

THOR

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THE MIGHTY

# THOR

SIDE BY SIDE WITH  
**HERCULES AND  
FIRELORD**



**THREE  
AGAINST THE  
LIVING PLANET!**

IN SEARCH OF...

# EGO!

IN TRUTH,  
THERE IS A  
MYSTERY  
HERE.

WHY  
HAS THOR,  
HE WHO IS MY BELOVED  
SON, JOINED FORCES  
WITH GALACTUS--  
THE MOST DANGEROUS  
ENTITY IN ALL SPACE  
AND TIME?

I MUST  
KNOW THE  
ANSWER--ELSE  
ALL THE UNIVERSE  
MAY BE  
DESTROYED!

AND NOW, A RETURN  
TO FORMER GLORY--  
PRODUCED IN ALL ITS  
POMP AND PANOPLY BY:  
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EVEN AS I WATCH, THE INTERSTELLAR VESSEL CONTAINING MY SON AND HIS ALLIES SWOOPS ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE LIVING PLANET, EGO.

WHAT PURPOSE HAVE THEY IN APPROACHING THAT WORLD? I MUST KNOW MORE, BEFORE I CAN MAKE A DECISION...

... FOR IT MUST NEVER BE SAID THAT ALL-FATHER ODIN DID ACT WITHOUT KNOWING THE CONSEQUENCE OF HIS INTER-FERENCE!

"AH, MY MONITOR NOW TURNS ITS GAZE TO THE SCENE WITHIN THE VESSEL... AND INDEED, IT IS GALACTUS WHOM I SEE... GALACTUS, WHO ONCE DARED THREATEN ASGARD ITSELF...!"

WE NEAR THE SURFACE, THUNDER GOD.

HAVE YOU DECIDED? DO YOU STAND WITH GALACTUS-- OR AGAINST HIM?

WITH THEE, SPACE-GOD. THOU HAST CONVINCED ME THAT THY CAUSE IS A JUST ONE--

YEA, TO THE END OF TIME!

--AND THUS, THOR WILL FOLLOW THEE, AND FIGHT BY THY SIDE--!

"-- GALACTUS SPEAKS--!"

THEN WE MUST STAND FIRM, ASGARDIAN-- FOR THE POWER OF EGO IS GREAT, PERHAPS GREATER THAN ALL OUR POWER COMBINED.

GREATER EVEN THAN THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, VAST ONE?

PERHAPS SO, OLYMPIAN. THE INSANE SOMETIMES HAVE POWER BEYOND THEIR NORMAL ABILITIES-- AND MAKE NO MISTAKE--

"DO MINE EARS DECEIVE ME? HAS MY SON SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO THIS MONSTER? BY THE FLAMES OF RAGNAROK, I SWEAR HE'LL FEEL MY WRATH-- BUT WAIT--"



-- THE LIVING PLANET EGO IS **MAD!**

"THEN THAT EXPLAINS IT, IN MY HEART, I KNEW THOR WOULD NOT BETRAY HIS HERITAGE... THAT ONLY AN EVIL MORE GRAVE THAN THAT OF GALACTUS, COULD BRING THOR TO THE SIDE OF THAT PLANET-DEVOURING DEMON..."



"STILL, THERE ARE QUESTIONS WHICH REMAIN UNANSWERED, AND I MUST HAVE THOSE ANSWERS. I WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE..."

TELL ME, THUNDER GOD... DOST THOU TRULY TRUST GALACTUS? I ADMIT, I'VE NEVER FOUGHT HIM, AS THOU HAST... BUT HE SEEMS TOO DISTANT, TOO REMOVED...

... TOO... SUPERIOR? YEA, I KNOW WHAT THOU DOST MEAN, FRIEND HERCULES.

YET I DO TRUST HIM, FOR I KNOW HIS ORIGIN--

-- AND NO MORE BITTER LIFE HAST ANY MAN LIVED... OR ANY GOD.

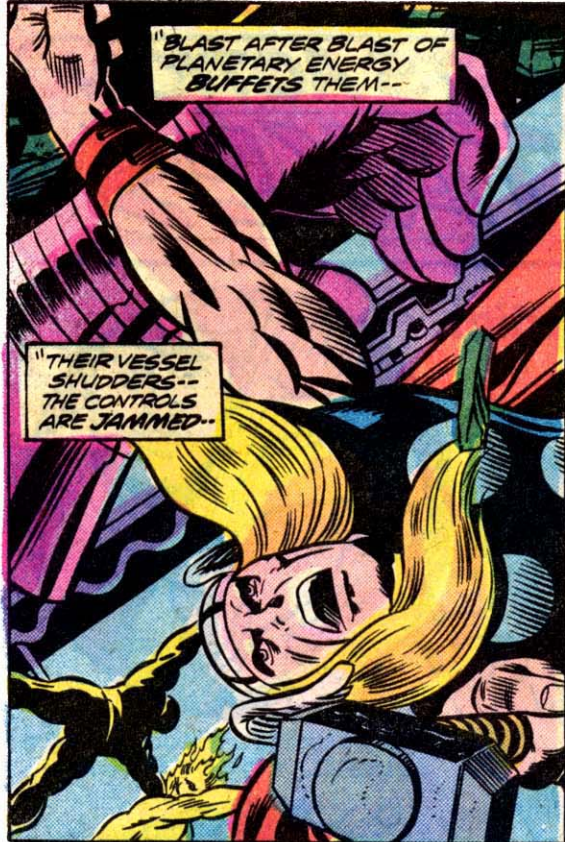
IF HE'S DISTANT, 'TIS ONLY BECAUSE HE IS SO TERRIBLY-- ALONE.



"THE MYSTERY DEEPENS. THERE IS MUCH HERE WHICH REQUIRES THOUGHT, MAYHAP IF I WERE TO CONTACT THOR, AND ASK HIM TO--

**BAW HOON**

"HEIMDAL'S EYES! THEY ARE ATTACKED!"



"BLAST AFTER BLAST OF PLANETARY ENERGY BUFFETS THEM--"

"THEIR VESSEL SHUDDERS-- THE CONTROLS ARE JAMMED--"



"--THEY ARE GOING TO--"

**KRASH!**



ODIN'S BLOOD! IT SEEMS EGO WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR PROGRESS-- HE HAD TO HASTEN OUR LANDING BY HIS OWN MEANS!

I'M CERTAIN YOU NOW FULLY COMPREHEND THE DANGER, ASSGARDIAN.

IF SUCH ENERGY WERE TO BE APPLIED AGAINST THE STARS OF THIS GALAXY--

-- WE WOULD ALL PERISH.

MY MASTER SPEAKS THE TRUTH, THUNDER GOD.

I SWEAR IT!



AND I BELIEVE THEE, FIRELORD.. AND APOLOGIZE FOR MY ACTIONS AGAINST THEE, WHEN THOU FIRST CAME TO EARTH TO HERALD YOUR MASTER'S ARRIVAL.\*

'TIS AN ERROR I REGRET.

AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT THOU WERT THE THREAT.

NO MORE THAN I, ASSGARDIAN.

THEN LET US BE OFF.

THERE IS MUCH WE HAVE TO DO...!

\*IN ISSUE #225.--ROY.



"A BRAVE AND NOBLE SON, ONE I HAVE WRONGED BY MY ANGER. WHEN HE RETURNS, I MUST--

**CRUMP!**

"ZOUNDS! WHAT NEW DISASTER BEFALLS THEM? YOU WALL CRUMPLES LIKE PAPER--



"-- AND BEHOLD, ONCE MORE THEY ARE ASSAULTED-- NOW, BY A FIERCESOME MONSTER!

YOU DARE APPROACH EGO-- FOR THAT, YOU MUST PAY.

FOR THAT-- WILL YOU DIE!



STAND BACK, ALL OF THEE.

YOU BEAST NEED CONCERN LIS NO LONGER THAN THE TIME IT TAKES MINE HAMMER TO STRIKE!

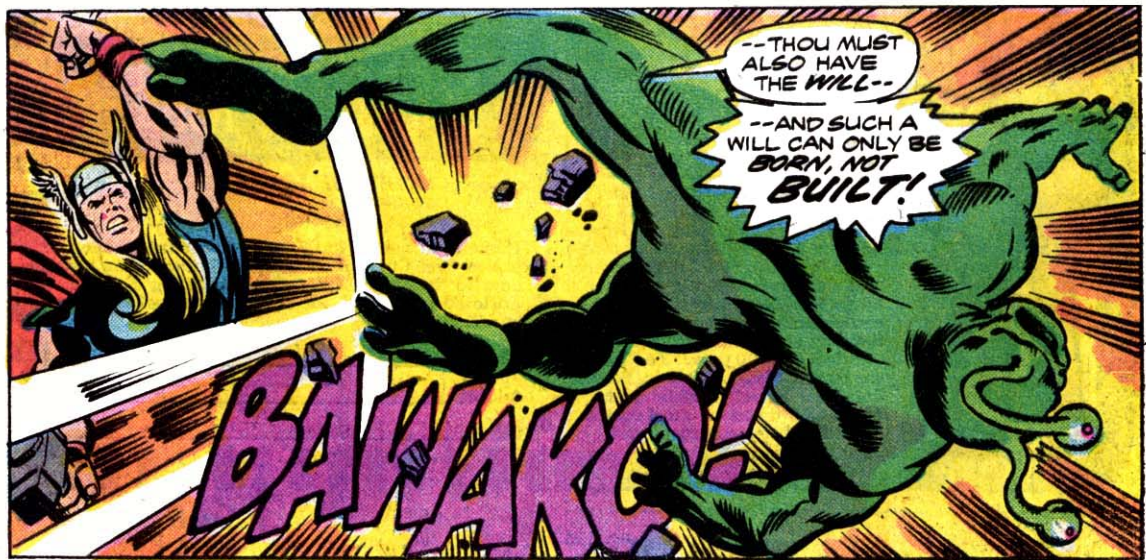
AND STRIKE IT SHALL -- I SWEAR IT!



AH, SO THE MONSTER DISAGREES.

EGO HAS GIVEN HIM A STREAK OF STUBBORNNESS, AS WELL AS POWER.

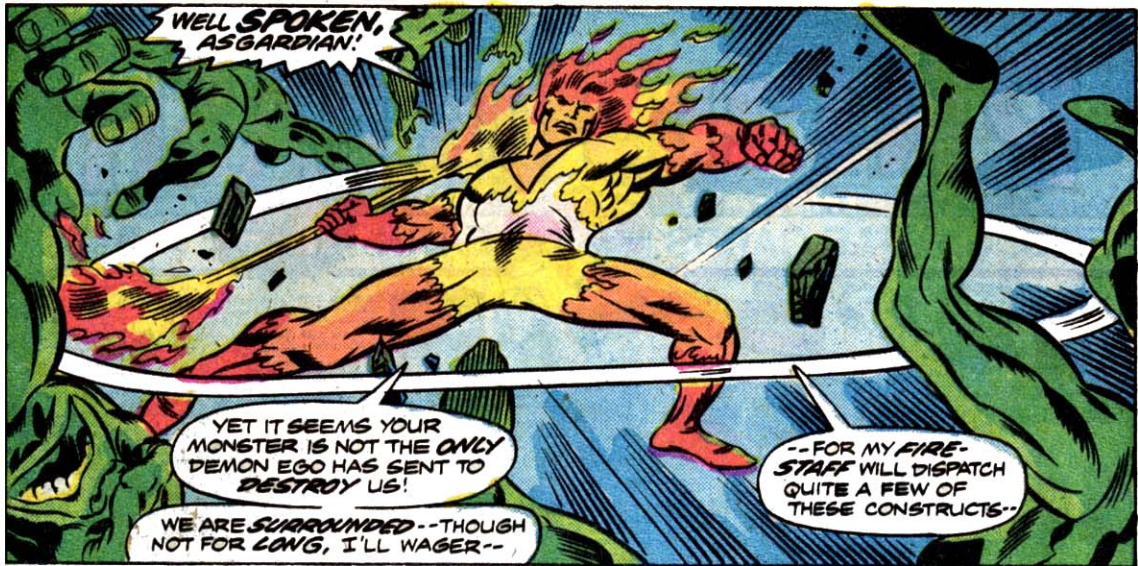
YET, THOU SHALT LEARN, DEMON, THAT DETERMINATION ALONE DOES NOT A WAR WIN--



--THOU MUST ALSO HAVE THE WILL--

--AND SUCH A WILL CAN ONLY BE BORN, NOT BUILT!

**BAWAK!**



WELL SPOKEN, ASGARDIAN!

YET IT SEEMS YOUR MONSTER IS NOT THE ONLY DEMON EGO HAS SENT TO DESTROY US!

WE ARE SURROUNDED--THOUGH NOT FOR LONG, I'LL WAGER--

-- FOR MY FIRE-STAFF WILL DISPATCH QUITE A FEW OF THESE CONSTRUCTS--



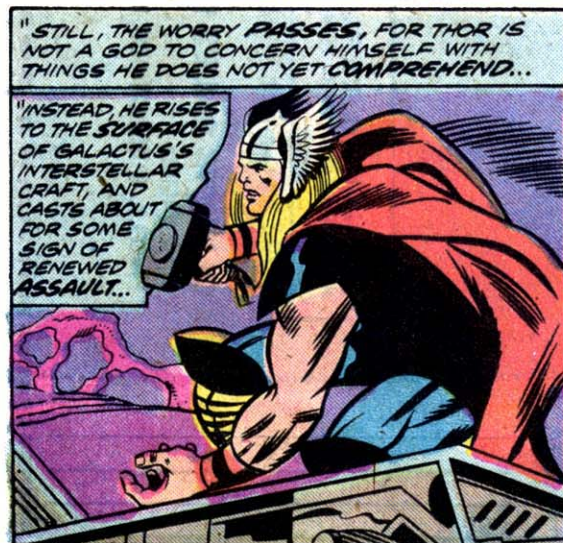
SPAFO!

-- AND HERCULES WILL ATTEND TO THE REST!



"AH, THE BATTLE IS BRIEF, THIS TIME... ALMOST PERFUNCTORY, AS THOUGH ESO WERE STRIKING SOLELY THROUGH REFLEX... WHILE WAITING TO LEARN THE THRUST OF HIS OPPONENTS' OWN ATTACK..."

"A WISE STRATAGEM, YET IT WORRIES ME--AS IT ALSO WORRIES THOR, FROM THE LOOK OF HIS PRINCELY FACE."



"STILL, THE WORRY PASSES, FOR THOR IS NOT A GOD TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THINGS HE DOES NOT YET COMPREHEND..."

"INSTEAD, HE RISES TO THE SURFACE OF GALACTUS'S INTERSTELLAR CRAFT, AND CASTS ABOUT FOR SOME SIGN OF RENEWED ASSAULT..."



"... AND WHEN HE FINDS NO SUCH SIGN..."

COME, MY FRIENDS.

'TIS TIME WE WERE ON OUR WAY.

IN ALL THE MANY TIMES I HAVE ENCOUNTERED EGO, NEVER HAVE I LEARNED THE LOCATION OF HIS MIND...

YET IF WE ARE TO PREVAIL AGAINST HIM, WE MUST FIND HIS MIND--

AND DESTROY IT?

IF WE CAN SEE NO OTHER WAY TO DEFEAT EGO... DESTROY IT WE MUST.

THIS THOUGHT DISTURBS YOU, THOR.

WHY?

BECAUSE EGO WAS ONCE AN ALLY-- AND YEA, A FRIEND, AS WELL.

NOW HE IS MAD... AND MUST DIE.

"THIS ANSWER CONFUSES THE BEING CALLED FIRELORD; HE CANNOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT A MAN CAN STILL FEEL LOYALTY TO A FORMER FRIEND, EVEN WHEN THAT FRIEND HAS TURNED AGAINST HIM.

"METHINKS THIS FIRELORD IS NOT WHOLLY HUMAN, IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD... FOR EVEN A GOD FEELS HUMAN EMOTIONS AT TIMES...



"...AND 'TIS THIS WHICH GIVES US OUR TRUE GLORY.. 'TIS THIS WHICH MAKES US NOBLE, AND WORTHY OF LIFE.

SOMEWHERE AHEAD LIES THE SOURCE OF EGO'S POWER.

GALACTUS HAS BID US GO AHEAD WITHOUT HIM, WHILE HE REMAINS BEHIND TO WORK ON A FORM OF ATTACK OF HIS OWN DEVSING.



IF WE ARE TO FACE THIS MENACE ALONE, UNAID BY GALACTUS, THREE OF US AGAINST A WORLD--

SO BE IT!



A dramatic comic book panel showing Thor, the God of Thunder, suspended in the air by a massive, muscular hand. Thor is wearing his classic blue and gold armor with a red cape. He has a determined and slightly angry expression. The background is a dark blue sky with some rocky terrain visible at the bottom. The hand holding him is a pale, muscular hand with a red wristband, reaching down from the top of the frame. Several white lines radiate from the hand, suggesting the grip or the power being exerted.

NO GREATER  
**BATTLE**  
HAVE WE  
FOUGHT--IN  
NO MORE  
**NOBLE** A  
CAUSE MAY  
WE DIE!

TO SAVE A  
GALAXY, TO SAVE  
A **UNIVERSE**,  
WE MUST ACCEPT  
**ANY RISK--ANY**  
THREAT--**ANY**  
DANGER!

SO SWEARS  
**THOR,**  
PRINCE OF  
**ASGARD!**

SO SWEARS  
**THOR,**  
THE **GOD**  
OF **THUNDER!**

"I HAVE  
SEEN  
ENOUGH."

"MY SON REMAINS TRUE  
TO MY FAITH. I NEED  
OBSERVE HIM NO LONGER."

IN THE THRONE ROOM OF ODIN, THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE, AS THE ALL-FATHER CONSIDERS WHAT HE HAS SEEN, AND PONDER'S ITS MEANING. THEN, AS THOUGH STIRRING FROM A WAKING DREAM, ODIN LIFTS HIS LEONINE HEAD AND STATES HIS GODLY CONCLUSION...

THOR'S BATTLE MUST BE HIS ALONE. I WRONGED HIM ONCE, BY JUDGING TOO HASTILY I WILL NOT WRONG HIM TWICE, BY ACTING TO AID HIM--WHEN HE HAS SOUGHT NO AID.

MY SON HAS MADE HIS DECISION. I MAY ONLY SUPPORT IT.

BY THY LEAVE, SIRE--THOR IS MY BELOVED, AND I DO FEAR FOR HIM!

WILT THOU NOT RECONSIDER? SURELY, TO HELP BUT A LITTLE--

MAY, WOMAN... A LITTLE IS TOO MUCH.

THOR HAS MADE HIS POSITION CLEAR, IN ACTION IF NOT IN WORDS. I MUST STAND ASIDE--THOUGH MY VERY SOUL CRIES OUT AGAINST IT!

THEN I SHALL MOURN HIM, LADY SIF... AND WHEN I HAVE FINISHED WITH MY FATHERLY GRIEF...



AND IF THE THUNDER GOD DIES BECAUSE OF THY SILENCE?



I WILL AVENGE HIM--



--AND EGO WILL DIE!



MY LORD! WILL REVENGE BREATHE LIFE INTO A COLD BREAST?

WILL EGO'S DEATH CANCEL THAT OF THY SON--MY LOVE?  
ALL-FATHER, I BESECH THEE IN THE NAME OF REASON--

I WARN THEE, WOMAN--NONE DARE QUESTION ODIN'S WISDOM, NOT EVEN THEE!



MY LORD, I SPOKE OUT OF TURN.

WILT THOU FORGIVE ME?

'TIS DONE.

KNOW THIS, SIF... THERE IS NO MIND WHICH MAY UNDERSTAND MY WILL, SAVE MY OWN...

I DO WHAT I MUST, BECAUSE I MUST.

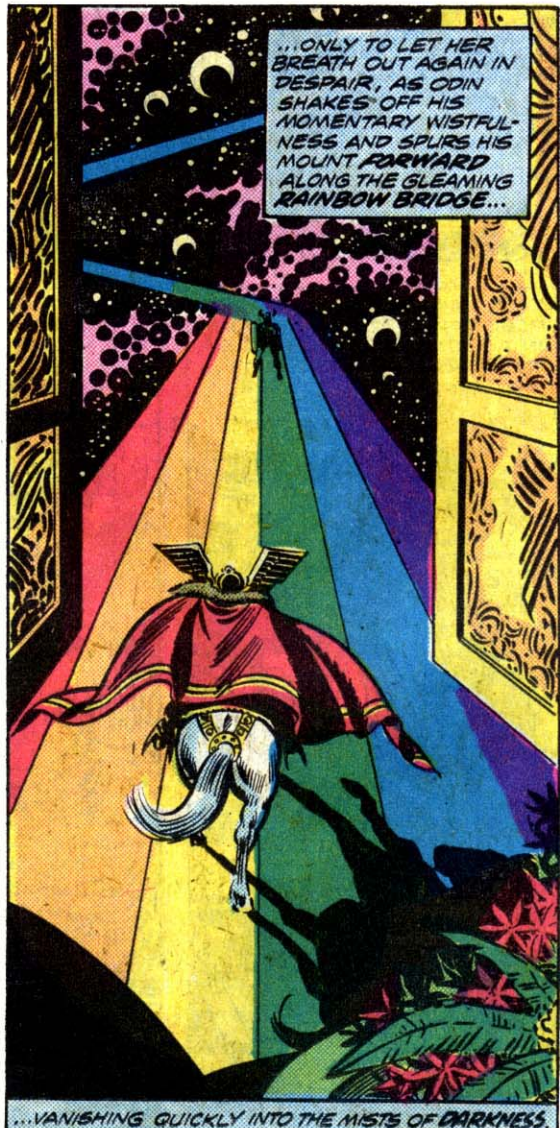
'TIS NEVER EASY.

BUT, A SHORT TIME LATER, AS ODIN SADDLES HIS IMPERIAL MOUNT, AND READIES FOR INSPECTION OF ASGARD'S BORDERS...



...HE SEEMS TO PAUSE A MOMENT IN REFLECTION, TO HESITATE, APPARENTLY LOST IN THOUGHT OF A MOST GRIM NATURE.

FOR AN INSTANT, SIF, WATCHING FROM A NEARBY GALLERY, DRAWS IN A HOPEFUL BREATH, PRAYING THAT HER LORD HAS DECIDED TO RESCIND HIS EARLIER DECISION...



... ONLY TO LET HER BREATH OUT AGAIN IN DESPAIR, AS ODIN SHAKES OFF HIS MOMENTARY WISTFULNESS AND SPURS HIS MOUNT FORWARD ALONG THE GLEAMING RAINBOW BRIDGE...

...VANISHING QUICKLY INTO THE MISTS OF DARKNESS.



HILDEGARDE, MY FRIEND... I FEAR ALL IS LOST. ODIN HAS ABANDONED HIS SON TO THE WHIMS OF FATE...

MILADY, METHINKS THOU DOST FEAR TOO MUCH.

AND WE KNOW HOW CRUEL THOSE FATES CAN BE, WHEN A WOMAN'S LOVE HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

THOR IS STRONG, BRAVE--

--AND LIKE ALL MEN, FOOLHARDY.

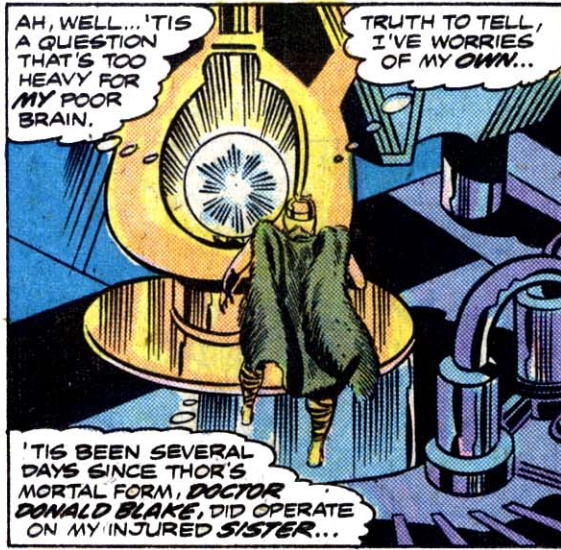


NAY, HILDEGARDE, NO GOOD CAN COME OF THIS.

NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LADY SIF SO FILLED WITH GLOOM. CAN SHE HAVE HAD A TRUE PRECOGNITION...?

I KNOW IN MY HEART--THOR IS DOOMED!

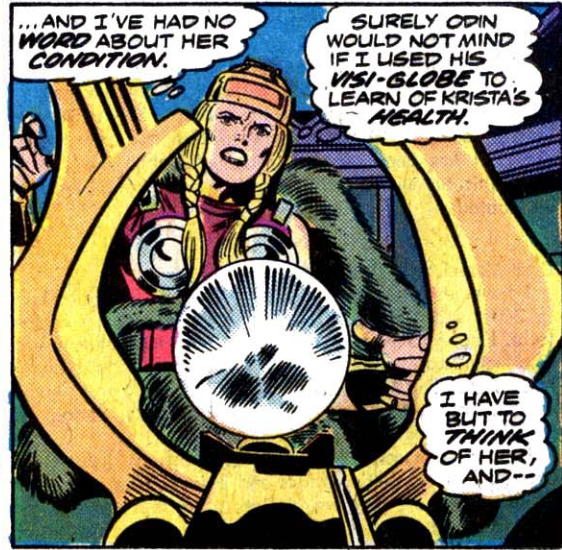
OR IS HER CONCERN BORN OF DISTRAUGHT LOVE, ALONE?



AH, WELL... 'TIS A QUESTION THAT'S TOO HEAVY FOR MY POOR BRAIN.

TRUTH TO TELL, I'VE WORRIES OF MY OWN...

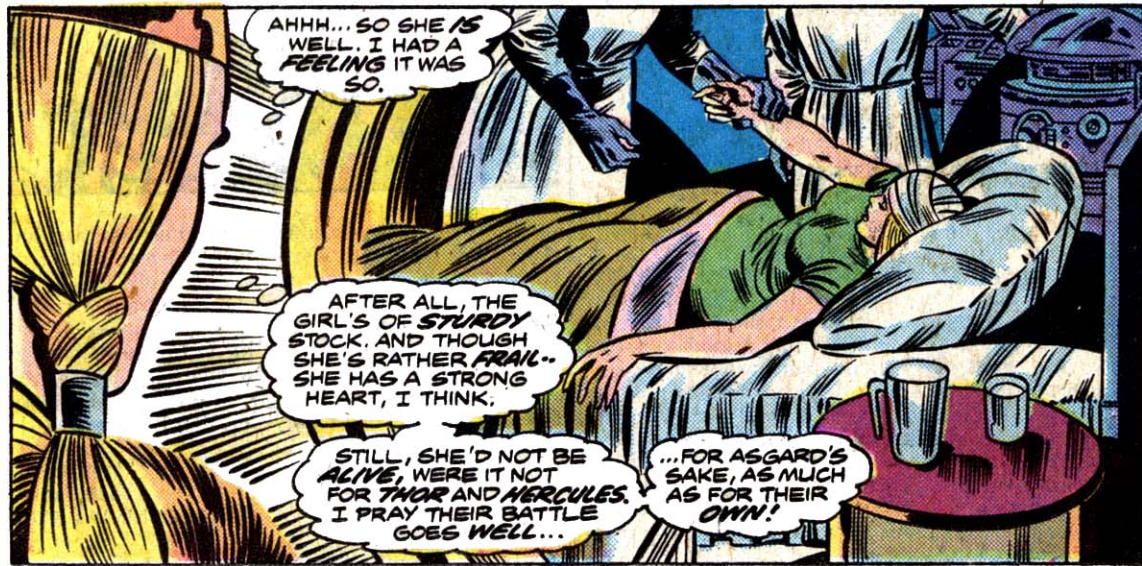
'TIS BEEN SEVERAL DAYS SINCE THOR'S MORTAL FORM, DOCTOR DONALD BLAKE, DID OPERATE ON MY INJURED SISTER...



...AND I'VE HAD NO WORD ABOUT HER CONDITION.

SURELY ODIN WOULD NOT MIND IF I USED HIS VISI-GLOBE TO LEARN OF KRISTA'S HEALTH.

I HAVE BUT TO THINK OF HER, AND--



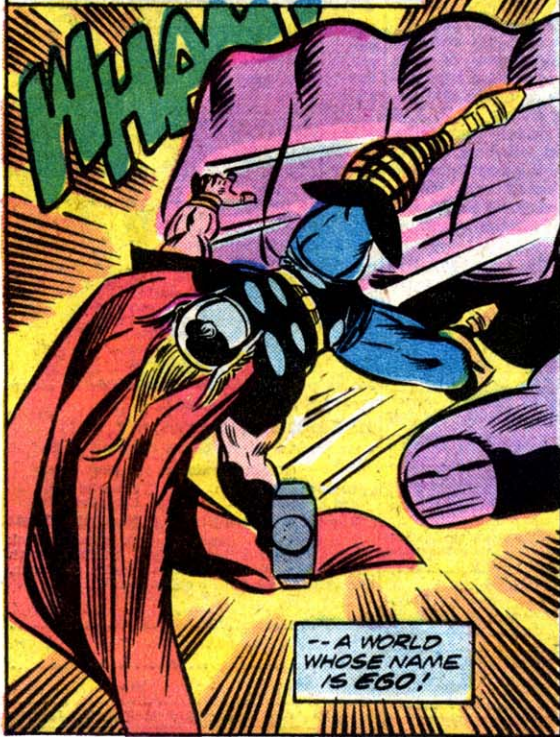
AHHH... SO SHE IS WELL. I HAD A FEELING IT WAS SO.

AFTER ALL, THE GIRL'S OF STURDY STOCK, AND THOUGH SHE'S RATHER FRAIL.. SHE HAS A STRONG HEART, I THINK.

STILL, SHE'D NOT BE ALIVE, WERE IT NOT FOR THOR AND HERCULES. I PRAY THEIR BATTLE GOES WELL...

...FOR ASGARD'S SAKE, AS MUCH AS FOR THEIR OWN!

AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, AS THOUGH IN IRONIC  
MOCKERY OF HILDEGARDE'S THOUGHTS, A  
MASSIVE FIST UNEXPECTEDLY STRIKES A  
FLYING GOD OF THUNDER-- ON A WORLD LIGHT-  
YEARS DISTANT FROM ASSGARD--



--A WORLD  
WHOSE NAME  
IS EGO!

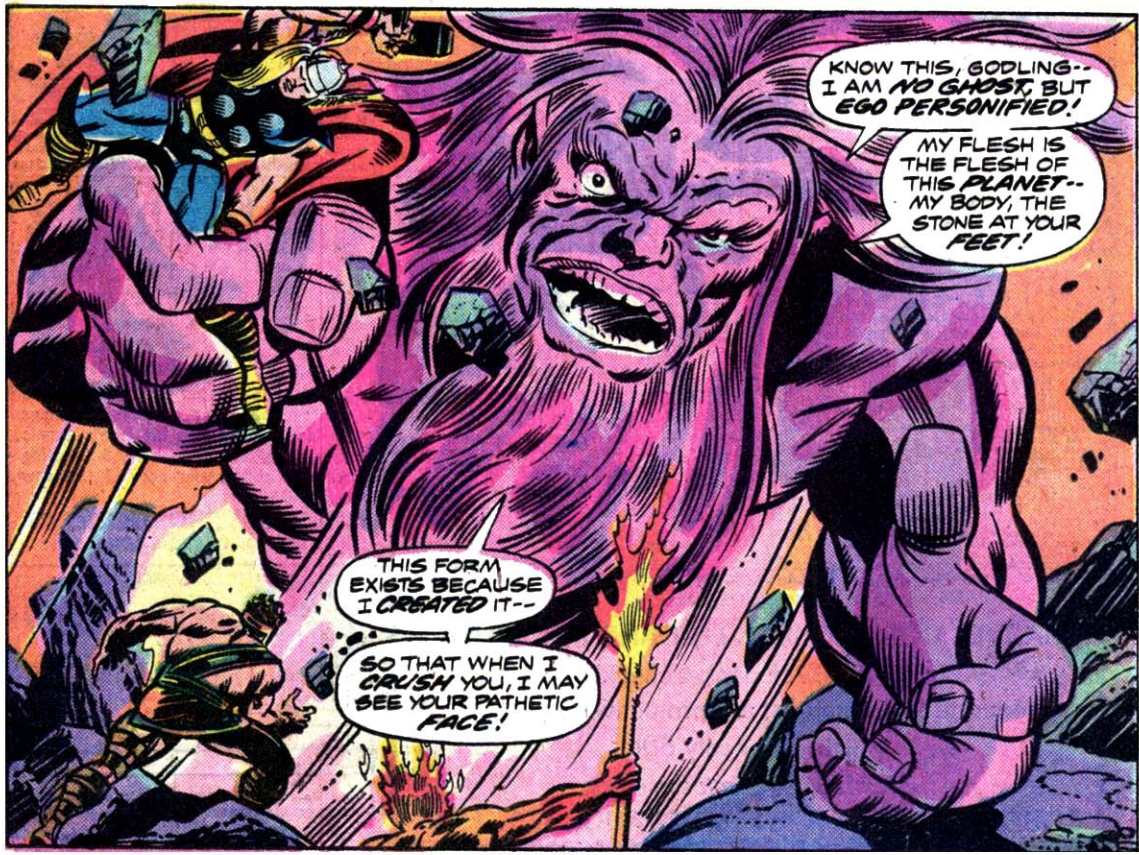
HERCULES, FIRELORD--  
**BEWARE!** THE BATTLE  
BEGINS ANEW, AND THIS  
TIME--WE STRUGGLE  
WITH **EGO HIMSELF!**



YEA, EGO--  
OR HIS  
EFFIGY!

TELL ME,  
MONSTER--ART  
THOU THE MAD-  
MAN, OR THE  
MADMAN'S SLAVE?  
AND MORE--HOW  
DIDST THOU **APPEAR**  
SO SUDDENLY--

--LIKE A  
GHOST FROM  
OUT OF THE  
AIR?

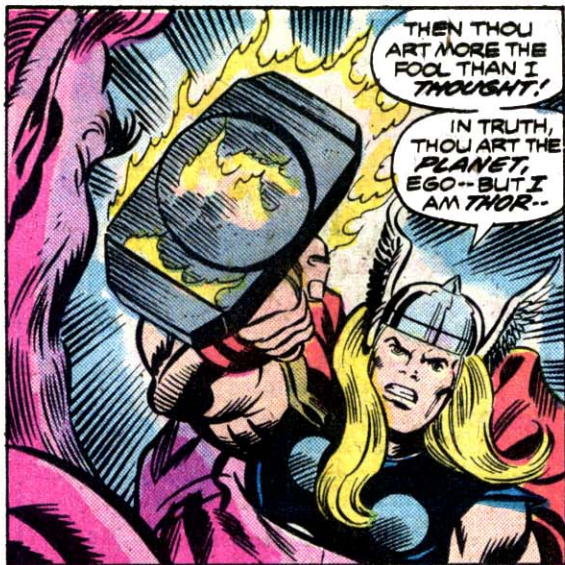


KNOW THIS, GODLING--  
I AM **NO GHOST**, BUT  
**EGO PERSONIFIED!**

MY FLESH IS  
THE FLESH OF  
THIS **PLANET**--  
MY BODY, THE  
STONE AT YOUR  
**FEET!**

THIS FORM  
EXISTS BECAUSE  
I **CREATED IT--**

SO THAT WHEN I  
**CRUSH** YOU, I MAY  
SEE YOUR **PATHETIC**  
**FACE!**



THEN THOU ART MORE THE FOOL THAN I THOUGHT!

IN TRUTH, THOU ART THE PLANET, EGO-- BUT I AM THOR--



--AND THOR IS THE LORD OF THUNDER!

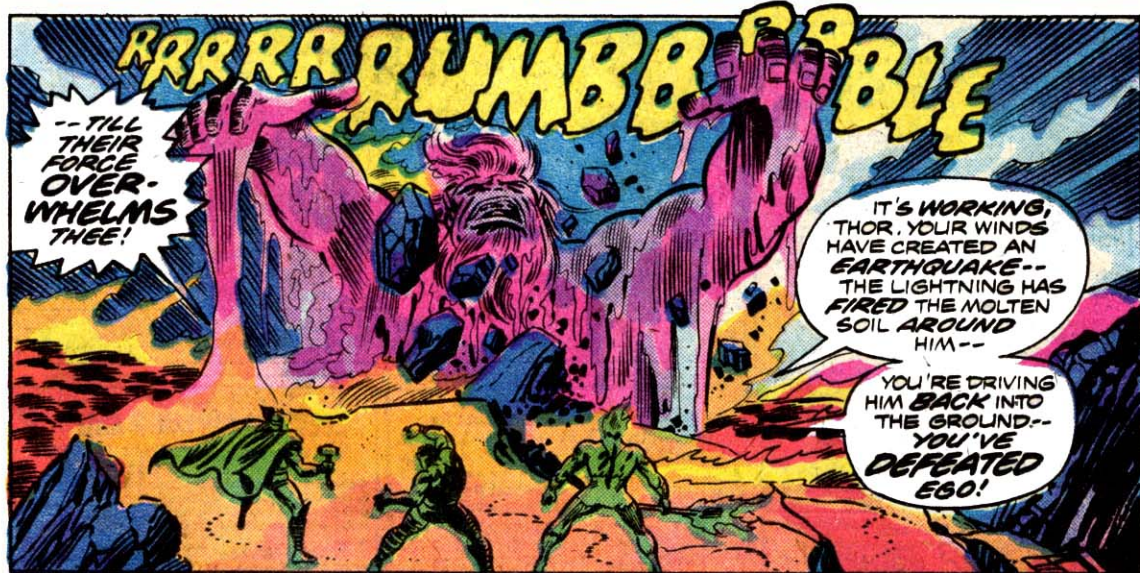
YOUR HAMMER -- BLASTING ME WITH LIGHTNING!

DO YOU REALLY IMAGINE YOU CAN DEFEAT ME WITH A STORM?



NOT A STORM, EGO-- A HURRICANE! A GALE! A TORNADO...!

ALL THE WINDS OF THIS WORLD ARE MINE TO COMMAND, AND COMMAND THEM I SHALL--



RRRRR RUMBBB BLE

--TILL THEIR FORCE OVERWHELMS THEE!

IT'S WORKING, THOR. YOUR WINDS HAVE CREATED AN EARTHQUAKE-- THE LIGHTNING HAS FIRED THE MOLTEN SOIL AROUND HIM--

YOU'RE DRIVING HIM BACK INTO THE GROUND-- YOU'VE DEFEATED EGO!

NOT SO. EGO IS NOT DEFEATED-- ONLY HELD AT BAY.

IF WE'RE TO WREST VICTORY FROM THIS DAY, WE MUST FIND EGO'S MIND.

AND TO DO THAT, WE MUST SEARCH--

--DOWN THERE.

BY MY FATHER'S BEARD!

'TIS WHERE EGO STOOD BUT A MOMENT AGO. YET INSTEAD OF SOLID EARTH, WE FIND--

--A CAVE, LEADING DEEP INTO THE PLANET ITSELF.

THERE SHALL WE FIND EGO-- IF WE DARE.

AND SO THE JOURNEY BEGINS, A MARCH WHICH LEADS DOWNWARD THROUGH THE LAYERS OF THE LIVING PLANET, PAST THE CRUST OF THE PLANETARY SURFACE, DEEP INTO THE MANTLE OF THIS BIOLOGICAL FREAK ...DOWN, TOWARD THE CORE OF THE WORLD...

DOWN... TO A PLACE OF ETERNAL NIGHT...

...AND STRANGE, UNNATURAL COLD...

...AND EVER-INCREASING WEIGHT...

UNTIL...

THUNDER GOD, THIS IS LITTLER MADNESS! A PLANET DOOTH GROW HOTTER TOWARD ITS CORE--NOT COOLER--!

AND THOUGH THE WEIGHT AND PRESSURE HAS INCREASED, 'TIS NOT ENOUGH--! WE SHOULD WEIGH MORE, THE PRESSURE UPON US SHOULD BE GREATER THAN-- EN?

WHAT IS IT?

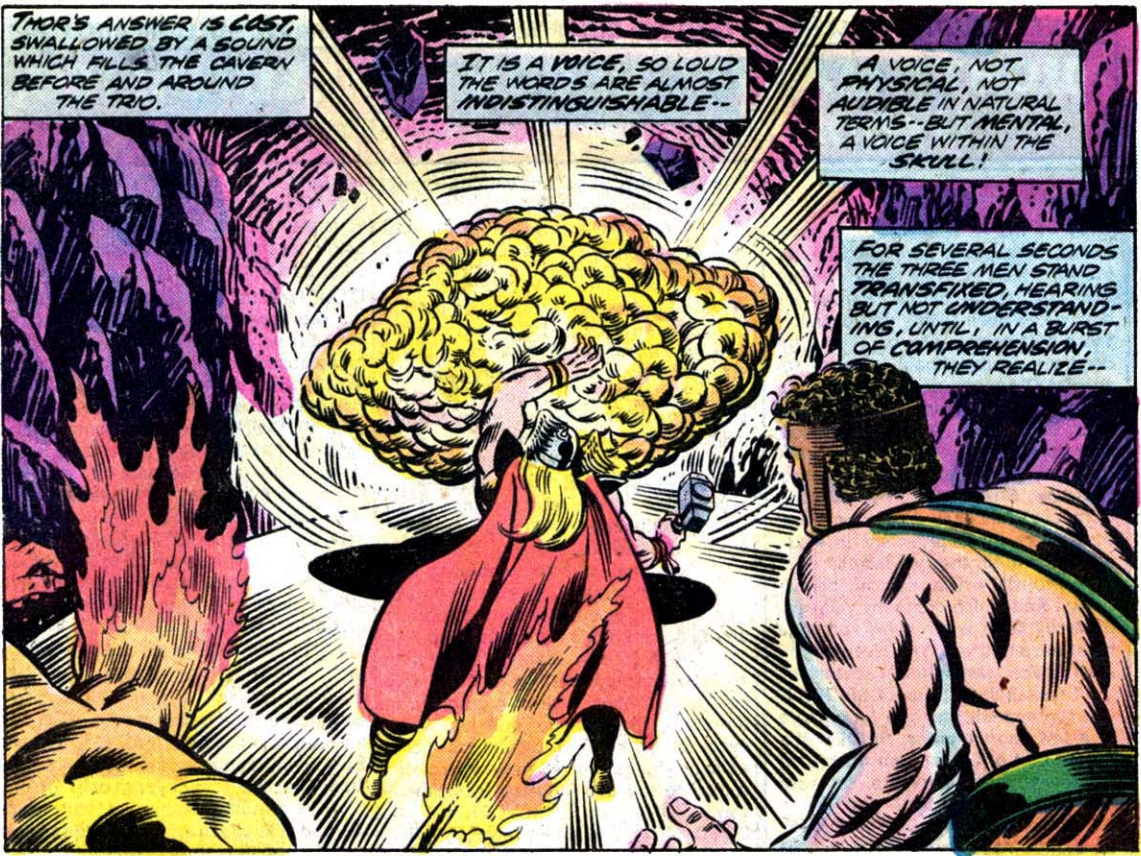
ROUNDS! THOR-- LOOK YONDER! IN THE NAME OF OUR FATHERS--

THOR'S ANSWER IS LOST, SWALLOWED BY A SOUND WHICH FILLS THE CAVERN BEFORE AND AROUND THE TRIO.

IT IS A VOICE, SO LOUD THE WORDS ARE ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE--

A VOICE, NOT PHYSICAL, NOT AUDIBLE IN NATURAL TERMS--BUT MENTAL, A VOICE WITHIN THE SKULL!

FOR SEVERAL SECONDS THE THREE MEN STAND TRANSFIXED, HEARING BUT NOT UNDERSTANDING, UNTIL, IN A BURST OF COMPREHENSION, THEY REALIZE--



HERE IS THE MIND OF EGO!

"YOU HAVE PENETRATED ME," THE VOICE SHRIEKS, "AND FOR THAT INDIGNITY, I WILL TORMENT YOU--"

"--AS I HAVE BEEN TORMENTED!"



"BUT BEFORE THE TORMENT BEGINS, I WILL FORCE YOU TO SEPARATE--"

"--THAT YOU MAY EACH EXPERIENCE YOUR NIGHTMARE ALONE--"

"--AS I HAVE EXPERIENCED IT, NIGH THESE THOUSAND CENTURIES!"

THOR, BEHIND THESE! DEMONS FROM THE CAVERN WALLS--!





EVEN HERE IN THE VERY CORE OF HIS BEING, EGO MUST RESORT TO TRICKERY TO ATTACK US!

**SPAK!**

**WAM!**

**KRUK!**

HE CANNOT FACE US HIMSELF, SO HE SENDS HIS CONSTRUCTS TO FIGHT US-- AND THEY ARE POOR SURROGATES INDEED!

BUT A SWING OF MY Mallet Mjolnir, AND THE MINIONS ARE DEFEATED--

-- AND EGO MUST ATTACK ANEW!

**SPOOM!**

AND SO HE DOES, ASGARDIAN! FOR EACH OF THESE EARTH-CREATURES WE DESTROY, A DOZEN MORE SPRING FORTH--

BUT NEVER-MIND US, ODINSON-- 'TIS EGO THOU MUST ATTEND TO!

THE SUPPLY SEEMS INEXHAUSTIBLE!

ACT NOW, WHILE HIS POWERS ARE DIVIDED!

WE'LL HOLD FIRM HERE-- THOU MAY DEPEND ON IT!

VERY WELL, MY FRIENDS-- I NEED ONLY BREAK THROUGH YON PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD, AND THE SECRETS OF EGO WILL BE SECRETS NO LONGER!

A SWIFT BLOW OF MY HAMMER, AND--

**SHRACK!**

I'M *INSIDE* THE BARRIER, FREE TO *STRIKE* AS I WILL-- TO REACH THE CENTRAL IDENTITY OF THIS BIOSPHERE, THIS MAD PLANET!

AWAKE, EGO! THOR COMMANDS THEE--

**AWAKE!**

STRAIGHT AND TRUE, THE MYSTIC MALLET FLIES DIRECTLY INTO THE BLOATED BRAIN SUSPENDED IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE ENORMOUS CAVERN...

FOR ONE INSTANT, THE QUIVERING MASS SEEMS TO SHUDDER IN AGONY; AND THEN--

**BARROOON!**

NEXT ISSUE: THE EPIC CONCLUSION OF THIS, THOR'S MOST MIND-BOGGLING ADVENTURE (NO PUN INTENDED), IN A STORY TITLED: **THE BEGINNING AND END!**