

THOR

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THE MIGHTY THOR

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EGO-PRIME VS. THE EARTH!

THE MIGHTY THOR!

HERE BE THE BRAVE: THE RIGELLIAN ADVENTURESS CALLED TANA NILE; THE ASGARDIAN WARRIORS-- BALDER, HOGUN, AND VOLSTAGG; THE COARSE GODDESS, HILDEGARDE; THE AGED SEA-DOG, SILAS GRANT AND MORE--THE GOD OF THUNDER, THOR!

--AND NONE DARE STAND 'GAINST

EGO-PRIME!



NAY--SPEAK FOR THYSELF, RIGELLIAN--

--HOGUN DOTH SMELL THE STENCH OF WAR!

--AS DOTH THE NOBLE NOSE OF VOLSTAGG! AND YET--

--AND YET, METHINKS THOU WOULDST RATHER NOT HEED ITS BITTER SCENT--AYE, VAST ONE?

HOLD THY TONGUE, WOMAN!

LATER, I WOULD KNOW WHENCE YE HAVE COME--THOU, MY LADY SIF, AND THESE OTHERS -- BUT NOW--!

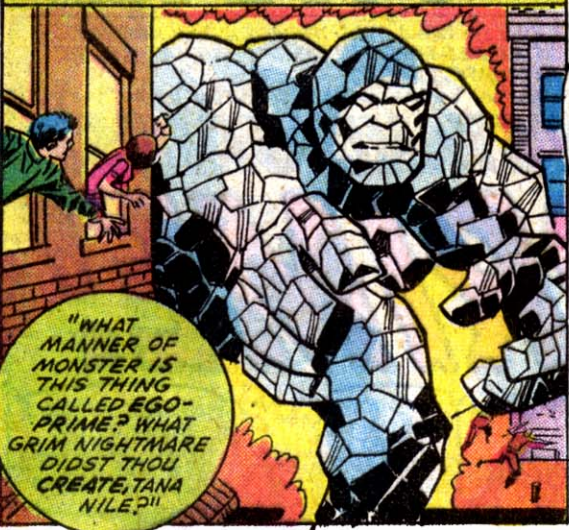
BUT NOW, WE HAVE NO TIME, MILORD!

FOR, I HEAR THE THUNDER TREAD OF-- EGO-PRIME!!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
A GERRY CONWAY JOHN BUSCEMA MINI-MARVEL MASTERPIECE!
AIDED AND ABETTED BY: VINNIE COLLETTA, INKER, AND ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

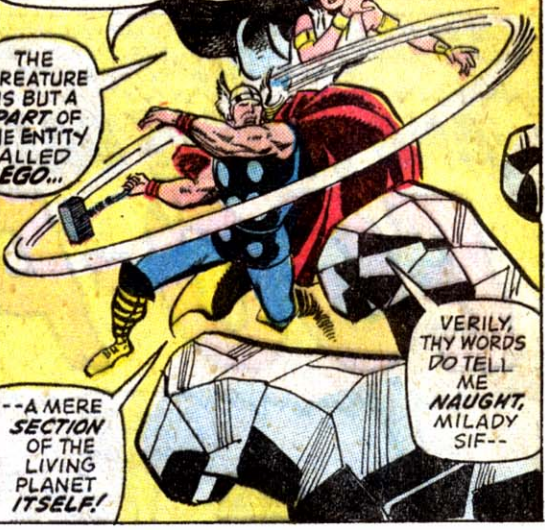
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"AND WORSE, FAIR FANDRAL--EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE DEMON DOTH STRIDE CLOSER--ITS BODY CRACKLING WITH ENERGIES YET HIDDEN--"



"WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER IS THIS THING CALLED EGO-PRIME? WHAT GRIM NIGHTMARE DIDST THOU CREATE, TANA NILE?!"

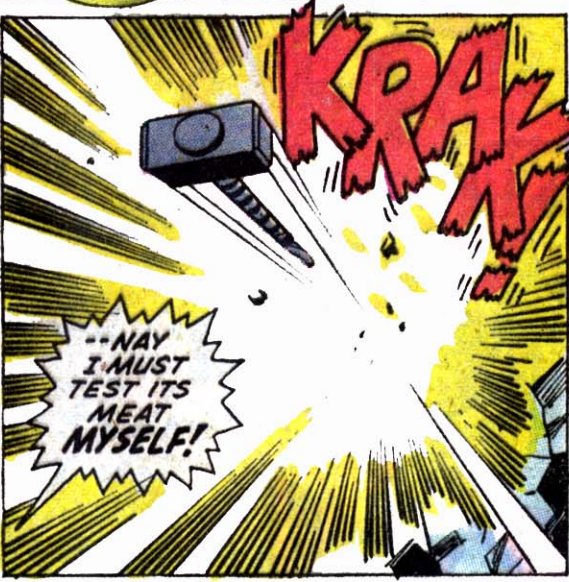
MILORD THOR, SHE HAS TOLD THEE ALL!



THE CREATURE IS BUT A PART OF THE ENTITY CALLED EGO...

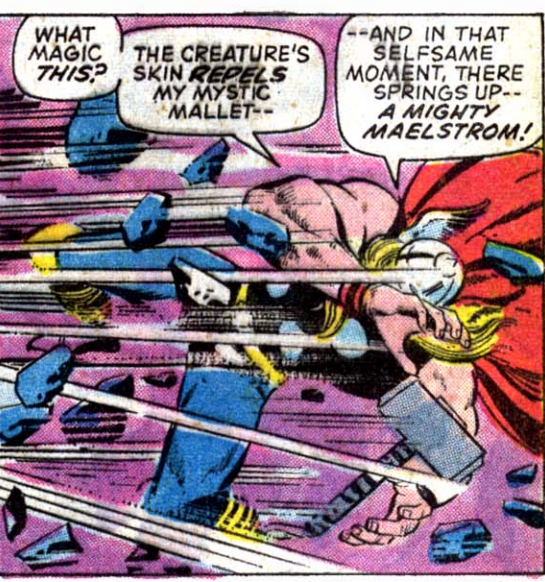
--A MERE SECTION OF THE LIVING PLANET ITSELF!

VERILY, THY WORDS DO TELL ME NAUGHT, MILADY SIF--



KRAK

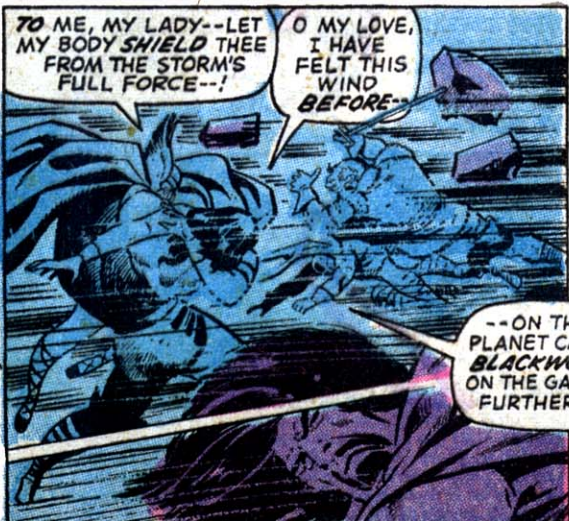
--NAY I MUST TEST ITS MEAT MYSELF!



WHAT MAGIC THIS?

THE CREATURE'S SKIN REPELS MY MYSTIC MALLET--

--AND IN THAT SELFSAME MOMENT, THERE SPRINGS UP-- A MIGHTY MAELSTROM!



TO ME, MY LADY--LET MY BODY SHIELD THEE FROM THE STORM'S FULL FORCE--!

O MY LOVE, I HAVE FELT THIS WIND BEFORE--

--ON THE PLANET CALLED BLACKWORLD, ON THE GALAXY'S FURTHER RIM--!



"THERE, IT DID SIGNAL AN UNEARTHLY CHANGE --'T WAS THIS, I THINK, WHICH SPIRITED US HERE TO EARTH--"

"--AND NOW I FEAR IT DOTH PORTEND ANOTHER CHANGE-- BUT NOT FOR US! NAY--"

"--OF EGO-PRIME!"

FOR LONG DAYS HAS IT LIVED, A THING OF UNTHINKING STONE--AND YET, IN THAT TIME, IT HAS GROWN--

--DRAWING THE VERY LIFE-ESSENCE FROM THOSE LIVING THINGS ABOUT IT-- BUILDING AND EVOLVING WITHIN ITS CRYSTAL WALLS A COMPLEX CHAIN OF FORCE--

--FORCE NOW RELEASED IN A FINAL BURST OF HUMANOID EVOLUTION-- A BURST WHICH GIVES IT-- THE VISAGE OF A MAN!

I--AM-- EGO!

I--AM-- POWER!

THOR, 'TIS AS I FEARED! THROUGH SOME AGENCY I MAY ONLY GUESS--

--AND 'TIS A PROVINCE ONLY WE MAY SAFELY INHABIT!

THOU MUST TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS DEMON-SPAWN, MILADY.

--THIS CREATURE HAS BECOME LIKE UNTO THE GODS THEMSELVES!

BUT FIRST--

--WHO ART THOU TRULY, CREATURE-- AND WHAT BE THY MISSION?

I AM--WHAT I SAY I AM, ASGARDIAN!

I AM ALL THAT EGO IS--AND EVER WAS--

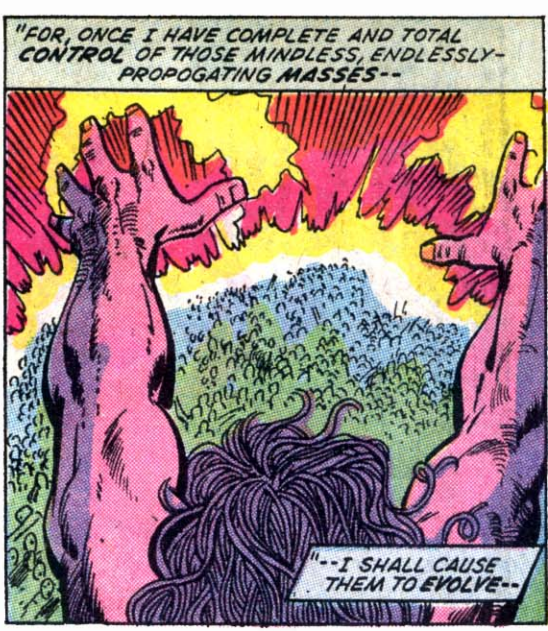
--AND EVER WILL BE!



--AS TO MY MISSION, KNOW THIS, MY BLOND-HAIRED FRIEND--

"THE PLANET YOU CALL EARTH SUFFERS THE SAME DISEASE WHICH ONCE PLAGUED MY HOMEWORLD, EGO-- BLIND AND LINTHINKING HUMANOID LIFE! LIFE THAT HAS BECOME --A FESTERING INFECTION!"

"MY PLAN... TO CONQUER YOUR WORLD... AND BY SO DOING, TO SAVE THE PLANET EARTH!"



"FOR, ONCE I HAVE COMPLETE AND TOTAL CONTROL OF THOSE MINDLESS, ENDLESSLY-PROPOGATING MASSES--

"--I SHALL CAUSE THEM TO EVOLVE--



"--TO EVOLVE AND GROW WITHOUT CHECK OR BALANCE--

"--AND SO THEY SHALL, TILL THEIR SEETHING FLESH FORMS STRUGGLING MOUNTAINS, DUNES OF HUMANITY GREATER THAN YOUR HIGHEST PEAKS!"



"--AND THOSE MOUNTAINS WILL BECOME ONE WITH THE EARTH!"



"THUS SHALL YOUR PLANET SURVIVE..."

"...AND WHEN, IN TIME, THE ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM JOINS IN THE UNCEASING CREATION OF THE IMMORTAL BIOVERSE, THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THIS GALAXY... ONCE MORE!"



AND PRITHEE, WHAT OF US--WHILE THESE NOBLE PLANS SUMMARILY UNFOLD?

YEA--DO YOU THINK US MINDLESS PAWNS--?

--WITH NO SINGLE VOICE TO RAISE IN PROTEST?



NOT PAWNS-- BUT THE MOST PITIABLE OF INSECTS!

YOUR VOICE MEANS NOTHING TO EGO-PRIME!



STARS! BOTH THOR AND BRAVE BALDER DO FALL BENEATH THE CREATURE'S ARCANE EYE-BLASTS....!

I LIKE IT NOT.. BUT IT APPEARS I HAVE NO CHOICE...

GRIM HOGUN MUST MAKE THE FIRST ATTACK ALONE...



...AND PRAY ODIN MY HAND BE SWIFT!

LOOK THEE TO THE SKY, DEMON--

--'TIS THERE THY FATE AWAITS THEE!



WHAT? NO WORDS OF ANGER?

WHERE BE THY SENSE OF BATTLE, MONSTER? LET'S HEAR THEE CRY FOR WAR!

NO NEED, GODLING--



--FOR I'VE MORE ELOQUENT WAYS TO SPEAK!

THE MONSTER'S HAIR--'TIS UNEARTHLY ALIVE!

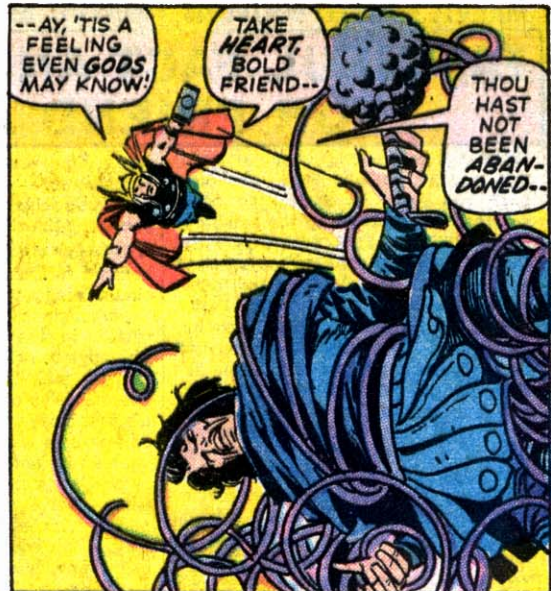
IT TRAPS ME--AND HOLDS ME LIKE A VISE!

BY THE GODDESS OF DEATH-- "NO!"



BOLD HOGUN DOTH
LET HIS SPIRIT STEAL
HIS SENSE!

YET--I SHARE HIS
ANGUISH--THAT TASTE
OF BITTER HELPLESS-
NESS--



--AY, 'TIS A
FEELING
EVEN GODS
MAY KNOW!

TAKE
HEART,
BOLD
FRIEND--

THOU
HAST
NOT
BEEN
ABAN-
DONED--

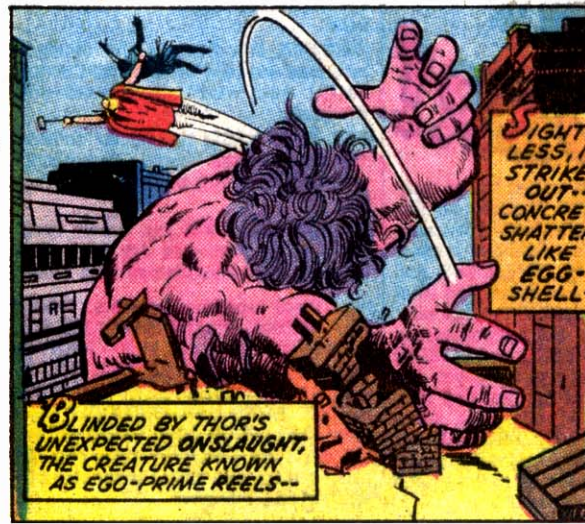


--AND WHILE YET
THE GOD OF
THUNDER LIVES--



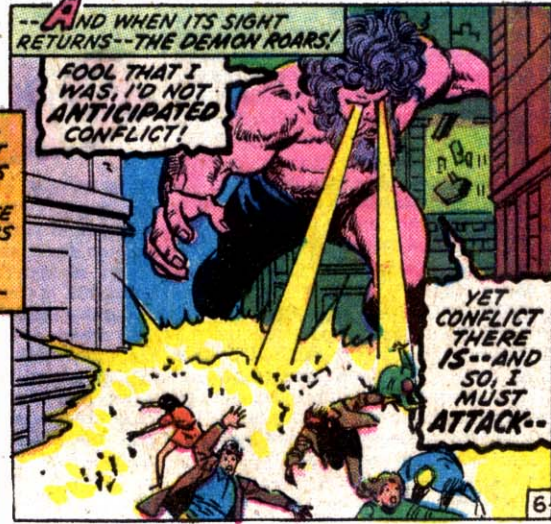
--THOU
NEVER
SHALT!

KZZAK!



SIGHT-
LESS, IT
STRIKES
OUT--
CONCRETE
SHATTERS
LIKE
EGG-
SHELL--

BLINDED BY THOR'S
UNEXPECTED ONSLAUGHT,
THE CREATURE KNOWN
AS EGO-PRIME REELS--



--AND WHEN ITS SIGHT
RETURNS--THE DEMON ROARS!

FOOL THAT I
WAS, I'D NOT
ANTICIPATED
CONFLICT!

YET
CONFLICT
THERE
IS--AND
SO, I
MUST
ATTACK--



"--AND ATTACK--IN THE ONLY WAY I KNOW!"

FOR ONE TERRIBLE INSTANT, THESE PEOPLE TWIST--THEIR BODIES CHURN WITH SOME INNER TURMOIL--



AND THEN, MERCIFULLY, THEY SEEM TO VANISH--SWALLOWED IN AN ALL-CONSUMING LIGHT--A RADIANCE WHICH CONCEALS THE NIGHTMARE WORK PERFORMED!

THEIR SCREAMS OF TERROR ARE BRIEF--AND SILENCED--YET ON SOME, THOSE SCREAMS WERE NEVER BORN--



FOR SOME HAVE NO MOUTHS--

AND SOME, NO EYES--

BUT ALL, ALL ARE MONSTERS!



ODIN'S BLOOD! BY HIS MAGIC, EGO HATH CHANGED THEM INTO DEMONS--!

IT'S MAGIC I'VE SEEN BEFORE--

--ON THE PLANET WE CALLED BLACK-WORLD!

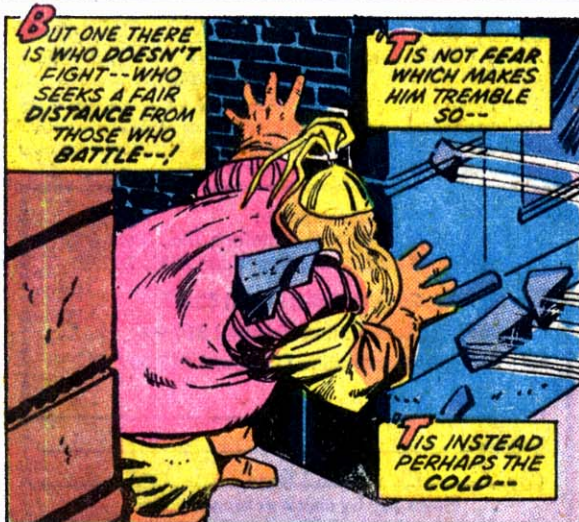
TELL US LATER, HILDEGARDE-- FOR NOW, METHINKS--



--WE MUST FIGHT--

--AND FIGHT WELL, MY FRIENDS--

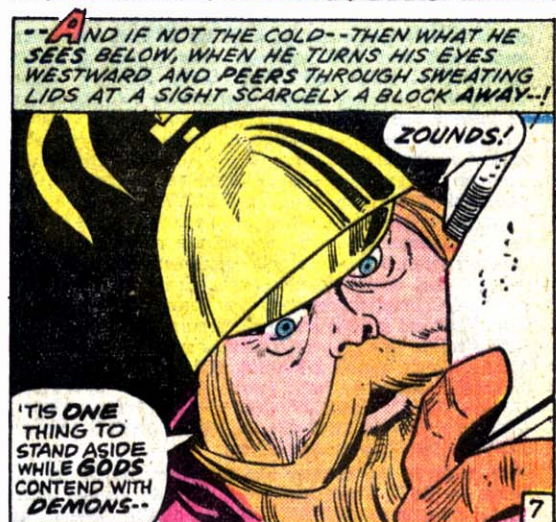
--LEST WE DIE!



BUT ONE THERE IS WHO DOESN'T FIGHT--WHO SEEKS A FAIR DISTANCE FROM THOSE WHO BATTLE--!

'TIS NOT FEAR WHICH MAKES HIM TREMBLE SO--

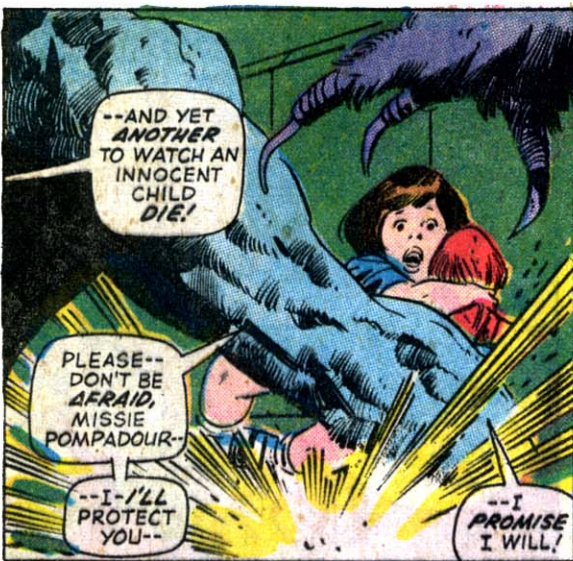
'TIS INSTEAD PERHAPS THE COLD--



AND IF NOT THE COLD--THEN WHAT HE SEES BELOW, WHEN HE TURNS HIS EYES WESTWARD AND PEERS THROUGH SWEATING LIDS AT A SIGHT SCARCELY A BLOCK AWAY--!

SOUNDS!

'TIS ONE THING TO STAND ASIDE WHILE GODS CONTEND WITH DEMONS--



--AND YET ANOTHER TO WATCH AN INNOCENT CHILD DIE!

PLEASE-- DON'T BE AFRAID, MISSIE POMPADOUR--

--I-I'LL PROTECT YOU--

--I PROMISE I WILL!

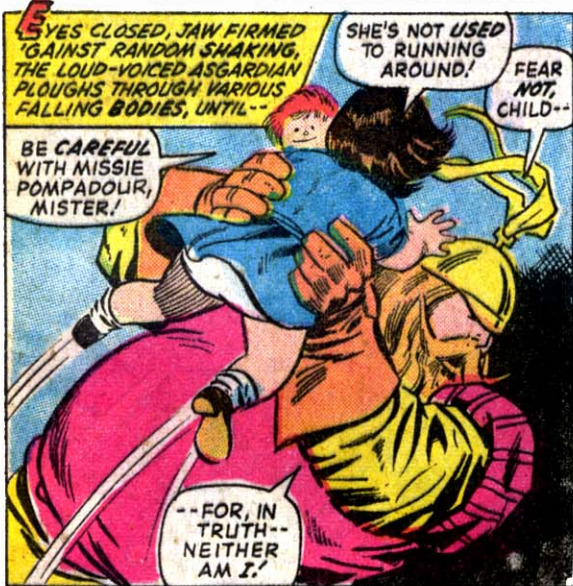


FOR ONE FINAL INSTANT, THE HUGE ASGARDIAN HESITATES--

--AND THEN, DECISION MADE, HE BELLOWS FORWARD!

BACK, HOUNDS OF HADES--

'TIS VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG THOU DOST BATTLE NOW!



EYES CLOSED, JAW FIRMED AGAINST RANDOM SHAKING, THE LOUD-VOICED ASGARDIAN PLOUGHS THROUGH VARIOUS FALLING BODIES, UNTIL--

SHE'S NOT USED TO RUNNING AROUND!

FEAR NOT, CHILD--

BE CAREFUL WITH MISSIE POMPADOUR, MISTER!

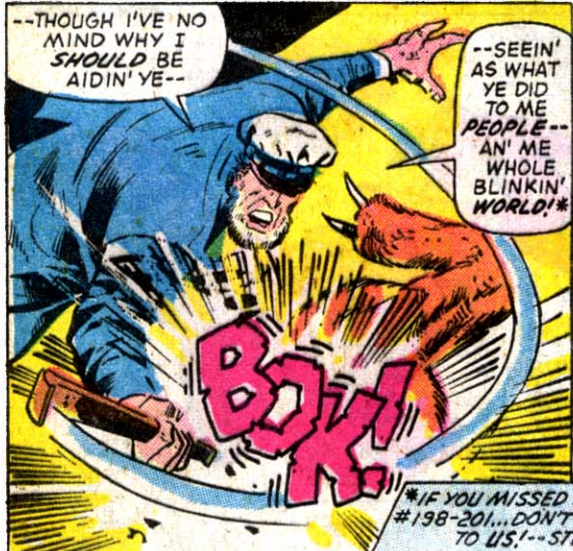
--FOR, IN TRUTH-- NEITHER AM I!



WHILE, ELSEWHERE ON THE BELEAGUERED MIDTOWN STREET.

SILAS GRANT! I NEED YOUR AID--!

AND YE'LL HAVE IT, LASS--



--THOUGH I'VE NO MIND WHY I SHOULD BE AIDIN' YE--

--SEEN! AS WHAT YE DID TO ME PEOPLE-- AN' ME WHOLE BLINKIN' WORLD!*

BOOM!

*IF YOU MISSED IT IN ISSUES #198-201... DON'T COME CRYING TO US!-- STERN STAN.



AYE, SAD TO SAY--

--I KNOW YE DIDN'T MEAN TO HAVE ME PEOPLE DIE!

YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT AS WELL AS I DO, OLD MAN.

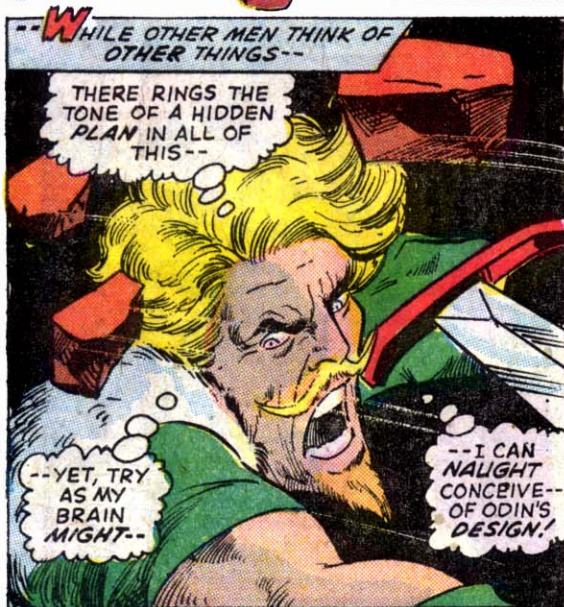
BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE --AN' I GUESS LETTIN' YOB, DIE WOULDN'T BRING THEM BACK.

C'MON, LASS-- I THINK THE OTHERS NEED OUR HELP!



AND WHAT OF THOSE OTHERS? ONE, THE BRAVE BALDER, FIGHTS AGAINST UNSEEMLY ODDS JUST SHORT YARDS AWAY--

WAK!



--WHILE OTHER MEN THINK OF OTHER THINGS--

THERE RINGS THE TONE OF A HIDDEN PLAN IN ALL OF THIS--

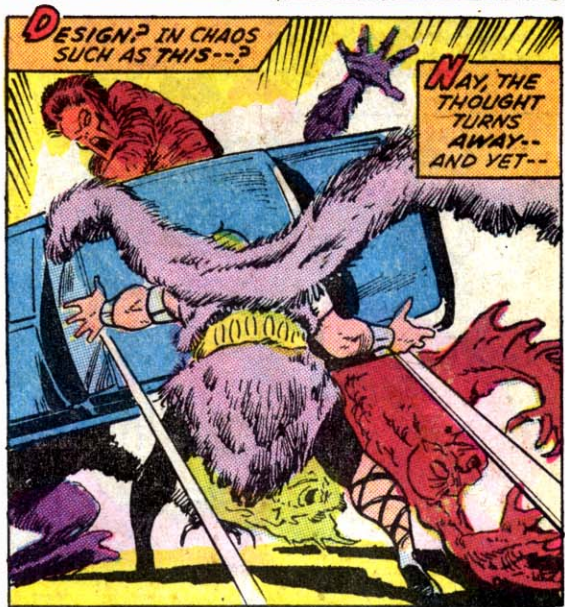
--YET, TRY AS MY BRAIN MIGHT--

--I CAN NAUGHT CONCEIVE-- OF ODIN'S DESIGN!



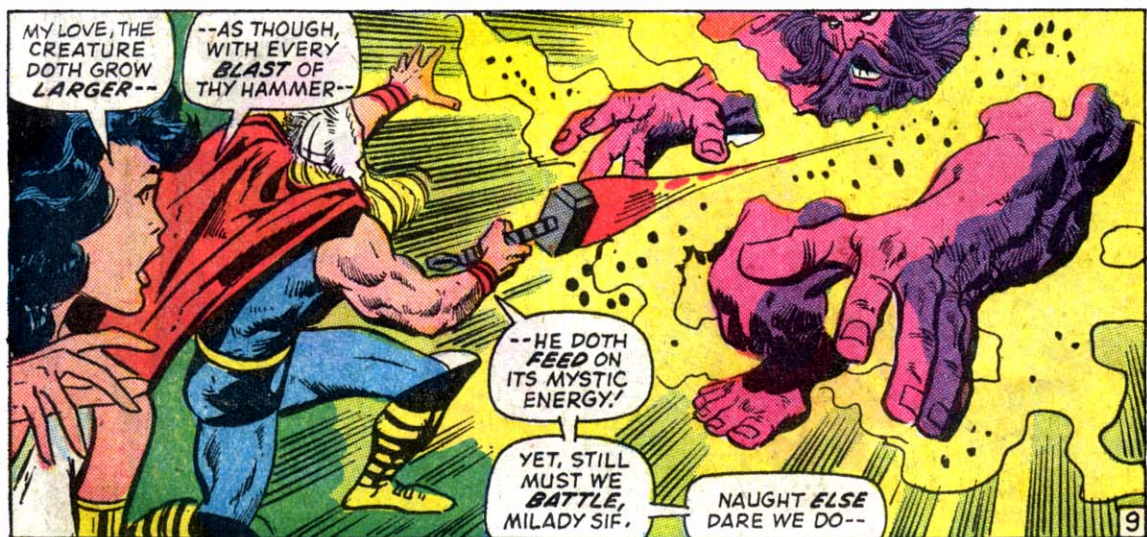
UNABLE TO USE HIS SWORD BECAUSE OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THOSE WHO ATTACK HIM, BALDER IS BROUGHT SWIFTLY DOWN--

--**B**UT EVEN AS THE DARKNESS FALLS, HIS THOUGHTS RETURN TO ASGARD, AND THE WOMAN HE DARES NOT LOVE--!



DESIGN? IN CHAOS SUCH AS THIS--?

NAY, THE THOUGHT TURNS AWAY-- AND YET--



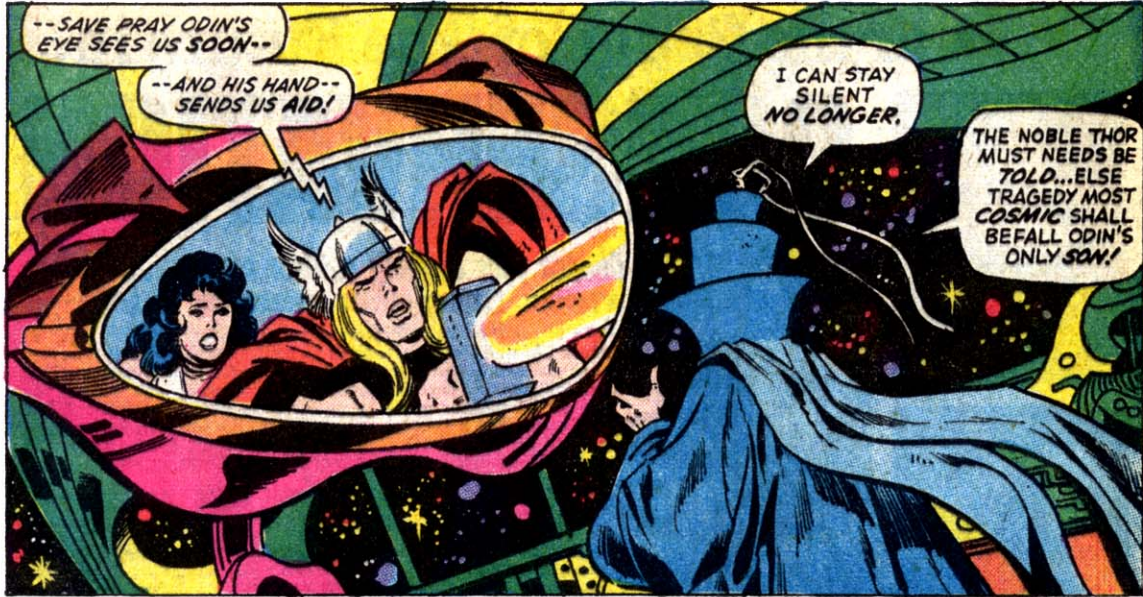
MY LOVE, THE CREATURE DOTH GROW LARGER--

--AS THOUGH, WITH EVERY BLAST OF THY HAMMER--

--HE DOTH FEED ON ITS MYSTIC ENERGY!

YET, STILL MUST WE BATTLE, MILADY SIF.

NAUGHT ELSE DARE WE DO--



--SAVE PRAY ODIN'S EYE SEES US SOON--

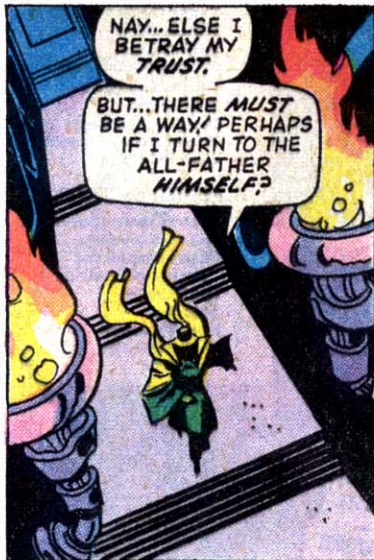
--AND HIS HAND-- SENDS US AID!

I CAN STAY SILENT NO LONGER.

THE NOBLE THOR MUST NEEDS BE TOLD...ELSE TRAGEDY MOST COSMIC SHALL BEFALL ODIN'S ONLY SON!



YET--DARE I, BUT A LOWLY VIZIER, DO WHAT ODIN COMMANDS BE LEFT UNDONE?



NAY...ELSE I BETRAY MY TRUST.

BUT...THERE MUST BE A WAY, PERHAPS IF I TURN TO THE ALL-FATHER HIMSELF?



HOLD, GREYBEARD. WHAT BE THY DESIRE HEREIN?

NONE MAY DISTURB ODIN AT THIS HOUR!

BUT 'TIS ABOUT HIS NOBLE SON--

SAVE THY SPEECH, ANCIENT ONE.

THOU MAY NOT ENTER.



SO DOES BLIND OBEDIENCE THWART ITS PURPOSE...!

THEY WOULD BETTER SERVE THEIR MASTER... WITH LESS UNQUESTIONING FAITH.



THOU DOST SPEAK WORDS TO MINE OWN HEART, VIZIER.

COME, LET US TALK, THEE AND ME.

THOU!

BE IT SAFE FOR THEE HERE, MILADY?

SAFE...?



SAFE ENOUGH, I SUPPOSE. FOR A TIME, MY WAR WITH ODIN HAS REACHED... A STALEMATE.

...FOR KARNILLA IS A CAREFUL WOMAN, AND A CAREFUL NORN QUEEN.

I BE WELCOME IN ASGARD, BUT 'TIS A WARY WELCOME, ON BOTH OUR PARTS...

BUT 'TIS NOT THIS WHICH DOTHS CONCERN ME.

TELL ME OF BALDER, HIM WHO IS MY LOVE.

MILADY, I FEAR THE NEWS WILL BE UNPLEASANT FOR THINE EARS...!

THEN SPEAK SOFTLY... BUT SPEAK.



BALDER AND HIS COMPANIONS BE ON EARTH. NORN QUEEN-- AND THEY DO BATTLE THE CREATURE KNOWN AS EGO-PRIME--

--BUT MILADY, 'TIS A FIGHT THEY CANNOT WIN!

CANNOT, VIZIER.?



YEA, MILADY. SUCH IS HER DESTINED FATE...

THEN ALL IS LOST! THESE MONTHS OF HOPE, THAT BALDER MIGHT COME TO LOVE ME OF HIS OWN WILL...

...FOR SUCH HAS ODIN DECREED!

...WERE THEY SO BRUTALLY WASTED.?

NO!! THOU DOST LIE, VIZIER! SAY THOU DOST LIE!

MILADY-- THOUGH MY SOUL CRIES OUT TO PLEASE THEE...

...I CANNOT!



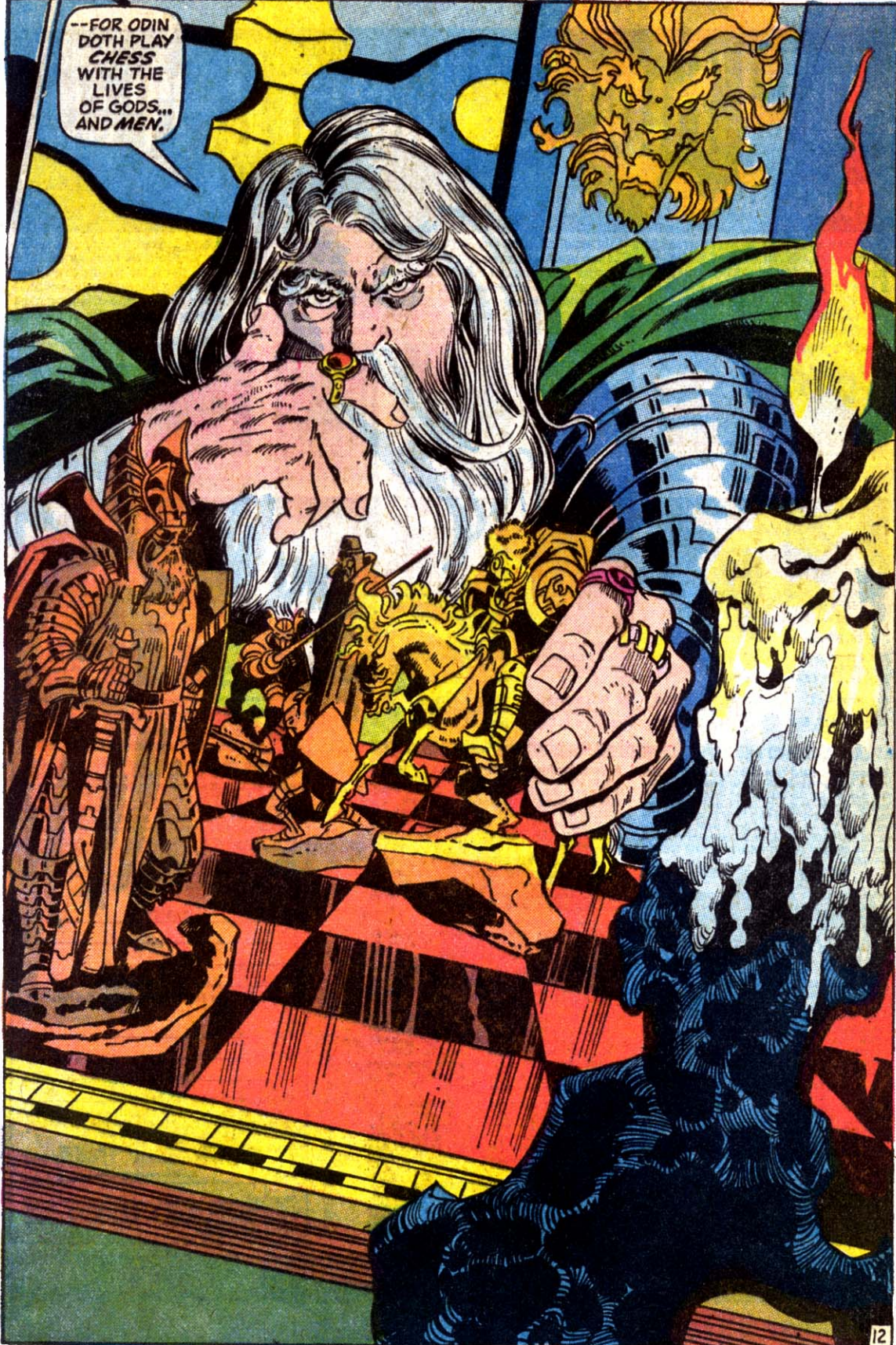
AND, IN THE CHAMBER ROYAL, THESE AND OTHER WORDS GO NOT UNHEARD, AS A TALL, WHITE-BEARDED GOD RETURNS TO A CANDLELIT TABLE, HIS THOUGHTS IN A TURMOIL...

MAYHAP THEY SPEAK RIGHTLY...

...MORE RIGHTLY THAN THEY KNOW.

BUT IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH, THEIR FEARS WOULD RAGE MORE WILDLY STILL---

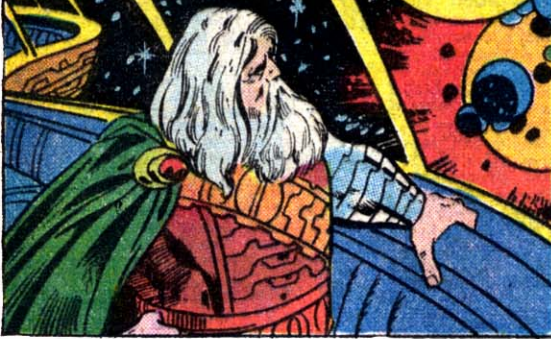
--FOR ODIN
DOTH PLAY
CHESS
WITH THE
LIVES
OF GODS...
AND MEN.



HE IS SILENT, THEN... AND FOR A TIME, HE MERELY STARES AT THE BOARD BEFORE HIM...

FINALLY, HE RISES AND TURNS TO A VAST, GILDED WINDOW...

...AND WHAT HIS BROODING EYES SEE ON THE PLANET EARTH, MORTALS ARE NOT DESTINED TO KNOW.



WHILE, ON THE PLANET IN QUESTION, IN A TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS BROOKLYN...

HEY, WALDO-- CATCH THAT UPTOWN CADDY--

-- AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE DUDE CLIMBING OUTTA IT?

MY MAN, THERE'S ONE OLD CROCK WITH GUTS.



KNOW YE WHERE I MAY FIND THE MAN CALLED KIMBAL?

... JACKSON KIMBAL?

TRY APT. SIX, MAN!

IF JACKIE'S ANYWHERE... IT'S THERE.



APPARENTLY OUR QUEST IS ALMOST OVER, KAMORR.

'T WILL BE GOOD TO STAND GUARD ONCE MORE OVER THE FABLED GATES OF ASGARD!

TRAVEL SUITS NOT MY TEMPERAMENT.

MASTER NEIMDAL! KAMORR SENSES DANGER--



GUNSHOTS!

KRAK!

PCHING! PKRAK!

NOW!

TCHK!

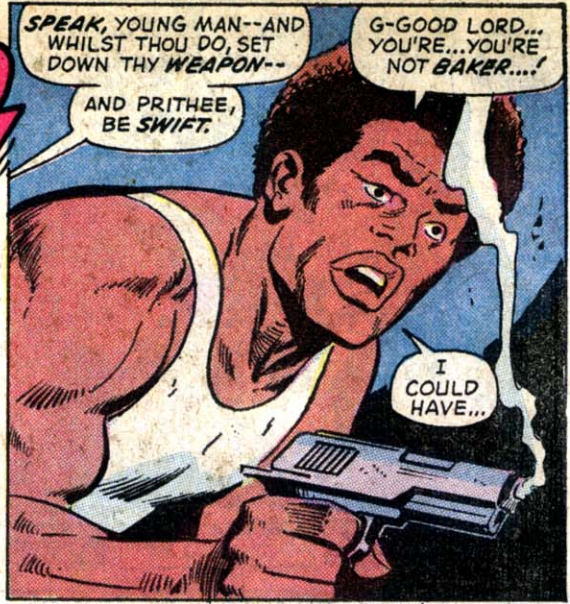
IT APPEARS WE WERE ANTICIPATED, MY FRIEND--





--BUT NOT EXPECTED!

BWHOMP!



SPEAK, YOUNG MAN--AND WHILST THOU DO, SET DOWN THY WEAPON--

G-GOOD LORD... YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT BAKER...!

AND PRITHEE, BE SWIFT.

I COULD HAVE...



BAKER? THE NAME IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

I ALMOST KILLED YOU... WOULD'VE KILLED HIM!

LORD, WHAT DID I TRY TO DO?



CALM THYSELF, MAN.

APPARENTLY, THIS MAN BAKER IS A THREAT TO THEE--TRUE?

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, FRIEND.

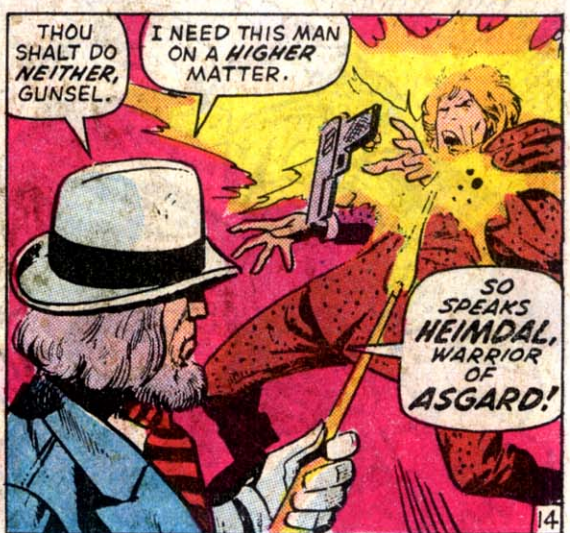
I MADE A MISTAKE, ONCE--BORROWED MONEY FROM BAKER--NOW HE'S TRYING TO WASTE ME--!

AND BAKER WILL, JACKIE BOY.



...YOU AND THE OLD GEEZER, UNLESS HE KEEPS HIS TRAP SHUT.

GOT THE DOUGH, JACKIE? OR DO I HAVE TO SQUEEZE A LITTLE BIT?



THOU SHALT DO NEITHER, GUNSEL.

I NEED THIS MAN ON A HIGHER MATTER.

SO SPEAKS HEIMDAL, WARRIOR OF ASGARD!



HEY, BENJ-- HOW'D HE DO THAT TO THE BOSS?

DUNNO. MUST'A HAD SOME SORTA ACETYLENE TORCH UP THAT CANE'A HIS--

--BUT THAT AINT GONNA KEEP ME FROM PLUGGIN' HIM ONE--!

HUNH?

NAY, BLACKGUARD --THOU WILL NOT.



YEAH, RUNT? AND WHO'LL STOP ME?

SOME HALF-PINT SHAKESPEARE? I'LL BREAK YOUR--



>ULP!<



HEY, WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?

PUT ME DOWN! DON'T--



DON'T!

LEO--WALLY-- CATCH ME! CATCH ME!



KXKX RUM!



THEY ARE DONE, MASTER HEIMDAL.

WE SHALL NOT BE BOTHERED AGAIN.

CRIPES--DIDYA SEE WHAT THAT LITTLE GUY DID?

HE--HE JUST-- TOOK HOLDA THEM-- AND--!

MY COMPANION IS A MAN OF... UNUSUAL QUALITIES.

BUT COME. 'TIS TIME WE JOINED THE OTHERS.

OTHERS?



I ASSURE THEE, FRIEND KIMBAL... ALL THY QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED, IN TIME.

FOR THE NOUNCE, TRUST ME...

...AND LET US ALL... BEGONE.



WHILE, ACROSS THE EAST RIVER, IN THE HEART OF MIDTOWN--

...THERE RAGES A BATTLE FOR A WORLD!

BALDER, MY BROTHER-- NEED THEE AID?

SPEAK, AND 'TIS THINE!

NAY, HOGUN-- STAY THY HAND, AND SAVE ITS STRENGTH FOR THYSELF!

WE'VE BATTLE ENOUGH, THE BOTH OF US--

--WITHOUT TWINING OUR FIGHTS IN TWO!

AND STILL THE WAR GOES ON, EVEN AS TWILIGHT'S PURPLE BEGINS TO DESCEND-- WHILE, FOUR BLOCKS NORTH--

WHY DO YOU PERSIST, GNAT?

WHY GO ON 'GAINST ALL HOPE?

HOPE? SPEAK NOT TO ME OF HOPE, MONSTER--

--THOU WHOSE ONLY FUTURE LIES IN DESTRUCTION --WHOSE GOAL REQUIRES THE DEATHS OF COUNTLESS HUMANS--

--WHAT CAN THOU EVER TRULY KNOW OF HOPE?

FOR THEE, LIFE IS BUT A FUTILE GROWTH--

--A CANCER TO BE CLEANS'D!

WACK!

VERILY, MONSTER... I PITY THEE.

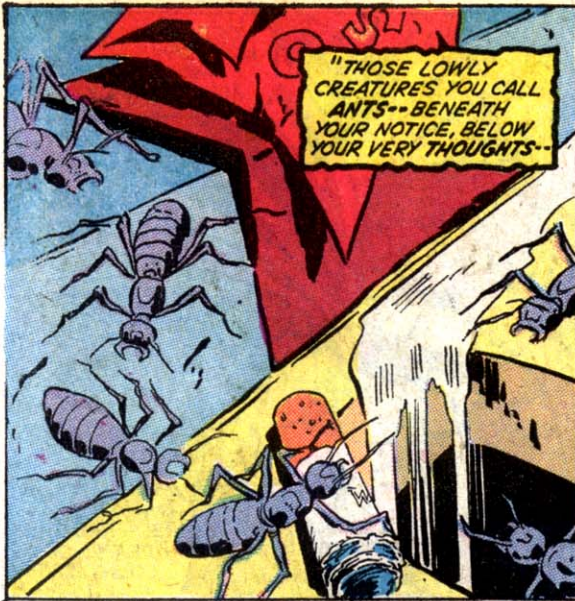
YOU PITY ME? I, WHO HAVE LIVED AS YOU CAN NEVER LIVE?

HEAR ME, IMMORTAL-- EGO LIVES A THOUSAND LIVES--

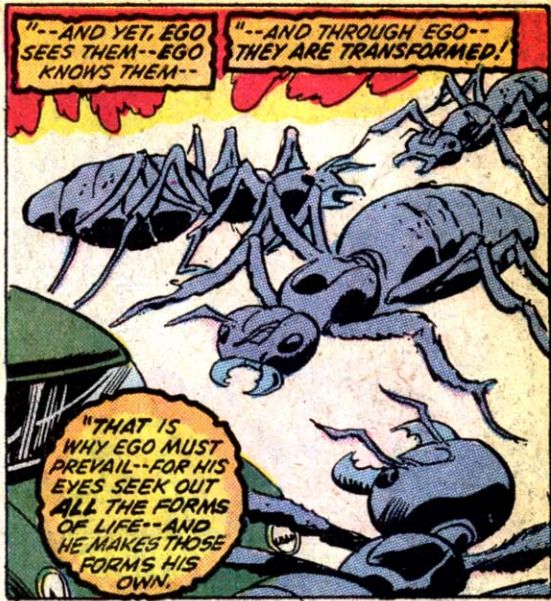
--AND EVERY LIFE HE TOUCHES, HE JOINS--

--AND EVERY LIFE HE JOINS--HE CHANGES!

THUNDER GOD! BEHOLD!



"THOSE LOWLY CREATURES YOU CALL ANTS-- BENEATH YOUR NOTICE, BELOW YOUR VERY THOUGHTS--"



"--AND YET, EGO SEES THEM-- EGO KNOWS THEM--"

"--AND THROUGH EGO-- THEY ARE TRANSFORMED!"

"THAT IS WHY EGO MUST PREVAIL-- FOR HIS EYES SEEK OUT ALL THE FORMS OF LIFE-- AND HE MAKES THOSE FORMS HIS OWN."



NOW, HOGUN-- NOW WE'VE MEAT FOR OUR BLADES--

WE NEED FEAR HARMING NO HUMAN FLESH-- NOT WITH THESE DEMONS!

YEA, AND OF US ALL--

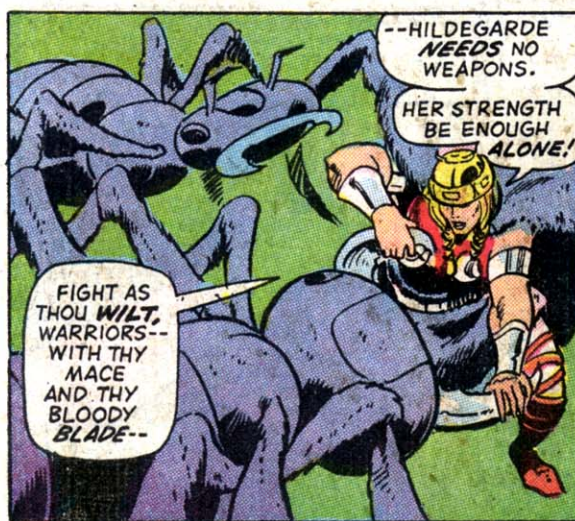


LET HOGUN BE THE FIRST TO STRIKE!

'TIS A SIMPLE BOON--

BUT 'TIS ALREADY THINE!

HAVE AT THEE, MONSTERS!



FIGHT AS THOU WILT, WARRIORS-- WITH THY MACE AND THY BLOODY BLADE--

--HILDEGARDE NEEDS NO WEAPONS.

HER STRENGTH BE ENOUGH ALONE!



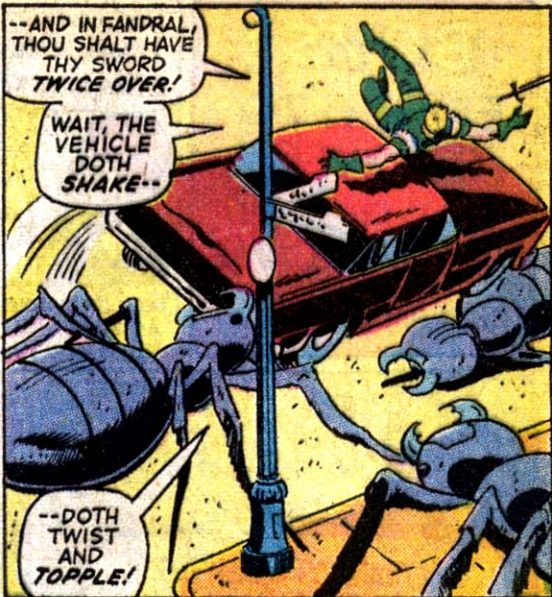
THOUGH AT TIMES-- I COULD DOTH USE A SWORD OR STAFF--

--AT TIMES LIKE THESE, METHINKS!

TAKE HEART, WOMAN--



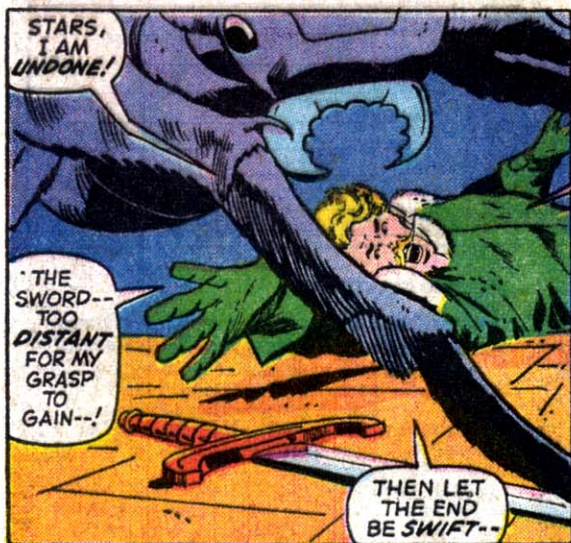
--IN BUT THE BRIEFEST BREATH, I'LL BE AT THY SIDE--



--AND IN FANDRAL, THOU SHALT HAVE THY SWORD TWICE OVER!

WAIT, THE VEHICLE DOTN SHAKE--

--DOTN TWIST AND TOPPLE!



STARS, I AM UNDONE!

THE SWORD-- TOO DISTANT FOR MY GRASP TO GAIN--!

THEN LET THE END BE SWIFT--



--AS DOTN BEFIT A WARRIOR BORN OF ASGARD--

UUNNNNNH!:-

FANDRAL!

NAY, HE BE NOT DEAD--BUT MERELY UNCONSCIOUS!

YET, THOSE ABOUT HIM-- NOBLE WARRIORS ALL-- LIE STILL-- LIE UN-BREATHING!



DO YOU NOT YET UNDERSTAND, ASGARDIAN?

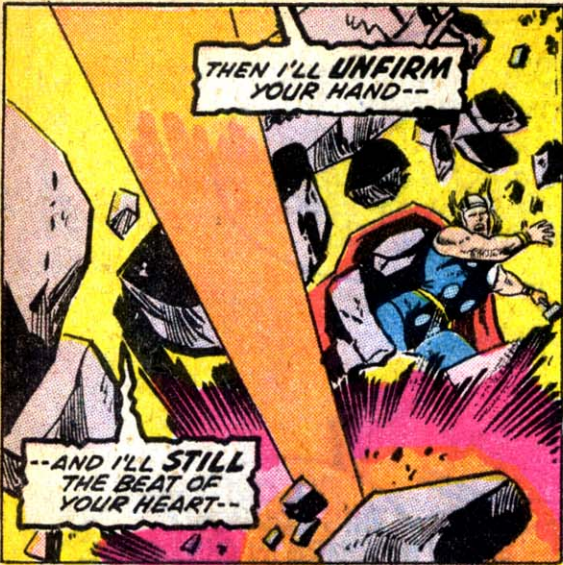
THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE FROM EGO-PRIME!



CURSE THE WORD, FOUL ONE--

THE THUNDER GOD SHALL NEVER SEEK ESCAPE, WHEN STILL HIS HEART DOTN BEAT--

--WHEN STILL HIS HAND IS FIRM!



THEN I'LL UNFIRM YOUR HAND--

--AND I'LL STILL THE BEAT OF YOUR HEART--



--FOR MORE THAN MERE LIVING THINGS DO I CONTROL!

THE VERY EARTH IS MINE TO COMMAND!



--AND FOR SUCH AM I CALLED: EGO-PRIME!

BY ODIN'S SILVER BEARD-- THE VERY ROCKS OF EARTH DEVOUR ME--

HAVE I FOUGHT A BATTLE SO WRONG--

--THAT THE LAND ITSELF MOVES IN BLIND PROTEST.?

BUT NO SOONER ARE THESE LAST WORDS DONE, THAN THE GOD OF THUNDER GROWS UNDUPLY SILENT-- HIS CHEST HEAVES-- HIS EYES CLOSE--



--AND HIS FINGERS SIGHTLESSLY CLAW-- FOR AIR HE CAN NO LONGER BREATHE!

MILORD THOR-- NOOOOOO!! Noooooo!!



SO IT ENDS... AND IN THE PASSING OF ONE ERA...

...ANOTHER IS BORN ANEW!!

NEXT:

METAMORPHOSIS!