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# the X-MEN

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**"HOLOCAUST!"**

**X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM <sup>OF</sup> ALL TIME!**

# "HOLOCAUST!"

**OUR SUSPENSEFUL SAGA SO FAR:** THE MYSTERIOUS GEM-HUNTING GENTLEMAN KNOWN AS **EL TIGRE** HAS INVADDED THE DARKENED CHAMBERS OF A NEW YORK MUSEUM TO GAIN THE MISSING HALF OF A MYSTIC **MAYAN PENDANT!** AND NOW, WITH **CYCLOPS** HELD AT BAY AND THE OTHER X-MEN UNCONSCIOUS, THE MEGALOMANIACAL CRIMINAL HAS **JOINED** THE TWO SEGMENTS OF THE GLEAMING AMULET ... TO FIND HIMSELF INSTANTANEOUSLY TRANSFORMED INTO THE EARTHLY RE-INCARNATION OF ... **KUKULCAN**, MIGHTIEST OF THE ANCIENT MAYAN GODS ... AS AN ASTONISHED **PROFESSOR X** OBSERVES FROM X-MEN HQ MILES AWAY...\*

I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO ADJUST **CEREBRO** TO FOCUS ON THE IMAGE OF **EL TIGRE** ... ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT HE HAS BEEN **TRANSFORMED!**

HE'S CHANGED INTO THAT AWESOME GOLDEN FIGURE ... ONE WHICH SEEMS TO RADIATE SHEER, UNBRIDLED **POWER** ... AND A NAMELESS, UN-SPEAKABLE **EVIL!**

AND, I STILL CANNOT MENTALLY CONTACT THE **X-MEN!** I SENT THEM TO THE MUSEUM TO **STOP EL TIGRE!** CAN THEY HAVE... **FAILED?**

\*OUR SPECIAL **NO-PRIZE** NOMINEE FOR MOST STUPEFYING SYNOPSIS OF THE MONTH!  
--SUCINCT STAN.

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**IRVING FORBUSH**

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THEN, AS CHARLES XAVIER MANIPULATES THE DIALS OF HIS COMPLEX, MENACE-DETECTING CEREBRO MACHINE...

THE GAUGES INDICATE THAT THE STRANGE BEING'S ENERGIES ARE INCREASING... MULTIPLYING AT A RAPIDLY-ACCELERATING, ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE RATE!

IF THE MAN WHOSE IMAGE I SEE IS TRULY BENT ON EVIL... WHAT FORCE ON EARTH COULD HALT HIM?



AND, EVEN AS THE PROFESSOR GIVES VOICE TO HIS INNERMOST FEARS, THE SAME THOUGHTS ARE OCCURRING TO HIM WHOM THE WORLD WILL HENCE-FORTH CALL... KUKULCAN!

I CAN FEEL MY MENTAL PROWESS GROWING... AND NOW, TO IT, IS ADDED PHYSICAL STRENGTH SECOND TO NONE!

NEVER CAN ANY MORTAL HAVE KNOWN SUCH AN OVER-WHELMING FEELING OF RAW, IRRESISTIBLE POWER!



BUT, I AM A MORTAL NO MORE! THE ESSENCE OF THE DIVINE KUKULCAN PERVADES MY VERY BEING!

UH OH! EITHER EL TIGRE'S COMPLETELY FLIPPED... OR ELSE, MANKIND IS IN FOR ITS GREATEST MENACE YET!

BUT, NO MATTER WHICH, I'VE GOT TO GET PAST THIS GUARD HE HYPNOTIZED, BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!

GUARD.. YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THAT MAN! HE'S LOOTING THE MUSEUM'S TREASURES!

NOW, I AM HE... WALKING THE EARTH AFTER A MILLENNIUM... COME TO CLAIM THE GLORY WHICH ONCE WAS THE MAYAN'S BIRTHRIGHT!

NO! I OBEY... ONLY EL TIGRE! IF YOU MOVE, I FIRE!

HE DOESN'T NOTICE I'VE BEEN SLOWLY INCHING ONE HAND UPWARD... AND INWARD... TOWARD THE CONTROL STUD OF MY VISOR! MUSTN'T MOVE TOO QUICKLY..



JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...AND...

NOW!!

UHHNNN...! HOW...? WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOIN' ON--?



THAT DID IT! AND, THE SHOCK SEEMS TO HAVE RELEASED HIM FROM EL TIGRE'S MENTAL DOMINATION!

I DON'T CARE IF THAT GUY CALLS HIMSELF EL TIGRE, OR KUKULCAN, OR LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE... I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

MY HEAD... IT'S STARTING TO CLEAR! I...

HEY, WHAT THE...? MMMFFFF!?

HE JUST PARADED OFF INTO A DIFFERENT ROOM! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO CATCH HIM OFF GUARD!



SORRY, PAL, BUT I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES! I'LL CLUE YOU IN LATER!

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

HOWEVER, AS THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE X-MEN RUSHES INTO THE NEXT CHAMBER...

SO... YOU HAVE BROKEN FREE! I SENSED AS MUCH... WHEN I LOST MENTAL CONTROL OF THE GUARD!

OH WELL, I NEVER WAS ONE FOR SNEAK ATTACKS, ANYWAY!

ONLY ONE CHANCE... MUST USE AN OPTIC BLAST..!

BUT, TO CYCLOPS' ASTONISHMENT...

WITLESS FOOL! NO MORTAL CAN HOPE TO DEFEAT A GOD!

UNNNH!

ZOT!  
BRAK!

MY EYE-BEAMS STRUCK HIS AMULET.. AND WERE HURLED BACK AT ME... WITH DOUBLED FORCE!

HE IS UNCONSCIOUS... BUT NOT DESTROYED!

IT IS AS IT SHOULD BE! LET HIM LIVE... TO TELL OF HIS DEFEAT!

THUS SHALL IT BE WITH ANY WHO OPPOSE KUKULCAN!

JUST THEN, FROM ANOTHER SECTION OF THE SPRAWLING MUSEUM, ENTER THE COHORTS OF HIM WHO WAS ONCE EL TIGRE...

WE HAVE DONE YOUR BIDDING, MASTER... THE REMAINING X-MEN HAVE BEEN DEFEATED BY TRICKERY!

BUT... BEHOLD, TOLOC! EL TIGRE WEARS THE CEREMONIAL DRESS OF AN ANCIENT MAYAN CHIEFTAIN! THAT MUST BE THE PRIZE HE SOUGHT IN THIS CITY!

AY, RAMON! LOOK HOW IT GLOWS... MAKING EL TIGRE'S VERY FLESH APPEAR GOLDEN IN THIS GLOOM!

AND THIS PENDANT.. IT WILL BRING A KING'S RANSOM ON THE BLACK MARKET!

UNHAND ME, SPINELESS DOLTS! WOULD YOU SEEK TO LAY HANDS ON A GOD?

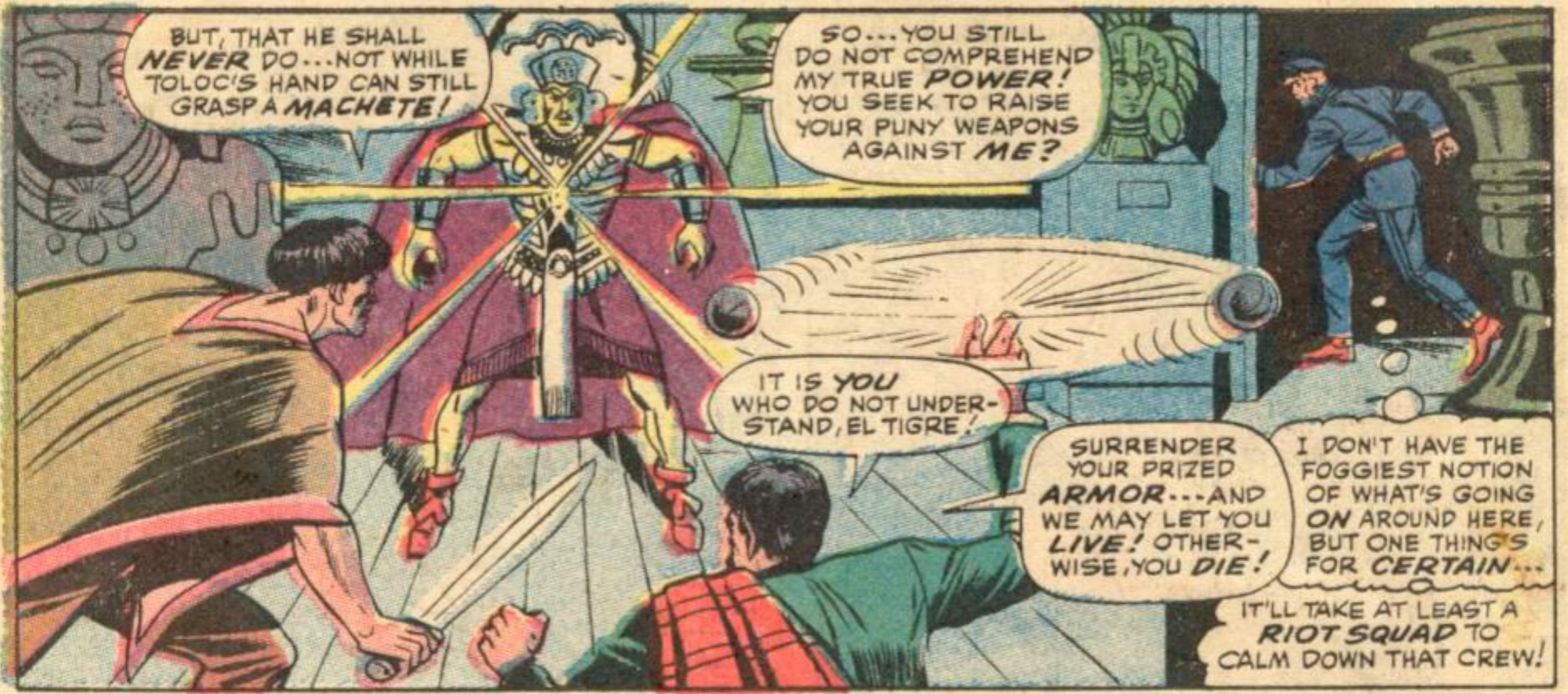
THE ONE YOU CALL EL TIGRE IS GONE FOREVER!

NOW BEGONE, SLIGHT MEN... BEFORE YOU FEEL THE FULL AND MATCHLESS WRATH OF KUKULCAN!

THOK!

OOOOF! HE IS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!

OR, RATHER LIKE ONE WHO WISHES TO CHEAT US OF OUR JUST REWARD...



BUT, THAT HE SHALL NEVER DO...NOT WHILE TOLOC'S HAND CAN STILL GRASP A MACHETE!

SO...YOU STILL DO NOT COMPREHEND MY TRUE POWER! YOU SEEK TO RAISE YOUR PUNY WEAPONS AGAINST ME?

IT IS YOU WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND, EL TIGRE!

SURRENDER YOUR PRIZED ARMOR...AND WE MAY LET YOU LIVE! OTHERWISE, YOU DIE!

I DON'T HAVE THE FOGGIEST NOTION OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, BUT ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN...

IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST A RIOT SQUAD TO CALM DOWN THAT CREW!



NOW, REBELLIOUS ONES, BEHOLD... AND LEARN! I HAVE BUT TO GESTURE, **THUS...**

...TO UNLEASH AT YOU THE VERY ENERGY OF THE BLAZING SUN ITSELF!

**ZZZZZZ**



**CARAMBA!** WHAT SORCERY IS THIS?

THE NEXT MOMENT, TWO STARTLED VILLAINS ARE STRUCK BY AN IRRESISTIBLE WALL OF HEAT AND FORCE...!

UHHNN...!

EL TIGRE SPOKE THE TRUTH! THE POWERS OF THE ANCIENT GODS THEMSELVES NOW RESIDE IN HIM!



AND, WHILE THE FORMS OF HIS CONQUERED LACKEYS COLLAPSE, SENSELESS, TO THE FLOOR...

THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO BE GAINED **HERE!**

THE MUSEUM IS FULL OF TREASURES WHICH MEN TERM **PRICELESS...**

BUT, THE ONE PRIZE WORTHY OF MY NOTICE LIES A CONTINENT AWAY... IN THE VERY LAND WHERE FIRST I GAINED A FRAGMENT OF THE **PENDANT OF POWER!**



THEN, AS IF SENSING INSTINCTIVELY THE FULL EXTENT OF THE AWESOME FORCES AT HIS COMMAND... AS IF ACTING OUT A DRAMA WRITTEN BEFORE THE FIRST **CONQUISTADORS** HAD SET FOOT IN THE NEW WORLD... THE GOLDEN FIGURE MAKES HIS WAY UNERRINGLY TO THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING, WHERE...

THE POWERS, UNLEASHED BY THE JOINING OF THE TWO FRAGMENTS OF THE AMULET, HAD LAIN DORMANT... **UNSUSPECTED...** SINCE THE CONQUEST OF THE MAYAS **FOUR CENTURIES AGO...**

BUT NOW, I MUST **REPLENISH** THOSE POWERS... AND **INCREASE** THEM... BY RETURNING TO THEIR PRIMAL **SOURCE!**

SUCH IS THE DESTINY OF... **KUKULCAN!**

EL TIGRE CAME TO THIS LAND IN AN AIRPLANE... THE CRUDE INVENTION OF MORTALS!

BUT, THAT IS NOT FOR ONE WHO POSSESSES THE HARNESSSED MIGHT OF THE GOLDEN SUN!

WITH ONE SWEEP OF MY ARM, I CAN LOOSE ENOUGH ENERGY TO FORM A SPHERE OF SHEER SOLAR FORCE...

...ONE WHICH OBEYS THE MENTAL COMMANDS OF KUKULCAN!

THE HOUR HAS COME TO RETURN TO SAN RICO... THERE TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM OF THE MAYAS TO ITS ANCESTRAL GLORY!

SPECIAL NOTE FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS: WE FULLY INTENDED TO DULY EXPLAIN JUST HOW KUKULCAN MANAGED TO CREATE THE SOLAR SPHERE, BUT DISCOVERED TO OUR CHAGRIN THAT SUCH A VEHICLE CAN ONLY BE OPERATED BY MAYAN GODS!.. SORROWFUL STAN-

A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME LATER, IN A MID-WESTERN STATE...

HEY, ALBERT... LOOK UP THERE! IS THAT ONE OF THEM FLYIN' SAUCERS?

I DUNNO, BARNEY... BUT IT SURE AIN'T NO BLAMED FIREFLY! AND, IT'S MOVIN' FAST... REAL FAST!

WHILE, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AT HIS SCHOOL IN NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY, PROFESSOR X IS STRIVING TO CONTACT HIS MISTREATED MUTANTS...

THE MENTAL POWERS OF EL TIGRE KEPT ME FROM CONTACTING MY X-MEN! BUT, CEREBRO INDICATES THAT HE HAS NOW DEPARTED FROM THE AREA...

THEREFORE, BY A CONCERTED EFFORT, I SHOULD BE ABLE ONCE AGAIN TO REACH THEM TELEPATHICALLY! AND REACH THEM I MUST...

THE SAFETY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD MAY BE AT STAKE!

AH... I HAVE LOCATED ONE OF THEM! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL NOW!

AND, INDEED, IN A DARKENED HALLWAY IN ONE PART OF THE SPACIOUS MUSEUM...

UNHHH! MY HEAD...! IT FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY'S STOMPIN' THROUGH IT WITH TRACK-SHOES ON!

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR LETTING MYSELF BE TRIPPED UP BY ONE OF EL TIGRE'S LITTLE PLAY-MATES!

ICE-MAN! YOU MUST FIND YOUR FELLOW X-MEN... THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO WASTE!

RIGHT AWAY, PROFESSOR... IF I CAN STAND UP, THAT IS!

BEFORE LONG, IN THE PREHISTORIC SECTION OF THE BUILDING...

IT'S ANGEL! BUT, HE'S LYING SO STILL! COULD HE--?

NO! HE'S STIRRING! HE WAS JUST OUT COLD!

OOOHH...

THEN, AS THE HIGH-FLYING MUTANT REGAINS HIS SENSES...

THIS DART COULD'VE BEEN TIPPED WITH POISON, INSTEAD OF A SLEEPING DRUG! YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY, ANGEL!

YEAH, SURE!.. I JUST HOPE I CATCH UP WITH THE CHARACTER WHO CLIPPED ME, SO I CAN THANK HIM IN PERSON!

WELL, LET'S GET MOVING... WE GOTTA FIND HANK AND SCOTT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



SOON, GUIDED BY THE MYSTERIOUS TELEPATHIC PROWESS OF PROFESSOR X...

THOSE CHARACTERS IN A HEAP OVER THERE... ARE THEY EL TIGRE'S CRONIES?

ONE QUERY AT A TIME, LADS!

CYCLOPS APPEARS TO BE MERELY DAZED! AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THOSE TWO, YOUR SUPPOSITION IS AS GOOD AS MINE!

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, X-MEN! NOW, DEPART AT ONCE FOR rendezvous point C! LEAVE THE UNCONSCIOUS PAIR FOR THE POLICE!

BEAST! SO YOU'RE UP AND AROUND, TOO! IS CYKE HURT BAD?

YOU KNOW, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M RATHER RELIEVED THAT MARVEL GRL IS ATTENDING COLLEGE! THIS WAS HARDLY OUR FINEST HOUR!



BRIGHT AND EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE WEARY X-MEN HAVE PIECED TOGETHER THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S OCCURRENCES...

..THE LOVELY JEAN GREY RECEIVES AN URGENT PHONE CALL AT METRO COLLEGE...

WHY...HELLO, PROFESSOR! I WAS PLANNING TO WRITE YOU LATER TODAY!

WHAT? MAYAN HISTORY AND LEGENDS? OF COURSE... I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!

STRANGE THAT HE DIDN'T CONTACT ME BY MENTAL TELEPATHY! OR PERHAPS... HE NO LONGER CONSIDERS ME A MEMBER OF THE TEAM!



THUS, SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WHEN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY OPENS...

JEANIE GREY... AS I LIVE AND BREATHE! HOW'S MY FAVORITE CO-ED?

OH, GOOD MORN-ING, TED! IF YOU MEAN ME, I'M FINE!

THAT BOY WITH TED... IT'S CALVIN RANKIN... WHOM THE X-MEN FOUGHT AS THE MIMIC!\*

SHH! QUIET, PLEASE!

\* AND FIGHT THEY DID... IN X-MEN #19... REDUNDANT STAN.



JEAN, GAL, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE, CAL RANKIN! HE STARTED SCHOOL THIS SUMMER, TOO!

I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU! BUT.. I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEEL-ING THAT WE'VE MET SOME-WHERE BEFORE! HAVE WE?

I...DON'T THINK SO, CAL! UNTIL RECENTLY I ATTENDED A SMALL, ER, PRIVATE SCHOOL... AND I KNEW EVERYONE THERE!

HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME... BECAUSE PROFESSOR XAVIER REMOVED HIS MEMORY OF OUR ENCOUNTER! AS THE MIMIC, HE KNEW ALL OUR SECRET IDENTITIES!



I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE SAYS... I KNOW I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE! AND, I WON'T REST TILL I REMEMBER WHERE!

WE WERE JUST HEADING FOR THE CAF, JEAN! CARE TO SPLIT A CUP OF JAVA WITH US?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T RIGHT NOW, TED! BUT, I WOULDN'T MIND A RAIN CHECK..

IT'LL BE RAIN-ING AT EIGHT TONIGHT... AND I'LL PICK YOU UP THEN!

I HOPE YOU'LL BOTH BE VERY HAPPY! NOW, WILL YOU PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN? (6)

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

**APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS LATER, AT THE APTLY-NAMED PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...**

THE STOLEN PENDANT WAS FOUND HERE, IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN NATION OF **SAN RICO**... THAT IS OUR ONLY CLUE THUS FAR!

AND THAT SURE ISN'T MUCH TO GO ON!

IF I KNOW THE PROFESSOR, IT'LL BE ENOUGH...

**JEANIE!** TALK ABOUT SIGHTS FOR SORE EYES!

SAME HERE, BOBBY! I'VE MISSED THE WHOLE BUNCH OF YOU!

HELLO, JEAN! FORGIVE ME IF I SOUND UNDULY CURT.. BUT, HAVE YOU THE BOOKS I REQUESTED?

YES, PROFESSOR! LUCKILY, METRO COLLEGE HAS A LARGE COLLECTION OF WORKS ON **PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICA!**

I JUST NOTICED... **SCOTT** ISN'T PRESENT! COULD SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?

**NUTS!** SHE'S STILL GOT A THING FOR **CYCLOPS**... JUST AS I ALWAYS SUSPECTED!

AH... **HERE'S** THE INFORMATION I WAS SEEKING!

**EH?** BEG PARDON, SIR... BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THAT EVEN YOU COULD FULLY DIGEST SUCH A VOLUMINOUS TEXT IN MERE SECONDS!

THERE WAS NO **NEED** FOR SUCH A MENTAL FEAT, HANK! THE WORK IS HEAVILY ANNOTATED, AND I MERELY LOOKED IN THE **INDEX** FOR SOME MENTION OF THE PENDANT STOLEN FROM THE MUSEUM!

ACCORDING TO AUTHORITIES, AN OLD MAYAN MYTH SAYS THAT AMULET IS **ENCHANTED**... THAT IT WILL GRANT THE WEARER THE AWESOME ATTRIBUTES OF **KUKULCAN**, THE FEATHERED-SERPENT GOD..

"BUT, LEGEND ALSO TELLS OF A DEADLY **CURSE** ON THE PENDANT... AND OF A TIME, CENTURIES AGO, WHEN MISUSE OF ITS DIVINE POWERS LED TO A HOLOCAUST OF **VIOLENT UPHEAVAL**..."

"PROBABLY, ARCHEOLOGISTS CLAIM, THE BASIS OF THE STORY WAS A **VOLCANIC ERUPTION**, WHICH SHOWERED A MAYAN CITY WITH TONS OF **MOLTEN LAVA!**"

ONE CAN HARDLY BLAME MEN OF SCIENCE FOR **REJECTING** THE ANCIENT LEGEND OF A MAN WITH THE POWERS OF A GOD! STILL, IN VIEW OF WHAT **CEREBRO** SHOWED ME, I THINK WE HAD BEST MAKE AN IMMEDIATE TRIP TO **SAN RICO!**

THAT'S FINE WITH US, PROFESSOR! BUT, CAN **CYKE** MAKE THE TRIP?

**CYCLOPS?** IS..THERE ANYTHING **WRONG** WITH HIM?

DON'T GET TOO UPSET, LADY! **SCOTT'S** A **BIG BOY**, NOW!

THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENT, ANGEL...

... FORTUNATELY, I POSSESS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF **IMMUNITY** TO MY OWN **OPTIC BLASTS!** I ONLY WISH EVERYONE ELSE DID!

**SCOTT!** I'M OVERJOYED YOU'VE **RECOVERED** SO QUICKLY!

SO AM I, **CYKE**... AND YOU KNOW I **MEAN** IT!

HE'S **ALL RIGHT!**

IF ONLY I COULD GO WITH THEM...

I ALWAYS FEEL MORE SECURE WITH YOUR **EYE BEAMS** BEHIND ME IN BATTLE, **SCOTT** BOY!

THANKS, ALL OF YOU! NOW, WE'D BETTER BE GOING! WE HAVE A DATE... WITH A **MAYAN DEITY!**



MINUTES LATER, AS THE FIVE MALE MUTANTS LIFT OFF, SCOTT SUMMERS MAKES A MOMENTOUS DECISION...

I THOUGHT I COULD LOVE JEAN IN SILENCE FOREVER... BECAUSE OF THE MENACE OF MY DEADLY EYES!

BUT, TODAY... SOMEHOW... I COULD SENSE THAT SHE CARES FOR ME AS MUCH AS I DO FOR HER...

...AND IN THAT SPLIT SECOND, I KNEW THAT... AS SOON AS THIS MISSION IS ENDED..NOTHING ON EARTH WILL KEEP ME FROM TELLING HER HOW I FEEL!

HOWEVER, THAT FATEFUL MISSION IS FAR FROM ENDED... AND, A FEW HOURS AFTERWARD, OVER THE LUXURIANT WILDS OF SAN RICO...

AN AIRPLANE.. FLYING TOWARDS THE DEEPEST PART OF THE JUNGLE... THE SAME DIRECTION FROM WHICH CAME THE CALL OF... KUKULCAN!

AND NOW, BY WAY OF EXPLAINING THE PUZZLED PEASANT'S CRYPTIC STATEMENT... AS WELL AS SNEAKILY RECOUNTING THE DOINGS OF OUR DIABOLICAL DEMIGOD SINCE HIS COLORFUL DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK... LET'S TURN THE CLOCK BACKWARD A FEW HOURS, AS...

IN THE SPACE OF A FEW HEARTBEATS, I HAVE REACHED MY FINAL DESTINATION... NOT FAR FROM WHERE, AS EL TIGRE, I FIRST DISCOVERED THE FABLED PENDANT OF POWER!

AH... EVEN AS I WILL MY SPHERE OF SOLAR ENERGY TO DISSOLVE, I BEHOLD THE TRUE AND ULTIMATE SOURCE OF ALL MY POWERS!

THERE... WHERE THE SUN'S BEAMING RAYS ARE REFLECTED, IS THAT WHICH SHALL RESTORE THE MAYAN KINGDOM TO GREATNESS... AND GIVE IT MASTERY OVER THE ENTIRE WORLD!

THEN, WITH A DRAMATIC GESTURE OF HIS MIGHTY HANDS, THE GOLDEN FIGURE UNLEASHES FORCES WHICH UPROOT THE STRONGEST OF TREES AS IF THEY WERE THE MEREST TWIGS AND...

AT LAST... MY ONCE-MORTAL EYES GAZE UPON THE GIGANTIC STELA WHICH ONLY LEGENDS HAVE DARED TO MENTION! BUT, SOON, A PLANET WILL PAY HOMAGE TO THE SIGN OF THE PLUMED SERPENT. SACRED SYMBOL OF KUKULCAN!

FOR, NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE UN-ENCUMBERED POWER OF... THE SOLAR STONE!

NEXT, TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE ONCE-PROUD MAYAN PYRAMIDS WHICH SURROUND THE IMPOSING IDOL, THE GOLDEN DEMIGOD RIDES THEM OF CENTURIES OF OVERGROWTH...



IN A PASSING MOMENT, I SHALL RESTORE THIS HALLOWED PLACE TO ITS FORMER SPLENDOR!

CAN ANY HUMAN... ANY NATION... HOPE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH MIND-STAGGERING MIGHT?

AND, WHEN THE LAST REMNANT OF VEGETATION HAS BEEN CLEARED FROM THE ANCIENT COURT...



THE CITY OF MY ANCESTORS... THE MAJESTIC, ALL-CONQUERING MAYA... IS NOW FIT FOR HABITATION! NOW, IT MUST HAVE PEOPLE... CITIZENS OF A NEW AND INVINCIBLE EMPIRE!

AND, SO THAT THEY MAY REACH THIS CITY... I SHALL BLAST A PATH TO THE SEA, CLEARING A ROAD COVERED WITH THE DUST OF YEARS!

THEN, TAKING HIS PLACE UPON A BEJEWELLED THRONE ON WHICH HAVE SAT COUNTLESS MONARCHS OF OLD, KUKULCAN AWAITS HIS SUBJECTS...

THE SOLAR STONE ABSORBS THE RAYS OF THE GOLDEN SUN... AND TRANSMITS THEM TO THE PENDANT OF POWER! EVEN WHEN THE WORLD IS DARK, ENOUGH ENERGY IS STORED FOR ME TO OVERCOME ANY FOE!



NOW, AS MY MENTAL CALL GOES OUT, ALL DESCENDANTS OF THE GREAT MAYAN RACE WILL BE FORCED TO ANSWER MY IRRESISTIBLE COMMANDS!

AND, INDEED, ALMOST AT ONCE, A HYPNOTIC SPELL SEEMS TO GRIP A LARGE PORTION OF THE SAN RICAN PEASANTRY... WHO BEGIN, UNCOMPREHENDING, TO TRUDGE TOWARDS THE RESTORED MAYAN CAPITAL...



HURRY, JUAN! THE VOICE OF OUR ANCESTORS CALLS TO US... BIDS US COME TO IT! WE DARE NOT DELAY!

SI, PEDRO! I... HEAR IT, ALSO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE 9

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

SOON, NUMEROUS PEONS... COMPLETELY UNDER THE SWAY OF KUKULCAN... BEGIN TO WORK MINES ABANDONED DECADES BEFORE, AS THEY SEARCH FOR GOLD FOR THE REBORN MAYAN KINGDOM...



HARDER! WE MUST PULL HARDER!

SI... FOR THE GLORY OF KUKULCAN... AND HIS CITY!

INDEED, WITHIN A FEW HOURS, EVEN SAN RICAN POLICE... SENT TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF MISSING PERSONS... HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO MINDLESS SPECIMENS OF THE POWER OF THE SOLAR STONE...



...UNREASONING SENTINELS OF A NEW EMPIRE WHICH SEEMS TO DEFY TIME ITSELF!

BUT, EVEN AS THE GOLDEN-SKINNED DEMIGOD PONDER'S HIS NEXT ACTION, THE SUPER-ENDOWED X-MEN ARRIVE IN SAN RICO...



THE PORTABLE CEREBRO IN OUR JET INDICATES THAT OUR QUARRY IS SOME MILES UP RIVER FROM HERE-- AND, I'M POSITIVE HIS MENTAL POWERS WILL PREVENT ME FROM CONTACTING YOU!

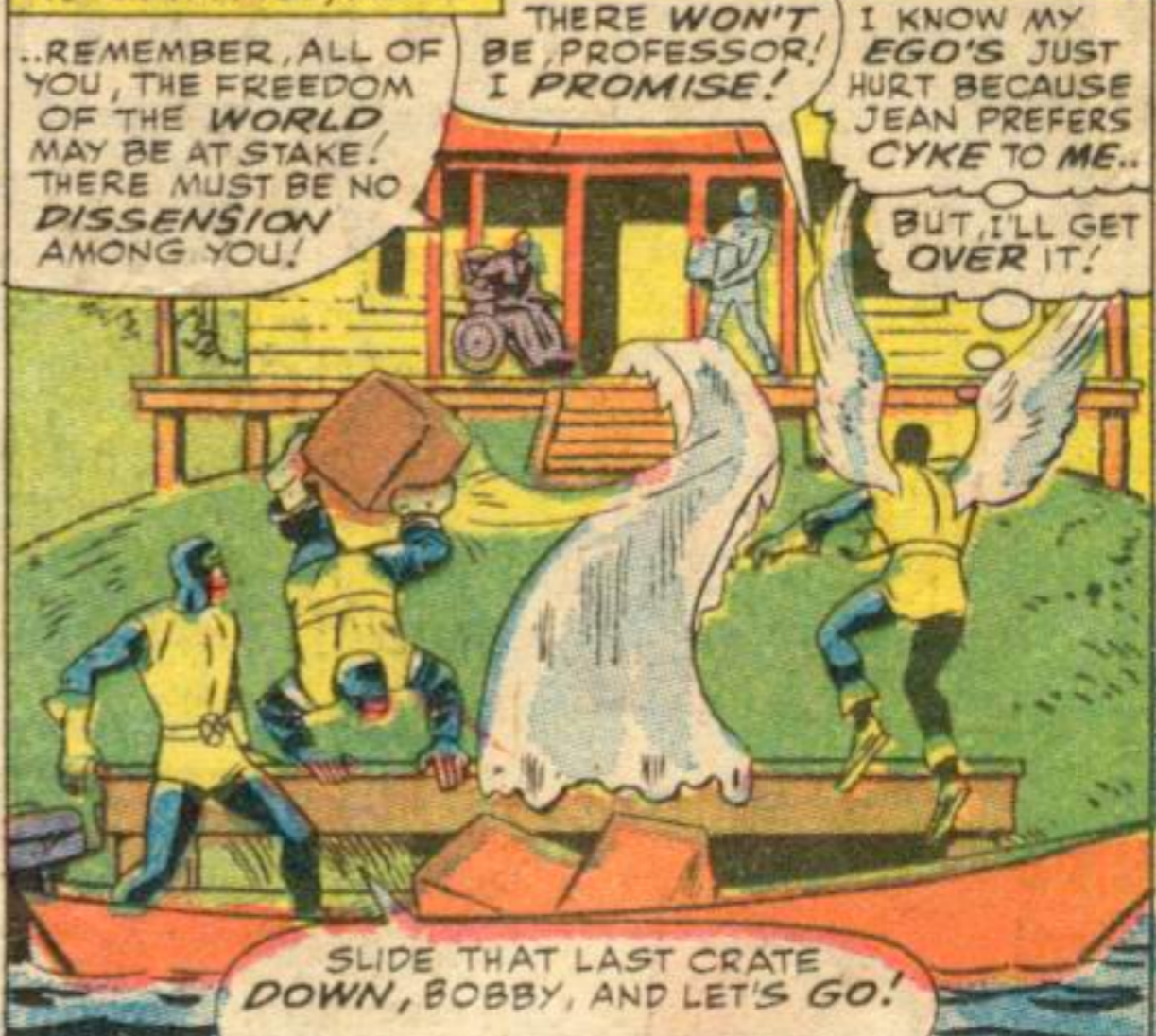
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, SIR!

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE IN A DEPUTY LEADER... ORIGINALITY!

THEREFORE, YOU MUST FACE KUKULCAN... ON YOUR OWN!

ON OCCASION, WARREN, YOUR SUBTLETY IS EQUALED ONLY BY YOUR PUNGENT WIT!

THEN, IN URGENT HASTE, A MOST UNIQUE EXPEDITION IS OUTFITTED, AS...



..REMEMBER, ALL OF YOU, THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD MAY BE AT STAKE! THERE MUST BE NO DISSENSION AMONG YOU!

THERE WON'T BE, PROFESSOR! I PROMISE!

I KNOW MY EGO'S JUST HURT BECAUSE JEAN PREFERS CYKE TO ME..

BUT, I'LL GET OVER IT!

SLIDE THAT LAST CRATE DOWN, BOBBY, AND LET'S GO!



I..WANT TO APOLOGIZE, SCOTT, FOR GETTING OUT OF LINE A COUPLE OF TIMES TODAY!

SILENCE HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF MY SHINIER VIRTUES!

FORGET IT, WARREN! I DO COME ON A BIT LIKE GOODY TWO-SHOES SOME-TIMES!

I'LL BUY THAT! GIVE 'ER A SHOVE, BEAST!

NOW THAT YOU TWO HAVE REJOINED EACH OTHER'S FAN CLUBS, MAY A FELLOW X-MAN SUGGEST THAT WE COMMENCE OUR PERILOUS PILGRIMAGE?



I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO GOING ON MISSIONS WITHOUT JEANIE! WILL SHE EVER BE ABLE TO REJOIN US PERMANENTLY?

I... WE ALL HOPE SO, BOBBY... FOR MANY REASONS!

FOR ONE, I WISH WE HAD HER TELEKINETIC POWER, TO USE AGAINST KUKULCAN!

...WHICH BRINGS UP A PERTINENT PONDERING OF MINE! IS THE FREEDOM OF THE ENTIRE PLANET TRULY IN DIREST JEOPARDY?

YES, HANK! FOR, OUR FOE'S AMBITION AND HIS POWER SEEM EQUALLY LIMITLESS!

BEFORE LONG, AS THE MOTOR-DRIVEN DUGOUT REACHES A NARROW POINT IN THE TORTUOUS RIVER ...



I STILL DON'T GET IT! WHY COULDN'T WE JUST LOCATE EL TIGRE'S LITTLE HIDEAWAY BY AIR... AND PARACHUTE ONTO IT?

DON'T FORGET FOR A MINUTE, BOBBY... OUR ENEMY IS NO LONGER MERELY HUMAN! WE MUST SIZE UP THE SITUATION BEFORE WE ATTACK!

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING...

**ROWRR!**

WH...? A JAGUAR! IS KUKULCAN SENDING ANIMALS TO FIGHT US NOW?

HE CAN'T BE... OR ELSE HE WOULD SURELY HAVE SENT THEM IN HORDES... NOT SINGLY!



I PROPOSE THAT WE POSTPONE THE ACADEMIC QUESTIONS TILL LATER...

JUST NOW IT MIGHT BE MORE PROPITIOUS TO SEE ABOUT DEFENDING OURSELVES!

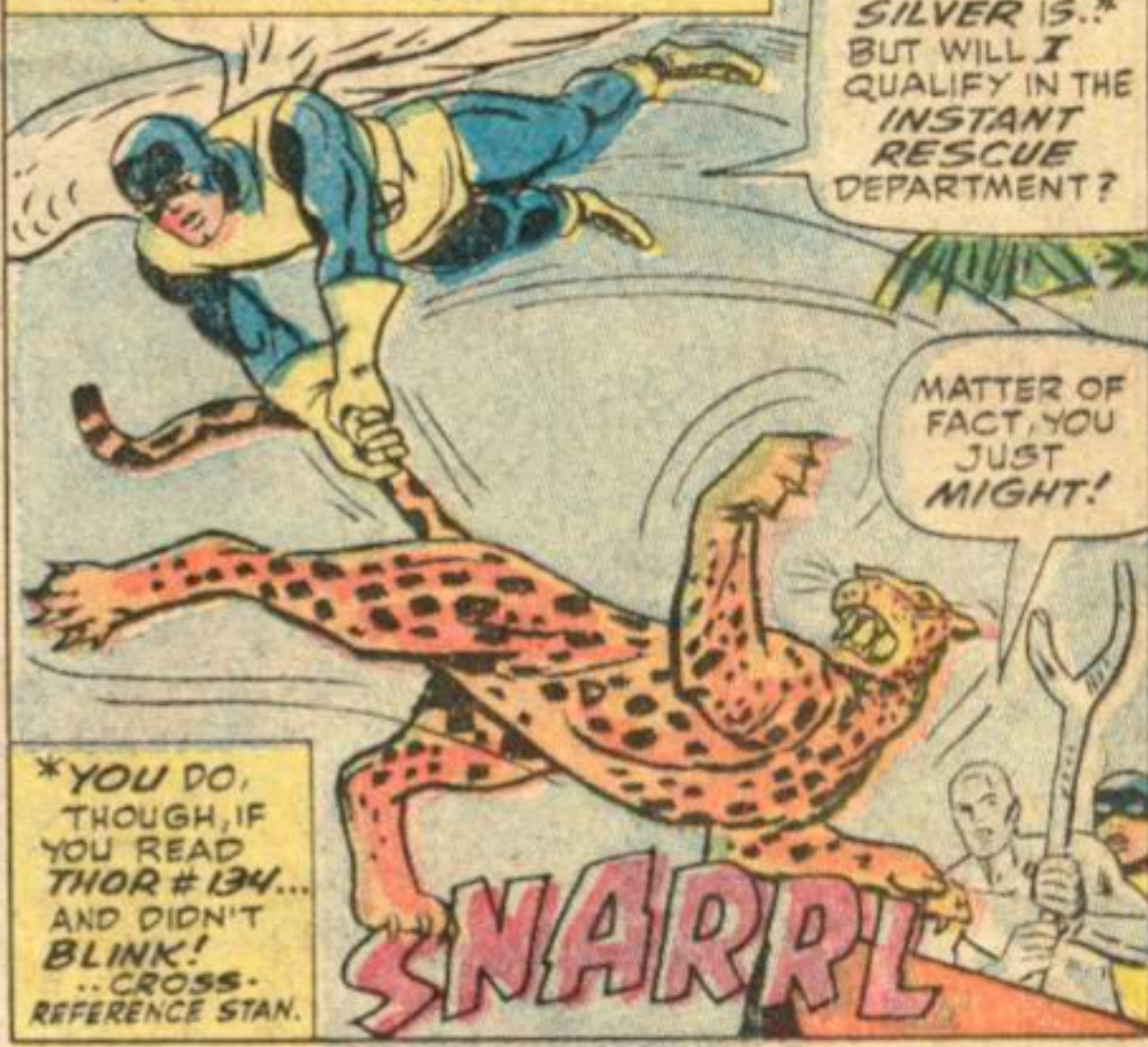
**ROWRRRR**

I DON'T ESPECIALLY WANNA HURT THIS OVER-GROWN PUSSYCAT...



...BUT, MY ICE FORK WILL KEEP HIM AT BAY ONLY SO LONG! AT THIS POINT, I WOULDN'T BE TOO PROUD TO ACCEPT A BIT OF RAPID ASSISTANCE!

THEN, WITH THE DAZZLING SPEED OF A SWOOPING FALCON...



I DON'T KNOW WHERE QUICK-SILVER IS... BUT WILL I QUALIFY IN THE INSTANT RESCUE DEPARTMENT?

MATTER OF FACT, YOU JUST MIGHT!

\*YOU DO, THOUGH, IF YOU READ THOR #134... AND DIDN'T BLINK! ...CROSS-REFERENCE STAN.

**SNARRL**

**ROWRRRR**

SORRY, KITTY, BUT YOU'D JUST HAVE GOTTEN COLD TEETH FROM BITING OUR POPSICLE PAL ANYWAY!



THANKS, ANGEL! MAYBE THAT FREE TRIP'LL COOL HIM OFF!

BUT, THE DELAY HAS COST US PRECIOUS TIME... AND, WITH EACH SECOND, THE DANGER FROM KUKULCAN BECOMES GREATER!

MAYBE SO.. BUT I WAS GLAD FOR A BREAK! I WASN'T MEANT TO BE COOPED UP IN A DUGOUT!

YOU'D BETTER REJOIN US, ANGEL! WE DARE NOT BE SEPARATED... BY ANY DISTANCE!

ALL RIGHT, LEADER MAN.. BUT I WON'T LIKE IT!

FOR, HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO ANY EARTHBOUND BEING... EVEN A MUTANT... THE INDESCRIBABLE JOY OF FLYING?

THIS IS WHY I WAS BORN! TO SOAR... TO FEEL THE AIR RACING BY MY WINGS!



A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE UNIQUE BAND DRAW EVER NEARER THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION ...

UH OH! SO MUCH FOR THE SMOOTH SAILING! LOOK AHEAD!



AND, HERE COME A PREDATORY PAIR OF CAYMANS.. OR, 'GATORS, TO YOU LESS LITERATE LAYMEN!

RAPIDS ... AND WE'RE ALMOST ON TOP OF THEM!

THIS BOAT'LL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH! GET READY TO HIT!

THEN...

THERE SHE BLOWS!



KRAAK!

WARREN ... GRAB HANK AND BOBBY!

SAVE YOUR CONCERN FOR ICEMAN, GROUP! THE BEAST SHALL PERSEVERE ALONE!

YIPES! I NEGLECTED TO TAKE THE CAYMANS INTO CONSIDERATION IN MY CALCULATIONS!

SPLOING!



BWOING!

KLOMP!

HOWEVER, NECESSITY IS INDEED THE MOTHER OF INGENUOUS INVENTION! THUS, PRESTO ... HE'S A STEPPING STONE!

ICEMAN'S OKAY ... SO THAT JUST LEAVES YOU TO NURSEMAID, SCOTTY!



YOU FORGET THAT I COULD HAVE RAY-BLASTED OUR REPTILE FRIEND ... AND I'M NOT A BAD SWIMMER!

JUST THE SAME, WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT NUTTY KUKULCAN!

WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE HIS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, LIKE ALL THE SENSIBLE DO-BADDERST

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE MUTANT MARVELS REGROUP ON SHORE...

WE MUST BE NEAR HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS NOW, BEAST... SEE IF YOU CAN LOCATE IT!

I'D SEND UP ANGEL-- BUT HE MIGHT BE SPOTTED MORE EASILY, FLYING AROUND!



FEAR NOT, PEOPLE! THE NOBLE BEAST SHALL BRING HIS HAWKLIKE POWER OF SIGHT TO BEAR ON THE SITUATION!

HMMM... I CAN'T BE POSITIVE, LADS ... BUT I THINK OUR TOILSOME TREK MAY BE VIRTUALLY AT AN END!



THERE .. NOT A THOUSAND FEET AWAY... A MAN-MADE ROAD, LEADING TO SOME MAYAN PYRAMIDS!

ALL RIGHT, BEASTIE... YOU'VE GOT THE PART! NOW, C'MON DOWN!



ALAS, CON-  
VERSATION  
IS A DYING  
ART AMONG  
TODAY'S  
TEMPESTUOUS  
YOUTH!

STILL, I SHALL  
MAKE THE  
DESIRED DESCENT...  
IN MY OWN  
INIMITABLE  
FASHION!

HANK...  
WATCH  
OUT!



THAT VINE YOU  
WERE SLIDING ON  
...IS A BOA  
CONSTRUCTOR!

OOPS!

I SINCERELY  
HOPE THAT IT'S  
"BE KIND TO DUMB  
MUTANTS" WEEK IN SAN RICO!



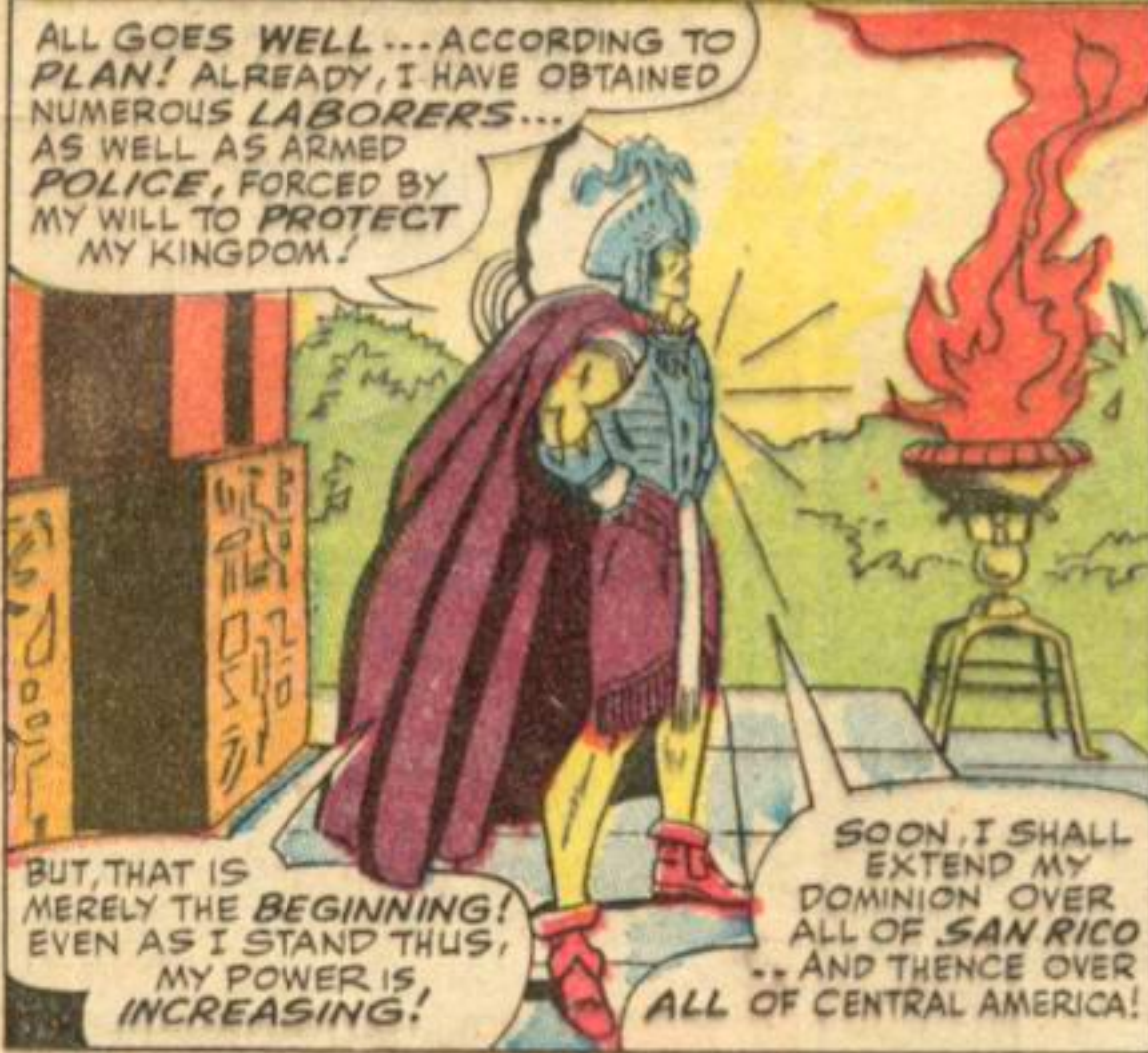
BUT, THE EQUALLY SURPRISED SERPENT  
DOES NOT ATTACK, AND SO ...

HANK WAS POINTING IN  
THIS DIRECTION!

SAY, DO  
YOU HAVE  
THE SENSATION  
THAT WE'RE BEING  
SPIED ON?

YES, BOBBY...  
BUT DON'T LOOK  
AROUND... IT'S  
THEIR  
MOVE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE RECONSTRUCTED MAYAN CAPITAL...



ALL GOES WELL... ACCORDING TO  
PLAN! ALREADY, I HAVE OBTAINED  
NUMEROUS LABORERS...  
AS WELL AS ARMED  
POLICE, FORCED BY  
MY WILL TO PROTECT  
MY KINGDOM!

BUT, THAT IS  
MERELY THE BEGINNING!  
EVEN AS I STAND THUS,  
MY POWER IS  
INCREASING!

SOON, I SHALL  
EXTEND MY  
DOMINION OVER  
ALL OF SAN RICO  
... AND THENCE OVER  
ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA!

JUST THEN, KUKULCAN'S RHETORICAL REFLECTIONS ARE INTERRUPTED, AS...



SIRE... LOOK!  
OVER THERE..  
IT IS THE  
SIGNAL!

THEN,  
INTRUDERS  
HAVE ENTERED MY  
SACRED REALM!  
INTRUDERS WHO ARE  
UNCONTROLLED BY  
MY MENTAL POWERS!

IT CAN  
ONLY BE THE  
MUTANTS I  
FOUGHT BEFORE!  
IF SO, THEY SHALL  
NOT FIND ME SO MERCIFUL THIS TIME!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE X-MEN REACH THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE...



THERE'S THE UNPAVED  
ROAD THAT HANK SAW!  
BUT, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE  
WERE ANY LARGE HIGH-  
WAYS IN THIS AREA!

THERE AREN'T! THE  
ROADWAY MUST HAVE  
BEEN CLEARED BY  
OUR FOE!

AND, FROM THE LOOK  
OF THINGS, I'D SAY IT WAS  
BLASTED INTO PLACE...  
WHICH OUGHT TO GIVE  
US SOME IDEA OF  
KUKULCAN'S AWESOME  
POWERS!

PERSONALLY, I'VE  
NEVER BEEN  
PARTICULARLY  
SKEPTICAL  
OF THEM!

THE NEXT SECOND, AS THE UNDAUNTED TEENAGERS STEP INTO THE CLEARING...



**FWIISH!**

A PIT... COVERED  
WITH GRASSES! AND  
A HEAVY MESH NET...  
FALLING ONTO US!  
CAN'T FLY...!

HE MUST HAVE  
THEM SCATTERED  
THROUGHOUT THE  
AREA!

WATCH THE  
HAND THERE,  
WARRY, BOY!

AS A DEPUTY  
LEADER, I MAKE  
A GOOD DOG-  
CATCHER!

COULDN'T  
SEE... TO  
GRAB A  
HANDHOLD!

I LED THE  
X-MEN... RIGHT  
INTO  
KUKULCAN'S  
TRAP!

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

AND, EVEN AS THE STARTLED MUTANTS LAND ON THE BOTTOM...



UH OH! DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

INDIANS... AND, THEY'RE AIMING A DISTINCTLY FORMIDABLE ARRAY OF SPEARS AT US!

ICEMAN... QUICK! FORM YOUR THICKEST ICE SHIELD ABOVE US!

YOU'RE JUST FULL OF LITTLE IDEAS, AREN'T YOU?

INSTANTLY, AS BOBBY CARRIES OUT CYCLOPS' SHOUTED COMMAND...



MISHTEC? MALOC KOTOR... QUETLAC!

LET'S KEEP 'EM THAT WAY! WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE... NOW!

HOW? LIKE THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE?

MY LATE MAYATHAN\* ACCENT IS A TRIFLE RUSTY... BUT I SUSPECT THEY'RE SOMEWHAT DISCONTENTED!

\*MAYATHAN.. ONE FORM OF ANCIENT MAYAN SPEECH! (AS EVERY MAYAN BUFF KNOWS!) ...SCHOLARLY STAN.

THEN, THEIR ACTIONS HIDDEN FROM THE MENACING ABORIGINES BY THE TRANSLUCENT ICE BARRIER, THE X-MEN DIG OUT...



**KZAP!**

FOLLOW ME... AND HURRY! IN THIS HEAT, THAT ICE WON'T HOLD OUT LONG... AND MY PLAN DEPENDS ON THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT THE INDIANS, CYKE... BUT COULDN'T I AT LEAST PUT A COUPLE OF 'EM IN THE DEEP FREEZE?

WHY, BOBBY, THERE SEEMS TO BE A SANGUINARY ASPECT TO YOUR NATURE! FOR SHAME, LAD!

TOLOR! NOTLOC MIPOCA?

BUT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANGEL KEEPS SNAPPING BACK AT EVERYTHING I SAY... HE'S NEVER BEEN LIKE THAT BEFORE!

I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A POOR MAN'S HAWKEYE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP MYSELF! WHY SHOULD JEAN PREFER SCOTT OVER ME?

COULD IT BE THAT HE SOMEHOW SENSES MY FEELINGS FOR JEAN... AND THAT I INTEND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM?

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AFTER CREEPING UP STEALTHILY BEHIND THE CONFUSED INDIANS...



NOW... PULL!

THERE... CLIMBING OUT OF THE PIT SHOULD KEEP OUR SPEAR-WIELDING BUDDIES OCCUPIED FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

REMAND ME TO TELL KUKULCAN WE DIDN'T CARE FOR HIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GREETING!

**FLIPP!**

AIEEE! MOLTEC CATLI!

FINALLY, AT 4:03 P.M. (EASTERN STANDARD TIME, NATCH)...



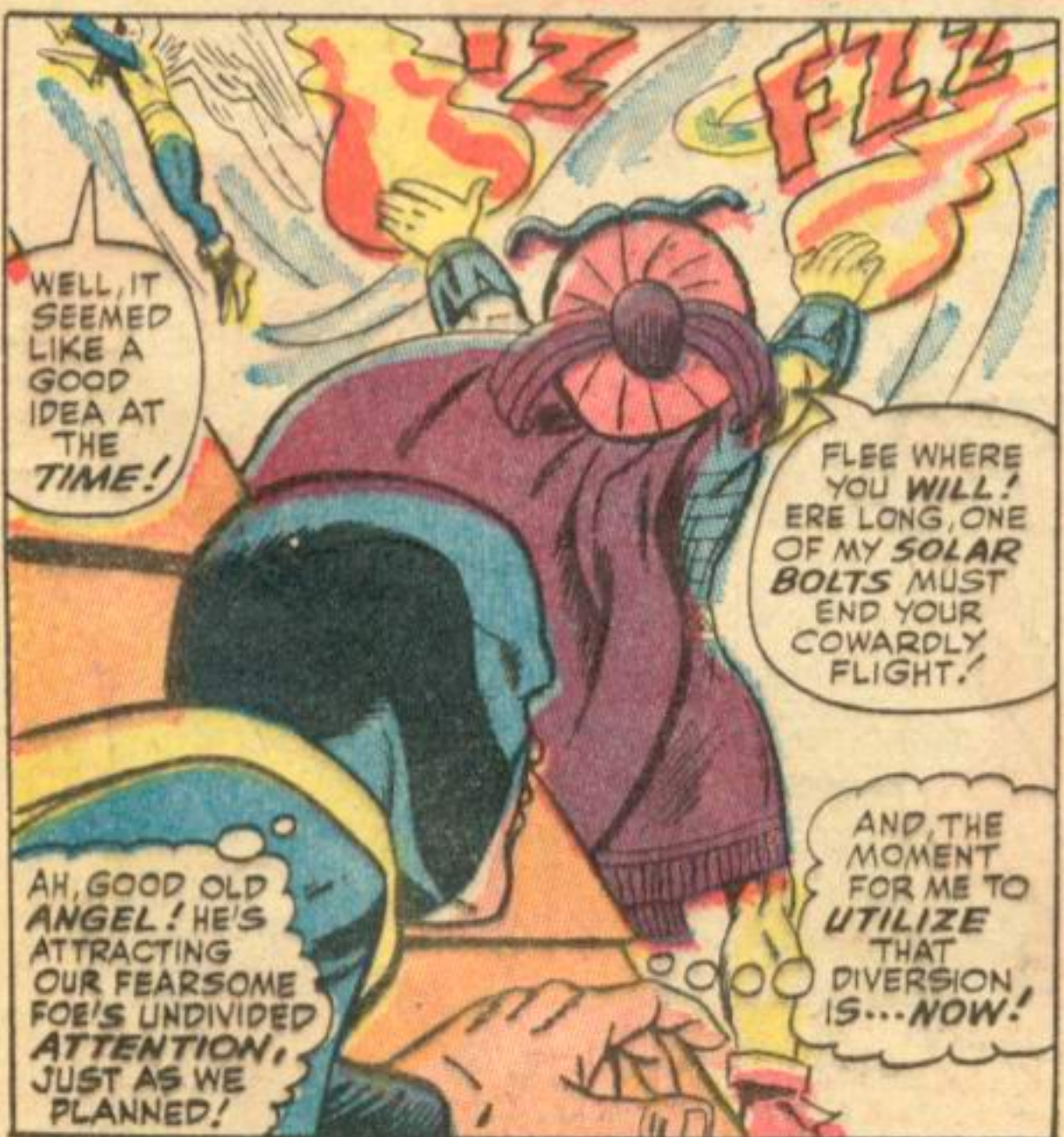
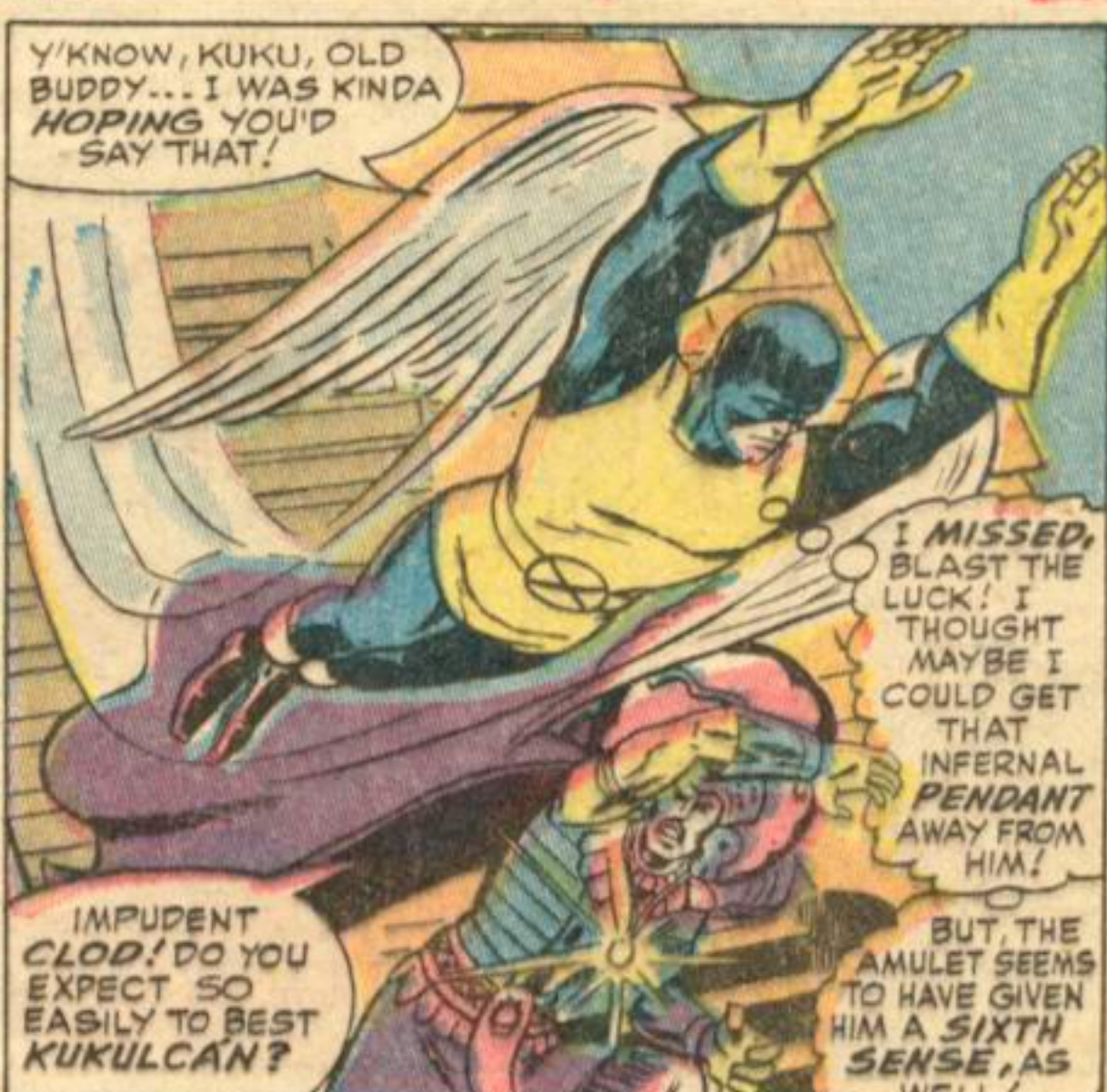
A POLICEMAN... OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THOSE WHO MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED INTO THE JUNGLE BEFORE WE ARRIVED...

NUTS! WHEN ARE WE GONNA RUN INTO SOMEBODY WE CAN REALLY FIGHT?

YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH SOON ENOUGH, ICEMAN!

HMMM... THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE A NEED FOR SOME SORT OF DIVERSIONARY TACTICS HERE!

**WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV**







I WAS A FOOL TO FEAR THESE INSOLENT MUTANTS! THEY ARE NO MORE THREAT TO MY SUPREMACY THAN ANTS!



BUT, EVEN AS THE MAYAN DEMIGOD SPEAKS...

ANTS, HUH? C'MON, CYKE... LET'S SHOW HIM JUST WHAT IT MEANS TO TANGLE WITH THE X-MEN!

RIGHT YOU ARE, ICE-MAN!

NOW THAT THE OTHER HOMO SAPIENTES HAVE FLED, WE CAN LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE ATTACK! BUT, APPROACH WITH CAUTION!



CAUTION'S FOR THE BIRDS, LEADER MAN... AT LEAST WHILE THAT FEATHER-TOPPED FUHRER'S ZEROIN' IN ON THE BEAST!

YOUR CONCERN IS PROFOUNDLY APPRECIATED, LITTLE BUDDY!

I SENSE ANOTHER MUTANT... RUSHING AT ME!

**BRAK!**



OHhhh...! HE'S SUDDENLY GIVING OFF TREMENDOUS HEAT! MUST GET AWAY!

BAH! I GROW WEARY OF THIS POINTLESS BATTLE! WHY DO YOU NOT SURRENDER?

THE X-MEN NEVER SURRENDER, PAL! SO GET USED TO THE IDEA!

WHO DO I THINK I'M KIDDIN'? NOBODY COULD STAND AGAINST THAT GUY EXCEPT ANOTHER GOD... AND THOR I'M NOT!



A FEW SECONDS LATER, AS A WEARY ICEMAN SLUMPS NEAR THE GLOWING SOLAR STONE...

I...I FAILED! MUST REST... TO RENEW MY ICE POWER!

ANGEL'S KEEPING KUKULCAN OCCUPIED... FOR NOW! BUT... I WONDER...



AND, SCRAMBLING UP THE GIANT STELA ON A SUDDEN HUNCH, HANK MCCOY DISCOVERS...

JUST AS I SURMISED! IT'S COMPOSED OF THE IDENTICAL MINERAL AS THE PENDANT!

AND, IT'S RED-HOT!.. ABSORBING SOLAR ENERGY, IF I DEDUCE CORRECTLY!

THEN--IT MUST BE EL TIGRE'S POWER SOURCE!



IF ONLY I CAN COVER IT WITH ICE, MAYBE WE CAN BEAT 'IM YET!

IT'S WORTH HAZARDING AN ATTEMPT, LAD! I'LL GIVE ANGEL A HAND!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THEN, MOMENTARILY LEAVING BOBBY DRAKE'S SIDE, THE ANTHROPOID X-MAN RETURNS TO THE FRANTIC FRAY NEARBY...

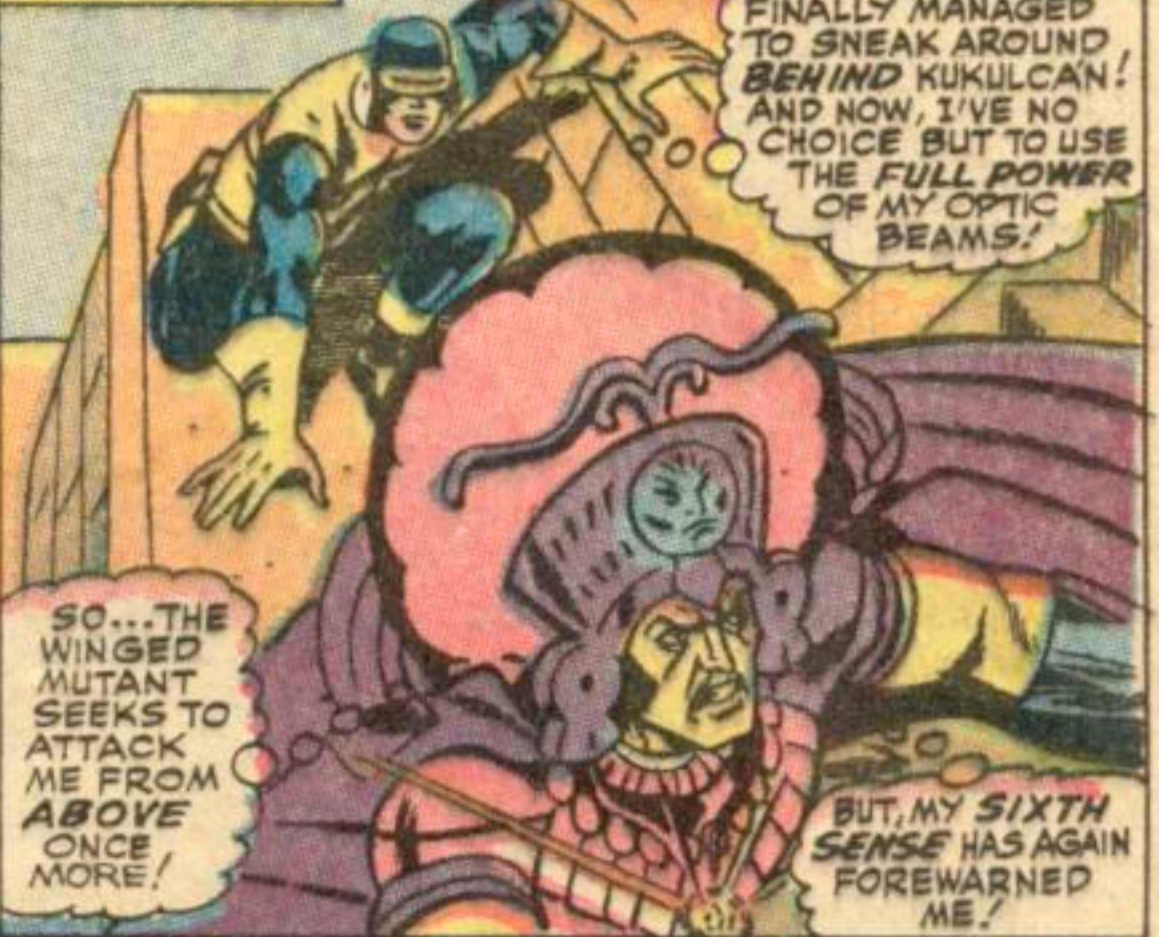


KEEP OUR GOLDEN-TONED GLADIATOR BUSY, ANGEL! MAKE HIM EXPEND ALL THE SOLAR BOLTS YOU CAN!

I DON'T QUITE SEE WHY, BEAST... BUT WILL DO!

JUST GANG-WAY AND WATCH ME DIVE-BOMB THAT COSTUMED CREEP!

BUT, EVEN AS THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL PREPARES TO ZOOM DOWNWARD...

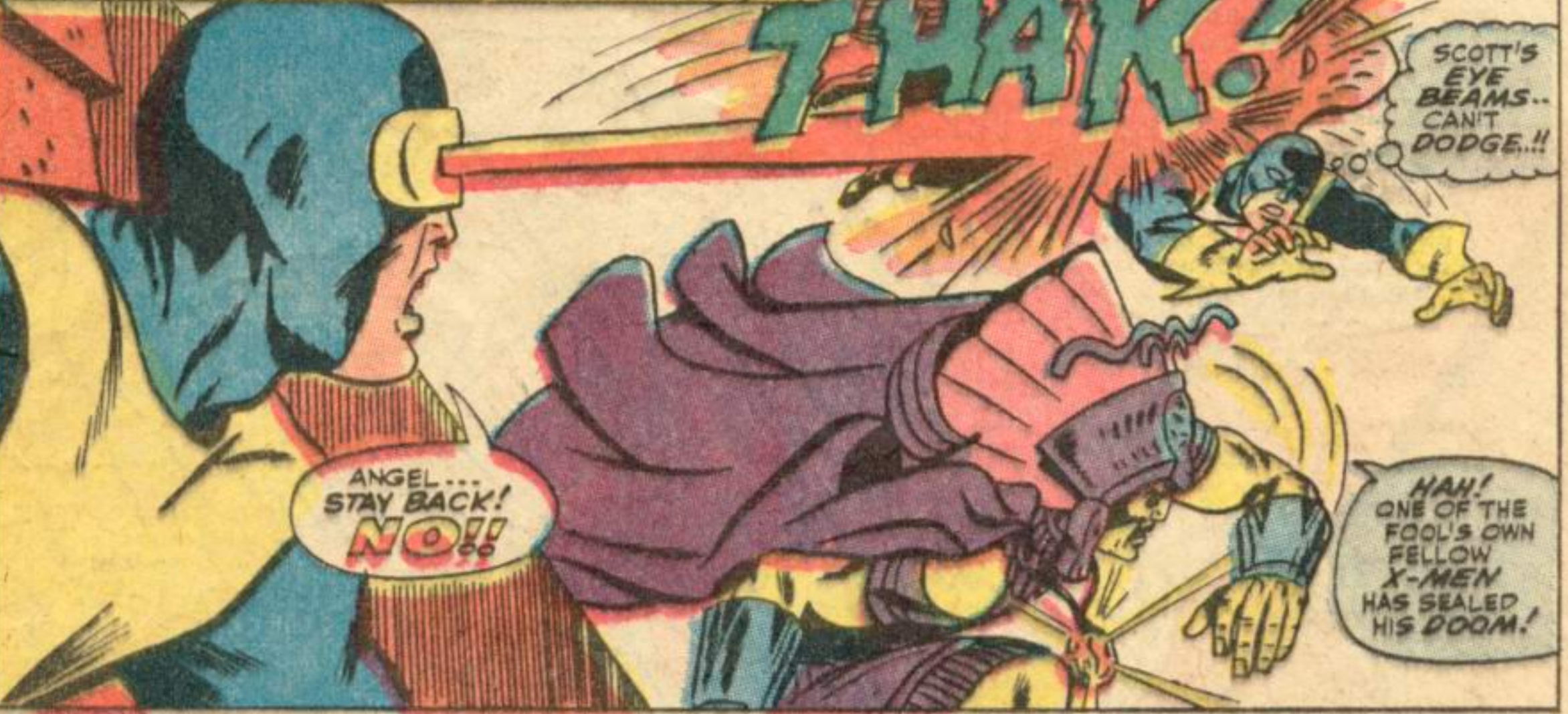


FINALLY MANAGED TO SNEAK AROUND BEHIND KUKULCAN! AND NOW, I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THE FULL POWER OF MY OPTIC BEAMS!

SO...THE WINGED MUTANT SEEKS TO ATTACK ME FROM ABOVE ONCE MORE!

BUT, MY SIXTH SENSE HAS AGAIN FOREWARNED ME!

SUDDENLY, A MICRO-SECOND LATER... DISASTER STRIKES!



**THAK!**

SCOTT'S EYE BEAMS... CAN'T DODGE!!

ANGEL... STAY BACK! **NO!!**

HAH! ONE OF THE FOOL'S OWN FELLOW X-MEN HAS SEALED HIS DOOM!

AND, AS THE SEVERELY STUNNED WARREN PLUMMETS TO THE GROUND...



HE TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF MY STRONGEST OPTIC BLAST! IT COULD HAVE BEEN FATAL...

HE'S STILL BREATHING.. HE'S ALIVE! BUT, FOR HOW LONG?

HOW TOUCHING! IGNORING YOUR OWN SAFETY, YOU RUSH TO THE AID OF YOUR BADLY WOUNDED FRIEND!



THUS, IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT YOU JOIN HIM... IN DEATH!

UNNNH..!

**THOOOM!**

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

AND THEN, EVEN AS THE SENSELESS FORM OF CYCLOPS FALLS...

ONLY TWO MUTANTS REMAIN! AND, ONE OF THEM TRIES TO ISOLATE THE SOURCE OF MY POWERS WITH ICE!

IF HANK WAS WRONG, IT'S CURTAINS FOR ME!

WHAT..? THE SOLAR BOLT FALLS SHORT!

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR PLAN... TO TRICK ME INTO USING ALL MY ENERGY AT A RAPID RATE!

BUT, I STILL POSSESS ENOUGH MIGHT FOR ONE FINAL, STONE-SHATTERING BLAST!

I SHALL SHAKE THE INFERNAL MUTANT FROM HIS LOFTY PERCH... AND THEN DESTROY HIM!

**FZAP!**

HOWEVER, THE NEXT SECOND, AN OMINOUS THUNDERING SHAKES THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE MAMMOTH PAGAN STELA, AS...

THE BEGINNINGS OF A TREMOR! I'M BETTIN' THAT OUR POWER-MAD PLAYMATE DIDN'T BARGAIN ON THAT!

HIS LAST SOLAR BOLT MUST HAVE STRUCK SOME SORT OF EARTH FAULT UNDERNEATH THE CITY!

**RUMBLE!**

NO...IT CANNOT BE! MY DREAMS OF A RESTORED MAYAN EMPIRE CANNOT END THUS! I SHALL NOT LET THEM...!

SUDDENLY, AS THE YOUNGEST OF THE FABULOUS X-MEN LEAPS FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH...

THE FEATHERED-SERPENT IDOL... IT'S STARTING TO CRACK! IT'S BREAKING UP!

LIKELIKE, I MIGHT APPEND, IS THE FLOOR ON WHICH IT REPOSES!

IT THEREFORE BEHOOVES US BOTH TO MOVE WITH PRECIPITOUS HASTE!

ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY, WITH A DEAFENING ROAR, THE COURT BETWEEN THE CRUMBLING PYRAMIDS IS TORN ASUNDER...

...AND THE MYSTICAL, ONCE-DREADED STELA PLUNGES INTO THE YAWNING ABYSS, TO BE SEEN... NEVERMORE!

AND THEN, HAVING TAKEN MOMENTARY REFUGE IN A VIOLENTLY VIBRATING TREE, THE BEAST AND ICEMAN OBSERVE THE MIGHTY FISSURE CLOSE...

YOU KNOW, BOBBY BOY, IT'S INDEED FORTUNATE THAT MERE SUPERSTITION IS BENEATH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC MIND!

OTHERWISE, ONE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO EXPOSTULATE THAT THE ANCIENT CURSE IS ONCE AGAIN OPERATIVE!

ALL I KNOW IS, THIS WHOLE CRUMMY CITY'S COMING DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

AND-- LOOK! THERE GOES KUKULCAN, RUSHING INTO THE STONE TEMPLE ATOP ONE OF THE PYRAMIDS!

RRUUUMM

THAT'S SCARCELY THE SAFEST OF SANCTUARIES! HE MUST HAVE PANICKED!

AND SO, IT'S UP TO THE BOUNDING BEAST TO EXTRICATE OUR FEARFUL FOE... I HOPE!

WHUMP! THUNK!

**ANXIOUS INSTANTS LATER...**

**HELP ME...!**

DESIST FROM YOUR SUPERFLUOUS EXCLAMATIONS, FRIEND! YOU'RE RESCUED ALREADY!

HERE...HOP ONTO MY ICE SLIDE, QUICK!

NOW THERE'S AN EXHORTATION TO DELIGHT THE EARDRUMS!

WE'D BEST SCAMPER TO SAFETY AT ONCE! A STRAY SOLAR BOLT SEEMS TO HAVE IGNITED A VERITABLE INFERNO!

**THEN, REACHING A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT...**

WHEN THE IDOL WAS SWALLOWED BY THE EARTH, OUR BUDDY HERE TURNED BACK INTO PLAIN EL TIGRE! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THAT, BEASTIE?

AS THE BARD SAYS, THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, ETC!

ALAS, POOR KUKULCAN... I KNEW HIM, BOBBY-O!

I'M SORRY I ASKED! LET'S FIND CYKE AND ANGEL!

**BEFORE LONG, WHEN THE PAIR LOCATE THEIR MISSING COMPANIONS...**

KUKULCAN WAS OVERCONFIDENT... HIS BLAST MERELY STUNNED ME!

I... SOMEHOW CARRIED WARREN FROM THE CITY... BUT HE'S HURT... BADLY!

ANGEL... HE'S SO STILL! IS HE...?

NO... HE'S... ALIVE!

WHAT HAPPENED? DID KUKULCAN GET TO HIM?

**HOWEVER, BEFORE THE EXHAUSTED SCOTT SUMMERS CAN ANSWER, THE WOUNDED ANGEL RAISES HIS HEAD SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, AND...**

IT WAS... CYCLOPS! HE STRUCK OUT AT ME... ON PURPOSE!

BUT... I DIDN'T! YOU KNOW I DIDN'T!

WHY WOULD I HAVE BLASTED YOU DELIBERATELY?

BECAUSE OF... MARVEL GIRL! YOU... LOVE HER... TOO!

UHHH...! HE'S PASSING OUT AGAIN!

**THEN, TURNING FROM THE BLEAK, FLAME-SCORCHED REMNANTS OF A MADMAN'S NIGHTMARE, THE WEARY X-MEN DEPART... AMIDST A STRANGE AND OMINOUS QUIET...**

ANGEL WAS RAVING... DELIRIOUS! SURELY THE BEAST AND ICEMAN KNOW THAT!

AND YET... THEY DON'T SPEAK! AND, THEIR VERY SILENCE ACCUSES ME!

COULD IT BE THAT WARREN WAS PARTIALLY RIGHT... THAT, SUBCONSCIOUSLY, I DID WANT TO ELIMINATE... A RIVAL?

HOW CAN I PROTEST MY INNOCENCE TO THE OTHERS... WHEN I'M NO LONGER SURE OF IT MYSELF?

**NEXT ISH:**  
THE MIND-STAGGERING MIMIC RETURNS!  
'NUFF SAID?

**NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS ON THE NEXT PAGE...**

**WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV**