

THOR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE
MIGHTY

THOR®



DESPAIR
NOT, MY
LADY SIF!

I SHALL
FREE THEE
FROM THESE
BINDING
CRYSTALS
WHICH--

NAY,
GOD OF
THUNDER--
YOU'LL NOT
FREE HER!

THUS SPEAKS
XORR,
SPAWNER OF
WORLDS!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**™

THE GOD IN THE JEWEL

WITNESS THESE
FACES OF FEAR.

ONE SPLIT
INSTANT AGO,
THESE WARRIORS
RODE THE
CREST OF
VICTORY.

NOW, GODS OF
ASSGARD AND THEIR
DARK WORLD FOES
ALIKE FIND THEM-
SELVES THROWN FROM
THE HEIGHTS OF
SUCCESS--TO THE
DEPTHS OF DEFEAT!

THEY CAN ONLY STARE
AT THE CAUSE OF
THEIR REVERSAL...

STARE... AND WONDER IF THEY
HAVE, AFTER ALL, GONE MAD!

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154-2-Z

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"MAKE NO
MOVE,
THOR, GOD OF
THUNDER!"

"WE HAVE
KNOWLEDGE
OF YOUR POWER,
STOLEN FROM
THE GODDESS'
SIF'S MORE
THAN INFORMATIVE
BRAIN!"

"FOR THIS PERIOD
OF TIME, WE HAVE
USE OF HER AND
HER COMPANION, THE
WITCH CALLED
KARWILLA... THEY
SHALL PROVIDE THE
LIFE ENERGY WE
REQUIRE TO DOMIN-
ATE THIS PORTION
OF THE COSMIC ALL.

"SO BE
WARNED,
THUNDER
GOD:"

"VENTURE
ONE MILLIMETER
CLOSER AND
WE SHALL BE
FORCED TO
ACT--"

"--AND IF WE
ACT, YOU SHALL
BE DESTROYED ONE
MINUTE SOONER
THAN IS ALREADY
ORDAINED!"

"NOW LISTEN--
AND HEED THE
WORDS OF OUR
HUMANOID
PROTEGES--IF
EVER YOU WOULD
SEE TOMORROW'S
DAWN!"

THE GOD-JEWEL HAS MADE
ITS WISHES CLEAR. THERE
CAN BE NO DEVIATION
FROM ITS COMMANDS.

YOU WILL ALL
GO BENEATH THE
SURFACE OF THE ASTEROID--
INTO THE MINES WHICH WERE
ONCE OURS, BUT ARE NO
LONGER.

AND IF WE
REFUSE,
PUPPET?

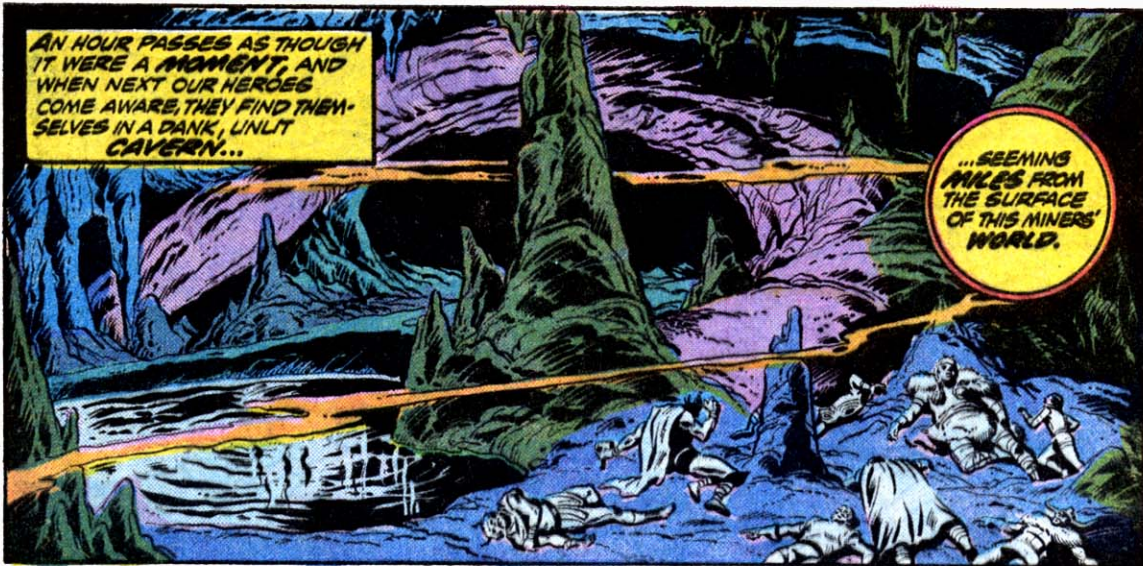
THE FOURTH-
DIMENSIONAL
MAN IS NOT
A FOOL TO BE
ORDERED
ABOUT LIKE A
CHILD!

IF YOU
REFUSE--?



AN HOUR PASSES AS THOUGH IT WERE A MOMENT, AND WHEN NEXT OUR HEROES COME AWARE, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A DANK, UNLIT CAVERN...

...SEEMING MILES FROM THE SURFACE OF THIS MINERS' WORLD.



IT APPEARS WE LIVE, THUNDER GOD.

AND FOR A TIME... WE SEEM TO BE ALLIES.

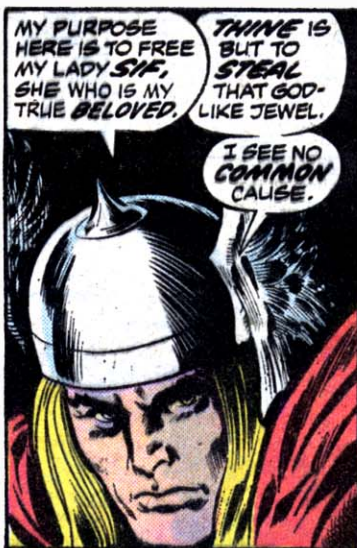
THOU DOST FLATTER THYSELF, MERCURIO.



MY PURPOSE HERE IS TO FREE MY LADY SIF, SHE WHO IS MY TRUE BELOVED.

THINE IS BUT TO STEAL THAT GOD-LIKE JEWEL.

I SEE NO COMMON CAUSE.



ON THE CONTRARY, MY FRIEND-- OUR CAUSE IS VERY COMMON. YOU WISH TO SAVE YOUR WOMAN...

I WISH TO SAVE MY PLANET.

TOGETHER WE MAY ACCOMPLISH BOTH OUR ENDS.

ALONE... WE MAY ONLY FAIL.



FOR, THIS I SWEAR TO YOU, THOR, LORD OF THUNDER...

THAT CREATURE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN EITHER YOU OR I MAY FULLY KNOW!



I HAVE HEARD WHISPERS THROUGH ALL THE KNOWN GALAXIES-- AND YES, FROM THE JEWEL-- DEMON ITSELF.

ITS POWER MAY EVEN RIVAL YOURS, LORD ODIN-- YOU WHO CALL YOURSELF THE ALL-FATHER--



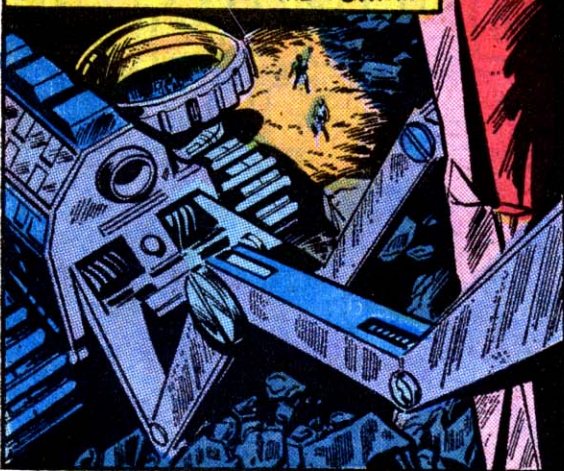
AND MORE, IT MAY SURPASS YOUR GREATEST THRUST!

THEN SHALL WE ALL DIE--

AND AYE, THE UNIVERSE AS WELL!



AS ARGUMENT RAGES BENEATH THE PLANETOID'S CRUST, PREPARATIONS ARE MADE ABOVE BY MEN WHOSE MINDS SEEM NO LONGER THEIR OWN...



WHAT DOST THOU THINK OF THE MOVEMENTS BELOW, LADY SIF?

ARE THEY A DANGER TO US?

CAN THEY BE ELSE BUT A DANGER?

WE ARE TRAPPED WITHIN THIS DEMON JEWEL--AND WHAT ACTION THOSE MEN MAY TAKE 'GAINST IT, SHALL SURELY AFFECT US AS WELL!

"QUITE TRUE, FEMALE... ON THE SURFACE."

SO, THOU DOST DEEM TO SPEAK TO US AGAIN?

WHAT TALE HAST THOU FOR US THIS TIME, JEWEL?

"WE SENSE YOUR CONSTERNATION, FEMALE, IT CREATES UNPLEASANT Ripples WITHIN THIS STRUCTURE."

"PERHAPS IF OUR IDENTITY WERE CLEAR TO YOU, SOME OF YOUR FEARS WOULD FALL AWAY."

"THIS WOULD IMPROVE THE STRUCTURAL FLOW--TO ALL OUR BENEFITS."

"LET US BEGIN... NEAR THE BEGINNING."

"SIX MILLION YEARS AGO, OUR SUN WAS ON THE VERGE OF GOING NOVA."



"WE WERE A WORLD THEN... PEOPLE, A PLANET..."

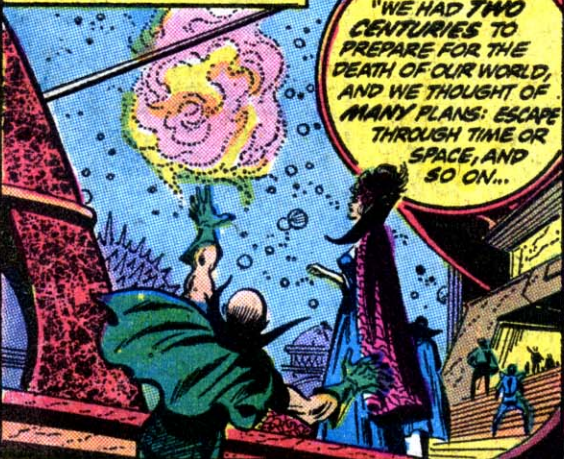
"...A LIVING CULTURE WHICH HAD ALREADY SPAWNED A THOUSAND LESSER RACES: THE KREE, MANKIND, SKRULL... ALL HUMANOID RACES BEGAN IN OUR GENES."

"WE HAD TWO CENTURIES TO PREPARE FOR THE DEATH OF OUR WORLD, AND WE THOUGHT OF MANY PLANS: ESCAPE THROUGH TIME OR SPACE, AND SO ON..."

"...BUT IN THE END, WE KNEW THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE SOLUTION."

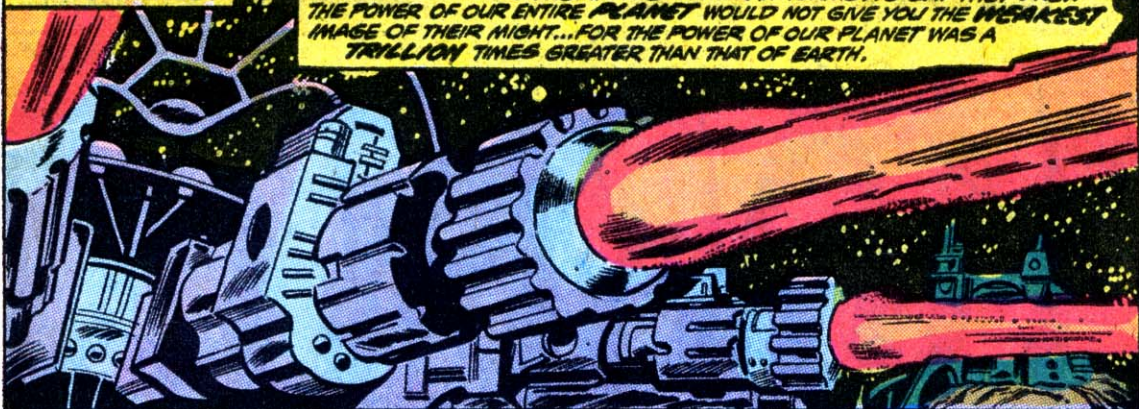
"ALL OUR KNOWLEDGE, OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION... CENTERED ON THAT ONE LONE PLANET WHICH WE CALLED XORR-- 'HOME'."

"WERE OUR RACE TO SURVIVE... OUR PLANET MUST SURVIVE..."



"...AND SO WE BUILT
THE MACHINES.

"THEIR SIZE HAD NO MEANINGS IN HUMAN TERMS. TO SAY THEY DREW
THE POWER OF OUR ENTIRE PLANET WOULD NOT GIVE YOU THE WEAKEST
IMAGE OF THEIR MIGHT... FOR THE POWER OF OUR PLANET WAS A
TRILLION TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF EARTH.



"IN THE MOMENT
OF OUR SUN'S
EXPLOSION,
THOSE MACHINES
COVERED
OUR PLANET
WITH AN IMPEN-
ETRABLE SHELL
OF NUCLEAR
FORCE...



"IT WAS THAT SHELL WHICH
SAVED US WHEN OUR
SUN WENT NOVA--AND
THOUGH THE FORCE OF THAT
EXPLOSION WAS ENOUGH
TO ROCKET OUR PLANET
INTO THE DEPTHS OF SPACE--



"--IT WAS NOT
GREAT ENOUGH
TO PENETRATE
OUR NUCLEAR
SHIELD!

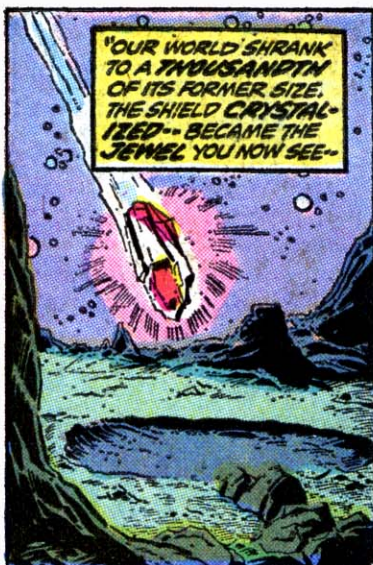
"FOR HOW MANY CENTURIES WE
TRAVELED THUS, A SPACESHIP
PLANET, WE CANNOT SAY TIME
HAD NO MEANING WITHIN OUR
PROTECTIVE SHIELD.

"GRADUALLY,
OVER THE EONS,
OUR PLANET
CHANGED.
THE SHIELD...
CONTRACTED...



"...AND BECAUSE
OF ITS NUCLEAR
BASE, IT CAUSED
THE PLANET
TO CONTRACT
WITH IT.

"OUR WORLD SHRANK
TO A THOUSANDTH
OF ITS FORMER SIZE.
THE SHIELD CRYSTAL-
IZED-- BECAME THE
JEWEL YOU NOW SEE--



"--AND ONE MILLION YEARS AGO,
THE JEWEL SMASHED INTO
THIS BARREN ASTEROID, HERE,
IN THE DARK NEBULA--

"--AND HAS LAIN
AT REST EVER
SINCE."



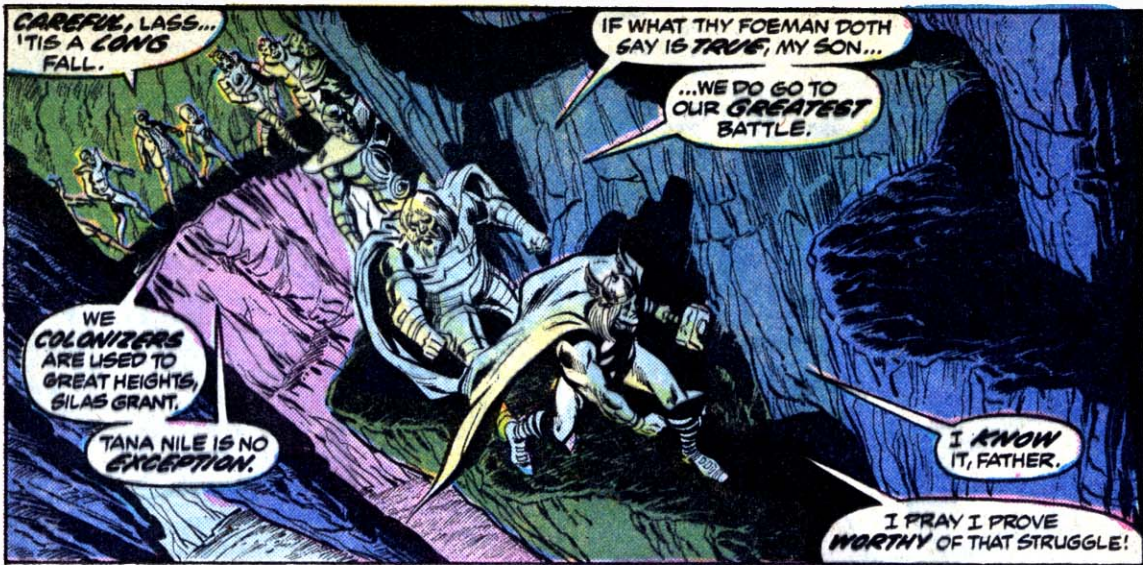
THEN... 'TIS TRUE,
THIS JEWEL
DOETH LIVE?

"SINCE
BEFORE THY
CONCEPTION.



"AND NOW...
WITH YOUR LIFE-
ENERGY...WE
MAY RETURN
TO TAKE OUR
RIGHTFUL
PLACE IN THE
UNIVERSE...

"...AS
GODS!"



CAREFUL, LASS...
IT'S A LONG
FALL.

IF WHAT THY FOEMAN DOTH
SAY IS TRUE, MY SON...

...WE DO GO TO
OUR GREATEST
BATTLE.

WE
COLONIZERS
ARE USED TO
GREAT HEIGHTS,
SILAS GRANT.

TANA NILE IS NO
EXCEPTION.

I KNOW
IT, FATHER.

I PRAY I PROVE
WORTHY OF THAT STRUGGLE!



BUT HOLD... IT SEEMS
WE WILL JOIN THAT BATTLE
SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT.

AHEAD--THE
SHADOWS OF THIS
ASTEROID'S MINERS,
WHO MUST STAND
WITH THEIR ENSLAVED
BROTHERS!

THY MALLET
MJOLNIR--
MAKE USE
OF IT!

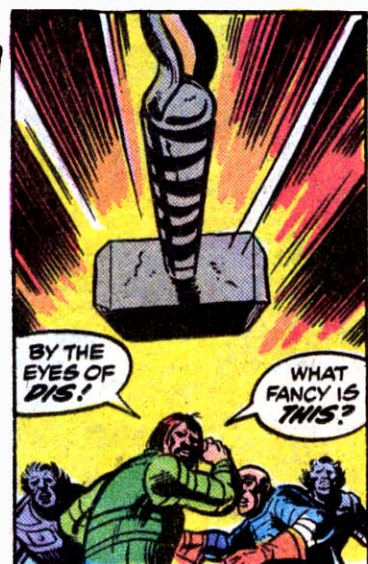


ODIN
COMMANDS.

HIS SON
OBEYS!



SPRAK!

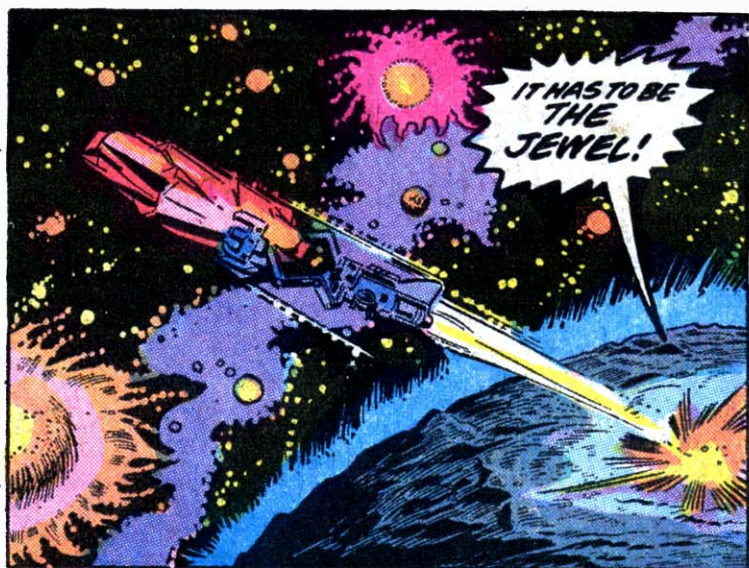


BY THE
EYES OF
DIS!

WHAT
FANCY IS
THIS?

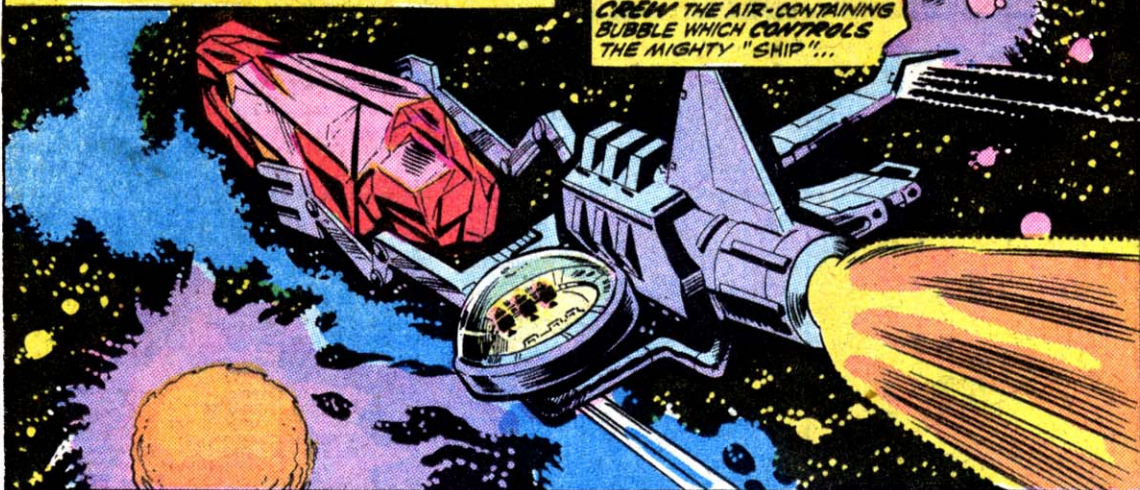


WOK!



LIKE SOME VAST SPACE-SWIMMING BEHEMOTH, THE JEWEL AND ITS UNORTHODOX SETTING SKIM SILENTLY THROUGH THE ETERNAL DARKNESS.

NO WORD IS SPOKEN BY THE THREE MEN WHO CREW THE AIR-CONTAINING BUBBLE WHICH CONTROLS THE MIGHTY "SHIP"...



... NOR DO THE JEWEL'S CAPTIVES SPEAK, OVERCOME AS THEY ARE BY THE PRESSURE OF THE FORCES WORKING AROUND THEM.



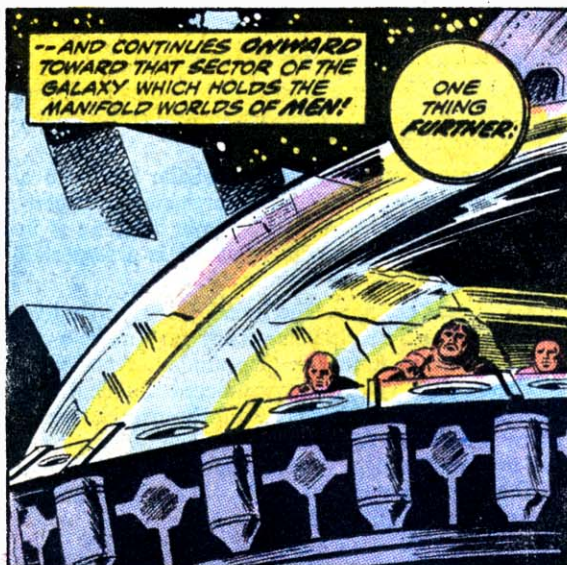
NOW MANY MINUTES PASS AS THE JEWEL COVERS THE BREADTH OF THE DARK NEBULA, WE CANNOT SAY--

WE CAN ONLY COMMENT THAT EVENTUALLY IT BREAKS FREE OF THE NEBULA'S INKY CONFINES--



-- AND CONTINUES ONWARD TOWARD THAT SECTOR OF THE GALAXY WHICH HOLDS THE MANIFOLD WORLDS OF MEN!

ONE THING FURTHER:



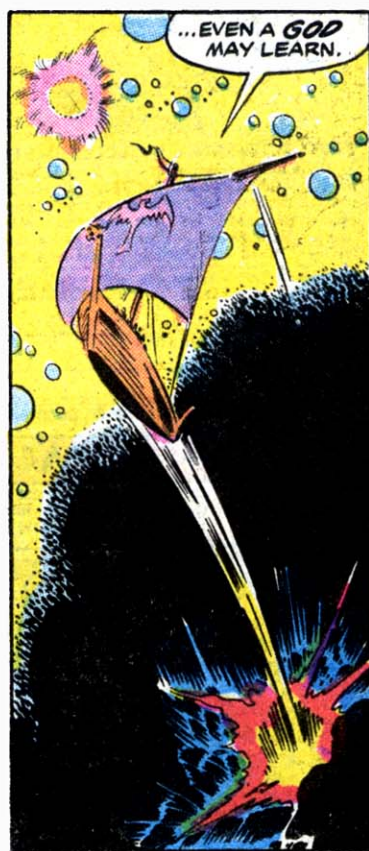
IN ITS FLIGHT... THE JEWEL IS NOT ALONE!

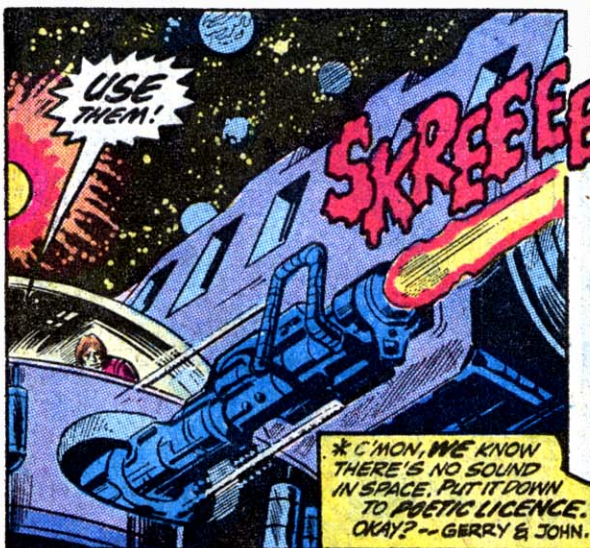
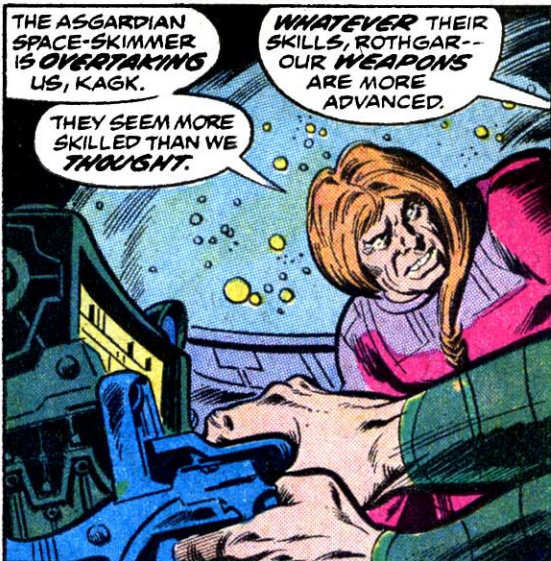
AHEAD! 'TIS THEY... I AM SURE OF IT.



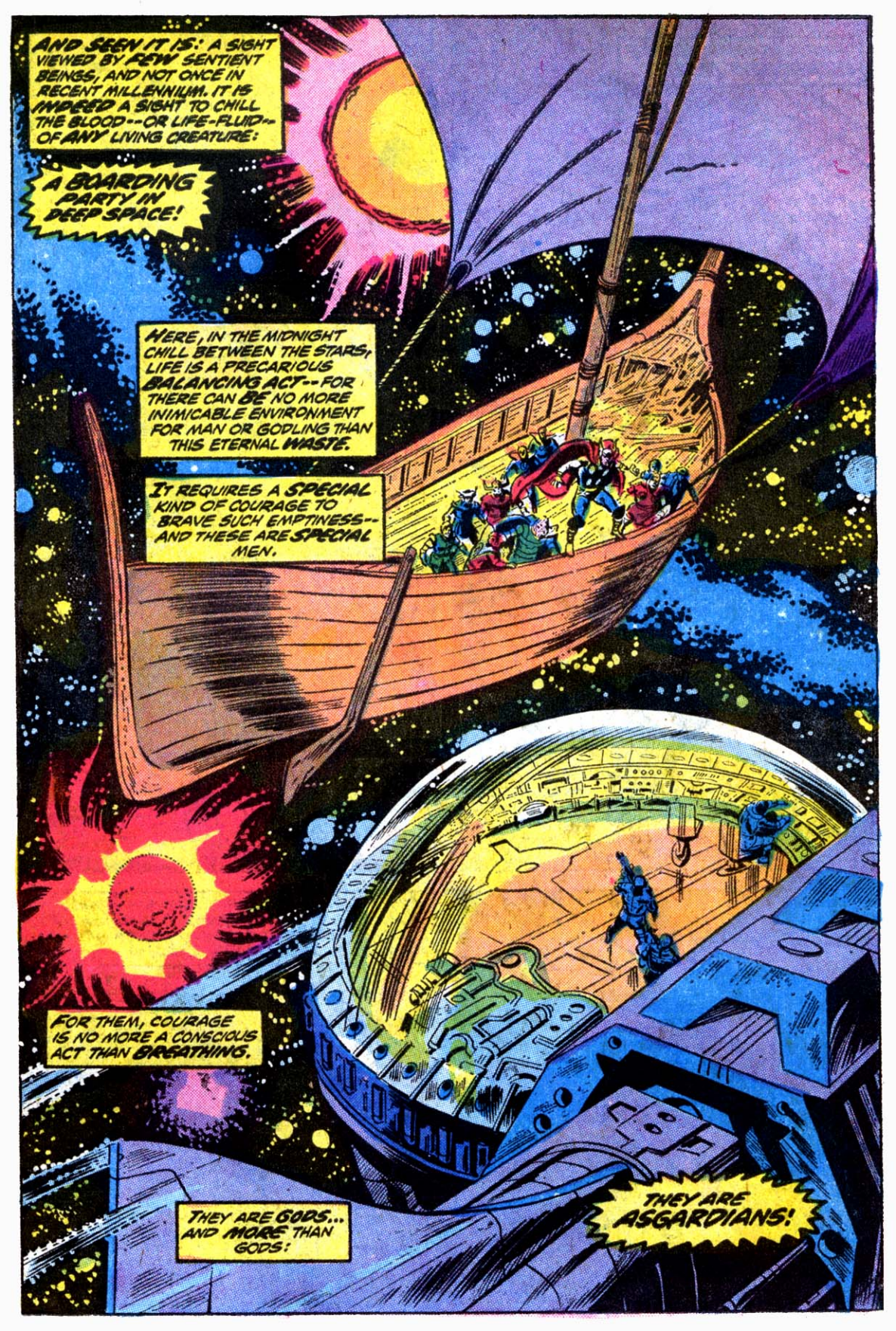
WE FOLLOWED NOT TOO SLOWLY AFTER ALL, MILORD.

THE BATTLE IS NOT YET LOST... NAY, 'TIS ONLY NOW BEGINNING!









AND SEEN IT IS: A SIGHT
VIEWED BY FEW SENTIENT
BEINGS, AND NOT ONCE IN
RECENT MILLENNIUM. IT IS
IMPEDE A SIGHT TO CHILL
THE BLOOD--OR LIFE-FLUID--
OF ANY LIVING CREATURE:

A BOARDING
PARTY IN
DEEP SPACE!

HERE, IN THE MIDNIGHT
CHILL BETWEEN THE STARS,
LIFE IS A PRECARIOUS
BALANCING ACT--FOR
THERE CAN BE NO MORE
INIMICABLE ENVIRONMENT
FOR MAN OR GODLING THAN
THIS ETERNAL WASTE.

IT REQUIRES A SPECIAL
KIND OF COURAGE TO
BRAVE SUCH EMPTINESS--
AND THESE ARE SPECIAL
MEN.

FOR THEM, COURAGE
IS NO MORE A CONSCIOUS
ACT THAN BREATHING.

THEY ARE GODS...
AND MORE THAN
GODS!

THEY ARE
ASGARDIANS!



AND ASSARDIANS ARE
WARRIORS BORN!



KRASH!



DID I SEE THEE
HESITATE,
FANDRAL?

SURELY SUCH
A DELICATE DROP
DOES NOT FRIGHT-
EN THEE.

I HESITATED
ONLY TO SEE IF
THOU WERT
FOLLOWING,
FRIEND HOGUN.

I KNOW HOW TRULY
COST THOU ART WITHOUT ME!



BLONDHAIR! YOU
WOULD HAVE DESTROYED
US *ALL* BY SMASHING
THAT DOME, IF KAGK
HAD NOT *FIRST* SET
UP A FORCE SHIELD!

FOR YOUR
ARROGANCE
MUST YOU
DIE!

WHUMP!



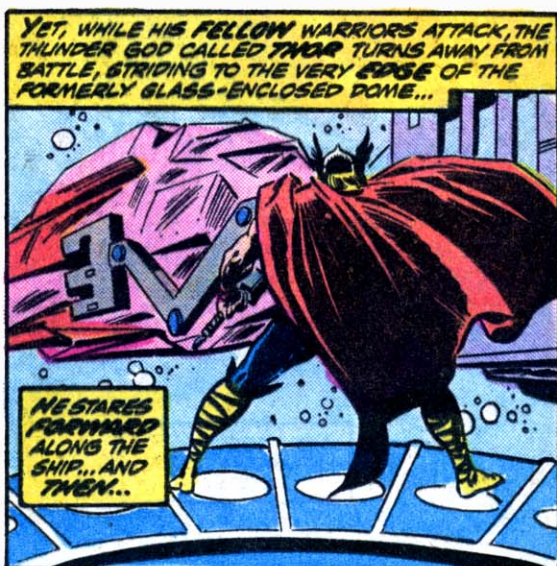
METHINKS
NOT, BALD
ONE.

THY
ARTIFICIAL
GRAVITY
DRAWS US
DOWN-
WARD--

--UPON
THEE!

MORE
WEAPONS!

AH, THIS IS
A *WELCOME*
FIGHT!



YET, WHILE HIS FELLOW WARRIORS ATTACK, THE
THUNDER GOD CALLED *THOR* TURNS AWAY FROM
BATTLE, STRIDING TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE
FORMERLY GLASS-ENCLOSED DOME...

HE STARES
FORWARD
ALONG THE
SHIP... AND
THEN...



MILADY,
FORGIVE ME
FOR NOT
COMING MORE
QUICKLY.

I HAVE
NO EXCUSE
BUT MY OWN
SLOTH.



BLAME NOT *THYSELF*,
BELOVED... THE FATES
DID WORK *AGAINST*
THEE.

YET NOW
THOU ART *HERE*...
AND THOU MUST
STRIKE AND *FREE*
US, ERE THE
MOMENT DOTH
PASS...

...AND
WE MUST
REMAIN...
EVERMORE!



MY LADY SIF-- WHAT
MADNESS IS THIS
THOU DOST *SPEAK*?

NO *MADNESS*,
MY LORD. THE
JEWEL DOTH *DRAIN*
OUR ENERGIES.

IN MOMENTS...
WE SHALL BE
LITTLE MORE
THAN *SHELLS*.

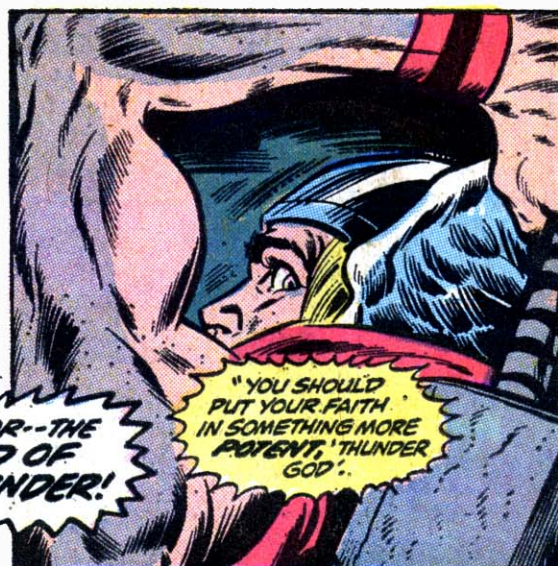


THAN SHALL THEE
BE FREED AT
ONCE.

NO MERE *CRYSTAL*
SHALL WITHSTAND
THE MIGHT OF
MJOLNIR.

THIS I
SWEAR!

I, THOR--THE
GOD OF
THUNDER!

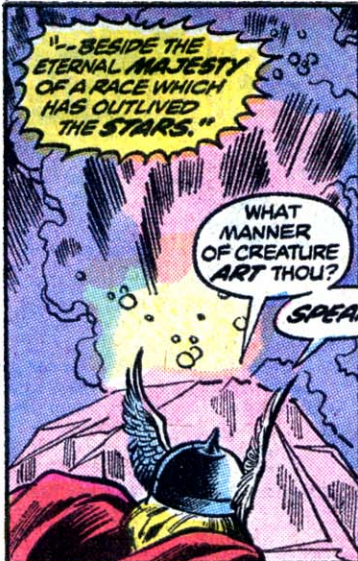


"YOU SHOULD
PUT YOUR FAITH
IN SOMETHING MORE
POTENT, 'THUNDER
GOD'."



"IN THIS SITUATION, YOUR VAUNTED STRENGTH IS USELESS."

"YOUR POWERS BECOME MICRO-SCOPIC--"



"-- BESIDE THE ETERNAL MAJESTY OF A RACE WHICH HAS OUTLIVED THE STARS."

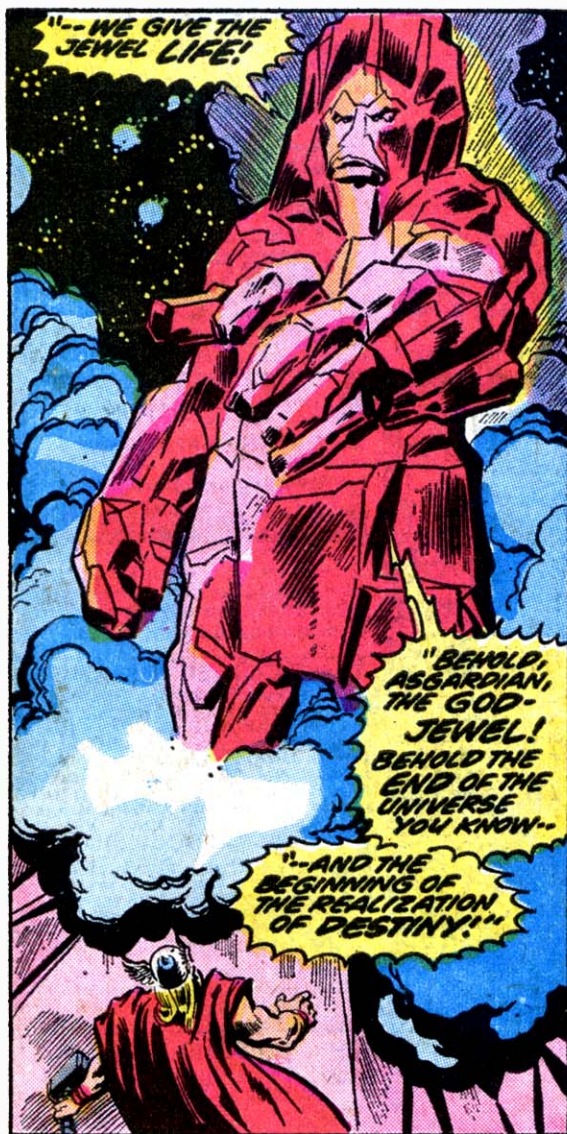
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ART THOU?

SPEAK!



"WE ARE ... THE JEWEL."

"MORE THAN THIS YOU NEED NOT-- AND CANNOT-- UNDERSTAND. AND IN THIS MOMENT--"



"-- WE GIVE THE JEWEL LIFE!"

"BEHOLD, ASGARDIAN, THE GOD-JEWEL! BEHOLD THE END OF THE UNIVERSE YOU KNOW--"

"-- AND THE BEGINNING OF THE REALIZATION OF DESTINY!"



MONSTER! FOR THIS HAST THOU STOLEN MY BELOVED'S FREEDOM?

THY ARROGANCE ASTOUNDS ME... THAT THOU DOST NOT THINK THYSELF ABOVE THE RIGHTS OF GODS AND MEN...

... A LAW UPON THY-SELF!

READY THYSELF, DEMON-- FOR THOU SHALT DIE!

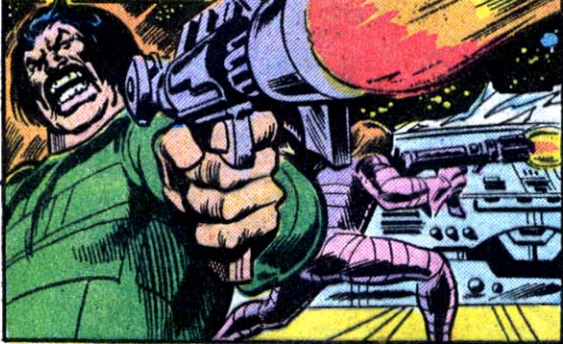


"WE THINK NOT, GODLING. THERE IS SOMETHING MORE WHICH YOU SHOULD KNOW..."

"... AND THEN MAY YOU STRIKE... IF YOU DARE."

ELSEWHERE ABOARD THE SPACE-FARING JEWEL
THE FIRE OF BATTLE CONSUMES AN EVER-
SHRINKING AREA...

... AS THE WARRIORS OF
ASGARD PRESS FOR-
WARD AGAINST THE
JEWEL'S HYPNOTIZED
SERVANTS...

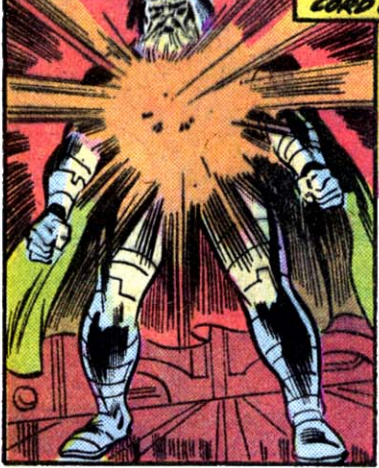


... FORWARD AGAINST
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS!



ALL BUT
ONE STAGGER
UNDER THE
BRUNT OF THE
MINER'S RAY
BLASTS--

--AND THAT
ONE IS
ODIN--



ALL-FATHER
ODIN,
LORD OF ASGARD!

I SAY THEE--
ENOW!



THOUGH
MY FULL
STRENGTH HAS
YET TO RETURN--

--STILL AM I
MORE THAN
MATCH FOR
WEAPONS
SUCH AS
THINE!

IT-IT ISN'T
POSSIBLE!
NO ONE CAN
WITHSTAND
THE
MOLECULAR
DISRUPTOR!



NO
ONE!



YAAAAAAH!!



VERILY I
SAY, THERE
HATH BEEN
ENOUGH
FIGHTING

LET THERE
BE AN END
TO VIOLENCE--

