIS INCOMPREHENSIBLE INPUT, AND...

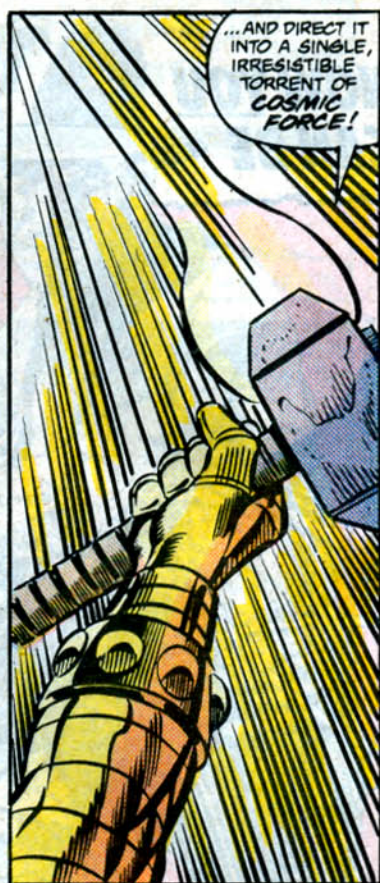
WARNING!
WARNING!
MY SENSITIZER INDICATES THAT THE NULL BOMB WILL DETONATE IN EXACTLY FIVE SECONDS!



STAND YE **BACK**... AND **SHIELD** THINE EYES...FOR POWER **BEYOND MEASURE** IS ABOUT TO BE RELEASED!



IN THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY **ODIN**, LORD OF THE ASSGARDIAN GODS, MY **ENCHANTED HAMMER** SHALL DRAW FORTH ALL OF THE DREADED **NULL ENERGY** WITHIN THIS **BOMB**...



...AND DIRECT IT INTO A SINGLE, IRRESISTIBLE **TORRENT OF COSMIC FORCE**!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE **GOD OF THUNDER** SENDS THAT **TORRENT BLASTING OUTWARD**!



OUTWARD!

OUTWARD!!

WITHIN AN INSTANT, IT SLICES ACROSS THE **BIO-VERSE**--



--AND PIERCES THE VERY VEIL OF THE **BLACK GALAXY**!

ENTERING THE **PHYSICAL UNIVERSE**, IT CONTINUES ITS MAD RUSH THROUGH TIME AND SPACE--

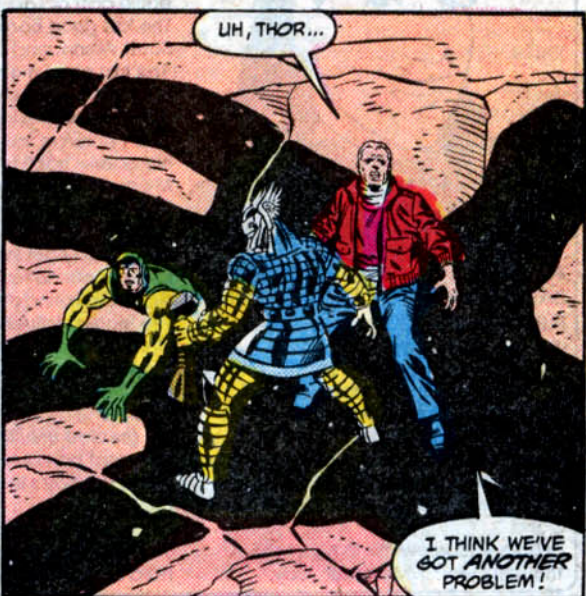
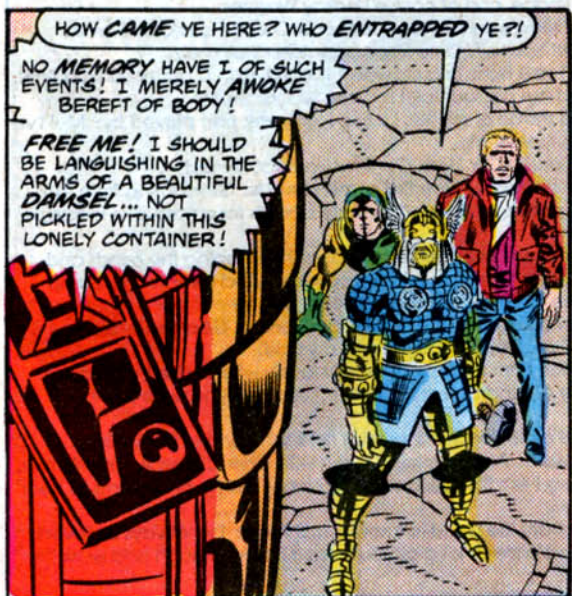
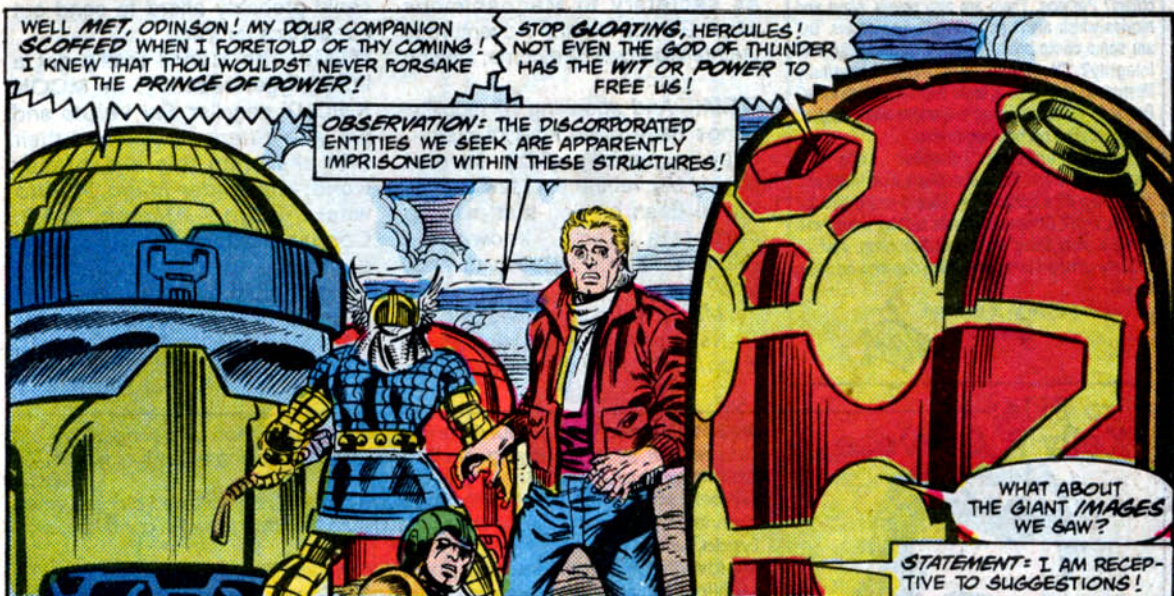
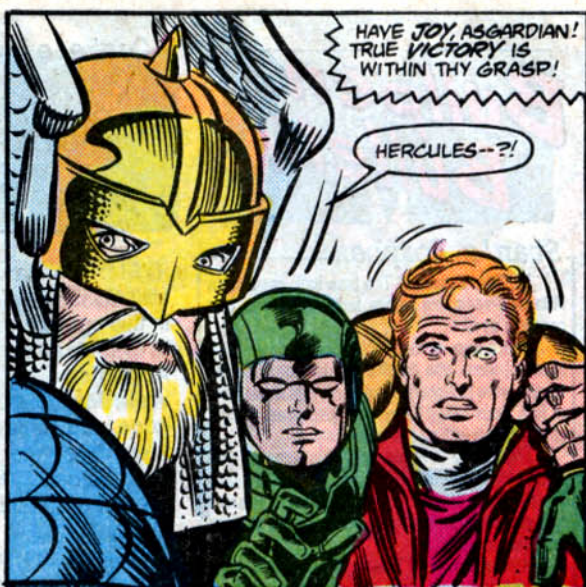
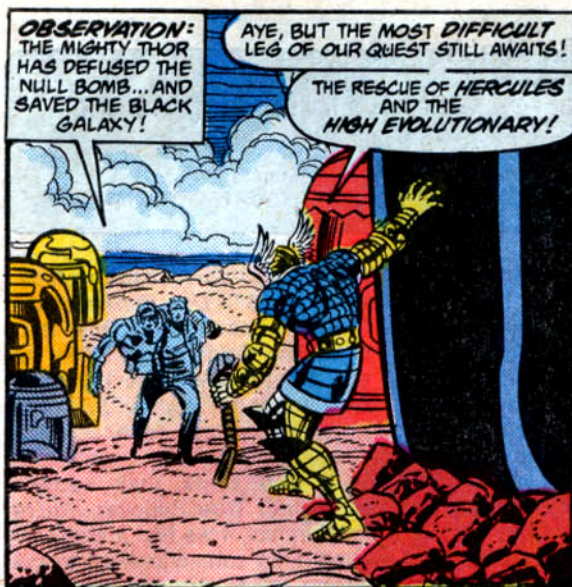


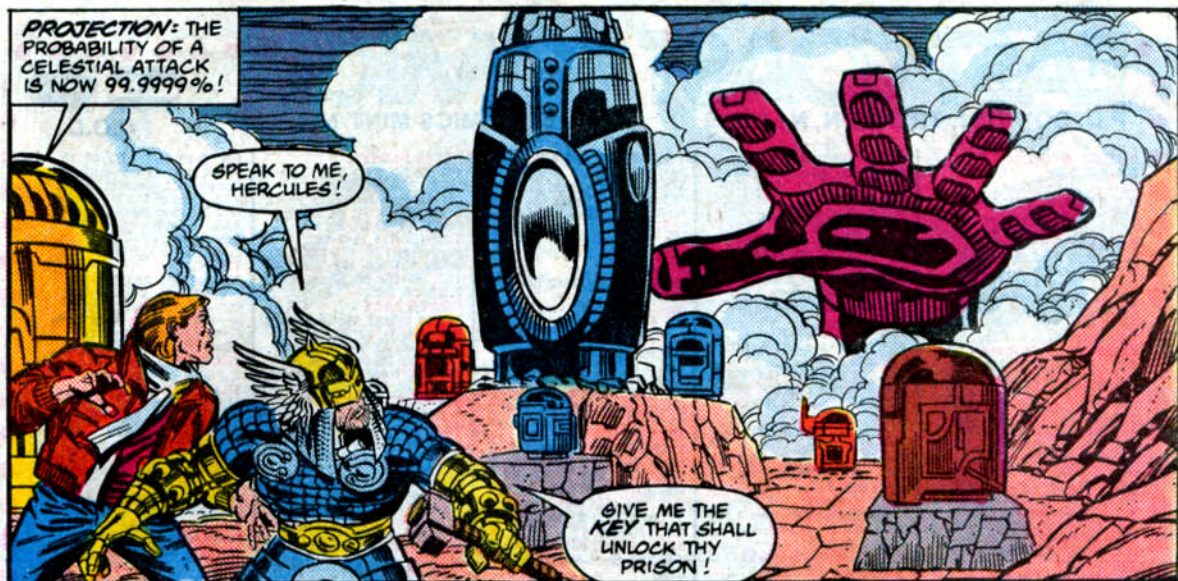
--UNTIL IT COLLIDES WITH A DYING **SUN**!

IN A PAROXYSM OF UNMEASURABLE **FURY**, THE **SUN** IS REIGNITED--



--AND SEVEN POPULATED **WORLDS** ARE GIVEN A **SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE**!





PROJECTION: THE
PROBABILITY OF A
CELESTIAL ATTACK
IS NOW 99.9999%!

SPEAK TO ME,
HERCULES!

GIVE ME THE
KEY THAT SHALL
UNLOCK THY
PRISON!



HAST THOU NOT
A HAMMER?!
USE IT!

DO I
DARE?!



THE SHATTERING
OF THIS STRUCTURE
MAY CAUSE THEE
HARM!

METHINKS MY
STATE CANNOT
WORSEN!



MOVE IT, THOR!
HURRY!



THE BIG
GUY'S PALM
IS STARTING
TO GLOW!

OBSERVATION: WE
ARE INSTANTS AWAY
FROM TERMINATION!



THE DIE IS CAST!
THE DECISION
MADE!

THE
THUNDER
GOD MUST
STRIKE--!



SHA-BWAAM!!

A THOUSAND
IMAGES SUDDENLY
LACERATE THOR'S
MIND!

IMAGES OF TERRIBLE
BEAUTY AND EXHILA-
RATING HORROR!

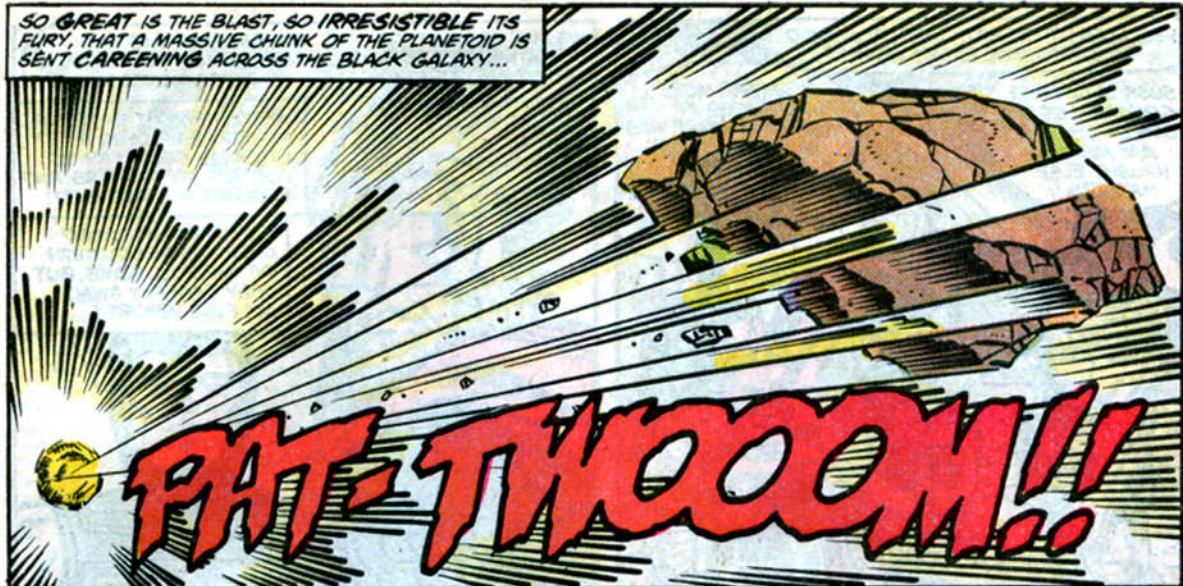
VISIONS OF GHASTLY
JOY AND THRILLING
SADNESS!



AND THEN, EVEN AS HE HOWLS IN PAIN AND CONFUSION,
THE HAND OF THE CELESTIAL UNLEASHES A NEW MAEL-
STROM OF TERROR AND AGONY...

PWOON!

SO GREAT IS THE BLAST, SO IRRESISTIBLE ITS FURY, THAT A MASSIVE CHUNK OF THE PLANETOID IS SENT CAREENING ACROSS THE BLACK GALAXY...



FOR MANY HOURS IT CONTINUES ITS APPARENTLY RANDOM JOURNEY THROUGH THE EMOTIONLESS EYE OF AN UNCARING BIO-VERSE...



AND THEN...



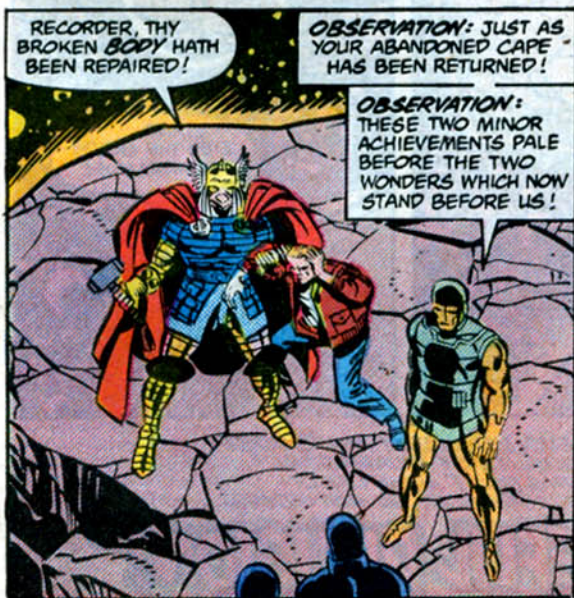
OBSERVATION:
WE STILL LIVE!



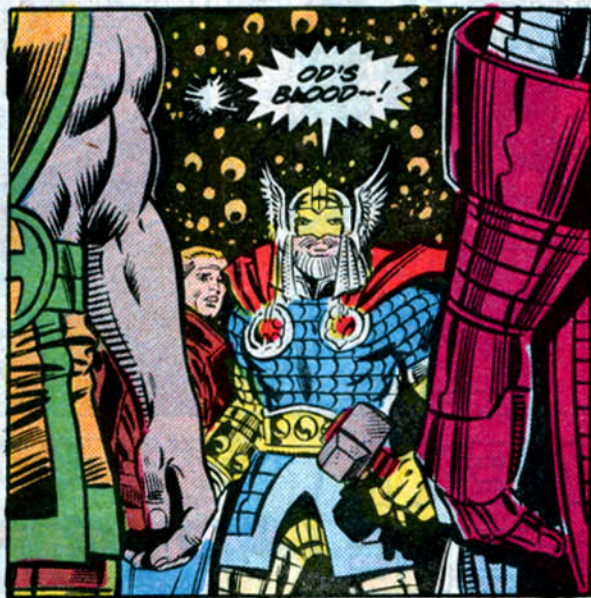
RECORDER, THY BROKEN BODY HATH BEEN REPAIRED!

OBSERVATION: JUST AS YOUR ABANDONED CAPE HAS BEEN RETURNED!

OBSERVATION: THESE TWO MINOR ACHIEVEMENTS PALE BEFORE THE TWO WONDERS WHICH NOW STAND BEFORE US!



OD'S BLOOD--!





HERCULES! THOU HATH BEEN RESTORED TO CORPOREAL FORM! HOW?!

SUCH IS NOT THE CONCERN OF THE SON OF ZEUS! I AM HERE! NAUGHT ELSE MATTERS!

I AM FAR MORE INTERESTED IN LEARNING *WHAT* WAS IN THOSE OTHER CONTAINERS!

AND, *WHY* DID THE SPACE CREATURE FREE US?

HAD WE ALREADY SERVED ITS UNIMAGINABLE PURPOSE? WHAT WAS IT?

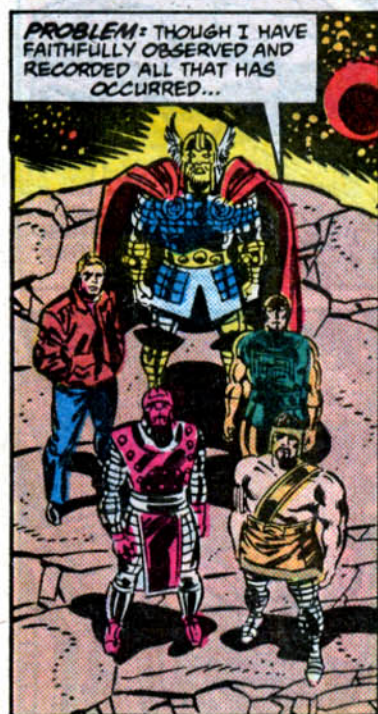


WE MAY NEVER LEARN THE *ANSWERS* TO SUCH PUZZLING QUESTIONS!

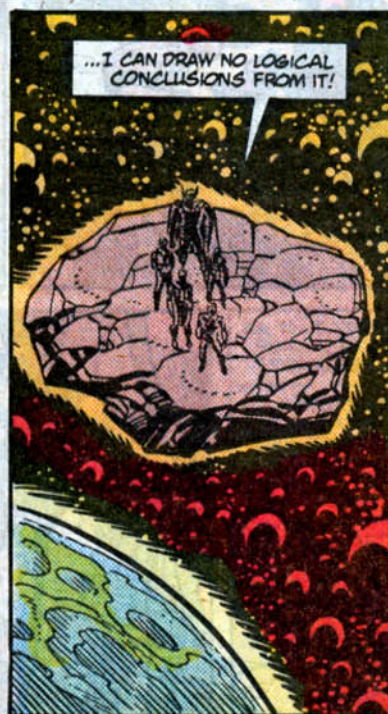
MAYHAPS, THIS IS YET *ANOTHER* OF ITS INFERNAL EXPERIMENTS!

STATEMENT: I HAVE ALREADY EMPLOYED MY INTERNAL CIRCUITRY TO CONTACT MY MASTERS, AND REQUEST A SPACE SHIP!

THEY ARE DISPLEASED OVER THE RESOLUTION OF THE NULL BOMB, BUT THEY EAGERLY AWAIT MY FULL REPORT!



PROBLEM: THOUGH I HAVE FAITHFULLY OBSERVED AND RECORDED ALL THAT HAS OCCURRED...



...I CAN DRAW NO LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS FROM IT!



METHINKS THERE BE CERTAIN TRUTHS WHICH ARE UTTERLY *BEYOND* THE KEN OF MORTAL AND MACHINE...

...AND E'EN THE *GODS* THEMSELVES!

**NEXT
ISSUE**

HERCULES! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY! MONGOOSE!
ODIN! ASGARD! THE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE!
AND A STARTLING TURNING POINT IN THE LIFE OF
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE THUNDER GOD! YOU MUST NOT MISS...

"THE FATEFUL DECISION!"