

THOR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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EXTRA!! AN ALL-NEW TALES OF ASGARD EPIC!!

THE MIGHTY

THOR



TAKE YOUR CHOICE, THUNDER GOD--
DEATH BY FIRE

--OR DEATH AT THE HAND OF
ULIK,
THE MOST SAVAGE TROLL
OF ALL!!



When lame Dr. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic mallet MJOLNIR—and Blake is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm and the Lightning, Heir to the Throne of Immortal Asgard...

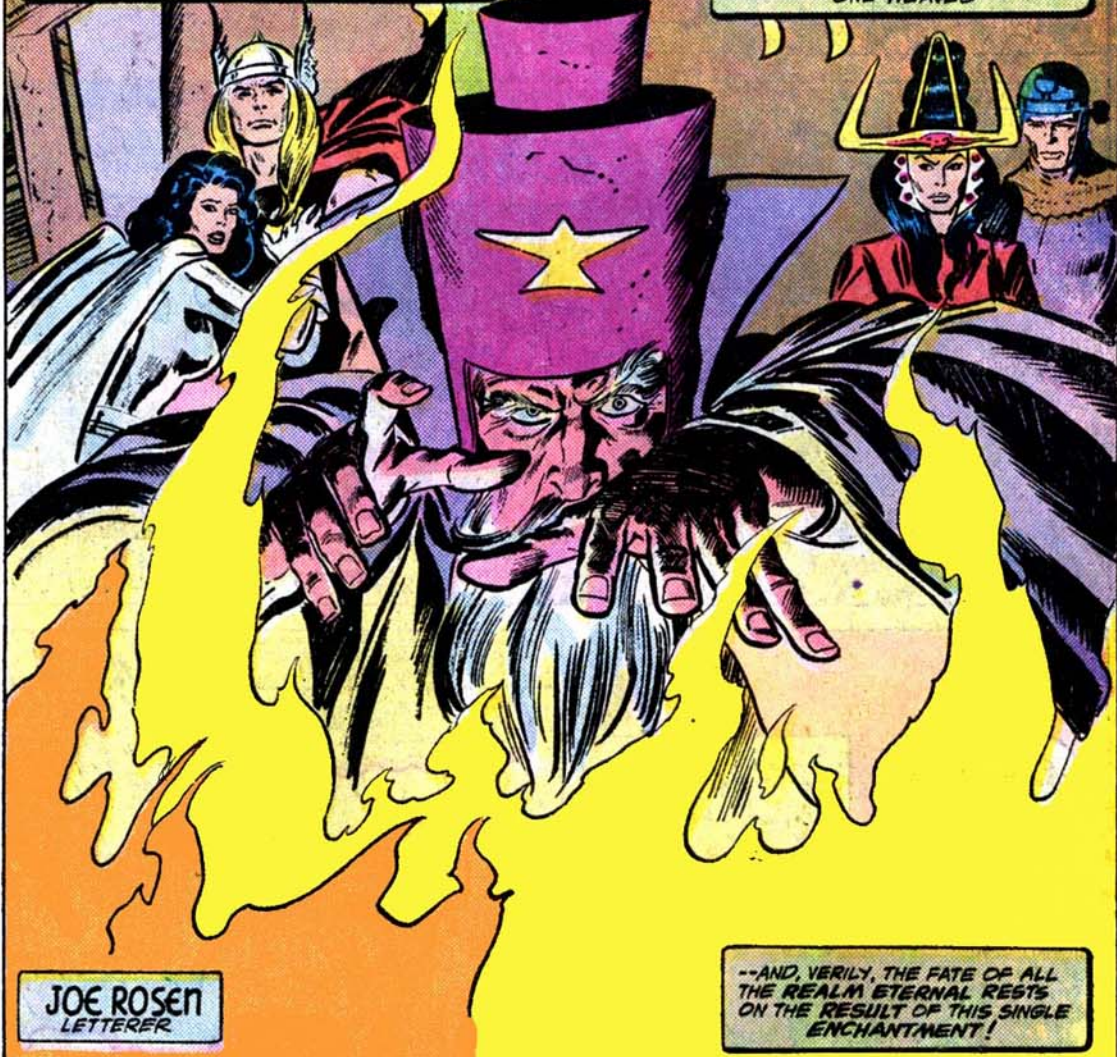
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**™

LEN WEIN WRITER / EDITOR * JOHN BUSCEMA & TONY DeZUNIGA ILLUSTRATORS * GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST

A DRAGON AT THE GATES!

THE AIR IS ALMOST STIFLING IN THE MUSTY CHAMBERS OF THE GRAND VIZIER, THE OXYGEN HUNGRILY DEVOURED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY FLAMES THAT LEAP FROM AN ORNATE BRAZIER--

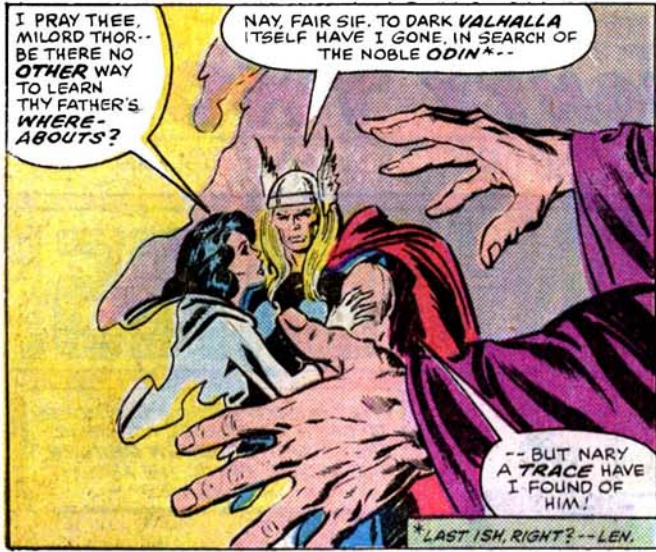
--YET NOBODY IN THE ROOM MOVES TO OPEN A WINDOW, FOR FEAR THEY MIGHT SOMEHOW DISTURB THE ARCAN E SPELL THE ANCIENT ONE WEAVES--



JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

--AND, VERILY, THE FATE OF ALL THE REALM ETERNAL RESTS ON THE RESULT OF THIS SINGLE ENCHANTMENT!

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I PRAY THEE, MILORD THOR-- BE THERE NO OTHER WAY TO LEARN THY FATHER'S WHERE-ABOUTS?

NAY, FAIR SIF. TO DARK VALHALLA ITSELF HAVE I GONE, IN SEARCH OF THE NOBLE ODIN*--

-- BUT NARY A TRACE HAVE I FOUND OF HIM!

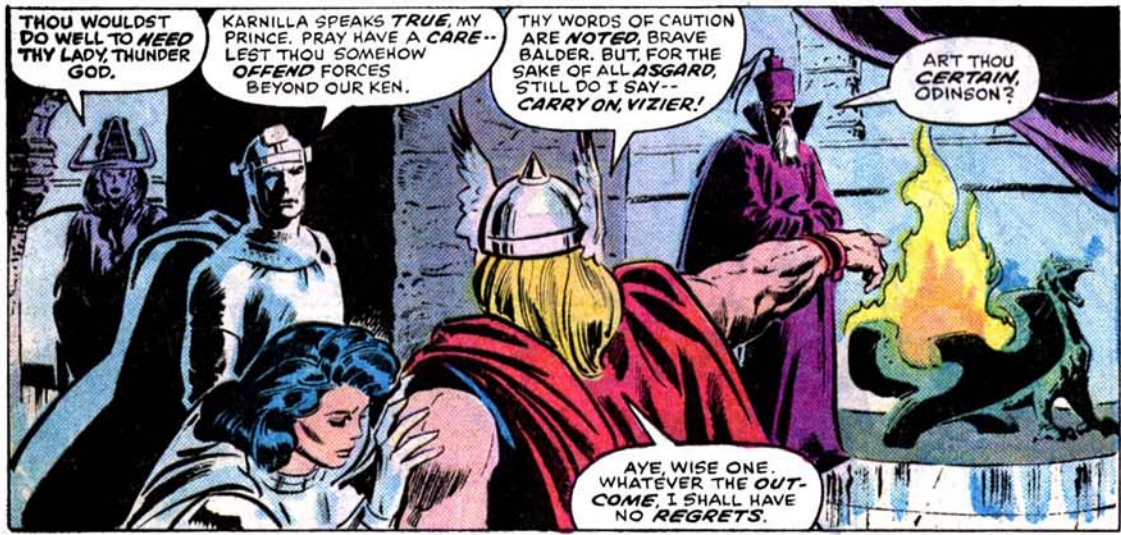
*LAST ISH, RIGHT?--LEN.



VERILY, IF WE MUST NOW DELVE INTO REALMS UNKNOWN FOR SOME SIGN OF OUR ALMIGHTY LIEGE--

-- THEN SO BE IT!

BELOVED, PLEASE--!



THOU WOULDST DO WELL TO HEED THY LADY, THUNDER GOD.

KARNILLA SPEAKS TRUE, MY PRINCE. PRAY HAVE A CARE-- LEST THOU SOMEHOW OFFEND FORCES BEYOND OUR KEN.

THY WORDS OF CAUTION ARE NOTED, BRAVE BALDER. BUT, FOR THE SAKE OF ALL ASGARD, STILL DO I SAY-- CARRY ON, VIZIER!

ART THOU CERTAIN, ODINSON?

AYE WISE ONE. WHATEVER THE OUT-COME, I SHALL HAVE NO REGRETS.



THEN, AT THY COMMAND, MILORD-- I NOW DO SUMMON HE WHO ALONE MIGHT GRANT THEE THE KNOWLEDGE THOU DOST SO DESPERATELY SEEK!

ONCE AGAIN, THE AGED VIZIER TAKES UP THE ARCAIC CHANT. HIS WORDS ARE SPOKEN IN LANGUAGES EVEN GODS HAVE LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN--



--BUT THEY ARE EFFECTIVE WORDS NONETHELESS!

WHO HATH SUMMONED FORTH THE GRIM GUARDIAN OF THE DARK WELL OF WISDOM?

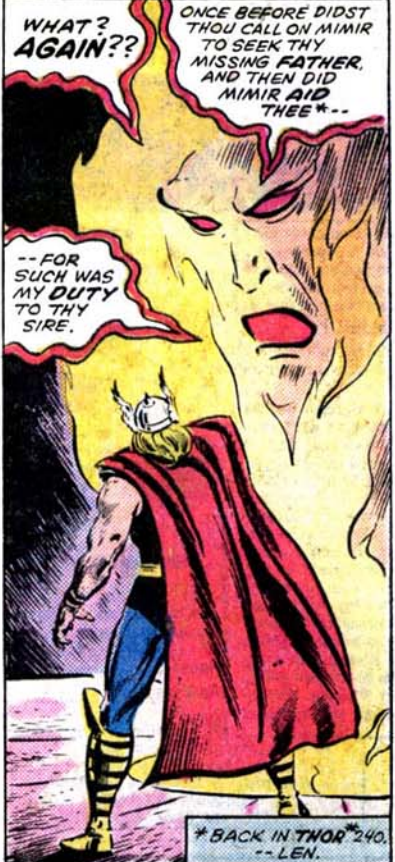
WHO HATH SUMMONED MIMIR?



'TIS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, PRINCE OF ASGARD, WHO HATH CALLED THEE HERE, ALL-WISE ONE--

--FOR REGAL ODIN, MONARCH MOST HIGH OF THE REALM ETERNAL, HATH SOMEHOW VANISHED FROM OUR MIDST--

--AND WE PRAY THAT THOU CANST TELL US WHERE TO FIND HIM!



WHAT? AGAIN??

ONCE BEFORE DIDST THOU CALL ON MIMIR TO SEEK THY MISSING FATHER, AND THEN DID MIMIR AID THEE*--

--FOR SUCH WAS MY DUTY TO THY SIRE.

*BACK IN THOR #240. --LEN.



BUT NO ONE MAY SEEK THE SAME KNOWLEDGE TWICE IN MIMIR'S NAME!

ERE I WOULD TELL THEE WHAT THOU DOST WISH TO KNOW, THUNDER GOD-- I WOULD HAVE TRIBUTE PAID ME, AS BEFITS THE FOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE!

MERELY ASK IT, MIMIR--AND IT SHALL BE THINE!



THEN LOOK THEE INTO MY FLAMES, ODINSON-- AND BEHOLD THE MIGHTY DRAGON THAT GUARDS THE GOLDEN GATES TO THE REALM BELOW!

FOR 'TIS ITS CYCLOPEAN RUBY EYE WHICH I DO DEMAND OF THEE!



NAY, WISE MIMIR! 'TIS NOT THOR'S WAY TO STEAL THAT WHICH DOETH NOT BELONG TO HIM, BUT...

...BUT...

...BUT FOR THE SAKE OF ODIN AND IMMORTAL ASGARD...

...THOR SHALL DO...WHATE'ER HE MUST.



INDEED THOU SHALT, THUNDER GOD.

AND THUS, I TRUST I SHALL NOT HEAR FROM THEE AGAIN!

HA HA HA HA HA HA

BUT ALMOST BEFORE THE ECHOES OF MIMIR'S BONE-CHILLING LAUGH HAVE FADED, THE GOD OF THUNDER AND HIS COMPANIONS STAND UPON THE VERY THRESHOLD OF THE MYSTERIOUS REALM BELOW...

VERILY, THIS CRATER DOTH YAWN DOWN INTO A DARKNESS THAT SEEMS TO SWALLOW ALL LIGHT... AND ALL HOPE.

ART THOU CERTAIN THOU SHOULDST RISK THIS MAD ENDEAVOR, FRIEND THOR?

IN TRUTH, THE THUNDER GOD DOTH HAVE NO CHOICE, BALDER.

INDEED, NORN QUEEN, AS MY FATHER'S SON, I DO WHAT *MUST* BE DONE--THOUGH MY SOUL SHALL KNOW NO SATISFACTION FROM THE DEED!

KEEP THYSELF WELL, MILADY SIF. I SWEAR I SHALL RETURN TO THEE ERE LONG.

AND SIF SHALL BE WAITING, MY LOVE... AS ALWAYS.

FEAR NOT, MY PRINCE, WE SHALL GUARD THE REALM ETERNAL WELL IN THINE ABSENCE.

SO IT HATH COME TO THIS THEN--

THERE BE LITTLE ENOUGH OF VALUE IN THIS DESOLATE DOMAIN ALREADY.

WOULD THAT I WERE NOT FORCED TO STEAL THE SINGLE SOURCE OF LIGHT THAT REMAINS HERE.

AND I COULD LEAVE GOLDEN ASGARD IN NO SAFER HANDS THAN THINE, BRAVE BALDER.

--THAT A PRINCE OF THE REALM SHOULD DESCEND INTO THIS SMOLDERING EMBODIMENT OF DESPAIR AS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON THIEF!

VERILY, THE FICKLE FATES DOETH WEAVE A TAPESTRY OF MOST DEVIOUS DESIGN.

FIRST, ALMIGHTY ODIN DOETH GIVE HIMSELF AMNESIA, THAT HE MIGHT WALK AMONG MORTALS AS ONE OF THEM--

--THEN EVIL IGRON AND THE MONSTROUS MANGOG SEIZE THE GOLDEN THRONE IN THE ALL-FATHER'S ABSENCE--

--AND FINALLY, OUR LORDLY LIEGE IS STOLEN AWAY EVEN AS HE SEEKS TO RETURN TO THE REALM ETERNAL!*

*ALL DISPLAYED IN DETAIL OVER THESE MANY MONTHS PAST. --LEN.

AYE, IT HATH BEEN A TIME MOST PASSING STRANGE FOR IMMORTAL ASGARD--

--AND I FEAR THE MADNESS BE NOT YET OVER!

BUT I MUST NOT LET MY MUSINGS LULL ME FROM THE TASK AT HAND!

COUNTLESS TUNNELS DOETH LOOM NOW BEFORE ME--

--AND I MUST CONSIDER MOST CAREFULLY WHICH OF THEM TO PURSUE!

FOR A PATH WRONGLY TAKEN HERE--

--COULD LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO THE TERRIBLE KINGDOM OF THE INSANELY-SAVAGE TROLLS--

--AND I CAN ALLOW NAUGHT TO STAY ME FROM MY MOST SACRED QUEST!

AND, AT THE TUNNEL'S OTHER END...

SO! I FIND NOT KING GEIRRODUR'S BLAZING FURNACES AFTER ALL--

-- BUT ONLY A ROUGH-HEWN BRIDGE THAT APPEARS TO SPAN AN ENDLESS OCEAN OF FLAME!

'TIS INDEED A SIGHT TO MAKE MOST MEN TURN ON THEIR HEEL AND FORSAKE THEIR CHOSEN PATH--

-- BUT THE GOD OF THUNDER DOETH KNOW WHAT LIES AT THE END OF THIS CRUMBLING SPAN--

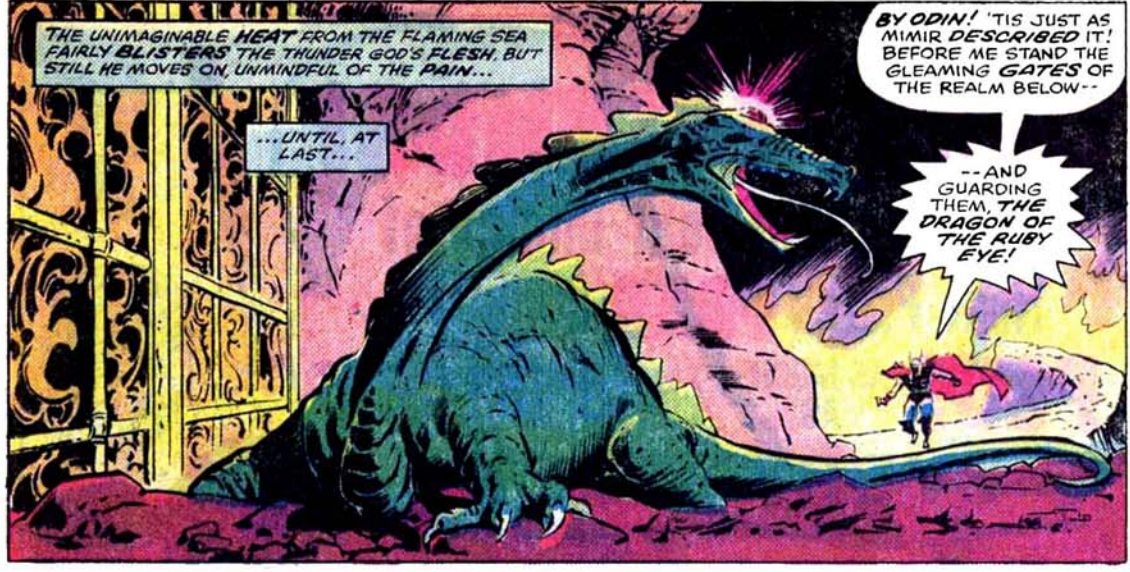
--AND THUS I PRESS EVER ONWARD!

THE UNIMAGINABLE HEAT FROM THE FLAMING SEA FAIRLY BLISTERS THE THUNDER GOD'S FLESH, BUT STILL HE MOVES ON, UNMINDFUL OF THE PAIN...

...UNTIL, AT LAST...

BY ODIN! 'TIS JUST AS MIMIR DESCRIBED IT! BEFORE ME STAND THE GLEAMING GATES OF THE REALM BELOW--

-- AND GUARDING THEM, THE DRAGON OF THE RUBY EYE!



PRAISE BE! MY QUEST IS OVER!

WITH YON BEHEMOTH'S GLITTERING ORB IN HAND, MIMIR SHALL AT LAST GRANT ME THE PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE I DO SEEK!



ONLY A MOMENT LONGER, AND THEN...

STAND ASIDE, ASGARDIAN! THAT SHIMMERING JEWEL IS NOT YOURS TO CLAIM!

WHAT--? WHO DARES--??



I DARE, THUNDER GOD! I, BEFORE WHOM THE VERY MOUNTAINS TREMBLE!

OR HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN HE WHOM LEGENDS HAVE EVER CALLED-- ULIK THE INVINCIBLE!

ULIK-- MIGHTIEST OF ALL THE TROLLS!!

NAY, TROLL! THOR HATH NOT FORGOTTEN THEE!



THEN NEITHER HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ULIK'S POWER-- OR THE BOUNDLESS FURY OF ULIK'S RAGE!





STEP ASIDE--OR
DIE!!

AGAIN
I COMMAND
YOU, GODLING--
STEP ASIDE,
AND LET ULIK
CLAIM HIS
PRIZE!

THE GOD OF
THUNDER
DOTH STAND
ASIDE FOR
NO MAN OR
GOD-- LET
ALONE FOR
A LOWLY
TROLL!

ULIK,
THOR DOTH
SAY THEE--
NAY!



THEN GO AHEAD AND
HOLD YOUR GROUND,
ASGARDIAN --

--AND LET
THIS BE THE
PLACE THEY
BURY YOU!

THBOOM!



I DID NOT COME HERE TO DO
BATTLE WITH YOU, THUNDER
GOD--

-- BUT THE VERY
SURVIVAL OF THE
MIGHTY TROLL EMPIRE
DEPENDS ON ULIK
SECURING THE
RUBY EYE--

--AND I
WILL DO WHAT
I MUST TO
SAVE MY
PEOPLE!

NOW LIE STILL THOR-- AND I
WILL MAKE YOUR DEATH-BLOW
MERCIFULLY SWIFT!



NAY, TROLL! THOU SHALT STRIKE MY DEATH-BLOW NOT AT ALL!

NOT SO LONG AS THOR DOTH WIELD THE MYSTIC MALLET *MJOLNIR!*

CHRAKK!



NOT SO LONG AS THE STRENGTH OF MY *SINEWS* DOTH BE MORE THAN THE *EQUAL* OF ANY SUCH AS *THEE!*

P-THUM!



"IN TRUTH, ULIK-- I DESIRED NOT COMBAT WITH *THEE* EITHER!

SKRAKKIT!

"BUT I CAN ALLOW *NO ONE* TO KEEP ME FROM GAINING THE *RUBY EYE!*"



WE CANNOT *BOTH* POSSESS THAT GLITTERING GEM, GODLING!

THUS THE BATTLE LINES ARE *DRAWN--*

--AND TO THE *VICTOR* SHALL GO THE *SPOILS*, WHICH IS AS IT *SHOULD BE--*



-- FOR THE VICTOR SHALL BE--
CLOR!!

SKROON!

OD'S BLOOD!
THE BESTIAL ONE HURLS
THE VERY CAVERN
FLOOR AT ME!



AND I'LL
DO WORSE
BEFORE
I'M DONE
ASGARDIAN!

I MUST **CAPTURE** THE RUBY
EYE IF I AM TO GAIN FAVOR
ONCE MORE WITH KING GEIRRODUR
AND HIS COURT--

--AND IF I CAN
DELIVER THEM THE
THUNDER GOD'S
CORPSE AS AN
UNEXPECTED
BONUS--



-- 'T WILL ONLY
MAKE MY VICTORY
THAT MUCH
SWEETER!

KRRROW!

THOU DOST **SPEAK**
A MOST GLORIOUS
**BATTLE, DOG OF
DARKNESS--**

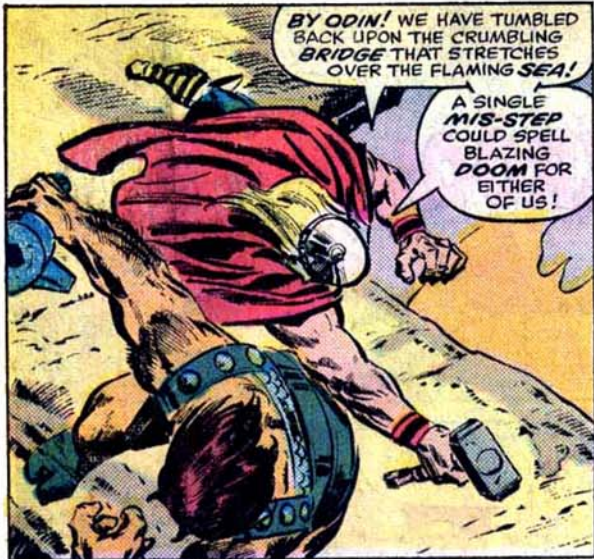
-- BUT THE BATTLE
WILL TRULY BE **WON** BY
HE WHO IS LEFT **STAND-
ING** AT ITS END--



-- AND, BY ALL THE
GODS, THAT ONE
SHALL BE--
THOR!

**CURSE YOU,
GODLING--** THERE
IS FAR **MORE** AT
STAKE HERE THAN
YOUR ASGARDIAN
MIND COULD EVER
BEGIN TO
COMPREHEND!

FOR THE SAKE
OF ALL THE
TROLL KINGDOM--
**ULIK MUST
NOT BE
DEFEATED!**



BY ODIN! WE HAVE TUMBLLED BACK UPON THE CRUMBLING BRIDGE THAT STRETCHES OVER THE FLAMING SEA!

A SINGLE MIS-STEP COULD SPELL BLAZING DOOM FOR EITHER OF US!



YET STILL THE TROLL RISES ALMOST BLINDLY TO HIS FEET, HEEDLESS OF THE DANGER! NEVER HAVE I SEEN ULIK MORE RESOLUTE, MORE DETERMINED IN HIS PURPOSE!

COULD THERE TRULY BE SUBSTANCE TO THE BESTIAL ONE'S CLAIMS?

IS THE KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS REALLY IN MORTAL PERIL?



UNFORTUNATELY, IT DOETH NOT MATTER. I CANNOT SACRIFICE THE FUTURE OF ASGARD FOR THE SAKE OF ITS MOST BITTER ENEMIES!

I MUST STRUGGLE ON, EVEN AS DOETH ULIK-- UNTIL THE VICTORY BE WON!

OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CHALLENGED ULIK'S POWER, THUNDER GOD-- YOU ARE THE MOST VALIANT FOE OF ALL!



BUT STILL THAT SHALL NOT STOP ME FROM HURLING YOU BODILY INTO THE HUNGRY FLAMES THAT LICK AROUND US!



CEASE YOUR FUTILE STRUGGLING, ASGARDIAN!

LET ME STRIKE THE BLOW THAT WILL SEND YOU TO YOUR FINAL REST!

NAY, TROLL--!



IF ANY BLOW IS TO BE STRUCK HERE--

--TWILL BE MINE!!

BTROK!



TRULY ART THOU POWERFUL, ULIK--

-- BUT THERE IS NAUGHT THAT CAN PREVAIL AGAINST THE POWER OF MJOLNIR, THE URU HAMMER FORGED IN THINE OWN INFERNAL FURNACES!

MY HEAD-- REELING FROM THE FORCE OF YOUR BLOW--! I STAGGER BACK-- EVER BACK--



-- BUT ONLY UNTIL ULIK IS IN POSITION TO DO-- THIS!

AARRGGHH!!



AND THUS THE BATTLE IS OVER, ASGARDIAN FOOL!

THERE IS A LESSON TAUGHT YOUR KIND AT CHILDHOOD THAT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE FORGOTTEN!



NEVER TRUST A TROLL!

AND NOW THAT I HAVE SLAIN THE THUNDER GOD, ULIK IS TRULY THE MIGHTIEST TROLL OF ALL!!

NEXT ISSUE:

MORE MIND-BENDING ACTION THAN YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE, AS ULIK GOES BERSERK! BE HERE FOR...

CHAOS IN THE KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS™

AT LAST, I AM ARMED AS BEFITS A GOD OF THUNDER-- THE BETTER TO SERVE MY IMPERIAL ALL-FATHER, ODIN!

NO FOE FROM THE REALMS OF DARKNESS SHALL DEFY HIS RIGHTEOUS RULE!

NONE SHALL WITHSTAND THE MATCHLESS MIGHT OF MJOLNIR, MINE ENCHANTED Mallet!

FORTH FROM FABLED ASGARD RIDES THE YOUNG THUNDER GOD, THOR-- PROUD OF HAVING AT LAST EARNED THE AWESOME URU HAMMER, AND EAGER TO WIELD HIS NEWLY-WON WEAPON AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL--

--YET DESTINED TODAY TO LEARN A GRIM AND DREADFUL LESSON!*

*SPECIAL NOTE FOR CHRONOLOGY BUFFS: THIS TALE TAKES PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER "DEATH COMES TO THOR!" IN JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #102. -- LEN.

DAVID KRAFT * PABLO MARCOS
author artist
J. COSTANZA | GLYNIS WEIN | LEN WEIN
letterer colorist editor
PROUDLY PRESENT A TWO-PART TRIBUTE TO THE MOST WIDELY-ACCLAIMED MYTHOLOGICAL MINI-SERIES OF ALL TIME!!

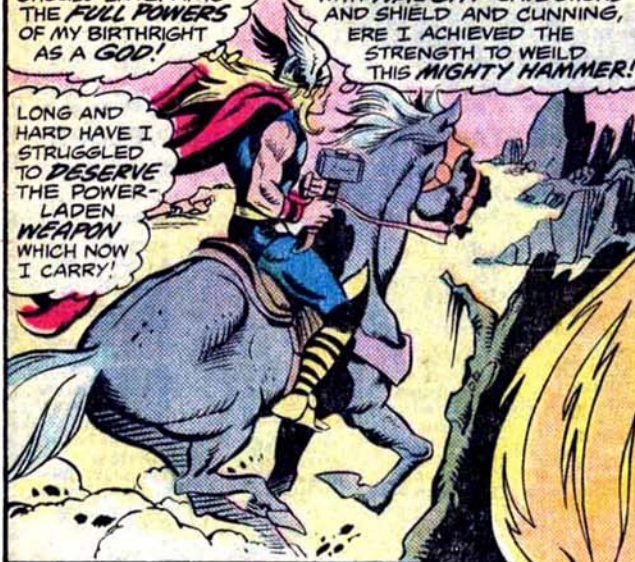
THE WEAPON AND THE WARRIOR

OFT HAVE I DREAMED OF THIS DAY, WHEN I SHOULD ENTER INTO THE FULL POWERS OF MY BIRTHRIGHT AS A GOD!

LONG AND HARD HAVE I STRUGGLED TO DESERVE THE POWER-LADEN WEAPON WHICH NOW I CARRY!

MANY ARE THE FIERCE FOES I FACED AND VANQUISHED WITH MY AUGHT SAVED SWORD AND SHIELD AND CUNNING, ERE I ACHIEVED THE STRENGTH TO WEILD THIS MIGHTY HAMMER!

AND WITH A THRILL OF PRIDE, THE YOUTHFUL THUNDER GOD RECALLS THE ORDEALS WHICH CHALLENGED AND TESTED EVERY ASPECT OF HIS HEAVEN-BORN RIGHT TO GODHOOD!



NEVER SHALL I FORGET THOSE FIRST BATTLES I FOUGHT AS A BEARD-LESS BOY!

MY LORD ODIN, THE ALL-WISE, WISHED ME TO PROVE MY RIGHT TO CALL MYSELF HIS SON!

'AND PROVE THAT RIGHT I DID... BEGINNING WITH THE DAY I DARED ENTER THE DREAD CASTLE OF THE STORM GIANTS TO RETRIEVE THE GOLDEN APPLES OF IDUNA!

PUNY GODLING... THINKEST THOU CAN CREEP UNSEEN INTO JOTUNHEIM AND ESCAPE WITH THY WORTHLESS LIFE?!!



SAVE THY FOUL BROTHER, GIANT! 'TIS THINE OWN LIFE WHICH IS IN DANGER--

--FOR I AM THOR, SON OF ODIN-- AND IT IS TO THE CHAMPIONS OF ASGARD THOU SHALT ANSWER NOW FOR THE THEFT OF THE GOLDEN APPLES!

"AND WELL, TOO, DO I RECALL THAT DAY I STOOD ALONE AGAINST THE HORDES OF EVIL WHEN THEY LAUNCHED THEIR FEARSOME ATTACK ON ASGARD!

ONLY THIS FECKLESS YOUTH STANDS 'TWINX US AND VICTORY!

SCORCH HIM WITH THY FURIOUS FUMES, O'DRAGON!

SOON THE REALM OF THE GODS SHALL BE OURS!



NAY! NEVER SHALL EVIL BLIGHT FAIR ASGARD WHILST I HAVE WIT AND WILL TO STAY YE!

"YET, EVEN THEN, I LACKED THE STRENGTH TO LIFT THE MIGHTY MJOLNIR!"

"UHHH... OH, FATHER! WILL I NEVER BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HURL THY ENCHANTED HAMMER!?"

"TRULY DID ODIN SPEAK THAT DAY... FOR WHEN MY COURAGE ROSE TO FACE THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF ALL, I SWUNG THE ENCHANTED HAMMER AS LIGHTLY AS IF IT WERE MY BOYISH SWORD!"

LET THE STORM GIANTS BEWARE!

PATIENCE, MY SON! IT IS THE WARRIOR, NOT THE WEAPON, THAT WINS BATTLES!

WHEN THOU ART FINALLY READY, THOU SHALT NOT EVEN FEEL THE HAMMER'S WEIGHT!

NOT ONE SHALL ESCAPE THE WRATH OF THOR IF ANY HARM BEFALLS LOVELY SIF, SISTER OF MY FRIEND BALDER!

OUT OF MY WAY, HULKING FIENDS-- LEST YE FIND YOURSELVES BURIED BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF YON CASTLE!

BOLD WORDS, PUNY GODLING! NOW PREPARE TO EAT THEM!

HAVE A CARE, BROTHER! I SENSE IN THIS SMALL ONE A WILINESS AND SPIRIT THAT BODES ILL FOR ANY WHO OPPOSE HIM!

BOTH MONSTERS I DISPOSED OF WITHOUT EVEN PAUSING TO DO BATTLE!

LO! WHAT FIGURE DOTTH STAND ON YONDER PEAK??!

HO THERE, CREATURE! WHY STAND THEE THERE WITH SUCH AN AIR OF INSOLENCE? THOU DOST OBSTRUCT THE WAY OF THOR, SON OF ODIN!

HELA HERSELF-- GODDESS OF DEATH--YIELDED HER PREY TO ME WHEN SHE SAW THAT NOT EVEN HER AWE-SOME POWER COULD SWAY ME FROM MY WARRIOR'S VOW!

WITH BUT WIT AND WILL ALONE, SCARCE THINKING OF MY MIGHTY MALLET, I SAVED THE LOVELY SIF!

IF THOU DOST WISH TO PASS, FOOL-- TRY THEN TO MOVE ME!

BY THE BEARD OF ODIN--THIS IS A CHALLENGE WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED!

VERY WELL THEN -- MOVE THESE I SHALL!

STAND THERE AT THY PERIL, UGLY BEING! FOR NOW THOU MUST FACE THE FURIOUS ON-SLAUGHT OF A CHAMPION OF ASGARD! -- WHO WIELDS A WEAPON THE LIKE OF WHICH THOU HAST NEVER SEEN!

TRULY IT IS SAID: "A FOOL LEARNETH WISDOM ONLY FROM A HAMMER BLOW!"

AND 'TIS JUST SUCH WISDOM THOU ART NOW ABOUT TO LEARN FROM THE MOST DREADED WAR HAMMER OF ALL!

MIGHTY Mjolnir SHALL DRIVE SENSE INTO THY THICK SKULL!

FORWARD, BRAVE STEED! IT SEEMS WE MUST TEACH YON CREATURE SIMPLE COURTESY TO FRIENDLY WAYFARERS!

HA! I SEE NOW THOU ART A STORM GIANT-- YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE OF AN AGE WITH MYSELF!

BUT DO NOT THINK THY IGNORANCE AND INEXPERIENCE WILL EXCUSE THY LOUSHTISH CRUDITY!

SILENCE, SPAWN OF ASGARD!

ONCE HURLED, THE HAMMER OF THOR IS MERCILESS IN ITS IMPACT!

IF THOU THINKEST SUCH HOLLOW WORDS WILL SUFFICE TO REMOVE ME FROM THIS CRAG, THOU ART EVEN A MORE PITIFUL BRASSGART THAN I SUSPECT!

Clearly the youthful thunder god hath found himself an antagonist who means to test his mettle to the limit!

MARCO MARZULLI '76

SO BEGINS A FATEFUL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE BOLD YOUNG IMMORTAL-- NEWLY ARMED WITH HIS MIGHTY URU HAMMER-- AND HIS FEARSOME, EQUALLY YOUTHFUL FOE, FLUSH WITH ALL THE TERRIFYING POWER OF HIS GIANTHOOD!

KNOW THEE THAT MY HAMMER SPEAKS WITH THE VOICE OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING!

THROOOM!



HA, PUNY OFFSPRING OF ODIN! 'TIS CLEAR THE WHIRLWIND COMES MAINLY FROM THINE OPEN MOUTH!

THO' I BE A STORM GIANT, I HAVE JUST SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP IN THE DEEPEST MINES AND WORKSHOPS OF THE TROLLS!

THUS, FROM EARTH ITSELF I DRAW MY IMMOVABLE STRENGTH AND POWER!

AND WOE BETIDE HIM TO WHOM IT SPEAKS IN WRATH!

WITH THINE INSOLENCE, GIANT, THOU HAST SOWN THE WIND--AND NOW SHALL YE REAP THE WHIRLWIND!



AND NOW, FAIRHAired FOOL, THOU SHALT FEEL THAT POWER! FOR WHEN I HEFT THIS ROCK AND HURL IT AT THEE--

--IT SHALL STRIKE THEE WITH THE AWE-SOME WEIGHT OF MIDGARD ITSELF--

--AND SMASH THEE TO THE GROUND AT MY FEET WHERE THOU DOST BELONG!



AND, INDEED, THE SHATTERING IMPACT OF THE ROCKY MISSILE IS TOO GREAT FOR EVEN YOUNG THOR TO WITHSTAND!

PAK-KOOM

I-I SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN HIS MOVE--

--AND GIVEN THOUGHT TO WAYS OF EVADING HIS COUNTER-ATTACK!

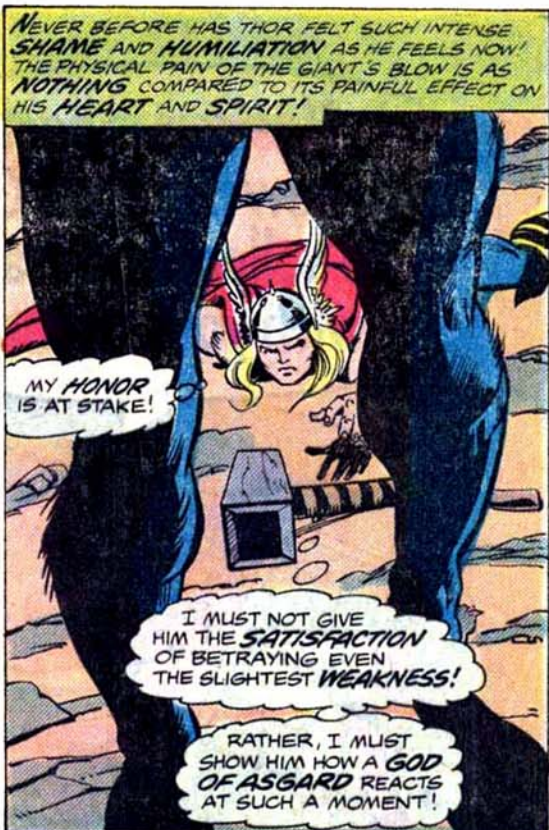


WHAT SAY THEE NOW, BRASH GODLING?! DOST THOU STILL MEAN TO REMOVE ME FROM THY PATH?!

IF SO, WHY DOST THOU LIE THERE SUPINE AT MY FEET?!

OR HAST THY VAUNTED COURAGE FAILED THEE --

--NOW THAT THOU HAST FELT THE PAINFUL EFFECTS OF MY TERRIBLE STRENGTH?



MY HONOR IS AT STAKE!

I MUST NOT GIVE HIM THE SATISFACTION OF BETRAYING EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WEAKNESS!

RATHER, I MUST SHOW HIM HOW A GOD OF ASGARD REACTS AT SUCH A MOMENT!



BUT AS THOR REACHES OUT TO RETRIEVE HIS HAMMER AND RE-NEW THE FIGHT--

HOLD, PUNY ONE! WHAT NEED HATH A WORM LIKE THEE FOR SUCH A WEAPON?!

WAR HAMMERS ARE FOR WARRIORS-- NOT FOR MISERABLE, CRAWLING THINGS SUCH AS THEE!

THINE EMPTY BOASTING IS ALREADY EXPOSED FOR WHAT IT IS-- NAUGHT BUT THE SHRILL YOWLING OF AN UN-BLOODED WHELP!



THE BATTLE IS NOT YET OVER, OGRE!

'TIS THOU WHO DOST BOAST NOW-- LIKE THE HOLLOW BOOMING OF AN EMPTY TUB!

BUT HEAR ME WELL! THY CALLOW YOUTHFULNESS WILL NOT STAY ME FROM WHAT IS TO FOLLOW!

FOR WHEN I RISE TO MY FEET, THEN TRULY WILL I BEGIN TO FIGHT!

LOOK INTO MINE EYES, BLUSTERING WINDBAG, AND READ THY FATE!

WITH MY BARE HANDS I SHALL REMOVE THINE UGLY PRESENCE FROM THE LAND-- FOREVER!



FOOL! NOT ONE STEP CANST THOU TAKE WITHOUT SINKING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THINE OWN BOASTFUL LIES!

EVEN AS THE GIANT SPEAKS, THE GROUND SEEMS TO GIVE WAY BENEATH THE FEET OF THE YOUNG THUNDER GOD!



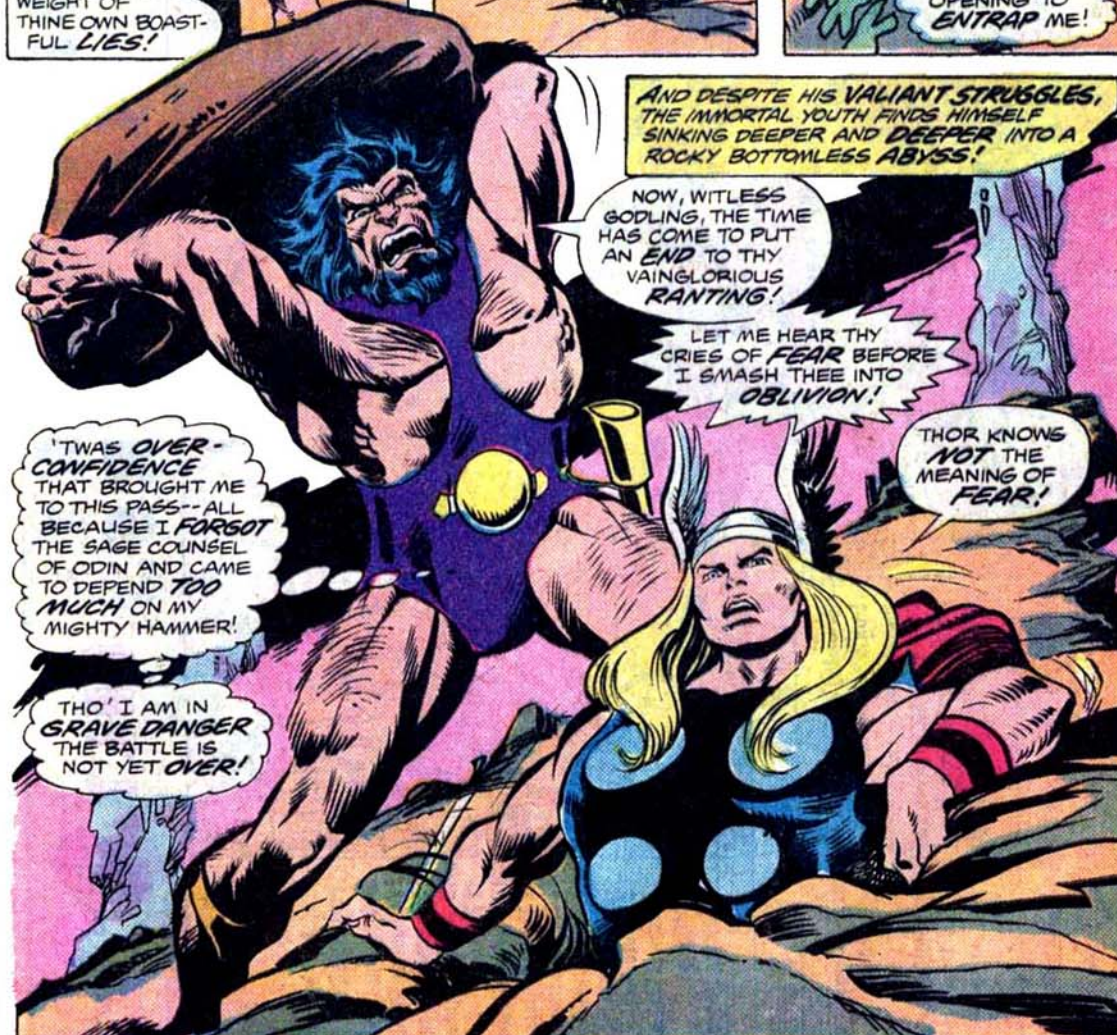
TROLL MAGIC!

HE MUST HAVE CAST A SPELL LEARNED DURING HIS APPRENTICESHIP TO THOSE ACCURSED CREATURES OF THE UNDERGROUND!



BY THE BURNISHED BLADE OF HEIMDALL! THE EARTH ITSELF IS OPENING TO ENTRAP ME!

AND DESPITE HIS VALIANT STRUGGLES, THE IMMORTAL YOUTH FINDS HIMSELF SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO A ROCKY BOTTOMLESS ABYSS!



NOW, WITLESS GODLING, THE TIME HAS COME TO PUT AN END TO THY VAINGLORIOUS RANTING!

LET ME HEAR THY CRIES OF FEAR BEFORE I SMASH THEE INTO OBLIVION!

THOR KNOWS NOT THE MEANING OF FEAR!

'T WAS OVER-CONFIDENCE THAT BROUGHT ME TO THIS PASS-- ALL BECAUSE I FORGOT THE SAGE COUNSEL OF ODIN AND CAME TO DEPEND TOO MUCH ON MY MIGHTY HAMMER!

THO' I AM IN GRAVE DANGER THE BATTLE IS NOT YET OVER!

EVEN IN THE DEATHLESS ANNALS OF VALHALLA, ONE CAN FIND FEW MORE STIRRING SAGAS THAN THE TALE OF HOW YOUNG THOR FINALLY FOUGHT BACK!

BE HERE NEXT ISSUE FOR THE CATAclysmic CONCLUSION OF:

THE WEAPON AND THE WARRIOR!