



THE MIGHTY THOR

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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"The HAMMER And The HOLOCAUST!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"THE HAMMER AND THE HOLOCAUST!"

THOR... WAIT! EVEN THOUGH HERCULES HAS DEFEATED YOU IN BATTLE...NOTHING HAS CHANGED BETWEEN US!

BEGONE, JANE FOSTER....!

I... I LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS EVER, MY DARLING...!

YOU NO LONGER SPEAK TO MIGHTY THOR! INSTEAD, YOU SEE BEFORE YOU A HOLLOW MOCKERY OF HIM WHO HAD BEEN GOD OF THUNDER!

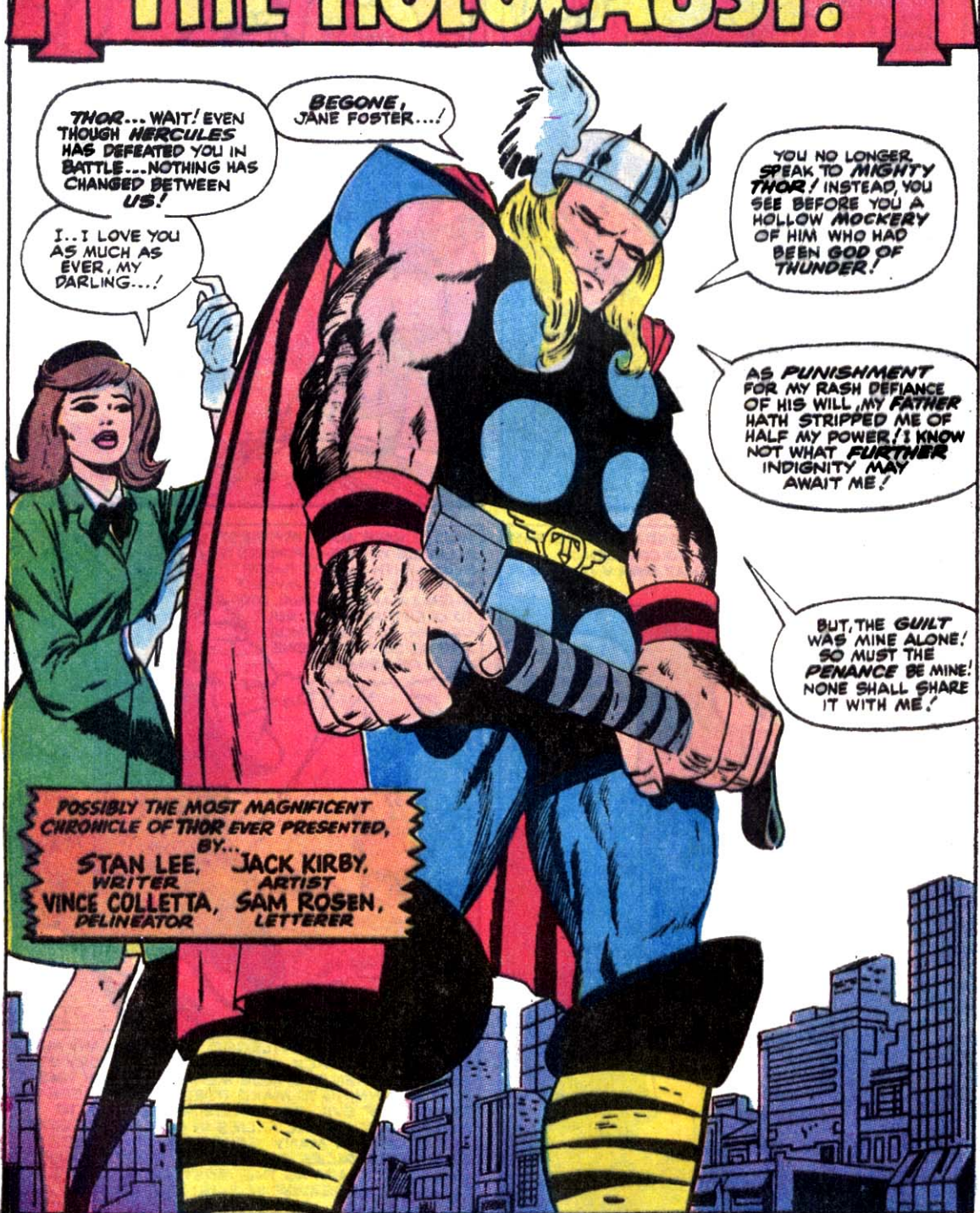
AS PUNISHMENT FOR MY RASH DEFIANCE OF HIS WILL, MY FATHER HATH STRIPPED ME OF HALF MY POWER! I KNOW NOT WHAT FURTHER INDIGNITY MAY AWAIT ME!

BUT, THE GUILT WAS MINE ALONE! SO MUST THE PENANCE BE MINE! NONE SHALL SHARE IT WITH ME.

POSSIBLY THE MOST MAGNIFICENT CHRONICLE OF THOR EVER PRESENTED, BY...

STAN LEE, WRITER
VINCE COLLETTA, DELINEATOR

JACK KIRBY, ARTIST
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER





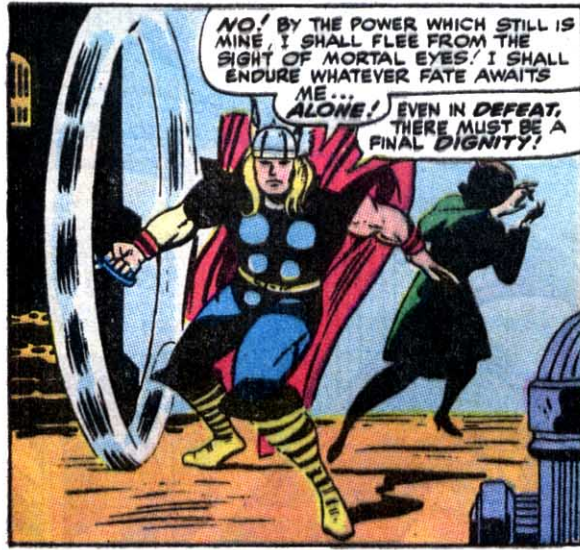
NO! YOU CANNOT EXPECT ME TO FORSAKE YOU NOW... NOT WHEN YOU NEED ME THE MOST!

WHEN I SAW YOU DEFEATED BY HERCULES, I REALIZED HOW MUCH I TRULY LOVED YOU...



SAY NO MORE! THOUGH THY WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF LOVE... THEY DO CARRY THE SEEDS OF PITY... PITY FOR THE FALLEN THOR!

HAVE I NOT BEEN HUMBLED ENOUGH? MUST THOR BECOME AN OBJECT OF SYMPATHY, AS WELL?



NO! BY THE POWER WHICH STILL IS MINE, I SHALL FLEE FROM THE SIGHT OF MORTAL EYES. I SHALL ENDURE WHATEVER FATE AWAITS ME... ALONE! EVEN IN DEFEAT, THERE MUST BE A FINAL DIGNITY!



BUT, WHAT OF ME?? WHAT IF YOU SHOULD NEVER RETURN? HOW COULD I BEAR TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT YOU?

'TIS BETTER THUS! REMEMBER ME AS I WAS, MY BELOVED... REMEMBER THE BRIEF HAPPINESS WE HAVE KNOWN...



THOR! MY DARLING... COME BACK...

FOR ONE BRIEF, FLEETING INSTANT OF ETERNITY, A GOD HATH DARED TO LOVE A MORTAL. TILL THE UNIVERSE GRUMBLES, MY HEART IS EVER THINE!

LET THAT BE OUR EPITAPH... AND OUR GLORY!

NO! I WON'T LET HIM LEAVE ME! I'LL FOLLOW HIM TO THE ENDS OF THE... OHN!

**AN ACCIDENT!
THAT MAN... HE...
HE DARTED INTO
TRAFFIC! THE
CAR COULDN'T
STOP IN TIME!**

SCREEECH

**THUS DOES FATE CONSPIRE TO SEPARATE THE
STAR-CROSSED LOVERS! FOR JANE FOSTER
CANNOT SHIRK HER DUTY... TO A PATIENT!**

**HE'S HURT! HE
NEEDS A DOCTOR!**

**SOMEBODY
GO FOR AN
AMBULANCE!**

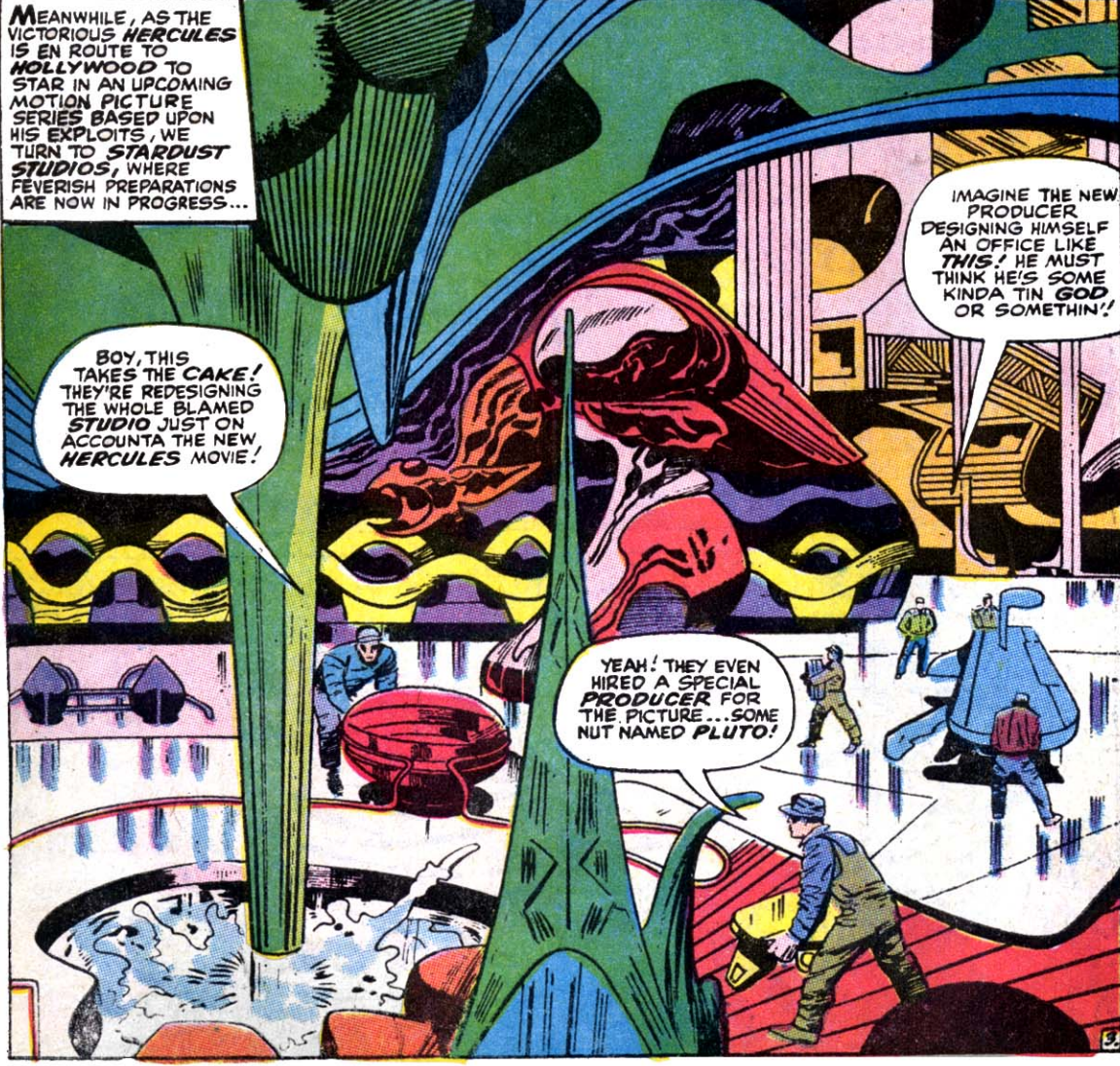
**LET ME THROUGH...
I'M A NURSE!**

**MEANWHILE, AS THE
VICTORIOUS HERCULES
IS EN ROUTE TO
HOLLYWOOD TO
STAR IN AN UPCOMING
MOTION PICTURE
SERIES BASED UPON
HIS EXPLOITS, WE
TURN TO STARDUST
STUDIOS, WHERE
FEVERISH PREPARATIONS
ARE NOW IN PROGRESS...**

**BOY, THIS
TAKES THE CAKE!
THEY'RE REDESIGNING
THE WHOLE BLAMED
STUDIO JUST ON
ACCOUNTA THE NEW,
HERCULES MOVIE!**

**IMAGINE THE NEW
PRODUCER
DESIGNING HIMSELF
AN OFFICE LIKE
THIS! HE MUST
THINK HE'S SOME
KINDA TIN GOD
OR SOMETHIN'!**

**YEAH! THEY EVEN
HIRED A SPECIAL
PRODUCER FOR
THE PICTURE...SOME
NUT NAMED PLUTO!**



DIDJA GET A LOOK AT 'IM YET? FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, I THOUGHT HE WAS WEARIN' A FRIGHT MASK!

SPEAKIN' OF FRIGHT MASKS...THAT CRAZY GIZMO YOU'RE JOCKEYIN' INTO HIS OFFICE MUSTA BEEN LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR'S HALLOWEEN PARTY!

I WONDER WHERE THEY DUG PLUTO UP FROM? I NEVER HEARD OF 'IM WORKIN' AROUND THE STUDIOS BEFORE!

THE WAY I HEARD IT, HE CONVINCED MR. STARDUST THAT HE WAS AN EXPERT ON THE LEGENDS OF HERCULES. HE MUST'VE GIVEN 'IM A REAL SNOW JOB!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



SILENCE! YOU HAVE BEEN ENGAGED TO WORK...NOT TO SPEAK DISPARAGINGLY OF YOUR BETTERS! HOW COULD YOU EVEN HOPE TO FATHOM THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE SUCH AS I??

S- SORRY, MR. PLUTO! NO OFFENSE MEANT! WE'LL GET RIGHT TO WORK!



NO WONDER STARDUST HIRED 'IM! WHO'D HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY "NO" TO A CREEP LIKE THAT?

EXACTLY SIXTY MINUTES LATER, PLUTO SPEAKS AGAIN...

GET OUT, ALL OF YOU! YOU ARE DISMISSED! I WISH TO BE ALONE NOW!

BUT STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS! YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE THE STUDIO GROUNDS! NOW GO!

YES SIR! RIGHT AWAY! Y-YOU WON'T HAVETA TELL US TWICE!



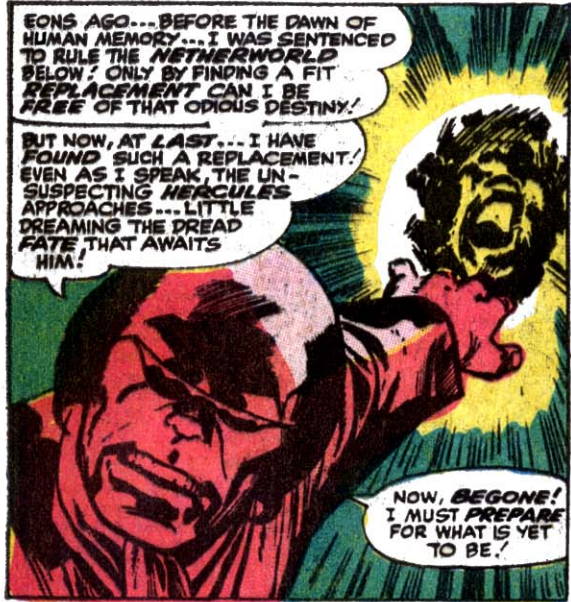
THEN, ONCE ALONE IN HIS HAUNTINGLY STRANGE, SECURELY LOCKED OFFICE, PLUTO MAKES A MYSTIC PASS WITH HIS HAND, AS THE MOLECULES IN THE AIR SEEM SUDDENLY TO REARRANGE THEMSELVES INTO A FANTASTIC, FLAMING IMAGE...

SPEAK, SLAVE! HOW GOES MY UNDERWORLD DOMAIN IN MY ABSENCE? DO THE FIRES STILL BURN?

ALL IS WELL, MASTER... AS IT HAS EVER BEEN... AS IT SHALL EVER BE!



NAY, SLAVE! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES... THERE SHALL BE A CHANGE! NOW HEED THE WORDS OF PLUTO...!



EONS AGO... BEFORE THE DAWN OF HUMAN MEMORY... I WAS SENTENCED TO RULE THE **NETHERWORLD** BELOW! ONLY BY FINDING A FIT REPLACEMENT CAN I BE FREE OF THAT ODIOS DESTINY!

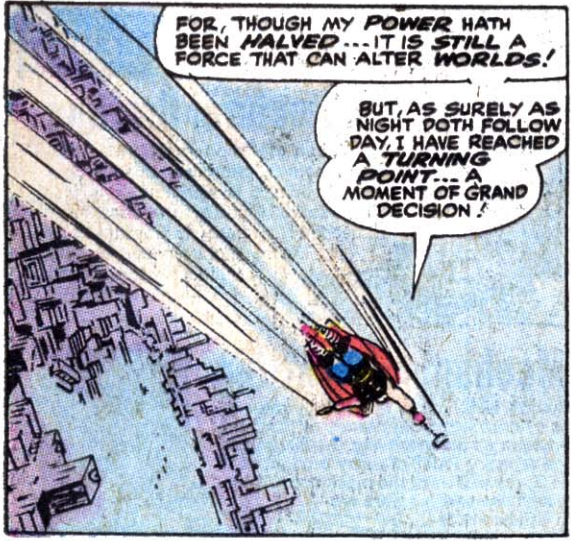
BUT NOW, AT LAST... I HAVE FOUND SUCH A REPLACEMENT! EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE UN-SUSPECTING **HERCULES** APPROACHES... LITTLE DREAMING THE DREAD FATE THAT AWAITS HIM!

NOW, **BEGONE!** I MUST PREPARE FOR WHAT IS YET TO BE!



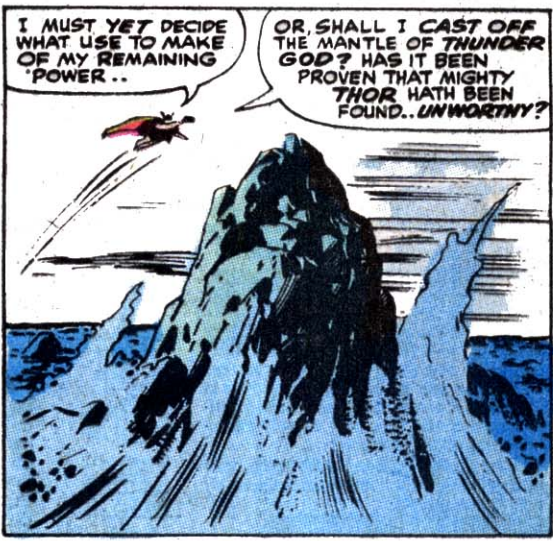
NO LONGER DO I HAVE STOMACH FOR THE STEFLING CITY!

I MUST FLY TO A PLACE FIT FOR A GOD... TO THINK!



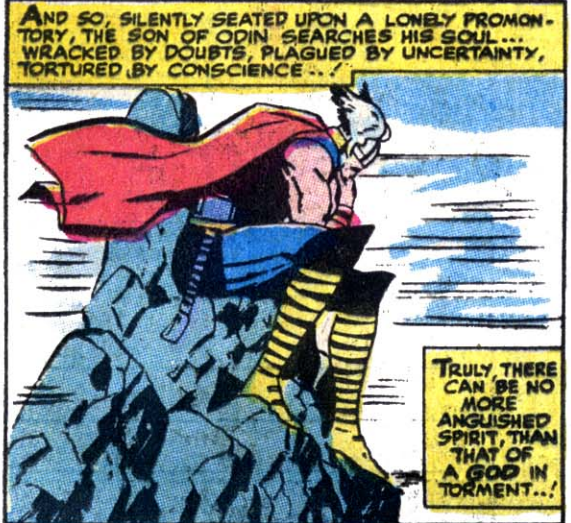
FOR, THOUGH MY **POWER** HATH BEEN HALVED... IT IS STILL A FORCE THAT CAN ALTER WORLDS!

BUT, AS SURELY AS NIGHT DOETH FOLLOW DAY, I HAVE REACHED A **TURNING POINT**... A MOMENT OF GRAND DECISION!



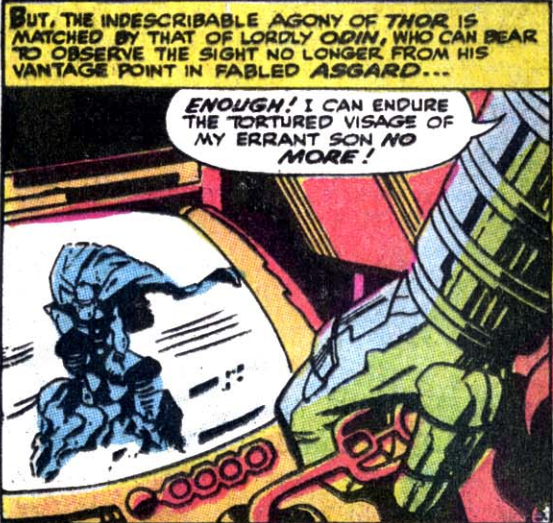
I MUST YET DECIDE WHAT USE TO MAKE OF MY REMAINING **POWER**...

OR SHALL I CAST OFF THE MANTLE OF **THUNDER GOD**? HAS IT BEEN PROVEN THAT MIGHTY **THOR** HATH BEEN FOUND... **UNWORTHY**?



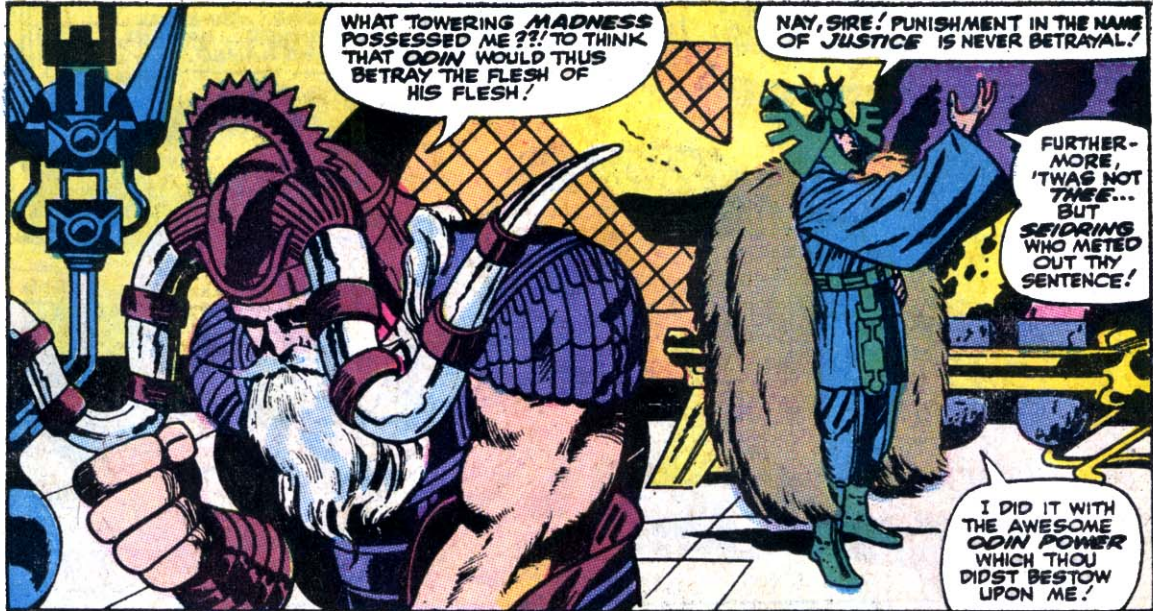
AND SO, SILENTLY SEATED UPON A LONELY PROMONTORY, THE SON OF ODIN SEARCHES HIS SOUL... WRACKED BY DOUBTS, PLAGUED BY UNCERTAINTY, TORTURED BY CONSCIENCE...!

TRULY THERE CAN BE NO MORE ANGLISHED SPIRIT, THAN THAT OF A GOD IN TORTURE...!



BUT, THE INDESCRIBABLE AGONY OF **THOR** IS MATCHED BY THAT OF LORDLY ODIN, WHO CAN BEAR TO OBSERVE THE SIGHT NO LONGER FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT IN FABLED **ASGARD**...

ENOUGH! I CAN ENDURE THE TORTURED VISAGE OF MY ERRANT SON NO MORE!



WHAT TOWERING MADNESS POSSESSED ME??! TO THINK THAT ODIN WOULD THUS BETRAY THE FLESH OF HIS FLESH!

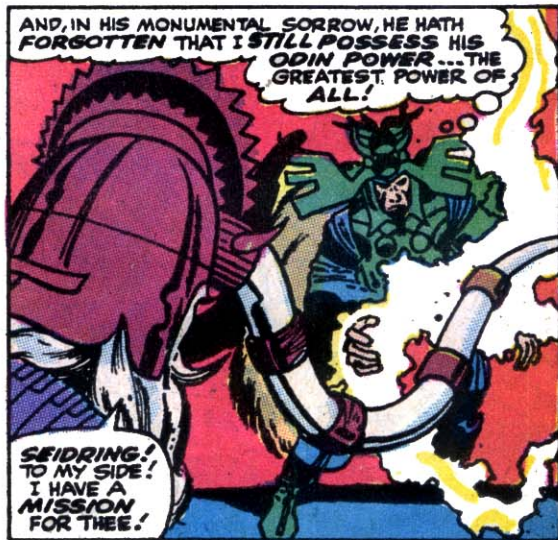
NAY, SIRE! PUNISHMENT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE IS NEVER BETRAYAL!

FURTHERMORE, 'T WAS NOT ~~THEE~~... BUT SEIDRING WHO METED OUT THY SENTENCE!

I DID IT WITH THE AWESOME ODIN POWER WHICH THOU DIDST BESTOW UPON ME!

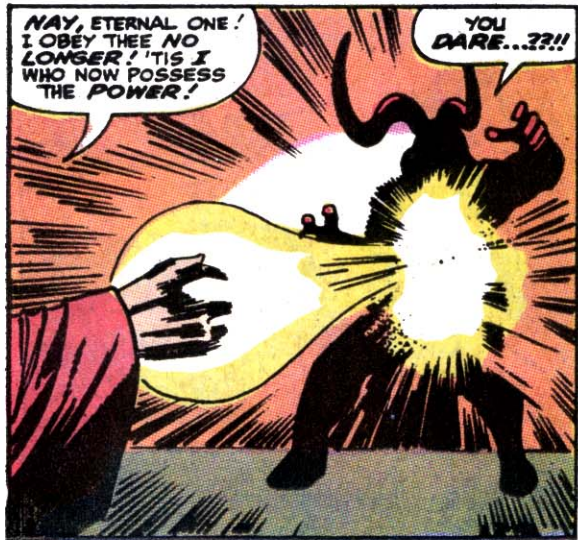


EVEN MIGHTY ODIN HAD NOT THE HEART TO DEAL SO HARSHLY WITH HIS SON... SO HE GAVE ME THE POWER!



AND, IN HIS MONUMENTAL SORROW, HE HATH FORGOTTEN THAT I STILL POSSESS HIS ODIN POWER... THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL!

SEIDRING! TO MY SIDE! I HAVE A MISSION FOR THEE!



NAY, ETERNAL ONE! I OBEY THEE NO LONGER! 'TIS I WHO NOW POSSESS THE POWER!

YOU DARE...???!!



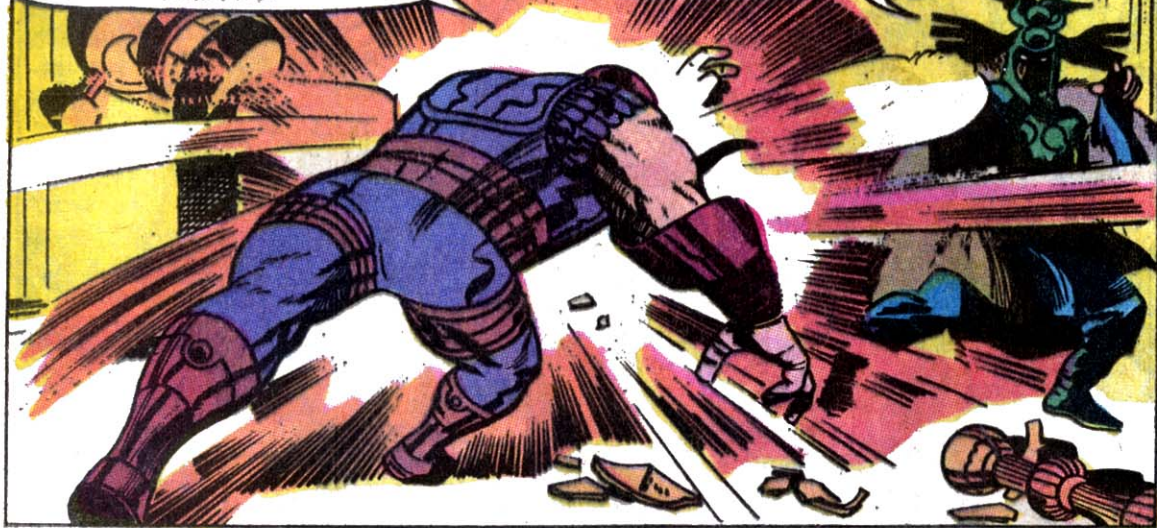
VERILY, MY LORD... I DARE!

KNOW YOU THEN THAT ODIN CALLS THEE TRAITOR!

THY NAME SHALL LIVE IN INFAMY, SO LONG AS MEMORY ENDURES!

THOUGH THE POWER NOW IS THINE... THE HERITAGE BE ODIN'S! STRIKE AS THOU WILT... I FIGHT WHILST THERE BE BREATH WITHIN ME!

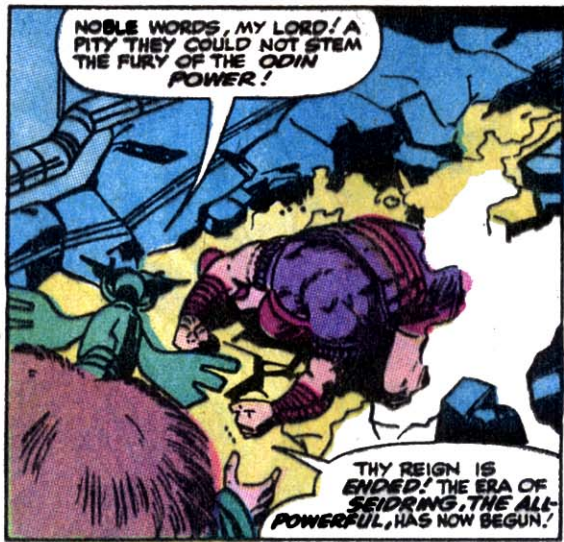
EMPTY WORDS, MY LORD! NONE CAN WITHSTAND THE ODIN POWER... NAY, NOT EVEN HE FOR WHOM IT WAS NAMED!



IT CANNOT END THUS! THOU ART NOT FIT TO RULE! POWER, WITHOUT CONSCIENCE, MUST BE ITS OWN UNDOING!



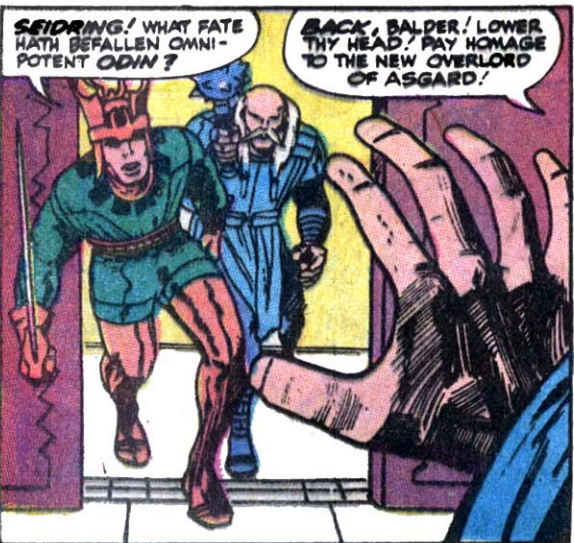
NOBLE WORDS, MY LORD! A PITY THEY COULD NOT STEM THE FURY OF THE ODIN POWER!



THY REIGN IS ENDED! THE ERA OF SEIDRING, THE ALL-POWERFUL, HAS NOW BEGUN!

SEIDRING! WHAT FATE HATH BEFALLEN OMNI-POTENT ODIN?

BACK, BALDER! LOWER THY HEAD! PAY HOMOAGE TO THE NEW OVERLORD OF ASGARD!

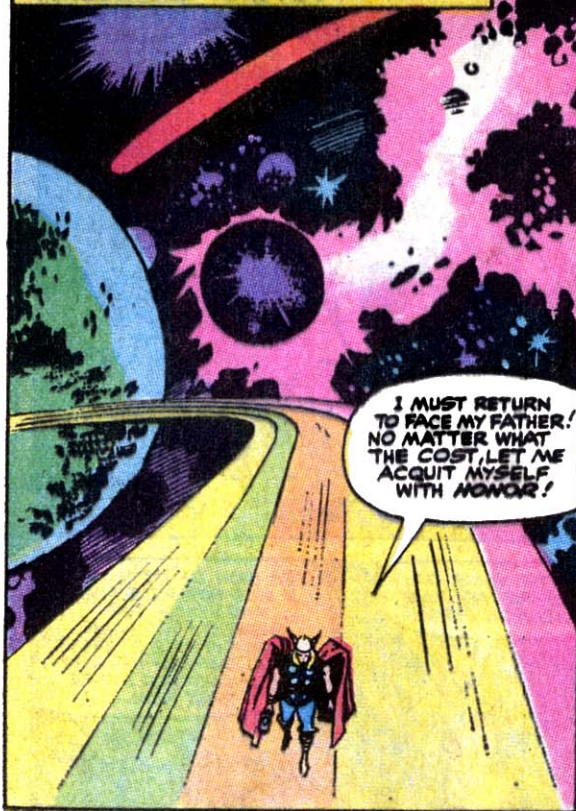


ODIN IS DETHRONED! I AM THE POWER NOW! SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO SEIDRING, OR FACE THE FURY OF THE ODIN POWER!



ALLEGIANCE TO SUCH AS THEE?? I WOULD SUFFER DAMNATION FIRST!

AND, EVEN AS BRAVE BALDER HURLS HIS CHALLENGING CRY OF DEFIANCE, A BROODING FIGURE SLOWLY STRIDES THE GLEAMING RAINBOW BRIDGE TO ASGARD...

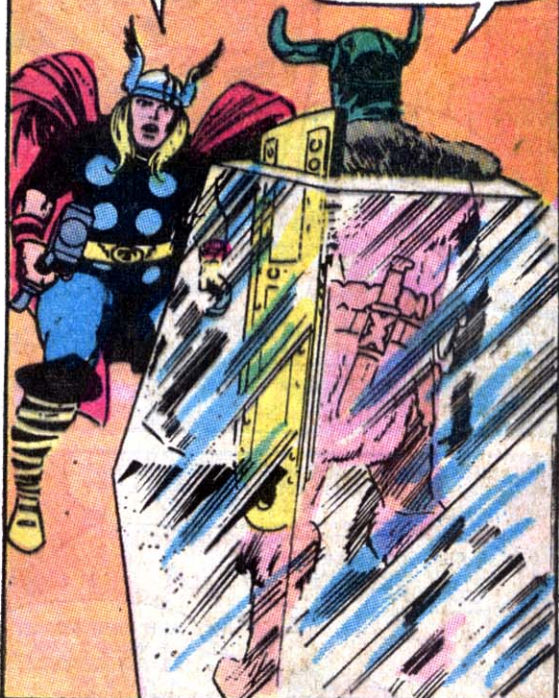


I MUST RETURN TO FACE MY FATHER! NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, LET ME ACQUIT MYSELF WITH HONOR!

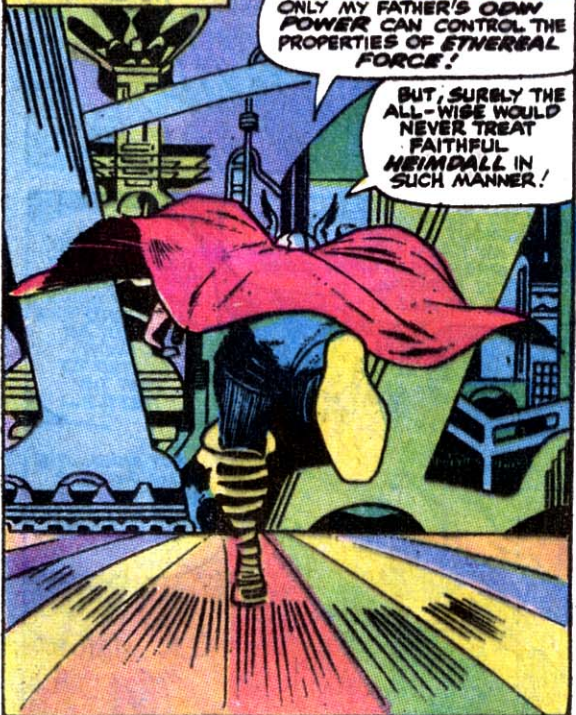
ON AND ON, ACROSS THE SEEMINGLY-ENDLESS SPAN WALKS THE GOD OF THUNDER, UNTIL AT LAST HE REACHES THE TOWERING GATES OF ETERNAL ASGARD, ONLY TO FIND...

HEIMDALL! GUARDIAN OF THE BRIDGE! IMPRISONED IN A BLOCK OF ETHEREAL FORCE!

TURN BACK, NOBLE THOR! EVEN THY MIGHT CANNOT SAVE ASGARD FROM WHAT AWAITS THEM BEYOND THE GATES!



BUT, THE SON OF ODIN DOES NOT TURN BACK! HIS HEART HEAVILY POUNDING WITHIN HIM, THE GOD OF THUNDER STORMS INTO THE STRANGELY SILENT CELESTIAL CITY....



ONLY MY FATHER'S ODIN POWER CAN CONTROL THE PROPERTIES OF ETHEREAL FORCE!

BUT, SURBLY THE ALL-WISE WOULD NEVER TREAT FAITHFUL HEIMDALL IN SUCH MANNER!

WARRIORS OF ASGARD! IMPRISONED BY ETHEREAL ENERGY BANDS! WHAT MADNESS IS THIS??

TURN BACK, GOD OF THUNDER...LEST THOU TOO SUFFER OUR FATE!

WHAT HATH TRANSPIRED FOR ODIN TO RELEASE SUCH FURY??

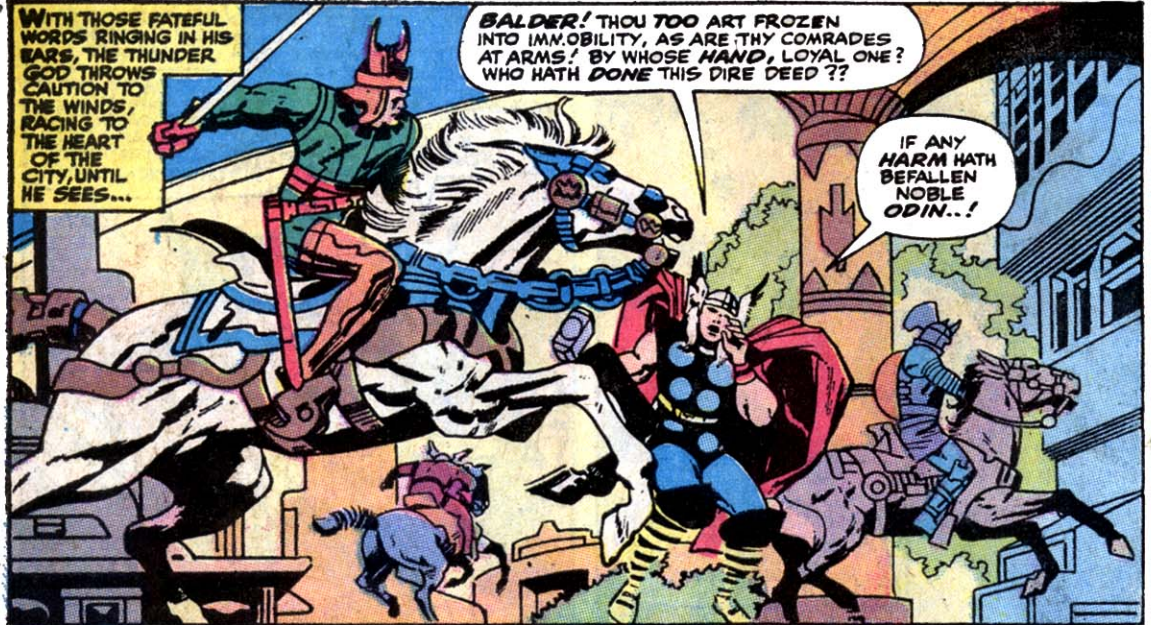


'TIS NOT THY FATHER'S DOING, MIGHTY ONE! HE SUFFERS A FATE NO BETTER THAN OURS!

WITH THOSE FATEFUL WORDS RINGING IN HIS EARS, THE THUNDER GOD THROWS CAUTION TO THE WINDS, RACING TO THE HEART OF THE CITY, UNTIL HE SEES...

BALDER! THOU TOO ART FROZEN INTO IMMOBILITY, AS ARE THY COMRADES AT ARMS! BY WHOSE HAND, LOYAL ONE? WHO HATH DONE THIS DIRE DEED??

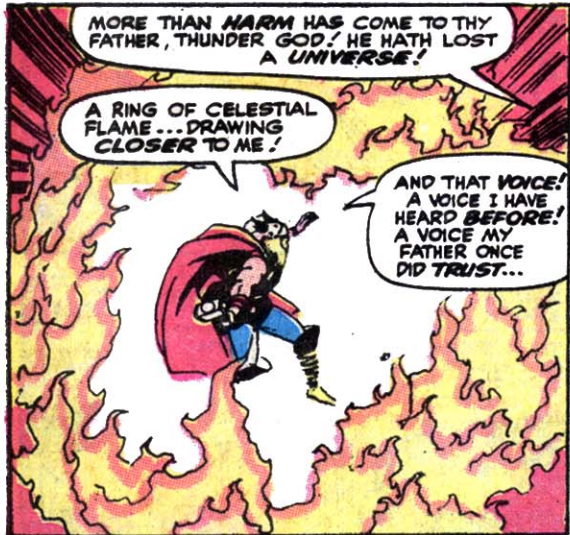
IF ANY HARM HATH BEFALLEN NOBLE ODIN..!



MORE THAN HARM HAS COME TO THY FATHER, THUNDER GOD! HE HATH LOST A UNIVERSE!

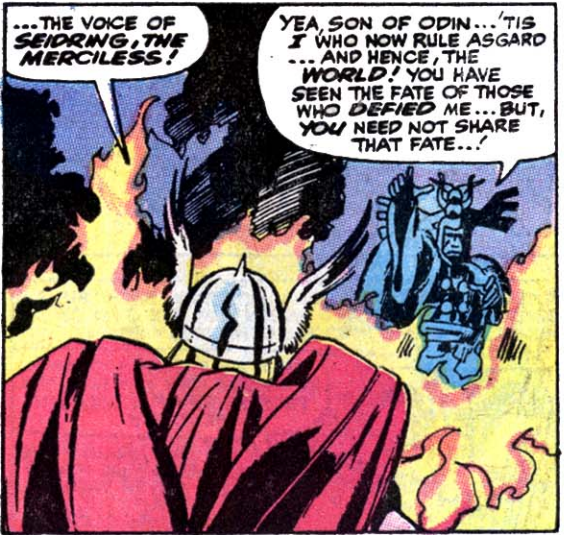
A RING OF CELESTIAL FLAME... DRAWING CLOSER TO ME!

AND THAT VOICE! A VOICE I HAVE HEARD BEFORE! A VOICE MY FATHER ONCE DID TRUST...



...THE VOICE OF SEIDRING, THE MERCILESS!

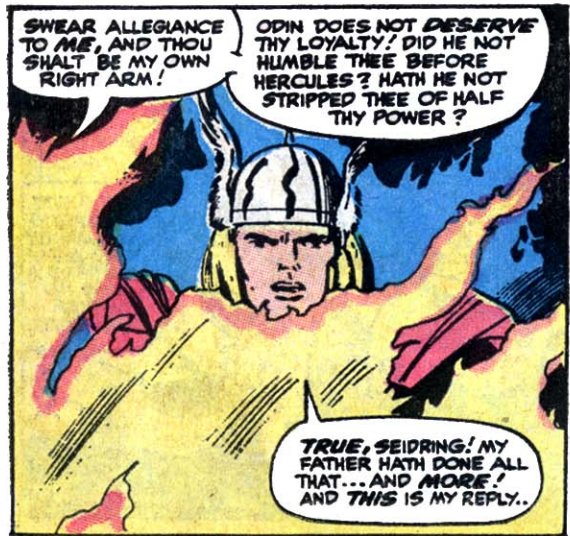
YEA, SON OF ODIN... 'TIS I WHO NOW RULE ASGARD ... AND HENCE, THE WORLD! YOU HAVE SEEN THE FATE OF THOSE WHO DEFIED ME... BUT, YOU NEED NOT SHARE THAT FATE...!



SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME, AND THOU SHALT BE MY OWN RIGHT ARM!

ODIN DOES NOT DESERVE THY LOYALTY! DID HE NOT HUMBLE THEE BEFORE HERCULES? HATH HE NOT STRIPPED THEE OF HALF THY POWER?

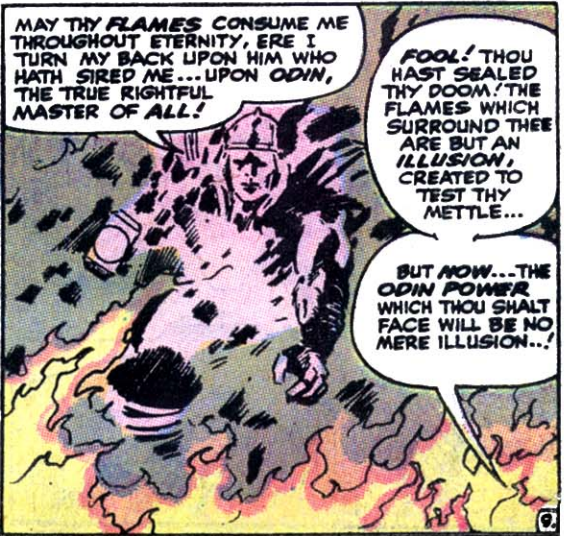
TRUE, SEIDRING! MY FATHER HATH DONE ALL THAT... AND MORE! AND THIS IS MY REPLY..



MAY THY FLAMES CONSUME ME THROUGHOUT ETERNITY, ERE I TURN MY BACK UPON HIM WHO HATH SURED ME... UPON ODIN, THE TRUE RIGHTFUL MASTER OF ALL!

FOOL! THOU HAST SEALED THY DOOM! THE FLAMES WHICH SURROUND THEE ARE BUT AN ILLUSION, CREATED TO TEST THY METTLE...

BUT NOW... THE ODIN POWER WHICH THOU SHALT FACE WILL BE NO MERE ILLUSION...!



AND, IN HOLLYWOOD, A FANTASTICALLY GARBED, BREATH-TAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL FEMALE ENTERS THE OFFICE OF THE ONE CALLED PLUTO...

COME IN! I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

OF COURSE! DO MEN NOT WAIT FOR ME ALWAYS?

AND WHAT OF MY COSTUME? DOES IT SUIT THE ROLE YOU WISH ME TO PLAY?

INDEED! IT TRULY BEFITS THE ONE WHO IS THE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS!

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU HAVE REHEARSED YOUR PART TO PERFECTION?

DO NOT FEAR! I SHALL NOT FAIL!

HERCULES CANNOT HELP BUT LOSE HIS HEART TO ME!

AND, HE SHALL REGRET IT... FOREVER-MORE!

TRUE... TRUE, BUT YOU ARE MERELY ONE SEGMENT OF MY MASTER PLAN!

THIS INNOCENT-LOOKING CONTRACT IS STILL ANOTHER... AN EQUALLY DIABOLICAL GAMBIT!

FOR, WITHIN MY HAND, I HOLD A GENUINE OLYMPIAN FACT... ONE WHICH CAN NEVER BE BROKEN... WHICH LASTS FOR ALL ETERNITY!

WHAT A PITY THAT HERCULES WILL NOT BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT WHICH HE IS ABOUT TO SIGN!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MIGHTY-MUSCLED SON OF ZEUS INNOCENTLY APPROACHES THE MYSTERIOUS STUDIO, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THE SPECTACULAR TABLEAU WHICH AWAITS US IN ASSGARD...

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO ATTACK ONE WHO POSSESS THE ODIN POWER?

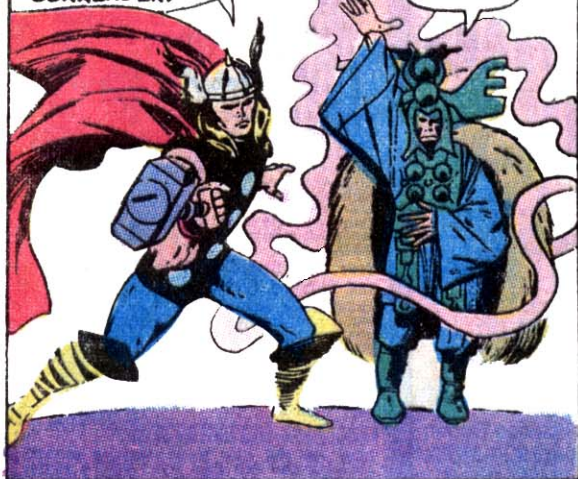
SEE HOW EASILY I DISTORT THE FABRIC OF SPACE ITSELF TO DEFLECT THY BLOW!

NO MATTER, EVIL ONE...

... DO AS THOU WILT... THOU FIGHTS ON!

THE SON OF ODIN HATH KNOWN THE BITTER TASTE OF DEFEAT IN THE PAST... BUT HE HATH NEVER ENDURED THE IGNOMINY OF SURRENDER!

THEN THAT SHALL BE MY GREATEST TRIUMPH! NEVER SHALL I REST UNTIL I HAVE WRENCHED THE WORD "ENOUGH" FROM THY TREMBLING LIPS!

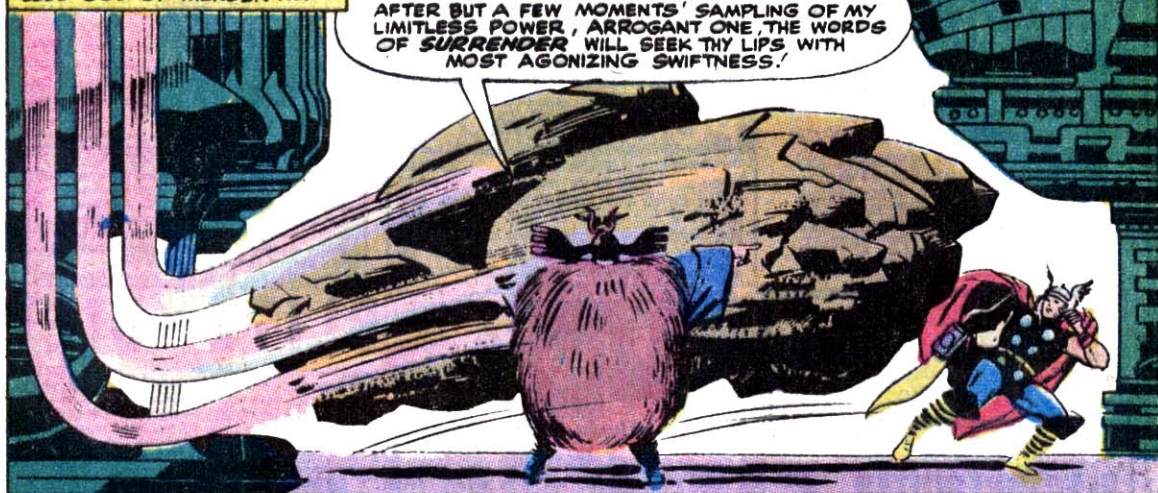


THEN, WITH A CASUAL GESTURE, THE EVIL SEIDRING DIRECTS A POTENT RAY INTO THE COSMOS... SEIZING A TRIO OF PLANETOIDS LIKE FISH IN A NET...!



...AS, WITH STILL ANOTHER DISDAINFUL MOTION, HE DIRECTS THEM... WITH UNABATED SPEED... AT THE HAP-
LESS GOD OF THUNDER...!

AFTER BUT A FEW MOMENTS' SAMPLING OF MY LIMITLESS POWER, ARROGANT ONE, THE WORDS OF SURRENDER WILL SEEK THY LIPS WITH MOST AGONIZING SWIFTNES!

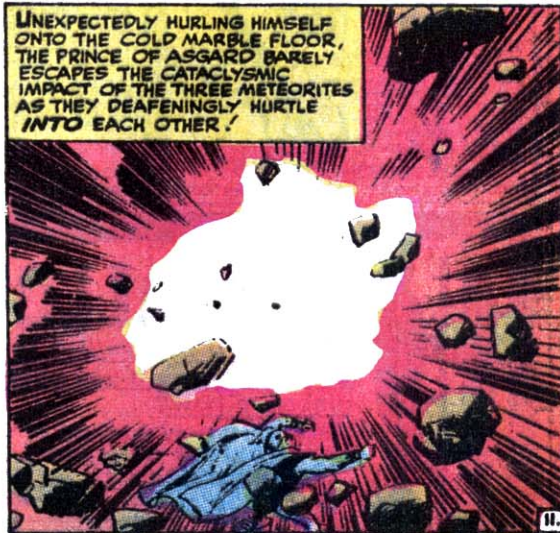


BUT, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER DARTS, LEAPS, SWERVES, RACES... FRANTICALLY ELUDING THE DEADLY SPACE MISSILES... FIGHTING TILL THE END... AND PLANNING ALL THE WHILE...!



IF I DROP TO THE GROUND NOW, MAYHAP FORTUNE WILL FAVOR ME...!

UNEXPECTEDLY HURLING HIMSELF ONTO THE COLD MARBLE FLOOR, THE PRINCE OF ASGARD BARELY ESCAPES THE CATAclySMIC IMPACT OF THE THREE METEORITES AS THEY DEAFENINGLY HURTLE INTO EACH OTHER!





I THANK THEE, GOD OF THUNDER, FOR PROVIDING ME SUCH SPORT!



AND NOW, LET THE GAME CONTINUE...

IS THERE NO END TO THIS MADNESS? A STRANGE GLOBULAR SUBSTANCE BURSTS FORTH FROM THE GROUND BENEATH ME...

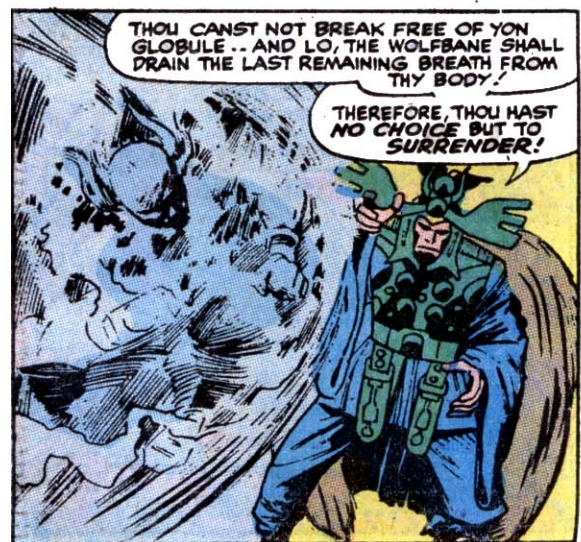


THEN, BEFORE THE VALIANT ASGARDIAN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, A MYSTIC IRRESISTIBLE FORCE PULLS HIM INTO THE CENTER OF THE FANTASTIC GLOBULE!



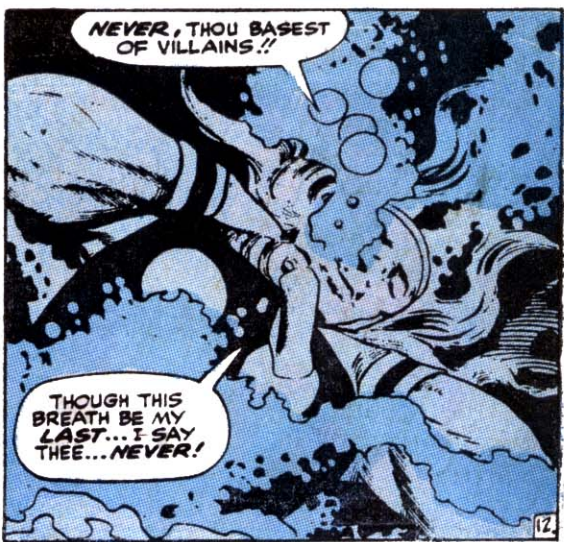
I'M BEING WHIRLED ABOUT... IN A VORTEX OF LIQUIFIED WOLFBANE!

USING THE POWER HE HATH STOLEN FROM MY FATHER, SEIDRING TOYS WITH ME AT WILL!



THOU CANST NOT BREAK FREE OF YON GLOBULE... AND LO, THE WOLFBANE SHALL DRAIN THE LAST REMAINING BREATH FROM THY BODY!

THEREFORE, THOU HAST NO CHOICE BUT TO SURRENDER!

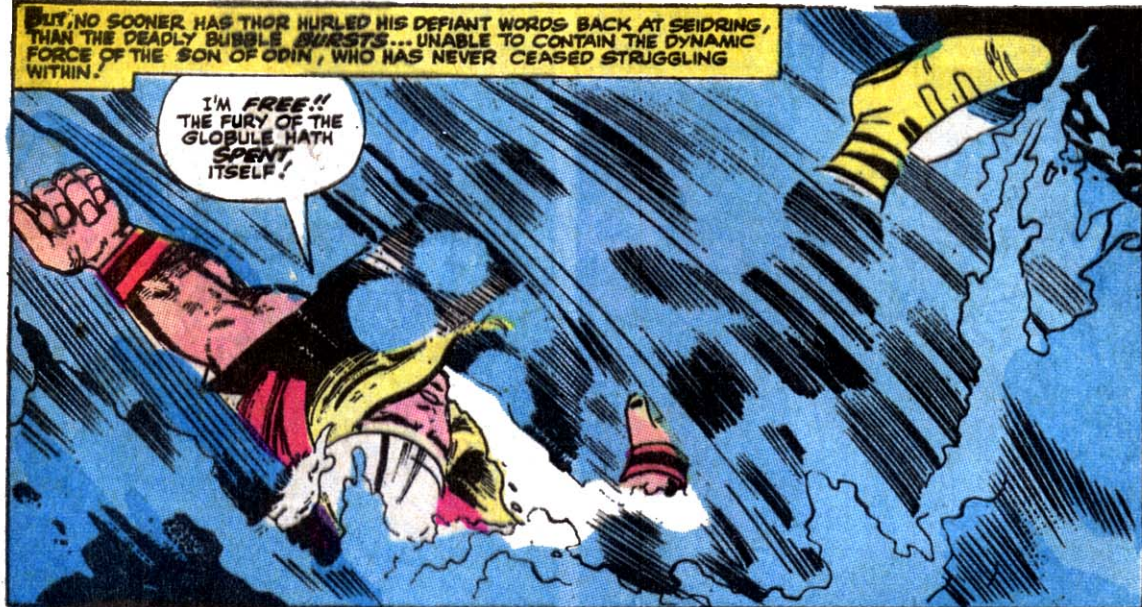


NEVER, THOU BASEST OF VILLAINS!!

THOUGH THIS BREATH BE MY LAST... I SAY THEE... NEVER!

BUT, NO SOONER HAS THOR HURLED HIS DEFIANT WORDS BACK AT SEIDRING, THAN THE DEADLY BUBBLE BURSTS... UNABLE TO CONTAIN THE DYNAMIC FORCE OF THE SON OF ODIN, WHO HAS NEVER CEASED STRUGGLING WITHIN.

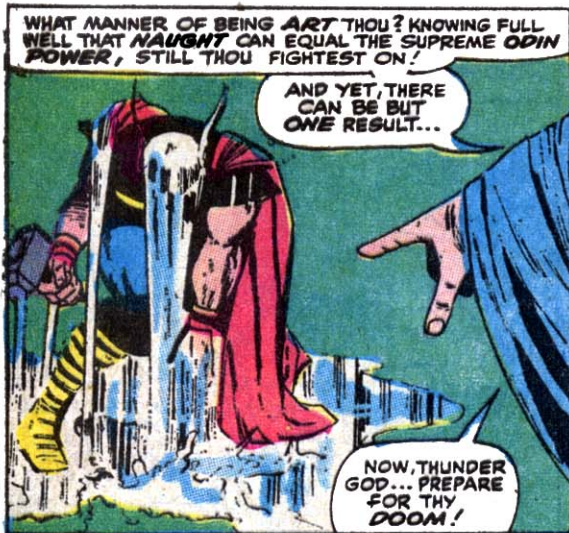
I'M FREE!!
THE FURY OF THE
GLOBULE HATH
SPENT
ITSELF!



WHAT MANNER OF BEING ART THOU? KNOWING FULL WELL THAT NAUGHT CAN EQUAL THE SUPREME ODIN POWER, STILL THOU FIGHTEST ON!

AND YET, THERE
CAN BE BUT
ONE RESULT...

NOW, THUNDER
GOD... PREPARE
FOR THY
DOOM!



A THOUSAND TIMES MAY,
SCION OF DARKNESS! I
PREPARE FOR
BATTLE... AS
I HAVE EVER
DONE!

THE
POWER IS
THINE... BUT
THE CAUSE
IS MINE! MY
HAMMER
STRIKES FOR
JUSTICE!



SO SAYING, THE RAGING, RAMPAGING GOD OF THUNDER SWINGS HIS URU MALLET AS ONLY THE MIGHTY THOR CAN... SHATTERING ALL ABOUT HIM, AND HURLING THE FRAGMENTS AT HIS AWE-STRIKEN FOE...!

BUT, STILL THE ODIN POWER IS SEIDRING'S.. AND, WITH THE MEREST FLICK OF A FINGER, THE EVIL USURPER CREATES AN IMPENETRABLE CRYSTAL SHIELD ABOUT HIM, WHEREIN HE STANDS, SECURE FROM ANY AND ALL HARM!

DO THY WORST, ACCURSED
ONE! THE ULTIMATE ANSWER
SHALL YET BE MINE!





NO MATTER WHAT THE POWER... NO MATTER WHAT THE THREAT... THIS DO I SAY UNTO THEE... THOU SHALT NEVER RULE HALLOWED ASGARD!

WHAT!! THOU DARE SPEAK THUS TO ME??!



VERLY... FOR I BE THOR!!

STILL AM I GOD OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING! STILL DO I WIELD MINE HAMMER!

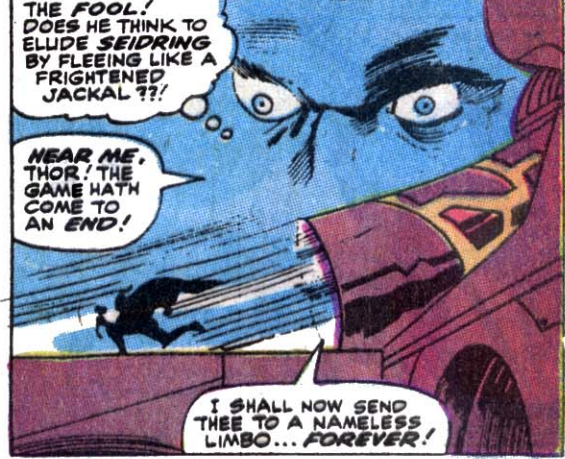
W HOOOOM!

MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, MIGHTY THOR CAUSES A SUDDEN BURST OF LIGHTNING... SO ELECTRIFYING... SO INTENSE... THAT THE SINISTER SEIDRING IS TEMPORARILY BLINDED BY ITS BRILLIANCE...



THE PAINFUL BRIGHTNESS... I CANNOT SEE!

BUT, SECONDS LATER, THROUGH USE OF THE OMNI-POTENT ODIN POWER, THE MERCILESS LISURPER ONCE AGAIN LOCATES HIS FOE...

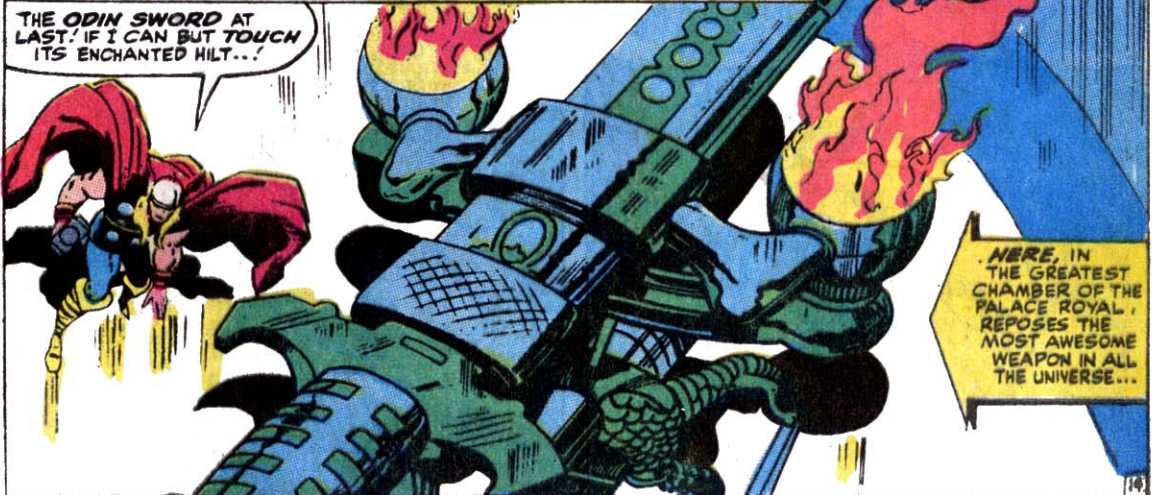


THE FOOL! DOES HE THINK TO ELUDE SEIDRING BY FLEEING LIKE A FRIGHTENED JACKAL??!

NEAR ME, THOR! THE GAME HATH COME TO AN END!

I SHALL NOW SEND THEE TO A NAMELESS LIMBO... FOREVER!

BUT, THE MIGHTIEST OF AVENGERS WAS NOT RUNNING IN AIMLESS PANIC...



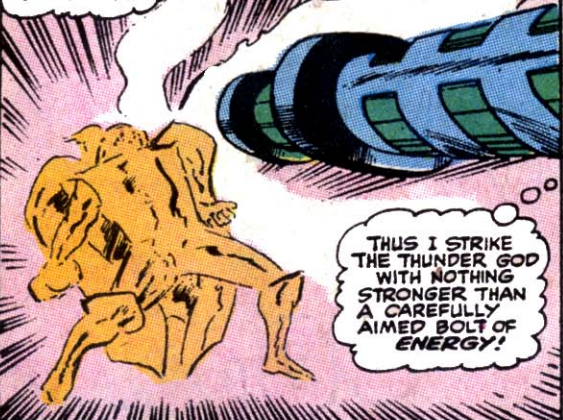
THE ODIN SWORD AT LAST! IF I CAN BUT TOUCH ITS ENCHANTED HILT...!

HERE, IN THE GREATEST CHAMBER OF THE PALACE ROYAL, REPOSES THE MOST AWESOME WEAPON IN ALL THE UNIVERSE...

REALIZING WHAT THOR'S OBJECTIVE IS, SEIDRING FEELS THE ICY PANGS OF FEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS HE STRIKES WILDLY... DESPERATELY...

I DARE NOT UNLEASH A MAJOR BLOW, FOR FEAR OF TOUCHING YON ODIN SWORD!

AS ALL OF ASGARD KNOWS FULL WELL, WHEN FALLS THE ODIN SWORD, THE COSMOS ITSELF SHALL VANISH!

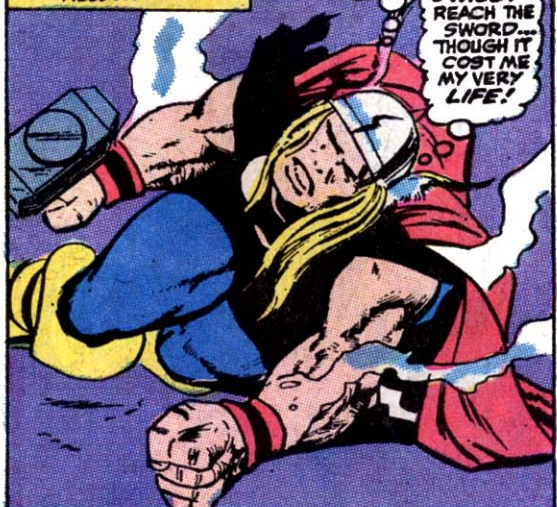


THUS I STRIKE THE THUNDER GOD WITH NOTHING STRONGER THAN A CAREFULLY AIMED BOLT OF ENERGY!

BUT, THOUGH WEAKENED TO THE POINT OF FINAL COLLAPSE, STILL THE SON OF ODIN WILL NOT YIELD...

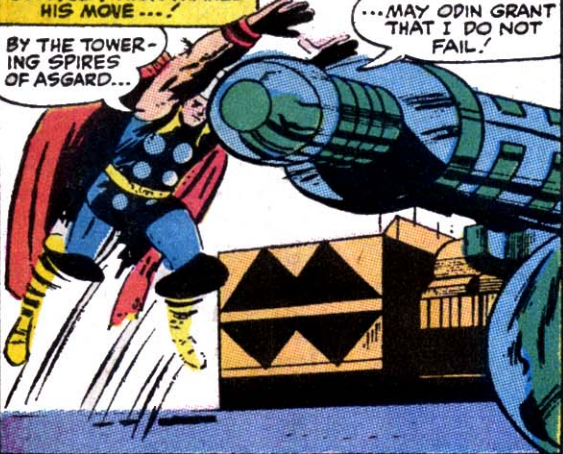
I CANNOT STOP NOW! I CANNOT WALLOW IN DEFEAT SO NEAR TO VICTORY!

I MUST REACH THE SWORD... THOUGH IT COST ME MY VERY LIFE!



AND THEN, AS THE CONFUSED, FEARFUL SEIDRING WATCHES IN MOUNTING PANIC, NOT DARING TO LAUNCH A NEW ATTACK UPON ONE SO CLOSE TO THE ODIN SWORD, THOR MAKES HIS MOVE...

BY THE TOWERING SPIRES OF ASGARD...



...MAY ODIN GRANT THAT I DO NOT FAIL!

AND THEN... AT LAST... THE PRIZE IS WON!

SEIDRING...! RETURN THE ODIN POWER, OR I DROP THE GREAT SWORD!



THOU KNOWEST FULL WELL WHAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD MEAN! AND KNOW YOU THIS... I HAVE THE WILL TO DO IT!

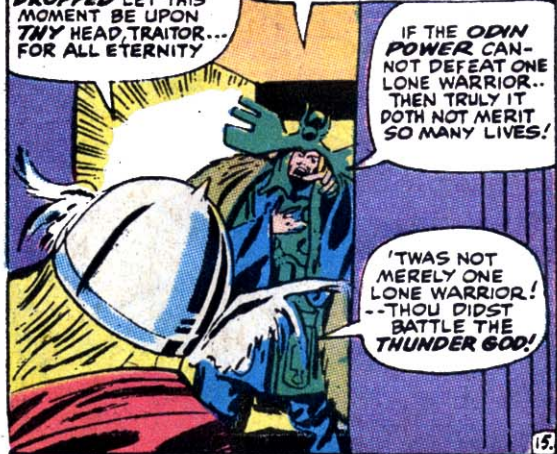
DECIDE, EVIL ONE! RETURN THE POWER TO MY NOBLE FATHER... OR ALL SHALL PERISH!

I DO NOT UTTER IDLE WORDS! WHAT ASGARDIAN WOULD NOT PREFER DEATH TO BEING RULED BY SUCH AS THEE??!



YOU CHOOSE NOT TO SPEAK! THEN MUST THE SWORD BE DROPPED! LET THIS MOMENT BE UPON THY HEAD, TRAITOR... FOR ALL ETERNITY!

NO! NO! DO NOT DROP IT! THE VICTORY IS THINE! I DO YIELD! SEIDRING YIELDS!



IF THE ODIN POWER CANNOT DEFEAT ONE LONE WARRIOR... THEN TRULY IT DOETH NOT MERIT SO MANY LIVES!

'T WAS NOT MERELY ONE LONE WARRIOR! --THOU DIDST BATTLE THE THUNDER GOD!



THOU MUST **STAND AWAY** FROM YON SWORD! THE SLIGHTEST JAR... THE SMALLEST MOVE... COULD SPELL **DISASTER!**

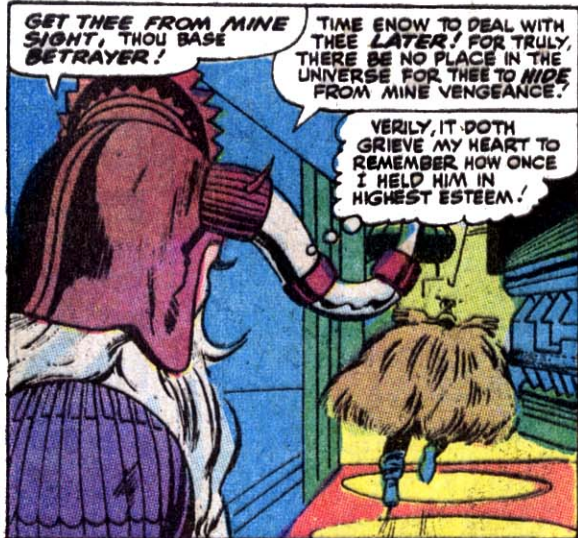
LET THE POWER BE **ODIN'S** ONCE MORE! **SEIDRING** HATH YIELDED! THE BATTLE IS ENDED!



AND THEN, A MAJESTIC FIGURE APPEARS BEFORE THEIR EYES... BATHED IN AN AURA OF SHIMMERING, CRACKLING FORCE...!

THE POWER IS **MINE** ONCE AGAIN! **SO BE IT!**

ODIN!!



GET THEE FROM MINE SIGHT, THOU BASE **BETRAYER!**

TIME ENOW TO DEAL WITH THEE **LATER!** FOR TRULY, THERE BE NO PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE FOR THEE TO **HIDE** FROM MINE VENGEANCE?

VERILY, IT DOETH GRIEVE MY HEART TO REMEMBER HOW ONCE I HELD HIM IN HIGHEST ESTEEM!



BUT, WHAT OF **THOR**? WHAT OF HIM WHO IS MY SON?



CONSCIOUSNESS HATH FLED FROM THY BODY! THY EARS HEAR NOT THE WORDS OF ODIN... WORDS OF HIM WHO HATH JUDGED THEE TOO HARSHLY!



THOUGH I AM SAID TO BE ALL-WISE IN ALL MATTER OF THINGS... MY WISDOM **FLED** WHEN I TURNED AGAINST **THEE**... MY SON!



FOR, ABOVE ALL ELSE, I HOLD **THIS** TRUE...

THOU ART THE **NOBLEST** ASGARDIAN OF ALL!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE SECRET OF PLUTO!
--SO BE IT!

THE MEANING OF RAGNAROK!

MIGHTY THOR AND HIS HARDY BAND OF ARGONAUTS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BACK TO ASGARD BY IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE ALL-WISE ODIN! AFTER A PERILOUS VOYAGE IN SEARCH OF THE FORCES OF EVIL WHICH THREATEN THE GOLDEN REALM, THEY LEARN AT LAST THAT THE DEADLY DANGER IS TO BE FOUND IN ASGARD ITSELF!

HEED YOU THE WORDS OF VOLLA, THE PROPHESS! BEWARE! THE DAY OF RAGNAROK DRAWS EVER CLOSER!

SCRIPT: STAN LEE	PENCILLING: JACK KIRBY
DELINEATION: VINCE COLLETTA	LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

WE HAVE SPOKEN!!

RAGNAROK! THE VERY WORD HAS THE POWER TO MAKE IMMORTALS TREMBLE! **RAGNAROK!** THE MOST DREADED DANGER OF ALL TIME! **RAGNAROK!** THAT WHICH HAS BEEN PREDICTED! THAT WHICH NO FORCE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE CAN PREVENT! SUCH IS -- **RAGNAROK!!!**

AT LAST, OMNIPOTENT ODIN HATH CONFESSED THE TRUE REASON HE DISPATCHED US UPON OUR QUEST!

WE HAD BEEN TOO LONG WITHOUT BATTLE-- TOO LONG WITHOUT PURPOSE! OUR TEMPERS WERE FRAYED-- OUR SWORD EDGES BLUNTED!

'TIS TRUE, GOD OF THUNDER, A WARRIOR WITH NO MISSION IS LIKE UNTO A SHIP WITH NO RUDDER!

STAY YOUR TONGUES! THE PROPHECY BEGINS TO SPEAK! 'TIS RAGNAROK WHICH MOST CONCERNS US NOW!

SLOWLY--SLOWLY--THE MURKY MISTS BEGIN TO CLEAR--AS THE FIRST SIGNS OF RAGNAROK BECOME DIMLY VISIBLE, THE LIGHT FROM THE STARS BEGINS TO FADE, WHILE SOUL-SEARING FROST AND NEVER-ENDING STORM COVER THE GOLDEN LAND--!

ALL THAT YOU SHALL BEHOLD, IMMORTALS OF ASGARD, HAS BEEN PROPHESED!! NOW OBSERVE YOUR FUTURE--AND TREMBLE!

LET ALL BE SILENT! BY THE POWER OF PROPHECY WHICH I HAVE BEQUEATHED HER, LO, THOSE MANY AGES AGO-- YOLLA SHALL GIVE VOICE!

I COMMAND THE VAPORS OF TIME TO RISE ABOUT ME!! LET THEIR MYSTICAL MISTS ENGLUF US ALL! LET THE FUTURE STAND THUS REVEALED! LET NO ONE MOVE! LET NONE BREAK THE SOLEMN SPELL!

SWIRL, SHADOWY VAPORS!! NOW SHALL WE SEE WHAT IS TO BE!

GOADED BY NAMELESS FEAR -- BY AN EVER-GROWING DREAD OF CERTAIN DOOM, FRIEND TURNS AGAINST FRIEND, BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER, IN A SENSELESS ORGY OF SAVAGE COMBAT--!



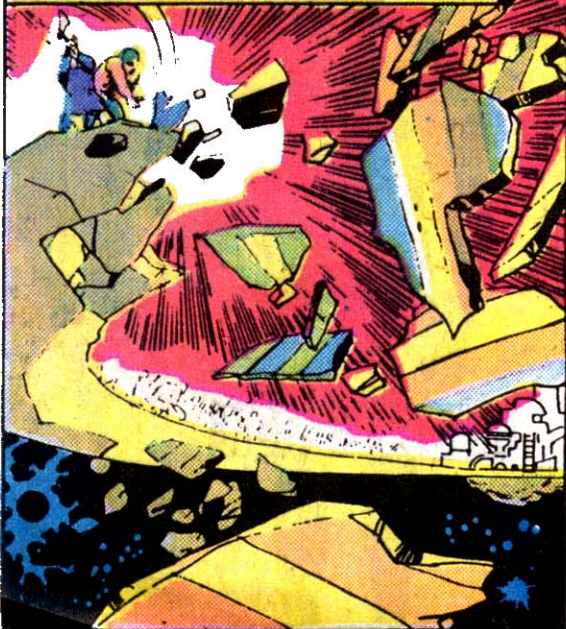
AS CHAOS AND CARNAGE ENVELOP THE REALM, AS A FURY AKIN TO MADNESS SWEEPS THE VERY SOUL OF ASGARD; THERE ARE THOSE WHO CRUMBLE BENEATH THE STRAIN-- WHO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE FORCES OF EVIL-- LEADING THEM IN ENDLESS ARRAY ACROSS THE SWEEPING SPAN OF BIFROST, THE RADIANT RAINBOW BRIDGE--!



THIS THEN IS THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL--THE ULTIMATE ACT OF TREASON! BUT, SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PROVOCATION SUCH AS THIS--THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A DAY SUCH AS THE DAY OF--RAGNAROK!

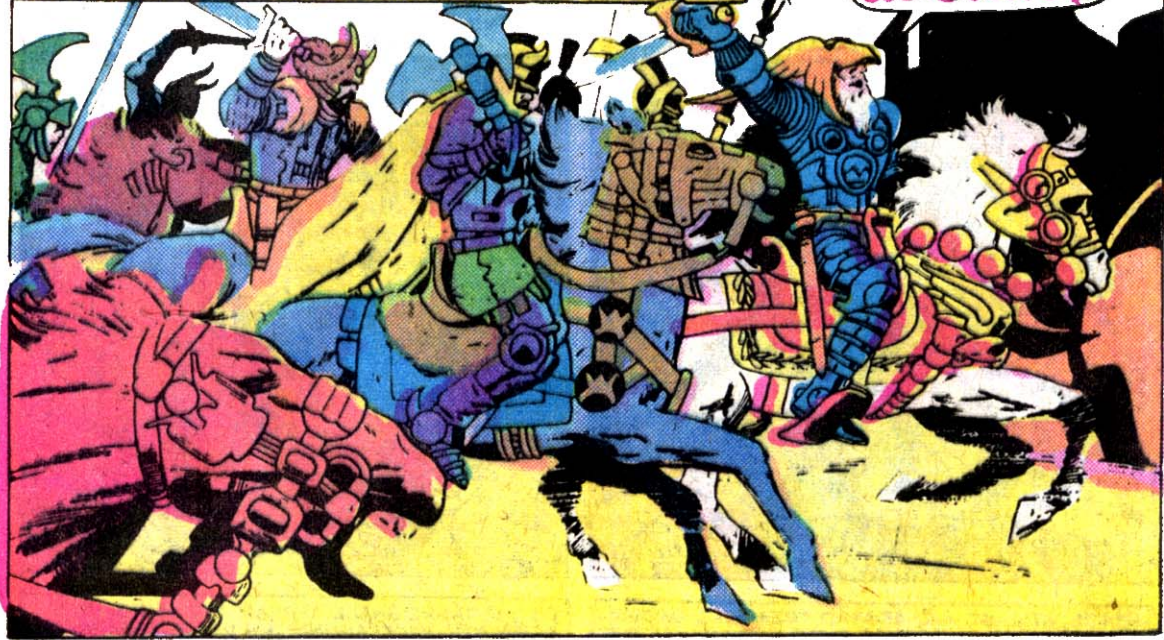
BUT, SEEING THE DREADED DENIZENS OF EVIL, AS THEY STREAM TOWARDS ASGARD IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER, THE HANDFUL WHOSE LOYALTY HAS NEVER WAVED DESTROYS THE LAST LINK BETWEEN MAN AND IMMORTAL--DESTROYS THE HALLOWED RAINBOW BRIDGE!

FIRST TO MEET THE IRRESISTIBLE ATTACK IS FAITHFUL MIMURDALL, WHOSE LAST KNOWN ACT OF DEVOTION IS TO SOUND THE ALARM-- BEFORE HE IS SWALLOWED UP FOREVER IN THE INSANE PHANTASMAGORIA OF BATTLE--!



THEN, IN THE ROARING, AGONIZING CATAclySM OF DESTRUCTION,
THE NOBLEST ELDERS OF ALL-- LED BY THE INSPIRING
FIGURE OF LORDLY ODIN-- BEGIN THEIR FINAL CHARGE--!

WE STRIKE FOR
ASGARD!

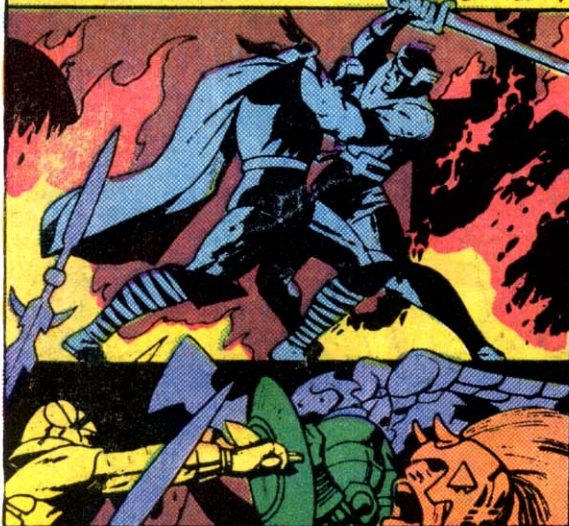


WHILST THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER, FIGHTING AS NEVER BEFORE, LEADS THE FLOWER OF
ASGARD'S IMMORTAL WARRIORS IN AN ATTACK DESTINED TO SHATTER THE VERY FABRIC OF
TIME AND SPACE!

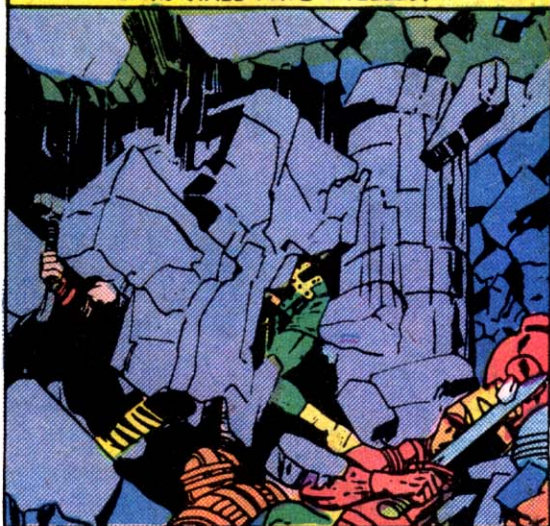
IN THE NAME OF OMNIPOTENT
ODIN-- IN THE NAME OF
ETERNAL ASGARD-- BY THE
POWER OF MY HAMMER--
FOR THE GLORY OF OUR CAUSE--
ONWARRRRD
--TO VICTORY!



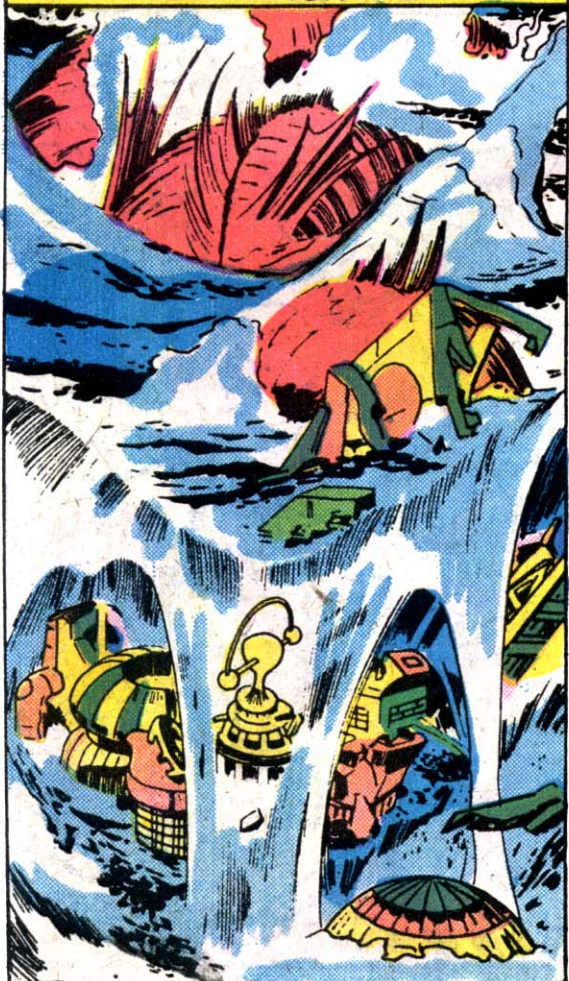
IT IS THEN THAT THE TWO SONS OF ODIN--THE GOD OF THUNDER AND THE PRINCE OF EVIL--MEET IN DEADLY COMBAT--FOR THE LAST TIME--AS THE WORLD ABOUT THEM IS CONSUMED BY BATTLE--!



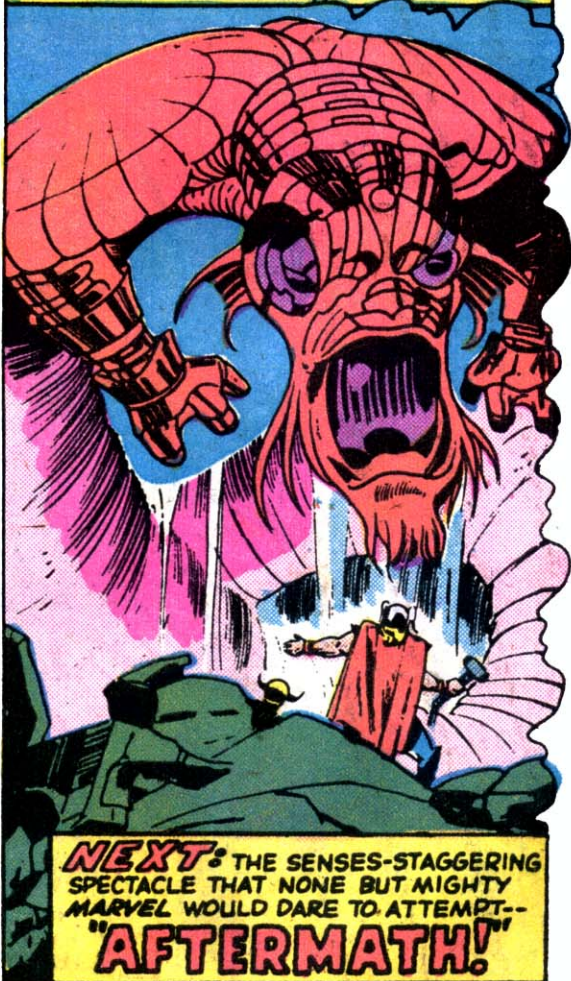
FOR, THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY--THERE CAN BE NO SURVIVORS--THERE CAN BE NAUGHT BUT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LAND WHERE IMMORTALS HAVE DWELLED!



--UNTIL, AT LAST, ALL ASGARD TREMBLES UNDER THE GREATEST UPHEAVAL EVER KNOWN--AS THE SEETHING AND SWELLING OF THE MIGHTY OCEANS SIGNAL THE COMING OF THE FINAL ENEMY--THE ULTIMATE DESTROYER!



AS LO, THERE SHALL APPEAR THE MIDGARD SERPENT--PROCLAIMING THE DAY OF RAGNAROK! RAGNAROK--THE TIME THE GODS THEMSELVES SHALL PERISH! RAGNAROK--THE END OF THE WORLD!!



NEXT: THE SENSES-STAGGERING SPECTACLE THAT NONE BUT MIGHTY MARVEL WOULD DARE TO ATTEMPT--
"AFTERMATH!"