



THE
MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢ 134
IND. NOV

"THE
PEOPLE
BREEDERS!"



GUEST STARRING: QUICKSILVER and THE SCARLET WITCH! (IN POSSIBLY THE BRIEFEST, MOST UNNECESSARY GUEST APPEARANCE YOU'VE EVER SEEN!)

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"The PEOPLE-BREEDERS!"

AS LAST ISSUE REVEALED TO ALL TRUE BELIEVERS, THE GOD OF THUNDER FOUGHT EGO, THE LIVING PLANET, TO A STANDSTILL WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY! NOW, MIGHTY THOR, AND THE HUMAN-FORM RECORDER, WHOM HE HAS RESCUED, RETURN TO RIGEL...

EGO HAS VOWED NEVER TO ATTACK ANY FOE BEYOND THE BLACK GALAXY! THEREFORE, MY QUEST HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL!

OBSERVATION: SINCE YOU HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD FROM INVASION, RIGEL MUST FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO YOU!

THEY SHALL ABANDON ALL ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER EARTH!

A
STAN LEE * JACK KIRBY
FANTASTI-CLASSIC!

INKED BY:
VINCE COLLETTA

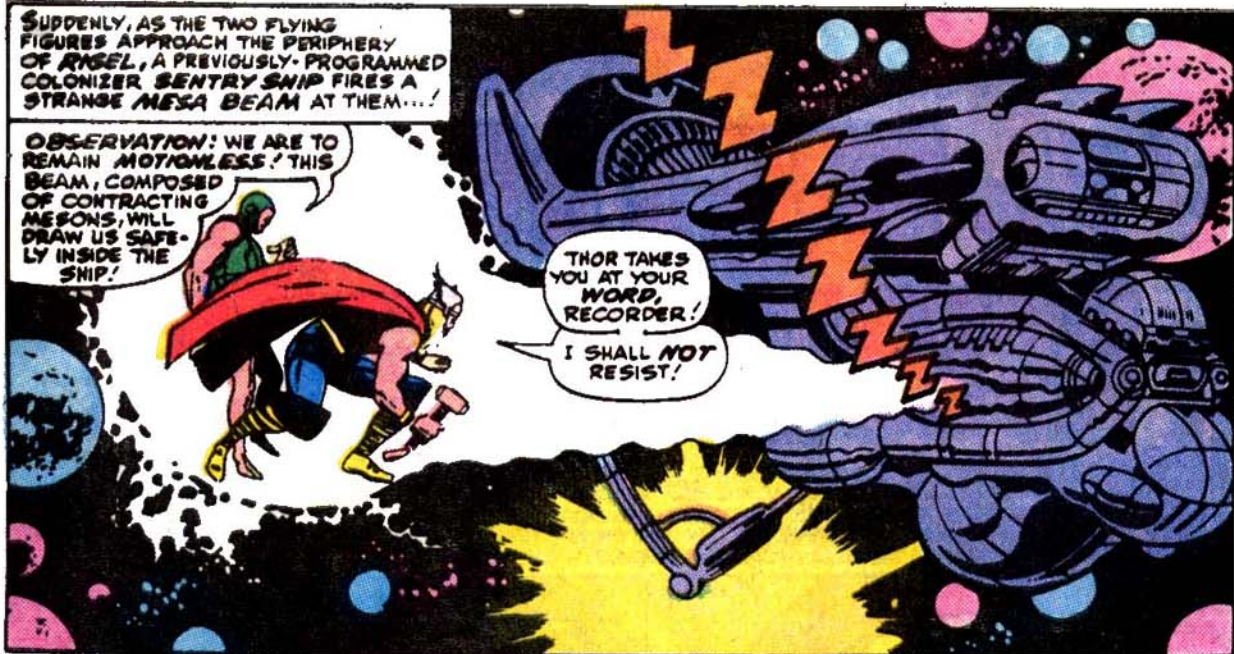
LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

WE HAVE SPOKEN!

SUDDENLY, AS THE TWO FLYING FIGURES APPROACH THE PERIPHERY OF RYSEL, A PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED COLONIZER SENTRY SHIP FIRES A STRANGE MESA BEAM AT THEM...

OBSERVATION: WE ARE TO REMAIN MOTIONLESS! THIS BEAM, COMPOSED OF CONTRACTING MESONS, WILL DRAW US SAFELY INSIDE THE SHIP!

THOR TAKES YOU AT YOUR WORD, RECORDER!
I SHALL NOT RESIST!



YOU HAVE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE, THUNDER GOD!

WHEN YOU DECLARE THE SOLAR SYSTEM OFF-LIMITS TO YOUR COLONIZERS, I SHALL HAVE BEEN AMPLY REPAID!

OUR LEGENDS SHALL EXTOLL YOUR GREATNESS TILL THE END OF TIME!

THE ORDER HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN!

OBSERVATION: I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF APPROACHING POWER!



THE RECORDER SPEAKS TRUE! A BRIGHT MASS OF ENERGY IS STREAKING THIS WAY!

WE HAVE BEEN TRACKING THAT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT WHILE WAITING FOR YOU!

IT HAS LEAPED ACROSS COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS OF SPACE WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED!



WHAT MANNER OF ENTITY CAN IT BE?

AT FIRST WE THOUGHT IT WAS A GIGANTIC STAR, WHOSE LIGHT BLAZES WITH SUCH INTENSITY IT CAN SPAN VAST GALAXIES!

ON EARTH, MEN REFER TO SUCH CELESTIAL BODIES AS QUASARS!

BUT, OUR SPECTRO-SCANNER REVEALS IT IS SMALLER THAN A STAR... THOUGH WITH EVEN GREATER ENERGY!



OBSERVATION: SO GREAT IS ITS SPEED, THAT IT IS ALREADY ALMOST UPON US!

ALTHOUGH I SENSE IT IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THIS SHIP, NOR WITH ITS OCCUPANTS!

NO MATTER! IT'S ON COLLISION COURSE!

EFFECT TIME-WARP ESCAPE DRIVE... MACH THRUST!



WITHIN SECONDS WE'LL BE GONE... AND WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHO... OR WHAT... THAT OBJECT WAS!

THUS DOES AN ENIGMATIC FATE PLAY INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRICKS UPON US ALL! HOW COULD MIGHTY THOR HAVE SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS ALMOST WITHIN HAMMER-THROWING DISTANCE OF THE MOST AWESOME LIVING ENTITY IN THE COSMOS? SLOWLY, MAJESTICALLY, THE INDESCRIBABLE FIGURE OF GALACTUS RISES FROM HIS GIANT STAR-SHIP AS HE AIMS AN INFALLIBLE QUADRANT ANALYZER AT THE BLACK GALAXY WHICH SWIRLS IN THE INFINITE EMBLEMNESS BEFORE HIM...*

MY QUADRANT ANALYZER REGISTERS AN ABUNDANCE OF LIFE ENERGY EMANATING FROM WITHIN THE SHADOWY GALAXY BEFORE ME!

SINCE I AM DESTINED TO ROAM THE ENDLESS SKYWAYS, EVER SEEKING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY UPON WHICH TO FEED, I HAVE BUT ONE CHOICE...

I MUST ENTER THE BLACK GALAXY AND DESTROY WHATEVER LIFE MAY THEREIN EXIST!

I DO SO...NOT OUT OF GREED..NOT OUT OF HATE -- NOT OUT OF AMBITION ... FOR THOSE ARE EMOTIONS OF LESSER BEINGS! I DO SO BECAUSE I MUST... BECAUSE I AM... GALACTUS!!

*AS ALL MARVELDOM KNOWS, GALACTUS FIRST APPEARED IN FANTASTIC FOUR #48, 49, AND 50... AND, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT WE SHALL MEET HIM AGAIN AT SOME FUTURE TIME... WHEN WE, AND MANKIND, LEAST EXPECT IT!
... STENTORIAN STAN.

BUT, SINCE THIS EPIC EXTRAVAGANZA IS CONCERNED WITH OTHER MATTERS, WE MUST TAKE OUR LEAVE OF GALACTUS FOR NOW, AS WE VISIT A NEW YORK POLICE PRECINCT BACK ON MOTHER EARTH...

OUR ORDERS ARE FINAL...AND IRREVOCABLE, COLONIZER NILE! WE HAVE REMOVED THE SPACE LOCK FROM THE PLANET EARTH!

BUT...YOU CAN'T! I TOOK POSSESSION...BY RIGHT OF CONQUEST!

IT WAS MY FIRST COLONIZATION! WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

NOTHING, COLONIZER NILE! EVENTS FAR GREATER THAN YOU CAN COMPREHEND HAVE CAUSED OUR DECISION!

BUT, YOU SHALL NOT GO UNREWARDED! AT THIS VERY INSTANT, YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO RIGEL, FOR YOUR GREATEST ASSIGNMENT!

COLONIZER NILE! WE HAVE COME FOR YOU!

DO NOT FEAR! WE HAVE ESCORTED THE GOD OF THUNDER TO THIS GALAXY, AND SHALL ESCORT YOU BACK TO RIGEL!

YOUR REIGN OVER EARTH IS ENDED, TANA NILE! ENDED FOREVER!

THOR!! THEN... THIS IS YOUR DOING!

THEY... WALKED PAST US... LIKE WE WEREN'T HERE!

KNOW SOMETHIN', JIM? I WISH WE WEREN'T!

IF YOU GUYS SEE 'EM, TOO... THEN... I AIN'T DREAMIN'!!

I BEAR YOU NO MALICE! YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD BEEN TRAINED TO DO! BUT, ONE THING I MUST KNOW...

THE GIRL... JANE FOSTER... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?

SHE IS UNHARMED! I MERELY SENT HER AWAY, HOPING YOU WOULD WASTE TIME SEARCHING FOR HER!

I DO NOT KNOW HER PRESENT WHEREABOUTS!

SHE MAY SPEAK NO MORE, THUNDER GOD!

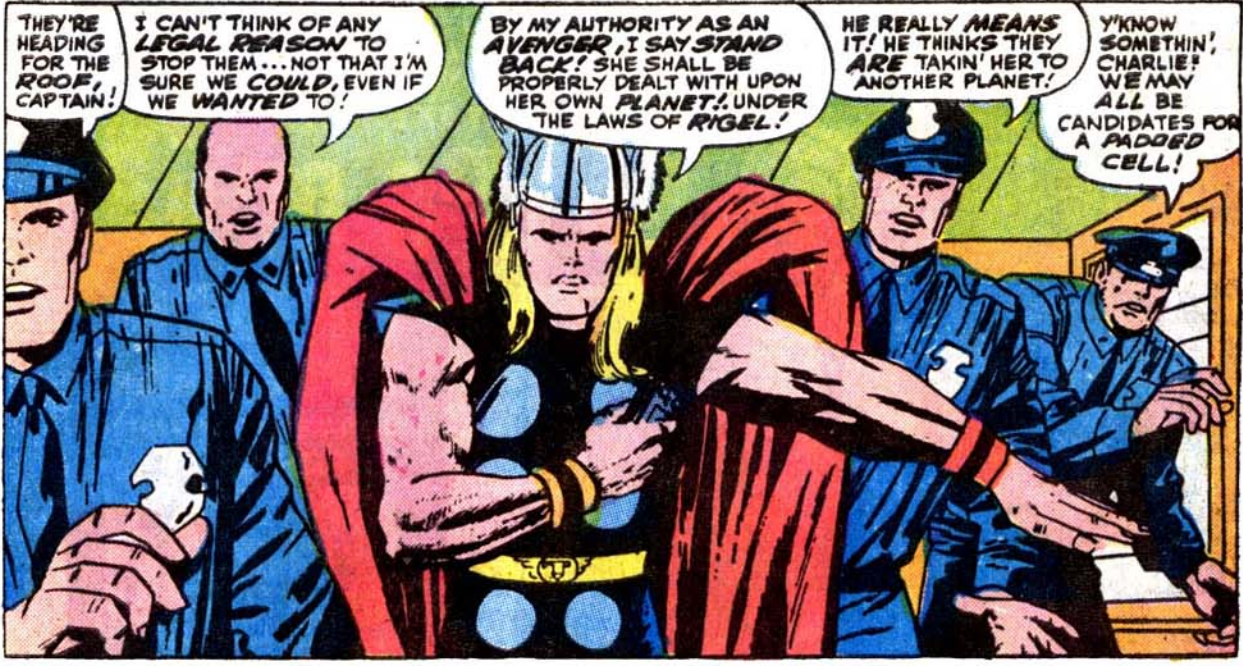
BY MEANS OF THIS RIGELLIAN COMPELLOR BEAM, I HEREBY PLACE EX-COLONIZER TANA NILE IN CUSTODY!

YOU SHALL FIND THE ONE YOU SEEK! THIS PSYCHE-SEARCH GAUGE WILL LEAD YOU TO THE GIRL BY LOCATING HER LIFE FORCE AURA!

YOU HAVE EARNED THE GRATITUDE OF THOR!

YOU WILL ENTER THE SHIP WHICH AWAITS US UPON THE ROOF!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE THEY TAKIN' HER??



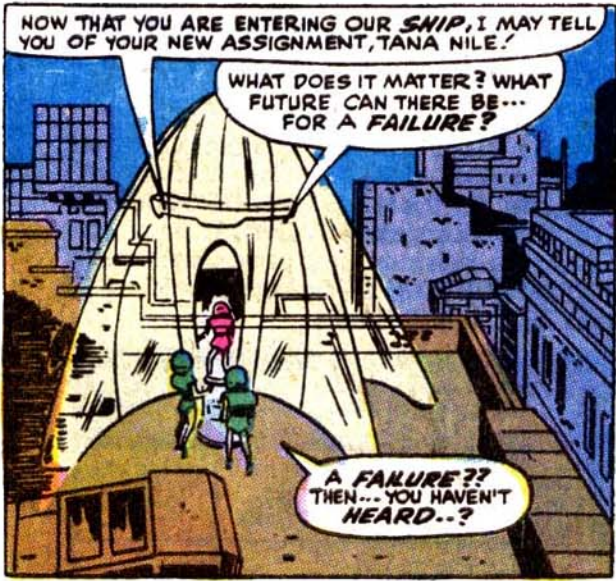
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE ROOF, CAPTAIN!

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY LEGAL REASON TO STOP THEM... NOT THAT I'M SURE WE COULD, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO!

BY MY AUTHORITY AS AN AVENGER, I SAY STAND BACK! SHE SHALL BE PROPERLY DEALT WITH UPON HER OWN PLANET! UNDER THE LAWS OF RIGEL!

HE REALLY MEANS IT! HE THINKS THEY ARE TAKIN' HER TO ANOTHER PLANET!

Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', CHARLIE? WE MAY ALL BE CANDIDATES FOR A PADDED CELL!



NOW THAT YOU ARE ENTERING OUR SHIP, I MAY TELL YOU OF YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT, TANA NILE!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WHAT FUTURE CAN THERE BE... FOR A FAILURE?

A FAILURE?? THEN... YOU HAVEN'T HEARD..?



SINCE RIGEL IS SAFE FOREVER FROM THE BLACK GALAXY, YOU ARE TO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST REWARD FOR HAVING A PART IN OUR GOOD FORTUNE!

YOU HAD YEARNED TO RULE A PLANET... BUT NOW, YOU SHALL RULE A GALAXY!

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS CHOSEN YOU... FOR HIS WIFE!

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER... WHOM I HAVE LOVED FROM AFAR FOR YEARS!

THEN... ON TO RIGEL... WHERE WAITS MY HEART'S DESIRE!



IT'S OVER! THEY'RE GONE! BUT... HOW CAN WE EVER TALK ABOUT THIS?? WHO'S GONNA BELIEVE US?

BELIEVE WHAT, SAM? SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT NEVER HAPPENED!

THEY CALLED THIS A PSYCHE-SEARCH GAUGE! CAN IT TRULY LOCATE THE ONE I LOVE?

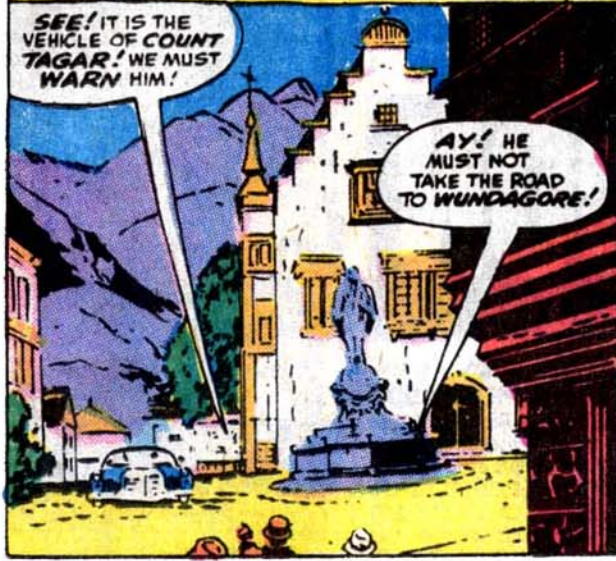


FOR, UNLESS I FIND JANE FOSTER, I... WAIT!!

NO SOONER DID I THINK HER NAME, THAN A LIGHT APPEARED UPON THE GAUGE... LIKE A LIVING BEACON, POINTING THE WAY TO MY BELOVED!

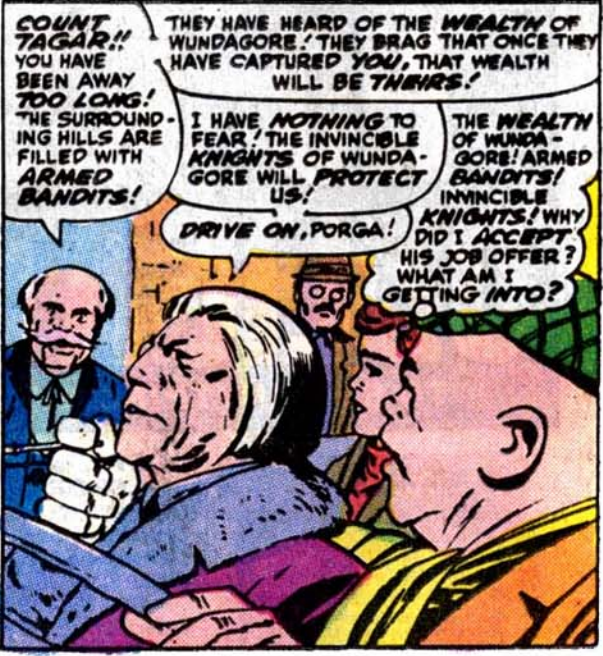
I MUST GO TO HER... THOUGH ALL THE POWER IN THE COSMOS ATTEMPTS TO BAR MY WAY!

BUT, THE MAGIC OF THE PRINTED PAGE IS EVEN GREATER THAN THAT OF THOR... THUS, WE ARE ABLE TO FIND JANE FOSTER FIRST! OUR SCENE IS THE VILLAGE SQUARE IN A SMALL EUROPEAN PRINCIPALITY..



SEE! IT IS THE VEHICLE OF COUNT TAGAR! WE MUST WARN HIM!

AY! HE MUST NOT TAKE THE ROAD TO WUNDAGORE!



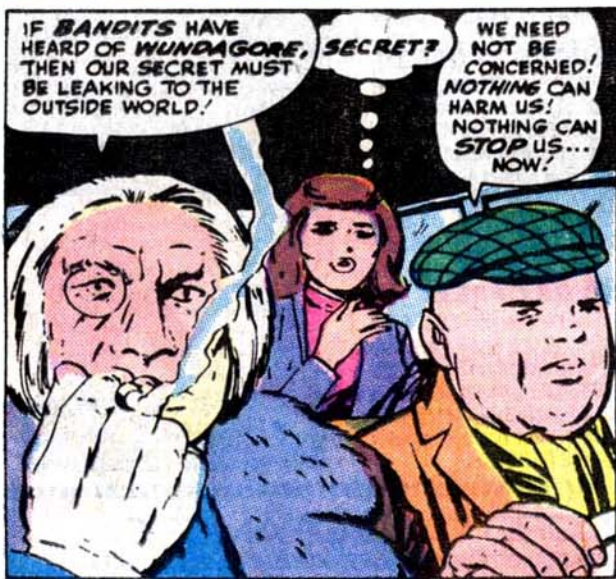
COUNT TAGAR!! YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG! THE SURROUNDING HILLS ARE FILLED WITH ARMED BANDITS!

THEY HAVE HEARD OF THE WEALTH OF WUNDAGORE! THEY BRAG THAT ONCE THEY HAVE CAPTURED YOU, THAT WEALTH WILL BE THEIRS!

I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! THE INVINCIBLE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE WILL PROTECT US!

THE WEALTH OF WUNDAGORE! ARMED BANDITS! INVINCIBLE KNIGHTS! WHY DID I ACCEPT HIS JOB OFFER? WHAT AM I GETTING INTO?

DRIVE ON, PORGA!



IF BANDITS HAVE HEARD OF WUNDAGORE, THEN OUR SECRET MUST BE LEAKING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

SECRET?

WE NEED NOT BE CONCERNED! NOTHING CAN HARM US! NOTHING CAN STOP US... NOW!



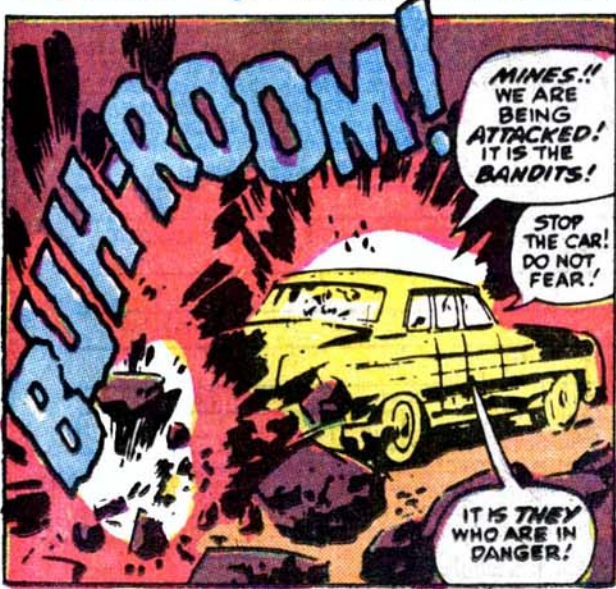
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS PLANNED TOO WELL! WUNDAGORE IS GREATER THAN ANYONE CAN EVER IMAGINE!

IT IS THEM!

QUICK! RADIO AHEAD! TELL THEM THAT COUNT TAGAR IS APPROACHING!

THEY WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

CODE THREE! VICTIM APPROACHING...!!



BUM ROOM!

MINES!! WE ARE BEING ATTACKED! IT IS THE BANDITS!

STOP THE CAR! DO NOT FEAR!

IT IS THEY WHO ARE IN DANGER!



THEY'RE GETTING OUT OF THE CAR!!

THE OTHERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT! SEIZE COUNT TAGAR! HE WILL LEAD US TO THE TREASURES OF WUNDAGORE!

GRAB THEM! THEY MUSTN'T ESCAPE! SURROUND THEM!

ARRRHHH!
HE FIGHTS...
LIKE A
WILD
BEAST!!

BACK! BACK, YOU CRAVEN
CARRION! YOU DO NOT DREAM
WHOM YOU ARE ATTACKING!!

THRAPT!

STAY
BACK,
TAGAR! DON'T
COME ANY
CLOSER!!
I'M WARN-
ING YOU...!

HE'S TOO
DANGEROUS!!
THEY CAN'T
HOLD HIM! HE
MUSTN'T REACH
US!! FIRE!

FTHOK!

WHRRRIZZZZ

A BOLA!!
THROWN FROM...
THE SKY! LOOK
OUT!! ABOVE
US... NOOO!

SPLANG!

I CAN'T
MOVE!!
A METAL
LANCE IS
PINIONING
ME AGAINST
THE CLIFF!

OUR
WEAPONS
DON'T STOP
THEM!

KRAK!

RUN!! THEY'RE
ATTACKING FROM
THE SKY! THEY'LL
KILL US ALL!!
RUN!!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, ABOVE THE LONELY ROAD TO WUNDAGORE...

THE LIGHT ON THE GAUGE GLOWS BRIGHTER! I MUST BE NEARING JANE FOSTER!

THERE... IN THE SKY!! IT IS THE MIGHTY THOR!

EVEN HE WILL NOT GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN WUNDAGORE!

MEN LIMPING WEAKLY TOWARDS THE VILLAGE! WHAT CATASTROPHE CAN HAVE BEFALLEN THEM?

I MUST NOW DESCEND! PERHAPS THEY HAVE SEEN THE ONE I SEEK!

HOLD, FLEEING MORTALS! 'TIS THE THUNDER GOD WHO SPEAKS!

RUN?? AFTER THE DRUBBING WE TOOK? I COULDN'T RUN... FOR ANYTHING!

RUN! IT MUST BE ANOTHER OF THOSE THINGS FROM ABOVE!

I DO NOT FATHOM YOUR WORDS! WHAT THINGS FROM ABOVE HAVE ATTACKED YOU?

THEY... CALLED THEMSELVES... SOMETHING LIKE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE!! I SAW ONE OF THEM... WHEN HIS HELMET SHOOK LOOSE!! IT... IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!!

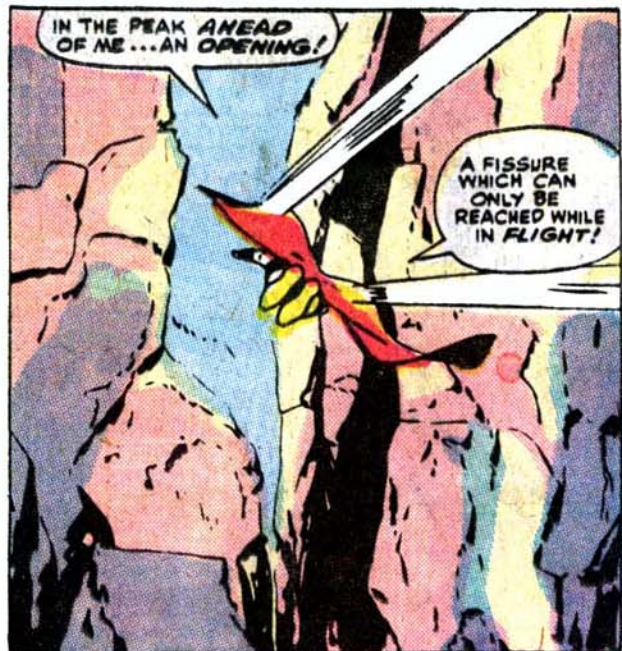
YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES! WHAT IS NOT POSSIBLE??

NO!! I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT! I CAN'T!! I CAN'T!!

THERE IS NO MORE TO BE GAINED BY INTERROGATING SUCH COWARDLY CREATURES AS THEY!

AND YET... WHAT MADE THEM AS THEY ARE? IT IS AS THOUGH THEIR EYES BEHELD A SIGHT WHICH THEIR MINDS COULD NOT COMPREHEND!

YONDER MOUNTAINS MUST SURELY HOLD THE SECRET! AND SO, 'TIS THERE THE THUNDER GOD MUST FLY!!



IN THE PEAK AHEAD OF ME...AN OPENING!

A FISSURE WHICH CAN ONLY BE REACHED WHILE IN FLIGHT!

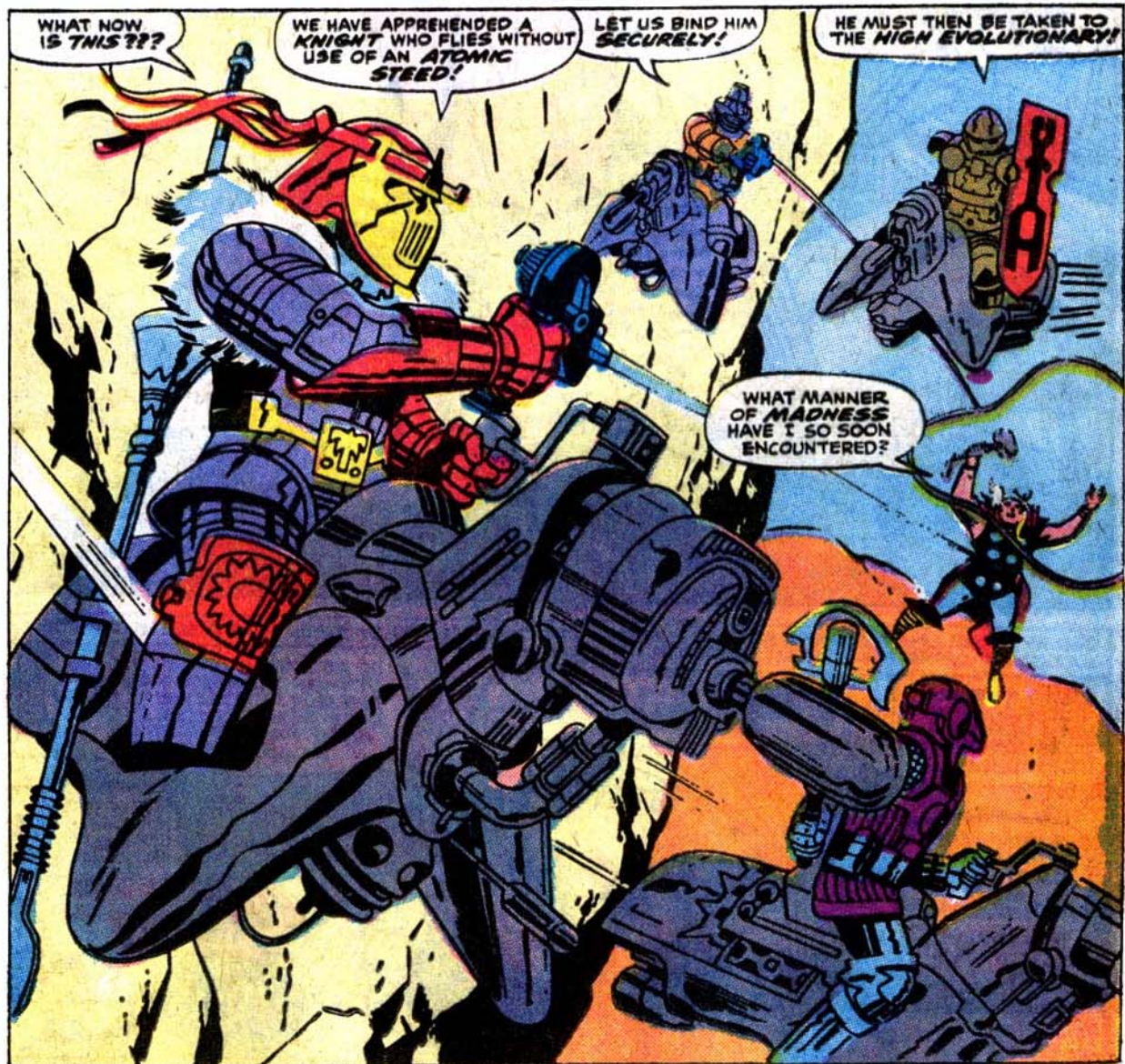


BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE SON OF ODIN ZOOM THROUGH THE CREVICE, WHEN...

A LASSO!! ENCIRCLING MY BODY!

BUT, 'TIS NO ORDINARY LARIAT, THIS!!

IN TRUTH, IT IS FASHIONED OF THE FINEST TEMPERED STEEL!!



WHAT NOW IS THIS???

WE HAVE APPREHENDED A KNIGHT WHO FLIES A WITHOUT USE OF AN ATOMIC STEED!

LET US BIND HIM SECURELY!

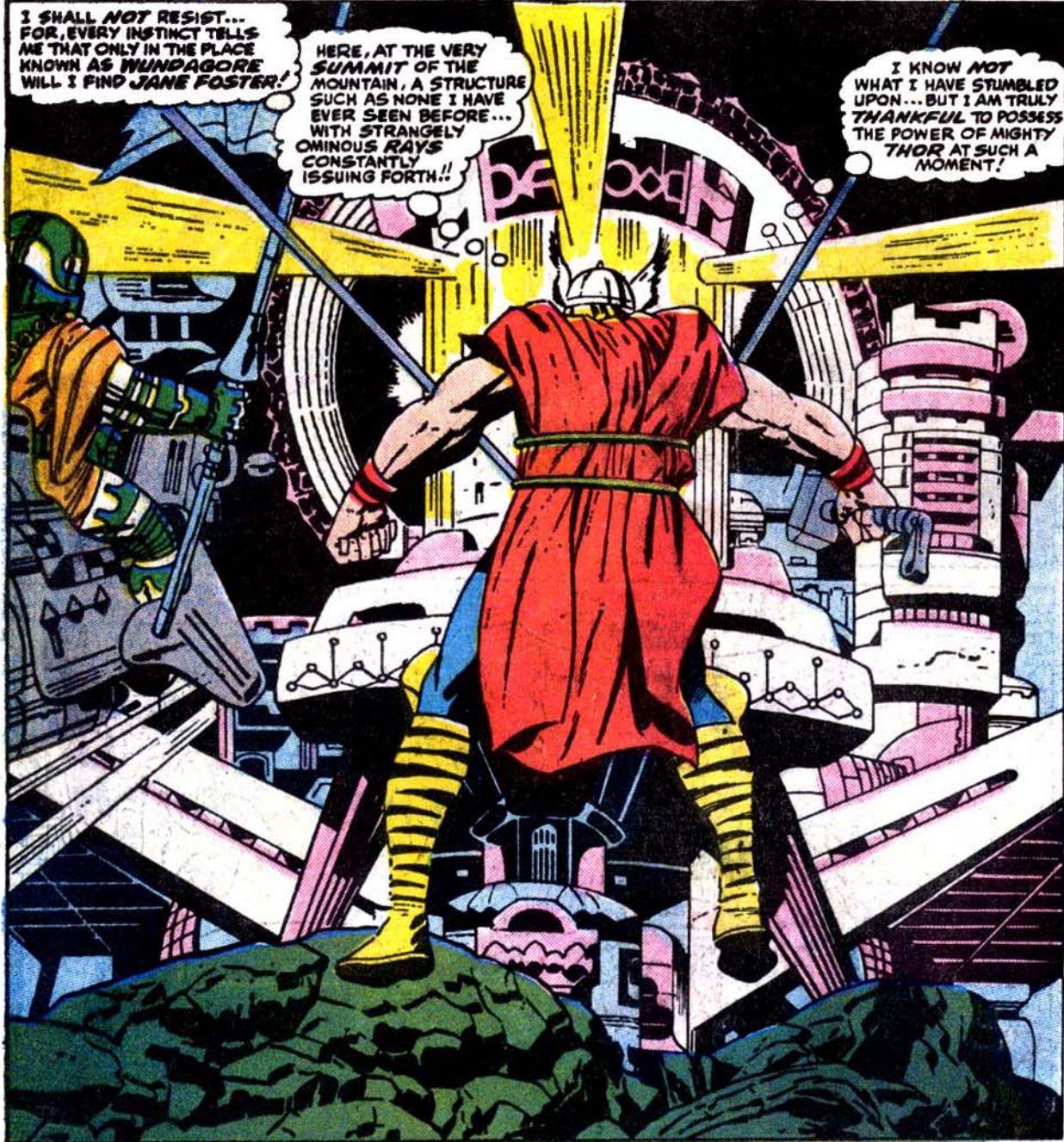
HE MUST THEN BE TAKEN TO THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!

WHAT MANNER OF MADNESS HAVE I SO SOON ENCOUNTERED?

I SHALL NOT RESIST... FOR, EVERY INSTINCT TELLS ME THAT ONLY IN THE PLACE KNOWN AS **WUNDAGORE** WILL I FIND **JANE FOSTER**!

HERE, AT THE VERY **SUMMIT** OF THE MOUNTAIN, A STRUCTURE SUCH AS NONE I HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE... WITH **STRANGELY OMINOUS RAYS** CONSTANTLY ISSUING FORTH!!

I KNOW NOT WHAT I HAVE STUMBLER UPON... BUT I AM TRULY **THANKFUL** TO POSSESS THE POWER OF MIGHTY **THOR** AT SUCH A MOMENT!



FINALLY, AFTER LANDING ATOP A BARREN PLATFORM, THE THUNDER GOD SPEAKS... AS A SILENT, IRIS-TYPE ENTRANCE OPENS MENACINGLY BEHIND HIM...!

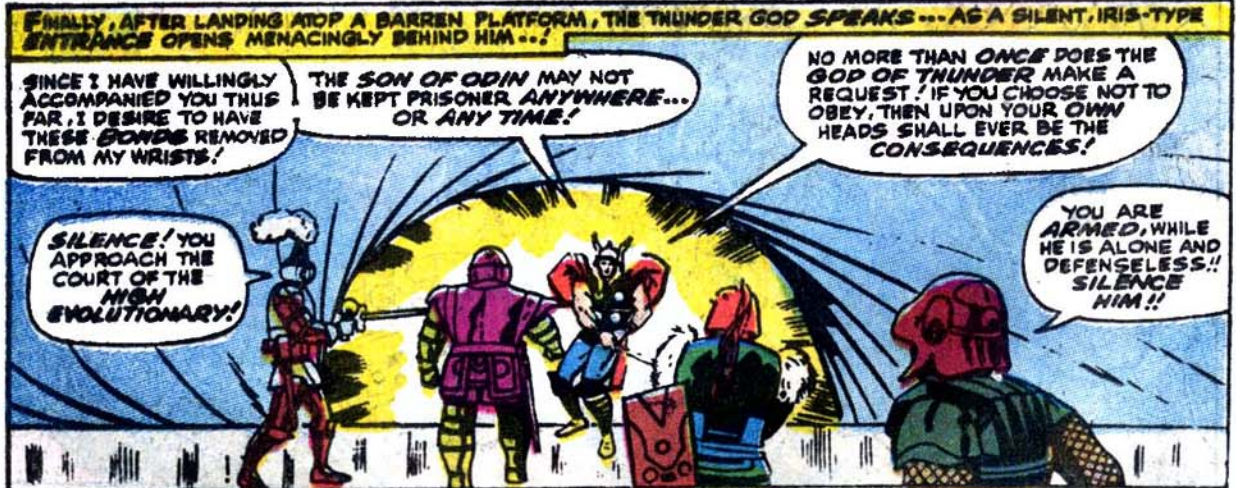
SINCE I HAVE WILLINGLY ACCOMPANIED YOU THUS FAR, I DESIRE TO HAVE THESE **BONDS** REMOVED FROM MY WRISTS!

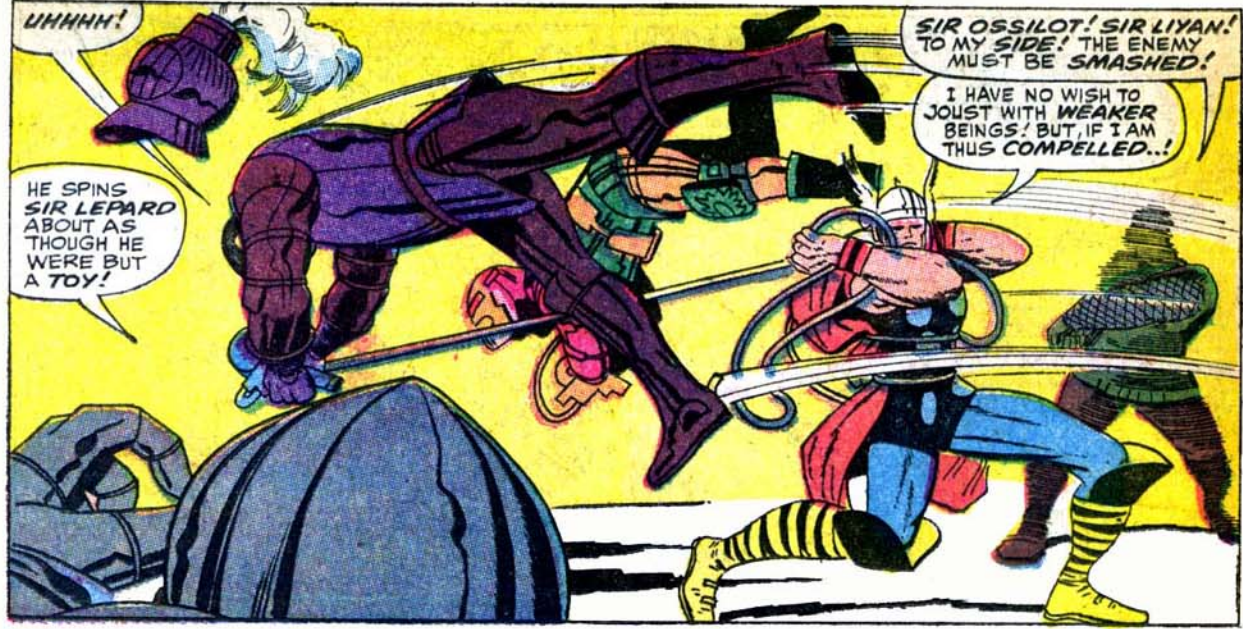
THE SON OF ODIN MAY NOT BE KEPT PRISONER ANYWHERE... OR ANY TIME!

NO MORE THAN **ONCE** DOES THE GOD OF THUNDER MAKE A REQUEST! IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO OBEY, THEN UPON YOUR OWN HEADS SHALL EVER BE THE **CONSEQUENCES**!

SILENCE! YOU APPROACH THE COURT OF THE **HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!**

YOU ARE **ARMED**, WHILE HE IS ALONE AND DEFENSELESS!! **SILENCE HIM!!**



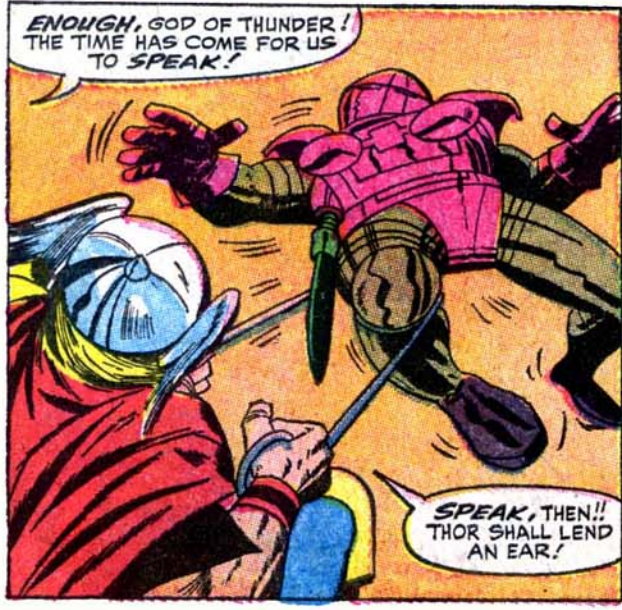


UHHHH!

HE SPINS SIR LEOPARD ABOUT AS THOUGH HE WERE BUT A TOY!

SIR OSSILO! SIR LIYAN! TO MY SIDE! THE ENEMY MUST BE SMASHED!

I HAVE NO WISH TO JOUST WITH WEAKER BEINGS! BUT, IF I AM THUS COMPELLED...



ENOUGH, GOD OF THUNDER! THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO SPEAK!

SPEAK, THEN!! THOR SHALL LEND AN EAR!



ALL OF YOU... BEATEN BY ONE INTRUDER! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY SHALL HEAR OF THIS!

ON YOUR FEET!! THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS... BUT TOO FEW ANSWERS!

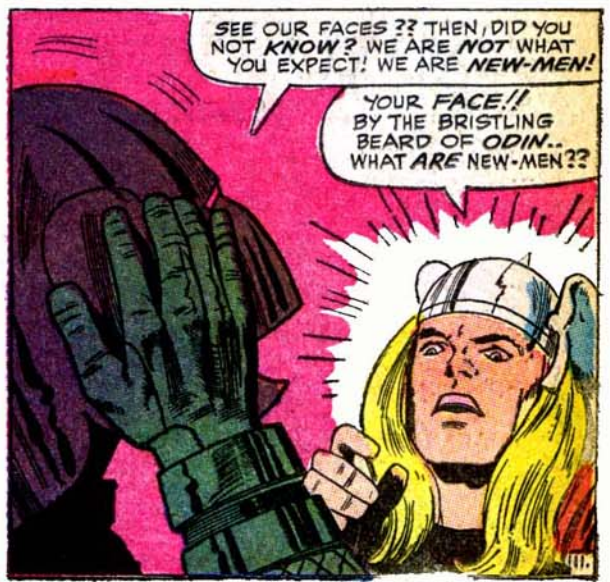
YOU MUST REMEMBER... HE IS NO MERE HUMAN!



I SHALL REMOVE YOUR BONDS! YOU ARE WORTHY OF A FAR MORE *DIGNIFIED* ENTRANCE TO THE LAND OF WUNDAGORE..!

IF THE FIGHTING IS ENDED, REMOVE THEN YOUR HELMETS!

I DESIRE TO SEE THE *FACES* OF MY FOES!



SEE OUR FACES ?? THEN, DID YOU NOT KNOW? WE ARE NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT! WE ARE *NEW-MEN*!

YOUR FACE!! BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN... WHAT ARE *NEW-MEN*??

FEAR NOT, FRANTIC ONE! WE SHALL HAVE THE ANSWER TO THOR'S QUESTION IN DUE TIME! BUT FIRST, LET'S VISIT A VALLEY JUST BELOW THE MACABRE MOUNTAIN, WHERE WE FIND...

IF YOU OUTFRAN MY LAMBORGHINI 330 GT, PIETRO, I'LL NEVER TALK TO YOU AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY, WANDA! I'LL PROMISE TO RUN ONLY AT HALF-SPEED!



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CANNOT HOLD MYSELF BACK ENOUGH TO LET MY SISTER KEEP UP WITH ME!

BUT, I KNOW SHE IS AS JOYFUL AS I THAT WE HAVE BOTH REGAINED OUR POWERS SO COMPLETELY!

QUICKSILVER-- WAIT! YOU'RE LIABLE TO LOSE ME!



* IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHO THESE TWO NEWCOMERS ARE, IT PROVES YOU HAVEN'T READ THE AVENGERS, OR THE EARLIER ISSUES OF X-MEN! SHAME ON YOU! ANYWAY, THEY'RE MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS WHO RETURNED TO EUROPE HOPING TO REGAIN THEIR WANING MUTANT POWERS. --SUCINCT STAN!

THEN, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER CATCH YOU! IT'S TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED WITH DISC BRAKES!

WANDA.. LOOK.. ATOP THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE US...

THAT STRANGELY FLICKERING LIGHT!

I CANNOT TAKE MY EYES OFF IT!



REMEMBER THE LEGENDS, WANDA? WE WERE TOLD THAT SUCH A LIGHT FLASHED ABOVE THE MOUNTAINS ON THE NIGHT WE WERE BORN!

YES, PIETRO... YES! IT WAS SAID THAT ITS BRILLIANCE SEEMED TO LIGHT UP THE ENTIRE SKY!



DO YOU THINK...? CAN IT BE POSSIBLE THAT OUR OWN MUTANT-TYPE POWERS ARE IN SOME WAY RELATED TO... THAT??

I DO NOT KNOW, WANDA! AND YET...A NAME ECHOES IN MY BRAIN...

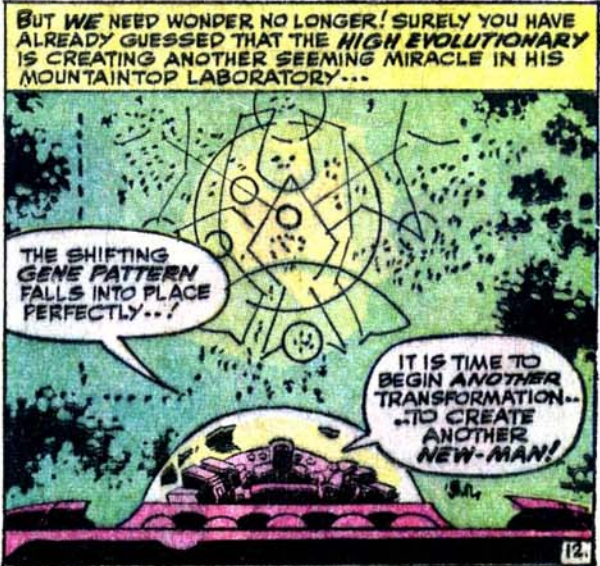
I HAVE HEARD STRANGE TALES OF THE MIRACLE LAND OF... WUNDA-GORE! NOW, I WONDER..?



BUT WE NEED WONDER NO LONGER! SURELY YOU HAVE ALREADY GUESSED THAT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY IS CREATING ANOTHER SEEMING MIRACLE IN HIS MOUNTAINTOP LABORATORY...

THE SHIFTING GENE PATTERN FALLS INTO PLACE PERFECTLY...!

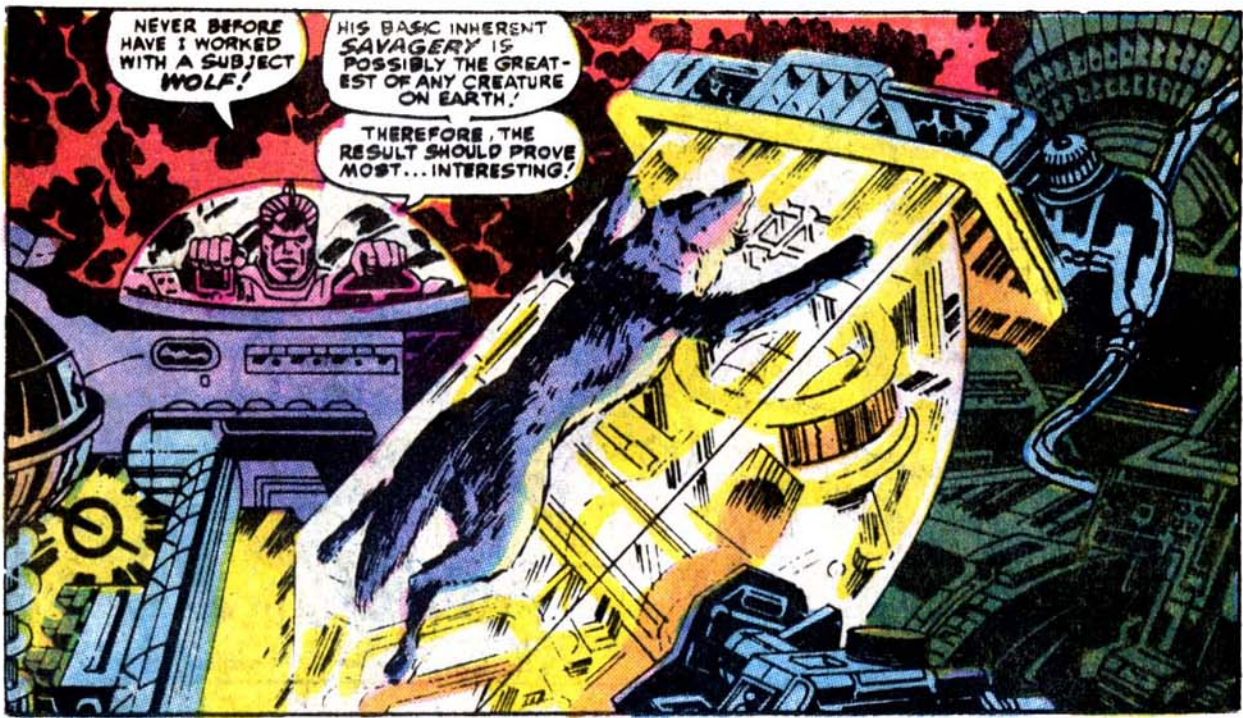
IT IS TIME TO BEGIN ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION... TO CREATE ANOTHER NEW-MAN!



NEVER BEFORE
HAVE I WORKED
WITH A SUBJECT
WOLF!

HIS BASIC INHERENT
SAVAGERY IS
POSSIBLY THE GREAT-
EST OF ANY CREATURE
ON EARTH!

THEREFORE, THE
RESULT SHOULD PROVE
MOST... INTERESTING!



NOW... HIS BODY
BEGINS TO ACHIEVE
TEMPORAL MOTION!



HIS GENES ARE
ALREADY
RESHIFTING...!

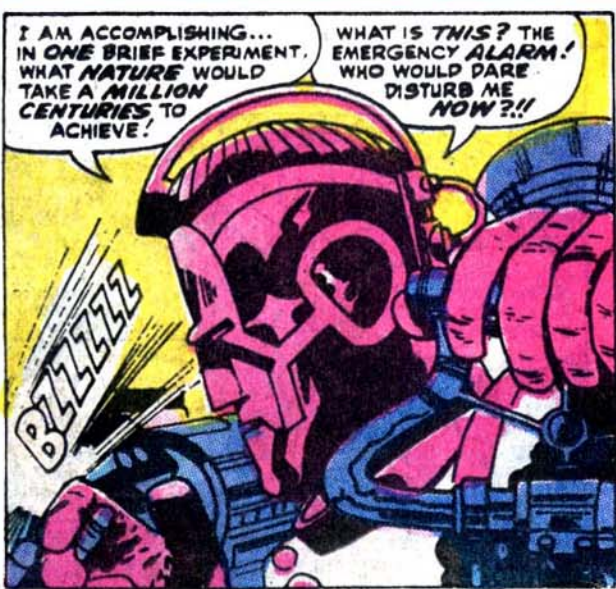


ALL THESE YEARS...
ALL THESE CHANGES...
AND NEVER A
FAILURE!



I AM ACCOMPLISHING...
IN ONE BRIEF EXPERIMENT.
WHAT NATURE WOULD
TAKE A MILLION
CENTURIES TO
ACHIEVE!

WHAT IS THIS? THE
EMERGENCY ALARM!
WHO WOULD DARE
DISTURB ME
NOW?!!



AN OUTSIDER!! HERE IN
THE SACRED GENETIC
CHAMBER!!

FORGIVE US,
MASTER! WE COULD
NOT RESTRAIN HIM!

THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY!!
THEN, 'TIS YOU
I SEEK!





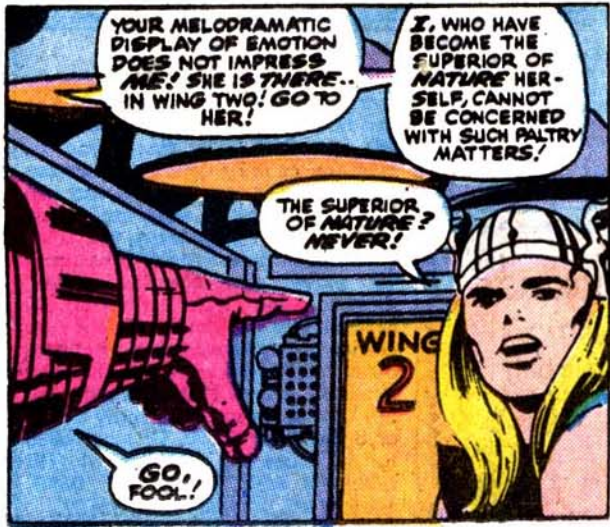
THIS INTRUSION IS UNFORGIVEABLE!! WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE? SPEAK... WHILE YOU STILL MAY!

HE REFERS TO HIMSELF AS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER... SON OF ODIN, MASTER!

HIS POWER IS GREATER THAN ANY WE HAVE EVER BEHELD... SAVE FOR YOURS, MASTER!

HE CLAIMS HE SEEKS THE FEMALE... SHE WHO IS CALLED JANE FOSTER!

IF SHE BE HERE, NO POWER ON EARTH SHALL KEEP ME FROM HER SIDE!



YOUR MELODRAMATIC DISPLAY OF EMOTION DOES NOT IMPRESS ME! SHE IS THERE.. IN WING TWO; GO TO HER!

I, WHO HAVE BECOME THE SUPERIOR OF NATURE HERSELF, CANNOT BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH PALTRY MATTERS!

THE SUPERIOR OF NATURE? NEVER!

GO, FOOL!

WING 2

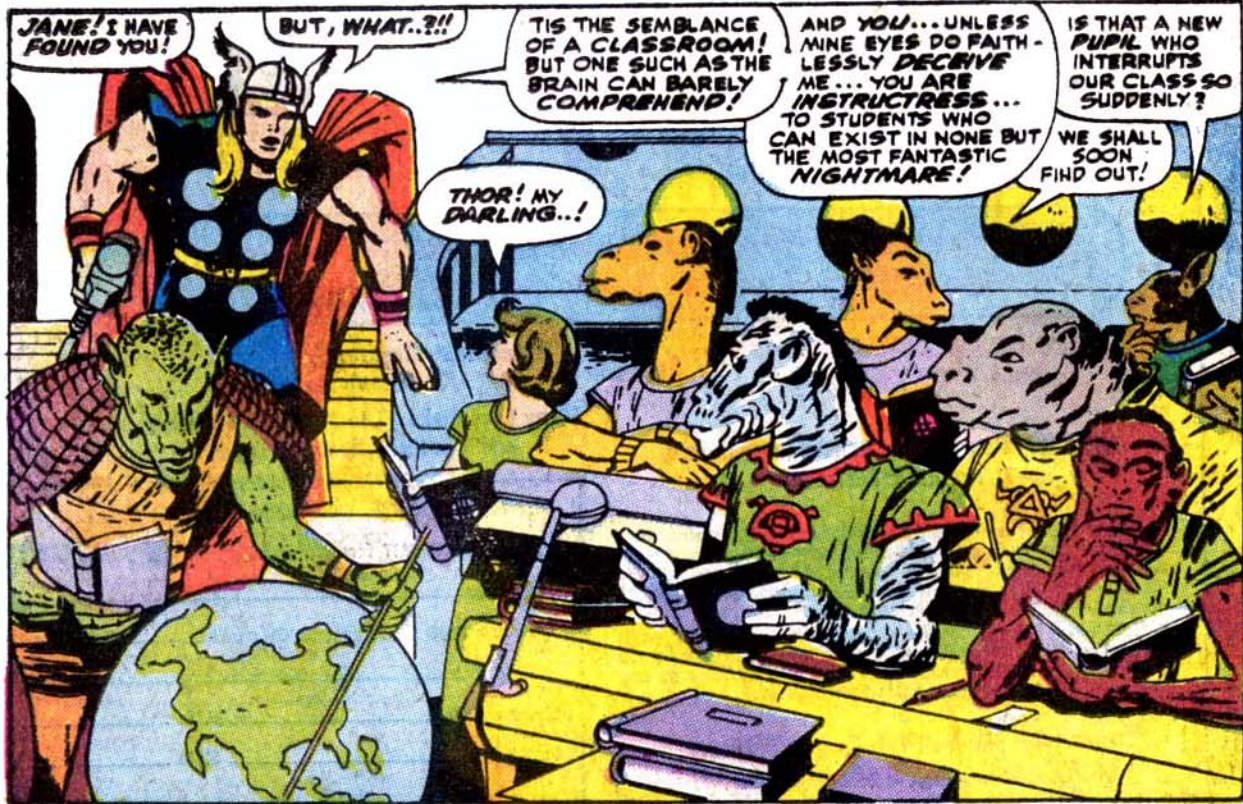


TRULY, THIS PLACE SEEMS TINGED WITH MADNESS!

BUT, MY FIRST CONCERN IS FINDING THE ONE I LOVE! AND, WOE TO ANY WHO ATTEMPT TO DETER ME!

THUD!

SLAM!



JANE! I HAVE FOUND YOU!

BUT, WHAT...?!!

'TIS THE SEMBLANCE OF A CLASSROOM! BUT ONE SUCH AS THE BRAIN CAN BARELY COMPREHEND!

AND YOU... UNLESS MINE EYES DO FAITHLESSLY DECEIVE ME... YOU ARE INSTRUCTRESS... TO STUDENTS WHO CAN EXIST IN NONE BUT THE MOST FANTASTIC NIGHTMARE!

IS THAT A NEW PUPIL WHO INTERRUPTS OUR CLASS SO SUDDENLY?

WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT!

THOR! MY DARLING...!

DEAREST... DO NOT BE ALARMED! I CAN EXPLAIN ALL THIS!

I'M TEACHING THEM... ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE!

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU, MY BELOVED!

THERE IS AN AURA HERE... OF GROWING EVIL!!

BUT, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS DONE NO HARM! HE IS MERELY EXPERIMENTING WITH THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS... CREATING A RACE OF NEW-MEN!

THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN YOU SUSPECT! BY ASGARD, I LIKE IT NOT!

AND, EVEN AS THOR UTTERS HIS FATEFULLY PROPHETIC WORDS...

I LEFT MY EVOLUTIONARY RAY UNATTENDED FOR TOO LONG!

NOW, THE VERY DEADLINESS OF MY OWN RAYS PREVENTS ME FROM RETURNING TO MY SUBJECT!

IT IS THE FAULT OF THE ONE CALLED THOR! IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS ACCURSED INTRUSION!!

BLOOM!

MASTER! WHAT OF THE WOLF? HE IS STILL WITHIN...!!

HIS EVOLUTION WILL BE SPEEDED UP FURTHER THAN I WOULD EVER DARE TO GO... NO ONE CAN SAY WHAT THE DREAD RESULT WILL BE!

CAN YOU NOT HALT THE MACHINE?

NO! IT IS... TOO LATE!

SHOULD MY BESTIAL SUBJECT SURVIVE, HE WILL BE FAR MORE THAN A NEW-MAN... FAR MORE THAN A WOLF WHOSE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WAS SPEEDED UP!!

IN POINT OF FACT, HE WILL BE THE ULTIMATE END OF EVOLUTION... A COMBINATION OF THE SUPREME MAN... COUPLED WITH THE SUPREME BEAST!!

HIS POWER WILL BE TOO AWESOME TO IMAGINE!! AND, IF HE SHOULD BE EVIL...!

MINUTES LATER, WITHIN THE STILL-SMOLDERING LABORATORY... THE MISTS BEGIN TO CLEAR, AND A LOW, GUTTERAL, MORE-THAN-HUMAN VOICE INTONES...

I LIVE!!

I FEEL!!

AND MORE...

I HATE!!

AUTOMATICALLY, WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, THE BROODING MAN-BEAST ALLOWS HIS MIND TO PROBE RIGHT THROUGH THE CONCRETE WALL...

I SENSE LIFE NEARBY!!

AND WHATEVER LIVES, MUST BE MY ENEMY... MUST BE DESTROYED!

FOLLOW ME! I SHALL LEAD YOU FROM THIS PLACE... WHILE THERE IS TIME!

..THEIR TIME HAS FINALLY... RUN OUT!!

WE'RE BEING WATCHED! I CAN FEEL IT!

IT IS TOO LATE FOR FLIGHT! THE DANGER IS UPON US!

NEXT: THE FUTURE MAN-BEAST!

BUT THEN, THE FLEEING DUO REALIZE...

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

WHEN SPEAKS THE DRAGON!

AT THE FARTHEST REACHES OF ASGARD, LIES THE FORBIDDEN DOMAIN KNOWN AS *NASTROND*... A LAND WHERE *NOTHING LIVES*--NOT A TREE--NOT A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS--NOT THE HUMBLEST INSECT! IT IS HERE, TO *NASTROND*, THAT MIGHTY *THOR* AND HIS COMPANIONS RIDE--

IN THIS LAND ONCE LIVED AN *EVIL RACE* WHO DARED DEFEY REGAL *ODIN* HIMSELF!

SO MONUMENTAL WAS *ODIN'S WRATH*, THAT HE LAID WASTE THE COUNTRY--SIDE, SO THAT *NOTHING* HERE COULD LIVE!

NOW, THESE LONG YEARS AFTER, HE BIDS US *INSPECT* THIS LAND AND SURVEY HIS AWESOME HANDIWORK!

SO COME YE--*FANDRAL*, THE DASHING--*HOGUN*, THE GRIM--AND VORACIOUS *VOLSTAGG*--

LET US *COMPLETE* YON MISSION AND THEN *BEGONE!*

A
STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY
PICTORIAL PRESENTATION

DELINEATED BY:
VINCENT COLLETTA

LETTERED BY:
ARTIE SIMEK

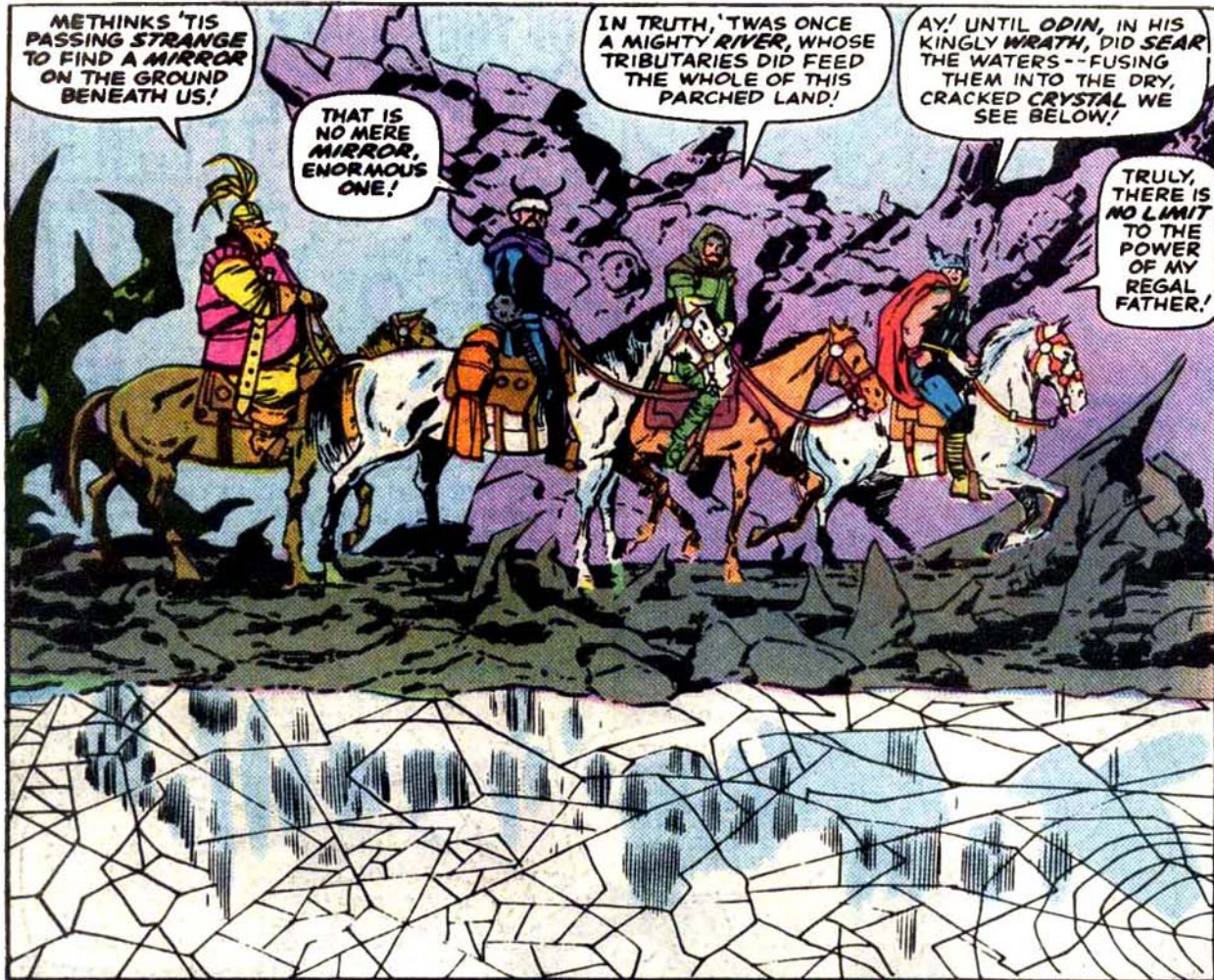
METHINKS 'TIS PASSING STRANGE TO FIND A MIRROR ON THE GROUND BENEATH US!

THAT IS NO MERE MIRROR, ENORMOUS ONE!

IN TRUTH, 'T WAS ONCE A MIGHTY RIVER, WHOSE TRIBUTARIES DID FEED THE WHOLE OF THIS PARCHED LAND!

AY! UNTIL ODIN, IN HIS KINGLY WRATH, DID SEAR THE WATERS--FUSING THEM INTO THE DRY, CRACKED CRYSTAL WE SEE BELOW!

TRULY, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE POWER OF MY REGAL FATHER!



WE HAVE SEEN ALL THERE IS TO BEHOLD!

THUS, LET US MAKE OUR CAMP, AND REPAIR FOR ASGARD WHEN THE MORROW COMES!

TO SLEEP THEN, ALL!

NEVER HAVE I KNOWN A LAND SO FRAUGHT WITH GLOOM--SO HEAVY LADEN WITH AN AIR OF DARK FOREBODING!

SO LONG AS MY BLADE BE AT MY SIDE, FANDRAL HAS NO TIME FOR SUCH DIRE MUSINGS!

VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL SERVE AS GUARD, WITH UNBLINKING EYE--AND ETERNAL VIGIL!



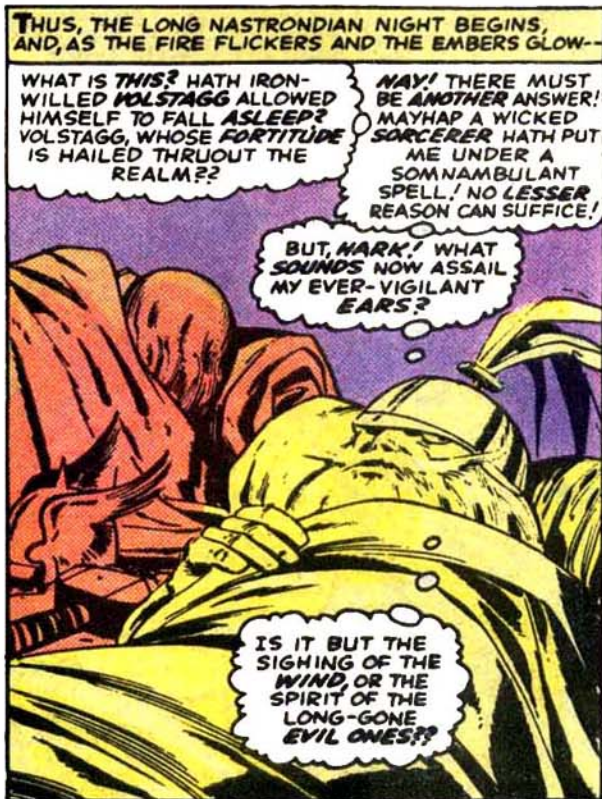
THUS, THE LONG NASTRONDIAN NIGHT BEGINS, AND, AS THE FIRE FLICKERS AND THE EMBERS GLOW--

WHAT IS THIS? HATH IRON-WILLED VOLSTAGG ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL ASLEEP? VOLSTAGG, WHOSE FORTITUDE IS HAILED THRUOUT THE REALM??

MAY! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ANSWER! MAYHAP A WICKED SORCERER HATH PUT ME UNDER A SOMNAMBULANT SPELL! NO LESSER REASON CAN SUFFICE!

BUT, HARK! WHAT SOUNDS NOW ASSAIL MY EVER-VIGILANT EARS?

IS IT BUT THE SIGHING OF THE WIND, OR THE SPIRIT OF THE LONG-GONE EVIL ONES??





VOLSTAG! HEAR ME, VOLSTAG!
MAKE THOU NO NOISE--NO SOUND!

MY NAME!
I AM BEING SUMMONED!

BUT,
BY WHOM??

IN THIS LAND OF DEATH, AND
DESOLATION--
WHO CAN IT BE??



AH HA! I HAVE
CAUGHT YOU!

NONE CAN ESCAPE
THE WATCHFUL EYE
OF VOLSTAG WHEN
HE DEVOTES HIS
FEARSOME TALENTS
TO GUARD DUTY!

TRUE, MIGHTY WARRIOR--
TRUE, BUT, WAS IT NOT
I WHO AWOKE THEE?

DIDST THOU THINK I
SLEPT? KNOW THEE
NOT 'T WAS BUT A
RUSE, TO ENTRAP
THEE!

BE THAT AS
IT MAY-- I
HAVE AN
OFFER TO
MAKE THEE!

LAUGH! WHAT
CAN SUCH AS
THOU OFFER
THE WELL-FAMED
VOLSTAG?

ATTEND MY WORDS,
MOUNTAINOUS
ONE--AND THOU
SHALT LEARN--!



I CAN LEAD THEE
TO THE CAVE OF
THE ANCIENTS--
WHERE NO ASGARDIAN
HATH EVER TROD!
THERE, THOU WILT
FIND KNOWLEDGE
FIT ONLY FOR THE
GREATEST OF
WARRIORS!

TRULY THOU ART A WISE
AND PROFICIENT JUDGE OF
CHARACTER!

LEAD ON, ANCIENT ONE--
ALTHOUGH THERE CAN
HARDLY BE KNOWLEDGE
ANYWHERE WHICH I DO
NOT ALREADY POSSESS!

WHEN THE OTHERS
AWAKE, WHAT RARE
SPORT IT SHALL BE
TO REGALE THEM
WITH TALES OF YON
LITTLE ADVENTURE!



THAT WHICH AWAITS
THEE IN THE CAVE
OF THE ANCIENTS
SHALL COVER THEE
WITH GLORY EVER-
LASTING!

'TIS ONLY
FITTING
FOR ONE
WITH THE
COURAGE
AND
WISDOM
OF
VOLSTAG!

THAT GIGANTIC CAVERN BEFORE US--METHINKS WE HAVE FOUND OUR DESTINATION!

IN TRUTH, 'T WAS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE RULER OF THIS LAND--BEFORE A VENGEFUL ODIN BANISHED ALL AND SUNDRY!

ONE QUESTION YET PERPLEXES ME! IF ALL WERE BANISHED--AND NO LIFE HERE ENDURES--FROM WHENCE IS IT THAT THOU HAST COME??

BUT, BEFORE THE GENEROUSLY-PROPORTIONED WARRIOR'S GUIDE CAN ANSWER HIM--

A RADIANT POOL--WHERE DEADLY RAYS OF SHIMMERING ENERGY FEED UPON THEMSELVES ETERNALLY!

STAND YE BACK, AGED ONE! 'TIS DEATH TO VENTURE CLOSER!

THE LAST KING OF MASTROND LIKEWISE FEARED YON RAYS--EVEN AS THOU, GELATINOUS ONE!

BUT, HE WAS TO LEARN THAT THEY WERE NOT DEADLY!!


INSTEAD, LONG YEARS OF EXPOSURE CHANGED THE FORM OF THE ANCIENT RULER--AND BESTOWED UPON HIM A MATCHLESS POWER--

THE POWER TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF AN AGED MAN!!

'TIS A TRAP! TRUSTING VOLSTAGG HATH BEEN SHAMEFULLY BETRAYED!

YES, THE RADIANT POOL BROUGHT A GREAT CHANGE TO THE ANCIENT KING'S BODY!! IT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A CREATURE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IN THIS DEADLY LAND!

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?? A MONSTROUS HAND--LARGER BY FAR THAN ALL OF VOLSTAGG!!



BEHOLD FAFNIR,
THOU SNIVELLING,
QUAKING JELLY-
FISH OF A
WARRIOR!!

I AM HE
THAT WAS
THE
ANCIENT
KING!

I AM HE
WHOM ODIN--
ACCURSED BE
HIS NAME--
STRIPPED OF
HIS POWER,
HIS SUBJECTS,
HIS REALM!

FOR UNTOLD AGES
HAVE I WAITED
HERE--GATHERING
NEW **STRENGTH**,
NEW **POWER** WITH
EACH PASSING DAY--

AND, ALWAYS
WAITING--
HOPING--FOR
A VISITATION
FROM THE
SONS OF
ASGARD!

BUT, MY
FORTUNE IS
GREATER
THAN EVER I
DARED TO
HOPE!

FOR **THOR**
HIMSELF, SON
OF **ODIN**, NOW
STRIDES MY
LAND--AND I
POSSESS A
PERFECT
HOSTAGE WITH
WHICH TO
ENTRAP HIM!

NEXT:
FAFNIR
STRIKES!