

A VERY SPECIAL ISSUE OF...

MARVEL
COMICS



the mighty **THOR**

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THRILL TO THE FURY
OF THE FROST
GIANTS!

FEATURING

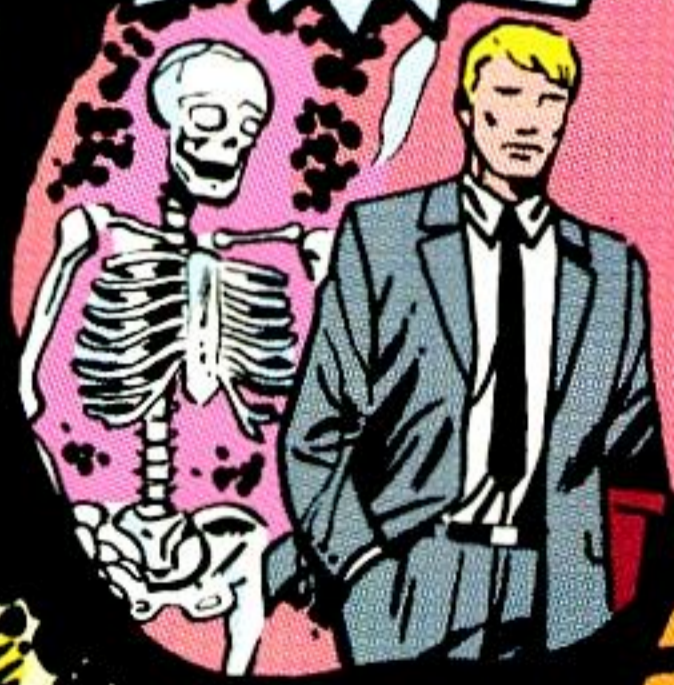
A SUPER CELEBRATION OF HIS
FIRST SECRET IDENTITY IN THE
MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!



SEE THE SAVAGERY
OF THE STONE
MEN!

LEARN THE
TRUE ORIGIN OF
DON BLAKE!

WITNESS THE
WRATH OF ODIN!



**WHEN
GODS
WEAR
MORTAL
FLESH!**



STAN LEE PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

"WHEN GODS WEAR MORTAL FLESH!"

ALONE IN HIS MANHATTAN APARTMENT STANDS A VERY PENSIVE ERIC MASTERSON...

LIFE CAN BE SO UNPREDICTABLE! EACH NEW MOMENT BRINGS AN INFINITE VARIETY OF CHOICES AND POSSIBILITIES!

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO ME IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS! SO MANY THINGS THAT SHOULD BE UNIMAGINABLE!



I USED TO BE A PRETTY AVERAGE GUY! A SIMPLE, SINGLE ARCHITECT WHO WAS STRUGGLING TO RAISE A YOUNG SON!

BUT, THAT WAS BEFORE I WAS MYSTICALLY MERGED WITH THE GOD OF THUNDER!

BASED ON THE WORK OF STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY!

RECOUNTED BY TOM DEFALCO

VISUALIZED BY HERB TRIMPE

LETTERED BY MICHAEL HEISLER

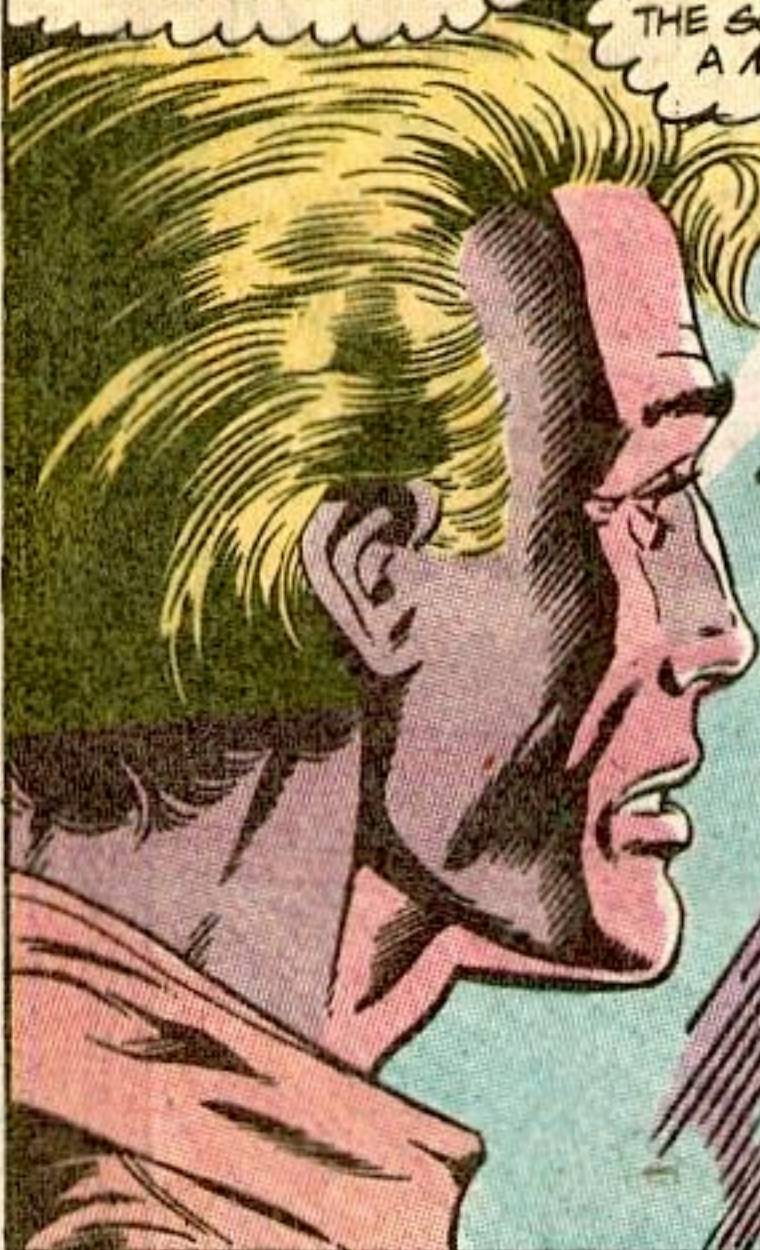
COLORS BY GEORGE ROUSSOS

EDITED BY RALPH MACCHIO

THE MIGHTY THOR AND I ARE ONE-- MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY!

SINCE I NOW SHARE HIS MEMORIES, I REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE SON OF ODIN HAS HAD A MORTAL IDENTITY!

THE STORY BEHIND HIS MOST RECENT HUMAN GUISE BEGAN ON ANOTHER PLANE OF REALITY... IN NIFFELHEIM... THE LEGENDARY LAND WHERE THE STORM GIANTS DWELL!



"THERE WAS A ROYAL TRUCE WHICH FORBADE ANY ASSGARDIAN FROM ENTERING THIS LAND!"

"WHEN YOU'RE BLOND, BLUE-EYED, SIX-FOOT-SIX, AND CAN BENCH-PRESS SMALL PLANETS-- YOU AREN'T EXACTLY THE MOST CAUTIOUS OF INDIVIDUALS!"

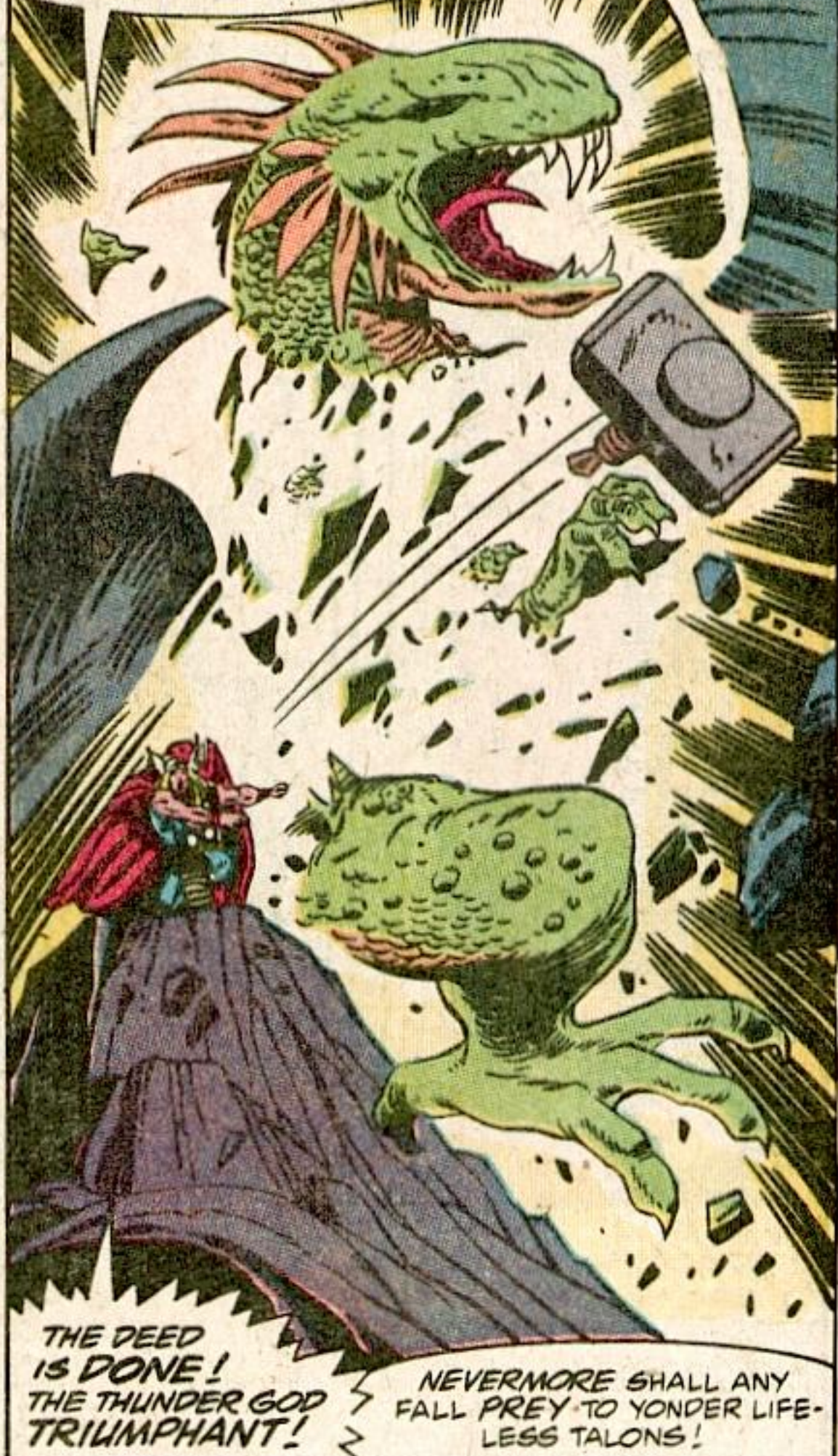
"THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS BEING THREATENED BY A BIRDBEAST-- A MYSTICAL CREATURE COMPOSED OF LIVING STONE-- AND THOR HAD VOWED TO END ITS MURDEROUS RAMPAGE..."



THOUGH THE DEADLY BIRDBEAST HATH FLOWN INTO NIFFLEHEIM... I SHALL NOT GIVE UP THE HUNT!

SO LONG AS HE DOTHS LIVE, THERE CAN BE NO SAFETY FOR ASSGARDIAN... OR STORM GIANT ALIKE!

NOW SHALL THE HAMMER OF THOR END ITS DAYS OF MURDER AND OF PILLAGE ...FORE'ER!



THE DEED IS DONE! THE THUNDER GOD TRIUMPHANT!

NEVERMORE SHALL ANY FALL PREY TO YONDER LIFE-LESS TALONS!

"BUT, THE HEADSTRONG IMMORTAL HAD LITTLE CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, FOR THE BIRDBEAST'S PIERCING DEATH CRY HAD ATTRACTED SOME UNWANTED ATTENTION..."

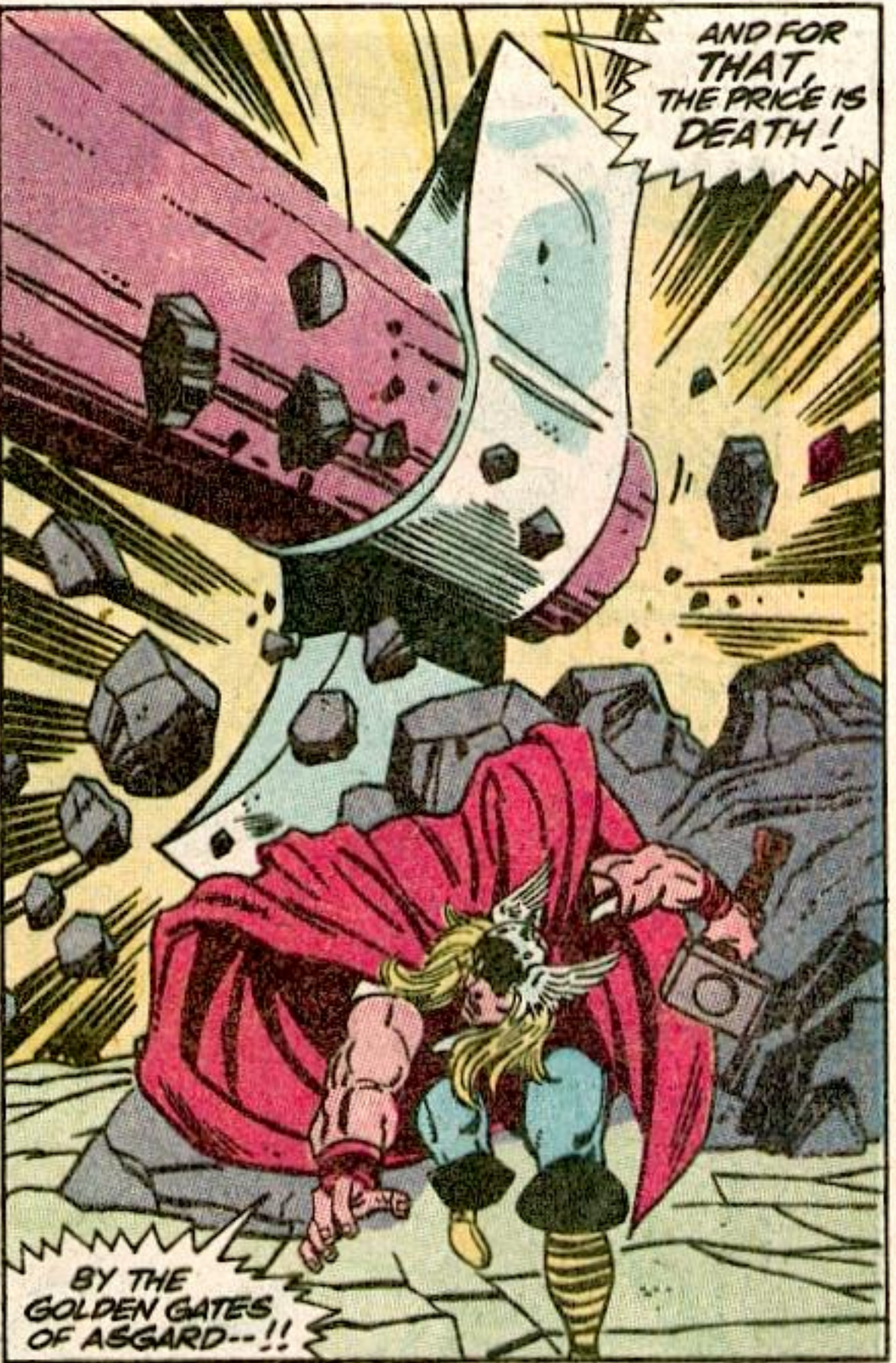


WHO DARES TREAD UPON FORBIDDEN LAND??

'TIS I, THE SON OF ODIN, WHO HAST DONE FOR THEE GREAT SERVICE!

SILENCE, BASE INTRUDER! THOU HAST BROKEN THE ROYAL TRUCE!

AND FOR THAT, THE PRICE IS DEATH!



BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD--!!



NONE SHALL ATTACK A PRINCE OF THE REALM-- --WITHOUT FEELING THE POWER OF ENCHANTED MJOLNIR!

PWOOM!

WHAT?! A PUNY ASGARDIAN DARES TO CHALLENGE US WHO BE GIANTS?!

HE MUST BE CRUSHED... LIKE THE INSECT HE IS!

AVENGE ME, MY BRETHREN! THE WARRIOR-PRINCE MUST FALL!



THOR SHALL NOT FALTER!

FOR ASGARD AND HONOR-- I STRIKE!

NOT E'EN THY SIZE CAN GIVE ME PAUSE!

THOUGH THOU TRULY BE GIANTS... THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER STILL--



--THE MOUNTAIN 'NEATH WHICH THOU DOTH CHARGE!

THE MOUNTAIN... WHICH MY MIGHTY HAMMER NOW SHALL SHATTER!



'TIS DONE! NOW ARE THEY TRAPPED WITH-IN... BUT WAIT!

THE BATTLE IS NOT YET ENDED! OTHER STORM GIANTS STRIKE FROM AFAR!

'TIS SAFER TO USE THEIR DEADLY FIRE TUBES, THAN BRAVE THE WRATH OF THOR IN FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER!

SSSSZZZZ

" BUT, EVEN BEFORE THE BATTLE COULD CONTINUE... RIDING FAST AND FURIOUSLY, ONE OF THOR'S CLOSEST FRIENDS RACED UPON THE SCENE! "



HO, SON OF ODIN! I HAVE FOUND THEE AT LAST!

MOST NOBLE BALDER!

I HAVE COME TO LEAD THEE HENCE!

THOU WOULDST HAVE ME FLEE FROM COMBAT?

SINCE THE TRESPASS IS THINE... THE WRONG IS THINE, AS WELL!

I WOULD HAVE THEE HONOR THE TREATY ROYAL!

THOU ART RIGHT, AS EVER, FAITHFUL FRIEND!

" UNTIL, UNABLE TO BEAR HIS FAILINGS ANY LONGER, HIS ALMIGHTY FATHER SUMMONED HIM... "

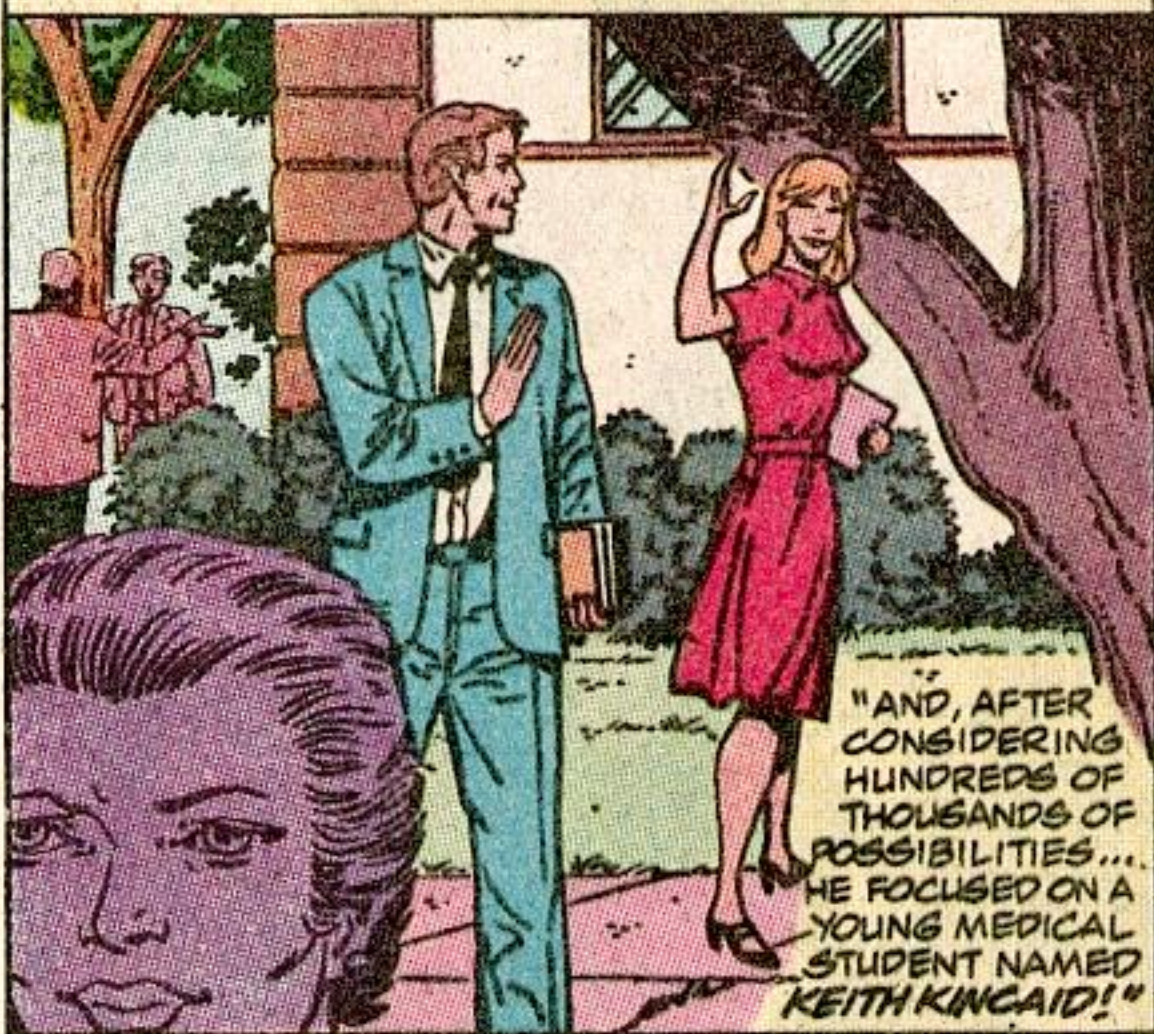


THOU ART THE FAVORED SON OF ODIN! THY STRENGTH IS LEGEND! THINE HONOR, UNSULLIED! AND YET... I FIND THEE WANTING!

THOU ART LACKING IN... HUMILITY!

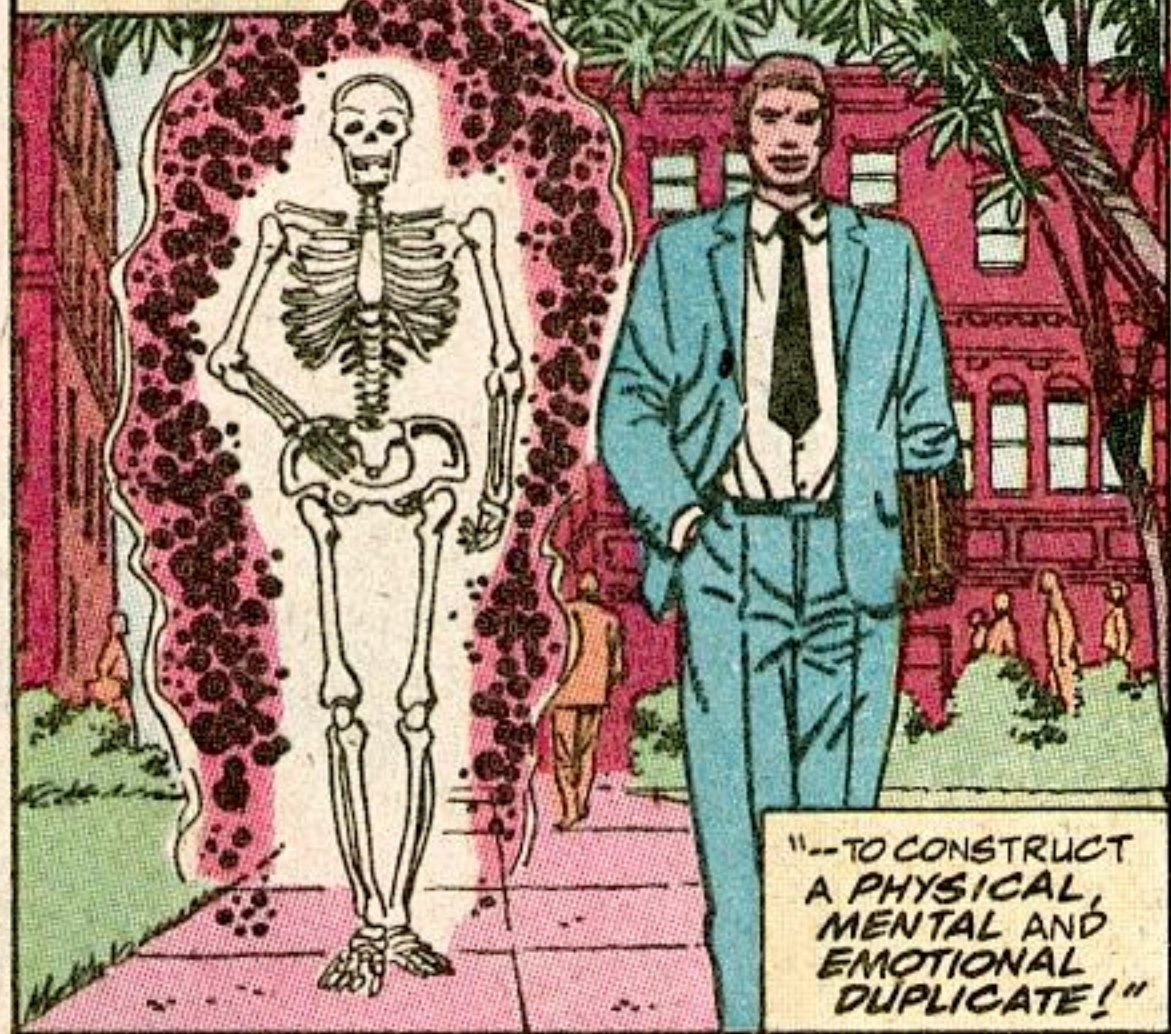
THOUGH THOU ART SUPREME IN THY POWER, AND THY PRIDE... THOU MUST KNOW WEAKNESS... THOU MUST FEEL PAIN!

"REALIZING THAT SUCH LESSONS COULD NEVER BE LEARNED BY A THUNDER GOD, THE LORD OF AS-GARD TURNED TOWARD THE PLANET EARTH!"



"AND, AFTER CONSIDERING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POSSIBILITIES... HE FOCUSED ON A YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT NAMED KEITH KINCAID!"

"WITH KINCAID AS A TEMPLATE, ODIN EMPLOYED A COMBINATION OF ASGARDIAN SCIENCE AND SORCERY--"



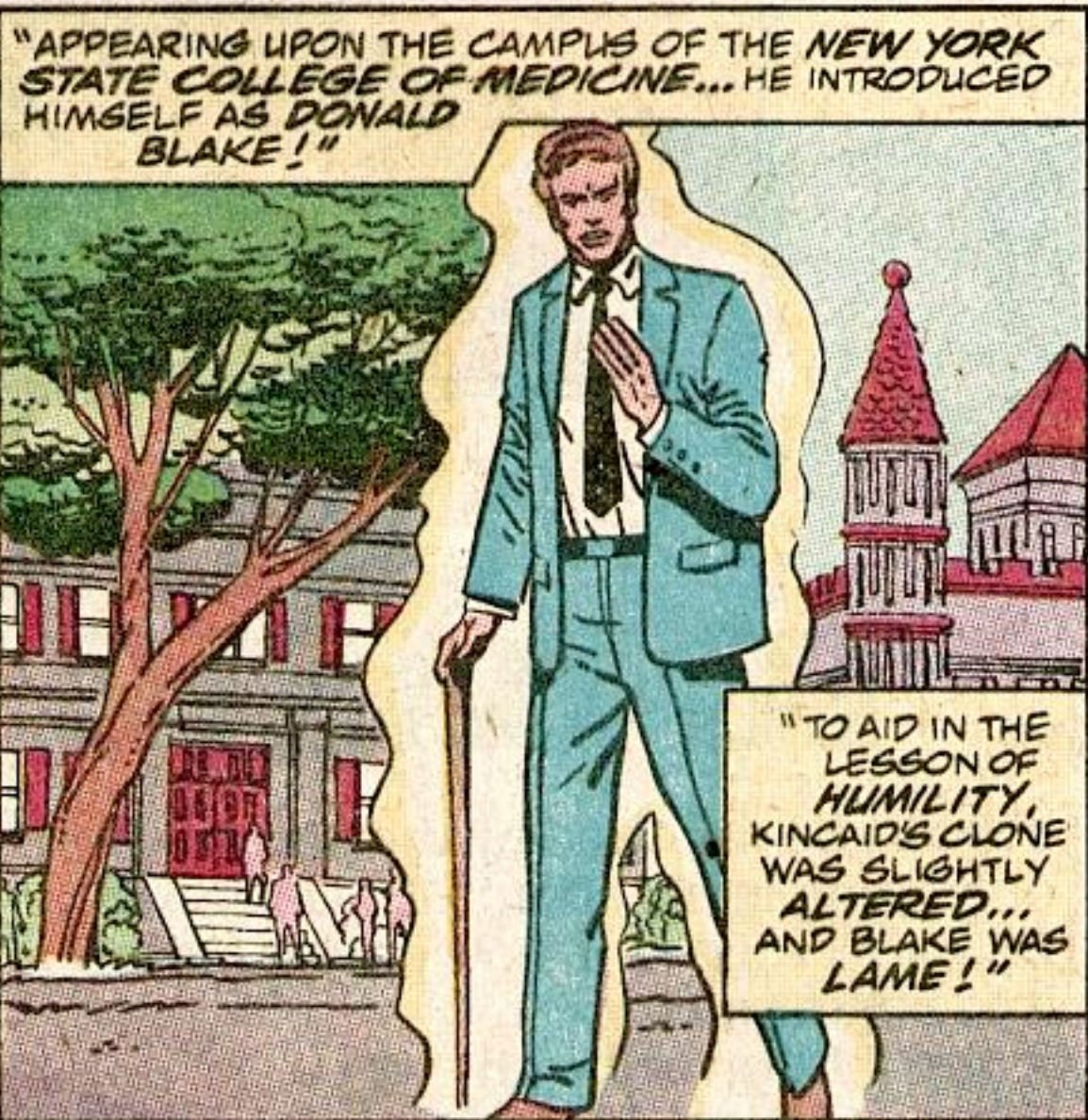
"--TO CONSTRUCT A PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DUPLICATE!"



"HAVING COMPLETED HIS PREPARATIONS, THE ALL-FATHER STRIPPED HIS SON OF HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER AND HIS MEMORY, AND THEN..."

NO LONGER ART THOU GOD OF THUNDER!

GO...FOR LIFE ANEW AWAITS THEE!



"APPEARING UPON THE CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE... HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS DONALD BLAKE!"

"TO AID IN THE LESSON OF HUMILITY, KINCAID'S CLONE WAS SLIGHTLY ALTERED... AND BLAKE WAS LAME!"



"BLOCKED BY ODIN'S ENCHANTMENTS, BLAKE NEVER THOUGHT OF YESTERDAY... AND NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS TRULY A MAN WITHOUT A PAST!"

"HE WORKED HARD, SERIOUSLY APPLYING HIMSELF TO HIS STUDIES!"



"EVENTUALLY, HE RECEIVED HIS DEGREE IN MEDICINE... GRADUATING WITH TOP HONORS!"

CONGRATULATIONS, DONALD! WE'RE ALL VERY PROUD OF YOU!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR!

"POSSESSING GOOD MEDICAL INSTINCTS AND A SINCERE DESIRE TO HELP HUMANITY, BLAKE EVENTUALLY BECAME AN EXCELLENT DOCTOR..."

THE OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, MRS. ROSENBERG!

YOU SHOULD BE UP AND ABOUT WITHIN THE WEEK!

I OWE YOU MY LIFE, DOCTOR!



"AND, AS A SURGEON, HIS SKILL WAS UNSURPASSED..."

FORCEPS... QUICKLY!

PREPARE TO APPLY ADRENALIN!



THAT WAS A STUNNING BIT OF WORK, BLAKE!

NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT!

WE SAVED A LIFE... THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!



"AS HIS REPUTATION GREW, BLAKE OPENED A PRIVATE PRACTICE, AND HIRED A WOMAN WHO WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON HIM..."

WELCOME ABOARD, NURSE FOSTER!



I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY WORKING HERE!

I'M CERTAIN I WILL, DOCTOR!

AND, PLEASE CALL ME JANE!



"FROM THE VERY FIRST MOMENT THEY MET, LIGHTNING FLASHED BETWEEN THE YOUNG SURGEON AND THE BEAUTIFUL NURSE..."



"--UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER ONE REALIZED THAT THEIR BUDDING ROMANCE WAS DOOMED FROM THE VERY START!"

DONALD BLAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

DON'T TELL ME YOU PULLED ANOTHER ALL-NIGHTER IN THE OFFICE!?

I JUST WANTED TO FINISH THIS RESEARCH!



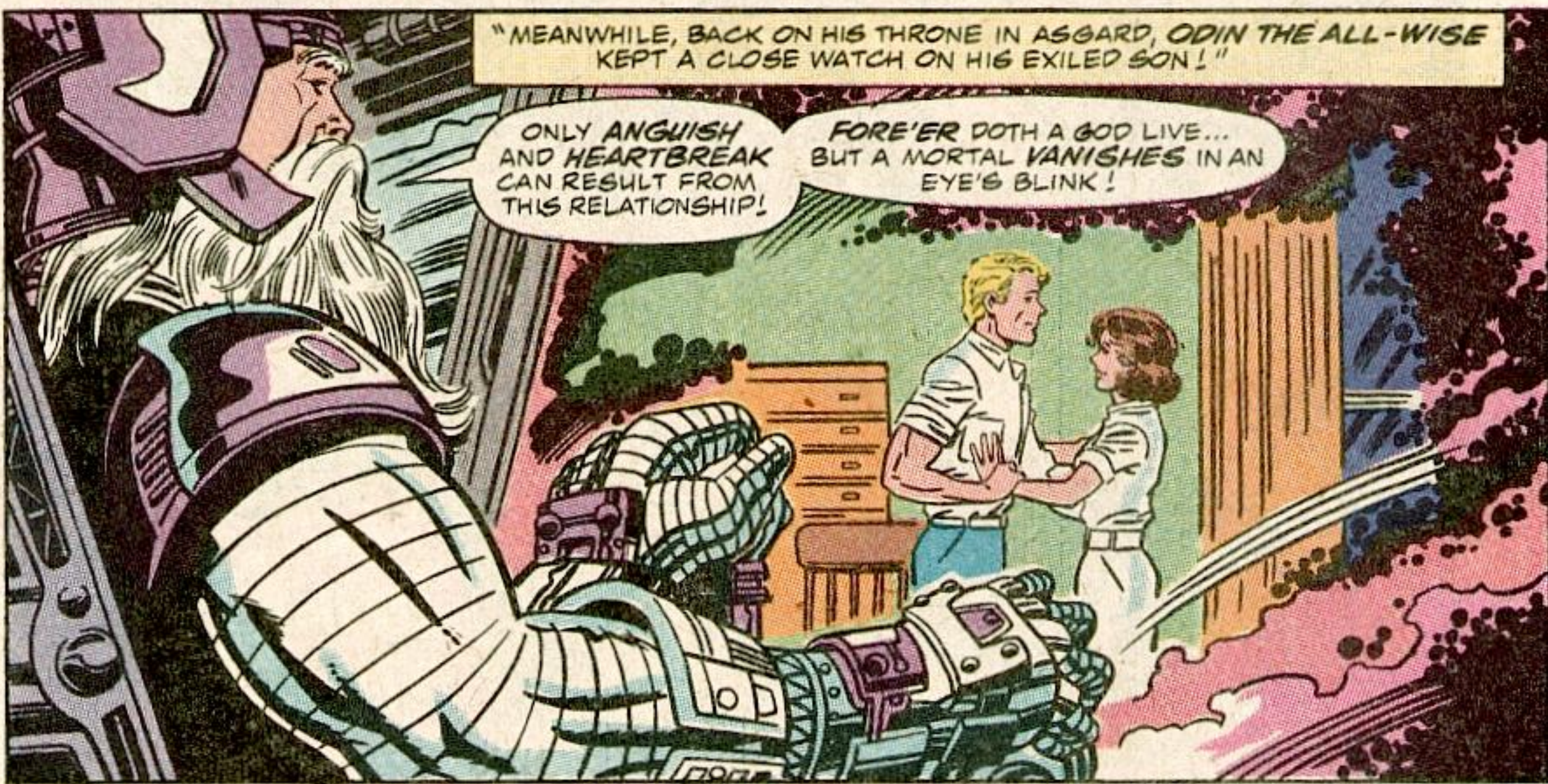
GUESS I LOST TRACK OF THE TIME!

YOU PUSH YOURSELF MUCH TOO HARD!

ALL YOU DO IS WORK! YOU NEED TO GET OUT!

HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE!

MAYBE EVEN TAKE A VACATION!



"MEANWHILE, BACK ON HIS THRONE IN ASGARD, ODIN THE ALL-WISE KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON HIS EXILED SON!"

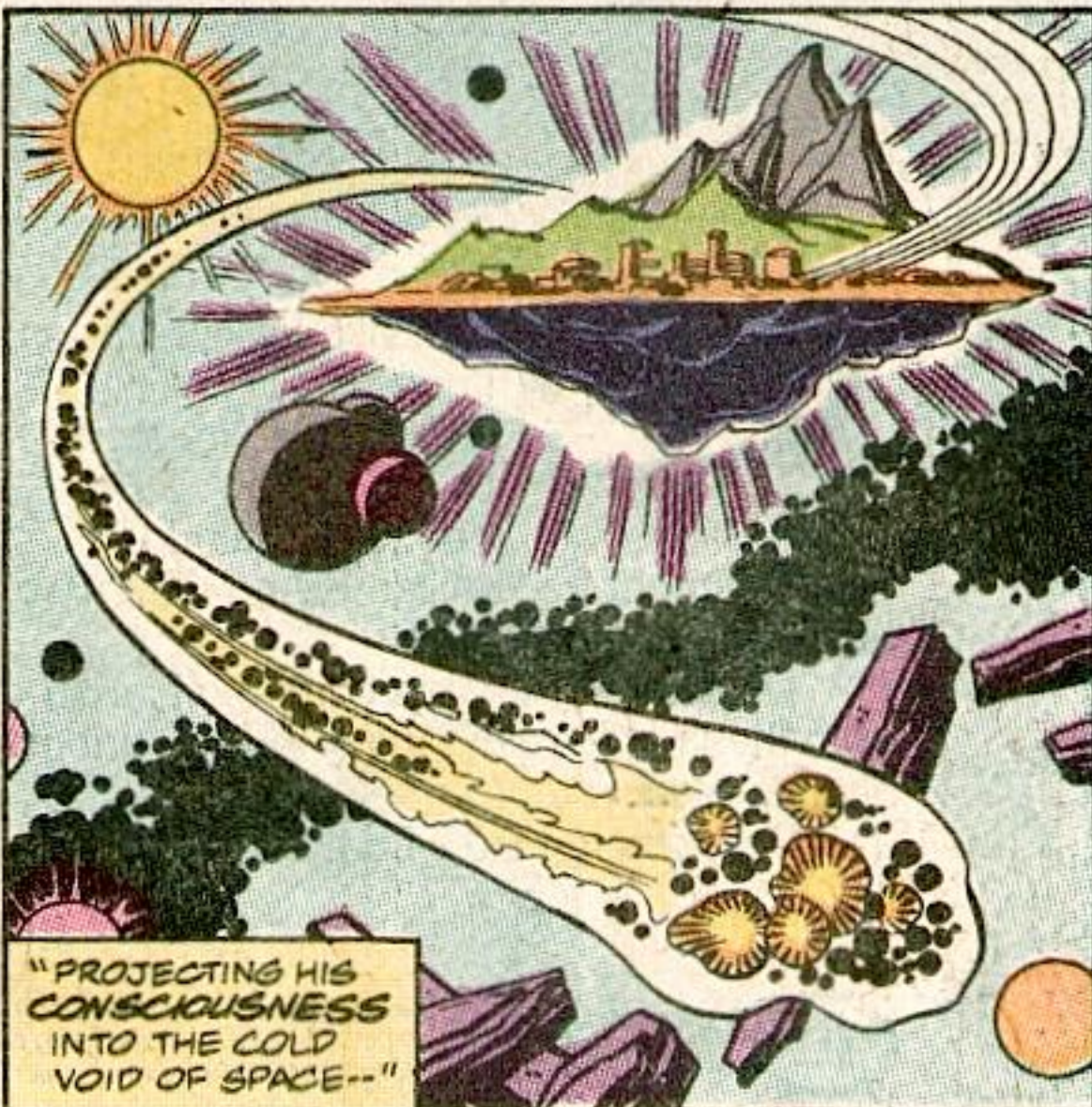
ONLY ANGUISH AND HEARTBREAK CAN RESULT FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP!

FORE'ER DOTH A GOD LIVE... BUT A MORTAL VANISHES IN AN EYE'S BLINK!



BUT WAIT! A DISTURBANCE DO I SUDDENLY SENSE IN THE COSMOS--!

EVIL MOST FOUL DOTH THREATEN THE PLANET OF MORTALS!



"PROJECTING HIS CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE COLD VOID OF SPACE--"

"--THE LIEGE-LORD OF THE NORSE GODS IMMEDIATELY DISCOVERED THE STARTLING SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE!"



'TIS AS I SUSPECTED--!

AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT IS SPEEDING TOWARD MIDGARD! *



THE TARGET HAS BEEN SIGHTED!

*EARTH--RALF!

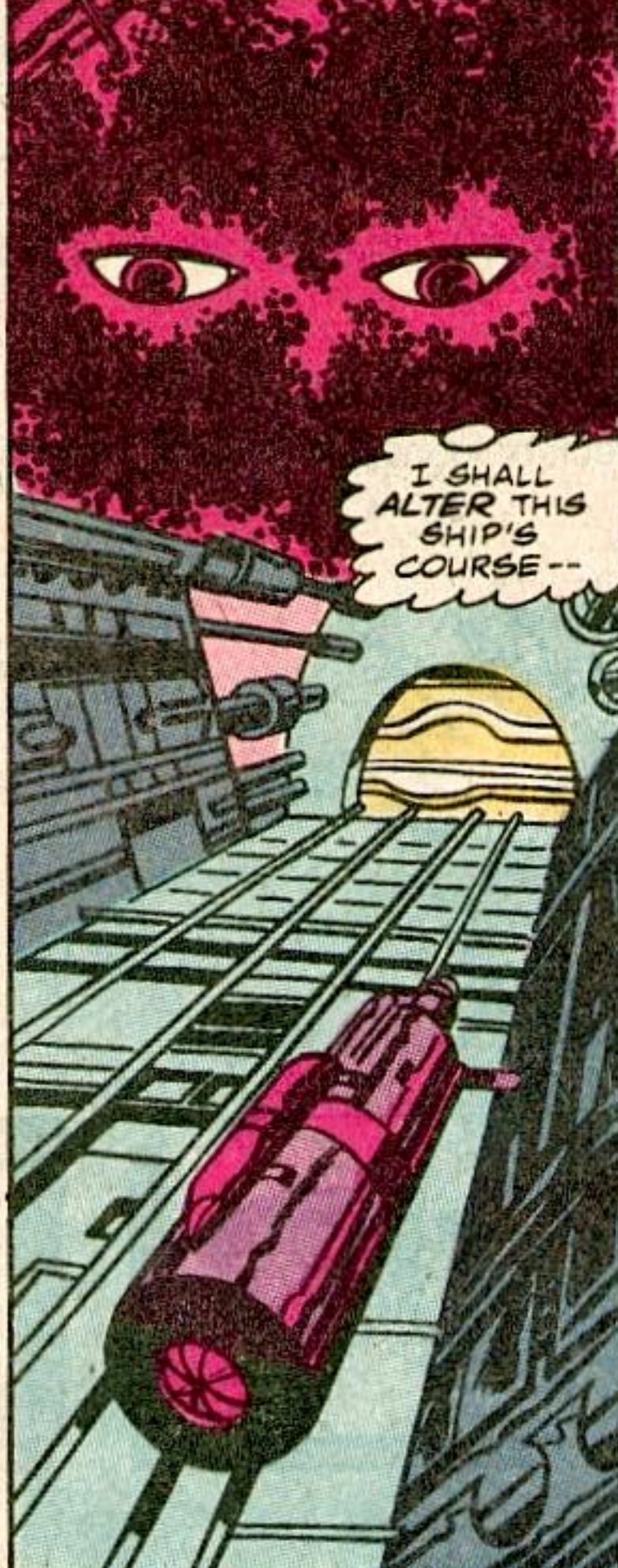
"INSIDE THE SHIP WERE STRANGE, GROTESQUE CREATURES KNOWN AS KRONANS, WHO HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A BASE ON SATURN, SO THAT THEY COULD SECRETLY OBSERVE OUR PLANET..."



ACTIVATE THE LANDING COMPUTERS! WE MUST FIND A SUITABLE SITE!

OUR MISSION IS TO PREPARE THIS WORLD FOR OUR MAIN INVASION FLEET!

"BUT, ODIN HAD HIS OWN PLANS..."



I SHALL ALTER THIS SHIP'S COURSE--



--SO THAT IT GETS DOWN UPON A SITE OF MY CHOOSING!



"AND THEN, WHISKING ACROSS THE SEAS TO AMERICA, THE ALL-FATHER IMMEDIATELY PLANTED A SUGGESTION IN HIS SON'S MIND..."

HEAR ME, THOU WHO ART CALLED DONALD BLAKE...



THOU MUST NEEDS JOURNEY TO NORWAY! NORWAY!

YES, NORWAY...



JANE, I DECIDED TO TAKE YOUR ADVICE! I'M LEAVING FOR A VACATION TOMORROW!

I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT TICKETS TO NORWAY!

MY, THIS IS VERY UNEXPECTED!



YOUR CALENDAR IS RELATIVELY CLEAR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS...SO THIS WON'T PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR ANY OF YOUR PATIENTS!

BUT, WHY ON EARTH DID YOU CHOOSE NORWAY?

I...I'M NOT SURE... BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY THOSE OLD NORSE MYTHS!

SEE YOU IN TWO WEEKS!

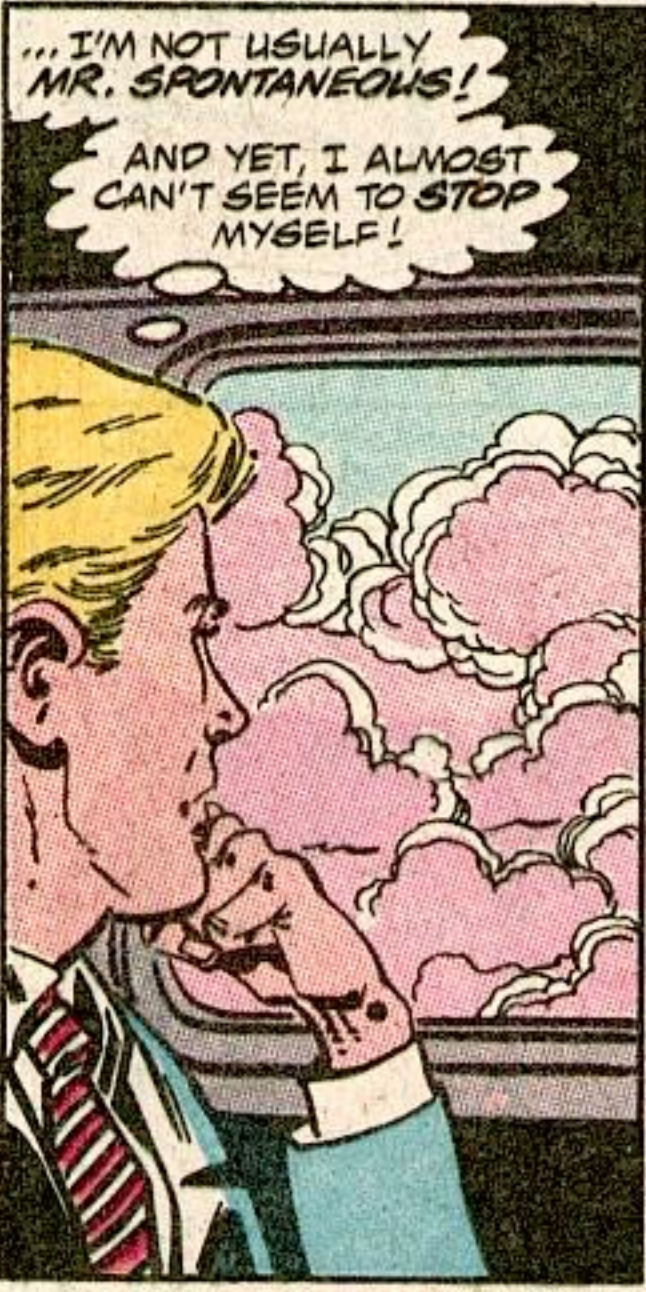


"AND SO, EARLY THE NEXT MORNING DON BLAKE BOARDED A PLANE--"

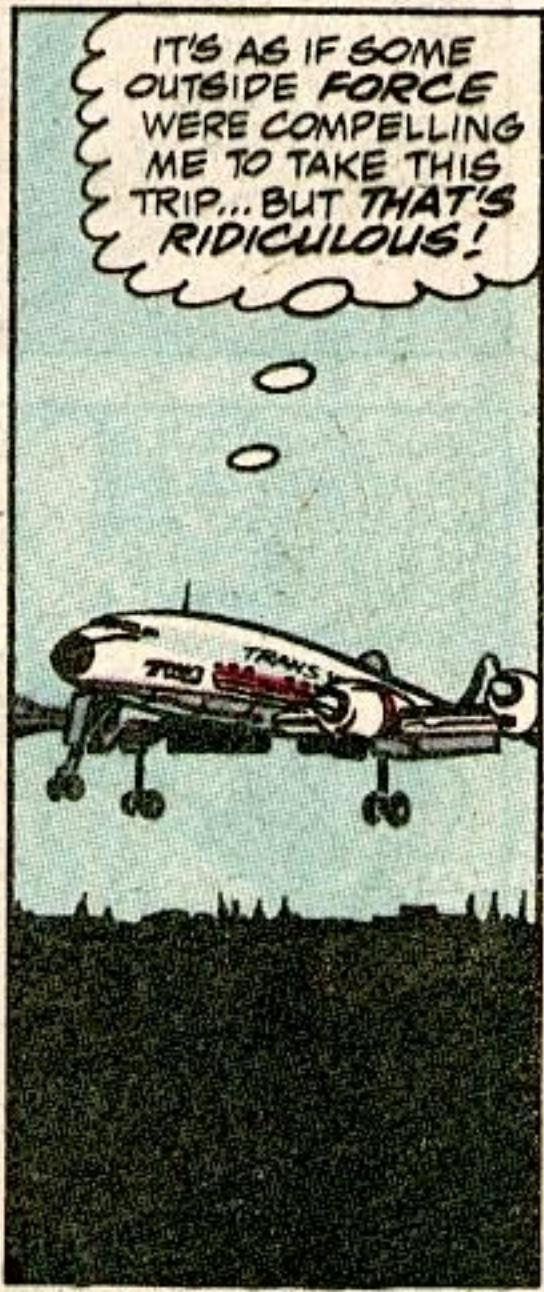
"...TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO FULFILL A DESTINY WHICH HAD BEEN ORDAINED ALMOST TEN YEARS EARLIER!"



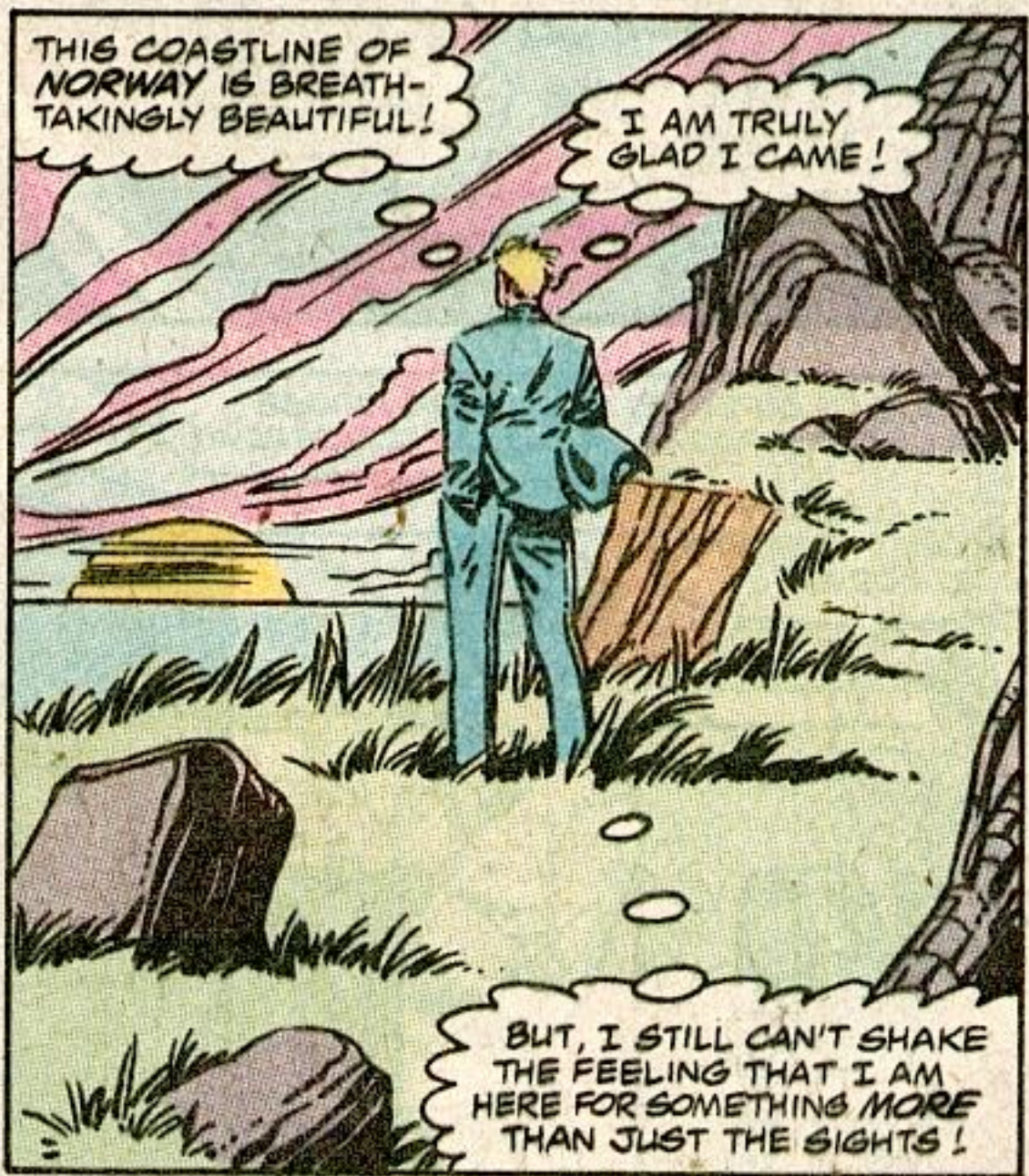
THIS ISN'T LIKE ME AT ALL...



... I'M NOT USUALLY MR. SPONTANEOUS!
AND YET, I ALMOST CAN'T SEEM TO STOP MYSELF!



IT'S AS IF SOME OUTSIDE FORCE WERE COMPELLING ME TO TAKE THIS TRIP... BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!



THIS COASTLINE OF NORWAY IS BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!

I AM TRULY GLAD I CAME!

BUT, I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I AM HERE FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THE SIGHTS!



"BLAKE DIDN'T REALIZE HOW RIGHT HE WAS..."

AT LAST! WE ARE ON EARTH!
THE ATMOSPHERE HERE WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM OUR HOME WORLD!



LIKE DURING OUR TIME ON SATURN, WE SHALL BE MIGHTY BEINGS HERE!

OUR STONE BODIES WILL BE VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE!



AND, IF OUR INCREASED STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH, WE CAN RELY ON OUR WEAPONS!

IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO CONQUER THIS PLANET WHEN OUR MAIN INVASION FORCE ARRIVES!

"UNKNOWN TO THE ALIENS, THEIR PRESENCE WAS SOON OBSERVED BY AN OLD FISHERMAN!"

"THAT POOR GUY MUST HAVE FREAKED OUT! IT'S REAL EASY TO IMAGINE HIS REACTION!"



WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED UPON?!

I MUST RUN TO THE VILLAGE-- AND SOUND THE ALARM!

"BUT, OF COURSE, THE TOWNSPEOPLE JUST WOULDN'T BUY HIS WILD STORY!"



IT'S TRUE! I SWEAR IT!

STONE CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE? WHAT NONSENSE DO YOU SPEAK?

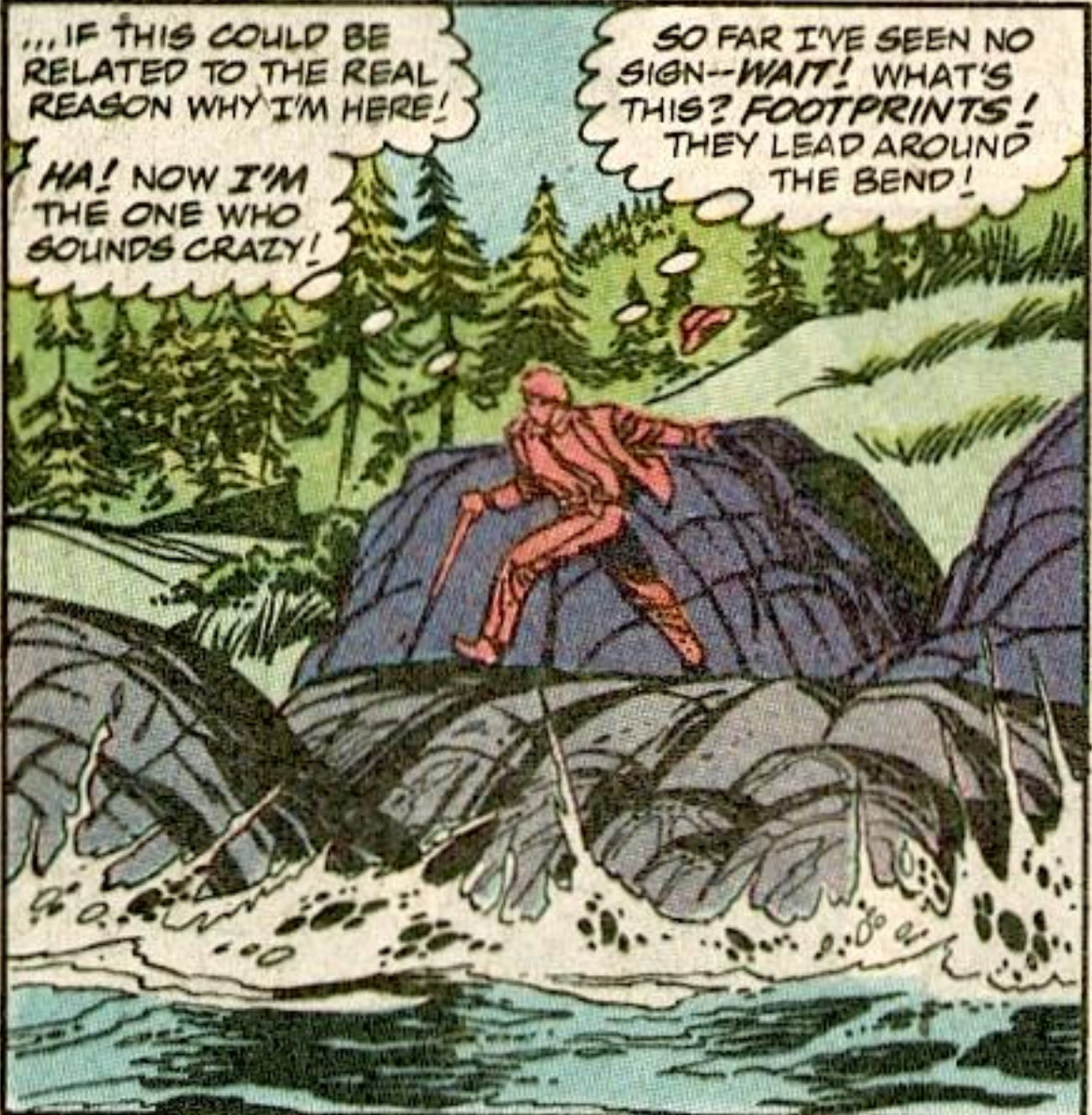
BEGONE, OLD MAN! DO NOT WASTE OUR TIME WITH FAIRY TALES!

GO HOME--AND SOBER UP!

"ONLY ONE MAN GAVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT..."



HIS STORY SOUNDS FANTASTIC! AND YET, THE MAN DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE IRRATIONAL! I WONDER...



...IF THIS COULD BE RELATED TO THE REAL REASON WHY I'M HERE!

HA! NOW I'M THE ONE WHO SOUNDS CRAZY!

SO FAR I'VE SEEN NO SIGN--WAIT! WHAT'S THIS? FOOTPRINTS! THEY LEAD AROUND THE BEND!



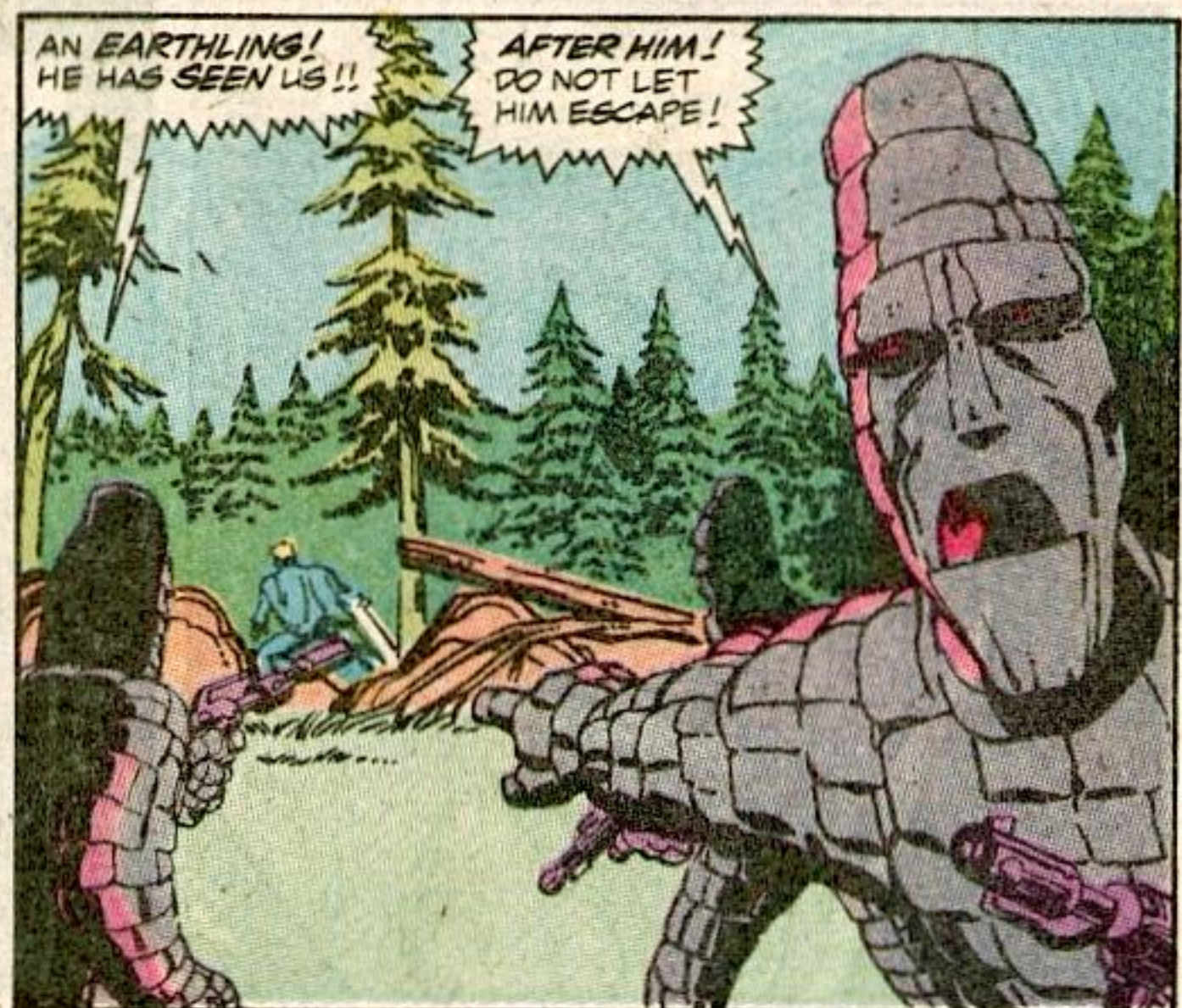
IT'S THEM--THE ALIENS!! THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE OLD MAN DESCRIBED!

THEY'LL KILL ME IF THEY FIND ME HERE!



I'D BETTER LEAVE WHILE--

SNAP!



AN EARTHLING! HE HAS SEEN US!!

AFTER HIM! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!



BLAST THIS LEG OF MINE!
I CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH!
THEY'LL SOON CATCH ME--



MAYBE I CAN--
=LUFFF=

OH, NO--!!



OF ALL THE CLUMSY--!

I'M IN REAL TROUBLE NOW! I'M ALMOST HELPLESS WITHOUT MY CANE!



MUST THINK! CAN'T GIVE UP!

WAIT! PERHAPS I CAN HIDE IN THOSE CAVES--!



MADE IT! BUT THE ALIENS ARE BOUND TO FIND ME SOON! IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY OUT--!



BACK THERE! THERE IS ANOTHER EXIT!



IT'S BLOCKED BY THIS BOULDER!

I CAN'T LET THAT STOP ME! I'VE GOT TO TRY TO--=LIGN=

UHHH-- IT'S HOPELESS!
I'M JUST NOT STRONG
ENOUGH!



I
CAN'T EVEN
BUDGE IT!

THE CAVE IS SO DANK--
SO GLOOMY--AND AIRLESS!
IT SEEMS LIKE NO HUMAN
HAS SET FOOT IN HERE
FOR AGES!!

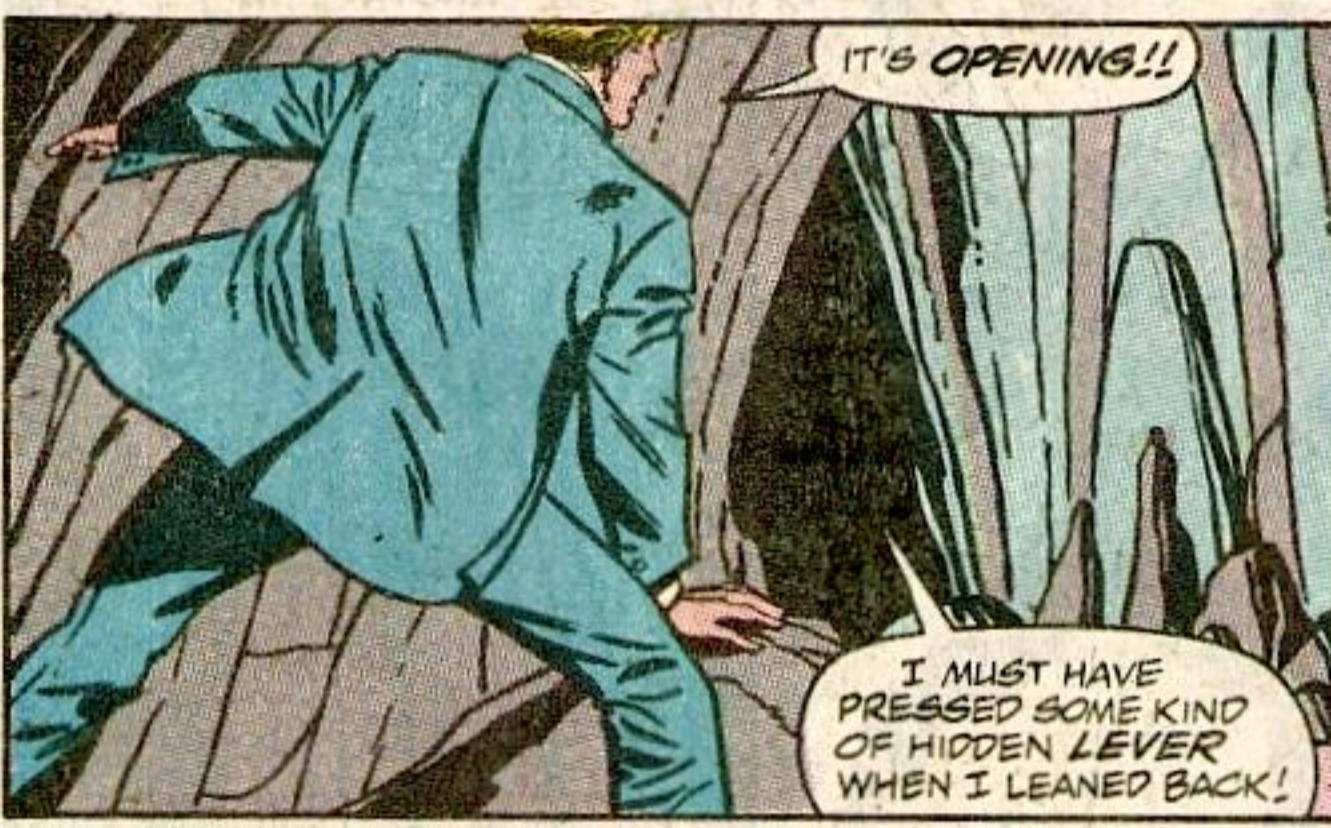
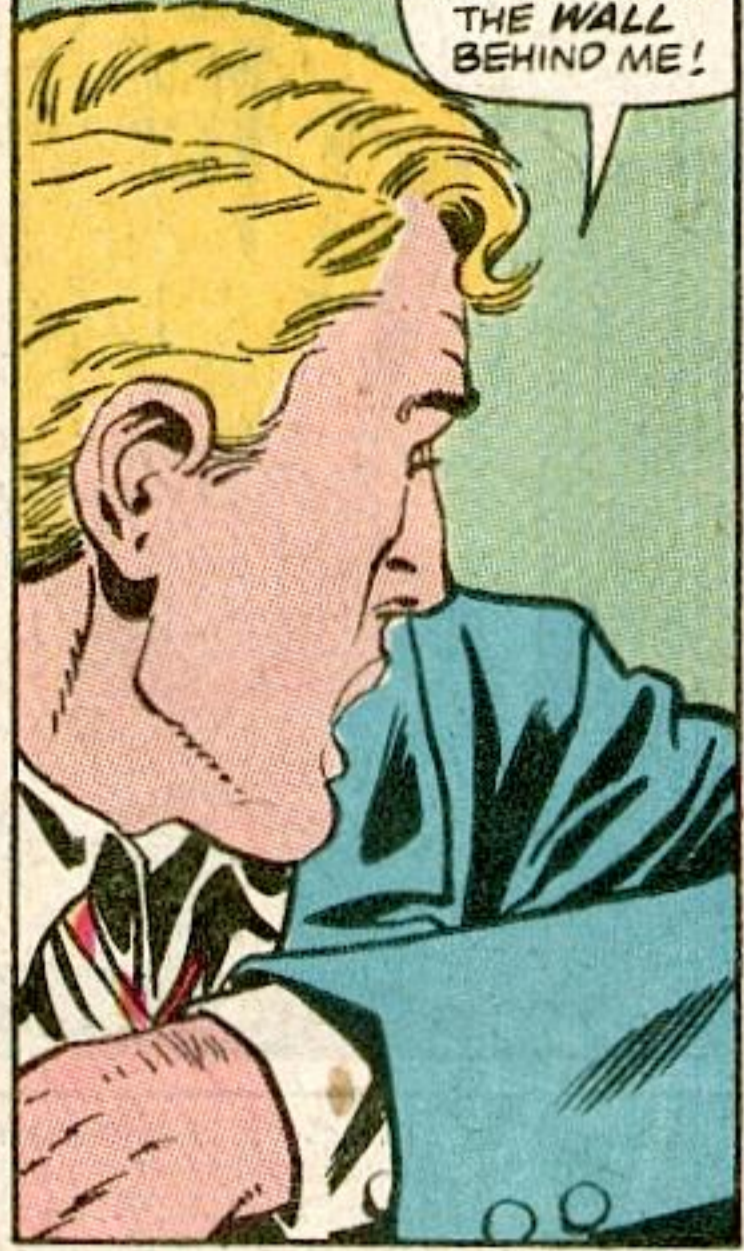


I-I'M TRAPPED! I
MIGHT AS WELL WAIT
FOR THE STONE MEN
TO FIND ME!

THE ODDS MAY BE
OVERWHELMINGLY
AGAINST ME, BUT
I INTEND TO GO
DOWN FIGHTING!

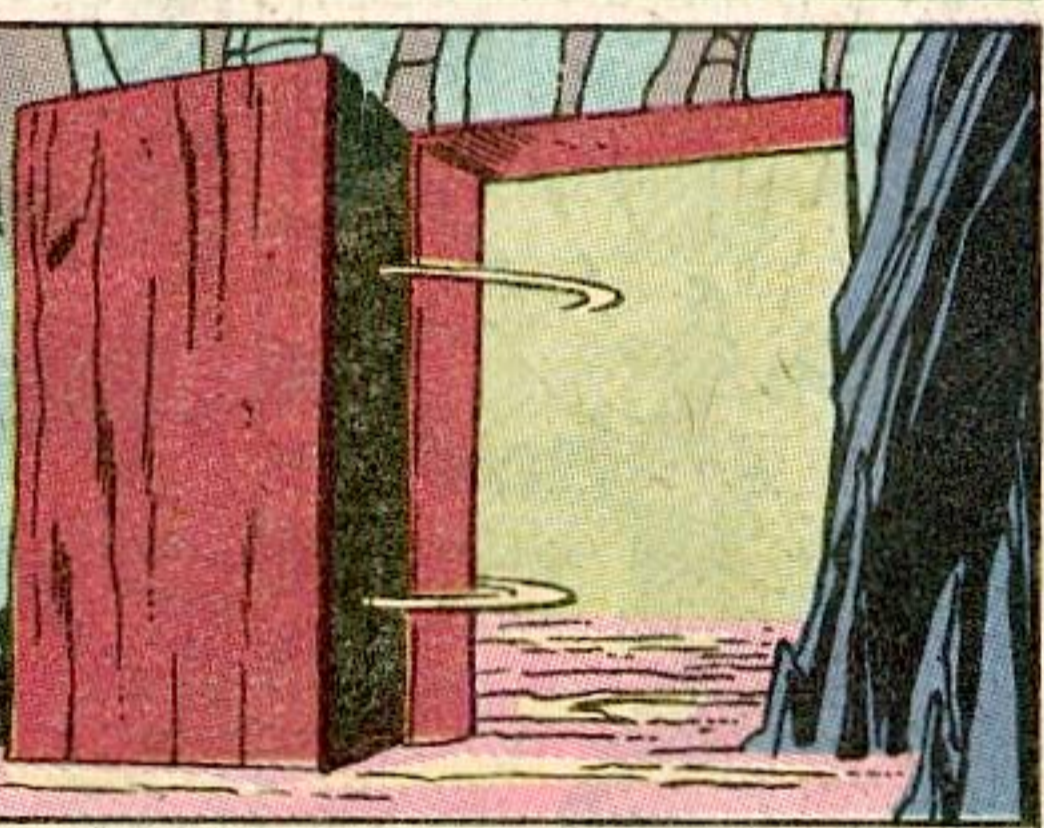
CLIK!

HEY!
SOMETHING IS
HAPPENING TO
THE WALL
BEHIND ME!



IT'S OPENING!!

I MUST HAVE
PRESSED SOME KIND
OF HIDDEN LEVER
WHEN I LEANED BACK!



IT'S A SECRET
CHAMBER! BUT THERE'S
NOTHING INSIDE--EXCEPT
THAT GNARLED WOODEN
STICK--LIKE AN ANCIENT
CANE!



I-IT FEELS SO
FAMILIAR!
ALMOST AS IF
I'VE HELD IT
BEFORE... BUT
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

PERHAPS BY
USING THIS AS A
LEVER, I CAN
MOVE THE
BOULDER!

"A CANE WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED HERE BY ALMIGHTY
ODIN FOR ONE, SPECIFIC PURPOSE!"

UHHH!
I... I STILL CAN'T
BUDGE IT! BUT I
MUST KEEP
TRYING!

MUSTN'T GIVE UP!
IT'S MY ONLY
CHANCE TO
ESCAPE!

NO! IT--IT'S
HOPELESS!

EVEN A
BULLDOZER
COULDN'T
MOVE THIS
ROCK!

"FRUSTRATED, FILLED
WITH HELPLESS ANGER,
DONALD BLAKE
STRUCK THE APPARENTLY
USELESS CANE AGAINST
THE IMMOVABLE BOULDER,
AND--"

WHA--?!!

THE CAVE IS BATHED IN
BLINDING LIGHT!! LIKE
A FIERY BOLT OF LIGHT-
NING! AND THE ANCIENT
CANES--IT--IT'S
CHANGING SHAPE!

AND--I'M
CHANGING
TOO!!

NO! IT ISN'T MAD!! I CAN FEEL
MY BODY BURSTING WITH POWER
--POWER SUCH AS I'VE NEVER
KNOWN!

THE CANE!! IT
HAS BECOME A MIGHTY
HAMMER!!

CAN THIS BE REALLY
HAPPENING--OR AM
I GOING MAD?!!

AND I HAVE ALSO
BEEN TRANSFORMED
INTO--INTO--

THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD
OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST
WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!

THIS IS HIS HAMMER! AND I--
I AM THOR!!!

"AT THE TIME, HE DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THOR...
AND THAT DONALD BLAKE WAS
ONLY AN ILLUSORY MORTAL IDEN-
TITY CREATED BY ODIN TO TEACH
THOR HUMILITY!"

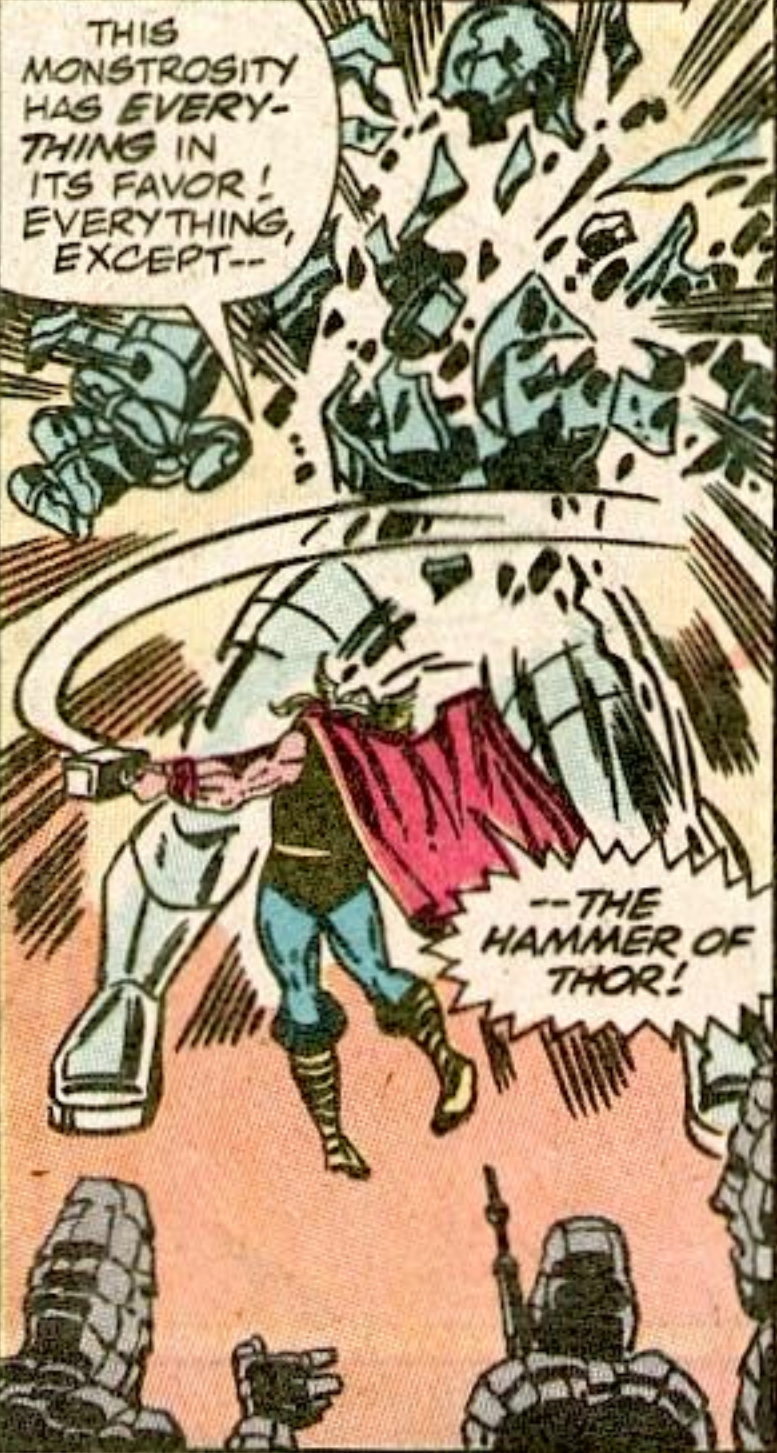
"WITH HIS INVINCIBLE POWER RE-GAINED, THE THUNDER GOD EAGERLY CHALLENGED THE STONE INVADERS, AND..."



THE EARTHLING CANNOT BE STOPPED!

YES, HE CAN! ACTIVATE THE MECHANOMONSTER!!

"BUT, NOT EVEN THE ALIENS' GIANT ROBOT COULD PREVAIL OVER THE SON OF ODIN!"



THIS MONSTROSITY HAS EVERYTHING IN ITS FAVOR! EVERYTHING, EXCEPT--

--THE HAMMER OF THOR!

"WITHIN A MATTER OF MERE MINUTES, THE STONE MEN REALIZED THAT THEIR PLANS TO INVAD THE EARTH WERE A BUST!"

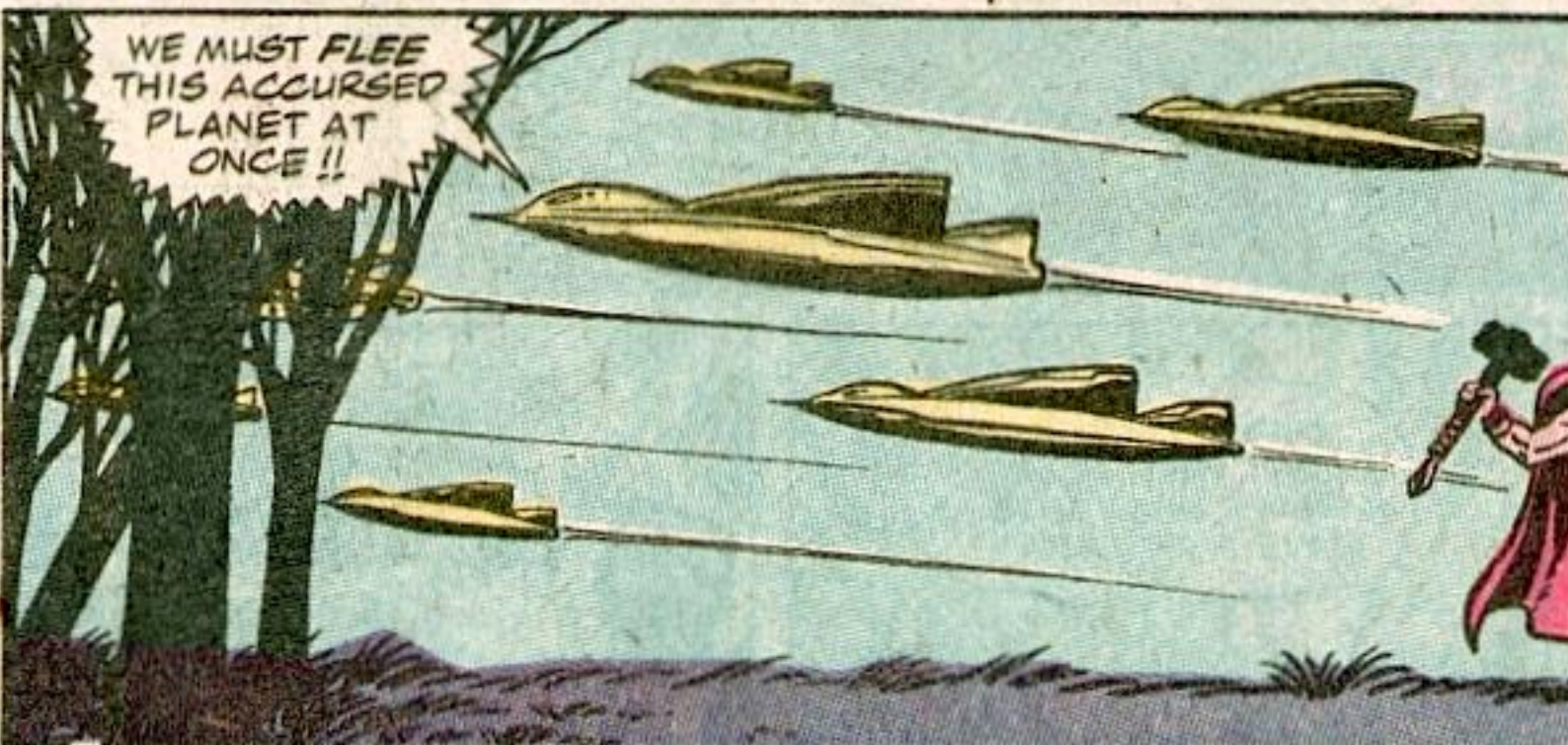


THE HUMAN IS TOO MIGHTY-- TOO SKILLED IN THE ART OF BATTLE!

AND WE KNOW NOT HOW MANY MORE THERE ARE LIKE HIM ON EARTH!

FALL BACK!! BACK TO THE SHIPS!

WE MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED PLANET AT ONCE!!

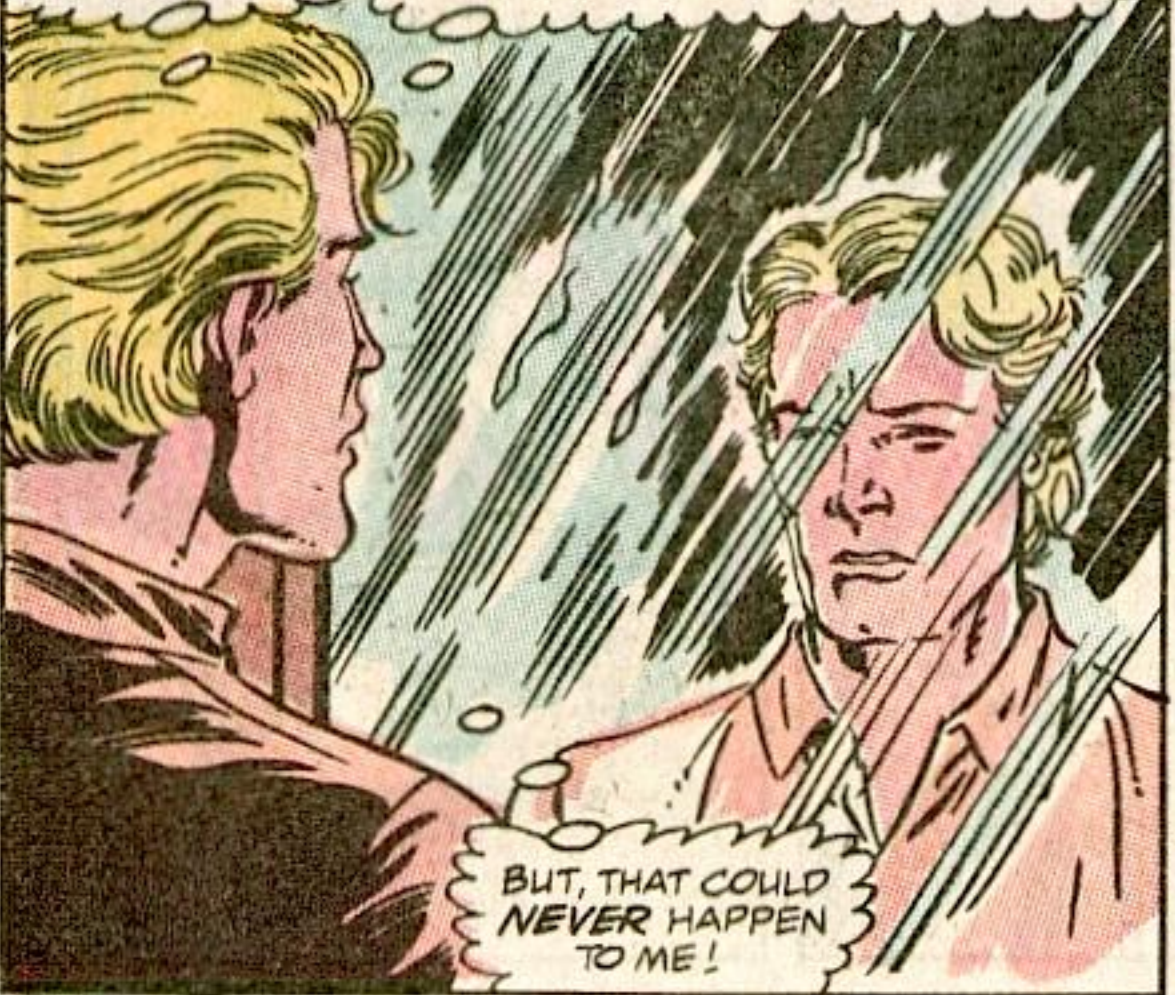


"THE MIGHTY THOR HAD BEATEN THEM! HE HAD DRIVEN THEM OFF -- AND PROTECTED THIS PLANET -- AS HE WAS DESTINED TO DO TIME AND AGAIN!"

"BUT, IT WASN'T UNTIL A FEW YEARS LATER THAT THOR FINALLY LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT DON BLAKE!"

ODIN TOLD HIM EVERYTHING -- AND RESTORED HIS MEMORY!

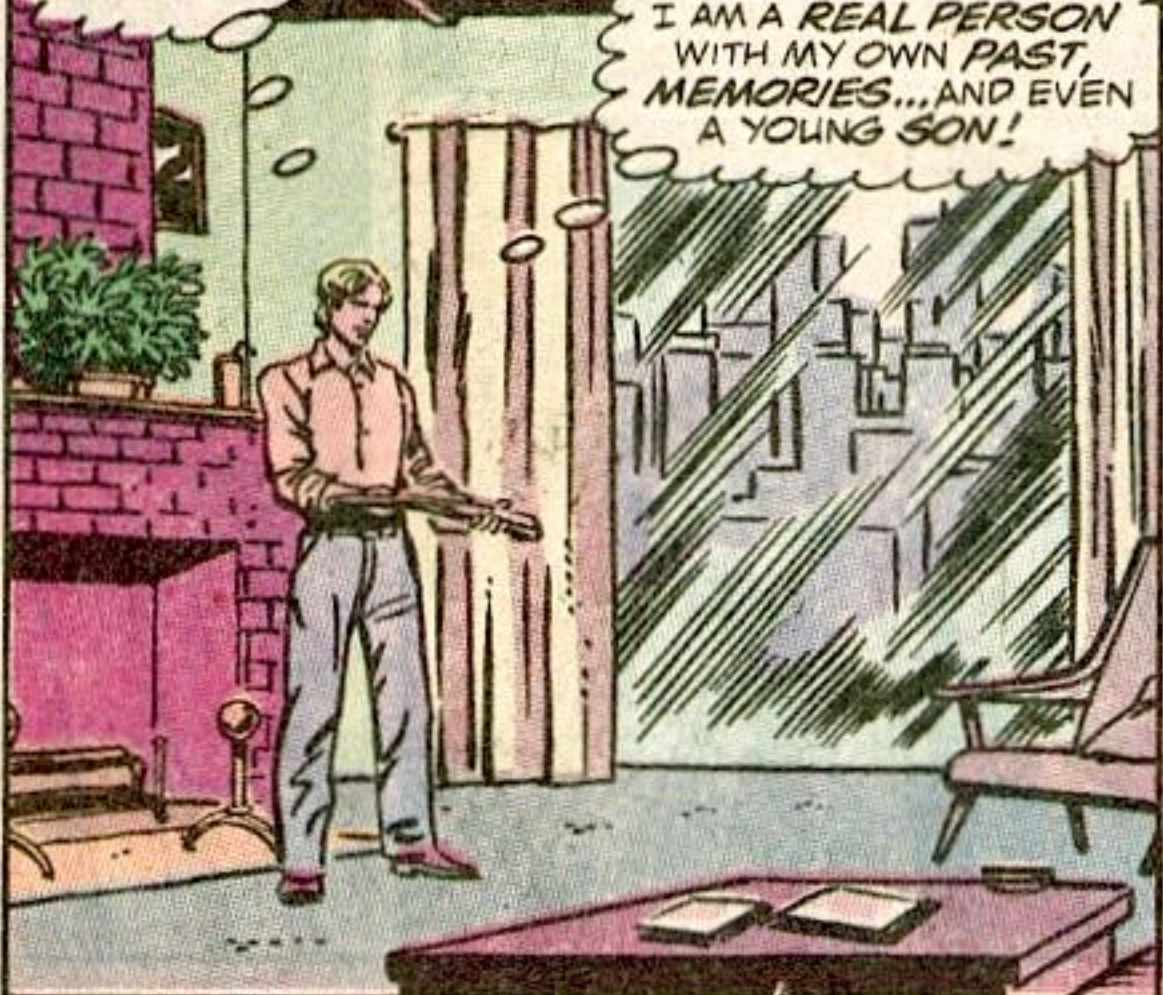
AND, AFTER A FEW MORE YEARS, THOR DECIDED TO DROP HIS MORTAL GUISE... AND GOOD OL' DON BLAKE JUST CEASED TO EXIST!



BUT, THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ME!

ERIC MASTERSON IS NO DON BLAKE!

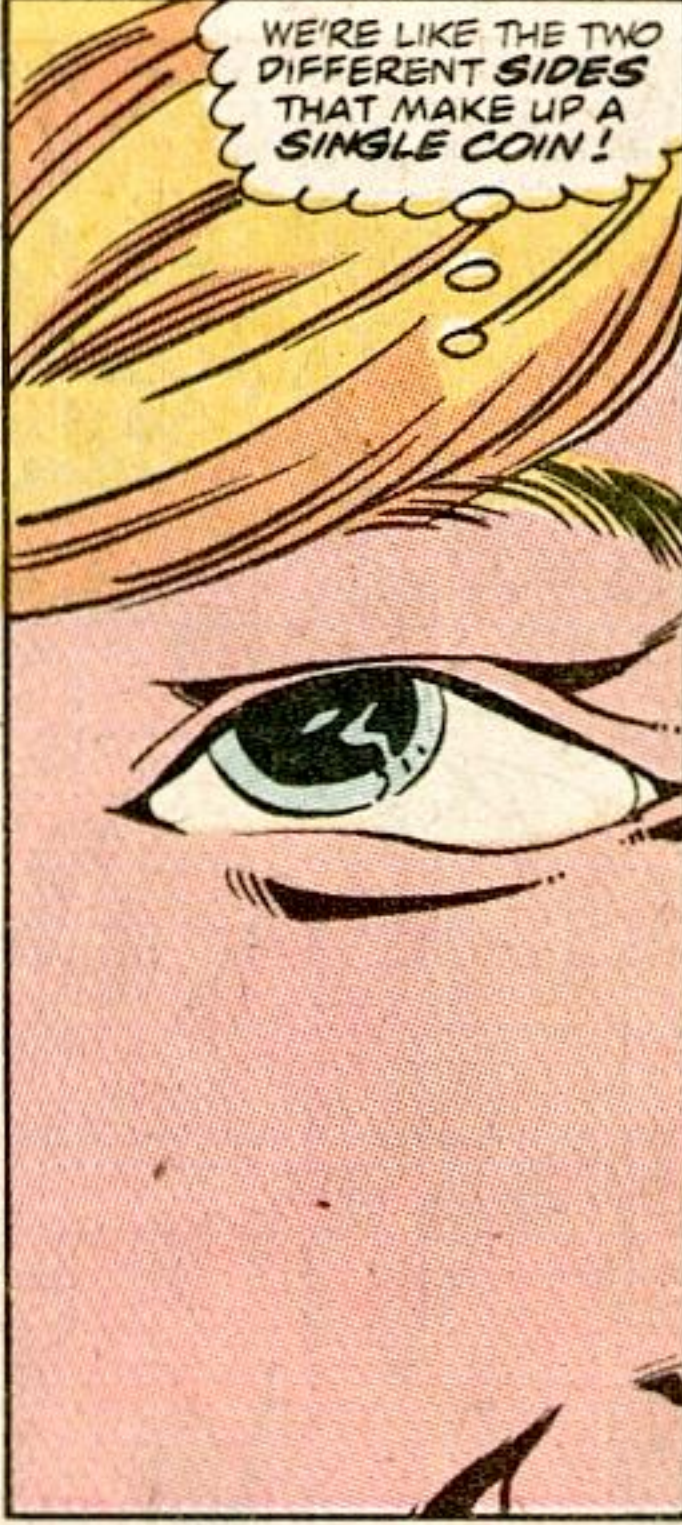
I EXISTED LONG BEFORE I WAS EVER JOINED WITH THOR!



I AM A REAL PERSON WITH MY OWN PAST, MEMORIES... AND EVEN A YOUNG SON!



THE THUNDER GOD AND I MAY HAVE BEEN MYSTICALLY UNITED SO THAT WE ARE NOW ONE PERSON...
...BUT, WE EACH HAVE DISTINCT PERSONALITIES, POINTS OF VIEW AND EMOTIONS!

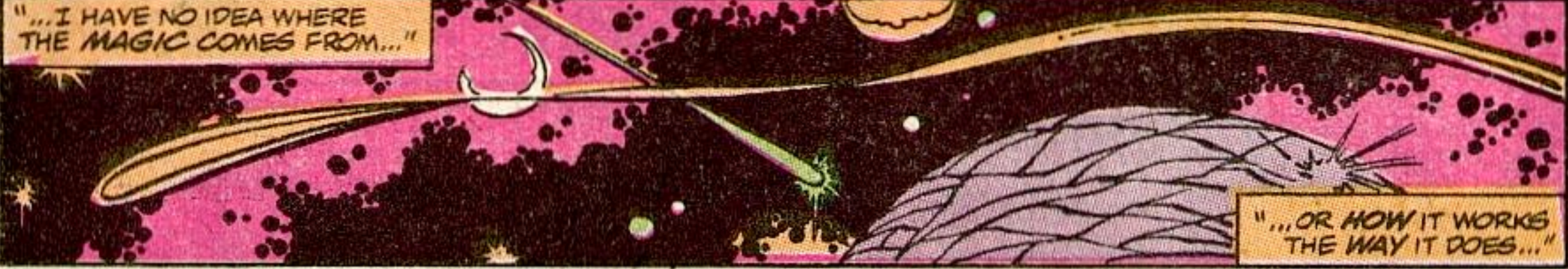


WE'RE LIKE THE TWO DIFFERENT SIDES THAT MAKE UP A SINGLE COIN!



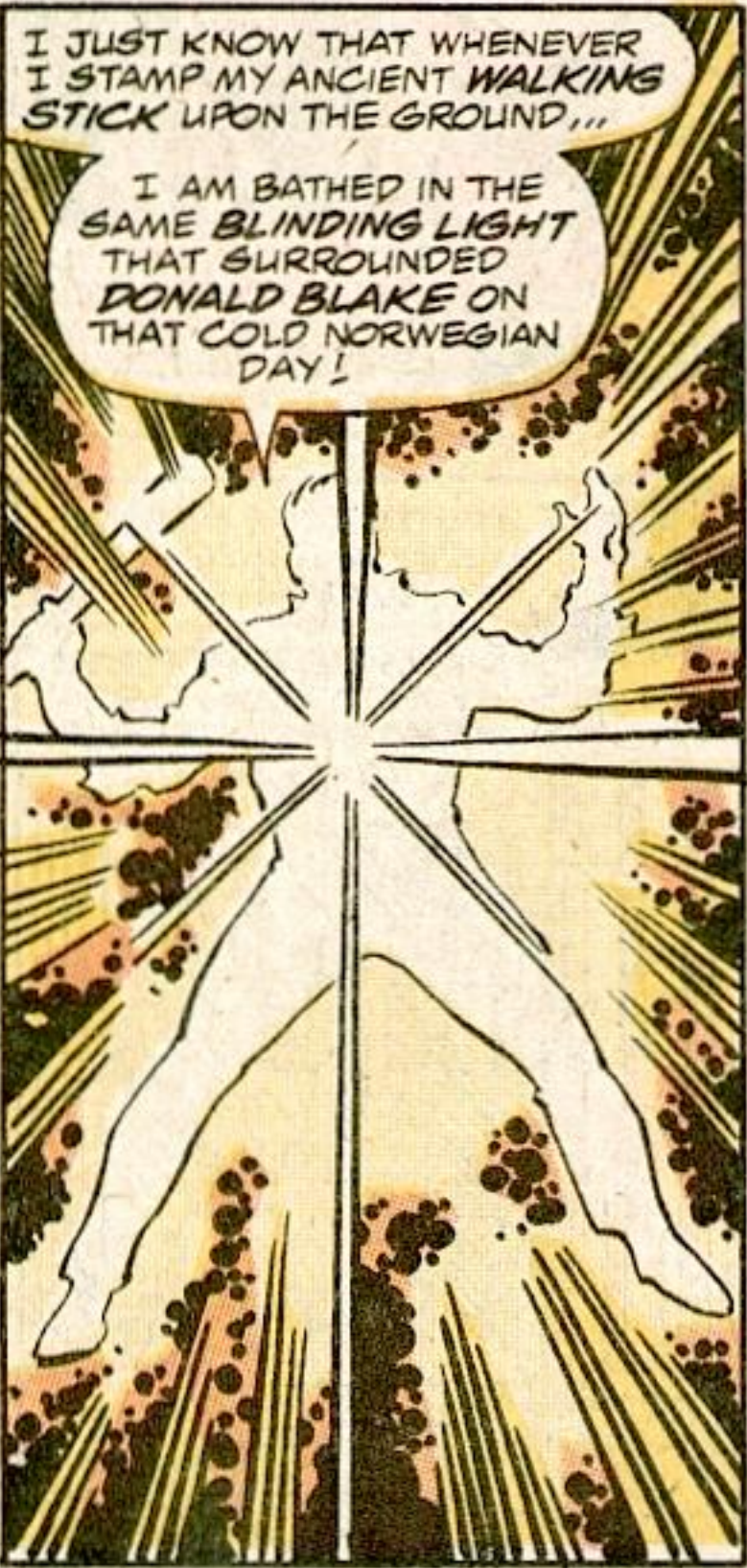
WE ARE ONE!!

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND A LOT OF IT...



"...I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MAGIC COMES FROM..."

"...OR HOW IT WORKS THE WAY IT DOES..."



I JUST KNOW THAT WHENEVER I STAMP MY ANCIENT WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND...

I AM BATHED IN THE SAME BLINDING LIGHT THAT SURROUNDED DONALD BLAKE ON THAT COLD NORWEGIAN DAY!



I FEEL MY BODY BURST WITH POWER -- POWER SUCH AS FEW HAVE E'ER KNOWN!



AND I AM THOR-- THE GOD OF THUNDER, AND THE SON OF ODIN THE ALMIGHTY!

FRAGILE AND IMPERFECT ARE THE INHABITANTS OF THIS WORLD!

AND YET, THE THUNDER GOD IS NOW ONE OF THEM!

'TIS MY DUTY, DESIRE, AND PRIVILEGE TO WATCH O'ER THEM!

TO PROTECT, DEFEND AND PUNISH WHENE'ER THE NEED ARISES!

SUCH IS MY SACRED BOND!

SUCH IS THE HONOR OF THE MIGHTY THOR!!

THE END... FOR NOW!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS

TALES OF ASGARD

HOME OF THE
MIGHTY NORSE
GODS!

STARRING **HOGUN THE GRIM!**

"THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR!"

A LAND IS NO MORE GOOD NOR
EVIL THAN THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN
HER! E'EN THE GOLDEN REALM
HOSTS HER SHARE OF THIEVES
AND MURDERERS!

AYE, BUT SUCH
BRIGANDS ARE
OFT FACED WITH
A MOST GRIM
AVENGER...
AND AN E'EN
GRIMMER FORM
OF JUSTICE!

"SURELY
ART THOU MAD,
WARRIOR!

BUT WE WILL MOST
CERTAINLY TEACH THEE
THE FOLLY OF
COMING ALONE TO
CHALLENGE THIS
SAVAGE BAND OF
CUTTHROATS!

FOR FAR TOO
LONG HAST THOU
TERRORIZED
THE OUTLANDS!

THERE MUST BE
A RECKONING!

'TIS HOGUN!
HOGUN THE
GRIM!!

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
TOM DEFALCO & HERB TRIMPE

LETTERED BY
MICHAEL HEISLER

COLORED BY
NEL YOMTOV

EDITED BY
RALPH MACCHIO



FWIPP!

YIII!

WHERE ARE THY COMRADES?

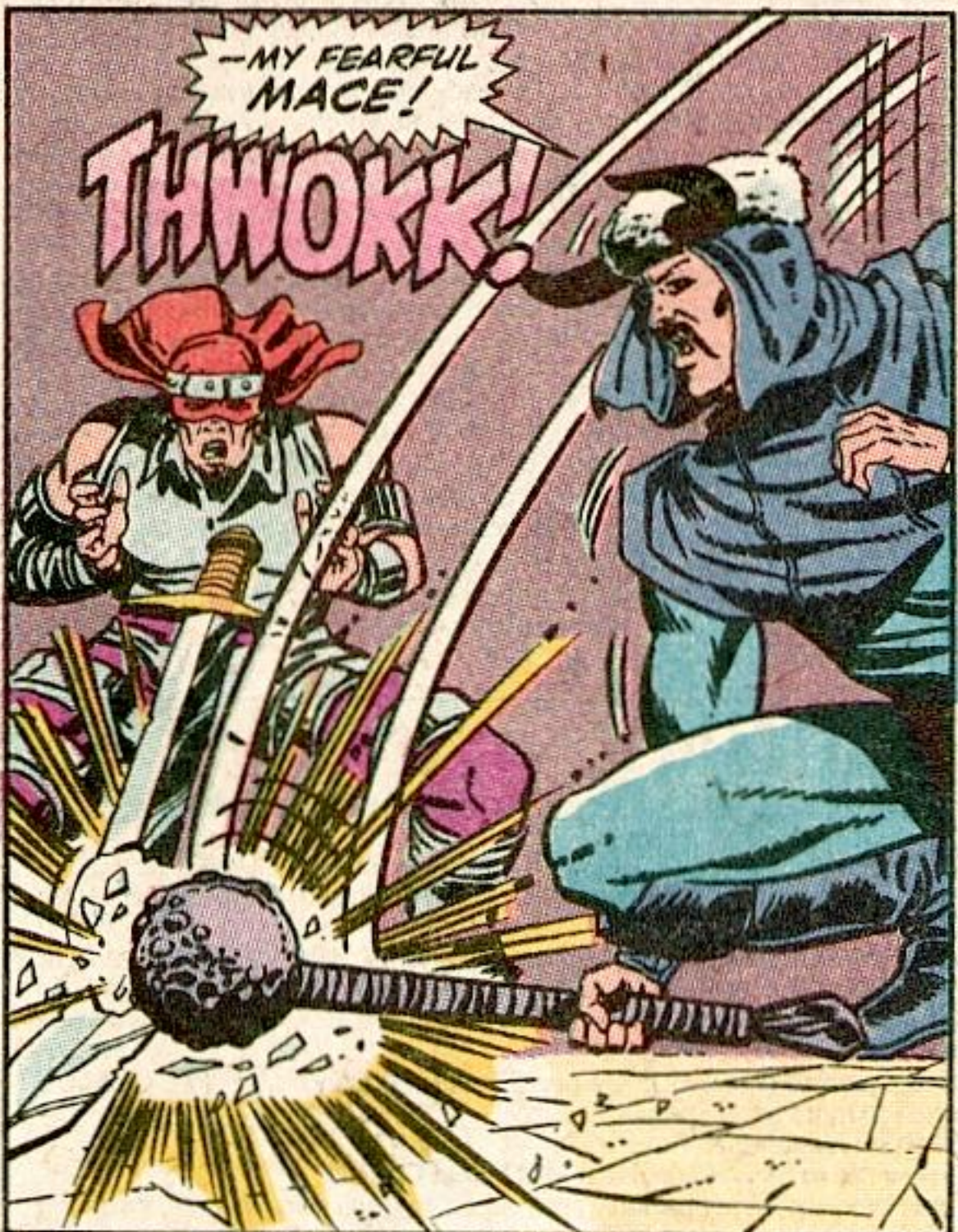
WHERE BE THE REST OF THY MURDEROUS LOT?



SOON SHALL THEY GREET THEE, WARRIOR--

--IN THE HALLS OF THE DEAD!!

'TIS A PITY THAT THY BOISTEROUS TONGUE IS THE EQUAL OF NEITHER THY CLUMSY SWORDPLAY, NOR--



--MY FEARFUL MACE!

THWOKK!



PHANK!

SUCH IS THE WAY OF FAR TOO MANY MEN!

THEY USE WORDS IN PLACE OF ACTIONS!



ONLY TWO BRIGANDS LIE BEFORE ME!

WHERE BE THE THIRD--?!

INTO THE DARK HILLS, FLED HE! BETTER TO FACE HUNGRY WOLVES THAN THY VENGEFUL WRATH!

WHO IS IT THAT STANDS BEHIND ME?

SHOW THYSELF--!

FEAR NOT, HEROIC ONE! I AM DAGAL ...SON OF THORGUM THE TREE-SHAPER!

I KNOW THY FATHER WELL! ONE OF THE FINEST CARPENTERS IN THE REALM! A TRUE ARTISAN!

LONG HAVE I ADMIRERD THY COURAGEOUS EXPLOITS!

SO! 'TIS THOU WHO HAST BEEN SNIFFING AT MY TRACKS E'ER SINCE I LEFT THE GOLDEN CITY!



THOU DIDST KNOW--?!

AYE! BLIND AND DEAF WOULD I HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN TO IGNORE THEE!

WHAT IS THY PURPOSE HERE? WHY HAST THOU FOLLOWED ME?

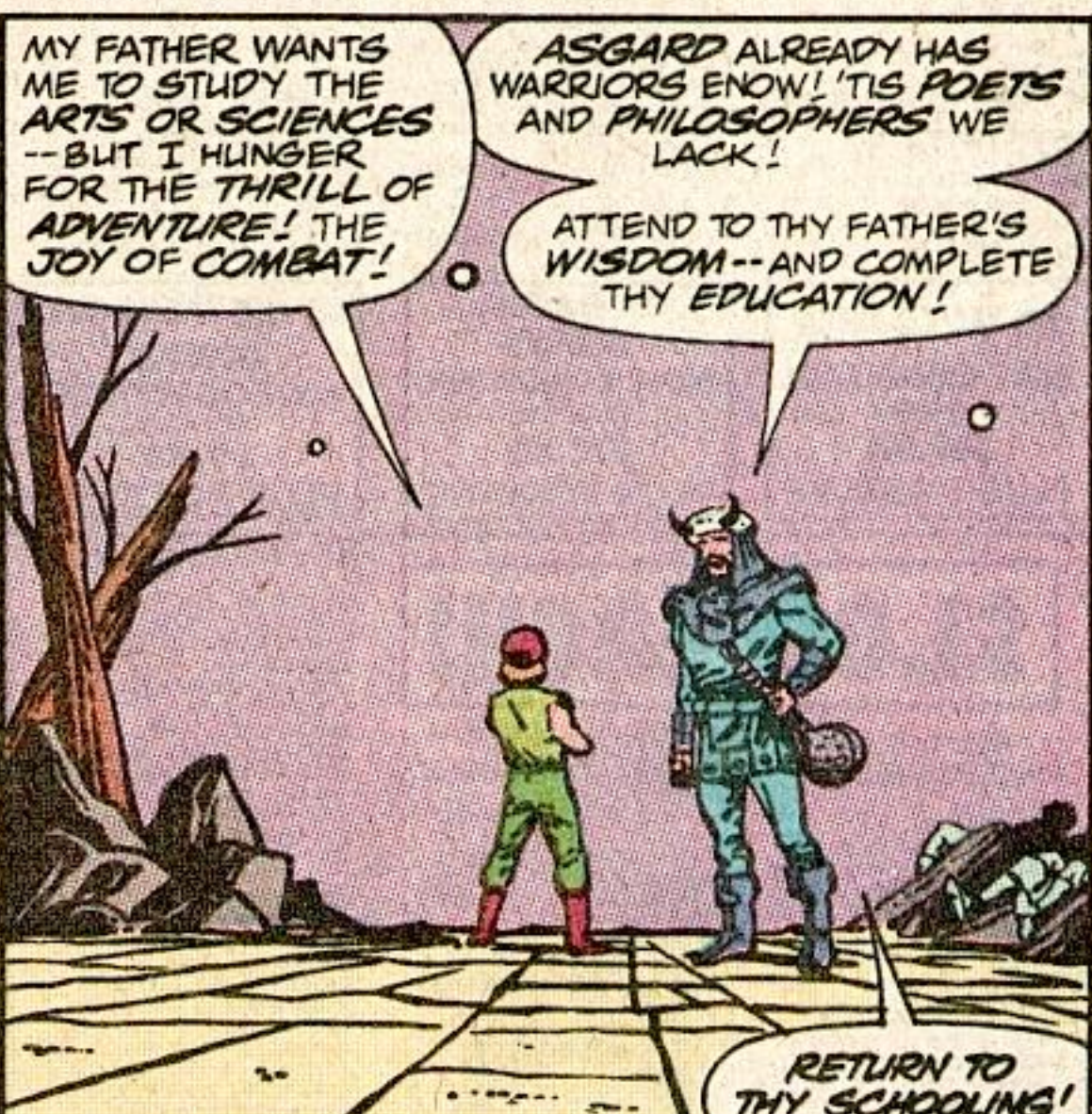


'TIS MY DESIRE TO LEARN THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR FROM THE GREATEST OF ALL!



I WISH TO BECOME THY APPRENTICE!

WHAT--?!

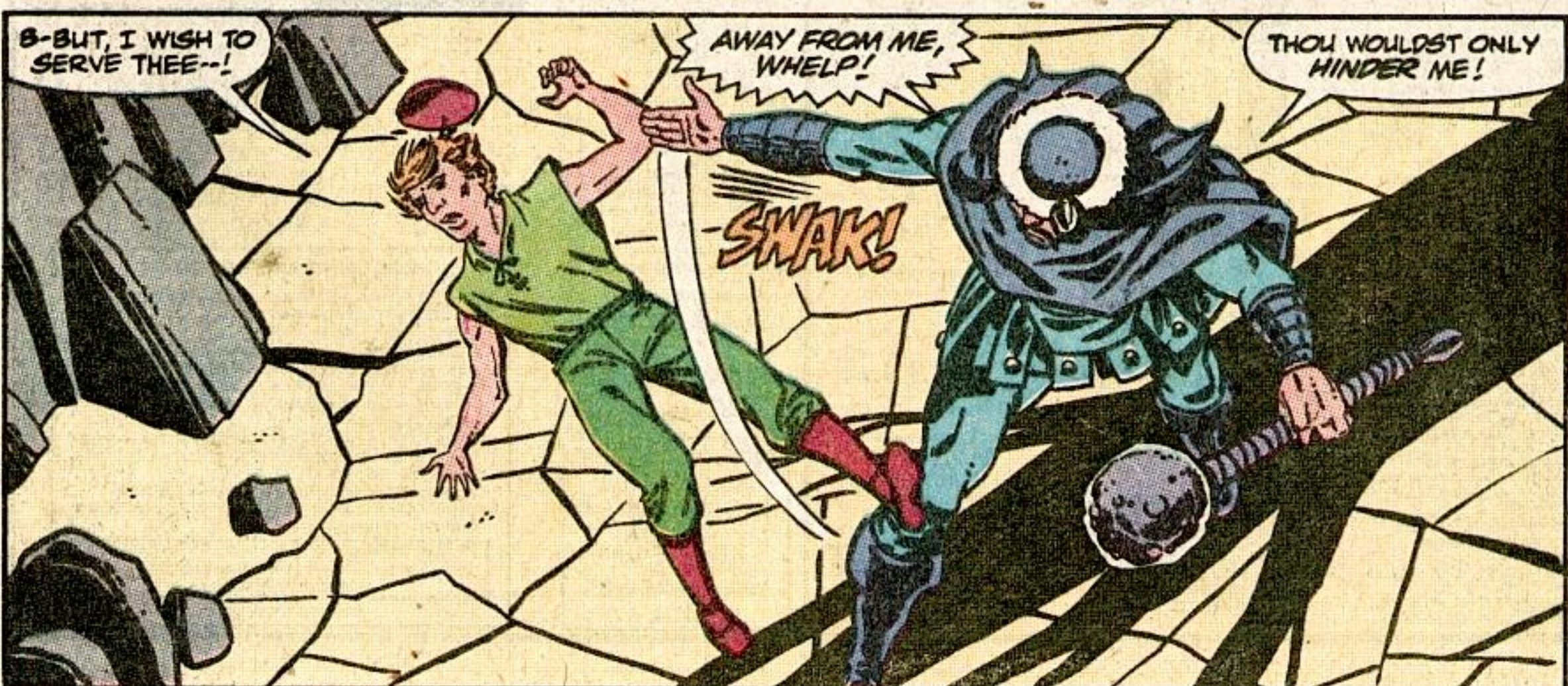


MY FATHER WANTS ME TO STUDY THE ARTS OR SCIENCES --BUT I HUNGER FOR THE THRILL OF ADVENTURE! THE JOY OF COMBAT!

ASGARD ALREADY HAS WARRIORS ENOW! 'TIS POETS AND PHILOSOPHERS WE LACK!

ATTEND TO THY FATHER'S WISDOM--AND COMPLETE THY EDUCATION!

RETURN TO THY SCHOOLING!

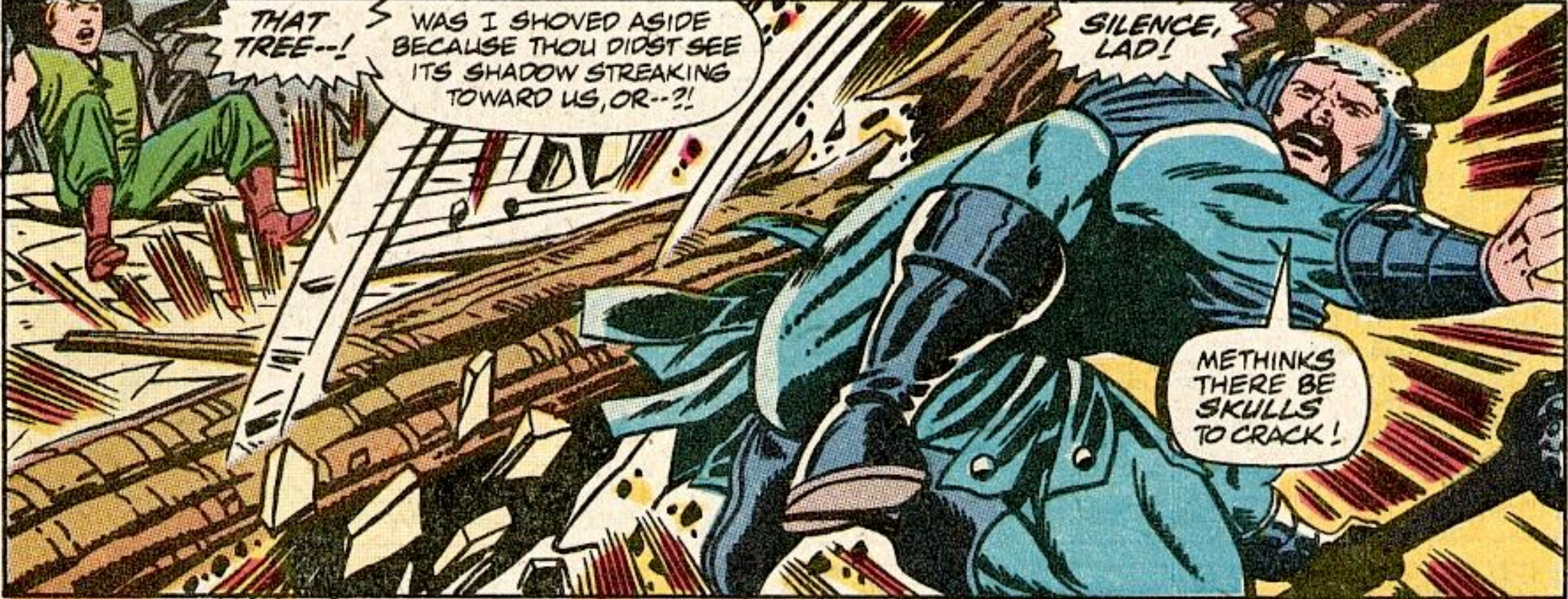


B-BUT, I WISH TO SERVE THEE--!

AWAY FROM ME, WHELP!

SWAK!

THOU WOULDST ONLY HINDER ME!



THAT TREE--!

WAS I SHOVED ASIDE BECAUSE THOU DIDST SEE ITS SHADOW STREAKING TOWARD US, OR--?!

SILENCE, LAD!

METHINKS THERE BE SKULLS TO CRACK!



AYE, THE FLEEING BANDIT RETURNS WITH THE REMAINS OF HIS BRUTAL BAND!

DEATH TO HE WHO WOULD BRING US TO JUSTICE!

DEATH TO HOGUN THE GRIM!



BEHOLD THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, DAGAL!

'TIS A SAVAGE AND PAIN-FILLED LIFE! ONE WHICH HANGS BY AN E'ER-FRAYING THREAD!



NE'ER IS QUARTER GIVEN-- NOR EXPECTED!

PWOMP!

MERCY IS A WORD WITHOUT MEANING!



A TRUE WARRIOR HATH BUT ONE DESIRE! ONE GOAL...

FAILURE MEANS DISGRACE, DEATH, OR WORSE--!!

VICTORY!!

KWAPI!

