

THOR

15¢ 166
IND. JULY

THE MIGHTY THOR™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE THUNDER GOD
BATTLES
AS NEVER BEFORE!



A GOD BERSERK!

THE MIGHTY THOR!

A GOOD BERSERK!

THE MORE-
THAN-MORTAL
BEING KNOWN
AS HIM HATH
CAPTURED THE
GODDESS
SIF!

BUT THE
POWER OF
THOR SHALL
FIND HIM...AND
CRUSH HIM...
FORE'ER!

NONE
MAY THREATEN
MY MOST TRULY
BELOVED...
WITHOUT FACING
THE WRATH OF
THE THUNDER
GOD!

BROUGHT TO YOU IN ALL
ITS GLITTERING GLORY BY:

STAN JACK
(THE MAN) *And* (KING)
LEE KIRBY

VALIANT VINNIE COLLETTA
EMBELLISHER
SLAMMIN' SAMMY ROSEN,
LETTERER

PREPARE FOR
BATTLE!
SUCH AS THOU HAST
NEVER WITNESSED!

PREPARE FOR
DRAMA!
SUCH AS THOU HAST
NEVER KNOWN!



IN ALL THE *UNIVERSE*,
THERE BE *NO PLACE*
HE CAN *HIDE!*

IF A *GALAXY* PRO-
TECT HIM... THEN THE
GALAXY SHALL
CRUMBLE!

THOR SHALL *TOPPLE*
THE *PLANETS*
...LAY WASTE
TO THE
COSMOS...!

SON OF
ODIN... I
BID THEE
HOLD!

THY SEETHING
RAGE BIDS
FAIR TO MAKE
THEE *MAD!*

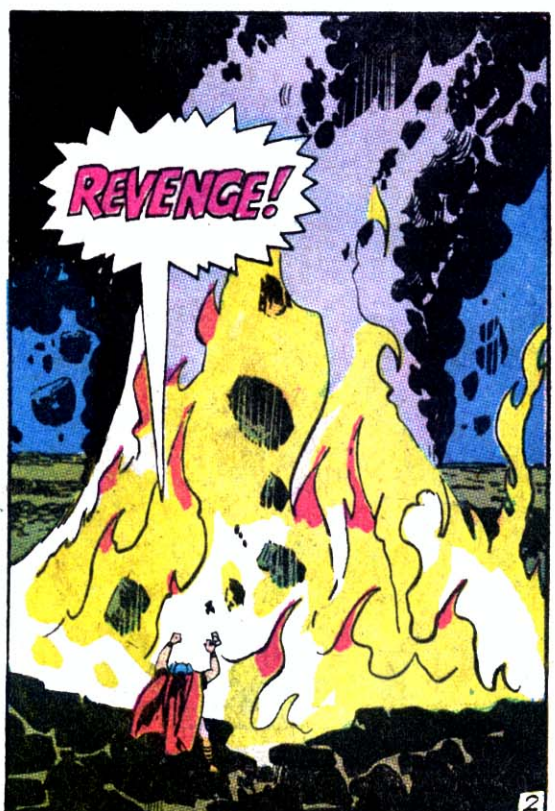


SPEAK NOT
TO THOR OF
MADNESS!

SPEAK
ONLY OF
REVENGE!



REVENGE!

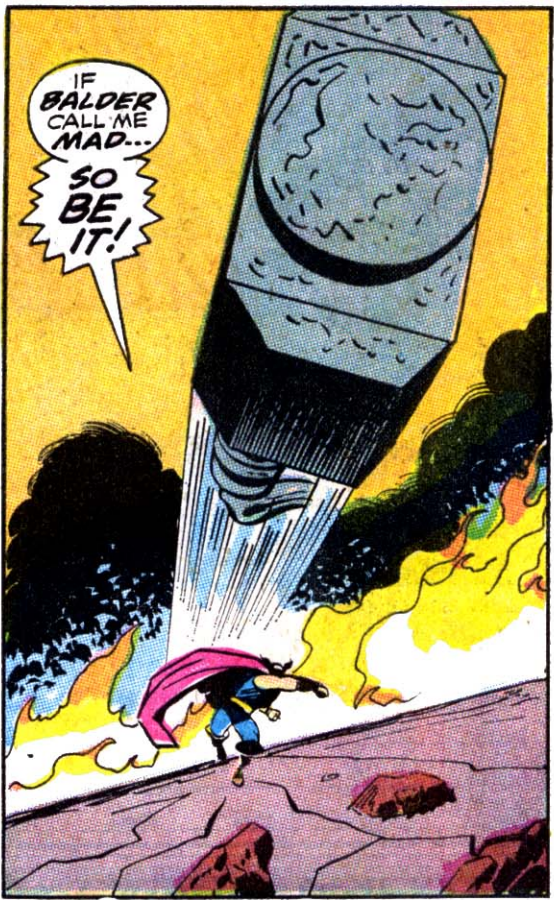


REVENGE!



REVENGE!

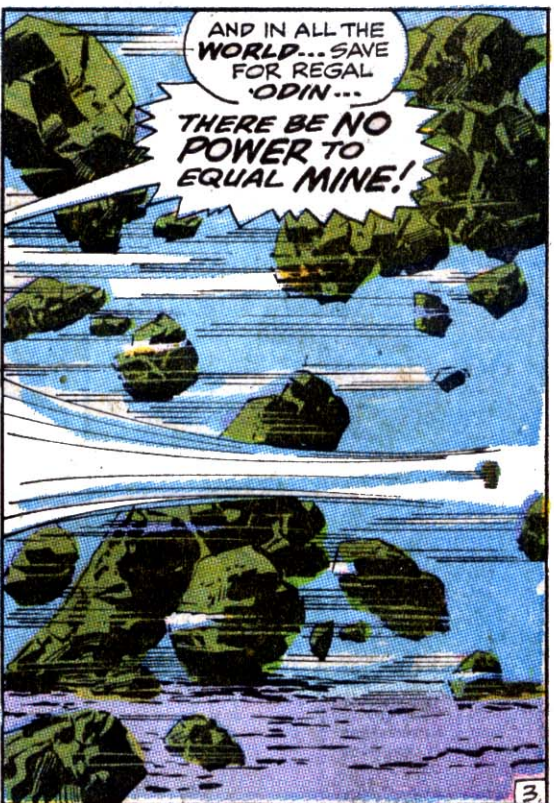
SUCH AS NONE WHO LIVE HAVE EVER KNOWN!



IF BALDER CALL ME MAD... SO BE IT!

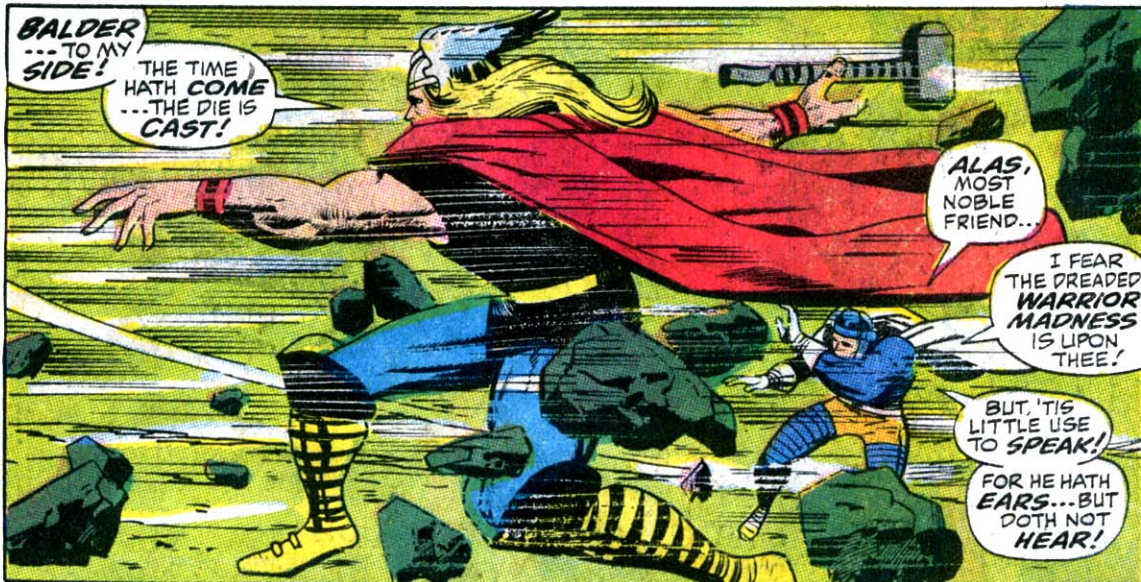


OF WHAT USE IS SANITY, WHEN NAUGHT BUT POWER WILL PREVAIL ??!



AND IN ALL THE WORLD... SAVE FOR REGAL 'ODIN...

THERE BE NO POWER TO EQUAL MINE!



BALDER
... TO MY
SIDE!
THE TIME
HATH COME
...THE DIE IS
CAST!

ALAS,
MOST
NOBLE
FRIEND...

I FEAR
THE DREADED
WARRIOR
MADNESS
IS UPON
THEE!

BUT, 'TIS
LITTLE USE
TO **SPEAK!**

FOR HE HATH
EARS... BUT
DOETH NOT
HEAR!



ONCE **MORE**
ENCHANTED
MJOLNIR
SHALL TAKE
US TO OUR
PREY--



AND THERE
HE SHALL BE
MINE TO
SEIZE... AND
STRIKE!



--AND
SLAY!



AT THAT VERY INSTANT IN TIME, AS THE
ASGARDIANS VANISH FROM SIGHT...LET US
TURN TO THE LAND OF THE **NORNS**, WHERE WE
FIND **KARNILLA**, THE MYSTIC QUEEN...

THOU DIDST
FAIL ME,
HAAG!

THOU DIDST
FIND THE
NOBLE **BALDER**
...ONLY TO LOSE
HIM ONCE AGAIN!*

MUST THY QUEEN
BE **FOILED** BY THE
ACCURSED POWER
OF **ASGARD?**

I BID THEE
SPEAK, O
ANCIENT
CRONE!

*AS SUBLIMELY
SHOWN LAST
ISSUE!...
STAN.

THOUGH BALDER
BE MINE ENEMY,
I HAVE OFFERED
HIM MY ROYAL
HAND...MY
IMPERIAL
HEART...

WHICH HE
HATH DULY
SPURNED!

BUT NONE
MAY SPURN THE
QUEEN OF
NORNS...AND
LIVE TO BOAST
OF IT THERE-
AFTER!

HE
DOTH NOT
BOAST,
MY QUEEN...

HIS HEART IS
HEAVY... FOR THY
SPELL OF LOVE HATH
CONQUERED IT!

BUT, HE HATH
GREATER DEVOTION
TO DUTY THAN
TO THEE!

STILL,
TRUST THOU
TO THE WISDOM
OF THY SEERESS,
HAAG...

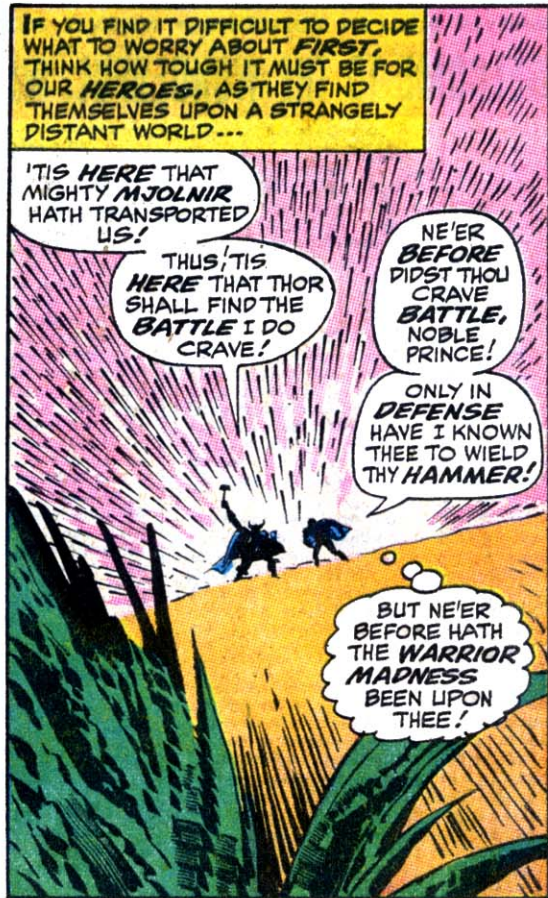
THE PRIZE
SHALL YET BE
THINE!



SEE HOW I MOLD A GRAVEN IMAGE OF THE ONE THOU WOULDST ENSNARE!

IT SHALL TAKE MUCH TIME ... BUT, WHEN 'TIS DONE... AND THE WITCHERY COMPLETE...

THE ONE CALLED **BALDER** SHALL ESCAPE THEE NEVER-MORE!



IF YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHAT TO WORRY ABOUT FIRST, THINK HOW TOUGH IT MUST BE FOR OUR HEROES, AS THEY FIND THEMSELVES UPON A STRANGELY DISTANT WORLD...

'TIS HERE THAT MIGHTY **MJOLNIR** HATH TRANSPORTED US!

THUS, 'TIS HERE THAT THOR SHALL FIND THE BATTLE I DO CRAVE!

NE'ER BEFORE DIDST THOU CRAVE BATTLE, NOBLE PRINCE!

ONLY IN DEFENSE HAVE I KNOWN THEE TO WIELD THY HAMMER!

BUT NE'ER BEFORE HATH THE WARRIOR MADNESS BEEN UPON THEE!



MOST WELL HATH OUR FOE CONCEALED HIMSELF!

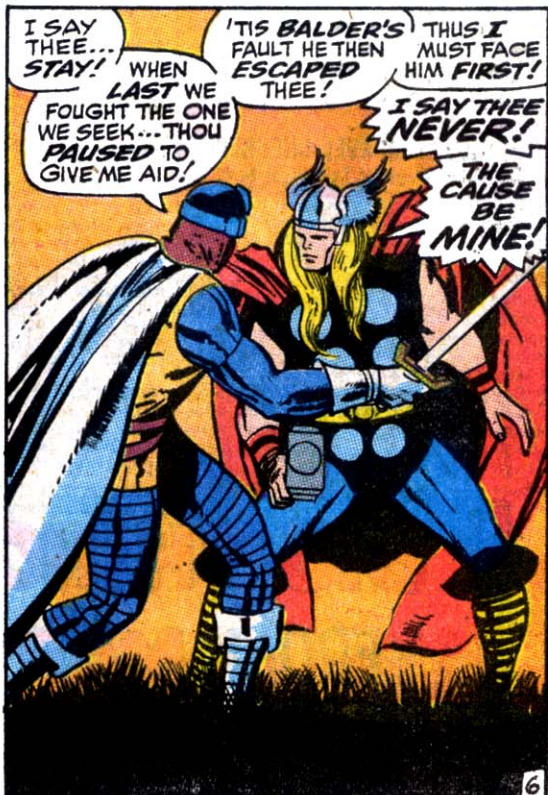
BUT PRITHEE, HAVE A CARE...

HE HATH THE POWER TO READ MEN'S THOUGHTS...

WE SHALL NOT CATCH HIM UNAWARES!

THE THUNDER GOD MAKETH NO REPLY!

NAUGHT BUT RAGE NOW FILLS HIS BREAST



I SAY THEE... STAY!

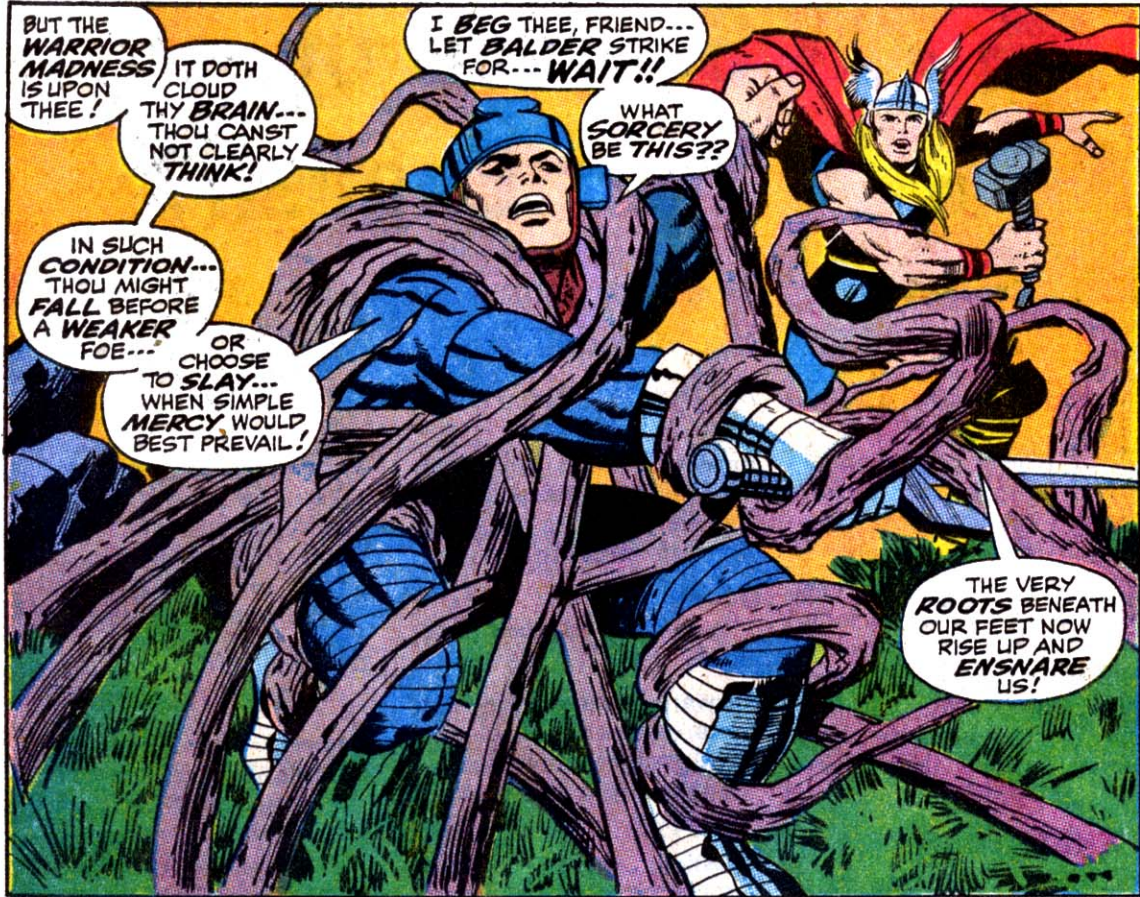
WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT THE ONE WE SEEK... THOU PAUSED TO GIVE ME AID!

'TIS **BALDER'S** FAULT HE THEN ESCAPED THEE!

THUS I MUST FACE HIM FIRST!

I SAY THEE NEVER!

THE CAUSE BE MINE!



BUT THE **WARRIOR MADNESS** IS UPON THEE!

IT DOETH CLOUD THY **BRAIN**... THOU CANST NOT CLEARLY **THINK!**

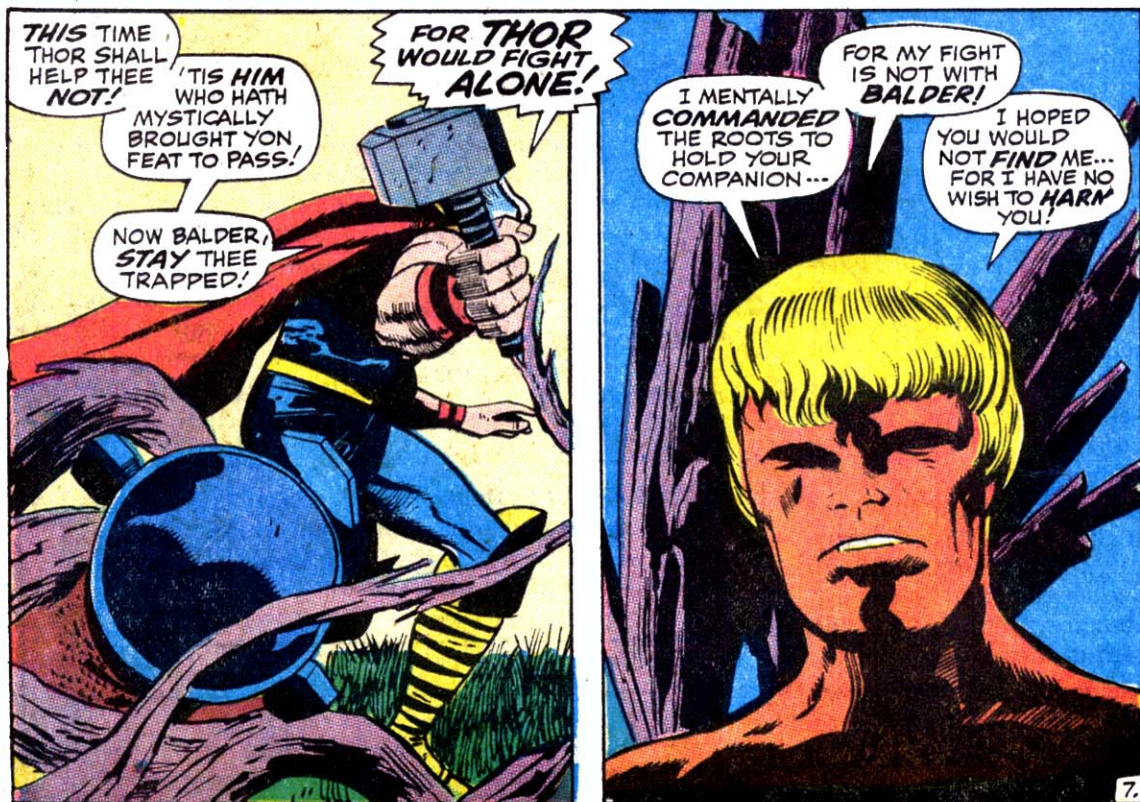
I **BEG** THEE, FRIEND... LET **BALDER STRIKE** FOR... **WAIT!!**

WHAT **SORCERY** BE THIS??

IN SUCH **CONDITION**... THOU MIGHT **FALL** BEFORE A **WEAKER** FOE...

OR CHOOSE TO **SLAY**... WHEN SIMPLE **MERCY** WOULD **BEST** PREVAIL!

THE VERY **ROOTS** BENEATH OUR FEET NOW **RISE** UP AND **ENSNARE** US!



THIS TIME THOR SHALL **HELP** THEE **NOT!**

'TIS **HIM** WHO HATH **MYSTICALLY** BROUGHT YON FEAT TO PASS!

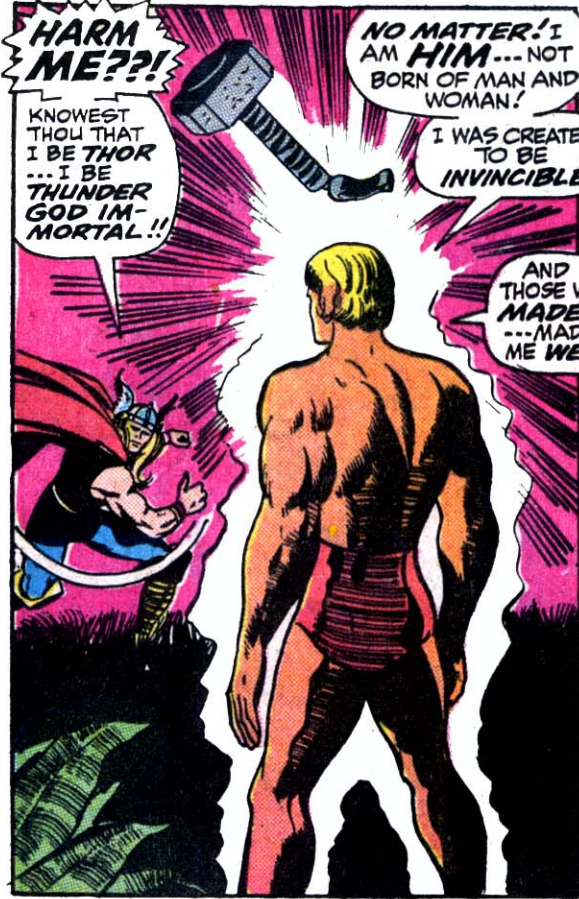
NOW **BALDER**, **STAY** THEE **TRAPPED!**

FOR **THOR** WOULD **FIGHT** **ALONE!**

I **MENTALLY** **COMMANDED** THE **ROOTS** TO **HOLD** YOUR **COMPANION**...

FOR MY **FIGHT** IS **NOT** WITH **BALDER!**

I **HOPED** YOU WOULD **NOT** **FIND** ME... FOR I **HAVE** **NO** **WISH** TO **HARM** YOU!



HARM ME??!

KNOWEST THOU THAT I BE THOR ... I BE THUNDER GOD IMMORTAL!!

NO MATTER! I AM HIM... NOT BORN OF MAN AND WOMAN!

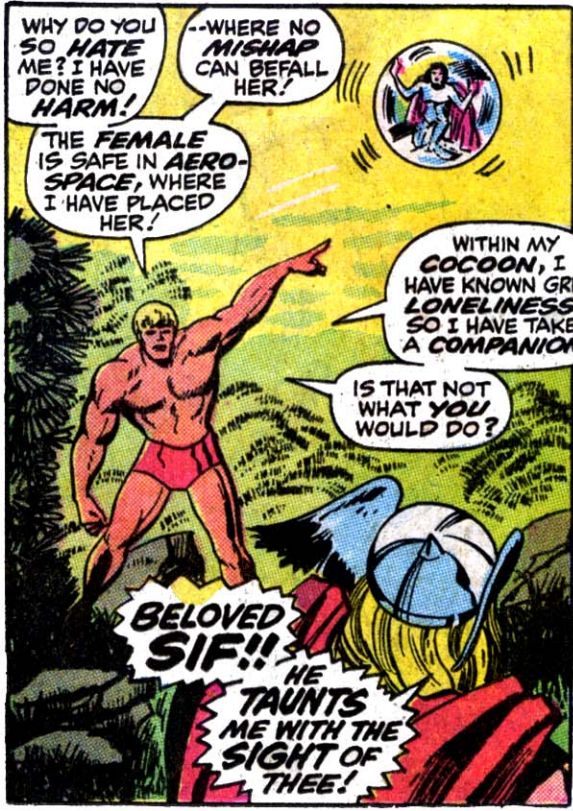
I WAS CREATED TO BE INVINCIBLE!

AND THOSE WHO MADE ME ... MADE ME WELL!



THOU CANST WITHSTAND THE BLUDGEONING FORCE OF MJOLNIR!!

BUT STILL SHALL THOR DESTROY THEE!



WHY DO YOU SO HATE ME? I HAVE DONE NO HARM!

--WHERE NO MISHAP CAN BEFALL HER!



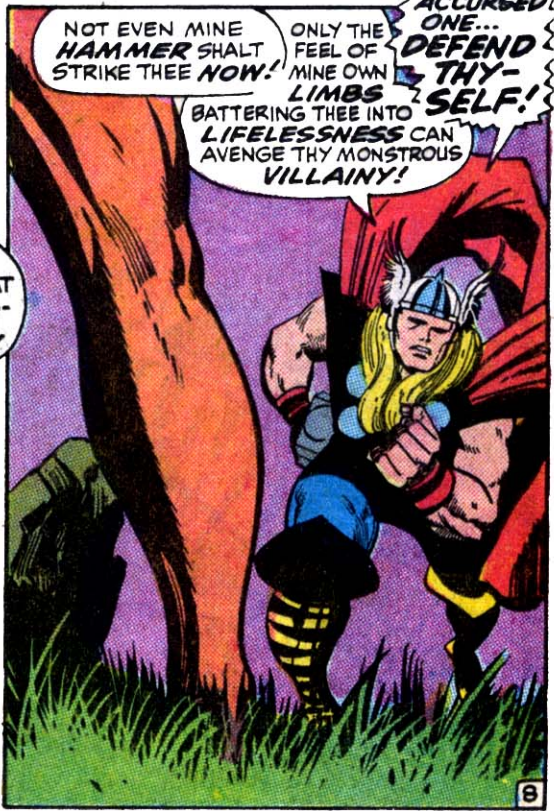
THE FEMALE IS SAFE IN AEROSPACE, WHERE I HAVE PLACED HER!

WITHIN MY COCOON, I HAVE KNOWN GREAT LONELINESS... SO I HAVE TAKEN A COMPANION!

IS THAT NOT WHAT YOU WOULD DO?

BELOVED SIF!!

HE TAUNTS ME WITH THE SIGHT OF THEE!



NOT EVEN MINE HAMMER SHALT STRIKE THEE NOW!

ONLY THE FEEL OF MINE OWN LIMBS BATTERING THEE INTO LIFELESSNESS CAN AVENGE THY MONSTROUS VILLAINY!

ACCURSED ONE... DEFEND THY-SELF!

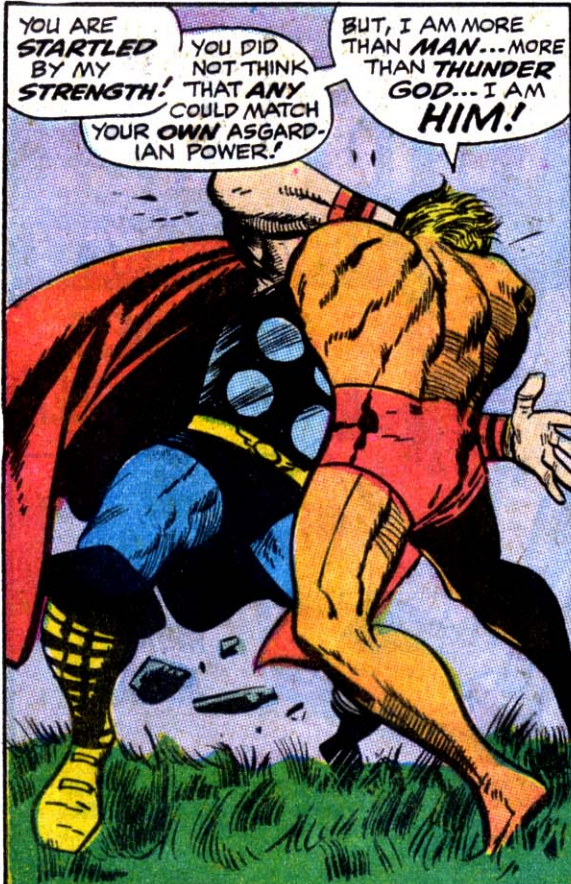


MY **MIND-SHIELD** CAN DEFEND ME AGAINST ANY **WEAPON...**

BUT I DO NOT **NEED** IT AGAINST A **LIVING BEING**... FOR I AM FAR **STRONGER** THAN ANY!

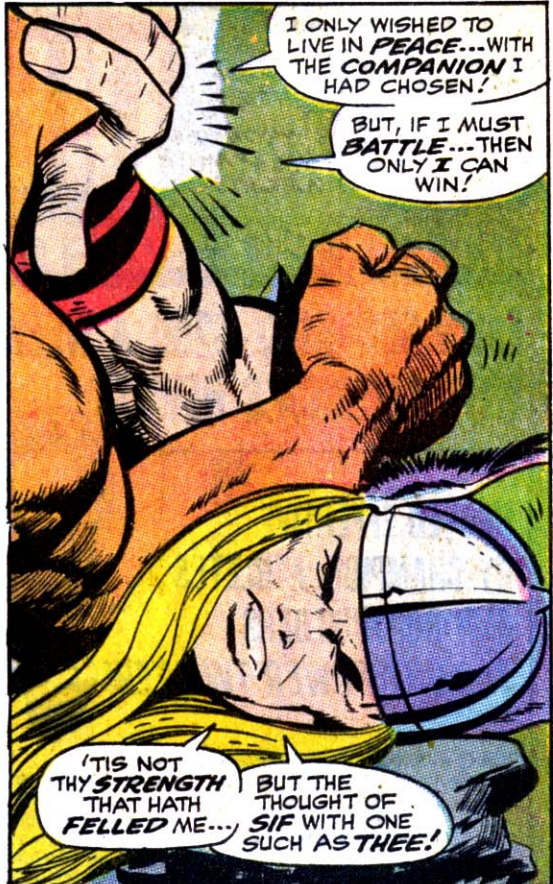
SO, WE MEET ON **EQUAL TERMS...** YOU, WHO CALL YOURSELF **GOD OF THUNDER...** AGAINST AN ARTIFICIALLY-CREATED, INDESTRUCTIBLE **SUPER-BEING...**

THE ONE CALLED **HIM...** BORN IN A **COCOON...** BORN TO BE... **INVINCIBLE!**



YOU ARE STARTLED BY MY STRENGTH! YOU DID NOT THINK THAT ANY COULD MATCH YOUR OWN ASGARDIAN POWER!

BUT, I AM MORE THAN MAN...MORE THAN THUNDER GOD... I AM HIM!



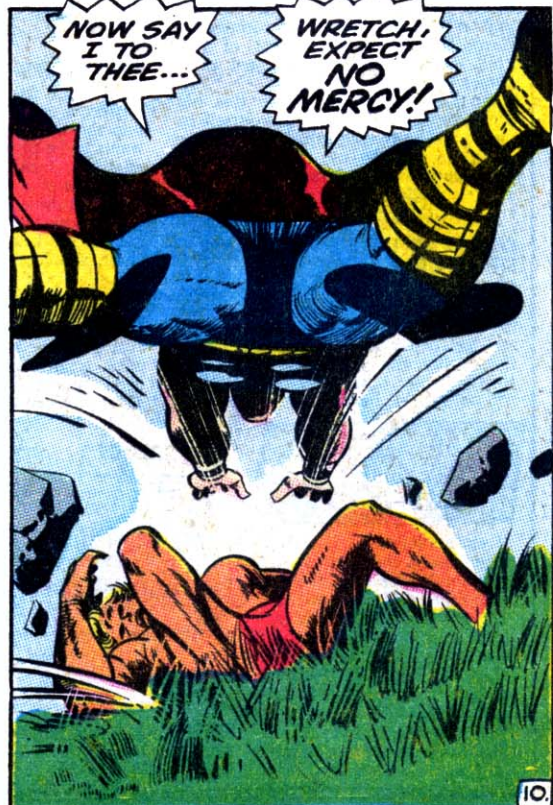
I ONLY WISHED TO LIVE IN PEACE...WITH THE COMPANION I HAD CHOSEN!

BUT, IF I MUST BATTLE...THEN ONLY I CAN WIN!

'TIS NOT THY STRENGTH THAT HATH FELLED ME... BUT THE THOUGHT OF SIF WITH ONE SUCH AS THEE!



A THOUGHT I CAN ENDURE NO LONGER!



NOW SAY I TO THEE...

WRETCH, EXPECT NO MERCY!

EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD ATTACKS, AN ANGUISHED VOICE CRIES OUT, FROM THE GRAPPLING VINES ACROSS THE FIELD OF BATTLE...

NO, THOR... NO!
HE HATH WRONGED
AS A CHILD MIGHT
DO WRONG!

HE ACTED
NOT IN
MALICE!

'TIS USELESS!!
HE CANNOT
CAST OFF THE
WARRIOR
MADNESS!

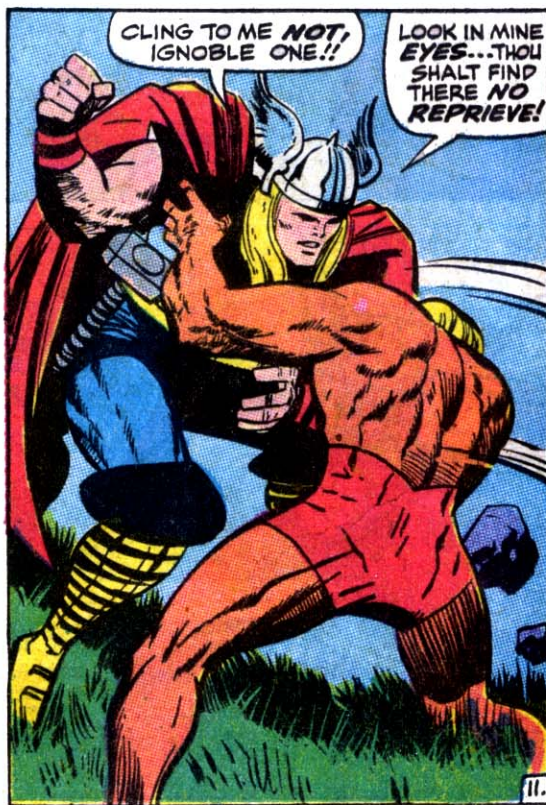
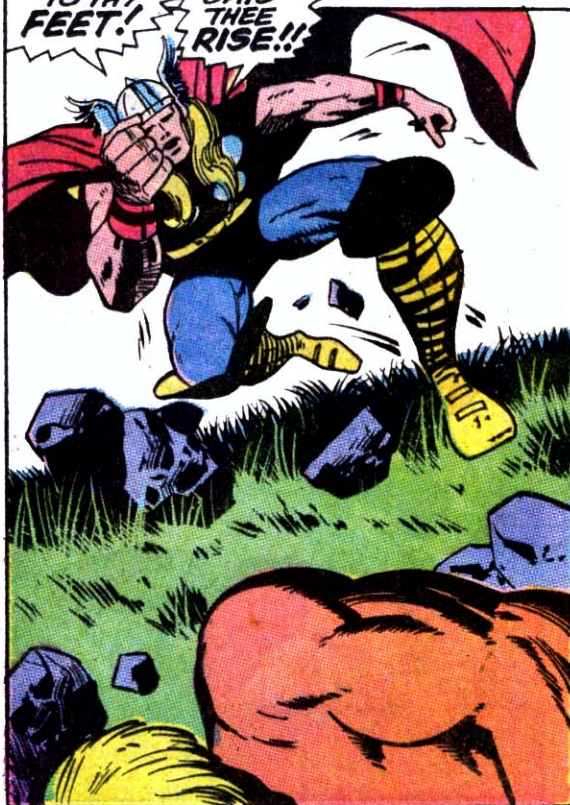
VILLAIN...
TO THY
FEET!

THOR
NOW
SAYS
THEE
RISE!!



IT MATTERS
NOT HOW POWERFUL
THE ONE CALLED HIM
MAY BE...

HE FIGHTS THE
SON OF ODIN...
EMBODIMENT OF
POWER... THE PRINCE
OF BATTLE!



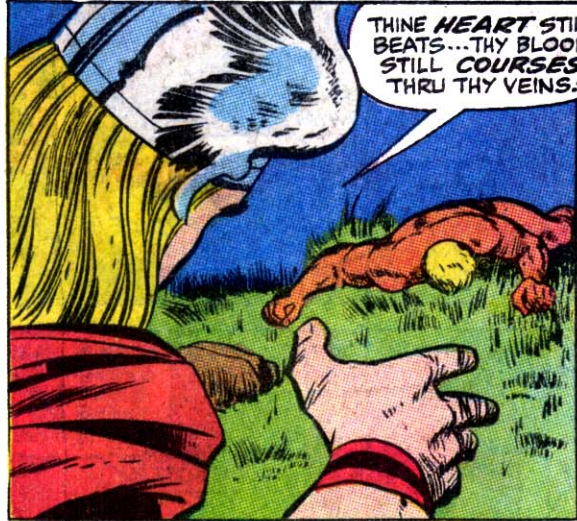
CLING TO ME NOT,
IGNOBLE ONE!!

LOOK IN MINE
EYES... THOU
SHALT FIND
THERE NO
REPRIEVE!



I BEG THEE...
DO NOT FALL
TOO SOON!

DENY
ME NOT MY
VENGEANCE!



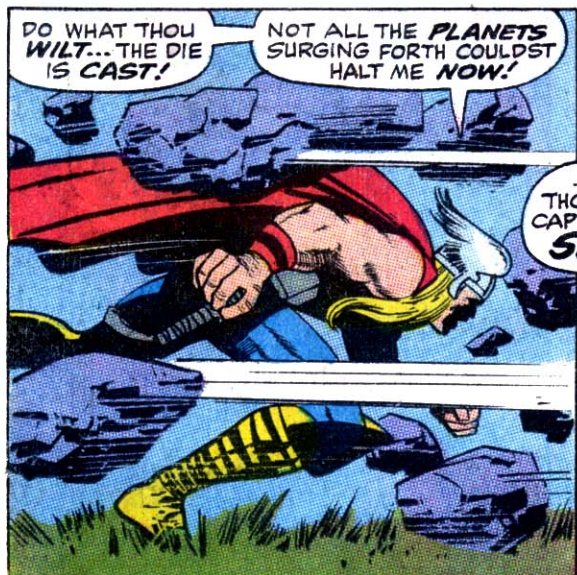
THINE HEART STILL
BEATS...THY BLOOD
STILL COURSES
THRU THY VEINS!

THOU SHALT
NOT REST...
NOT TILL IT BE
FORE'ER!!

I...TRIED
TO... FIGHT
YOU
FAIRLY!

NOW...TO SAVE
MYSELF... I
MUST USE...
MY DEADLY
MIND-
POWER...!

WITH BUT
A THOUGHT,
I CAN SEND
GREAT
BOULDERS
HURLING AT
YOU!



DO WHAT THOU
WILT... THE DIE
IS CAST!

NOT ALL THE PLANETS
SURGING FORTH COULDST
HALT ME NOW!

...FOR
THOU HAST
CAPTURED
SIF!!





IN **FIGHTING** THEE... I STRIKE NOT LIVING **FLESH...**

THOU CANST NOT EVEN **FEEL** MY BLOWS!

FOR THOU WERT MADE TO KNOW **NO PAIN!**



BUT THE **HEART** OF **THOR** HATH BEEN PAINED MOST **GRIEVOUSLY...**

WHEN THOU DIDST **DARE** SEIZE HIS **BELOVED!**

SIRE! I BID THEE **LOOK...**

'TIS MY **SON...** THE **GOD** OF **THUNDER!**



ASTROLOGER ROYAL... THOU HAST BEEN SEEKING THE **ELUSIVE GALACTUS!**

HOW DIDST THOU FIND YON **PRINCE**, INSTEAD?

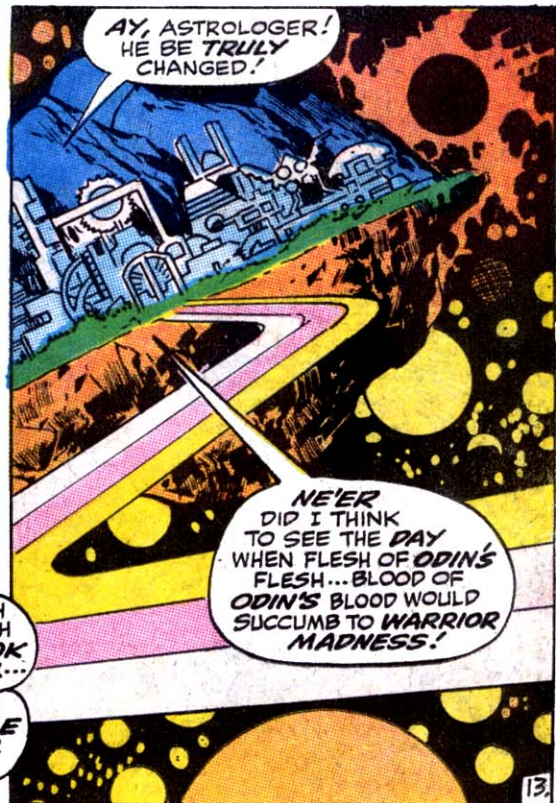
'T WAS **MEREST CHANCE**, SIRE! WHILST **SCANNING** DISTANT **WORLDS**, I SPIED THY **SON!**

BUT BY THY **ROYAL LEAVE...**

NEVER HAVE I SEEN HIM **THUS!**


THOUGH HE HATH THE **LOOK** OF **THOR...**

THERE BE A **CHANGE** COME O'ER HIM!



AY, **ASTROLOGER!** HE BE **TRULY** CHANGED!

NE'ER DID I THINK TO SEE THE **DAY** WHEN **FLESH** OF **ODIN'S** **FLESH...** **BLOOD** OF **ODIN'S** **BLOOD** WOULD **SUCCUMB** TO **WARRIOR** **MADNESS!**



IN
BATTLE
FAIR, HIM
WHO HATH
FALLEN MUST
BE GRANTED
LEAVE TO MAKE
SURRENDER!

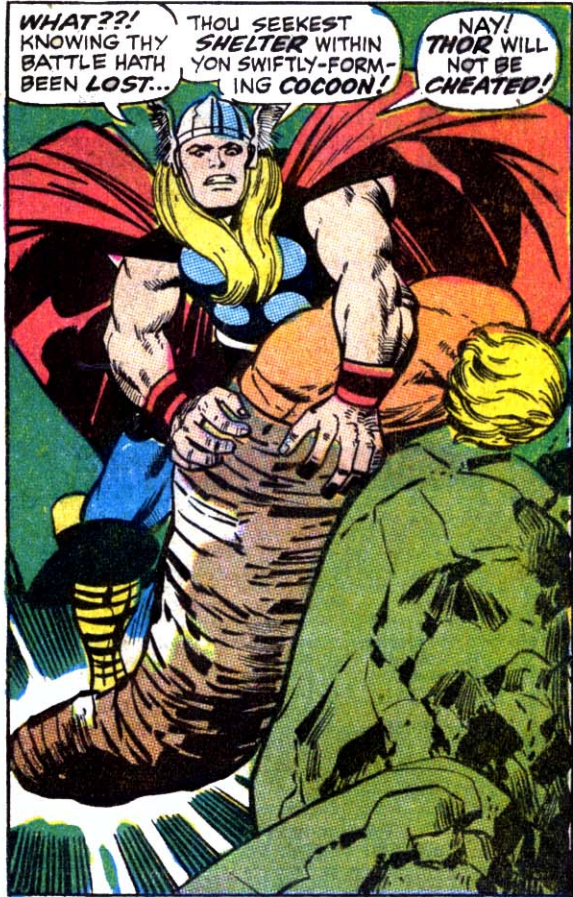
ONLY THE
AFFLICTION OF
WARRIOR MAD-
NESS MAY ALTER
SUCH DECISION!

WARRIOR
MADNESS
... MOST
FORBIDDEN
MALADY OF
ALL!

ANY WHO
BE GUILTY
OF WARRIOR
MADNESS
MUST PAY THE
PENALTY!

YEA...
EVEN IF HE
BE SON OF
ALL-FATHER
ODIN!

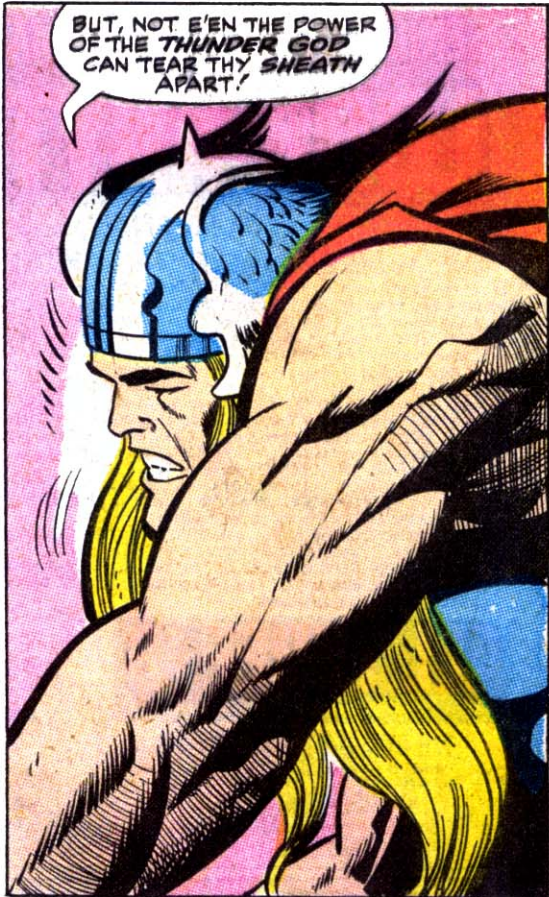
AND, EVEN AS REGAL
ODIN SPEAKS--



WHAT??!
KNOWING THY
BATTLE HATH
BEEN LOST...

THOU SEEKEST
SHELTER WITHIN
YON SWIFTLY-FORM-
ING COCOON!

NAY!
THOR WILL
NOT BE
CHEATED!



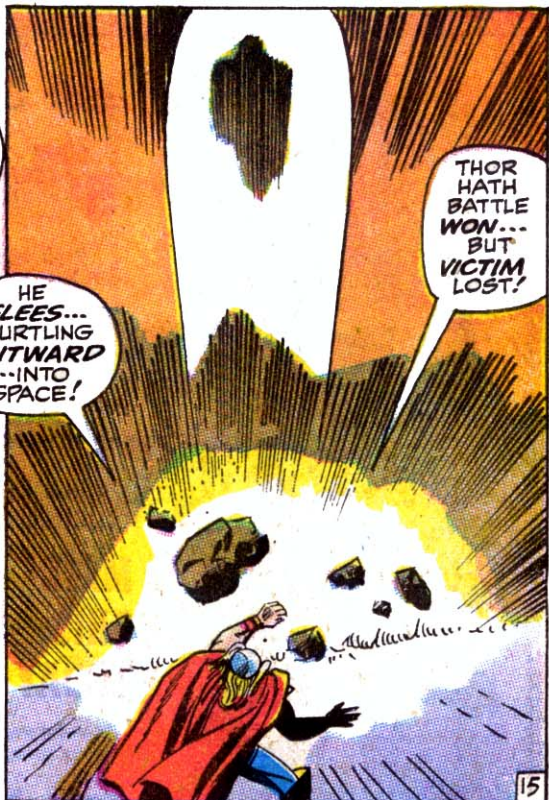
BUT, NOT E'EN THE POWER
OF THE THUNDER GOD
CAN TEAR THY SWEATH
APART!



'TIS FULLY
FORMED...
THOU ART
TOTALLY
ENCASED!

BUT NOW...
WHAT AWESOME
BOLTS OF ENERGY
DO BURST FROM THY
COCOON??

MINE
EYES MUST
CLOSE...LEST
THEY BE
BLINDED!



THOR
HATH
BATTLE
WON...
BUT
VICTIM
LOST!

HE
FLEES...
HURTLING
OUTWARD
...INTO
SPACE!

NOW SHIELDED FROM ALL HARM, HE FLOATS OUT BEYOND THE STARS...

THERE TO DRIFT... FOR AN HOUR... OR AN AGE...

...TILL THE COCOON DOETH OPEN ONCE AGAIN!!

BUT, WHY DOETH MY HEAD IN THIS MANNER ACHE??

WHAT HEAVY CLOUD SEEMS SUDDEN LIFTED FROM UPON MY TROUBLED BRAIN??

IT CANNOT BE... IT MUST NOT BE...

AND YET, I KNOW THE TRUTH OF IT...

THE WARRIOR MADNESS HATH POSSESSED ME!

I STRUCK IN UNREASONING ANGER... I HEEDED NOT... I PITIED NOT...

LESS WORTHY THAN MY FOE WAS I!

AT THAT FATEFUL INSTANT, WITH THE POWER OF HIM NOW VANISHED ---

THE AERO-SPHERE DRIFTS SILENTLY TO THE GROUND BELOW...

MY LADY SIF... THOU ART SAFE AND WELL!

THUS, I DID NOT FIGHT IN VAIN!

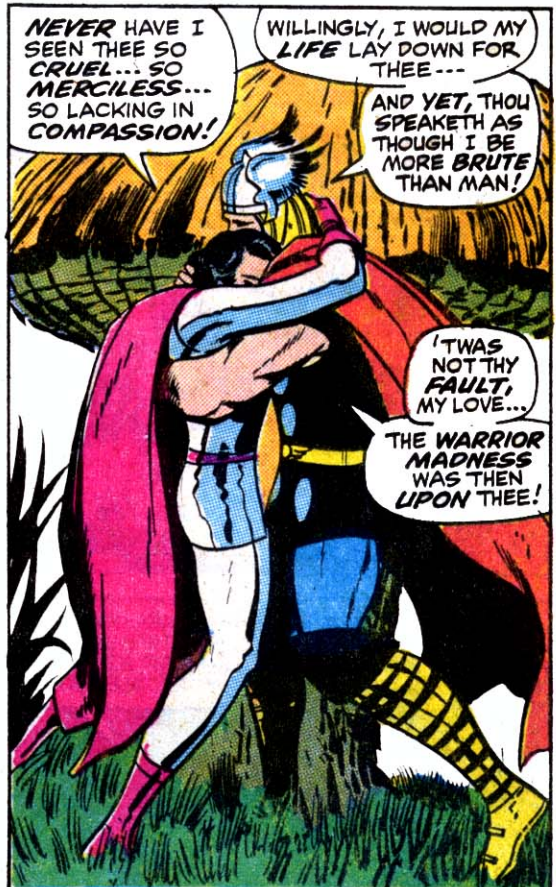


THE SPHERE HATH **FADED!**
THOU ART TRULY **FREE** ONCE
MORE!

BUT WHAT
OF **THEE**,
MY LORD?

WHAT
MONUMENTAL
INJUSTICE
HATH THOU
UNWITTINGLY
WROUGHT?

HIM, WHO
DIDST CAPTURE
ME, DID BUT ACT
IN HAPLESS
INNOCENCE!



NEVER HAVE I
SEEN THEE SO
**CRUEL... SO
MERCILESS...
SO LACKING IN
COMPASSION!**

WILLINGLY, I WOULD MY
**LIFE LAY DOWN FOR
THEE---**

AND YET, THOU
SPEAKETH AS
THOUGH I BE
MORE **BRUTE
THAN MAN!**

'T WAS
NOT THY
FAULT,
MY LOVE...

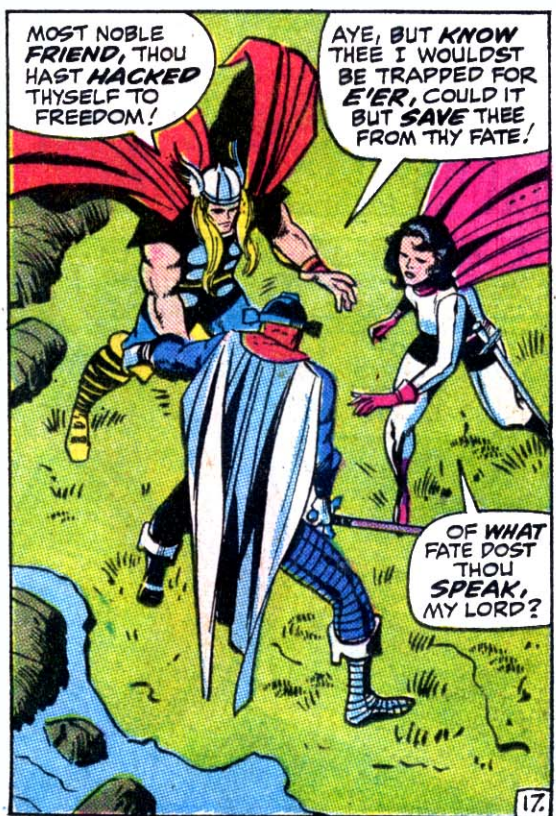
THE **WARRIOR
MADNESS**
WAS THEN
UPON THEE!



NO MATTER
WHERE THE
FAULT MAY
LIE!

WE ALL DO KNOW
THE **AWESOME
PRICE** THAT MUST
BE PAID!

ONLY
THRU MOST
BITTER
SACRIFICE
CANST THOU
ATONE FOR
WARRIOR
MADNESS!



MOST NOBLE
FRIEND, THOU
HAST **HACKED**
THYSELF TO
FREEDOM!

AYE, BUT **KNOW**
THEE I WOULDST
BE TRAPPED FOR
E'ER, COULD IT
BUT **SAVE THEE**
FROM THY FATE!

OF WHAT
FATE DOST
THOU
SPEAK,
MY LORD?

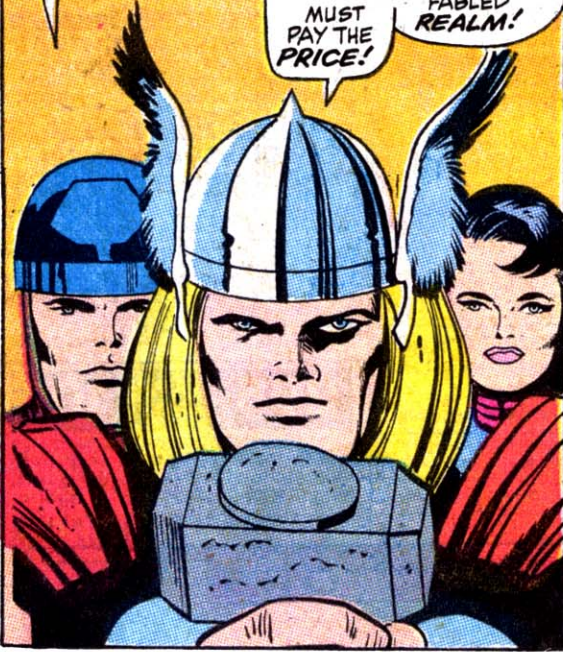
FULL WELL WE KNOW THE LAW OF ODIN!

THE GOD OF THUNDER
TO WARRIOR MADNESS
HATH **SUCCUMBED!**

NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS
BUT THE **LEARNING**
OF THE ALL-FATHER'S
DREAD **SENTENCE!**

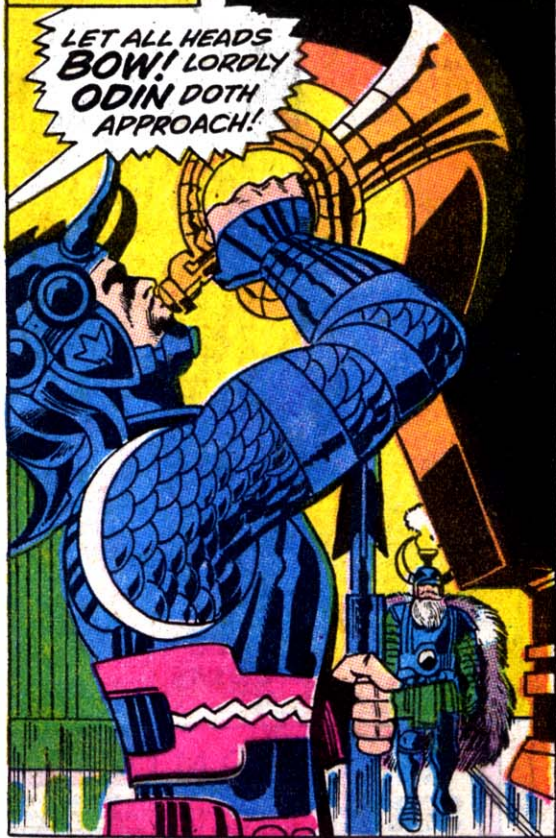
THOR
HATH
DONE THE
DEED...
THOR
MUST
PAY THE
PRICE!

THUS, BY
THE POWER OF
MJOLNIR...
NOW HIE WE
ALL TO THE
FABLED
REALM!



AND, WITHIN THE GOLDEN GATES OF ETERNAL
ASGARD...

LET ALL HEADS
BOW! LORDLY
ODIN DOTH
APPROACH!



YON **COSMOS-**
CRAFT... BE IT
COMPLETED??

THE TIME HATH
COME TO SEARCH
THE ENDLESS
HEAVENS FOR
HIM WHO IS
GALACTUS!

ALL
AWAITS
THEE NOW
WITHIN,
OMNI-
POTENCE!



NEVER HATH THERE BEEN
SUCH **VESSEL, SIRE!**

IT SHALL
REACH **BEYOND**
THE UNIVERSE...
BEYOND THE END
OF TIME!

MINE EYES
BEHOLD...
AND FIND
IT **GOOD!**



**BUT WHERE... IN ALL THE REALM...
CAN ONE BE FOUND TO GUIDE YON
CRAFT... ON A JOURNEY
WITHOUT END?**

**THE QUESTION
PAINS ME...
AND MINE ANSWER
GIVETH GREATER
PAIN!**

**I HAVE
SELECTED
SUCH A
ONE...**

**AND HE
BE
THOR...
MY
SON!**

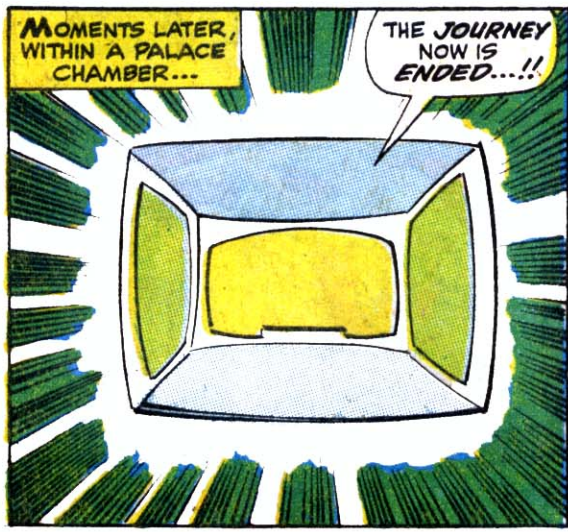


THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH FALLEN PREY TO THE FORBIDDEN WARRIOR MADNESS!



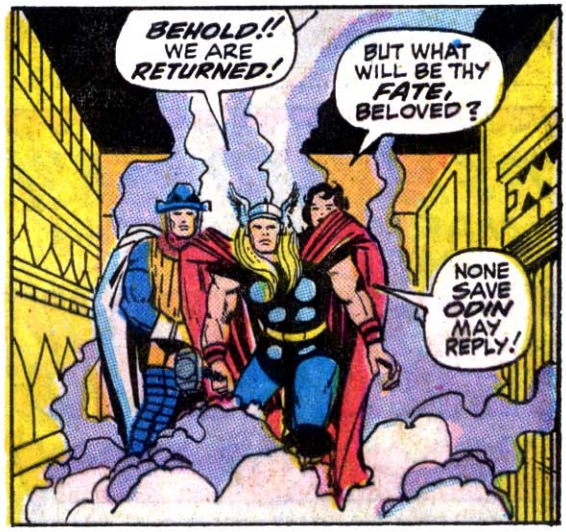
AND ONLY THROUGH SACRIFICE... SUCH AS THIS... CANST HE ACHIEVE REDEMPTION!

THUS SPEAKS ODIN!



MOMENTS LATER, WITHIN A PALACE CHAMBER...

THE JOURNEY NOW IS ENDED...!!



BEHOLD!! WE ARE RETURNED!

BUT WHAT WILL BE THY FATE, BELOVED?

NONE SAVE ODIN MAY REPLY!



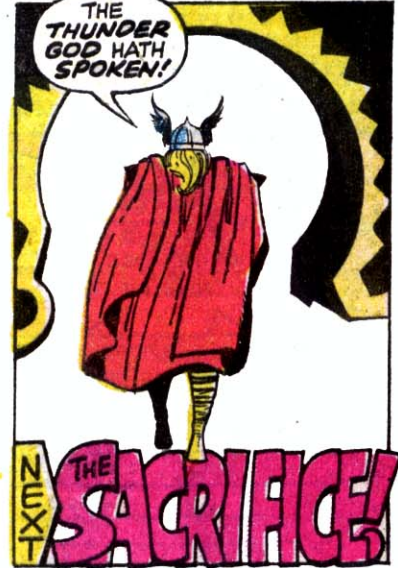
NOW GO I INTO THE PRESENCE!

WHAT AWAITS ME NOW, MUST BE FACED BY THOR ALONE!



KNOW THOU, MY LORD, WHAT-E'ER BEFALLS... THE HEART OF SIF IS...

MAY! SAY NO MORE... TILL 'TIS PROVED THAT THOR BE WORTHY!



THE THUNDER GOD HATH SPOKEN!

NEXT THE SACRIFICE!