



# THE MIGHTY THOR

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

GOD OF THUNDER and SON OF ZEUS  
FACE

"THE POWER OF PLUTO!"



# THE MIGHTY THOR!

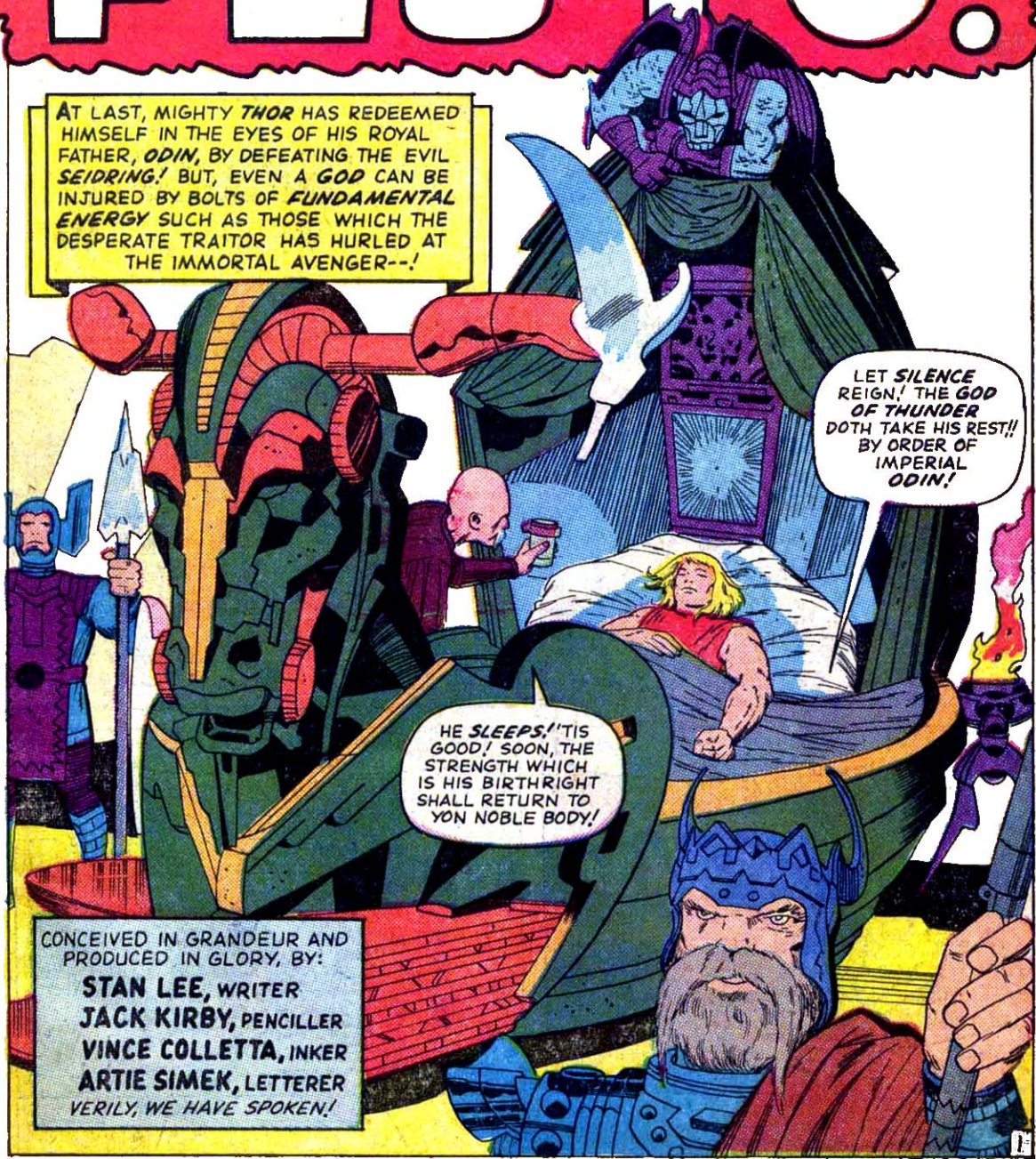
# "THE POWER OF PLUTO!"

AT LAST, MIGHTY THOR HAS REDEEMED HIMSELF IN THE EYES OF HIS ROYAL FATHER, ODIN, BY DEFEATING THE EVIL SEIDRING! BUT, EVEN A GOD CAN BE INJURED BY BOLTS OF FUNDAMENTAL ENERGY SUCH AS THOSE WHICH THE DESPERATE TRAITOR HAS HURLED AT THE IMMORTAL AVENGER--!

LET SILENCE REIGN! THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH TAKE HIS REST!! BY ORDER OF IMPERIAL ODIN!

HE SLEEPS! 'TIS GOOD! SOON, THE STRENGTH WHICH IS HIS BIRTHRIGHT SHALL RETURN TO YON NOBLE BODY!

CONCEIVED IN GRANDEUR AND PRODUCED IN GLORY, BY:  
**STAN LEE, WRITER**  
**JACK KIRBY, PENCILLER**  
**VINCE COLLETTA, INKER**  
**ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER**  
VERILY, WE HAVE SPOKEN!

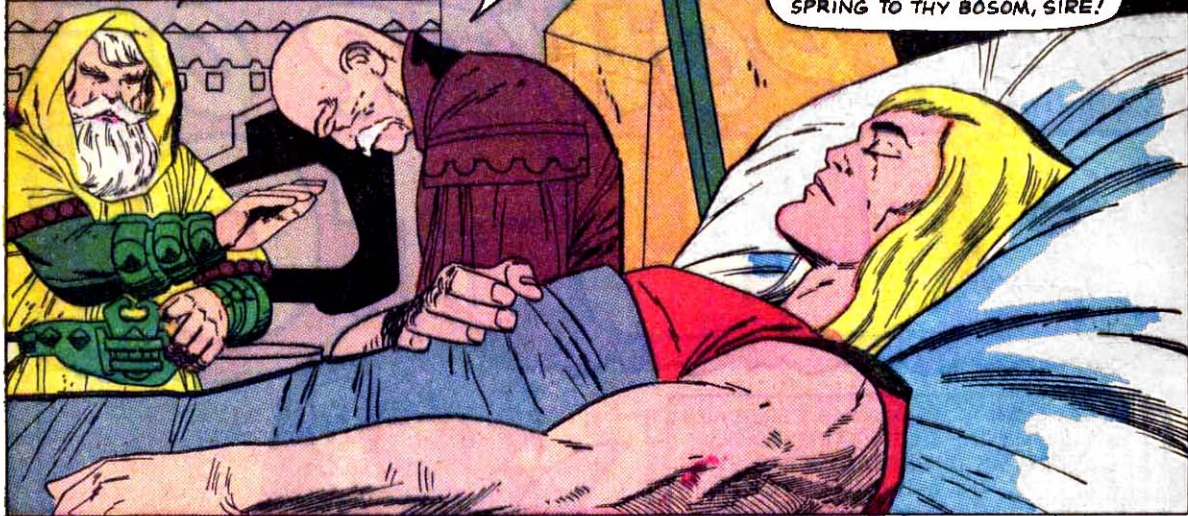


LATER, THE MOST REGAL PRESENCE IN ALL THE CELESTIAL REALM ENTERS THE HEAVILY-GUARDED CHAMBER...

HOW FARES THE SON OF MY HEART, PHYSICIAN?

HE HATH TOTTERED AT THE BRINK OF THE ETERNAL SLEEP, MY LORD ODIN...

...BUT, THE GLOWING STRENGTH OF HIS LIMBS, COUPLED WITH THE MATCHLESS COURAGE OF HIS SPIRIT, SHALL SURELY RESTORE THY PRINCELY OFF-SPRING TO THY BOSOM, SIRE!



IN A FIT OF ROYAL RAGE, WHICH I SHALL REGRET TILL THE END OF TIME, I DID DEPRIVE HIM OF HALF HIS GODLY POWER!

O, MOST RASH AND SHAMEFUL DEED! UPON THE OPENING OF HIS EYES, THAT POWER SHALL BE RESTORED--AS SURELY AS THE HEAVENS ENDURE!



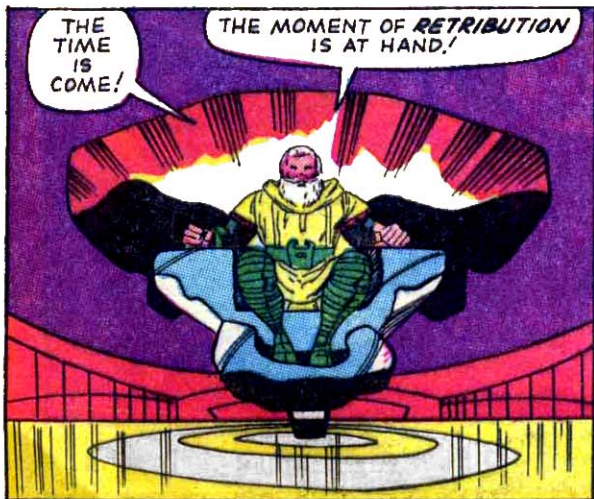
BUT NOW, I MUST GET ME HENCE TO THE UNSPEAKABLE VILLAIN WHO HATH COMMITTED SO FOUL AN ACT OF TREASON UPON THE GOLDEN REALM!

ONWARD-- TO THE JUDGMENT SEAT!



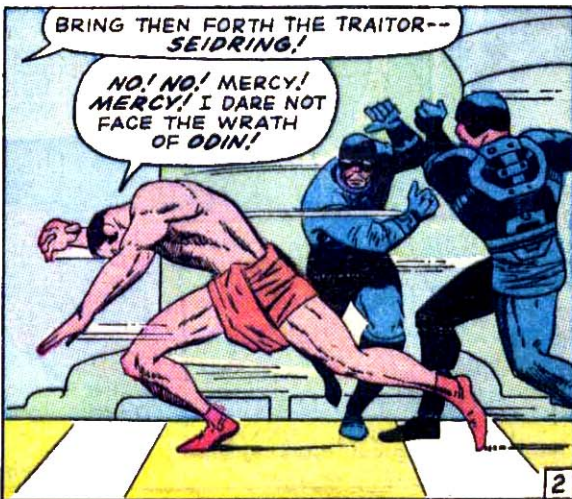
THE TIME IS COME!

THE MOMENT OF RETRIBUTION IS AT HAND!



BRING THEN FORTH THE TRAITOR-- SEIDRING!

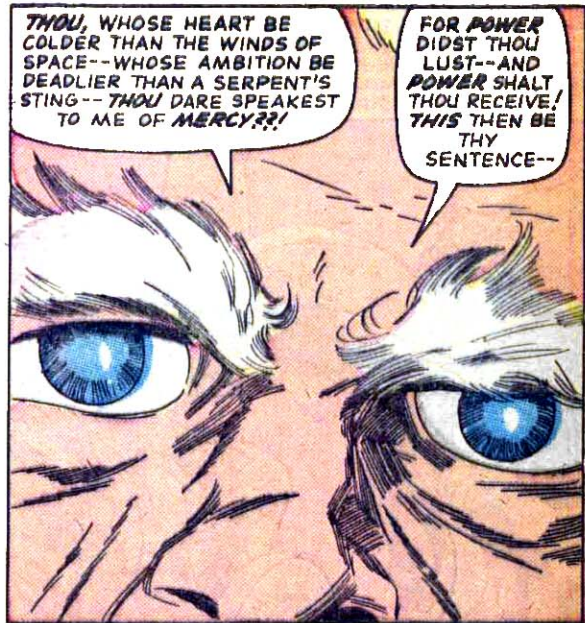
NO! NO! MERCY! MERCY! I DARE NOT FACE THE WRATH OF ODIN!





MERCY, OMNIPOTENT LORD! MERCY UPON ONE WHO WAS MADDENED BY LUST FOR POWER!

THINE ABJECT WHIMPERING PROFANES MY VERY EARS!



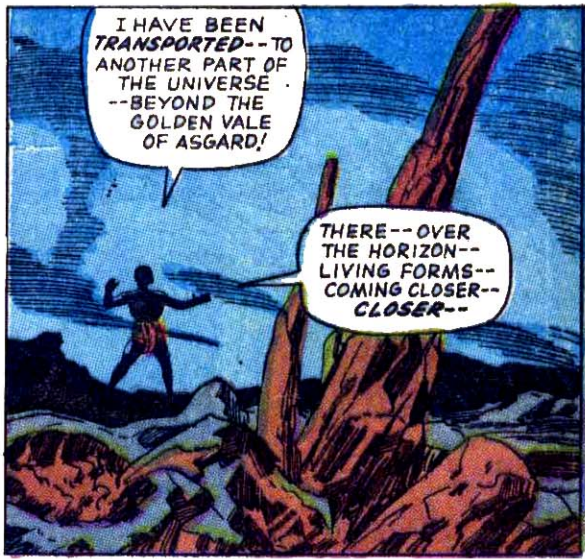
THOU, WHOSE HEART BE COLDER THAN THE WINDS OF SPACE--WHOSE AMBITION BE DEADLIER THAN A SERPENT'S STING--THOU DARE SPEAKEST TO ME OF MERCY??!

FOR POWER DIDST THOU LUST--AND POWER SHALT THOU RECEIVE! THIS THEN BE THY SENTENCE--



THOU SHALT HAVE A KINGDOM FOR THINE OWN--A KINGDOM TO RULE FOR ALL THE DAYS THOU SHALT LIVE...

I GRANT THEE THE POWER--FOREVER!



I HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED--TO ANOTHER PART OF THE UNIVERSE --BEYOND THE GOLDEN VALE OF ASGARD!

THERE-- OVER THE HORIZON-- LIVING FORMS-- COMING CLOSER-- CLOSER--



BENOLD! THE PROPHECIES HAVE COME TRUE!

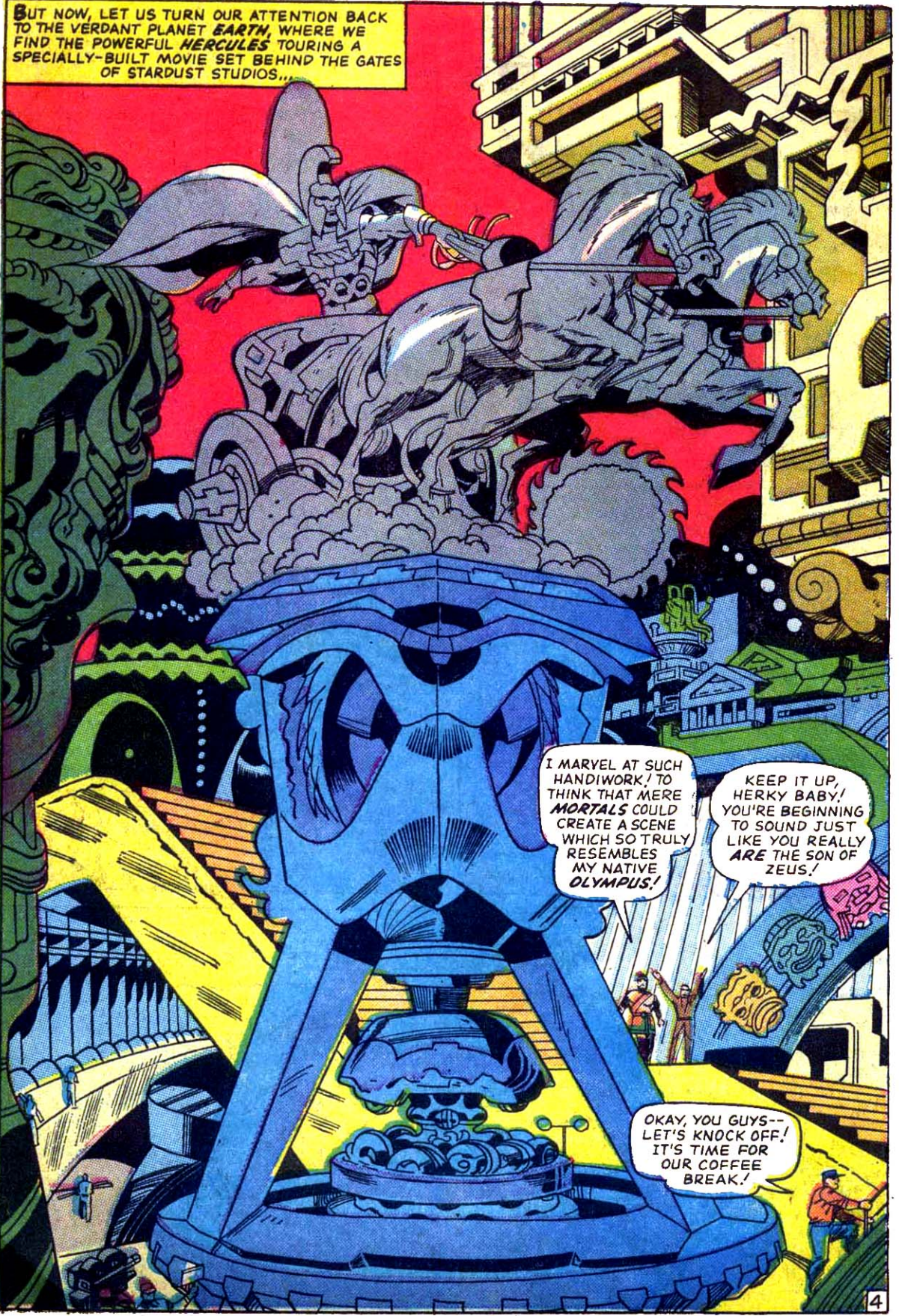
AT LAST! A KING HAS BEEN SENT TO US!

ROCK TROLLS! THE UGLIEST-- MOST BESTIAL CREATURES OF ALL! EVEN DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO THE COMPANY OF SUCH AS THESE!

WE SHALL NEVER LET HIM GO!

THIS THEN IS MY FATE-- TO RULE THESE MONSTROUS BEINGS-- ON THIS BARREN, FORSAKEN WORLD-- FOREVER!

BUT NOW, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE VERDANT PLANET *EARTH*, WHERE WE FIND THE POWERFUL *HERCULES* TOURING A SPECIALLY-BUILT MOVIE SET BEHIND THE GATES OF STARDUST STUDIOS...



I MARVEL AT SUCH HANDIWORK! TO THINK THAT MERE MORTALS COULD CREATE A SCENE WHICH SO TRULY RESEMBLES MY NATIVE *OLYMPUS!*

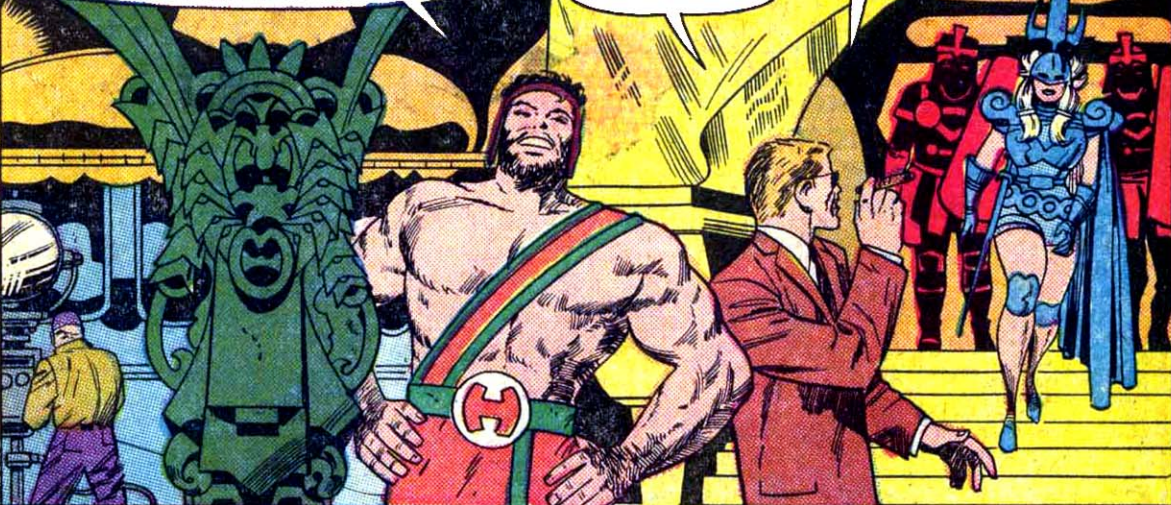
KEEP IT UP, HERKY BABY! YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND JUST LIKE YOU REALLY ARE THE SON OF ZEUS!

OKAY, YOU GUYS-- LET'S KNOCK OFF! IT'S TIME FOR OUR COFFEE BREAK!

TO THINK THAT I--THE HERO OF HEROES--SHALL SPEND MY TIME IN PLAY-ACTING FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF MORTALS! WHAT A MONUMENTAL JEST! HOW THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES SHALL ROCK WITH LAUGHTER!

OKAY, HERK--DON'T LET'S OVER-DO THE OLYMPUS BIT, HUH? WE'VE GOT COMPANY NOW!

HERE COMES YOUR LEADING LADY! MAN, TAKE A SQUINT AT THAT GET-UP!



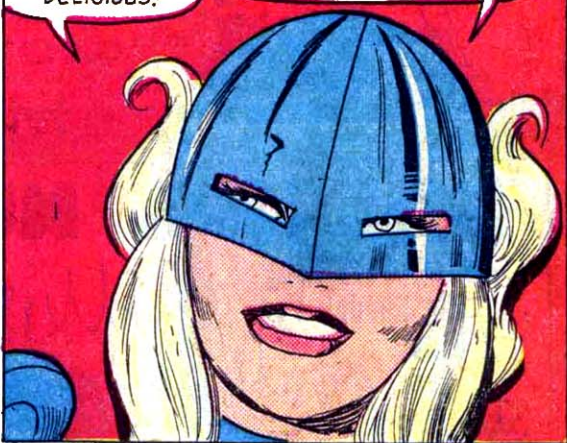
MY CONGRATULATIONS, FAIR ONE! VERILY, THOU DOEST LOOK LIKE A TRUE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS!

THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME, BIG BOY!



YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY HARD TO TAKE EITHER, TALL, DARK, AND DELICIOUS!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY FOUND YOU, BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT SPOT FOR PROSPECTING!



OKAY, HERC--THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SWEET-TALK LATER! RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO TAKE YOU TO MEET THE PRODUCER!

NONE TAKE HERCULES! THE SON OF ZEUS WALKS WHERE HE CHOOSES!

SURE, PAL-- SURE! IF YOU WANNA LIVE THE ROLE, THAT'S YOUR BIZ!

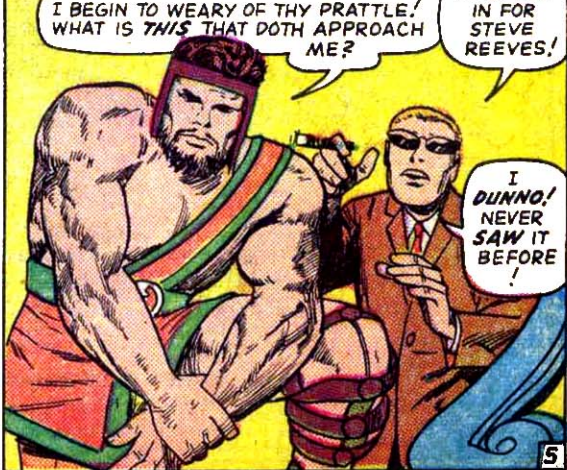


BUT YOU BETTER PLAY IT COOL WITH THE TOP BRASS! RUB 'EM THE WRONG WAY, AND THEY'LL TURN YOU IN FOR STEVE REEVES!

I BEGIN TO WEARY OF THY PRATTLE! WHAT IS THIS THAT DOTHT APPROACH ME?

TURN YOU IN FOR STEVE REEVES!

I DUNNO! NEVER SAW IT BEFORE!





THIS IS YOUR **SCREEN TEST**, HERCULES! **DEFEND YOURSELF!**

**THROOP!**

I-**I'D BETTER GO AND RE-READ THE CONTRACT!**



YOUR OPPONENT IS MERELY A MECHANICAL DEVICE, CREATED BY OUR STUDIO TECHNICIANS, TO SEE HOW YOU PHOTOGRAPH IN A FIGHT SCENE!

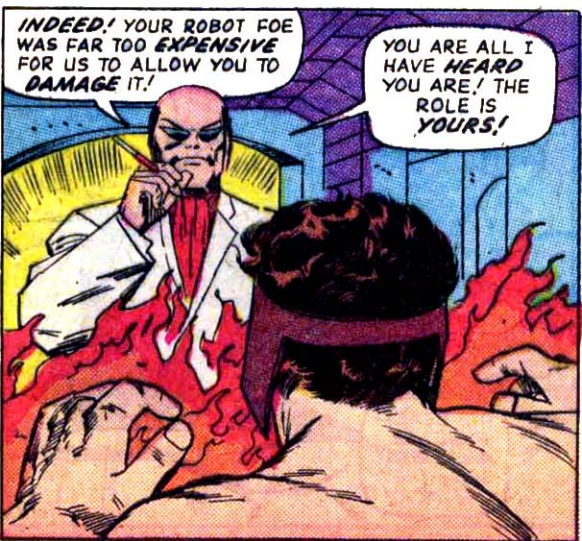
THOU SHALT GET **MORE** THAN THOU BARGAINED FOR!

I'LL REND IT **ASUNDER** WITH BUT A SINGLE **BLOW--!**



**NO!** WE HAVE SEEN ENOUGH! THE TEST IS **OVER!**

A SUDDEN WALL OF **LIVING FLAME!** TRULY, THY TECHNICIANS ARE **MASTERS** OF THEIR ART!



**INDEED!** YOUR ROBOT FOE WAS FAR TOO **EXPENSIVE** FOR US TO ALLOW YOU TO **DAMAGE** IT!

YOU ARE ALL I HAVE **HEARD** YOU ARE! THE **ROLE** IS **YOURS!**



I SHALL MAKE YOU THE **GREATEST STAR** OF ALL TIME! YOUR NAME WILL BECOME A **HOUSEHOLD WORD!**

KNOW YOU NOT THAT THE NAME **HERCULES** HATH BEEN **HAILED** FOR AGES THRUOUT THE **KNOWN UNIVERSE?!**



I LIKE YOUR *STYLE*, MY BOY! NOW COME, I HAVE PREPARED A LAVISH OLYMPIAN FEAST FOR YOU!

AHH! THIS IS TRULY A REPAST TO GLADDEN THE HEART OF MAN OR IMMORTAL!



BUT, AS AN UNSUSPECTING HERCULES PREPARES TO DINE, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE FATEFUL TRAP HE IS STUMBLING INTO, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO HALLOWED ASGARD, WHERE A ROYAL ICE-SKIMMER GLIDES ACROSS THE FROZEN SEA OF MARMORA...

MY WEAPON, LOYAL BALDER! WE HAVE REACHED THE SITE!

BUT, FEEL YOU *STRONG* ENOUGH, MIGHTY THOR?



THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN HATH COMMANDED THAT THOU DO NOT *OVER-TAX* THYSELF!

IF THE SON OF ODIN CANNOT FIRE A MERE REEL-RIFLE AT AN ARMORED BEAST-FISH, THEN THOR IS A SORRY THUNDER GOD INDEED!

NOW, BE THOU *SILENT*, BALDER-- MY PREY COMETH INTO VIEW!



THERE! OUT OF THEIR ICE-HOLES THEY LEAP, SEEKING FOOD UPON THE SURFACE! I CHOOSE THE *LARGEST*!

PHOOM!



BUT, THE GOLDEN-HAIRED IMMORTAL IS STILL WEAKER THAN HE KNOWS, AND THE RIFLE'S RECOIL CAUSES HIS SHOT TO GO WILD...

BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--I HAVE *MISSED* MY MARK!

THE BEAST-FISH ARE *ANGERED*! SEE--THEY ATTACK!





MY LORD BALDER!  
THOU MUST PROTECT  
OUR NOBLE PASSENGER  
TILL THE DANGER BE  
PAST!

FEAR  
THEE NOT,  
PILOT!  
I STAND  
FOR  
THOR!

**KRASH!**

**RRRRRR**

BACK, THOU BLACK-HEARTED  
DEMON FROM THE ICY DEPTHS!  
NO HARM SHALL COME TO THE  
GOD OF THUNDER WHILST  
BALDER STILL LIVES!

**RRRAK!**

LOYAL  
FRIEND--  
SAVE  
THYSELF!

THOUGH MY STRENGTH DOTH NOT  
MATCH THE FULL EXTENT OF  
THINE, MIGHTY ONE-- STILL IS  
BALDER A WARRIOR  
BORN!

YOU DID IT!  
YOU HURLED  
HIM FROM THE  
SHIP WITH  
ONE FELL  
SWOOP!

NOW, PILOT--  
BEGONE! WE  
HAVE HERE  
TARRIED  
LONG ENOW!

THOU ART STILL TOO WEAK FOR  
SPORT SUCH AS THIS, VALIANT  
THOR!

TRUE, FAITHFUL  
FRIEND! BUT, MY  
STRENGTH RETURNS  
WITH EACH PASSING  
MOMENT--!

SOON, BALDER--SOON  
SHALL I BE GOD OF  
THUNDER IN FACT AS  
WELL AS NAME! AND THEN  
--LET HERCULES BEWARE!

AND, EVEN AS A VENGEFUL THOR MENTIONS THE OLYMPIAN STRONGMAN...

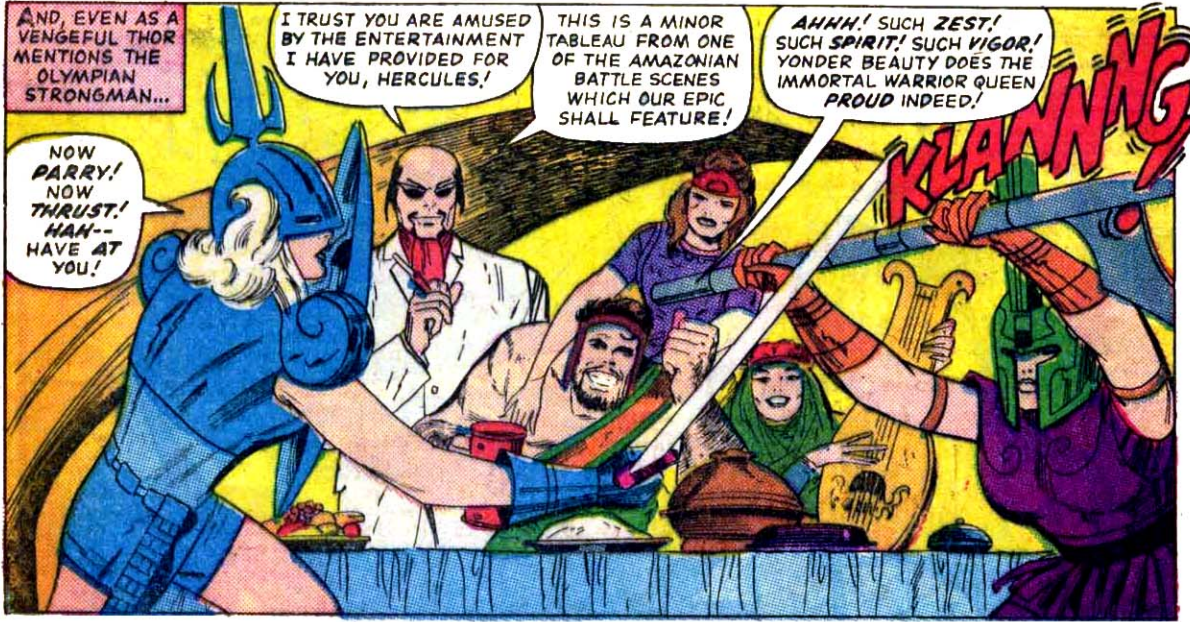
I TRUST YOU ARE AMUSED BY THE ENTERTAINMENT I HAVE PROVIDED FOR YOU, HERCULES!

THIS IS A MINOR TABLEAU FROM ONE OF THE AMAZONIAN BATTLE SCENES WHICH OUR EPIC SHALL FEATURE!

AHHH! SUCH ZEST! SUCH SPIRIT! SUCH VIGOR! YONDER BEAUTY DOES THE IMMORTAL WARRIOR QUEEN PROUD INDEED!

NOW PARRY! NOW THRUST! HAH-- HAVE AT YOU!

**KLANNING**



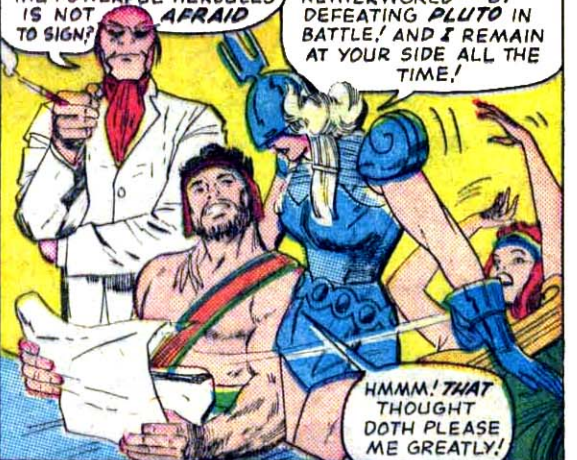
OH, BEFORE WE FORGET-- IF YOU WILL JUST SIGN THIS CONTRACT--! A MERE FORMALITY, OF COURSE!-- AN ANNOYING TRIFLE TO BE QUICKLY DISPOSED OF!

BUT, WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?? THE TEXT DOTH SAY HERCULES MUST RULE THE NETHERWORLD-- FOR ALL ETERNITY!



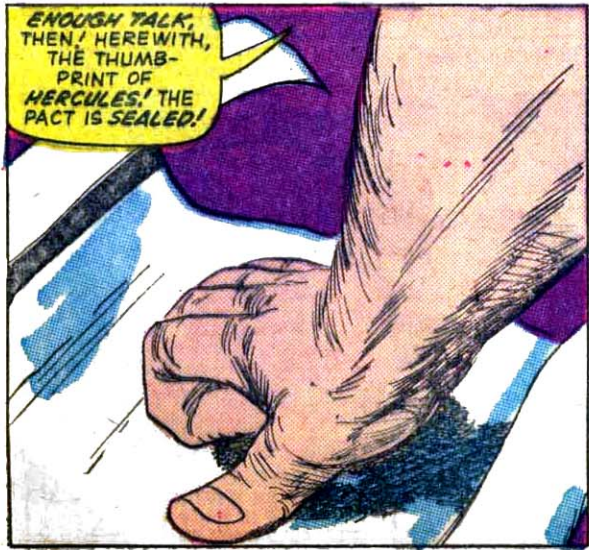
OH, DID I NOT TELL YOU? IT IS MERELY THE THEME OF OUR PICTURE! SURELY THE POWERFUL HERCULES IS NOT AFRAID TO SIGN?

ACCORDING TO THE PLOT OF THE MOVIE, YOU CONQUER THE ENTIRE NETHERWORLD---BY DEFEATING PLUTO IN BATTLE! AND I REMAIN AT YOUR SIDE ALL THE TIME!



HMMM! THAT THOUGHT DOTH PLEASE ME GREATLY!

ENOUGH TALK, THEN! HEREWITH, THE THUMB-PRINT OF HERCULES! THE PACT IS SEALED!



I'VE WON! AFTER ALL THESE AGES--YOU SIGNED IT WILLINGLY!

AN OLYMPIAN CONTRACT-- WHICH CAN NEVER BE CANCELLED! I'M FREE--AT LAST, I'M FREE!

THY VOICE-- THY DEMEANOR-- THEY HAVE CHANGED!



HERE! LET ME REMOVE THESE WORTHLESS GLASSES! NOW LOOK, HERCULES-- LOOK INTO MY EYES! LOOK DEEP--DEEP-- AND TELL WHAT YOU BEHOLD!

YOU! IT CAN BE NO OTHER! 'TIS PLUTO-- LORD OF THE NETHER-WORLD!

AND, WHAT OF ME, MAN OF OLYMPUS?

HYPPOLITA-- QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS! THEN, THIS BE NOT PLAY-ACTING!

NO, HERCULES-- I AM HYPPOLITA-- I AM THE ONE YOU SPURNED THOSE LONG YEARS AGO-- THE ONE WHO SWORE SHE'D HAVE HER REVENGE UPON THEE!

YOU ARE UNDONE, HERCULES-- DOOMED TO RULE THE ACCURSED NETHERWORLD-- FOREVER!

NAY! NOT I! NOT THE SON OF ZEUS!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, HERCULES! YOU HAVE SIGNED THE OLYMPIAN CONTRACT!

AND NOW, LET THE FLOOR BENEATH US PART-- FOR HERCULES MUST DESCEND THE STAIRWAY-- TO HIS ETERNAL FATE!

HERCULES DO NOT YIELD! THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES SHALL CRUMBLE ERE I BE DEFEATED BY TRICKERY!

FARE THEE WELL, DECEIVED ONE! NEVERMORE SHALT THOU REJECT THE LOVE OF A QUEEN!

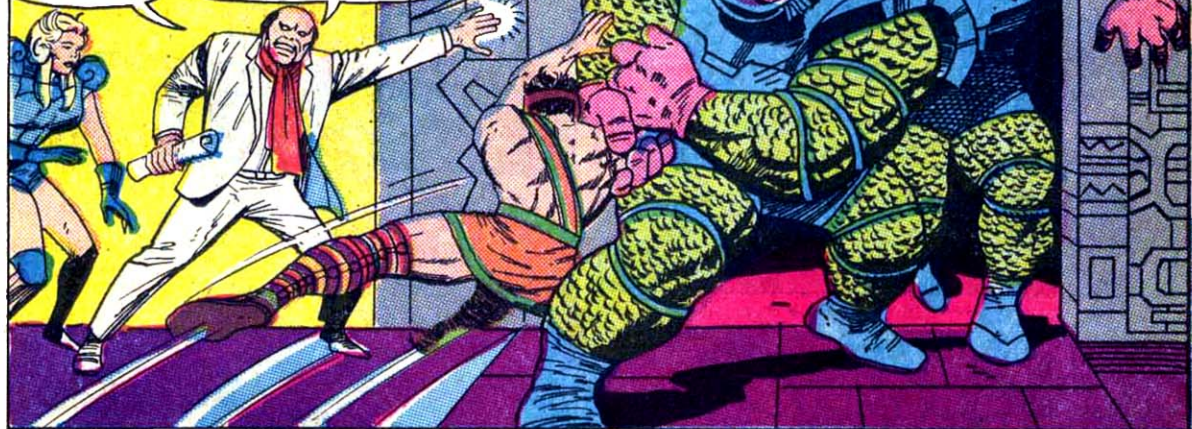
IT MATTERS NOT **HOW** YOU ARE DEFEATED-- JUST SO LONG AS THE CONTRACT IS **SIGNED!** YOUR FATE IS **SEALED!**

AND, TO **ENFORCE** YOUR SENTENCE, I NOW RELEASE TWO **MORE** TITAN WARRIORS!

BUT, YOU SHALL FIND, TO YOUR ETERNAL REGRET, THAT THEY ARE **NOT** MERE MECHANICAL CREATURES!! THIS TIME, THEY **LIVE!**

TO THE **ABYSMAL DEPTHS** WITH HIM!!

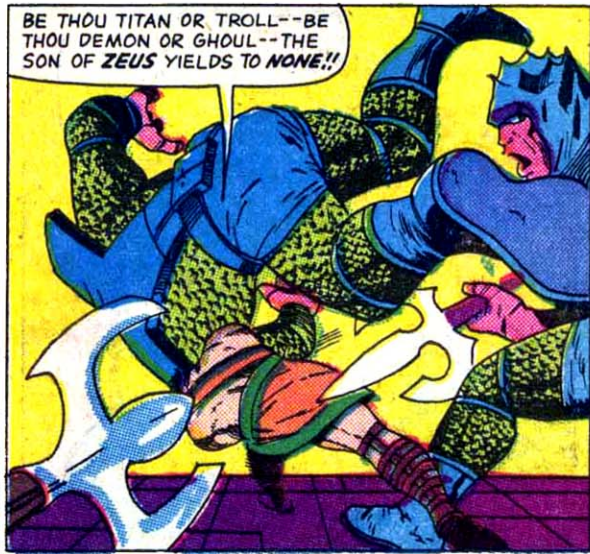
**NEVER!** HERCULES BATTLES TILL THE **END!!**



BE THOU TITAN OR TROLL--BE THOU DEMON OR GHOUL--THE SON OF ZEUS YIELDS TO **NONE!!**

**THOOOM!**

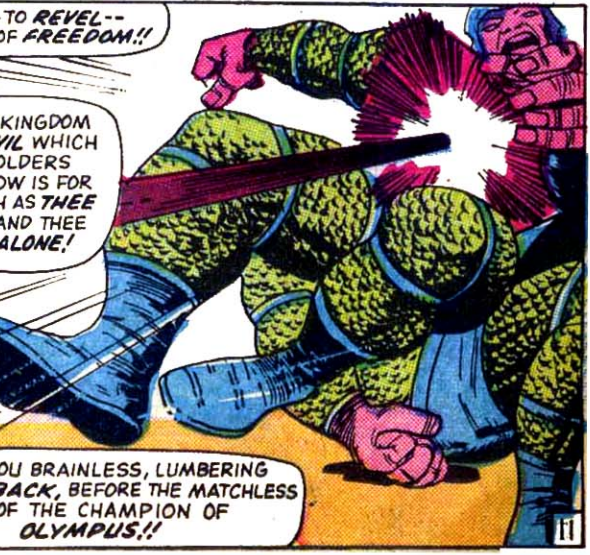
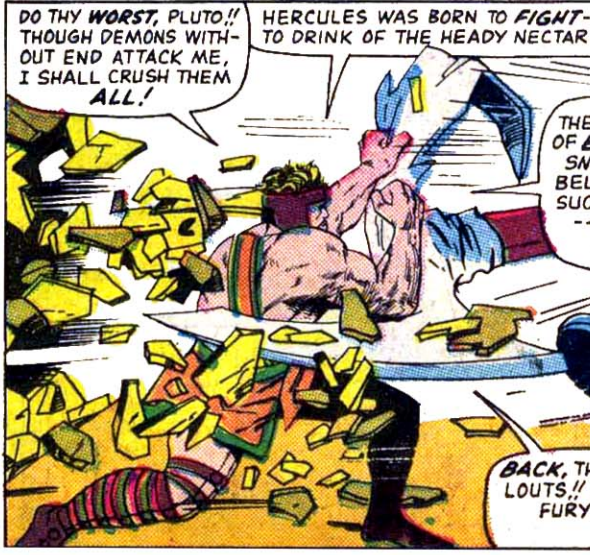
WHAT?!! A MERE WEAPON--HURLED AGAINST THE PRINCE OF POWER?!!



DO THY **WORST**, PLUTO!! THOUGH DEMONS WITHOUT END ATTACK ME, I SHALL CRUSH THEM **ALL!**

HERCULES WAS BORN TO **FIGHT--** TO **REVEL--** TO DRINK OF THE HEADY NECTAR OF **FREEDOM!!**

THE KINGDOM OF EVIL WHICH SMOLDERS BELOW IS FOR SUCH AS **THEE** --AND **THEE ALONE!**



**BACK,** THOU BRAINLESS, LUMBERING LOOTS!! **BACK,** BEFORE THE MATCHLESS FURY OF THE CHAMPION OF **OLYMPUS!!**

MEANWHILE, IN GLITTERING ASGARD, MIGHTY THOR JOUSTS LIKE A MASTER, AS HIS STRENGTH RETURNS WITH EVER-INCREASING SPEED--



HAVE AT THEE, VALIANT VOLSTAGG!! LOOK TO THY DEFENSES!

SURELY THOU SPEAKEST IN JEST, THUNDER GOD!

VOLSTAGG IS A ROCK --A MOUNTAIN --WHICH NONE CAN TOPPLE!



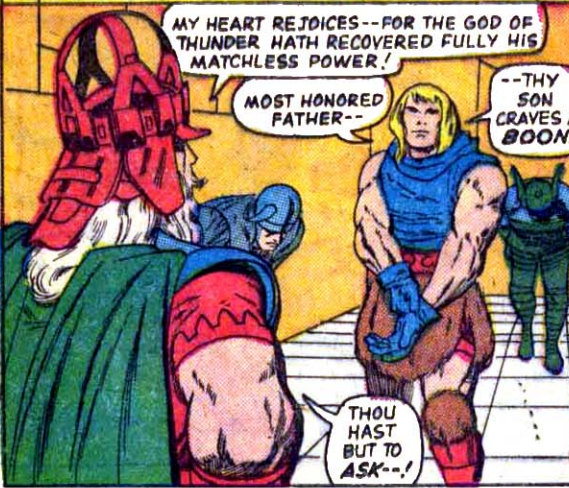
THEN TRULY, A MIRACLE IS NOW UPON US--!

THOR HATH MOVED A MOUNTAIN!



O INFAMOUS MOMENT! WHO WILL E'ER BELIEVE SO IMPOSSIBLE AN EVENT??! WHO WILL-- -GLUGGG!-

MOMENTS LATER, THE MOST REGAL IMMORTAL OF ALL ENTERS THE GREAT JOUSTING AREA...!



MY HEART REJOICES--FOR THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH RECOVERED FULLY HIS MATCHLESS POWER!

MOST HONORED FATHER--

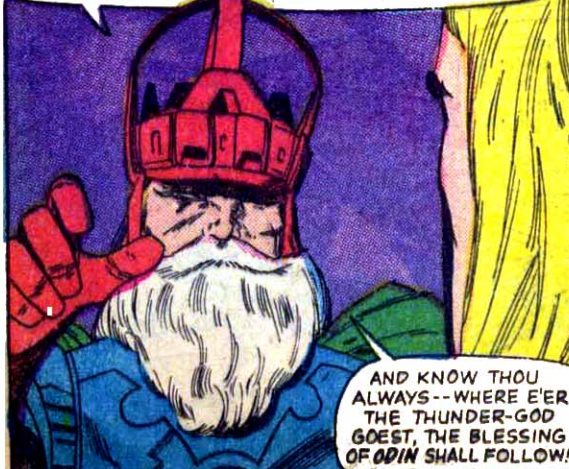
--THY SON CRAVES A BOON!

THOU HAST BUT TO ASK--!

NOBLE SIRE, GRANT ME LEAVE TO RETURN TO EARTH!! FOR, NEVER SHALL MINE HONOR BE RETORED--NEVER SHALL MINE HEART KNOW TRANQUILITY--UNTIL I HAVE REDEEMED MYSELF--IN BATTLE WITH THE SON OF ZEUS!!



FULL WELL DO I KNOW THE ANGER THAT RAGES IN THY SOUL! I DO GRANT THEE LEAVE! SO BE IT!



AND KNOW THOU ALWAYS--WHERE E'ER THE THUNDER-GOD GOEST, THE BLESSING OF ODIN SHALL FOLLOW!

IF YOUR MORTAL EYES WERE TO SCAN THE HEAVENS AT THIS MOMENT, YOU WOULD THINK YOU WERE VIEWING A FIERY COMET, BLAZING A TRAIL TOWARDS EARTH--

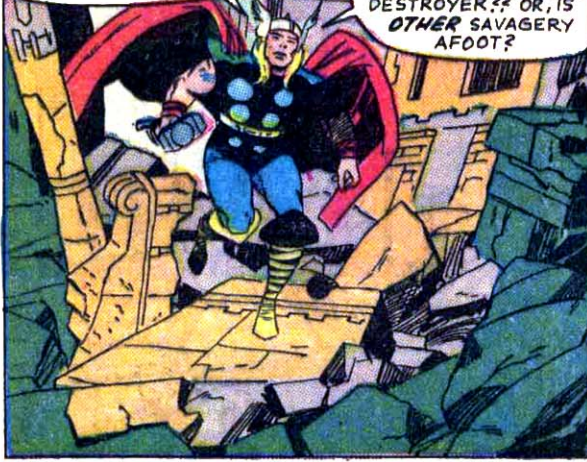


--BUT, THE TRUE ASGARDIAN WOULD KNOW IT IS THOR, TRAVELLING AS ONLY AN IMMORTAL CAN!

GUIDED BY HIS ENCHANTED URU MALLET, THE MIGHTY AVENGER IS UNERRINGLY BROUGHT TO THE VERY SPOT WHERE WE LAST LEFT HERCULES--!

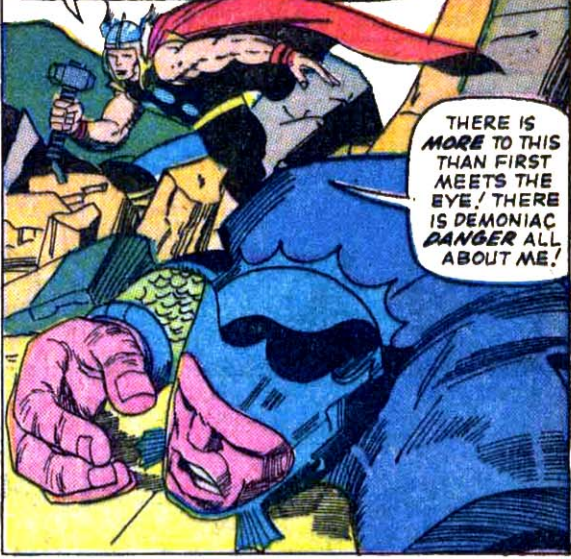
A SHAMBLES, HERE IN THE CINEMA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!

HAS THE OLYMPIAN TITAN SO SOON BECOME A RAMPAGING DESTROYER?? OR, IS OTHER SAVAGERY AFOOT?



A CREATURE FROM THE DOMAIN WHICH BLAZES BELOW--DEFEATED IN BATTLE!

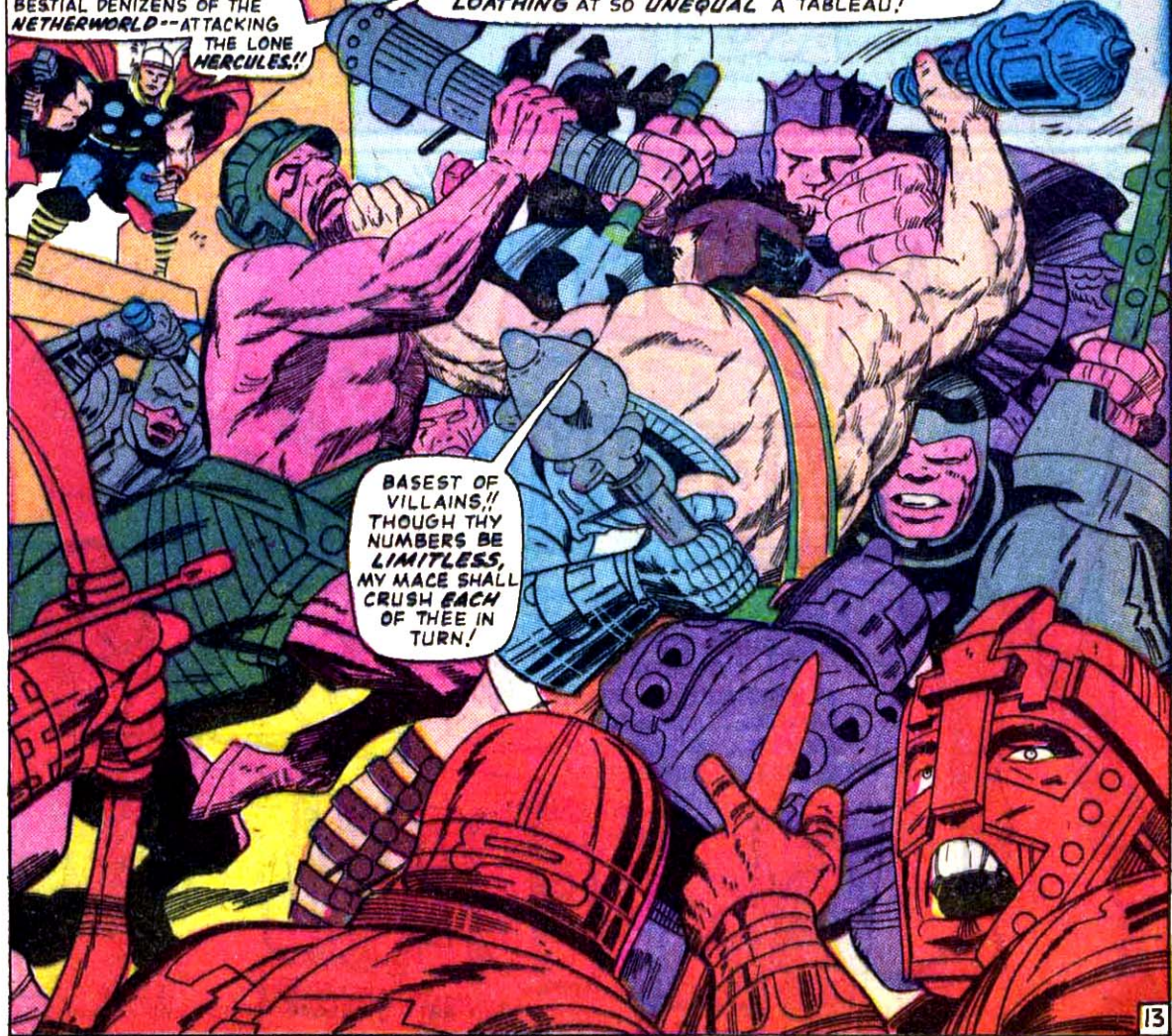
THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN FIRST MEETS THE EYE! THERE IS DEMONIC DANGER ALL ABOUT ME!



THEN, AT LAST--DRAWN BY THE DEAFENING SOUND OF COMBAT, THE GOD OF THUNDER STRIDES UNHESITATINGLY FORWARD, UNTIL HE SEES--

BESTIAL DENIZENS OF THE NETHERWORLD--ATTACKING THE LONE HERCULES!!

WHATE'ER THE PROVOCATION, MY BLOOD VERILY BOILS IN LOATHING AT SO UNEQUAL A TABLEAU!



BASEST OF VILLAINS!! THOUGH THY NUMBERS BE LIMITLESS, MY MACE SHALL CRUSH EACH OF THEE IN TURN!



NO LONGER  
NEED HERCULES  
BATTLE ALONE!!

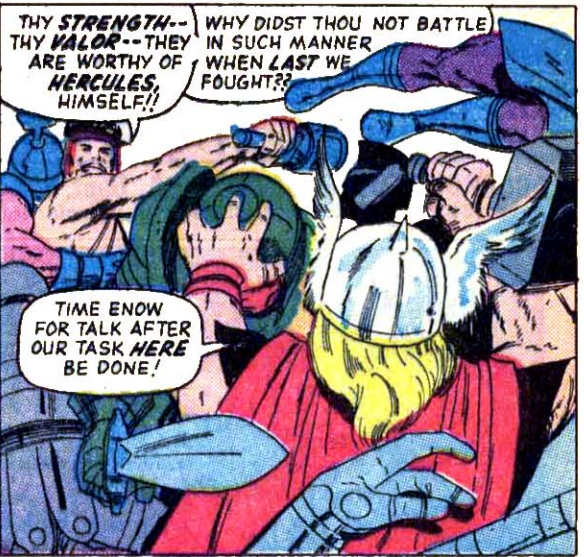
THOSE WHO ATTACK IN  
COWARDLY NUMBER  
SHALL ALSO FACE  
THE FURY OF THE  
THUNDERING HAMMER  
OF THOR!

THE THUNDER GOD!! STAY  
BACK, ASGARDIAN!! THOU  
HAST NOT THE MIGHT TO  
DEAL WITH SUCH AS  
THESE!!



NEVERMORE  
SHALT THOU  
UTTER SUCH  
STINGING WORDS,  
OLYMPIAN!

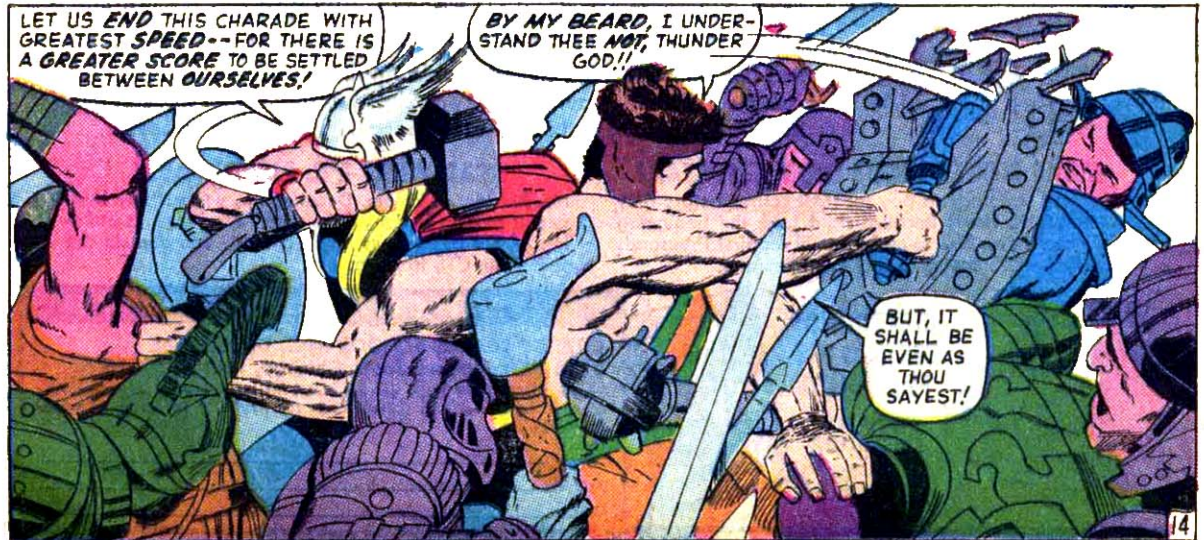
BEHOLD, RASH BRAGGART--  
BEHOLD THE TRUE POWER OF  
THE SON OF ODIN!!



THY STRENGTH--  
THY VALOR--THEY  
ARE WORTHY OF  
HERCULES,  
HIMSELF!!

WHY DIDST THOU NOT BATTLE  
IN SUCH MANNER  
WHEN LAST WE  
FOUGHT??

TIME ENOW  
FOR TALK AFTER  
OUR TASK HERE  
BE DONE!



LET US END THIS CHARADE WITH  
GREATEST SPEED--FOR THERE IS  
A GREATER SCORE TO BE SETTLED  
BETWEEN OURSELVES!

BY MY BEARD, I UNDER-  
STAND THEE NOT, THUNDER  
GOD!!

BUT, IT  
SHALL BE  
EVEN AS  
THOU  
SAYEST!

AND, AS THE CYCLONIC BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE, UNABATED--

OUR WARRIORS FALL BACK!!

LET THE STINGING SWORD OF HYPPOLITA BE ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER!

NO! STAND ASIDE! THE NEWLY-ARRIVED GOD OF THUNDER IS A FORCE I HAD NOT CONJURED WITH!



THE FINAL VICTORY MUST BE MINE!! HERCULES HAS INDEED AFFIXED HIS MARK TO AN OLYMPIAN CONTRACT!

THEREFORE, WE SHALL TAKE OUR CASE TO THE ONE BEING WHO CAN FORCE THE PRINCE OF POWER TO OBEY!



BE THEN PREPARED, AMAZON QUEEN--!

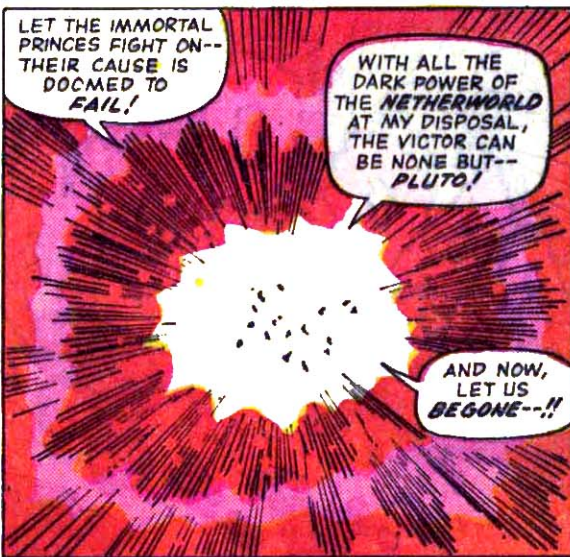
WE NOW EMBARK UPON THE GREATEST JOURNEY OF ALL--WE GO TO FABLED OLYMPUS-- TO CONFRONT THE AWESOME ZEUS, HIMSELF!



LET THE IMMORTAL PRINCES FIGHT ON-- THEIR CAUSE IS DOCMED TO FAIL!

WITH ALL THE DARK POWER OF THE NETHERWORLD AT MY DISPOSAL, THE VICTOR CAN BE NONE BUT-- PLUTO!

AND NOW, LET US BEGONE--!!

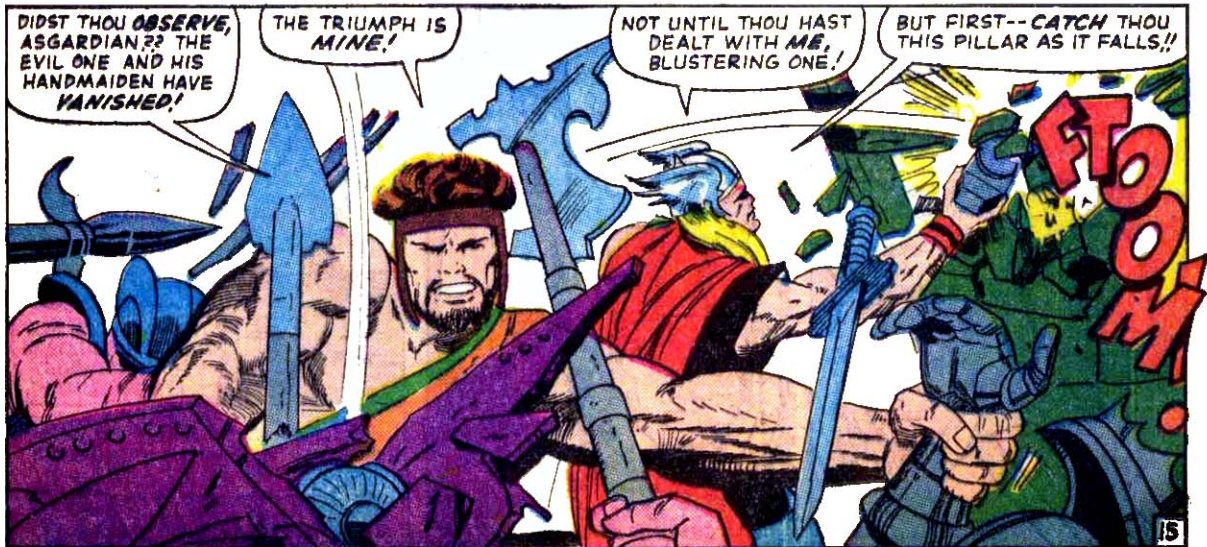


DIDST THOU OBSERVE, ASGARDIAN?? THE EVIL ONE AND HIS HANDMAIDEN HAVE VANISHED!

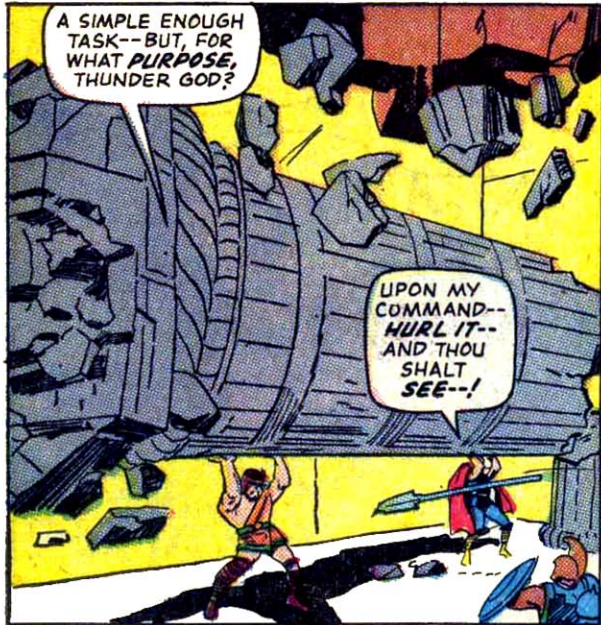
THE TRIUMPH IS MINE!

NOT UNTIL THOU HAST DEALT WITH ME, BLUSTERING ONE!

BUT FIRST-- CATCH THOU THIS PILLAR AS IT FALLS!!







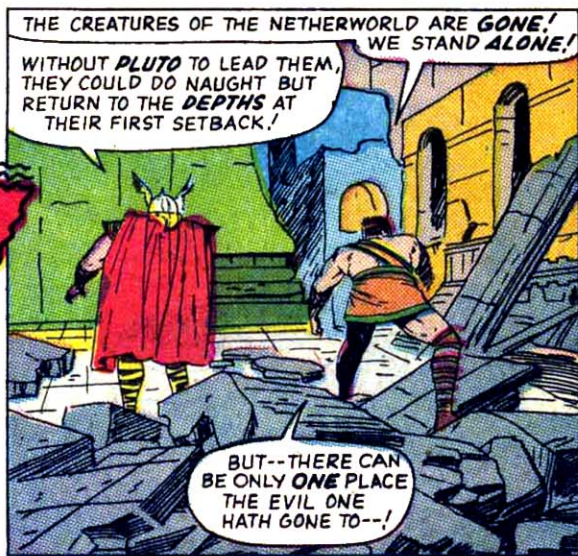
A SIMPLE ENOUGH TASK-- BUT, FOR WHAT *PURPOSE*, THUNDER GOD?

UPON MY COMMAND-- *HURL IT--* AND THOU SHALT *SEE--!*



*NOW!!* WITH ALL THY MUCH-VAUNTED *MIGHT!*

*~AHHHH!~* I DO BEGIN TO PERCEIVE THE *METHOD* TO THY SEEMING *MADNESS!*



THE CREATURES OF THE NETHERWORLD ARE *GONE!* WE STAND *ALONE!*  
WITHOUT *PLUTO* TO LEAD THEM, THEY COULD DO NAUGHT BUT RETURN TO THE *DEPTHS* AT THEIR FIRST *SETBACK!*

BUT--THERE CAN BE ONLY *ONE* PLACE THE *EVIL* ONE HATH GONE TO--!



HE HATH TAKEN THE *CONTRACT* TO MY LORD *ZEUS*--TO COMPEL ME TO REPLACE HIM AS RULER OF THE *STYGIAN DEPTHS*--*FOREVER!*

*WHAT??* THOU WERT FOOL-HARDY ENOW TO SIGN AN *OLYMPIAN CONTRACT*--WITH *PLUTO*??

*AY!* THE WILY ONE PRACTICED THE GROSSEST *DECEPTION* UPON ME!



THE PRINCE OF *POWER*--DOOMED TO SPEND *ETERNITY* AS RULER OF--AND *PRISONER* IN--THE ACCURSED *NETHERWORLD!*

IT IS ALMOST BEYOND *BELIEF!*



THIS THEN IS NO TIME FOR US TO WAGE *FINAL BATTLE!* THOU HAST A FAR MORE *TERRIBLE* FATE TO FACE!

THE *THUNDER GOD* DEPARTS! SHALL I EVER KNOW HIS *LIKE* AGAIN?!

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**"THE VERDICT OF ZEUS!"**

TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

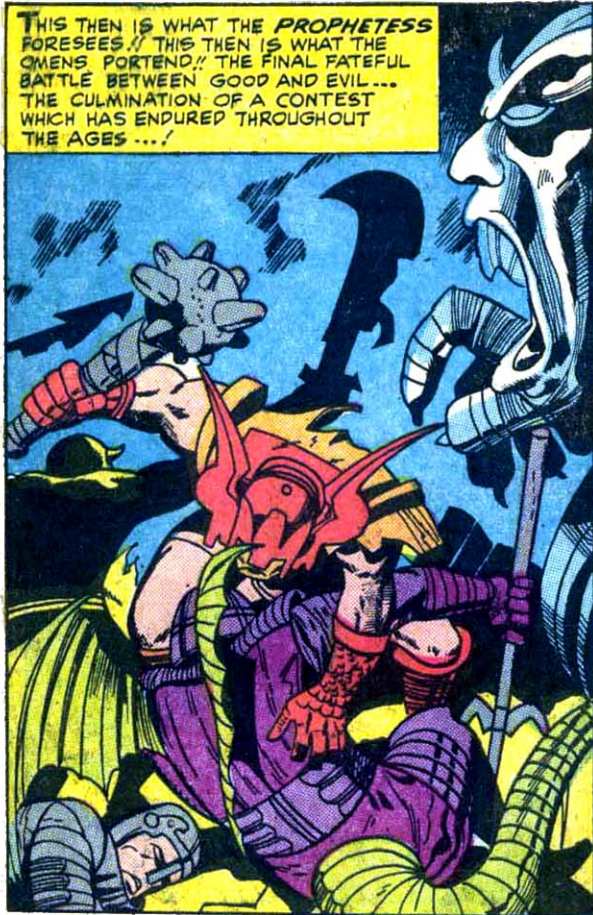
# "AFTERMATH!"

SCRIPT: STAN LEE   PENCILLING: JACK KIRBY   DELINEATION: VINCE COLLETTA   LETTERING: S. ROSEN



ACCORDING TO **YOLLA, THE PROPHETESS**, THE DAY OF **RAGNAROK** IS ALMOST AT HAND! **RAGNAROK**... THE END OF THE WORLD!! EVEN AS **YOLLA** SPEAKS, THE ASSEMBLED GODS WITNESS, IN THEIR IMAGINATION, THE LAST AGONIZING MOMENTS OF **ASGARD**, AS SHE PREDICTS THE GOLDEN REALM BEING WRACKED BY FIRE, FLOOD, AND THE FLAMES OF BATTLE...!

THIS THEN IS WHAT THE **PROPHETESS** FORESEES!! THIS THEN IS WHAT THE OMENS PORTEND!! THE FINAL FATEFUL BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL... THE CULMINATION OF A CONTEST WHICH HAS ENDURED THROUGHOUT THE AGES...!



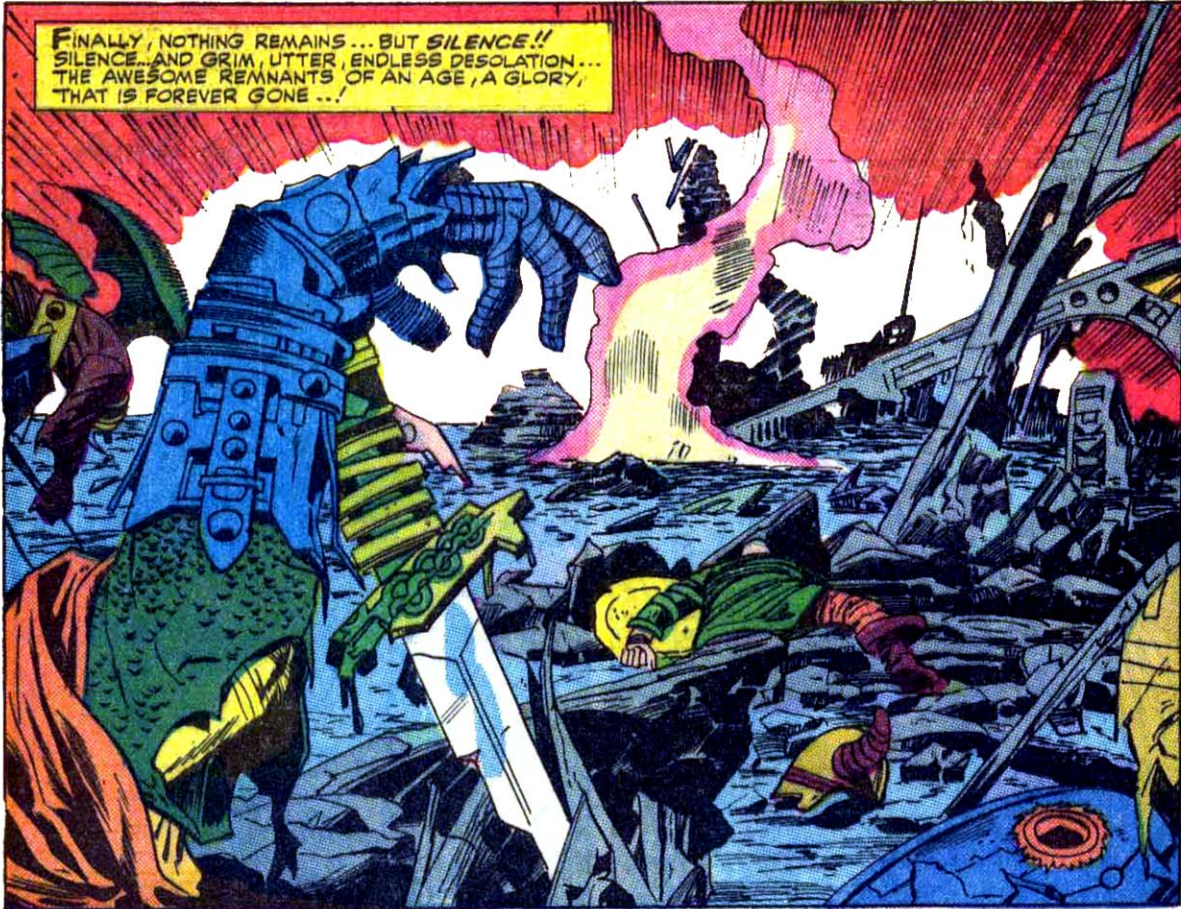
AND, IN THE VANGUARD OF THAT CATAclysmic STRUGGLE... LEADING THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES OF EVIL... IS THE **MIDGARD SERPENT**, WHOSE STAGGERING SIZE BEGGARS HUMAN DESCRIPTION...!



THEN, AS THE UNIVERSE-SHAKING BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE, AS FORCES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF HUMAN COMPREHENSION ARE UNLEASHED AT WILL, ASGARD ITSELF IS FINALLY TORN ASUNDER BY A MONUMENTAL EXPLOSION, WHICH SHAKES THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF INFINITY ITSELF!!



FINALLY, NOTHING REMAINS... BUT **SILENCE!!**  
SILENCE... AND GRIM, UTTER, ENDLESS DESOLATION...  
THE AWESOME REMNANTS OF AN AGE, A GLORY,  
THAT IS FOREVER GONE...!



THEN, FROM  
THE NAMELESS  
DEPTHS,  
RISES  
**SURTUR, THE  
MERCILESS  
FIRE GOD!**

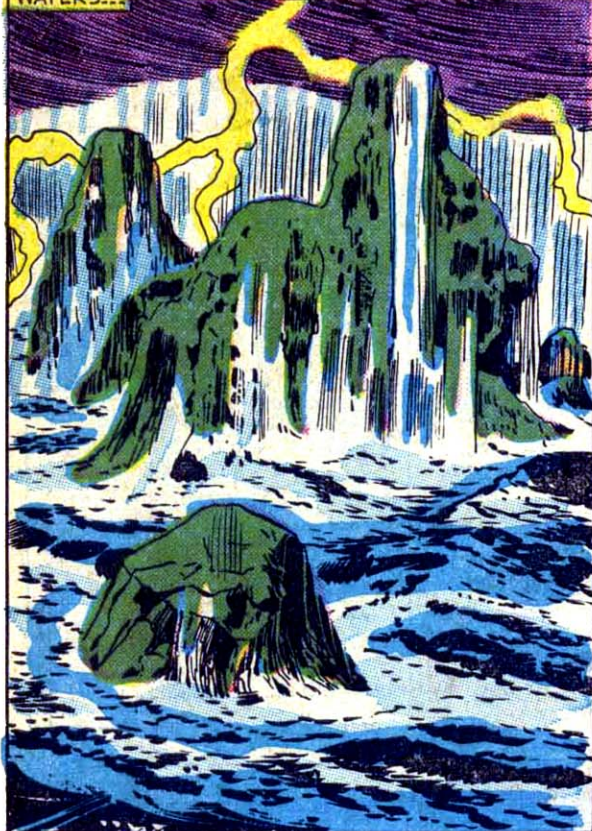
UNABLE TO LIVE SINCE  
ALL HAVE PERISHED, HE  
SEARS EVERYTHING ABOUT  
HIM IN A FINAL ACT OF  
BLIND FURY...!



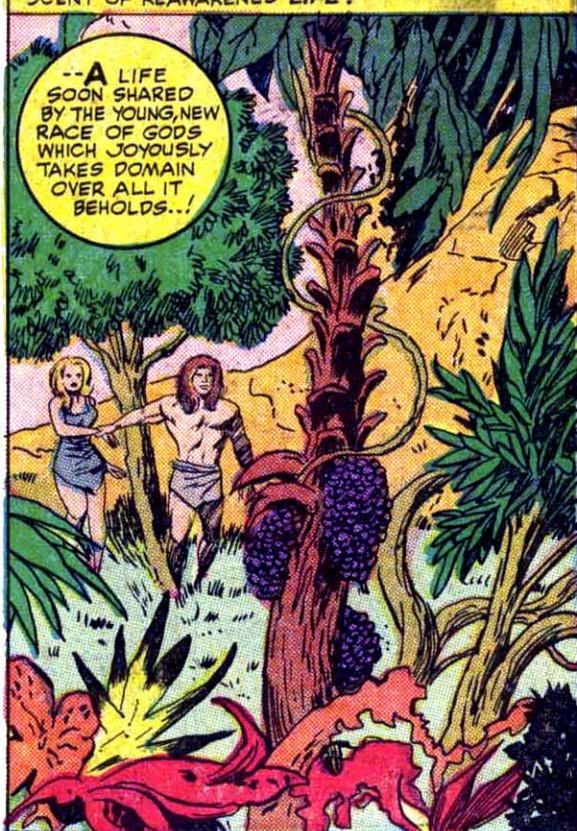
UNTIL, AT LAST, NAUGHT REMAINS OF ASGARD BUT  
A CHARRED, SMOKING MASS... A CELESTIAL  
CINDER WHICH SHALL SMOLDER AND GLOW WHILE  
THE LONG YEARS PASS...



LO, THE CENTURIES TURN TO AGES, AND THE AGES TO EONS, AS THE SEAS SLOWLY RETURN AND VAST CONTINENTS TAKE FORM, RISING FROM THE RESTLESS WATERS...

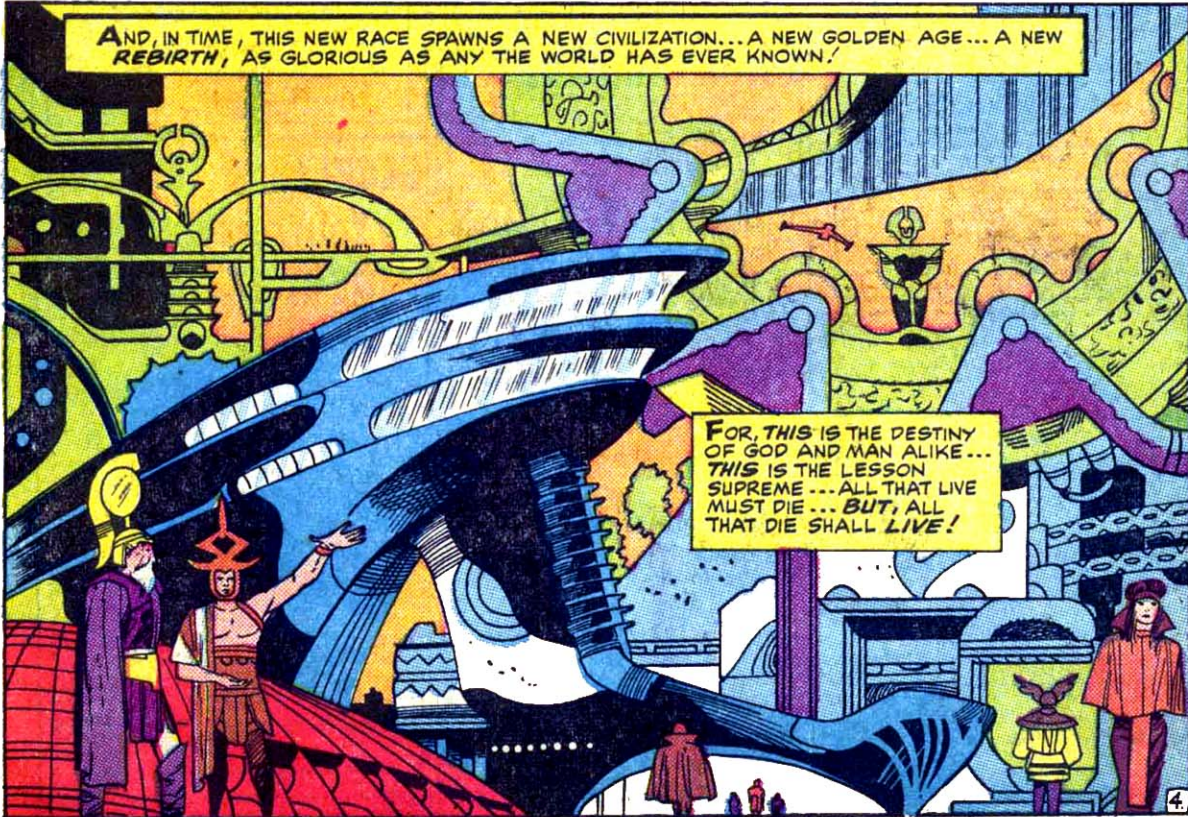


IN TIME, VEGETATION BURSTS FORTH OVER THE LAND, AS AN ABUNDANCE OF GREENERY... OF LUSH, VERDANT FLORA ONCE AGAIN FILLS THE AIR WITH THE SCENT OF REAWAKENED LIFE!



--A LIFE SOON SHARED BY THE YOUNG, NEW RACE OF GODS WHICH JOYOUSLY TAKES DOMAIN OVER ALL IT BEHOLDS!--

AND, IN TIME, THIS NEW RACE SPAWNS A NEW CIVILIZATION... A NEW GOLDEN AGE... A NEW REBIRTH, AS GLORIOUS AS ANY THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!



FOR, THIS IS THE DESTINY OF GOD AND MAN ALIKE... THIS IS THE LESSON SUPREME... ALL THAT LIVE MUST DIE... BUT, ALL THAT DIE SHALL LIVE!

HER PREDICTION DONE, THE PROPHETESS SILENTLY TAKES HER LEAVE! FOR LONG MOMENTS, REGAL ODIN SITS MOTIONLESS, THINKING THOUGHTS NO MORTAL COULD HOPE TO COMPREHEND! AND THEN...

THUS SPAKE VOLLA!

HOW NOW SPEAK YOU, WARRIORS OF ASGARD?

THE PROUDEST... THE MIGHTIEST... THE MOST FAMED OF ALL ARE HERE ASSEMBLED!! NAMES THAT CAN SHAKE A GALAXY! HEIMDALL! VOLSTAGG! FANDRAL! HOGUN! BALDER! LOKI! THOR! NAMES THAT HAVE FIRED THE IMAGINATION OF LESSER BEINGS THROUGHOUT THE AGES! BUT NOW... EVEN FOR SUCH AS THESE... THERE ARE NO WORDS!

YET, WHILE THE OTHERS STAND WITH HEAVY HEARTS, THERE IS ONE WHOSE SOUL IS AFLAME WITH BURNING RAGE..!

AND THEN, AT LENGTH, LOKI FINDS HIS VOICE...!

SPEAK NOT TO ME OF RAGNAROK... FOR IT SHALL NEVER COME TO PASS!

'TIS BUT THE EMPTY CACKLING OF A WORTHLESS HAG! SURELY, MIGHTY ODIN DOES NOT BELIEVE...!

KNOW YOU, LOKI, THE PROPHETESS CANNOT UTTER A FALSEHOOD! SHE SEES WHAT SHE DOTH SEE! RAGNAROK SHALL COME!!

AND THOU IT IS WHO ART THE CAUSE!

AS SURELY AS RAGNAROK ITSELF, LET ALL WHO READ THESE WORDS KNOW FULL WELL THAT NEW WONDERS SHALL UNFOLD NEXT ISSUE ---! WE HAVE SPOKEN!!